



The Lycommunication

17TH DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS TREE - CC BY ELINA FAIRYTALE

Season's Greetings!

As the days are getting shorter and the cold is settling in, we can warm up thinking about the coming celebrations and holidays.

For this second issue of The Lycommunication, we have decided to focus on the news, of course, but also on your next holidays in the cold of Canada or in the heat of Australia. Discover this amazing country with a special Zoom In and interview, and choose your favourite destination!

You may not be able to travel now, so let's get in the mood of the winter celebrations with highlights on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Learn how to make your own Christmas crackers or Christmas pudding and meet your new friends in our comic strip.

On behalf of all the AMC class, we all wish you a Merry Christmas, great holidays and a Happy New Year!

V.Stotz

NEWS

King Charles III's visit to Samoa as the leader of the Commonwealth of Nations

THE BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH OF
NATIONS TOGETHER
- CC BY LUNTZ

On Wednesday 23 October 2024, King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited the island of Samoa.

This historic visit represented a momentous occasion for Samoa and the Commonwealth.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla's visit to Samoa was significant in so far as it was Charles's first visit as the King.

The latter received the important title of High Chief and attended a summit of Commonwealth leaders. This visit represented cultural, diplomatic, and historical aspects.



COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES MAP - CC BY [FRANCE-PT9301](#)



Why this meeting?

The Commonwealth summit was a time of discussions between the 56 nations that compose it and the king. It focused heavily on climate change, a crucial issue for Pacific island nations threatened by rising sea levels. King Charles III, known for his commitment to the environment, was at the centre of the discussions.

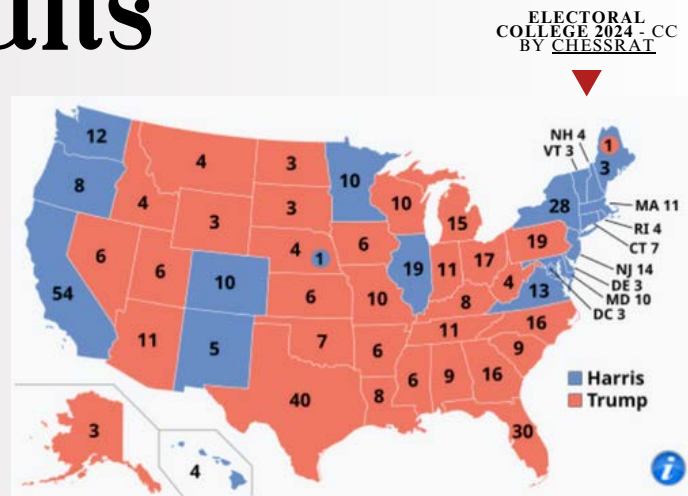
The visit also inevitably raised complex issues of colonial legacy. Reparations were not officially on the agenda, but the issue was lurking in the background. The royal presence may have encouraged reflection on the role of the British Crown in the history of its former colonies.

Outcome

During the 2024 Commonwealth meeting, key decisions included the Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration to protect marine ecosystems and promote sustainable ocean management, and an Investment Action Plan to strengthen economic resilience by enhancing the member states' capacity to attract sustainable investments.

American election's results

The US presidential elections took place on November 5th, 2024. Here are the results and what is going to happen next.



Results

The 2024 United States presidential election, held on November 5, 2024, resulted in a massive victory for the Republican ticket (Donald Trump and his vice president James David Vance) over the Democratic ticket (Kamala Harris and her vice president Tim Walz). Donald Trump won 312 electoral votes, the best performance for a Republican since 1988. Trump also won the national popular vote. Trump, at 78, became the oldest person ever elected U.S. president. Kamala Harris got 226 electoral votes, the worst performance for a Democrat since 1988.

What next?

On December 17, 2024, electors from each state will meet to officially cast their Electoral College votes. This formal process confirms the election results.

On January 6, 2025, the newly elected Congress will count and certify the Electoral College votes.

On January 20, 2025, at noon, Donald Trump will be sworn in as the President of the United States on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. This ceremony marks the official start of his second term.

