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Fagus Festival filling fast, but still room for locals

A new festival celebrating one of Tasmania's most spectacular and unique natural phenomena is set to turn Cradle Mountain into an autumn wonderland starting this weekend.

The inaugural Festival of Fagus will take place across Cradle Mountain with nature lovers invited to come along and enjoy the turning of the leaves of Australia's only native deciduous plant - *Nothofagus gunnii* or as it's more commonly known, fagus - through a series of uniquely Tasmanian alpine experiences.

Chief Operating Officer of RACT Destinations, Andrew Paynter said the turning of the fagus in Tasmania's highlands was an extraordinary annual occurrence which deserved special celebration.

"The turning of the fagus is unique to Tasmania and every Tasmanian should see it at least once in their lifetime," Mr Paynter said.

"Rightly so, the turning enjoys a dedicated following among those in the know, but we're trying to open up this experience so all Tasmanians can enjoy the fagus in a way which suits them, while also taking in the beauty of Cradle Mountain.

"Since the festival was launched, we've had a fantastic response and strong bookings for people wanting to stay this weekend. However, there are still plenty of options for locals who'd like to take a day trip to experience this one-of-a-kind festival.

"The program is full of amazing activities including photography and walking tours, as well as a number of small food, beverage and art events designed to celebrate and welcome the cool, crisp days of autumn."

Events during the Festival of Fagus include:

- Single day fagus photography workshops with Luke O'Brien and Cam Blake
- Tailored Cradle Mountain tours with McDermott's, designed to see the best of the fagus
- A gin blending masterclass with Bill McHenry, utilising autumnal botanicals
- A Sip 'n' Paint workshop in the Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery
- A chocolate masterclass with Federation Chocolate

Bookings to Festival of Fagus events are essential and tickets are limited. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://www.cradlemountainhotel.com.au/festival-of-fagus>.

Media note: Image library is available here

- <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yc3ft095ivqcx2e/AADaTGNgjybZkBP3imUWGQzsa?dl=0>