
9.10 Festival of Lights December 2022

Report Author: Tulip Time Officer

Authoriser: Director Corporate Strategy and Resourcing

PURPOSE

This report advises Council of the planned activities for the 2022 Festival of Lights and requests the waiving of fees and charges for the use Council run village halls and facilities for the purposes of conducting Festival of Lights Christmas activities. This report also seeks to lift the Corbett Garden's Alcohol Prohibition Area to allow a Festival of Lights Concert on New Year's Eve in Corbett Gardens.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

1. Council note the planned activities for the Festival of Lights Christmas celebration.
2. Council approve the exclusive use of Corbett Gardens by Business Southern Highlands (BSH) for the purpose of setting up and packing down Christmas Wonderland lighting infrastructure from Tuesday 29 November 2022 to Thursday 1 December 2022 and Tuesday 2 January to Wednesday 3 January 2023.
3. Council approve the waiver of fees and charges for the use of community village halls and the Seniors' Rooms in Corbett Gardens to conduct Festival of Lights Christmas activities.
4. Council undertake a 28-day public notification period in relation to waiving the hire fees up to \$7,000 for community village halls and the Senior's Rooms in Corbett gardens associated with the Festival of Lights in accordance with Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
5. Council approve the suspension of the Corbett Gardens Alcohol Prohibition Area from 9.00pm 1.00am on New Year's Eve for a ticketed concert and light display.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021, Council approved the exclusive use of Corbett Gardens for a 2022 'Festival of Lights' event and requested that the dates were to be advised.

Further, at the Council meeting held on 4 May 2022, Council approved an amount of \$15,000 from Council Christmas Funds to be provided for Christmas Wonderland (organised by Business Southern Highlands) subject to Council receiving appropriate recognition for the use of public funds.

This report is to advise Council of the planned activities for the 2022 Festival of Lights and the waiving of fees and charges for the use Council run village halls and facilities. For the purposes of conducting Festival of Lights Christmas activities in December 2022.

REPORT

In December 2021, Council in partnership with Business Southern Highlands (BSH) and community groups, organised and delivered the inaugural Festival of Lights which included Christmas Wonderland in Corbett Gardens, the Festival of Lights branding, decorated Christmas trees and lighting events in towns; and community organised Christmas activities. The Festival of Lights 2021 Community Survey indicated that 43% of the respondents visited Christmas Wonderland in Corbett Gardens and 91% agreed that that Council should provide funding for Christmas events in the Shire.

The Festival of Lights 2022 calendar includes Christmas activities being organised by the community groups in Council facilities in the Shire. These are still being finalised including details of the use of Council facilities. To ensure the required 28-day public notification period to waive the hire fees in accordance with Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* can be met, a blanket waiver of hire fees for community Festival of Lights activities in Council owned facilities is being requested. Attachment 1 shows the confirmed Festival of Lights activities to date.

BSH will be delivering Christmas Wonderland in Corbett Gardens with an expanded program of activities including the C3 Church's Santa Grotto, family film nights, carols, concerts, and a New Year's Eve light display in Corbett Gardens. Essential to the delivery of Christmas Wonderland is the use of the Senior's Room in Corbett Gardens to store lights and event equipment, first aid and greenroom facilities and additional Christmas Wonderland activities.

BSH are also overseeing the Angels in Our Town parade to be held on December 10 at 6.30pm on Bong Bong Street. The parade will allow the community to recognise and thank the work of the local police, SES, RFS, teachers, Paramedics, Ambulance, nurses, medical staff and health workers. These groups will be participating in the parade along with 300 local school children wearing angel wings. The parade will start in Banyette Street and finish in Corbett Gardens.

On Saturday 31 December, to celebrate the closing of The Festival of Lights and Christmas Wonderland, a New Year's Eve concert and light display in Corbett Gardens is planned by BSH. The community would be invited to picnic in the gardens with bag checks on entry carried out by security guards. To manage numbers in the garden and the amount of alcohol brought in this event would be ticketed with amount of alcohol permissible advised to ticket purchasers ie one bottle of wine per couple. Corbett Gardens is an Alcohol Prohibition area between 9.00pm and 6.00am, BSH have requested that Council reduce the prohibition requirements for Corbett Gardens on this night to 1.00am to 6.00am. As advised by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (ILGA), that whilst a Liquor licence is not required for an event of this nature, BSH are required to work with the local police and meet the requirements they want put in place to manage the event.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

Council is working with village associations, community groups and Business Southern Highlands to assist with the delivery of the Festival of Lights.

