

ALICE SPRINGS BEANIE FESTIVAL – CELEBRATING TWENTY ONE YEARS OF BEANIES!

August 2017

Dear Beanie Makers - Welcome to the 21stth Alice Springs Beanie Festival in 2017!

We're very excited to **CELEBRATE 21 YEARS OF BEANIES** with the theme **Weaving the Magic** - are you all feeling inspired?

Our Remote Indigenous Beanie-making Workshops will soon be underway, with key artists joining us for the Festival weekend and we expect record-breaking numbers of entries for our International Beanie Competition and Beanie Central. So get creating!

Before we go any further, we'll get the important stuff out of the way. With your Entry Packs at the ready, please READ AND FOLLOW ALL OF THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, as we're constantly updating the guidelines.

Important Dates

- **Closing dates for Competition entries: Friday, May 26th, 2017**
- **Closing dates for Beanie Central: Friday, May 26th, 2017**
- **Late entries will be returned to sender COD**

Notes

Please take extra care with the following:

- **Beanie Central Swingtags require you to stick barcodes onto each tag used on a beanie, please ensure barcodes are cut neatly and placed correctly, it means your beanie will be looked after well! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE also ensure every beanie has a price written on it – no price no sell!**
- **Do not put barcodes on Competition Swingtags - we will do this as we catalogue the entries**
- **Use your full name on the Swingtag (no fancy names or initials as this can make it difficult at the end of the festival to match your unsold beanies with you!)**
- **Post back unused Swingtags**
- **Attach the Facebook Swingtag to each beanie (Beanie Central and Competition beanies) (this will help us build the Beanie-making community and allow us to promote the Festival through social media into the future) [if you haven't already, LIKE the Beanie Festival on Facebook]**

Volunteering

The success of the Beanie Festival is really a measure of the volunteer effort. It really is the best way to experience the festival. Volunteering a few hours of your time, is a great way to meet other Beanie fans and is absolutely essential to delivering the Festival. The Volunteer Table will be manned from Wednesday 21st at Araluen Arts Centre, so come over and get your name on the roster, there are plenty of jobs to choose from. More details about volunteering can be found on the website www.beaniefest.org or by e-mailing beaniefestival@gmail.com

There will be a free dinner for all our volunteers on Sunday night, June 25th, at the Gillen Club to meet the Beanie Festival Committee; we also hand out awards to our hard workers. This is our opportunity to say thanks for being a part of the Festival, to meet and chat, away from the frenzy of the beanies! We look forward to seeing you there.

Longest Beanie

Yes, the Alice Springs Beanie Festival is still chasing the world record for Longest Beanie; we need everyone to get behind the effort and send in lengths of 30 cm circumference tubing, knitted, crocheted,

ALICE SPRINGS BEANIE FESTIVAL – CELEBRATING TWENTY ONE YEARS OF BEANIES!

colour/yarn of your choice! Currently the record is 277 metres for a beanie made in the USA. We're getting close, but we're aiming for 400 metres ... Kathy Freeman's Olympic Gold Medal distance! Please tag the outside of your section with your name and hometown and post it to:

Alice Springs Beanie Festival, Araluen Arts Centre, PO Box 3521, Alice Springs NT 0871

Contributions can be sent in with your beanies, or separately, and they'll be stitched onto the Longest Beanie during the Festival. We will report on the progress on our Facebook page and website.

Workshops

The Central Craft workshop details and enrolment forms can be found via our website, or they can be posted to you (call Central Craft - 08 89524417). Book early to avoid disappointment. The Beanie Festival will also be holding drop-in textile workshops in the foyer and along the veranda of the Araluen Art Centre. These workshops are still being confirmed (if you would like to run a drop-in workshop, please contact Jo beaniefestival@gmail.com 0408 436 928). The Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Indigenous women who weave the Tjanpi grass into beautiful baskets will be running workshops. For \$50 (limited places - materials included), you can join the workshops on Saturday or Sunday morning, from 10-12 (call Tjanpi on 08 8958 2377).

Local Activities

If you are interested in joining tours in or around Alice Springs, or looking for accommodation, please contact Tourism Central Australia on 08 8952 5800 or 1800 645 199. Check the website for special deals and availability - www.centralaustralianatourism.com.

The local Sunday Markets (9am-1pm) in the Todd Mall will be on during the festival. If you are visiting Alice and would like to have a market stall to sell some of your crafts, contact Jenny on 0458 555 506 to book a place (you will need to source your own tables etc).

Colours of the Country III

For Beanie-fans interstate, who can't make it to Alice Springs this year, look out for the Colours of the Country III, our touring exhibition in partnership with Artback NT. Links to information about dates and venues can be found on our website. A sample of 100 gorgeous beanies, plus some extras for you to purchase, will travel the country through 2016.

We're still very happy to receive tiny beanies; they come in handy to promote the festival, so keep sending them in. They are much loved and appreciated.

Also, remember our website and Facebook page are great ways to keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening at the Festival.

We hope you'll join in our 21st celebrations in what ever way you can.

Regards

Jo Nixon

On Behalf of the Management Committee of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Email: beaniefestival@gmail.com | Ph: 0408 436 928 | Web: www.beaniefest.org | Facebook: [Alice Springs Beanie Festival](https://www.facebook.com/AliceSpringsBeanieFestival)