

Media Release:

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Junior Rangers Coming to the Rescue

Katherine Junior Rangers teamed up with the Katherine Wildlife Rescue to discover more about rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife last Saturday, 15 November 2008.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education senior ranger Emily Findlay said 15 junior rangers enjoyed an up close and personal experience with a range of animals currently under Wildlife Rescue's care including a wallaby joey, a baby bower bird, baby butcher birds and two Torres Strait pigeons.

"Wildlife Rescue volunteers, Kerry Hewitt and Sam Wilson talked to the junior rangers about what we need to do when we come across sick, injured or orphaned wildlife as well as discussing basic care for the animals and first aid techniques," Ms Findlay said.

"The day's activity concluded with the junior rangers preparing 'carer kits' and donating them to Wildlife Rescue, to enable their network of volunteers to continue their great work.

"The wallaby 'carer kit' contains a cotton pillow slip, plastic feeding bottle and latex teat, powdered Kangaroo Milk Replacer and a feeding guide whilst the 'carer kit' for insect and meat eating birds contains a feeding spoon, tweezers, jar of Insectivore Rearing Mix and a feeding guide.

"Katherine Wildlife Rescue is a really important non-profit organisation made up of volunteers who dedicate themselves to care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife with the aim of rehabilitating and releasing them back into their natural habitat.

"The children felt really proud that they were able to help contribute by making the kits and many of them are now hoping to encourage adult family members to register as carers.

"The free Parks and Wildlife Junior Ranger program endeavours to provide a wide variety of activities covering diverse topics ranging from raising awareness and knowledge about environmental issues, learning practical skills and involvement in conservation action."

Anyone who comes across sick, injured or orphaned wildlife in the Katherine region should call 0412 955 336, the phone is staffed by volunteers 24 hours a day seven days a week. For snake call outs call contact Reedy's Reptiles on 0407 934 252.

People who are interested in becoming a carer should contact the Katherine Wildlife Rescue. For more information on obtaining the required carers permit from Parks and Wildlife go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/permits/carers.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Emily Findlay on 8973 8865 or 0439 186 705

Image – Katherine Junior Rangers with senior ranger Emily Findlay (L) and Wildlife Rescue's Sam Wilson (R)

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