

Media Release:

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Spotlight on Threatened Species at ASDP

Visitors to the Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP) will get the chance to learn more about Central Australia's threatened species and view them in their natural habitat during a series of presentations and tours commencing next week, Monday 7 September 2009.

ASDP Specialist Guide Meg Quarmby said the Desert Park is celebrating National Threatened Species Day on Monday, 7 September and National Bilby Day on Sunday, 13 September with half price Nocturnal Tours from Monday, 7 September to Friday, 11 September 2009.

"Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September every year to encourage the community to help conserve Australia's unique native fauna and flora," Ms Quarmby said.

"The Desert Park will hold guided presentations throughout the day, touring through the Nocturnal House to see some of our threatened species including the Mala, western quoll, brush-tailed bettong and red-tailed phascogale which are all extinct in the Northern Territory.

"Presentations will be held at 10.40am, 1pm and 4.05pm on Monday, 7 September 2009."

Ms Quarmby said to celebrate National Bilby Day the Desert Park is holding a special children's activity with a short talk on the Bilby inside the Nocturnal House and giveaways at 10.40am on Sunday, 13 September 2009.

"The Bilby is a Vulnerable species on the Northern Territory Threatened Species List and the Desert Park is home to a small number of the small mammals, so visitors will no doubt enjoy learning more about them and getting to see them in our Nocturnal House."

Ms Quarmby said the Nocturnal Tours offer another great chance to get close to threatened species that may not be visible during the day in the Park's exclusive free range area.

"The Nocturnal Tours offer visitors a rare opportunity to explore our Mulga Woodland Habitat on a spotlight tour with expert guides and view nocturnal species which are now threatened in the Northern Territory," Ms Quarmby said.

"Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting the Desert Park on 8951 8788. We encourage all visitors to come along and make the most of this half price offer."

For more information about the Desert Park visit www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au.

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Media Note – for more information contact Meg Quarmby on 8951 8727

Image – Bilby in the Nocturnal House at Alice Springs Desert Park

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