



PROGRAM

Friday 19 June - Monday 22 June 2026

Araluen Arts Centre

www.beanifest.org

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Wetree. The Alice Springs Beanie Festival pays its respects to the Arrernte people on whose land we come to celebrate the beanie (Muna/Mukati/Mukata). We acknowledge elders past present and emerging. We also acknowledge the Indigenous peoples from around Australia who have attended the Festival and bring with them their culture to share.

A message from the Minister Joshua Burgoyne,

Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Member for Braitling

The Alice Springs Beanie Festival is celebrating an extraordinary milestone as it marks its 30th anniversary this year.

As an Alice Springs local, it has been great to see this event grow over the years. What began in 1997 as a small ‘beanie party’ is now a nationally recognised celebration, with artists from remote communities and visitors from across the country coming together to share thousands of handcrafted beanies, each with its own unique story.

The first beanies were made in Yuendumu, but this event has grown exponentially, reaching an international audience with beanies being made and posted to Alice Springs from all over the world.

Last year, around 5,000 people attended the Beanie Festival and 6,400 beanies were sold, with one selling for a whopping \$2,000. In 2024, more than 7,000 beanies were received and catalogued. I can’t imagine the amount of volunteer hours that required! This year also marks the final festival under the leadership of Jo Nixon, whose passion and dedication over three decades have shaped the beanie festival into the iconic event it is today. Her legacy will continue to inspire the community for years to come.

With the colder months approaching, it’s the perfect time to explore the festival, admire the incredible craftsmanship and perhaps take home a beanie of your own. Our government is proud to support this festival. Whether you’re visiting from near or far, a very warm welcome to you all - enjoy everything the Beanie Festival and the Red Centre have to offer.

Free bus service to and from the Beanie Festival

Need a lift to the festival?

Call Kristian on **0410 806 825**

We can come and collect you then drop you home.

Thanks to the loan of their bus.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

And from our Chief Beaniologist, Jo Nixon....

Welcome Beanie Lovers to the Alice Springs Beanie Festival 2026! I reckon it will be our biggest year ever celebrating our final Festival. Yes folks, we have grown with such success it is no longer sustainable for us to continue. We have too many beanie makers, too many beanies and not enough room for the punters to get through the doors. We have racked our brains to find ways to continue and remain a truly inclusive event full of joy but alas can't find a way forward. It is a credit to all those who have been a part of our delightful festival. From little things, 100 beanies in 1997, to big things, 8000 beanies in 2026...grow! I loved and am honoured to have been a part of the journey and thank the many friends and family that joined me along the way. The sharing of all your stories about your special beanie has been inspirational and very dear to my heart. And here we are for a promised 4 days of glorious beanie magic...beanies, workshops, live entertainment and delicious homemade tucker – and as a special treat a puppet show for young and old to create a big smile and warm heart. Check out program below.

Our main aim is to provide opportunities for the Indigenous women of remote Central Australia to get involved. This year, we have run workshops in Santa Teresa, Titjikala, Ali Curung, Utopia and Old Timers. Some of these women will be attending the festival, so take some time to join their workshops and hear some of their stories. Look out for all these creations in the Gallery.

Many thanks go to the many volunteers who have put this festival together: they are our backbone. Also, a big thank you to our sponsors. May you all walk proud with warm, creative heads and hearts forever and always..

Gala Opening Night – Free Event

Sponsored by the Alice Springs Town Council

Everyone is invited to the Gala Opening and of the 30th Alice Springs Beanie Festival.

This year's theme is Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude.

5.30 pm

Opening address from, Her Worship, Mayor Asta Hill, Welcome to Country from Senior Arrernte Woman Amelia Turner.

The Alice Springs Beanie Festival opens, with the announcement of competition winners.

Beanies will be on sale and there will be lots of live music.

And of course, you can pick up many delicious treats from the community food stalls or a drink from the Araluen bar!

******Please note there will be extra security manning the carpark tonite, thanks to Outback Security******

6.00pm

The doors open to exhibition Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude and the retrospective collection of the world's best beanies of the past 30 years in the Araluen Galleries

Date: Friday 19 June, 5.30 – 8.30pm

Venue: Araluen Arts Centre, Larapinta Drive Cost: Free!

Beanie Central

Beanie Central is the centrepiece of the festival long weekend.

