

Media Release:

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Learn Traditional Painting with an Indigenous Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger

Locals and tourists are encouraged to participate in a free guided walk in Charles Darwin National Park culminating in a traditional painting experience as part of the annual *Territory Parks Alive* program.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service interpretive Officer Pam Wickham said the June program includes some exciting free activities that will be conducted at a number of parks and reserves in the Top End.

“One of the highlights will be the *Art from the Heart* activity presented by indigenous Parks and wildlife Service Ranger, Mark Mick at Charles Darwin National Park at 9am on Wednesday, 25 June, 2008.” Ms Wickham said.

“Mark will be presenting and conducting the tour, guiding participants through Charles Darwin National Park with an initial meet and greet at the picnic shelter followed by a bush walk which finishes at the rotunda that looks over Darwin Harbour.

“During the walk participants will hear a talk about the traditional methods used in Indigenous art and the tools Indigenous people used to paint with, with participants encouraged to choose their own tools which they will use to paint their own picture with.

”Mark will demonstrate how Indigenous art has changed over time, and I’m sure participants will appreciate the ease of using a modern paint brush after trying out painting the traditional way.”

Activities are being offered at Charles Darwin National Park, Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, Litchfield National Park, Holmes Jungle Nature Park, Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre and the Territory Wildlife Park during the month of June.

“Territory Parks Alive offer great opportunities to meet a Ranger and learn about our National parks,” Ms Wickham said.

A complete program for *Territory Parks Alive* 2008 in June is available from www.nt.gov.au/parks or by phoning 8999 4555.

Events are also advertised locally and in the parks themselves.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Pam Wickham on 8999 4432

Media Opportunity: Media can attend this event with the guided walk commencing at 9am from the Picnic Shelter. The painting workshop is scheduled for 9.45am at the Picnic Shelter, Charles Darwin National Park.

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