

Lanterns on the Lake, Wentworth Falls

Inspired by the stunning floating lantern festivals in the Vietnamese town of Hoi An, Lanterns on the Lake (LOTL) is a biennial local community event held at Wentworth Falls Lake on a Saturday afternoon in early Autumn.

Our first event was held in April 2017 with approximately 1500-2000 attendees. Our next will be held on Saturday 7 April 2019 from 4pm-7pm.

Families and friends can enjoy an afternoon of music and entertainment, and munch on a BYO picnic. As dusk falls, participants are invited to launch floating eco-friendly lanterns on the lake in a simple celebration of gratitude.

Locally handmade environmentally-friendly lanterns are available for sale at \$5 each on the day from 4pm until sold out. LOTL volunteers assist lantern launchers to light and set their lantern afloat on the lake at designated signposted areas.

Our first 2017 event was self-funded, and our 2019 event will be financially supported by Blue Mountains City Council Arts Program auspicated by Varuna Writers Centre, Katoomba.

FAQ's

What is Lanterns on the Lake?

LOTL is an opportunity to join as a community and create an unforgettable spectacle of light and a celebration of gratitude. After an afternoon of music, dancing, and entertainment, leading up to the sun setting and when the time is just right, we light the lake with floating paper lanterns.

What is the meaning of the event?

Historically lanterns were used to symbolize good fortune, request favorable weather, or celebrate the life of a loved one. At LOTL, you could be with us to show your gratitude, turn over a new leaf, join in the community spirit, remember a loved one, or simply to capture some likes on Instagram!

Is there an age limit?

We welcome all ages! With the number of people, candles and the proximity to water, please keep a very close eye on any children, especially as darkness falls. The lake pathways and bathroom facilities are wheelchair accessible.

What time should I arrive at the event?

We open at 4pm and close at 7pm. We'd suggest coming around 3pm to find your picnic spot and enjoy the atmosphere.

What time do the lanterns launch?

After all the music, snacks, and as we head towards sunset, it's time for the magic!

Can I bring my own lantern?

No. The lanterns must be approved by Council therefore we cannot allow anything other than those provided by us at the event.

What about food and drinks?

We encourage bringing a BYO rug and picnic. Note we are a "leave no trace" event so all rubbish must be taken with you. Food and drinks can be purchased from a variety of shops in our local village (possibly Rotary TBA).

What about the danger of fire and the impact on wildlife and the environment?

All lanterns are approved eco-friendly and all are safely retrieved from the lake by volunteers in canoes and disposed of appropriately.

Approval and support has been granted by Blue Mountains City Council and their Environmental Team to allow this event to take place, and all necessary insurances are in place.

We work closely with BMCC to ensure we minimise any disruption caused to neighbouring residents during the event. Volunteer parking officers, local police and the Rural Fire Brigade patrol the area.

We are a "Leave no Trace" event.

How do I get there and where can I park?

Wentworth Falls Lake is located on Sinclair Crescent at Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains. Limited free parking is available, but please be mindful of our local residents and don't block their driveways. It's an easy stroll from the train station and we strongly encourage locals to walk to the event.

How do I purchase a lantern and how much do they cost? Can I pre-book?

Lanterns are available for sale from 4pm on the day for \$5 each until sold out from our tent near the pirate ship playground. No pre-booking is available, and we do not have access to eftpos facilities so it's cash only. ATM machines are available in Wentworth Falls village.

Can I bring my pet?

For the safety of pets and all participants, especially small children, please leave your furry friends at home. Service animals are permitted.

What happens if there's bad weather?

We follow the weather forecast closely leading up to the event, and if we expect rain or sustained winds, we may need to postpone the event. If the weather isn't clear enough for a safe lantern send-off, the event will be postponed until the following weekend. We will send out Facebook and Instagram notifications so you have the most up to date information.

Who runs the event?

LOTL is run by local volunteers. We are supported by the Blue Mountains City Council, Varuna Writers' Centre and the Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Community.

Do you have a charity?

LOTL is a non-for-profit event that believes in giving back to the community, so we donate all of our proceeds after costs to a local charity.

How can I become involved?

LOTL is organised by a group of local residents. We welcome volunteers so please contact us if you'd like to be involved. It's a fun and rewarding experience.

Contact details:

Website: www.lanternsonthelake.com (under construction)

Email: lotlwentworthfalls@gmail.com

Facebook: Unofficial: Lanterns on the Lake Wentworth Falls

Instagram: lotlwentworthfalls

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