New government:

The new government will be composed of a new department called the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) led by the billionaire Elon Musk. DOGE is not an official government agency, but it was created especially for him. It will provide recommendations to the White House and Office of Management and Budget. It aims to control the expenditure of the government and to cut the wasteful expenditures, etc.

The rest of the new government will be composed of members who are Trump's close supporters such as Robert F Kennedy Jr and Kristi Noem.

THE WHITE HOUSE - BY CANVA



Season's Greetings!

Australia and Canada are both famous for their love of sports, each shaped by their unique climate and culture.



▲
A SURFER RIDING A
WAVE IN AUSTRALIA
- CC BY SEMEYAS



◀ AN ICE HOCKEY
MATCH IN CANADA -
CC BY LUCKYLIFE11

In Australia, surfing is not just a sport, it is a way of life. With endless beaches and warm weather, it is the perfect place to ride waves. Surfing involves paddling out to the “line-up,” catching waves, and performing tricks like turns or aerials. Judges in competitions look for creativity, speed, and balance. Surfers also follow the “surf code,” taking turns and avoiding dangerous moves like dropping in on someone else’s wave. Surfing reflects the cool and adventurous vibe of Australian summers.

In Canada, the focus shifts to winter, where ice hockey is more than a sport, it is part of the national identity. Hockey is fast and intense, played on frozen rinks by teams of six players who try to score by shooting a puck into the opposing net. The game is split into three 20-

minute periods, with quick rotations to keep up the energy. Players must follow rules like avoiding fouls and staying “on-side” to keep the game fair. Hockey is deeply tied to Canadian winters, bringing communities together, whether in local rinks or big arenas.

click on the QR code to answer

Poll

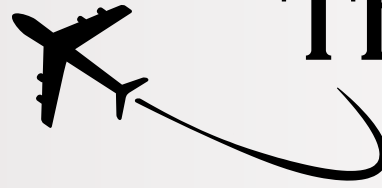
So, which do you prefer: the sunny waves of summer or the icy excitement of winter?





▲
KOALA AUSTRALIAN
ANIMAL CARTOON
- CC BY [BRGFX](#)

LINEAR AUSTRALIA
MAP INFOGRAPHIC -
CC BY [FREEPIK](#)



The Travel Corner

In this section we will speak about travel! Today our plane lands in Australia.

Would you like to go there? As it is winter in the Northern hemisphere, it is summer over there!

Come with us to discover this country nicknamed "Down Under". We will show you the most beautiful places and share the interview of a classmate who went to Australia for 1 year.

ID Card



The total of the area is 7,688,287 Km², which is the size of the EU

There are 26 768 598 residents

This is a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy in the Commonwealth

The capital is Canberra and the other big cities are Sydney and Melbourne

The currency is the Australian dollar (AUD)

The indigenous Australians are the Aboriginals

The national day is on 26 January, the NT parade in a car with the flag

In Australia there are 6 states and 2 territories : Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and Australian Capital Territory

CORAL REEF
- CC BY [GETTY](#)

MUST-SEES

- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system which is located in the Coral Sea. It is known for its rich marine life and colourful corals. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site and a popular spot for snorkelling and diving as a large part of the reef is protected by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which helps to limit the impact of human use and tourism.

- Sydney is a city which is located on Australia's east coast in the state of New south Wales. It is the most popular and famous city in this country thanks to its Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Bondi Beach. The nicknames of this city are Emerald City and the Harbour City.



SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND HARBOUR BRIDGE WITH THE COURTESY OF MRS. STOTZ ►



DID YOU KNOW?

The famous Sydney Opera House was supposed to take 4 years to build but it actually took 14 years. The construction started on March 1959 and was finished in 1973, and it was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 20th October 1973.



◀ CANBERRA - WITH THE COURTESY OF MRS. STOTZ

BELOW AYERS ROCKS EARLY MORNING AND AFTERNOON WITH THE COURTESY OF MRS. STOTZ

- Canberra is the capital city of Australia located between Sydney and Melbourne. Founded following the federation of colonies of Australia as the seat of government for the new nation, Canberra serves as the political and administrative heart of Australia. Its nickname is Bush Capital. Its city is surrounded by forests, farmland and nature reserves. Things to see are the National Carillon, the Australian War Memorial and the Telstra Tower.

- Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is a large sandstone monolith, which is located in the centre of Australia in the south of the Northern Territory. Uluru is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Uluru contains waterholes, caves, and ancient rock paintings. It is also one of the most important and sacred indigenous sites in Australia.



Fun fact: the colour of the rock changes depending on the light. It goes from yellow to orange and dark brown.

- Whitehaven Beach is located on the Whitsunday Islands, Queensland, Australia. It can be reached by boat, seaplane, or helicopter from Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island. Stretching over seven kilometres, it is famous for its pure white silica sand and turquoise waters. The beach also offers barbecue and camping facilities for visitors.

WHITEHAVEN BEACH FROM WHITSUNDAY ISLAND WITH THE COURTESY OF MRS. STOTZ ►



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Why did you go to Australia?

“I went to Australia because this is the furthest country away from France and because I wanted to discover another culture and a new country.”

Why do you think this country is beautiful?

“Australia is gorgeous because there are a lot of different landscapes like the bush and the city. And also because there is a lot of wildlife that we don’t have in France.”

How long did you stay in Australia?

“I stayed in Australia for ten months: from August 2023 to May 2024.”

At the beginning, was it difficult to understand the people?

“Yes, it was hard during the first few weeks because there is a big difference between what we learn at school and the way people actually speak. And also, it was

difficult with men because they have a more pronounced accent. I got used to the accent after two months, I think.”

Did you make friends quickly?

“I arrived there in the middle of the school year, so it was difficult for me to integrate a group of friends but I was in a group of girls who were nice. And by February I had very good friends and I’m still in contact with them.”

Did you live in a host family? How were they with you?

“Yes, I was in a host family. They had three daughters, they were younger than me but we got along pretty well, the parents were very nice and kind with me too.”

Did you travel in Australia? Which part of Australia did you like ?

“When I arrived in Australia, I landed in Sydney first with all of the exchange students and we stayed there

BY CANVA



for 3 days. We visited the city, we saw the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. After these 3 days, we flew to our host families, so I went to Darwin in the Northern Territory.”

Did you see some animals?

“So, I did see some animals such as white ibis in Sydney. And when I was in Darwin, I saw snakes, crocodiles and wallabies at the wildlife park. And I saw wallabies when we were camping during the summer break. There were a lot of cockatoos in the neighbourhood.”

How was the school?

“Their school classes are very different. There are only

fifteen to twenty students per class. The subjects taught are very dissimilar. We can study subjects like cooking, art or ceramic. And also my school in Australia was an outdoor one. I also had a class called “outdoor education” and every Thursday we were going out, like going swimming in waterfalls or fishing. We did a lot of short trips every Thursday.”

What sort of sport did you discover?

“I discovered some Aussie* sports like AFL (Australian Football League) it’s a mix of rugby and American football and netball, it’s a kind of basketball and it was for women and girls first but now men can play as well. I also discovered speedway, it’s a sort of car race.”

Fun facts: Whenever we were at an assembly* we would sing the Australian anthem which is called “Advance Australia Fair”. They would also play the anthem before big AFL games or before important speedway races.

*Aussie = Australia or Australian

*Assembly = a meeting with all the school where the director makes a speech



PICTURES : COURTESY OF MRS. STOTZ

AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

Here are a few emblematic animals that
you can see in the wild!

Crocodiles :

There are 2 sorts: the fresh water (harmless) and the salt water crocodiles (picture). The latter are very dangerous.

Koalas :

They are THE emblematic animal as they cannot be found elsewhere. This is, however, an endangered species.

Emus :

An emu looks like an ostrich and is harmless.
It is represented on the coat of arms* on the roof of the Parliament.

Kangaroos :

The second emblematic animal that lives freely in Australia.
There are 4 species. Like the koala, it is a marsupial (the baby grows in a pouch*).
The baby is nicknamed “Joey”



Wallabies :

Do not officially belong to the kangaroo species but look a lot like them. The major difference is that they are quite small.

Snakes :

There are 66 species of venomous snakes in Australia, so beware!

*Coat of arms = armoiries

*Pouch = pocket

Thanksgiving

How was this tradition born ?

