



MEDIA RELEASE

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk is a nationwide survey designed to raise community awareness of marsupials, their ecology and major threats to their survival.

Alice Springs residents have the opportunity on Wednesday, 7 September, to take part in the Night Stalk at the Telegraph Station.

The Parks and Wildlife Junior Rangers program will also be conducting their own Night Stalk this Friday evening (2 September).

The surveys are undertaken by members of the public who spend an evening conducting a 'spotlight' survey of marsupials and feral animals in their local area.

Parks and Wildlife Service's Community Education's, Senior Ranger, Emily Findlay, encouraged residents to get involved in the Night Stalk.

"Apart from having a great night out, participants learn about their local wildlife, including which species are present and where they are likely to be found," Ms Findlay said.

"Participants see how different land use can affect the distribution of native marsupials.

"By participating in an Australian-wide fauna survey, participants increase their understanding of how and why this type of fieldwork is carried out."

The surveys are an important initiative, documenting the state of marsupial fauna and the prevalence of introduced pest species across all land tenures.

Over time, the data collected will build to provide a meaningful scientific resource capable of contributing to future national biodiversity strategies.

In 2004, over 140 surveys took place within the allotted six week period and surveys were held in all states of Australia, with 1,741 spot-lighters surveying 683km of track.

Night Stalkers across Australia recorded 27 different marsupial species or subspecies and 11 introduced species.

Representatives from a diverse range of groups including schools, scouts, guides, environmental groups, mining companies and the general community clocked up 2,570 hours of spotlighting fun.

The results of the 2004 Night Stalk were collated by Perth Zoo according to the habitat zone of Australia in which each survey occurred. Each zone was checked for sightings of threatened and feral species.

This information is now available on the Night Stalk website and has been supplied to conservation and wildlife agencies in each state and territory.

Bookings for the Alice Springs Night Stalk activity are essential and numbers are limited.

For more information or to make a booking call Emily Findlay – Community Education Ranger with Parks and Wildlife Service during office hours on 8951 8247.

Ends

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