

compliments of the season

Festive festoonery

IT'S time to think of Christmas decorations, whether your tastes run to contemporary themes or you prefer to load the tree with time-worn but cherished trinkets.

Flashing fibre-optic path lights can brighten the entrance to your home and LED star lights can light up your windows.

For some, Christmas isn't complete without an advent calendar, garlands of red and green and holly.

First visit the Johnston Collection of Christmas decorations at Fairhall in East Melbourne before picking your festive theme.

The former home of antique dealer and collector William Robert Johnston, Fairhall promises a visual feast.

Director Nina Stanton said the W. R. Johnston Trust invited groups and individuals from Ballarat to create decorations inspired by furniture, ceramics, paintings and other decorative arts.

"As a result, embroiderers, quilters, lacemakers, beaders and many more have created the decorations," she said.

Participants include The Embroiderers Guild of Victoria Inc (Ballarat branch), Ballarat Crafts Council, Australian Lace Guild - Ballarat group, Country Women's Association, Begonia Quilters Inc and Ballarat Textile Network.



Even canvas can be used to make a creative Christmas tree.

Visitors can admire the patchwork stockings in front of the fireplace and marvel at the chain of 52 lace links decorating the hallway.

Each link took one lacemaker one week to complete!

Fairhall is in East Melbourne. Tour prices are \$20 for adults, \$16.50 for concessions and \$128 for groups of eight people.

Bookings are essential on 9416 2515.