

# Deck the halls in fine style

Stylish Christmas decorating doesn't have to be difficult

DECK the halls. It's time to think of Christmas decorations, and whether your tastes run to contemporary themes or you prefer to load the tree with time-worn, but cherished, trinkets, the choice is yours.

For a modern touch, flashing fibre optic path lights can brighten the entrance to your home for the festivities, or if you prefer stars in your eyes, light up your living room windows with LED star lights.

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

Be inspired by the Johnston Collection of Christmas decorations at Fairhall in East Melbourne first before deciding on your theme this year.

The former home of antique dealer and collector William Robert Johnston, Fairhall promises a feast for the eyes and mind.

"This year the W. R. Johnston Trust invited



**An Indian inspired Christmas sleigh.**

groups and individuals from Ballarat to create decorations inspired by the furniture, ceramics, paintings and other decorative arts in the Johnston Collection.

"As a result, embroiderers, quilters, lace makers, bead makers and many more have created the decorations," director Nina Stanton 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. 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 lace maker one week to complete!

Fairhall is in East Melbourne, and tour prices are \$20 for adults, \$16.50 for concessions and \$128 for groups of eight people. Bookings: 9416 2515.



**A creative canvas Christmas tree.**