

Media Release:

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Snake Warning for Barkly Region

The hot summer days and warm summer nights have arrived across Central Australia and the Barkly Region resulting in the increased activity of local reptiles.

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service are warning all residents in the area to be on the look out for snakes in their yards and surrounding bushland.

Senior Park Ranger for the Barkly Tennant Creek region Garth Forrester said recent rain has resulted in high vegetation growth and residents need to keep grass and vegetation cut short.

“We were recently called out to collect a snake from a residential home in Tennant Creek, the house had high grass, lots of thick mulch and corrugated iron on the ground, all of which create a perfect haven for snakes to live,” Mr Forrester said.

“On the same day we removed a yellow faced whip snake from the Charles Darwin University Campus in Tennant Creek, which is located across the road from vacant bushland.

“The yellow faced whip snake is just one of the dangerous species found around the area, the king brown or mulga snake, western brown snake and curl snake are also venomous.

“Many properties in the area back onto bushland and snakes have the ability to move though the township.

“We strongly encourage people to clean up their yards and remove unwanted building materials.

“Snakes may move into houses in the search for small mammals and other prey, pet food and other food scraps also provide food for rodents that snakes feed on.

“The recent rain has triggered an explosion in frog activity and breeding which, in turn, triggers snakes hunting, particularly at night, so people should use a torch when outside at night and always wear shoes.

“The public should not approach snakes or legless lizards, which may actually be snakes.

Anyone who comes across a snake in the Tennant Creek area should contact the Parks and Wildlife office on 8962 4599 during office hours or 0418 856 969 after hours.

Anyone who comes across a snake in the Alice Springs area should contact 0407 983 276.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Garth Forrester on 8962 4599

Image – yellow faced whip snake (credit Barritt & May)

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