

Media Release:

31.08.10

Celebrate Threatened Species Day at the Desert Park

Discover the Red Centre's threatened species at the Alice Springs Desert Park and take action to help conserve our unique native flora and fauna for National Threatened Species Day next Tuesday, 7 September 2010.

Alice Springs Desert Park Sales and Marketing Manager Estelle Marshall said learning more about the threatened species in Central Australia and seeing them in their natural habitat at the Desert Park is a great way to take part in the cause.

"We can all take action to prevent further extinctions by restoring healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities in the wild," Mrs Marshall said.

"Local schools are getting involved by raising funds for the local community group Lands for Wildlife, and in exchange these schools will receive a visit to the Desert Park and an exclusive presentation on endangered and threatened species.

"The Desert Park is home to a range of species for which there is grave concern with their security in the wild.

"These include animals such as the greater bilby, mala, western quoll and emu, and plants such as the MacDonnell Ranges Cycad, Palm Valley Palm and Acacia peuce (Waddy Wood).

"Our Nocturnal Tours also offer visitors the rare opportunity to encounter some of these nocturnal threatened species in the free range Mulga Walk enclosure during a spotlight tour with expert guides."

People are encouraged to support National Threatened Species Day in the following ways:

- Value every native tree, shrub and grass – grow local natives.
- Spend time in nature with your kids and grandkids – encourage them to explore and discover.
- Join or support the work of conservation groups.
- Sign up your property as a Nature Refuge or Land for Wildlife.
- Be a responsible pet owner.
- Become a wildlife carer.

National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September every year to encourage Australia to help conserve our unique native flora and fauna.

For more information about the Desert Park phone 8951 8788 or go to www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Estelle Marshall on 8951 8707

Images – bilby and mala

Issued: 11am Tuesday, 31 August 2010