This is where the thrill and mayhem of chasing the perfect beanie takes place, with thousands of beanies on display and for sale. There will be plenty of beanies, Indigenous beanie making, textile workshops and free crochet workshops. And don't forget our fabulous teashop or even something from the BBQ to keep your bellies warm.

Disability access - On Saturday June 20 from 9am-10am we will open to allow those with a disability to access beanie central - wheelchairs, gofers, walkers, Autism, ADHD, mental illness – anyone who requires space and quiet times.

Make sure you head back on Monday: we take 10% off all the beanies and merchandise!

Beanie Central Dates:

Opens Friday 19 June 2026, 10am 5pm then 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Saturday 20 June 2026, (9am-10am Disability access hour) 10am – 5pm

Sunday 21 June 2026, 10am – 5pm

Monday 22 June 2026, 10am – 3pm

Venue: Witchetty's, Araluen Arts Centre, Larapinta Drive Cost: Gold Coin Donation

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Special Events in the Araluen Foyer and Verandah

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 June, 10.30am, 12.00pm, 1.30ppm, 3.00pm

Free Workshops: Learn to crochet your own beanie (wool and hooks on sale for \$15)

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 June, 2pm.

Needle Felt a Beanie with the Indigenous Women of Central Australia Sit with the women as they show you how to needle felt a beautiful beanie: drop in anytime and get started. Share a story and meditate the day away in the winter sun.

Saturday 20 10am-5pm, Sunday 21 10am-4pm, Monday 22 June, 10am –2pm

Cost: \$50

Indigenous Basket Weaving – sit with Louise and learn to weave your own basket or earrings.

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 10am-12pm

Cost \$80 Phone 0478 254 565 to book

Children's Activities

Free activities for children of all ages to learn to explore yarns through traditional techniques, including weaving and a giant French knitting circle.

Saturday 20 10am-5pm, Sunday 21 10am-4pm,

Cost - Free

Indigenous Jewellery Making

We present three generations of the Williams family running a workshop on seed jewellery making featuring hot wiring. Participants will drink billy tea and eat homemade damper by the fire as they make their jewellery.

Time 11.00 am – 2.00 pm Saturday 21 June

Cost \$100 per person

Location Tangentyere Artists Art Centre, 16 Fogarty Street, Alice Springs

Booking 08 89514232

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

The Alice Springs Beanie Festival Exhibition and National Beanie Competition and special showing of the Beanie Collection.

A wild array of fantastic textiles by makers from across Australia and the world. The exhibition highlights works from Indigenous workshops held annually in communities across Central Australia. See the winners of the National Beanie Competition and cast your vote for the Centred in Choice People's Favourite Beanie Award. Also the Sitzler gallery will highlight many of the beanies collected over the past 30 years in a very special exhibition.

Opening Friday 19 June, from 6.00pm runs til Sunday July 12.

Venue: Araluen Arts Centre Galleries. Open daily from 10am – 4pm (or until 5pm on the Festival weekend)

Central Craft Workshops

An amazing and inspiring array of fabulous textile workshops will be held at the **Central Craft**, found on the grounds of the Araluen Cultural Precinct. Treat yourself to some me time, learn a new skill or make new friends. So much to choose from. Check out the program calendar for details and then head online to book. See our calendar of events for more details.

*Venue: **Central Craft**, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Larapinta Drive*

Booking and workshop programs www.centralcraft.org.au

8CCC Community Radio will be playing tunes for you all day Saturday, along with crafty interviews and creative content. *Live broadcast from the Araluen Arts Centre Saturday 20 June 10am – 2pm*

Wednesday 17th June

10 am – 5 pm *Witchetty's*

Volunteer Registration: sign on as volunteer and help us set up the Festival.

5.30pm Flying Archies art exhibition. *Central Australian Aviation Museum, 6 Memorial Avenue. (Around the corner from Araluen)*

We are excited to invite you to the Aviation Museum's second Flying Archies art exhibition which celebrates the centre of Australia.

This year's theme, 'Vast Horizons', will give artists lots of scope to express their love of this stunning part of the world.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Thursday 18th June

10am – 4.30pm *Witchetty's*

Volunteer Registration: sign on as volunteer and help us set up the Festival.

11am-3pm Flying Archies art exhibition. *Central Australian Aviation Museum, 6 Memorial Avenue. (Around the corner from Araluen)*

4.30pm *Witchetty's*

Volunteers meeting and welcome drinks.

Friday 19th June

10am *Araluen Arts Centre Galleries*

Thank you morning tea and preview of the exhibition for all our fabulous sponsors.

