



MEDIA RELEASE

Territory Parks Alive 2007

Free guided walks, talks and slide shows will be provided in parks and reserves across the Territory as part of this year's *Territory Parks Alive* program, which runs between May and October.

Whether you are a local or a tourist here's your chance to find more about the nature of this wonderful Territory.

Last year the walks and talks program attracted 12,000 people. People travelling through the Territory often attend more than one event, discovering different chapters of the Territory story at different locations.

Several 2007 activities follow the success of last year's program, such as historic talks at the Old Owen Springs Homestead and a guided walk at the Devils Marbles focusing on bush foods and medicines.

There will be more than 1000 opportunities for visitors to attend Ranger guided activities in Territory parks this year, and more than 40 different activities to choose from.

"*Territory Parks Alive* provides people with a great opportunity to learn about the flora, fauna, geology, history and culture of the Territory," Parks and Wildlife Service (South) interpretive officer Kylie Cowan said.

"It's a great way for people of any age to make the most of their park visit.

"This year's central Australian activities will also cover places such as the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Rainbow Valley, Arltunga, Trephina Gorge, Jessie Gap, Finke Gorge, Ormiston Gorge, the Davenport Ranges and Simpsons Gap."

Ms Cowan said a change to this year's central Australian program would be the relocation of the slideshows from Alice Springs Town Council to the John Flynn Memorial Church in the Todd Mall from 6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Parks and Wildlife Service (North) interpretive officer Robin Macgillivray said staff from across the Territory's north, from Keep River National Park to the west, Nitmiluk, on the Katherine River, Litchfield, Fogg Dam, Territory Wildlife Park, Windows on the Wetlands, as well as parks around Darwin, would be part of this year's northern program.

Ms Macgillivray said rangers see this as one way to get to know their visitors and pass on some of their professional knowledge and some of their personal experiences in managing the parks.

She said staff can also give visitors a few tips about other places to visit nearby.

"So whether you live close to Darwin, Katherine or Alice Springs, or are planning a trip across the Territory, set aside some time to come along to a Parks Alive walk, talk or slide show," Ms Macgillivray said.

People can get a complete program from www.nt.gov.au/parks or by phoning 8999 4555 for the Top End or 8951 8211 for central Australia.

Events are also advertised locally and in the parks themselves.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Kylie Cowan on 8951 8208 or Robin Macgillivray 8999 4408

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