

The Boulevard Christmas Lights

15 – 24 December 8.30 – 11.30pm &
Carols by Candlelight on the Boulevard
16 December – 6.30 – 9.30pm

WONDERFUL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Banyule is the very proud custodian of one of Melbourne's favorite Christmas events and so even though it is still six months from Christmas the talk of plans for the festive season is already starting. Residents of The Boulevard are getting together to coordinate their displays and the Carols by Candlelight committee are fielding calls from interested choirs and performers.

The Boulevard Christmas Lights event was created in the early 1950s when Ivanhoe resident George Whitelaw returned from a Christmas light show in Blackpool, England. Enthused by the magic of the display he encouraged a few of his neighbors to join in and set up lights and decorations in the street. The novelty soon caught on amongst the other residents and now, approximately 55 years on, The Boulevard Christmas Lights has become a uniquely Melbourne Christmas tradition.



The Carols by Candlelight event joined the Christmas calendar about three years after the first Boulevard Christmas Lights. Operating out of a church for its first forty years the celebrations moved outdoors in 1995 to Ivanhoe Park and began its role as the launch event for The Boulevard Lights Display.



Now with both events over the half century mark and attracting around 100,000 people a year from right across Melbourne and regional Victoria they are firm favorites in the Banyule Community Christmas Calendar and in that of people from all over Victoria.

The Boulevard Light event continues to be the resident's event with support and coordination from Banyule City Council who liaises with residents to organize traffic management, technical support and services, access and other issues.

BANYULE CHRISTMAS QUICK FACTS

The Boulevard Christmas Lights

- ▶ The Boulevard Christmas Lights is one of Melbourne's oldest and biggest Christmas Traditions.
- ▶ It attracts between 10,000-20,000 people per night.
- ▶ It appeals to an audience from right across Melbourne and country Victoria
- ▶ It receives metropolitan news coverage in newspapers, television and radio.



Angels coming in all shapes and sizes to support Anglicare's Be an Angel Appeal at the 2005 Carols by Candlelight on the Boulevard.

Carols by Candlelight on The Boulevard

- ▶ Carols by Candlelight on The Boulevard launches The Boulevard Lights Display period each year.
- ▶ It attracts approximately 5,000 people each year (dependant on weather)
- ▶ In 2005 around 4,500 people from right across Melbourne came to Ivanhoe Park to enjoy a great Christmas market, wandering entertainers, activity workshops for children and a terrific stage show involving around 150 local performers.
- ▶ The event is coordinated by Banyule City Council in conjunction with a Working Committee made up of representatives from the local community