



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

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The Chronicle

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PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL NOT BE A JANUARY MEETING!

Meetings: Next meeting will be at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on **Tuesday 11 February, 2025**, 10.30 for a 10.45 start. All are invited to join us for lunch at the end of the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Dr Phillip Kendall will speak on using dentistry to solve a mystery..

Birthdays in January: Many happy returns to Jan Graham, Julia Harrison, Judy Henry, Jocelyn Ison, Brian Roach, Vicki McCrum and other members who are celebrating. Flower and Birthstone are the Carnation and Blue Zircon.



Christmas Lunch: Tuesday 10 December saw 64 people enjoy a wonderful lunch with even better company at Fireflies at the Merewether Bowling Club. It was a lovely occasion fully enjoyed by all those present



Hard working catering staff



gcmag.com.au/what-australia-googled-2024

In 2024, Australians in their thousands looked to Google "to stay informed, celebrate triumphs, explore hobbies, and understand the world around them. From global events to cultural moments, this year's trends reflect a nation that's curious, creative, and connected."

Cost of living pressures affected many, many Australians, creating difficulties in their lives and preventing full participation in daily activities. It did not however affect Google searches.

"The nation's curiosity ranged from politics to natural wonders to new vocabulary. Major events like the US election and the Queensland election 2024 results drove searches, with Aussies eager to understand the outcomes and implications."

Much attention was on "the Aurora Australis, captivated by the phenomenon's stunning displays." We even expanded our vocabulary, asking Google the meanings of words like "demure" and "baroque", showcasing our desire to learn and grow."

"From international competitions to local heroes, sport was a constant topic of interest. This year's searches included major global events such as the Olympics, Paralympics, Euros, Copa America, and the T20 World Cup. Nationally there "was a surge of pride for Aussie women in sport, whether it was cricket, soccer, or other events, sport brought Aussies together in 2024 like never before.

"Entertainment was a huge focus this year, with Aussies exploring the best in gaming,

theatre, and cinema. Google's new game, "Connections", became a fan favourite, as players challenged their minds and competed with friends.

On the screen, movies and shows like "Saltburn", "Baby Reindeer", "Beetlejuice", and the adaptation of "Boy Swallows Universe" captured our attention. These entertainment highlights reflected a mix of homegrown stories and international hits that resonated across the country."

Australians are always keen to try something new in dining and "food trends continued to dominate Google searches in 2024. This year's standouts included recipes for the viral 'air fryer', the intriguing 'oatzempic'" (a drink made with oatmeal, lime and cinnamon), "and the refreshing "cucumber salad".

Sweet treats also stole the spotlight, with searches for the Olympic chocolate muffins recipe inspiring home bakers nationwide. These searches reveal not just our love for food but also our willingness to embrace the latest culinary crazes."

"If there's one celebrity who owned the Aussie search charts in 2024, it was Taylor Swift. The pop icon's influence went beyond music, as fans eagerly Googled "How to make Taylor Swift friendship bracelets" and details about her rumoured romance with Travis Kelce. Swifties in Australia ensured the singer stayed top of mind, proving her global stardom resonates strongly Down Under."

Inveterate travellers, Australians were keen to get away again after the Covid restrictions. Travel was back in a big way this year, with "destinations both near and far. Among the top spots were King Island, Melbourne, and a variety of locations across Asia, reflecting a renewed interest in both domestic and international getaways.

Whether for leisure, adventure, or simply a change of scenery, 2024 saw Australians embracing their wanderlust once again."

Google searches assisted many Aussies in finding their resourceful side in 2024. Help was sought for "practical projects and meaningful moments. Searches like "DIY car maintenance" and "how to inspect a used car" highlighted a growing interest in self-sufficiency while the search for "how to make Easter bunny footprints" captured the playful,

creative spirit of Australians – a reminder of the joy in small, heartfelt gestures."

Just exactly what does the above information say about Australians?

It reveals more than just the most Googled terms; "it paints a picture of Australia's collective mindset. This year, we balanced curiosity with creativity, celebrated sports and culture, and sought out new experiences. Whether exploring the world, improving our skills, or indulging in entertainment, Aussies demonstrated a shared passion for learning, connection, and celebration. What will 2025 bring? Only time – and Google searches – will tell! Here's to another year of curiosity, creativity, and connection!"

Point to Ponder: 2024 is almost behind us; after the fuss and bustle of the Christmas Season the final few days provide an opportunity to reflect on the year that was, and the events that had an impact, either positive or negative, on our lives. It **IS** true that time goes faster as we age and our memories become more precious. But we must not dwell solely on these so that we don't appreciate, and live in, the here and now.

Our modern world can be a frightening, bewildering place but also an exciting adventure for those willing to take the opportunities it offers.

2024/25 Committee:

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