



**Media Release:**

**20.07.11**

## **Locals Leave Their Mark in New Exhibition at the Centre**

Residents of Central Australia have shared their thoughts – and their feet – for an innovative art exhibition that explores our connection to the environment at Araluen Arts Centre from Saturday, 30 July 2011.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said Bridget Nicholson's *Touched at the Centre* installation features a soundscape of interviews with locals and a collection of clay shoes moulded from their feet.

"It's a very personal way to include people in a work of art," said Mr Rollason.

"Each pair of clay shoes represents that person and their relationship to the environment, and they also get a chance to tell their story through the soundscape.

"By combining those elements, *Touched at the Centre* carries a powerful environmental message and encourages visitors to consider their own personal connection to the environment.

"Araluen Arts Centre strives to bring thought-provoking exhibitions such as this to the people of Alice Springs, and it's even more rewarding when they get a chance to directly participate in the work."

The exhibition is part of a larger project, *Touch This Earth Lightly*, which was launched in 2009 by a group of artists in response to the proposed damming of the Williams River in New South Wales.

As the project evolves, Ms Nicholson has travelled around Australia to interview a vast array of people, adapting each exhibition according to the predominant thoughts and environmental concerns in that particular region.

*Touched at the Centre* will be officially opened at Araluen Arts Centre by the President of the Alice Springs Art Foundation, Ruth Elvin, at 2pm on Saturday, 30 July 2011.

Bridget Nicholson will speak at the Arts Centre at 2pm on Sunday, 31 July 2011 about the project and her experiences in creating *Touched at the Centre*.

The exhibition continues until Sunday, 21 August 2011.

For more information about upcoming events at the Araluen Cultural Precinct, go to [www.araluen.nt.gov.au](http://www.araluen.nt.gov.au).

**Media Note – for more information, contact Tim Rollason on 8951 1132**

**Image: Bridget Nicholson, *Touch This Earth Lightly*, 2011, glazed white raku paperclay, variable dimensions.**

Issued: 10am Wednesday, 20 July 2011