FORESTRYSA

Become a 2019 Ghost Mushroom Lane volunteer

After dark forest tourism experience "Ghost Mushroom Lane" will reopen on 1 May 2019, following widespread acclaim and a local tourism accolade.

More than 40,000 people visited the lane during the 2017 and 2018 seasons, drawing positive national media attention and boosting visitor numbers to the region.

The Ghost Mushroom emits a soft luminescent glow in the dark of night, creating a magical and unique forest visitor experience.

Typically emerging after late autumn rain, it can be found living from the stumps of decaying pine trees and often grows to a width of 20cm.

Ghost Mushroom Lane is situated in OneFortyOne's pine forest 16km from Mount Gambier, near the township of Glencoe.

The site is home to what is believed to be Australia's most concentrated population of the fungus and will open for its third annual eight-week season from early May.

This year, ForestrySA has partnered with OneFortyOne to present a premium forest experience.

ForestrySA Conservation Planner Troy Horn said the site requires many hours' work to keep it tidy, safe and running smoothly for the thousands of guests expected throughout the eightweek season.

"While we are fortunate to be partnering with OneFortyOne, we are also seeking interested people to volunteer their time on the lane and become part of this iconic local tourism initiative," Mr Horn said.

"There are many ways to volunteer your time to this project, assisting our trained tour guides on busy nights at the lane as greeting and information staff, or during daylight hours to maintain forest walking trails and scout emerging mushroom colonies.

For more information contact:

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"All training will be provided by ForestrySA and it's the perfect way to keep active, meet new people, learn more about the Ghost Mushroom and become part of a positive community endeavour."

Acting Chief Executive Julian Speed said ForestrySA was thrilled to have been awarded the tourism award at the 2018 Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Awards late last year.

"As the State Government's forest manager, our vision in this region is to grow visitation to our Native Forest Reserves and pine forest under Government lease arrangement, improve forest facilities and continue to protect the community from the threat of bushfire," he said.

OneFortyOne's Estate Manager Andrew Matheson said OneFortyOne was delighted to once again be involved in Ghost Mushroom Lane. Since its inception the company has happily made part of its commercial estate available for the award-winning tourist and community experience.

"We would like to congratulate ForestrySA for their hard work and dedication in developing this unique forest experience on the plantation lease area and look forward to working with them to deliver an even better experience this year".

To stay up-to-date on Ghost Mushroom season 2019 www.forestrysa.com.au/qhostmushrooms

To volunteer on Ghost Mushroom Lane, email <u>conservationandrecreation@forestrysa.com.au</u> or call Kieran Gosden on 0429 682 672.

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