

Media Release:

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Central Australian Wildflowers on Kodachrome

Historic photographs of Central Australian wildflowers taken between 1940 and 1958 will be exhibited at the Museum of Central Australia from this Friday, 20 August 2010.

Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory Curator for Territory History Michelle Smith said the exhibition of extraordinary photographs will coincide with the anticipated explosion of colour around Central Australia.

“Central Australia has experienced an enormous amount of rain in 2010 and as a result of that the landscape will be covered with wildflowers in the coming spring,” Ms Smith said.

“The colour and composition of these historic images are the mark of an excellent and passionate photographer and provide us with a unique archive of the era.

“Pastor Samuel Gross was an avid photographer and recorded his surroundings while employed as a missionary by the Hermannsburg Lutheran mission from 1939 to 1958.

“It is believed that Pastor Gross was the first to use colour film in Central Australia and his passion for photography inspired many people around him to take up the hobby.”

Ms Smith said the photographic collection includes images of the people of Hermannsburg and surrounding communities, as well as the landscape, flora and fauna of Central Australia.

“Pastor Gross’ early use of Kodachrome colour film created images of great beauty, shown to best effect when photographing the wildflowers and flowering trees and shrubs of Central Australia,” Ms Smith said.

“The Museum of Central Australia enables visitors to experience a journey through the fascinating evolution of Central Australia and this exciting exhibition provides a rare insight into part of our flora history, the wonderful world of wildflowers.”

Wildflowers: Central Australia on Kodachrome will be on display at the Museum of Central Australia, Araluen Cultural Precinct until 10 April 2011.

Ends

Media Note – for more information / interviews contact Michelle Smith on 8951 1103

Images:

- 1. Holly Grevillea**
- 2. Spearbush**
- 3. Pastor Samuel Gross**

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