

**Media Release:**

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## **Top End Parks Come Alive**

Whether it's experiencing a close encounter with a turtle hatchling, discovering the critters of the night or goosling around in the wetlands, Territorians and visitors can explore the Top End's magnificent parks and reserves this dry season through the popular *Territory Parks Alive* program.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) Interpretation Officer Michael Barritt said more than 12,500 locals and visitors enjoy the free ranger guided walks and talks each year.

"A full range of activities are offered for people of all ages, as a great way to get out in the Parks, engage with the environment and discover what our rangers have to say," Mr Barritt said.

"Between May and September 2011 there will be ranger guided walks, cultural talks, campfire talks, slideshows, displays and activities held at parks and reserves across the Darwin and Katherine regions.

"Around Darwin there are guided walks where visitors can discover *Mangroves, Middens and more* at Charles Darwin National Park, *Seashell stories* at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, enjoy a spotlight tour in *After dark in a park* at Howard Springs Nature Park and in *Forest freaks or forest geeks* discover the monsoon forest at Holmes Jungle Nature Park.

"There will also be cultural talks at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve and Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, nature talks at Window on the Wetlands, activities and displays at the Territory Wildlife Park and guided walks and a slideshow at Litchfield National Park.

"If you're heading west then discover the *Secrets of Keep River National Park* during a campfire talk, or head to Judbarra / Gregory National Park to see the *Beyond the Bitumen* slideshow or the *Riparian Rambles* guided walk.

"Around Katherine you can learn about the *Roper Lifeline* during a campfire talk at Elsey National Park, see the *Jawoyn Country* slideshow at Leliyn (Edith Falls) or discover the passion that motivates rangers during *The Passions of a Ranger* talk at Nitmiluk National Park.

"*Territory Parks Alive* allows people to hear stories about the Territory's unique parks and reserves through rangers, guides and traditional owners, and is a great opportunity that should not be missed."

A complete program for Territory Parks Alive 2011 is available from [www.nt.gov.au/parks](http://www.nt.gov.au/parks) or by calling 8999 4555. Events will also be advertised locally and brochures will be available from tourist centres and parks and reserves.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Michael Barritt on 8999 4432 or 0447 031 176.**

**Image – Visitors experience activities in the Territory Parks Alive program.**

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