

Media Release:

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Enjoy the Starry Skies at Desert Park's Astronomy Night

Territorians will get a chance to study the spectacular Centralian skies at the Alice Springs Desert Park's Astronomy Night on Friday, 19 August 2011.

Alice Springs Desert Park Director Gary Fry said the free event is one of many being held during National Science Week 2011 and it is open to anyone keen to explore the galaxies above.

"Set amongst Central Australia's magnificent flora and fauna, with the stunning West MacDonnell Ranges as a backdrop, the Desert Park is the perfect location to experience our amazing night skies," said Mr Fry.

"Not only will Park visitors get a great view of the stars, they will also be able to learn about the science behind those stars from astronomers with the Alice Springs Astronomy Club."

Another highlight of the evening will be a series of family-friendly science films from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Scinema 2011 Travelling Film Festival at the Park's big screen cinema.

Park visitors can also take advantage of special Nocturnal Tours with an expert guide to explore the mystery of the night and learn more about rare and endangered animals.

Tours will depart at 6:45pm and 8pm, and numbers are limited so bookings are recommended.

The cost of the tour is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (5-15 years). Bookings can be made on the night or in advance by calling 8951 8788.

The free Astronomy Night will run from 7pm to 9pm in the Desert Park's new courtyard, with food, drinks and snacks available at the Coolamon Cafe from 6pm.

Visitors are asked not to bring their own food and beverages but are welcome to bring along a chair or picnic rug for the event.

For further information on upcoming events at the Alice Springs Desert Park, visit www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au.

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

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