

Media Release:

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Desert Park Hosts Indigenous Art Market

Territorians can support Central Australian culture and get some unique Christmas gifts at the Alice Springs Desert Park's DesArt in the Park event on Friday, 9 December 2011.

Alice Springs Desert Park Director Gary Fry said the event provides an excellent opportunity for Desert Park visitors to enjoy a special night under the stars and mingle with artists and art workers from remote and local Aboriginal-owned Art Centres.

"More than 15 Art Centres will be taking part in the Indigenous art market, selling jewellery, textiles, ceramics, paintings and many other amazing works at affordable prices," said Mr Fry.

"Purchasing these works directly from the artists not only supports the Art Centres and communities they hail from, it also contributes to keeping culture strong in Central Australia, which is very important to the Desert Park."

DesArt in the Park is a collaboration between the Desert Park and Desart, the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres.

It also marks the final event of the art worker conference *From Barriers to Pathways*, an annual conference organised by Desart that offers training opportunities to art workers from across the tri-state region.

Desart Project Officer Tim Dilworth said the art market will be a fantastic event for those participants as well as visitors.

"Many of these art workers have travelled in from remote communities to attend the annual conference, and this night market gives them a chance to put the skills and ideas they have been exploring at the conference into practice," said Mr Dilworth.

Live music will help set the scene under the night sky and visitors will be able to purchase a wide variety of food for dinner, as well as chilled wine and beer. There will also be a lucky door prize awarded on the night, with the winner receiving a beautiful piece of contemporary Indigenous art.

DesArt in the Park will be held from 5pm to 8pm and a courtesy bus will be running between the Alice Springs Town Council lawns and the Desert Park from 5pm onwards to assist people in getting to and from the event.

For more information on upcoming events at the Alice Springs Desert Park, go to www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au.

Ends

Media Note – For more information, contact Gary Fry on 8951 8713.

Image – Get some unique Christmas gifts at DesArt in the Park.

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