



## Keeping children amused in the holidays

Lyn Cram has had plenty of practice

**E**aster school holidays are just around the corner. Many mums and dads dread hearing that old moan, "I'm bored. What can we do?" Here are some tried and tested ways to entertain children of all ages, without spending lots of money. You might find you have fun too.

### A SCAVENGER HUNT

You can do this at home, in your own backyard or a park. Give each child a list of things to find plus a bag to put them in. For example: a red leaf, a feather, yellow flower, piece of paper, a pebble, branch or stick from a tree, a pencil, three green leaves with different shapes etc. You may have to 'plant' things for the children to find. Use your imagination. Older children can help little ones.

### A TREASURE HUNT

Either draw or colour in pictures from a colouring in book. It's good to have a theme eg. pirates. Next to each picture write a few words which will lead to the next clue eg. "Look for a pirate ship". Place clues apart so they will have to run around the area to

find the next clue. Last clue leads to the hidden 'treasure' which could be an old shoebox with treats inside like chocolate coins, lollipops etc.

### PUPPETS

Make puppets from old socks, gloves, paper plates on sticks or a polystyrene ball with a piece of material attached. Use scraps of wool for the hair, buttons for eyes, scraps of material for a tongue, and clothes. Turn a small table on its side for the puppet show. Children can make scenery and props and put on a 'show'.

### A TALENT QUEST

It could be organised like the X Factor with judges giving marks and comments. Everyone gets a turn.

### MAKE SOME PLAYDOH

Make with flour, salt, oil and water or buy ready made. Give children old pans, patty cases, trays and let them make a 'Café/Pizza shop' They can make menus and take orders. This is popular with older children too and they may want to dress-up and take on roles.

### BLOWING BUBBLES

Detergent solution, bubble pipes or a bubble machine ... hours of fun.

### PAINTING WITH WATER

Children love this. All you need is some water in the bottom of a bucket and some house-painting brushes and rollers. They can 'paint' the bricks, veranda, paths and fences (and it's a good way to get rid of cobwebs as well). Little ones will need adult supervision.

### FASHION PARADE

All you need are some old clothes, hats, scarves, beads, ties, shoes and bags and let them make up some 'cool' outfits. If you have funny wigs and make-up or face paints, all the better.

### MASKS

Cut out (or purchase) mask shapes, pens, paints, stickers, glue, feathers and lots of imagination.

### MURALS

An old sheet or tablecloth can be attached to a fence or wall. Mix some water paint or food colouring with water and put in spray bottles. Also use paint brushes and small rollers and make a great mural.

### PAPER GARLANDS

Cut strips of coloured and patterned paper and make loops which are joined together with tape. Great for Christmas or party decorations.

### POTATO PRINTING

Cut potatoes in half and carve a simple shape, dip in paint and 'print' patterns on plain paper. Great for cards or wrapping paper.

### MAKE A NEWSPAPER

Older children may like to make their own newspaper or club news. Include cartoons, stories, photos and drawings and photocopy so everyone has a copy. A good group activity.

### PAPER PLANES

Make paper aeroplanes and then see how far they will fly. Watch the movie 'Paper Planes' and be inspired.

### KITES

Simple kites can be made using paper or thin material, string, and wooden skewers or sticks. Decorate and fly them on a windy day.

### CUBBY HOUSE

Throw a sheet or old curtain over a table or drying frame. Add some cushions and rugs, toys and snacks and the

children can make-believe they're camping, on a pirate ship, or in a hide-out.

### WET AND WILD DAY

When it's hot there's nothing like cooling off under the sprinkler, or fill spray bottles with water, small buckets of water with sponges to soak, water balloons as bombs, a slip'n'slide or paddle pool and they'll have hours of fun cooling off. Adult supervision needed.

### OLD-FASHIONED RACES

Great for a get-together with family and friends. Egg and spoon races (you can use ping pong balls), three-legged races, sack races, long jumps, wheelbarrow races and fun prizes.

### MAGNETS

Have fun with magnets. See what attaches to the magnet. Try paperclips, screws, tacks, cooking utensils, different sorts of rocks, iron filings.

### BALLOON TRICKS

Blow up some balloons and see how long you can keep one in the air by bouncing with your hands, or lay down and bounce with your feet.

### COOKING

Children love helping in the kitchen. Make simple cookies, chocolate crackles, jellies, cup cakes. Cut up fruit and thread on skewers or ice some plain biscuits and decorate and be creative.

### SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS

Make a 'volcano' using bicarbonate soda and red food colouring in some white vinegar. This is very effective if you make a mound with sand or dirt and put a small container like an empty yoghurt tub in the middle, put in the bicarb, then pour in the vinegar and watch the fun!



PHOTO: ANNA SULLIVAN

## Billycart Derby coming soon

Laurie Ffrench provides the rundown

**T**he Braidwood Lions Club celebrated its 50-year anniversary last year.

Current members are proud of the tradition of the Club and proud of the work we do in running various events supporting many causes and raising money for re-distribution back into the community. Regularly we raise in excess of \$20,000 on an annual basis.

One of our signature events is the Braidwood Community Bank Billycart Derby. We first ran this event in 2010 so 2017 will be the eighth time.

This is run on the first Sunday in May each year and staged very much as a fun, family day out.

Young and old participate in racing their billycarts down the challenging Gillamatong Lane course and in the lead up families all enjoy designing and readying their carts for race day.

Lolly bags, raffle prizes (including a BMX bike), face painting, a ticket from the Police manning the radar gun, BBQ and refreshments and excellent money prizes are key features of the day.

Braidwood Lions members are delighted with the way the Braidwood business houses become involved and provide the necessary funding and in-kind support to make this very popular event work. Braidwood Community Bank is underwriting sponsor with more than fifty other businesses providing valuable support.

Full details of this event can be found at: [www.braidwoodbillycarts.wordpress.com](http://www.braidwoodbillycarts.wordpress.com)  
Come along and get involved.

### Braidwood Lions Club

Supporting our community with regular activities around town

Membership Inquires to the Secretary: 0417 900 765



We Serve