Invitation only.

10am – 5pm then 5.30pm - 8.30pm *Witchetty's*

Beanie Central opens. More than 8000 beanies for sale, as well as our tea shop, fresh cakes, BBQ and textile demonstrations.

11am-3pm Flying Archies art exhibition. *Central Australian Aviation Museum, 6 Memorial Avenue. (Around the corner from Araluen)*

11am-2pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Felt Up! Upeycled Felt Jewellery with Maggie Pereyra \$70

1pm-4pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Basic Sewing with Lily Ilko \$60

6pm – 8pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Get Hooked: Crochet Basics with Billie Barton of Baggins Bags \$60

Clay Hand Building with Em Frank \$90

5.30pm – 8.30pm *Araluen Arts Centre*

Gala Opening Night (Sponsored by the Alice Springs Town Council)

Opening of **Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude Exhibition**

Announcement of the Competition winners, live entertainment.

Gallery opens at 6pm

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Saturday 20st June

9am-10am Beanie Central

******Disability access** - On Saturday June 20 from 9am-10am we will open to allow those with a disability to access beanie central - wheelchairs, gofers, walkers, Autism, ADHD, mental illness – anyone who requires space and quiet times.

9am-12pm Central Craft Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Coiled Basket Making with Pamela Mills \$100

10am-12pm Central Craft Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Clay Hand Building with Em Frank \$90

10am-2pm Central Craft Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Create using Lead Lighting with Miles Dunne \$120

10am – 5pm Witchetty's

Beanie Central opens. More than 8000 beanies for sale, as well as our tea shop, fresh cakes, BBQ and textile demonstrations.

10am – 5pm Araluen Arts Centre Galleries

Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude Exhibition, National Beanie Competition and retrospective collection of the world's best beanies of the past 30 years.

10am – 5pm Araluen Arts Centre Foyer

Needle felt a beanie with Indigenous Women of Central Australia Drop-in anytime \$50

10am – 5pm Araluen Arts Centre Foyer

Free drop in children's workshops

10am-12pm Araluen Foyer

Indigenous Basket Weaving – sit with Louise and learn to weave your own basket or earrings.

Cost \$80 Phone 0478 254 565 to book

10.30am – Araluen verandah

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

11am – 2pm Tangentyere Artists Art Centre, 16 Fogarty Street, Alice Springs

Indigenous Jewellery Making We present three generations of the Williams family running a workshop on seed jewellery making featuring hot wiring.

Participants will drink billy tea and eat homemade damper by the fire as they make their jewellery

Cost \$100 per person

Booking 08 89514232

11am-1pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Get Hooked: Crochet Basics with Billie Barton of Baggins Bags \$60

11am-3pm Flying Archies art exhibition. *Central Australian Aviation Museum, 6 Memorial Avenue. (Around the corner from Araluen)*

12.00pm– *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

1pm-3pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Terracotta Pot Painting with Jane Su-Ming \$30

1pm-4pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Explore with Polymer Clay \$95

Create a Printmaking Sampler \$90

1.30pm – *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

2pm *Araluen Arts Centre Foyer*

Free Beanie Making Crochet workshops (\$15 if you need wool and a hook)

2pm-4pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Weave with Raffia with Beck Tyler \$90

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

3.00pm – *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country

10am-2pm *Araluen Arts Centre Verandah*

Live radio broadcast by 8CCC Community Radio

Sunday 21nd June

10am-12pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Clay Hand Building with Em Frank \$90

10am-2pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Create using Lead Lighting with Miles Dunne \$120

10am-4pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Felted Body Wrap with Catherine O'Leary \$180

10am – 5pm *Witchetty's*

Beanie Central opens. More than 8000 beanies for sale, as well as our tea shop, fresh cakes, BBQ and textile demonstrations.

10am – 5pm *Araluen Arts Centre Galleries*

Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude Exhibition, National Beanie Competition and retrospective collection of the world's best beanies of the past 30 years.

10am – 5pm *Araluen Arts Centre Foyer*

Needle felt a beanie with Indigenous Women of Central Australia Drop-in anytime \$50

10am-12pm *Araluen Foyer*

Indigenous Basket Weaving – sit with Louise and learn to weave your own basket or earrings.

