

Media Release:

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## The Great Australian Marsupial Nightstalk

Want to take part in a nightstalk? Then come along for a free slideshow about marsupials of Central Australia and finish off with a spotlight walk spotting some of the amazing fauna.

The Great Australian Marsupial Nightstalk is a national series of spotlight walks conducted throughout Australia to collect information about marsupial and feral animal numbers and their distribution.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Senior Ranger, Community Education Michael Barritt said the nightstalks from the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve have been running for the past five years but with record attendance last year he has decided to extend the program.

"This year we plan to extend the program in Alice Springs and in addition to the night stalks and slide show at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve we will do a spotlight and slide show night at Ormiston Gorge and Simpsons Gap," Mr Barritt said.

"The nightstalks give the public a unique opportunity to become familiar with the marsupials in their local area, such as the black-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*), euro wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*) and occasionally the Dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*) and unfortunately the feral cat (*Felis catus*).

"Aside from marsupials many other species of wildlife are often spotted including tawny frogmouths, yellow-throated miners, crested pigeons, galahs and other bird species sleeping in trees, in addition to many different frog species".

Mr Barritt said the slide talk gives the public an opportunity to discover those marsupial species that we have lost in the past 200 years.

All of the night stalks are open to the public including children and people but numbers are limited as spotlighting works best in smaller groups.

Participants just need to bring a good torch and a spotlight if they have one, and advised to wear safe and comfortable footwear as the walk takes place in the dark over rough ground.

Details:

Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre – 7-9pm – Tuesday, 9 October 2007

Alice Springs Telegraph Station buildings – 7-9pm – Saturday, 13 October 2007

Simpsons Gap BBQ area – 7-9pm – Sunday, 14 October 2007

To book call Michael Barritt on 0401 112 525 or email [michael.barritt@nt.gov.au](mailto:michael.barritt@nt.gov.au)

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Michael Barritt on 0401 112 525**

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