

From Andrew Holden:

Ho ho ho - it's time for some Christmas fun!

The city looks wonderful with Christmas decorations, but our poor old floor is looking like the Grinch. So how about we give you some cash (yes, that is possible, though any receipts gratefully received) to buy something to brighten up your pod.

But wait, there's more. It's a competition - the winning pod of desks will receive \$100 cash (or \$200 for the big ones) plus an Age hamper, normally only available to subscribers. Imagine kicking back with your team, sipping some fine wine (is that allowed?) whilst munching on lots of goodies and waving regally to all who walk past your desk? That will make it a hot one (ho ho ho, bad joke).

Each pod will receive the cash from Shin this week (\$20 for a bank of six, \$40 for the big 12-seaters). You may use the money for anything you like, and bring any materials from home. Having been part of the portacabin decoration competition in Christchurch last year, I can give you the hint that themes work well for judges (A mobsters' Xmas theme for Sly and his crew?).

No offices or editing suites included - those who hang out in these please join one of the smaller pods - and there's a booby prize for the pod that makes no effort at all.

Deadline day is Tuesday of next week, when the Sunday crew will be back in. I'm hoping to have Jack Mathews as chief judge (assisted by my two-year-old Raffi, whose favourite bribe is chocolate).

There are only two rules - if your pod has only one female, lazy blokes are not allowed to do her in as chief decorator; and you may recruit one other staff member from elsewhere in the building. Library and editorial finance friends on the third floor are also welcome to join any team.

Have fun decorating!

Andrew