

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TULIP TIME HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

The countdown is on to the start of the region's largest and premier event Tulip Time. With 19 days to go this year's Tulip Time program has been finalised and will see an expanded and rejuvenated program of events and activities that will appeal to all age groups and interests. Whilst the 60,000 plus tulips planted in Corbett Gardens, Bowral will be the major draw card for the 35,000 odd visitors attending the 54<sup>th</sup> Tulip Time Festival the event organisers are excited with all the new experiences on offer that will provide 'something for everyone' at this year Festival.

### **What's NEW or DIFFERENT?**

- Kicking off the festival will be the staging of the Southern Highlands Food & Wine Festival in Corbett Gardens on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September from 10am – 4pm. The best of the regions local food & wine producers will showcase their products with tastings and sales. Master classes will be also conducted and celebrity chef James Reeson will film an episode of his WIN TV Cooking Show 'Alive & Cooking' in the Gardens
- Corbett Gardens will celebrate its official 100<sup>th</sup> birthday – one of the flower beds will be converted into a giant birthday cake to commemorate the 100 years of the official opening of the iconic public park back on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1914. 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.

**ENDS**

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**For Further Information & High Res Images**

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