

Media Release:

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Take Part in the 2011 Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk

Territorians can explore nature at night and help gather important scientific data by taking part in the Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk at West MacDonnell National Park.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education Officer Jacelyn Anderson said everyone is welcome to join the community night stalks at Simpsons Gap on Wednesday, 5 October 2011 and at Ormiston Gorge on Thursday, 6 October 2011.

“The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk is a national series of ‘spotlight’ walks across the country to collect information about marsupials and feral animal numbers,” said Ms Anderson.

“It’s a fun and important conservation event and it provides a great opportunity for Territorians to learn about their local wildlife.

“Past participants have spotted marsupials such as the Black-footed Rock Wallaby, as well as many other species including frogs, reptiles and nocturnal birds.

“Through this regular monitoring, the community can get a sense of which species live in various habitats, and hopefully this will encourage conservation awareness and efforts to help protect and preserve our important biodiversity.”

The national initiative documents the state of marsupial fauna and the prevalence of introduced pest species across all land tenures.

Over time, the data collected will provide a meaningful scientific resource capable of contributing to future national biodiversity strategies.

In 2010, 57 surveys took place over six weeks, with more than 1,000 participants from a diverse range of groups surveying across six states and territories.

The results of the 2010 Night Stalk were collated by Perth Zoo according to the habitat zone of Australia in which each survey occurred, and the information is available online at www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/act/tiwest-night-stalk.

People wishing to participate in the local night stalks are asked to register in advance as numbers are limited.

- For the Simpsons Gap Night Stalk, contact the Alice Springs Desert Park on 8951 8788 or Jacelyn Anderson on 8951 8247.
- For the Ormiston Gorge Night Stalk, contact Jacelyn Anderson on 8951 8247.

Participants should wear practical footwear and bring a good torch or spotlight if possible.

Ends

Media Note – For more information, contact Jacelyn Anderson on 8951 8247.

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