



Alison Anderson
MEMBER FOR MACDONNELL

JUNE 29, 2007

Iconic Beanie Festival Celebrated This Weekend

One of the Territory's much loved traditions, the annual Beanie Festival, is set to be celebrated this weekend in Alice Springs.

Member for MacDonnell Alison Anderson, who is opening the Festival tonight, said the NT Government is this year providing \$20,000 to support the event.

"I am happy to say the Northern Territory Government is supporting the Festival financially, with funding provided via Arts NT Festivals Development Fund totalling \$60,000 during the next three years," Ms Anderson said.

"The beanie has not only become an essential item of winter clothing but something worth celebrating in its many different shapes, sizes and designs.

"I am once again looking forward to opening the event at the Araluen Arts Centre, which is the biggest event staged on the calendar at this popular tourist attraction.

"Last year's event drew an audience of about 10,000 people on the opening weekend with about 2800 beanies sold.

"This is certainly a great achievement and I congratulate everyone involved in the Beanie Festival's continued success."

Ms Anderson said this year's exhibition includes works by artists from Titjikala, Ernabella, Areyonga and Irrkerlantye Arts.

"I understand the ladies from Balgo are also visiting the Festival this year and while not exhibiting, are getting right into beanie making as a new venture," she said.

"Visitors to the festivals can not only enjoy the beanie exhibits this year but can also take part in a number of new tours such as the Sunset & Starlight Bush Beanie Dinner on Saturday night or The Bush Beanie Mbantua Tour on Monday morning, visiting the Alice Springs Telegraph Station and Simpson's Gap.

"Textile artists from the United States, Japan and New Zealand are also set to visit Australia just for the festival."

The Araluen Arts Centre is open from 10am to 4pm on weekdays and 11am to 4pm on weekends.

It is located 2km west of Alice Springs on the way to the Alice Springs Desert Park along Larapinta Drive.