

Christmas display set to light up the range in July

8 May 2018

"Montville Christmas Wonderland" is set to open again to the public on 6 July 2018. Well known Brisbane Christmas light display award winners, Graham and Judy Lumley, are again opening their new, permanent display at 15 Narrows Road, Montville.

Graham said in Brisbane they started setting up in June and pulled it down by February. "We endured hail storms, 40+ degree days, and believe it or not, freezing cold nights (in July and August) putting it up on our roof."

"Judy and I had a dream to turn it into a permanent, under-cover display. So when we moved to Montville in January 2017 the planning for the permanent display started," Graham said.

Handymen and long-term local residents, Phil Wagner and John Moore, were there on day 1 in mid-May 2017 when the structure for the massive miniature village (half the display) was started. That alone took Phil, John and Graham 3 weeks to build. Phil said, "When we started building the frame in May it was just a huge, empty shed. Over the months we have spent time working around the property and watching as the display took shape." On his last visit to the property, John said, "It is simply amazing."

Other local residents who have worked on the shed and the display include Mick Martin (building and electrical contractor) and John Davis (gardener and handiman). A number of family and friends from Brisbane have spent time in Montville helping set it up.

The display is in two parts; the miniature village which includes extensive Christmas carnival, Disney, Lego, shops, homes, The Grinch, National Lampoons, snow slopes with skiers, three trains, and a working gondola.

The second part of the display is the "outside" display (all inside the shed) which includes two gardens (an Aussie garden and a fantasy garden), the bauble walkway, Australian Christmas display, large nativity, horse and carriage, light fountain and snow cave.

There is a large sleigh with Santa and reindeer for photos as well as Santa's toy workshop. There are photos of Christmas in towns and cities around the world (all taken by Judy and Graham).

Stepping into Montville Christmas Wonderland is like immersing yourself (whether you are one year old or 101 years old) in a fantasy world of colour and lights.

The last time Judy and Graham displayed their lights in Brisbane they came second in the 4KQ Christmas Light competition. "Many people told us it was the most amazing Christmas display they had ever seen," Judy said. "In 17 nights we had 35,000 people come through the display."

Graham said, "The most common question people ask us is, "Why do we do it?". The simple answer is that for a range of reasons nearly everyone loves the Christmas season and we feel that we can add to their enjoyment of the season by giving them something special to see. But more than that, we see this as a chance to display our Christian faith and communicate the real meaning of Christmas. So people will see Santa and reindeer and elves and snowmen and presents, etc in the display; but they will also see the baby Jesus and wise men and angels and shepherds, because at the end of the day the greatest wonder of Christmas is the significance of the birth of Jesus."

The display will be open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 2pm to 6pm and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. Other times for tours / buses by arrangement.

Entry is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children (up to 16). Families (2 adults and up to 3 children) \$12.

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