



MEDIA RELEASE

Wildcare Inc Alice Springs Celebrates 10 Years of Service

Wildcare Inc Alice Springs will celebrate ten years of community service in Central Australia on Monday 11th December 2006.

The organisation was established in Alice Springs in 1996 to provide a support network for sick, injured and orphaned birds, reptiles and mammals of central Australia with the outcome of rehabilitation and release.

Wildcare Inc Alice Springs vice-president Wendy Vismans said the support of their volunteer carers and service providers was crucial to their organisation.

“Most of our volunteers have full time employment and busy family lives as well as caring for wildlife and their assistance just makes our work so much easier,” she said.

“Many people wouldn’t be aware of the many groups that have helped Wildcare over the past ten years, such as the Fire Service who have helped rescue wildlife from tall trees and buildings and the Alice Springs Reptile Centre and Bath Street Vets which act as drop off centres for injured wildlife.

“Wildcare Inc Alice Springs works closely with Parks and Wildlife staff to ensure that our native wildlife receives the best care and attention available which is often an expensive task.”

Parks and Wildlife Service wildlife management officer Jon DeLaine said Wildcare Inc Alice Springs is a vital community group that offers support, care and assistance for centralian residents and the wildlife they live with.

“Wildcare Inc Alice Springs has dealt with a range of amazing animals over the past decade, including bats, jabirus, wombats, pelicans, snakes and hundreds of kangaroos,” Mr DeLaine said.

“Wildcare Inc Alice Springs does an amazing job for our native animals, in fact over 4500 animals have come through care since the non-profit groups inception.

“Many native animals require help after encountering humans, such as vehicle accidents, pet attacks and interference from people.

“Ninety percent of all animals that enter care do so due to the cruelty and destruction caused by humans, like removing young birds from nests, injuring animals with shanghais and not controlling pets when out bush.”

Mr DeLaine reminds community members that are interested in wildlife care that all native wildlife in the Northern Territory is protected and requires permits to care for and rescue animals.

“We encourage interested people to join Wildcare Inc Alice Springs and attend wildlife training before taking on animals, so they have access to support and advice,” Mr DeLaine said.

“Wildcare members also have access to discounted wildlife supplies and equipment.

“Volunteers wanting to join Wildcare must be prepared to give up their time, and be aware of the costs involved in rehabilitating injured or orphaned animals.

“Members of the public that find injured or orphaned wildlife or are interested in joining the organisation should call Wildcare Inc Alice Springs on 0419 22 11 28.”

MEDIA NOTE: Media are invited to attend the certificate ceremony and morning tea at 10:00am Monday 11th December at the Bushfires Council Headquarters on Elder Street, Alice Springs. Photo opportunities will be available with Wildcare members and community organisation representatives (some animals may also be available for photography on the day).

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Jonathon DeLaine on 08 8951 8283 or 0401 115 731.

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