Internal Communication and Consultation

Council's Event Officers are liaising with various Council teams including Assets, Planning, Economic Development and the Open Spaces Team to ensure the delivery of safe and professional events.

External Communication and Consultation

Council's Tourism and Events team are assisting BSH with the coordination of Council's requirements for the Festival of Lights and promoting the festival through its promotional platforms. Council's Community Development are working with Villages to support their community led Christmas festivities. Council will also be funding and hanging Festival of Light banners and flags in Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale

BSH are in consultation with the local Police Force and SES and Council's traffic committee.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

There are no environmental issues in relation to this report.

Social

The inclusive Christmas activities for people of all faiths (and none) will bring families and people together to celebrate joyfully engendering goodwill and inclusiveness. This is especially important this year given the impacts of Covid and floods on the Shire.

Broader Economic Implications

The Festival of Lights will attract locals and visitors to the Highlands increasing Christmas spending, contributing to the economic vitality of the area.

Culture

There are no cultural issues in relation to this report.

Governance

There are no governance issues in relation to this report.

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The total amount of fees waived for the use of community village halls and the Seniors' Rooms in Corbett Gardens to conduct Festival of Lights Christmas activities will be capped at \$7,000 with full details advertised as required under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

In response to the community's feedback from the survey of the 2021 Festival of Lights, that Council support, the planned activities for the 2022 Festival of Lights organised by Community Groups, Associations and Business Southern Highlands in partnership with Council; approve the waiving of fees and charges for the use Council run village halls and facilities for the purposes of conducting Festival of Lights Christmas activities in December 2022, and support the lifting of Corbett Garden's

**AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Alcohol Prohibition Area to allow a Festival of Lights Concert on New Year's Eve in Corbett Gardens in consultation with the local Police.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Christmas Wonderland Calender of Events [9.10.1 - 1 page]

December 2022

Christmas Wonderland in Corbett Gardens Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29 Christmas Wonderland Bump In Corbett Gardens Closed	30 Christmas Wonderland Bump In Corbett Gardens Closed	1 Christmas Wonderland Bump In Corbett Gardens Closed	2 Christmas Wonderland Opening Night 6pm Concert 7.30	3 Christmas Wonderland Corbett Gardens	4 Christmas Wonderland Corbett Gardens
5 Christmas Wonderland	6 Christmas Wonderland	7 Christmas Wonderland	8 Christmas Wonderland	9 Christmas Wonderland	10 Christmas Wonderland Angels in Our Town parade, 7.30	11 Christmas Wonderland
12 Christmas Wonderland	13 Christmas Wonderland	14 Christmas Wonderland	15 Christmas Wonderland BSH Networking Seniors Rooms	16 Family Film Night 7.30pm	17 Santa's Grotto Seniors' Rooms Young at Art Concert 7.30	18 Christmas Wonderland Santa's Grotto Seniors' Rooms
19 Christmas Wonderland Santa's Grotto Seniors' Rooms	20 Christmas Wonderland Santa's Grotto Seniors' Rooms	21 Christmas Wonderland Santa's Grotto Seniors' Rooms	22 Christmas Wonderland Santa's Grotto Seniors' Rooms	23 Santa's Grotto Seniors' Room Family Film Night 7.30pm	24 Santa's Grotto Seniors' Room Carols in Corbett Gardens 7.30	25 PUBLIC HOLIDAY C3 Church Xmas Lunch, Seniors' Rooms
26 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	27 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	28 Christmas Wonderland	29 Christmas Wonderland	30 Christmas Wonderland	31 Kkaos Party 5pm NYE Concert & Light Display (Tickets) 7.30-12pm	1 PUBLIC HOLIDAY
2 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	3 FOL Bump Out Corbett Gardens Closed					