

Media Release:

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DesArt in the Park

Territorians and visitors are once again invited to enjoy an evening under the stars filled with local art, film and food against the stunning backdrop of the West MacDonnell Ranges at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Alice Springs Desert Park Functions and Event Manager Jackie Shaughnessy said the event, known as DesArt in the Park, features over 18 art centres affiliated with Desart displaying and selling their works at the Indigenous Art Market.

“Items for sale are capped at \$200 making it an affordable way to collect some unique art works,” Ms Shaughnessy said.

Most items are not too large therefore visitors to Alice Springs can also pick up a few artworks and carry them around.

“Our Story Wall will be screening Central Australian films suitable for the whole family in the Park’s cinema throughout the evening.

“It’s also a great opportunity to have dinner under the stars in the beautiful setting with a selection of dishes available such as Indian and Malay curries, chicken yiros, sausages in bread straight from the barbeque along with a number of vegetarian options.

“Visitors can also buy from a sumptuous array of food available in the Park’s air-conditioned Coolamon Café.”

The event is in collaboration with Desart, the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres and the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Desart member Art Centres are aboriginal owned and controlled, with 100 per cent return to artists and Art Centres.

Aboriginal Art Centres provide much needed income and employment opportunities as well as being a focus for family connection, social and cultural activities, and the means to celebrate Aboriginal identity.

“Previous DesArt in the Park events held in 2006 and 2007 sold more than \$53,000 of art work which went directly to the Art Centres,” Ms Shaughnessy said.

“The most recent event held in October 2007 attracted over 650 visitors which was slightly lower than previous numbers but more art works were purchased.”

DesArt in the Park is on Wednesday 19th March from 6 – 9pm and entry is free.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Jackie Shaughnessy on 8951 8707

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