

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday September 30th, 2024

Waratah-Wynyard Council Secures Festivals Australia Funding for 'Land of the Tommigenener People' at the 2024 Wynyard Tulip Festival

Waratah-Wynyard Council is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$12,000 grant through the Festivals Australia program to support the 'Land of the Tommigenener People' project as part of the 32nd annual Wynyard Tulip Festival. This exciting project will celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Tommigenener people, the traditional custodians of the land around Table Cape and Wynyard.

The 'Land of the Tommigenener People' will offer festival-goers a unique opportunity to engage with the history and cultural significance of the region. The project will feature storytelling, art, and activities, fostering a deeper understanding of the Tommigenener people's enduring connection to the land.

Mayor Mary Duniam welcomed the funding, noting the value it will add to the festival experience:

"We are thrilled to receive this grant, which will enable us to showcase and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Tommigenener people. This project offers a meaningful way for our community and visitors alike to engage with the deep history of this land, long before the tulips and to honour the stories that are intrinsic to this place."

As part of the project, Palawa man Jye Crosswell, a cultural guide with Tunapri, will serve as MC for the festival and share his knowledge of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture through storytelling. Visitors will be invited to connect with the land's traditional stories as they enjoy the festival's activities.

A key feature of the Land of the Tommeginer People project will be a display of an Aboriginal bark hut. The unique structure is a contemporary design by Tunapri reflective of the Tommeginer people's traditional dwellings, will be a central attraction in Gutteridge Gardens.

Jye Crosswell expressed his enthusiasm for the project, noting the significance of the structure.

"This bark hut is unique to Tasmania's northwest coast. Its specialised design was created to withstand the strong winds of the region. It's a powerful way to reconnect with the traditional ways of living on this land."

In addition to the cultural offerings, this year's Wynyard Tulip Festival will feature a record number of food stalls, artisans, and family-friendly activities, including helicopter rides and shuttle buses to the breathtaking tulip displays at Table Cape. Visitors can also look forward to performances from the Treenoner Dance Mob, who will bring traditional Aboriginal dance to life throughout the day on the Main Stage lawn.

Waratah Wynyard Council

21 Saunders Street (PO Box 168) Wynyard Tasmania 7325
P: (03) 6443 8333 | E: council@warwyn.tas.gov.au

The 2024 Tulip Festival will also be the centrepiece of a month-long celebration. Events will continue throughout October, offering plenty of entertainment and activities for all ages.

The Wynyard Tulip Festival is proudly supported by the Tasmanian Government through Events Tasmania, and has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Festivals Australia program.

Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Monday 30th September, 2024.