



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

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ALICE DESERT FESTIVAL LAUNCHED TOMORROW

Alice Springs is set to come alive with vibrancy as the annual festival gets underway this weekend.

Member for MacDonnell Alison Anderson will tonight launch the *Alice Desert Festival* on behalf of Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour— an event which is rapidly becoming one of the features in the Territory arts calendar.

“The Alice Desert Festival is the centrepiece of the arts community of Central Australia,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“This year Alice Springs will be treated to a huge range of performances, exhibitions, workshops, seminars, competitions and parades.

“With events to cover all tastes, ages and days of the week – we will be spoilt for choice in this arts frenzy.”

Ms Scrymgour said as well as bringing national and international acts to Alice Springs, the Festival is an important showcase for established and emerging Central Australian artists.

“This is the time for celebrating the talent and depth of our own Territory culture,” she said.

“The NT Government is a proud major sponsor of the Festival since its inception, and this year we have committed an additional \$30 000 a year – a total of \$145 000 for 2005.

“We have also strengthened Indigenous arts involvement and activity as part of the Festival’s program.

“In the five years since it started, the Festival has grown from a project operating out of a front room, to a strong community-based organisation with a dedicated, all year round office and workshop.

“The National Indigenous Dance Conference is being held in Alice Springs in conjunction with the Festival this year, which underlines the growing stature of the Festival nationally.

“Well done to all involved and I wish everyone an enjoyable Alice Springs Festival 2005”.

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