Northern Territory basketball legend, Maisie Austin, has encouraged athletes to sign up for this year’s Alice Springs Masters Games as she prepares for her 15th appearance at the event.

The NT Sports Hall of Fame inductee has attended every Masters Games since the event began in 1986 and at 65 years of age is ready for another year.

“Maisie is an inspiration to all Masters athletes and a great advocate for the Alice Springs Masters Games,” said Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan.

“Healthy competition, camaraderie and enjoying all that the Red Centre has to offer keeps athletes like Maisie returning to the Alice Springs Masters Games year after year.

“There’s something for everyone with 33 sports to choose from, and age limits starting from 25. Whether you’re competing individually to challenge yourself or whether you get some friends or work colleagues together and enter a team, you will have a fantastic time at the Alice Springs Masters Games and come to see why they’ve become known and loved as the Friendly Games.

“I encourage everyone to follow Maisie’s lead and sign up to experience all the fun and action on and off the field in 2014.”

Competing as a player or coach, Maisie Austin has travelled to Alice Springs every two years for the bi-annual Masters Games.

“When it was first mooted back in ‘86 we thought it was such a fantastic idea, and it remains a brilliant event,” Maisie said.

“The Masters Games gives us the opportunity to play against people our own age, and I think it’s a great way to meet new people, and play sport in a friendly but competitive atmosphere.

“This year, the majority of the team we will enter is local to Darwin. We all play together in the Darwin Basketball Association, and five of us are the originals from the 1986 Games. We all look forward to competing in the Games, the fun of the opening and closing ceremonies and enjoying Alice Springs and its lovely surrounds.”
Thousands of sporting enthusiasts are expected to descend upon Alice Springs for the 15th staging of the Games from October 11 to 18.

For more information on the 2014 Alice Springs Masters Games, including how to enter, visit http://www.alicespringsmastersgames.com.au/ or call the Games hotline on 1800 658 951.

Maisie Austin’s roll of honour at the Alice Springs Master Games attached.

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