Territory festivals get more than $4 million funding injection

Territory festival goers have something to celebrate with more than $4 million in funding from Territory Government to hold festivals across the Territory over the next three years.

Minister for the Arts and Museums, Gerry McCarthy said 17 festivals have recently been funded through the Northern Territory Arts Grants Festivals Fund.

“We’ve introduced a stronger focus on multi-year funding to help give festival organisers more time to plan to deliver quality, sustainable festivals enjoyed by all Territorians,” Minister McCarthy said.

“This investment in the arts is part of our Territory 2030 target to increase the number of Territorians working in the creative industries as well as our target to continue to see Territorians attending our cultural institutions and events at a very high rate.

“Each year our festival line up attracts thousands of festival goers – this funding means Territorians will be able to continue to enjoy our much celebrated festivals for the years to come.

“This includes major events in Darwin and Alice Springs, and equally important community celebrations in remote locations such as Lajamanu, on the Tiwi Islands and in Timber Creek”.

“I’m pleased to say to date 27 festivals across the Territory have approved funding to a total of $4 million over the next three years – a significant boost to the great Territory lifestyle.”

Recent successful applicants to the Northern Territory Arts Grants Festivals Funding category include:

- Katherine Festival - $20,000 each year for three years (2011-13)
- Original Recipe Festival of Local Music - $15,000 for 2011
- Walungurru 30 Year Celebration - $20,000 for 2011
- Darwin Fridge Festival - $15,000 for 2011
- Garma Festival - $20,000 for 2011
- Mobfest Tanami - $20,000 for three years (2011-13)
- A Break on the Island (Tiwi Islands) - $15,000 for 2011
- Milipiri Festival - $20,000 each year for two years (2011-12)
- Merrepen Arts and Sports Festival - $20,000 for 2011
- Parap Festival - $20,000 for 2011 NT Writers Festival - $20,000 for 2011
- Bulman/Weemol Festival - $20,000 for 2011
- Beanie Festival - $20,000 for 2011
- Gove Peninsula Festival - $20,000 for 2011
- Fistful of Films - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-13)
- Seabreeze - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-13)
- Ali Curung - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-13)

Other festivals also currently funded by the Northern Territory Government include:

- Alice Desert Festival - $190,000 for 2011 plus $20,000 each year for three years from 2010-2013 towards Bush Bands Bash as a signature event (2010-2013)
- Barunga Festival - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-12)
• Desert Harmony Festival - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-12) with additional support totalling $24 000 in 2011 and 2012 to build ongoing production capacity for Dance Site as a key event
• Dance Site through Artback NT - $18,000 each year from 2011-13
• Galiwinku Healthy Lifestyle Festival - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-12)
• Mahbili Festival - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-12)
• Walking with Spirits - $20,000 each year for three years (2010-12)
• Darwin Festival – increased to $1 million each year from 2011 to 2013

“The Henderson Government is committed to helping established and emerging regional and remote community festivals by offering up to $20,000 per year for up to three years,” Minister McCarthy said.

“Not only do community festivals play a vital role in the Territory’s sense of identity, they also provide a valuable boost to the tourist industry and the Territory’s economy and local businesses.”

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton welcomed the festival funding with the Alice Desert Festival only a week away.

“The Alice Desert Festival is a vibrant program featuring artists, dancers and musicians from Alice Springs and some of the remotest communities in Central Australia performing alongside some of the country’s hottest acts,” Mr Hampton said.

“The Festival attracts audiences of around 50,000 people from around Australia to over 50 events across 10 days of stories, songs and the unique lifestyle of Central Australia and organisers are aiming for even more success this year.”

Media contact: Claire March 0403 937 849 (Mr McCarthy)
Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563 (Mr Hampton)
Alice Springs Beanie Festival
This four-day 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.

In its 15th year, the Alice Springs Beanie Festival continues to grow with 6,000 beanies created by 450 beanie makers from around the globe, and 9,000 attending visitors in 2010.

The Beanie Festival supports cultural and economic development through coordinating workshops held across Central Australian remote communities including Titjikala, Mutitjulu, Docker River, Ernabella, and Irrkerlentye.

Fistful of Films
2011 saw the 12th annual Fist Full of Films Festival take place over two evenings in Darwin’s Civic Park. Fist Full of Films Festival is the only film festival across the NT that screens work made by Territorians celebrating Territory stories in a free and accessible environment.

Seabreeze
The Seabreeze Festival is a popular and largely volunteer run annual event that has been taking place annually since 2005 on the Nightcliff foreshore, with the 2011 Festival taking place on 30 April 2011.

Ali Curung
Ali Curung, Murray Downs and Ampilatwatja, will host a traditional dance festival for the next two years with support from Community Festivals fund.

The Ali Curing Indigenous Traditional Dance Festival 2011 – 2013 aims to strengthen cultural economic and social development of the community. The Ali Curung community is actively pursuing the goals of building community identity through the festival organising committee who are focussed on developing and maintaining language and history of the community. Artists will be employed by the festival and this will in turn build regional capacity through dance and music.

Bulman/Weemol Festival
The Bulman/Weemol community held a small community festival for the first time in 2011, designed to highlight aspects that are special, artistically and environmentally, involving all members of the community in public performances of traditional dance, storytelling and showcasing of local art work.

Parap Festival
The inaugural Parap Festival 0820 took place this year, and is an event created by a motivated team of community members. It is a festival for all people, local and interstate, who love Parap and its unique village atmosphere.

NT Writer’s Festival
Words on the Fringe is a one day literary festival component of the Katherine Fringe Festival includes panels, in-conversations, book launches, readings by locals, Territory and interstate writers, open mic events, a comedy debate, a music extravaganza, children’s activities and skills development workshops facilitated by high profile interstate writers.

Gove Peninsula Festival
This festival has a long history dating back to Union Picnic Day celebrations in the 1970s. In 2011 the week long Gove Peninsula Festival will host a series of activities and celebrations that draw upon the theme, ‘by the sea’, reflecting the culture of North East Arnhem Land. This year’s festival will feature a float parade, contemporary indigenous dance, a visual art exhibition, writing contest and live music from local and visiting musicians. Festival goers will be entertained with sports and games activities and food and craft stalls will have a variety of delights for sale.