Northern Territory Government

Araluen
Araluen Arts Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

Desert Mob Exhibition to Open At Araluen Arts Centre

The Araluen Arts Centre is delighted to be the annual host venue for Desert Mob. This year's exhibition will display more than 300 recent works from 35 Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia, with works by artists living and working in remote areas of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to view and purchase art works from both new and established artists, all in one place, directly from the art centres. This year Amoonguna Arts Centre and Papunya Tjupi join the exhibition for the first time.

All members of Desart, the participating art centres are owned and managed by the Aboriginal people in their own communities. The main focus of these art centres is to encourage the production of art and craft by local community artists and to assist them with the sale and promotion of their work.

Desert Mob has become the annual highlight of the Araluen exhibition program, with an increasing number of national and international collectors and researchers returning each year for the show, along with the local community.

In most communities, art centres provide the only source of self-generated income for Aboriginal people. They play an important role in the financial well being of the community but also provide an important platform for cultural maintenance and education.

The Desert Mob Exhibition celebrates and defines a living art movement that is expressed through the heritage values of the oldest living culture in the world.

The Desert Mob exhibition will be officially opened at Araluen Galleries at 2pm on Sunday, 9 September by Brenda Croft, Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, National Gallery of Australia.

Ends

Media Note – The media are invited to attend a preview of the exhibition at 4pm on Friday, 7 September 2007 where some of the artists and art centre co-ordinators will be. However, the media are embargoed from publicly discussing or publishing details of the artists or their works, including sale prices, before 2pm, 9 September 2007.

The media are urged to contact Araluen Arts Centre before 7 September 2007 to obtain their media passes and advise Araluen Arts Centre which events they will be attending.

For more information contact Rebecca Farrell on 0401 115 742

Issued: 10am Wednesday, 5 September 2007

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
Edwin Edlund 8999 4730 or 0437 915 366
www.nt.gov.au/nreta