

Media Release:

29.06.11

School Holiday Discoveries at the Desert Park

Escape the winter chill these school holidays with a range of interactive activities to celebrate NAIDOC Week at the Alice Springs Desert Park from Sunday, 3 July to Sunday, 10 July 2011.

Alice Springs Desert Park Acting Guide Manager Doug Taylor said the activities provide some great hands-on experiences for young locals and visitors to learn about the relationship our cultural history and practices have with the environment.

“Activities like these that are held at the Desert Park during NAIDOC week are important to enhance visitors’ experience and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the environment we live in,” Mr Taylor said.

“Highlights include jewellery making around the camp fire, where visitors can join a guide to discover the traditional methods of jewellery making in a one hour workshop.

“Visitors can also join an Arrente Elder for a walk on country, where the Elders will share their stories of survival, connection to country, each other, plants and animals.

“There will also be several daily highlights including ‘Survival in the Desert’ where visitors can discover how Aboriginal people live in this dry environment, and ‘Animal Tracks’ where visitors can learn the importance of animal tracks and how to make them in the sand.”

Mr Taylor said the Desert Park works closely with local Aboriginal people in many aspects of planning and interpretation of the Park’s natural assets.

“Working with the Traditional Owners is an essential factor of Park planning, as it ensures the site’s cultural values are protected and that the integrity of the interpretation experiences for visitors is maintained,” Mr Taylor said.

“NAIDOC Week is a wonderful opportunity for locals and visitors to discover the remarkable connection between our cultural history and our natural environment.”

Bookings may be required for some activities, and may include an additional cost to entry fees to the Desert Park.

For more information on the Alice Springs Desert Park, including a full list of school holiday activities visit www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au or phone 8951 8788.

Ends

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

Image – Desert Park Guide Doug Taylor with Graeme and Jackie Shaughnessy during 2010 NAIDOC Week activities.

Issued: 2pm Wednesday, 29 June 2011