In 1620, the Pilgrims Fathers arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts after a 2-month journey on a boat called the Mayflower. The Pilgrims Fathers fled England because they were persecuted due to their religion, Protestantism. When they arrived, they found out that there were already some people living there : Indians. These people helped the Pilgrims Fathers when half of them died because of scurvy*. Indians taught them how to fish and to grow corn. Thanksgiving was created to celebrate their first harvest in the autumn of 1621. Since this year, Thanksgiving has become an extremely important day for Americans.

Thanksgiving meal

Thanksgiving takes place every 4th Thursday of November. Usually, families reunite for dinner. It is the most important celebration in the United States. The Thanksgiving traditional dinner is composed of a roast turkey, many side dishes like mashed potatoes, green beans, and sweet potatoes. There are also a lot of desserts, especially pies like the pumpkin pie, apple pie and pecan pie. Another aspect of Thanksgiving is that people save leftovers so that they can make some sandwiches or meals with all of that. Around the table, there are empty seats for people who died.



THANKSGIVING
MEAL - CC BY
PIXABAY

Thanksgiving parade

In big cities during Thanksgiving you can find some parades. For example in New York City, there is an extremely famous parade which is the Macy's Thanksgiving day Parade that was created in 1924. This parade contains a huge number of balloons floating above people. They represent extremely famous characters like Baby Yoda, Snoopy, or even Luffy. It is a really magical moment for children who are watching this parade, all of them are amazed. These parades attract a huge number of spectators even on television. Multiple cities even create their own parade for their inhabitants.

American football

The NFL (National Football League) has played games on Thanksgiving Day since 1920. These games are hosted by the Detroit Lions and also by the Dallas Cowboys, the first one since 1934 and the second since 1966. These 2 teams are extremely famous in the United States. This year, the Detroit Lions played against the Chicago Bears and the Dallas Cowboys played against the New York Giants !

* a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C (in French : scorbut)

THANKSGIVING
MEAL - CC BY
PIXABAY

The Origin of Christmas

Everybody knows that Christmas is celebrated on December 25th, but since when and why?

The first trace of this celebration dates back to before Christianity: it was a pagan celebration after the winter solstice to celebrate the days getting longer and longer. Then, in 336 A.D*, Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor, set the date of December 25th to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, hence the name Christmas.

What about Santa Claus?

The name comes from Dutch “Sint Nikolaas”, also called “Sinter Klaas”. In the XIX century, Saint Nicolas was celebrated by Dutch people in the USA.

He is considered as the patron saint of children and sailors but turned into the merry old man who delivers presents to all the children thanks to a flying sleigh drawn by reindeers.

At first, Santa Claus was depicted as wearing a green robe, but he is now dressed in red. According to Wikipedia, this change is related to a Coca-Cola commercial in 1931.



Did you know ?

By VYN

In Scotland, Christmas was banned for almost 400 years! In 1640, the Scottish Parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal because it was seen as a holiday with too many Pagan rituals and too much partying. Unlike other parts of the UK, where Christmas slowly returned, Christmas celebrations did not come back in Scotland until 1958, when Christmas Day became an official holiday again.

Because of this long ban, the Scots developed a very special end-of-year tradition: “Hogmanay”, the New Year’s celebration, which became the main winter holiday in the country. This celebration can last several days and includes unique customs like “first footing” (where the first person to enter a house after midnight brings good luck for the new year), fireworks, and parades.



SCOTLAND
CHRISTMAS - CC BY
SOMCHAI
KONGKAMSRI

DIY: the perfect Christmas cracker !

Christmas crackers are one of the most popular traditions of the British Christmas. This little sweet-like box is one of the many festive ways to give little gifts to someone, and when pulled open, it makes its famous snapping sound, and reveals the precious treasures it hides. It is fun to open and fun to make, so how about we show you how to make your own at home, with only little things you can find in your kitchen or in a close shop ? Here's a quick tutorial, made by our own hands !!

Materials : Take a cardboard tube (a paper towel tube for example), a pencil, glue (one that can stick paper to cardboard), a colourful Christmas paper gift 30x20, some colourful ribbon, a ruler, a pair of scissors, and of course, your gifts ! (or chocolates if you prefer).

