

**Media Release:**

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## **Parks Alive in the Red Centre**

If you'd like to discover the stories of Central Australia's unique geology, go panning for gold during the school holidays or learn about our unique parks by campfire then head along to Central Australian parks and reserves as the 2011 *Territory Parks Alive* program has begun.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) Interpretation Officer Pamela Keil said that there was more than 6,700 participants in 2010, with activities held in parks and reserves throughout the Alice Springs and Barkly region.

"This year there are hundreds of opportunities for visitors to attend Ranger guided activities which include guided walks and talks, campfire talks, slideshows, nature talks and historic talks," Ms Keil said.

"These free activities are a great way for locals and visitors to experience the natural wonders of the area, learn about desert cultures and hear stories from the past."

Activities near Alice Springs are being held at Simpsons Gap and Ormiston Gorge in the West MacDonnell National Park, Owen Springs Reserve, and Trepkina Gorge Nature Park. A special program will also be running at Arltunga Historical Reserve through the school holidays.

Farther afield, activities are also being held at Finke Gorge National Park, Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve and Watarrka National Park.

"For those wanting to explore the magnificent Barkly region, campfire talks will be held at the Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve through June and July," Ms Keil said.

"Now is the perfect time to experience the natural wonders of Central Australia as the heavy rains over the past year have resulted in abundance of plants and wildlife and the cooling weather has created ideal conditions for exploring the magnificent Territory parks and reserves."

A complete program for the *Territory Parks Alive 2011* is available from [www.nt.gov.au/parks](http://www.nt.gov.au/parks) by following the 'Walks, Talks, and Trails' link or by phoning 8951 8250.

Events will run through until Friday, 30 September 2011 and will also be advertised locally, with brochures available from tourist centres and parks and reserves.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Pamela Keil on 8951 8208.**

**Image – Visitors enjoy the Territory Parks Alive activities at Trepkina Gorge.**

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