News Release

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3 May 2016

COME ON AN ADVENTURE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS!

VIP's and locals rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty this morning for the first planting of bulbs for the 2016 Tulip Time Festival, to be held throughout the Southern Highlands in 133 days' time from 13 to 25 September 2016.

The 13 day historic festival promises to be one of the most colourful and best on record as it celebrates its 56th continuous year as the Southern Highlands most loved community and tourism event.

Wingecarribee Shire Council Deputy Mayor, Clr Ian Scandrett launched the countdown to this year's festival along with charity partner Cure Brain Cancer Foundation in Bowral's picturesque Corbett Gardens.

Deputy Mayor Scandrett said "Tulip Time is the region's premier tourism event generating huge economic and social benefits for the Southern Highlands. It also provides numerous opportunities for all the local community to get involved, be they young or old."

"I encourage the local community and businesses to get behind this year's festival by planting purple bulbs, decorating your business or shop fronts in purple, participating in the street parade or just supporting any of the events in this year's exciting program by inviting your friends and relatives to visit during this springtime celebration" Deputy Mayor Scandrett added.

Destination Southern Highlands Manager, Steve Rosa highlighted at today's launch that the dormant gardens and striking autumn colours that now blanket the Southern Highlands will soon blaze into a rainbow of color when over 100,000 tulip bulbs and 15,000 annuals show off their beauty in spring. Steve said "This year's festival theme colour is purple in support of our charity partner Cure Brain Cancer Foundation. Southern Highlanders will share their LOVE of Tulip Time and throw their support behind this year's Festival Ambassador, Marcella Zemanek.

Each year Council's Parks and Gardens team set themselves a big challenge to better the design and presentation of the garden beds in Corbett Gardens for Tulip Time over the previous years. Head Gardner, Rod Mcternan said "This year we have designed flower beds that will bring to life the festival theme of Alice in Wonderland. The bulbs are carefully sourced from Victoria and Tasmania to showcase these magnificent plants and to create a visual extravaganza that will delight all who visit the gardens throughout the festival. There will be garden beds such as the Mad Hatters Tea Party, the white rabbit's watch, the famous Cheshire cat and the Queen's garden all representing scenes from the storybook animations of Alice in Wonderland."

The challenge of also producing an exciting festival 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:

- Community Breakfast hosted by Radio 2ST - 16 September from 7am, Corbett Gardens
- Cinema @ Sunset – date to be confirmed
- Much loved Street Parade - 17 September from 2pm along Bong Bong Street
- Cure Brain Cancer Cocktail Party – 24 September from 5.30pm
- Music, events and activities associated with the festivals theme of 'Alice in Wonderland'

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For Further Information & Images

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