



MEDIA RELEASE

Costumes the fashion at Heritage Week

First time models from the Parks and Wildlife Service will today parade costumes made specifically for this month's Heritage Week celebrations in Alice Springs.

Senior District Ranger and Heritage Week coordinator Ric Hope said he and his colleagues would take part in the fashion parade at the Old Timers Village where day care clients had made the period pieces.

"This is the first time I have been asked to take part in a fashion parade and I took the request as a complement," Mr Hope said.

"My costume is based on the typical style worn by linesmen at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station in the 1880s and 1890s.

"Today's parade is a great opportunity to thank Norma Millard and Isvari Luff who made the costumes for us to wear at the Heritage Week open night on April 28."

Volunteer Emily Findlay, who has worked with Ms Millard and Ms Luff every week since December, said it would be the first time the women would see the finished costumes as a whole outfit, rather than in pieces they have helped to sew.

Ms Findlay said the aim of Heritage Week was to showcase what life was like in Alice Springs during the 1880s and 1890s.

"Many of the activities showcased during Heritage Week require skills that are being lost as many of the experts are getting older," she said.

"Some of these skills, such as black smith operating, sheep shearing, marmalade making and the operation of the Telegraph Office to send messages in Morse code would be showcased during the week.

"Camp ovens and ingredients will also be supplied for bush cooks to come along and battle it out for the title of "Damper Champion".

"The damper challenge will be one of many of the activities for people to get involved in during the Heritage Night Celebrations at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station."

Ms Findlay said Parks and Wildlife rangers would appear on next week's Yamba show to encourage families to attend Heritage Week that runs from April 23-29.

The week culminates at a Heritage Open Night at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station on Friday, April 28, from 5pm.

“There will be lots of activities for the whole family, such as bush music, dancing, slide shows and traditional children’s games,” she said.

“There will also be prizes for the best dressed in heritage costume and a colouring in competition.”

Ms Findlay said people should keep an eye out for a preview of the costumes on April 18 and April 19 in the Todd Mall.

“Parks and Wildlife rangers in heritage costumes will accompany the town crier for a walk down the Mall, with a wheel barrow similar to that used by early settlers to carry their gear to central Australian gold fields,” she said.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Ric Hope on 8951 8259 or Emily Findlay on 0437 683929.

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