



MEDIA RELEASE

Enjoy Territory Parks This Long Weekend

A free talk focusing on the history of the Old Owen Springs Homestead within Owen Springs Reserve is set to be one of several highlights at Territory parks and reserves this long weekend.

Driving a 4WD is essential when visiting Owen Springs Reserve, which is accessible from Alice Springs in a number of ways, including a 50km drive south of Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive, which is the best way to get to the Old Homestead Ruins.

Parks and Wildlife Service (South) interpretive officer Kylie Cowan said the free, one hour historic talk from 1pm on Sunday 5 August would be the last at Owen Springs Reserve as part of this year's Territory Parks Alive 2007.

"Territory Parks Alive has been really popular this year and well received by central Australians and visitors to the region," Ms Cowan said.

"Owen Springs Reserve is particularly interesting because of its strong history as a cattle station as well as links to many well known people.

"The main access track through the Reserve closely follows explorer John McDouall Stuart's route through the MacDonnell Ranges that preceded the construction of the original Overland Telegraph Line.

"Stuart named Owen Springs after South Australian parliamentarian William Owen who was a financial supporter of Stuart's trips and race horse trainer Bart Cummings' great uncle Jim Cummings ran horses on a neighbouring station."

Ms Cowan said two free 45 minute campfire talks from 7.30pm at the proposed Davenport Range National Park on Saturday 4 August and Sunday 5 August would also be the last Territory Parks Alive activity at the Davenports for 2007.

The proposed Davenport Range National Park is located south-east of Tennant Creek and can be located via the Stuart Highway, either by turning off at Bonney Well along Kurindi/Epenarra Road or turning off at Taylor Creek along Murray Downs/Hatches Creek Road.

"The most spectacular feature about Davenport is the amount of water located at places like Old Police Station Waterhole," Ms Cowan said.

"The bird watching is great and because it is located between the arid zone and sub-tropical zone there is a diverse range of fauna and flora.

"The campfire talk is quite informal and focuses on the history and special features of the proposed national park."

Other activities as part of Territory Parks Alive this long weekend include free nature talks at the Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre, held every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday.

Window on the Wetlands is about 60km from Darwin along the Stuart and Arnhem Highways.

Parks and Wildlife Service (North) interpretive officer Alissa Woods said the talks focused on the changes associated with the wetlands during the dry and wet seasons and the different flora and fauna species people might see depending on when they visit.

“Another highlight people might be interested in after the long weekend is a free guided walk at Charles Darwin National Park with the last one for the year held from 9am on Tuesday 7 August,” Ms Woods said.

“This might be particularly appealing to parents with young children who aren’t going to school yet as a ranger will take you through to the mangroves, with some species flowering around this time of year.”

Ms Woods said another highlight this month would be the Limilngan Cultural Guided Walk at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve from 10am on Wednesday 8 August.

Fogg Dam is located about 70km east of Darwin along the Arnhem Highway.

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

Ends

Media Note – For more information about Territory Parks Alive contact Kylie Cowan (central Australia) on 8951 8208 or Alissa Woods 8999 4432 (Top End)

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