



News Release

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TIP TOE THROUGH THIS YEAR'S TULIPS

VIP's and locals rolled up their sleeves this morning for the first planting of bulbs for the 2014 Tulip Time Festival, to be held throughout the Southern Highlands from 13 September to 6 October.

The planting took place in Bowral's Corbett Gardens, at 10am Tuesday 29 April. The Acting General Manager of Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ann Prendergast was joined by Tiffany Mitchell, Lucy Mowat, Rhonda McCaw and her guide dog Cameron representing Guide Dogs NSW/ACT as this year's Tulip Time charity partner. Member for Throsby Stephen Jones MP and Councilors Graham McLaughlin, Garry Turland and Ian Scandrett were also on hand getting their hands 'dirty' and being involved in planting the first tulips of 2014 in Corbett Gardens. Also joining in on the fun was the Year 6W students from Bowral Public School.

Each year the bulbs for the festival are sourced and carefully selected to showcase these magnificent plants and to create a visual extravaganza that will delight all who visit the gardens throughout the festival.

Acting General Manager, Ann Prendergast officially launched the bulb planting ceremony.

"Following last year's festival, Council's Parks and Gardens team have been working hard since the end of last year to present a garden design that is one, different, and two, will be as good as and even better than those presented in past years," she said. "This year there is also extra excitement as we celebrate Corbett Gardens 100th official birthday and we'll be paying tribute to that in a special way in one of the main beds".

The challenge of producing an exciting program for both locals and visitors each year is not an easy one however, this year's program promises to deliver some awesome events aimed to entertain all ages, such as the:

- Southern Highlands Food & Wine Festival (13th & 14th September, Bong Bong Racecourse)
- Radio 2ST Community Breakfast (19th September, Corbett Gardens);
- new comer Wine Maker's Dinner (19th September, Mittagong RSL);

- much loved Street Parade (20th September with start time to be confirmed);
- new comer the Billy Cart Derby (20th September with start time to be confirmed);
- Street Markets (27th & 28th September, Wingecarribee Street, Bowral);
- Music in the Gardens (27th September 2pm-6pm, Corbett Gardens);
- Jazz & Ragtime Festival (27th & 28th September, Frensham, Mittagong and St Judes, Bowral);
- Southern Highlands Rugby 7's Festival (4th October, Eridge Park Oval, Bowral); and
- The 'Battle of the Bangers' sausage cook off conducted throughout the Shire's quaint villages and town pubs (commencing in June with Finals 6th October, Surveyor General, Berrima).

"Tulip Time is the region's premier tourism event generating huge economic and social benefits for the Southern Highlands," Ms Prendergast added.

"It also provides numerous opportunities for all to get involved, be you young or old.

I therefore urge the local community and businesses to get behind this year's festival by planting bulbs, decorating your business or shop fronts, participating in the street parade or just supporting any of the many events and inviting your friends and family to visit during this wonderful period".

The striking autumn colours that now blanket the Southern Highlands will soon blaze into a rainbow of colour when the 100,000 tulip bulbs show off their beauty in spring.

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For full details regarding Tulip Time, please visit
www.tuliptime.net.au or contact Debbie Pearce, Destination Southern Highlands Event Coordinator
via email debbie.pearce@wsc.nsw.gov.au or call on 02 4871 2888
