

Media Release:

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Central Australian Nightstalks Adventure

If you're looking for a free night-time adventure, like the outdoors, and want to learn more about local animals then the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife 'Central Australian Nightstalks' is just the ticket.

Nightstalks, now in its 10th year, is a national program coordinated by Perth Zoo that invites all Australians to take part in the largest fauna survey undertaken by the public to investigate the diversity and abundance of native animals and exotic pests throughout Australia.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education senior ranger Michael Barritt said the Central Australian Nightstalks program has been running for the past six years and offers the public a unique opportunity to become familiar with animals in their local area – up close and personal.

"The evening starts with a slideshow presentation illustrating the various nocturnal animals in the area, which will help participants to identify them later during the spotlight walk," Mr Barritt said.

"The public can also learn about the native species we have lost over the past 200 years through a ranger guided talk about the local native animals that are threatened or extinct.

"On the guided spotlight walk we may spot native animals such as the euro (*Macropus robustus*), black-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*), dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*), tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) and microbats (*Microchiroptera* suborder).

"We are also likely to come across exotic pests such as the feral cat (*Felis catus*) which has a big impact on some of our local native animals."

Participants need to bring along a torch or spotlight, wear appropriate clothing and wear safe and comfortable footwear as the walk takes place in the dark over rough ground.

All of the nightstalks are open to the public, including children, however numbers are limited and bookings are essential.

Alice Springs Telegraph Station Kiosk

7 – 9pm Sunday 28 September 2008

7 – 9pm Tuesday 30 September 2008

Simpsons Gap BBQ area

7 – 9pm Saturday 4 October 2008

Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre

7 – 9pm Wednesday 8 October 2008

Bookings are FREE. To book call Michael Barritt at Parks and Wildlife on 8951 8247 or email michael.barritt@nt.gov.au. Copies of the NRETAS publication 'Lost from our Landscape' will also be available for purchase on these evenings at the special discounted price of \$20.

Ends

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

Image – Tawny frogmouth (credit Barritt & May)

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