

Media Release:

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Alice Springs Junior Rangers Help Our Bat Caves

Alice Springs Junior Rangers recently went face to face with some Little Cave Bats during a recent expedition to the bat caves south of Alice Springs as part of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Junior Ranger program.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education Senior Ranger Michael Barritt said while it was a great opportunity to explore the caves the Junior Rangers also helped to clean up rubbish in and around the caves.

“More than 25 Junior Rangers and 16 family members helped to clean up the area, where we gathered 12 bags of rubbish from the caves and surrounding areas including bottles, cans, candles and even car parts,” Mr Barritt said.

“The activity also included a talk down in the cave system about the different animals that use caves around the world, such as spiders and snakes, and also discussing why caves are such an important habitat for these animals.

“For many of the newer Junior Rangers this was their first visit to the bat caves and for a few of them it was their first time down in a cave.

“About 20 Little Cave Bats were seen scattered throughout the different chambers of the caves complex and at one point a small cluster of 10 little bats were spotted.”

“The bat cave cleanup was a chance for Alice Springs kids to learn about the cave system as they are quite rare in Central Australia because of the general absence of limestone ranges, but also to learn about looking after our environment.”

Mr Barritt said the junior rangers were able to use their torches to spot Little Cave Bats clustering on the roof of the cave for warmth and see how they move about the cave to particular roosting sites depending upon their varying temperature requirements.

“Occasionally a Little Cave Bat would move about the cave, swooping silently above our heads and the junior rangers were able to spotlight their flight and their amazing ability to negotiate the confined spaces of the cave.” Mr Barritt said.

The Junior Rangers in Alice Springs now have 102 members and there are still places available.

For more information contact Michael Barritt on 8951 8247 or 0401 112 525 for a registration form.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Michael Barritt on 8951 8247

Image – Junior Rangers spotting bats as they fly above their heads

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