



Media Release:

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Alice Springs Beanie Festival Braves the Elements

Alice Springs locals and visitors can find comfort from the cold with colourful, quirky and unusually styled beanies at the 2011 Alice Springs Beanie Festival at Araluen Arts Centre on Friday, 24 June 2011.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said this year celebrates 15 years of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival, with the theme of *In our Element: Earth, Wind, Fire, Water*.

"Over 450 beanie makers from around the world have started to submit their works of art, well ahead of this year's festival which opens on Friday, 24 June," Mr Rollason said.

"When the Araluen Arts Centre gallery doors open to the public, several hundred of the most elaborate and creative beanies from around the world will be exhibited with many available to purchase.

"The Alice Springs Beanie Festival is not only a celebration of the humble beanie, but a celebration of textile arts, traditional crafts, stories, culture, music, food, dance and the warmth of community.

"As well as the exhibition, a record number of workshops will be held at Central Craft and in the Araluen Arts Centre foyer this year, with something for everyone from beginners through to experienced beanie makers.

"I encourage locals and visitors alike to take the opportunity to see some truly remarkable works of art and perhaps purchase their own unique beanie."

Festival Director Jo Nixon said this year's theme of *In our Element: Earth, Wind, Fire, Water* was appropriate considering the strong impact natural disasters have had in the last 12 months.

"It is not only the disasters that have inspired beanie makers from afar, but people's supportive reaction towards each other during these difficult times," Ms Nixon said.

"We are very excited and wait with great anticipation to see how the beanie makers will interpret the natural elements."

The Alice Springs Beanie Festival opens at Araluen Arts Centre on Friday, 24 June 2011. Beanie Central will open from 12pm with the official opening and announcement of winners to be held from 6pm.

For more information on the Alice Springs Beanie Festival visit www.beaniefest.org

For more information about upcoming events at the Araluen Cultural Precinct go to www.araluen.nt.gov.au.

Media Note – for more information contact Tim Rollason on 8951 1126 or Jo Nixon on 8952 2615 or 0408 436 928.

Image – Creations at the Alice Springs Beanie Festival

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