

News Release

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CORBETT GARDENS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

This year Corbett Gardens will celebrate their official opening 100 years ago, with the gardens being the major site for the Tulip Time Festival for the past 54 years. It all began in 1910 when a letter was sent to the then Mayor of Bowral asking for a meeting to discuss the purchasing of the land, a committee was formed, with Ada Corbett as the honorary secretary. It was proposed that the land become a 'carpet square', a beauty spot and a recreation 'resort' and garden, with a bandstand in the centre.

The following year in 1911 with a £350 grant, received from the Department of Lands, clearing the land began, a bandstand was erected and shrubs donated by the Botanical Gardens, Sydney, were planted. In December of the same year the garden was named Corbett Gardens in honour of Ada, the woman who was the prime mover behind the idea. Corbett Gardens were officially opened on Wednesday 16 December 1914 by Mr. F.A. Badgery MLA and the band rotunda was opened by Ald. E. Boardman, the then Bowral Municipal Council Mayor.

Some 40 plus years later, in October 1958 the "Festival of Flowers" began, but lapsed after just a couple of years in 1960 due to a lack of support and funding. Then, in 1961 the Bowral Rotary Club presented the Bowral Municipal Council with 500 tulip bulbs to be planted, and so began Tulip Time in Corbett Gardens.

Tulip Time in its Corbett Gardens home continues today, with the Festival now coordinated by Destination Southern Highlands, a business unit of Wingecarribee Shire Council providing not only, an outstanding floral display for the 2 weeks of the festival, but daily entertainment, markets stalls, and food & wine outlets, a true festival with a little something for all ages. To celebrate this 100 year milestone, visitors to Corbett Gardens this Tulip Time will be treated to garden beds planted out in the shape of a very large birthday cake.

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For Further Information & High Res Images

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