

**Media Release:**

**8.2.08**

## **Bush painting, bush medicine and bushfires...**

Learning about the bush has never been so much fun when you sign up to become an Alice Springs Junior Ranger.

Archaeology, insect investigations and discovering waterholes are just some of the activities and education programs on offer for the 2008 program that begins Saturday 16 February 2008.

Michael Barritt, Parks and Wildlife Community Education Senior Ranger, said building upon the success of 2007, they have an even bigger year in 2008 with more than 40 activities planned for weekends and during school holidays throughout the year.

"All our activities have a strong Centralian focus which allows the kids to get a deeper appreciation of the local environment and some of the environmental stories that may not be widely known," Mr Barritt said.

"After the great response to last year's bat survey, where over 70 bats were captured, studied and released, another is planned in the coming months.

"Each year we carry out an extensive fauna survey, where the kids can expect to see some of our more unusual small mammals, take part in bird watching expeditions and collect desert flora.

"In 2007 we surveyed Simpson's Gap, where we collected seven small mammals including the sandy inland mouse and the fat tailed antechinus, so this year we plan to survey the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

"Each activity takes around two hours and parents can either drop the kids off or take part as a family, with many of the activities suitable for families to come along and be involved."

The Alice Springs Junior Ranger program is free and open to kids between the ages of 8-14. Programs also operate for Alice Springs School of the Air and in Tennant Creek.

The Darwin Junior Rangers program is set to commence in April and expressions of interest forms can be found at <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/kids>.

Ends

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

Issued: 9am, Friday 8 February 2007