



Northern
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Government

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, THE ARTS AND SPORT

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Spectacled Hare-wallabies Find New Home at Alice Springs Desert Park

Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP) has recently welcomed two Spectacled Hare-wallabies into their 4.2 hectare conservation area – the Mulga Walk.

ASDP specialist mammal keeper Peter Nunn says this is the first time the Desert Park has displayed this species.

“Spectacled Hare-wallabies are closely related to the iconic central Australian species, the Mala (Rufous Hare-wallaby), but are 2-3 times larger,” said Mr Nunn.

“Visitors will be able to identify them easily due to the orange rings of fur around their eyes that look like spectacles,” he said.

Mr Nunn said while the Spectacled Hare-wallaby is not listed as a threatened species, it has suffered a reduction in its distribution in the past century.

“Fifty years ago Spectacled Hare-wallabies could be found at places such as Mt Sonder in the West MacDonnell Ranges but now you have to travel several hundred kilometres north of Alice Springs to find them surviving in the wild.”

“The Desert Park’s Nocturnal Tours of the Mulga Walk provide the only opportunity for visitors to view the Spectacled Hare-wallabies, along with Bilbies, Mala and Bettongs.”

“We encourage locals and visitors to come and check out the new arrivals, and learn more about many other rare and threatened central Australian mammal species.”

Nocturnal Tours are held from 7pm each weeknight, and bookings are essential.

For bookings and more information about the Alice Springs Desert Park phone 8951 8788 or go to www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Peter Nunn on 8951 8788

Images – Spectacled Hare-wallaby

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