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Opening weekend celebrates Melbourne's Turkish community at the 63rd Tesselaaar Tulip Festival

The colour and vibrancy of Melbourne's Turkish community will be on show during opening weekend of the 63rd Tesselaaar Tulip Festival, 9 – 11 September.

With Turkey holding the world's first tulip festival over 400 years ago, it is only fitting that Tesselaaar continues this tradition, celebrating the brilliance of Turkish culture and their love of the tulip.

Presented in conjunction with the Australian Turkish Cultural Platform, Turkish weekend showcases all things Turkey with folk dancers and musicians, belly dancing, coffee cup fortune reading, Turkish marbling, calligraphy and much more.

Enjoy delicious traditional Turkey fare such as Turkish kebabs, gozleme and ayran and tempting sweet treats including Turkish delight, simit and baklava.

Set on 25 acres in the magical Dandenong ranges, visitors can wander the gardens and enjoy a spectacular display of over 800,000 flowering tulips, showcasing 120 different varieties.

Following on from opening weekend, this year's Tesselaaar Tulip Festival is action packed with something for everyone – families, children, food and wine lovers and music aficionados.

The Tesselaaar Tulip Festival runs over four weeks with themed weekends including **Yarra Ranges Week**, a regional celebration showcasing the Yarra Valley and Dandenong ranges; a **Food, Wine and Jazz weekend** where you can eat, drink and be merry; **Childrens' school holiday program** with featured entertainment Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom, Hoot and Hootabelle, and Melbourne's own Mik Maks; and the popular **Dutch and Irish weekends** – celebrating the origins of the tulips and the gold at the end of the rainbow!

Although the tulips are undoubtedly the stars of the show, visitors will discover so much more with live entertainment, market stalls and tempting food on offer every day.

The Tesselaaar Tulip Festival is open daily (10am – 5pm) during September 8 – October 4 at The Tesselaaar Tulip Farm, 357 Monbulk Road, Silvan, Victoria.

Visit the website for ticketing information and a full program of events www.tulipfestival.com.au

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For further information or high resolution images please contact: Anna Giles, 0409 511 034