Cost \$80 Phone 0478 254 565 to book

10am – 5pm *Araluen Arts Centre Foyer*

Free drop in children's workshops

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

10.30am – *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

11am-1pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Social Crochet with Bethany Wilson and Lisa McClean -Free

11am-3pm Flying Archies art exhibition. *Central Australian Aviation Museum, 6 Memorial Avenue. (Around the corner from Araluen)*

12.00pm– *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

1.30pm – *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

1pm-4pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Basic Sewing with Lily Ilko \$60

Create a Printmaking Sampler with Kiana Thompson \$90

Explore with Polymer Clay with Lauren Wilson \$95

2pm-4pm *Central Craft* Booking www.centralcraft.com.au

Weave with Raffia with Beck Tyler \$90

2pm *Araluen Arts Centre Foyer*

Free Beanie Making Crochet workshops (\$15 if you need wool and a hook)
\$90

3.00pm – *Araluen verandah*

Free Puppet Show: For young and old come and help find Lyla's beanie as she ventures through the desert country.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Monday 22nd June

10am – 3pm *Witchetty's*

10% off all Beanies – TODAY ONLY!

Beanie Central opens. More than 8000 beanies for sale, as well as our tea shop, fresh cakes, BBQ and textile demonstrations.

10am – 3pm *Beanie Central*

Needle felt a beanie with Indigenous Women of Central Australia Drop-in anytime \$50

10am – 4pm *Araluen Arts Centre Galleries*

Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude Exhibition, National Beanie Competition and retrospective collection of the world's best beanies of the past 30 years.

10am – 2pm *Witchetty's*

Needle felt a beanie with Indigenous Women of Central Australia Drop-in anytime \$40

1pm *Araluen Arts Centre Galleries*

Announcement of the Centred in Choice People's Favourite Award. Come along to find out who the people voted as their favourite beanie for 2026.

Tuesday 23rd June

Beanie Central is now closed and with it, the main festival arena. Come and help us pack up and bump out! Volunteers arrive from 10am please.

10am – 4pm *Araluen Arts Centre Galleries*

Thank You Thank You Thank You Beanies of Gratitude Exhibition, National Beanie Competition and retrospective collection of the world's best beanies of the past 30 years.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Calling All Volunteers: The Beanie Festival needs you!

The Alice Springs Beanie Festival is a community event and runs on the support of volunteers. We love anyone who can come along and give a helping hand – it's a lot of fun! There are plenty of jobs and times available.

Put your name on the roster at the Volunteer Station in Witchetty's at the Araluen Arts Centre, anytime from Wednesday 18 June, 11am.

Any inquiries? Call Deb on 0455 551 383

The Beanie Festival would not could not happen without support from many.

Poster and T-Shirt Design: Mez Hughes.

Prizes: Designed and crafted by artists Wonky Vessels, Eastside.

Volunteer coordinators: Deb White, Letty, Carolyn

Exhibition Curator: Allison Hittman

Witchetty's Design: Adi Dunlop, Mez Hughes, Jo Nixon

Cataloguers: Kristian Malinski, Jo Nixon

Remote Beanie Workshop Teachers: Tanya Hattingh, Deb TT, Jane Easton, Siri Omberg and Anne Stewart.

Scholarship winner: Lily Wischusen

Scholarship sponsors – Deb Taylor-Tompson and Ruth Spence

And the Beanie Festival Committee:

Chair: Annie Farthing

Vice Chair: Deb White

Treasurer: Anita Suich

Secretary: Penny Johnson

Members: Kris Malenski, Deb Taylor Tompson, Tanya Hattingh, Pip Sarah, Jess O'Brien, Doug Brown.

Chief Beaniologist/Executive Officer: Jo Nixon

Special thanks to the staff of the Araluen Arts Centre for their generosity, assistance and being home to our wonderful festival.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

Get social with us!



/beaniefestival



@beaniefestival



www.beaniefest.org.au

And our sponsors!

Please support them because the support us

Araluen Arts Centre and the Northern Territory Government

Alice Springs Town Council

Tourism Central Australia

Central Craft

Centred in Choice

Brian Tucker Accounting

BAS Bookkeeping NT

Gillen Club

Bendigo Bank

Heenan Investment Group

8CCC Community Radio

Eye Care Plus Optometrists

Brushcraft

Chansey Paech MLA

Hon Joshua Burgoyne, MLA

Robyn Lambley MLA

Her Worship, Mayor Asta Hill

NT Link

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Lisa Marie Burgoyne

Thrifty Car Rental

Deb TT

Ruth Spence

Letty Lawrence

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

