

**Media Release:**

**8.12.08**

## **Junior Rangers Celebrate 2008**

Katherine Junior Rangers and their families joined together for the Great Junior Ranger Damper Making Competition on Saturday 6 December 2008 to celebrate the conclusion of the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Katherine Junior Ranger program for 2008.

Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education senior ranger Emily Findlay said the 40 people who attended enjoyed making the traditional Aussie damper, and the judges had a hard time choosing the best damper based on look, taste, texture and innovation.

“Whilst we provided the flour, water and salt we encouraged everyone to bring along their own secret ingredients which resulted in some interesting concoctions being cooked up on the campfire,” Ms Findlay said.

“In the end our winner was Rickie Casey, with Darcy Lye and Sam Guempel-Crothers awarded second place and Emily and Samuel Duncan awarded third place.

“After we shared all the dampers for morning tea the Junior Rangers were presented with their certificates.”

Ms Findlay said it has been a fantastic year for the Katherine based Junior Rangers with 30 local children regularly involved in a wide range of activities.

“Some of the highlights this year included looking for nocturnal animals to add to the Australian database during The Great Marsupial Night Stalk, making bush toys with a local artist using all natural materials and learning how to be an environmentally aware shopper in the Supermarket Scavenger Hunt,” Ms Findlay said.

“The children also really enjoyed the Biodiversity on your Pizza event, where they learnt about where our food and other resources come from, using pizza as a symbol of food variety.

“We managed to fit in a fantastic and comprehensive line up of activities considering the Katherine based program only restarted mid-year after a 12 month break, and now we’re all looking forward to the 2009 program kicking off after the Easter long weekend in April next year.”

The free Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Junior Ranger program provides a wide variety of activities ranging from raising awareness and knowledge about environmental issues, learning practical skills and involvement in conservation action.

In addition to the Katherine program 50 Junior Rangers from Minyerri and Jilkminggan communities graduated in late November from the remote Junior Ranger program run by rangers from Elsey National Park in Mataranka.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Emily Findlay on 8973 8865**

**Image – Competition winner Rickie Casey with fellow junior ranger Jordan Halprin in the background**

Issued: 1.10pm Monday, 8 December 2008