Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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$15 000 funding for icon beanie

The Centralian icon – the great beanie – will be celebrated in all its glory at the 10th annual Beanie Festival in Alice Springs this week.

Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced the NT Government would provide $15 000 funding to this year’s unique festival – which attracts a wide array of visitors to the centre from all over the world each year.

“They say necessity is the mother of invention—and cold desert nights have led to the invention of the beanie as the height of central Australian creativity,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“So why not—then—invent the Beanie Festival—now one of Alice Springs’ greatest icons?”

Bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, the Beanie Festival is one of the highlights on the calendar for Central Australians.

“The humble headgear really comes into its own at festival time and beanies blossom like wildflowers in all colours, shapes and sizes,” she said.

“I am pleased that the NT Government is able to support the Festival with $15 000 funding this year.”

Ms Scrymgour said this year’s festival would also include “The Colours of the Country – celebrating 10 years of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival” exhibition at the Araluen Galleries Foyer.

The exhibition includes 2006 competition beanies, special Indigenous projects and a 10 year retrospective.

The Festival kicks of at noon tomorrow, and over its three day run includes crochet and professional knitting workshops at Territory Craft, demonstration spinning from the Desert Spinners, and speed knitting competitions.

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