

While Britain greets the season of jingle-bells - in Australia, ~~the~~ belles
of another kind bring a promise of fast-approaching summer. They were State finalists -
 competing in Brisbane - for the title "Miss Australia".

And the girl from the "sunshine state", (lovely Maureen Kistle of Queensland)
 becomes the reigning consort of Old King Sol.

Later, she'll represent Australia in the "Miss Universe" contest.

Melbourne reserved a ~~special~~ ^{SPECIAL} welcome for Barbara Porritt - who left ~~Barbar~~
RESCAR YORKSHIRE, with her husband - to become the One Millionth new settler in Australia ~~the~~

since the way. Good luck, Barbara, and sunny days.

Yes One million immigrants - and the Stalenberg family from ^{Holland} ~~xxxxxxxx~~ gave
 Australia a good start on the second million. There was Mother, with
 Erna and Jose, the youngsters, ^{Ans} Netty. ~~Ans~~... Gemma... Marga... Joop...
 the twins Elly and Lydia.... and (still coming) Ria.... Jan.... ~~Ms~~ Henny....
 Adrie... Gerard.

Sixteen settlers facing a new life. That's real Dutch courage. *S*

Over to Adelaide for the annual summer parade - for though Christmas is
 often celebrated in a heat-wave - the season of good cheer still calls
 for Yuletide festivities....

And though Santa Claus makes his rounds in the sunshine - he gets his
 beard scorched just the same... *Yab*