

# Alice Springs Beanie Festival

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ABN 61 405 328 65



2025 Alice Springs Festival

Dearest Beanie Makers

Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> and last ever Alice Springs Beanie Festival in 2026!

We're very excited to **celebrate the big 30 years of beanies** with the theme **Thank-you, Thank-You, Thank-you Beanies of Gratitude** – We want to celebrate and acknowledge all of you and your contributions over the past 30 years! Are you all feeling inspired?

There are 2 Exhibitions you can enter in to, you can enter either or both.

- **Beanie Central** is the home of 7300 beanies, teacosies and handspun yarns, you may enter up to 10 items, entry is free and there is a 30% commission on sales. If you would like a real beanie experience full of fun, sharing and joy we encourage you to come to Alice and volunteer, if you do you can enter 50 beanies!

**The International Beanie Competition and Exhibition** is for those extraordinary, fabulous beanies and teacosies. You can enter up to 2 pieces, there is an entry fee of \$20 per beanie and a 50% commission. There are prizes for winning beanies. Have a read of the entry form for themes and categories, get creative and have a go. Entering the competition is sooooo much fun. 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

- **2026 Beanie Festival Friday 19 June to Monday 22 June 2026**
- **Closing dates for Competition entries: Friday, May 29, 2026**
- **Closing dates for Beanie Central: Friday, May 29, 2026**
- **Late entries will be returned to sender COD (Note it can take up to 3 weeks for parcels to arrive into Alice Springs so get prepared early). You may post your beanies anytime from February onwards.**

## 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!)
- **Please do not send hat stands or teapots with your creations** we will supply them
- **Post back unused Swingtags**
- **It is much cheaper to post your beanies in prepaid postpacks**, boxes are very expensive and beanies survive postpacks very well (except for those amazing competition beanies). Also,

**please do not individually wrap beanies in plastic bags, we can't recycle those bags and it is at a cost to our environment.**

### **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 18 June 10am-5pm 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](http://www.beaniefest.org) or by e-mailing [beaniefestival@gmail.com](mailto:beaniefestival@gmail.com) Please note you do not have to register prior to the Festival just turn up.

There will be a free dinner for all our volunteers (who do 5 or more shifts) on Sunday night, June 21, at the Gillen Club to meet the Beanie Festival Committee. 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.

### **Beanie Ambassadors for those over 80 years old.**

All those lovely beanie makers who are over 80 years old, we invite you to attend the Festival with your 50 beanies but do not expect you to volunteer 10 hours. We welcome you to mingle, sit and have a cuppa, demonstrate creating your crafts. If you would like to do a couple of shifts, you are most welcome but it is not required. We just would love having you around being a part of the festivities.

### **Children**

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children under the age of 16 are unable to volunteer, but they may assist their guardian in certain volunteer jobs such as beanie minder, children's corner and in the gallery as an attendant.

### **Workshops**

From April 2026 the Central Craft textile 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.

### **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](http://www.centralaustralianatourism.com).

Also, remember our website [www.beaniefest.org](http://www.beaniefest.org) 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 30<sup>th</sup> celebrations in whatever way you can and help us celebrate our final Festival full of memories and joy.

Regards



*Jo Nixon*

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

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