

## MEDIA RELEASE

01 June 2021



### THE BELGRAVE LANTERN 'FESTIVAL.'

*How Belgrave's Lantern Parade became a festival*

This year's *Belgrave Lantern Festival* puts all of Belgrave on the map, taking festival revelers on a self-led journey across and around the entire township. 'Activated' spaces and creative precinct 'pop ups' appear in streets, alleyways, arcades, nooks and crannies, featuring art, music, workshops, circus arts, DJ's, bands, solo artists, food trucks, fire-pits and more.

2020 was a big one...for everyone! COVID, unfortunately put the knocker on any ambitions of a street parade, but together - we worked up a great Plan B. As a community, we learnt to adapt and move forward in the face of multiple challenges. The good humans of Belgrave proved that going without, didn't mean missing out.

Last year's 're-imagined' lantern pivot, which saw shop fronts transformed into luminous lantern exhibits, verified that the hills community is an undaunted, creative and tenacious mob, prepared to do whatever it takes to keep the glow in our streets, and in our hearts, burning bright. This spirit sets the tone and inspiration for 2021.

Belgrave will again become a literal and figurative beacon of light, levity and celebration across the hills this year, albeit without its parade, which will need to go on the backburner for another year. That said, what steps up and into its place, is no bitty substitute. On June 19, *The Belgrave Lantern Festival* will splash down! And it may well prove to be a way shower for all future lantern events.

So, will there be lantern making workshops in the lead up? Absolutely. Can I bring my lantern on the night? 100%. Will I get a chance to display my lantern like last year? Without a doubt.

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On the longest night of the year, we invite you to experience and re-experience Belgrave anew. June 19 is a homage to light, the imagination and to the community that illuminates, nourishes and informs how Belgrave lives, works and plays together.

See you there.

**Event Date: June 19**

**Cost: Free**

**Age range: All ages**

**Demographic: Yarra Ranges Council local community**

**Location: Dandenong Ranges**

**Burrinja Workshop Dates:**

29 May: 10:30am – 2:30pm

05 June: 10:30am – 2:30pm

12 June: 10:30am – 2:30pm

Cost: \$15 (per lantern kit)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/belgravelanterns/>

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/286009685873779/>

On-line Lantern Making Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPp5HsUja3-7n1Vb0dyjUzx7I3eiZNxsu>

**For interview opportunities, please contact:**

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**Participating support partners:**

Belgrave Traders Association <https://www.belgravelive.com.au/>

Yarra Ranges Council <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Home>

Burrinja Cultural Centre <https://www.burrinja.org.au/>

Yarra Ranges Tourism <https://yarrarangestourism.com.au/>

INSPIRO <https://www.inspiro.org.au/>