

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



9 December 2009



CANBERRA CALLING

It's that time of year again and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all Pyrenees residents peace and good will over the festive season.

Christmas is a time of celebration with family and friends, and also for giving thanks for our good fortune in living in such a wonderful part of the world.

After an even more hectic than usual conclusion to the parliamentary year I have spent these past few weeks catching up with communities across the Wannon electorate.

Western Victoria is made great by its supportive communities, whose positive outlook and determination are helping the region to realise its enormous potential. We have been fortunate that 2009 was not the year of doom and gloom predicted by so many. Our region has, buoyed up by the industrious and optimistic nature of our communities, remained prosperous and forward looking. I hope you all get the chance for a well-earned rest over the holiday season in preparation for another strong year in 2010.

Of course, while reflecting on our own good fortune, Christmas is also a time to remember those among us who are in need this Christmas. Many community groups and organisations are currently working hard to collect donations to help those less fortunate. Christmas is a time of giving, so this Christmas season, I encourage everyone to think of others who may not be as fortunate and give generously to these appeals.

Please also take care on the busy roads over the Christmas and New Year period. Research has shown that fatal crashes at holiday times are more likely than normal to be single-vehicle crashes, to involve driver fatigue and to occur on rural roads with 100 km/h or higher speed limits.

Try to be patient, don't drink and drive, and factor in regular rest breaks as part of your trip planning.

My wife Penny joins me in wishing all Pyrenees residents a merry and safe Christmas 2009 and a happy start to the New Year.

- ENDS -

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