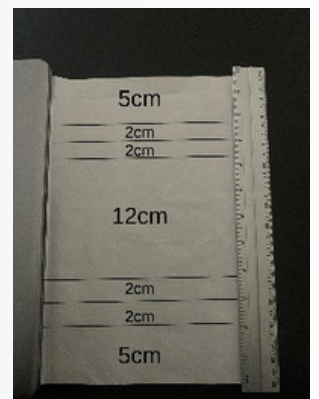


Step 1 : Turn the paper on its white side.
On the clear part, mark a 5cm gap by the length and trace a line on its width. Then mark 2 times 2cm gaps and trace them. Leave a 12cm space, and repeat the process in reverse (the 2cm gaps first).



Personal production

Step 2 : Fold the paper with the help of the traced marks. It should look like this



Step 3 : Fold the 2cm gaps until they form triangular bumps.





Step 4 : Cut triangles leaving little spaces between them on the bumps.

The final result should look like this :



Step 5 : Take your cardboard tube and your glue. On the space between the cut up triangles, put some glue on the edges.



Stick your tube, and then, roll it around the paper until it looks like this.

Step 6 : Take your ribbon and choose one end of your cracker, and tie it nicely.



**You can put your gifts in the open end !
Finally, tie up your ribbon around the other
end of your cracker to close it completely. It
should look like this :**



CHRISTMAS PUDDING BY CANVA



Christmas Pudding

In the U.K a lot of people prepare a Christmas pudding. This typical dessert must be made in advance and takes some time, however, if you follow our instructions your Christmas pudding will be perfect!

Ingredients

- 1,76 oz blanched almonds
- 2 cooking apples
- 7.05 oz box candied peel
- 1 whole nutmeg
- 2.2 lb raisins
- 4.94 oz plain four
- 3.53 soft fresh white breadcrumbs
- 3.53 oz light muscovado sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 6 tablespoons brandy
- 8.82 oz packet butter
- 6.17 oz unsalted butter softened
- 5 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 2 pieces of stem ginger finely chopped
- grated zest of half an orange

1,76 oz blanched almonds	50 grammes
7,05 oz box candied peel	200 grammes
2.2lb raisins	1 kilogramme
4.94 oz plain four	140 grammes
3.53 oz breadcrumbs / muscovado	100 grammes
8.82 oz packet butter	250 grammes
6.17 oz unsalted butter softened	175 grammes

Two Puddings for 8 persons

20 minutes



1 hour - 8 hours



Step 1

Cut the almonds. Peel and cut the cooking apples. Cut off the candied peel. (You can cut the almonds and apples in a food processor, but peeling must be by hand). Grate three quarters of the nutmeg.

Step 2

Mix the almonds, apples, candied peel, nutmeg, raisins, flour, breadcrumbs, light sugar, eggs and 2 tablespoons brandy in a large bowl.

Step 3

Grate a quarter of the butter from the package into the bowl, and mix. Repeat this process until all the butter has been grated, then stir for 3-4 minutes. The mixture is ready when it falls a little. Ask the family to stir and make a wish!

Step 4

Butter two 42.23 fl oz bowls and place baking paper at the bottom of each. Add pudding mixture. Cover with a double layer of baking paper, fold to allow for expansion, then secure with twine (hold paper in place with a rubber band while securing). Cut off the excess paper.

Step 5

Place each bowl on a large sheet of aluminium and close the edges upwards, then put another sheet of aluminium foil on top and close it again downwards to form a double wrap. Secure with twine and form a handle for easy entry and exit.

Step 6

Cook the puddings in the oven for 8 hours, add water if necessary. Remove the puddings and let them cool overnight. When cool, remove the dirty wrappers and re-wrap them in baking paper, aluminium and twine. Keep in a cool, dry place until Christmas.

Step 7

For the brandy butter, cream the butter with the orange zest and icing sugar. Add the brandy and ginger. Put in a small bowl, place a fork on top and refrigerate. (The butter will keep for a week in the fridge, or up to six weeks in the freezer).

Step 8

On Christmas Day, heat the puddings in the oven for 1 hour. Unwrap and unmould.

Alcohol abuse is dangerous to your health.

