

Tulip Time 2017 late to bloom but still a success

The 57th Southern Highlands Tulip Time Festival has been hailed a success with over 34,000 visitors flocking through the gates of Corbett Gardens.

Council's Manager Tourism and Events Steve Rosa said despite not reaching record visitation levels he was pleased with the result.

"Weather conditions weren't on our side this year," he said. "A dry and cool winter delayed a number of tulips from blooming but nevertheless, the annuals and other plantings put on a spectacular display of colour."

Festival organisers made a decision to waive the visitor entry fee for the first eight days of the festival due to late blooming tulips.

"This was a difficult decision but we were delighted to see that patrons granted free entry donated generously to our charity partner Redkite," said Mr Rosa.

"The wide array of events on offer this year provided plenty of entertainment and attracted visitors from near and far, showcasing what the Southern Highlands has to offer."

Events held throughout the floral festival included 'Cinema at Sunset', the annual Street Parade, 'Music in the Gardens' and the 'Redkite Puppet Show'.

"Special thanks go to our charity partner Redkite, the Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Industry, our local community groups, volunteers, businesses and sponsors for their continued support," said Mr Rosa.

"Of course the event would not have been the success it was without the Destination Southern Highlands tourism team, Council gardeners and the wonderful support we received from local residents and visitors."

In an effort to counter the changing seasons, the 2018 festival will be held a week later from Tuesday 18 September to Monday 1 October 2018.

"We're delighted to present a 14 day festival which will include the October long weekend, one of our busiest tourist visitation weekends," said Mr Rosa.

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