

Media Release:

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Baby boom hits Territory Wildlife Park

It appears the baby boom that has engulfed the Northern Territory so far this year doesn't stop at the local hospitals...

If you're visiting the Territory Wildlife Park you may notice a new and somewhat smaller addition in the water buffalo enclosure.

Territory Wildlife Park Manager Gae Mackay is proud to announce the birth of a new baby male buffalo, the park's first new arrival for 2008.

"He was quite a big baby, at the moment he's 56kg but he could potentially weigh up to 1.2 tonnes when he's fully grown," Ms Mackay said.

"We normally have around two or three births a year from our two female water buffalos with the next baby due to arrive in the next month or two.

"The gestation period for a water buffalo is slightly longer than humans with eleven months to wait from conception to birth.

"In the wild the baby calves will be left in a crèche at the edge of the plain, where one designated 'nursemaid' buffalo will look after all the calves in the herd."

Ms Mackay said the newborn calf was an early Australia Day present for his proud parents, dad Scarface and mum Essie.

"We haven't named him yet. We've decided to hold a naming competition and encourage local kids to send us their suggestions."

For your chance to name the baby buffalo email suggestions to media.nreta@nt.gov.au or post your entry to NRETA Media PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831 and don't forget to include your name, address and contact phone number.

The winning entry will get to meet the baby buffalo at the Territory Wildlife Park. Entries close Sunday 24 February 2008 and the winning name will be announced in the Sunday Territorian in the coming weeks.

The Territory Wildlife Park is open everyday except Christmas Day from 8.30am – 6pm.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Gae Mackay on 8988 7200

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