



# News Release

**Contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**14 June 2011**

## **'COUNTDOWN TO TULIP TIME' – 100 Days To Go!**

The COUNTDOWN is on to this year's 51st Tulip Time Festival when in only 100 days time the Southern Highlands of NSW will burst into a blanket of colour and activities. This year's Tulip Time Ambassador and 70's entertainer Marty Rhone will today launch the 2011 Tulip Time entertainment program in Corbett Plaza Bowral at 10.30am.

This year Tulip Time has taken on a 70's theme with the colour purple and the message of 'Strength & Hope' underpinning the Festivals Charity partner Parkinsons NSW branding. The theme will be integrated into traditional and new events of this year's festival program. During the 70's & 80's 'COUNTDOWN' was a long running popular Australian music television program which helped launch many Australian artist careers. It was the most popular music program in Australian history. Marty Rhone was one of those artists and he has gathered his mates of that era such as Swanee, Ray Burgess, Diana Lee & Donnie Sutherland to stage a 'Countdown To Tulip Time' Dinner Dance Show at the Mittagong RSL on Thursday 22 September. Funds from the Tulip Time event will support local community programs of Parkinson NSW.

Whilst COUNTDOWN was viewed in most lounge rooms throughout Australia during the '70's so too did a record breaking musical and stage show production called GREASE. Both these popular shows will once again take centre stage at this year's Tulip Time Festival. The Southern Highlands Youth Arts Council (SHYAC) has secured the rights to GREASE and will perform the production over 14 days at the conclusion

of this years Tulip Time Festival at the Mittagong Playhouse. The Cast of the show will also feature in this year's Tulip Time Street Parade and perform at the popular 'Tulips After Dark' in Corbett Gardens.

Marty Rhone & 70's Rocker Ray Burgess will today join with members of SHYAC and the Tulip Time Committee at 10.30am outside the Mezza Bar Café in Corbett Plaza, Bowral to share some soda pop and launch this years exciting 51<sup>st</sup> Tulip Time 70's style Festival program.

**Ends**

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**Photo & Interview Opportunity:**

Marty Rhone & Ray Burgess along with a beautifully restored Hot Rod will be available in Corbett Plaza Bowral at 10.30am on Tuesday 14 June 2011 following the Tulip Time Entertainment Program.

**For Further Details**

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