

Media Release:

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Fascinating Frogs in the Desert

Territory frog lovers who want to find out more about the amazing local species in Central Australia can come along to the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife 'Frog Watch' evenings being held at Simpsons Gap throughout November.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Community Education senior ranger Michael Barritt said 'Frog Watch' is designed to help celebrate the Year of the Frog and coincides with the arrival of summer.

"Now that summer has arrived the local frog species are out and about including the unique Centralian tree frog (*Litoria gilleni*), our largest species of frog often growing up to 10cms in length," Mr Barritt said.

"The Centralian tree frog is found throughout our rocky gorges and gaps but it's not until summer rain arrives that they become active - for most of the time they are nestled deep within rocky crevices, away from the dry or cool weather.

"The evenings start with a free slideshow designed to help people discover more about our local species and how we can help protect their fragile habitats and ends in a spotlight walk – where we hopefully spot some of our favourite amphibians.

"Our local reptile species, the Stimpson python, may be out and about as recent sightings have shown them actively hunting the frogs on warm nights.

"Other animals we may come across on the walk include euros (*Macropus robustus*), dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) and black-footed rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis*).

"We encourage people to bring a chair or a rug along so they can be comfortable whilst watching the slideshow down in Roe Creek.

"Participants also need to bring along a torch or spotlight, wear appropriate clothing and wear safe and comfortable footwear as the walk takes place in the dark over rough ground."

The Central Australian Frog Watch evenings are open to the public, including children, however numbers are limited and bookings are essential.

Simpsons Gap BBQ area

7 – 9pm Sunday 9 November 2008

7 – 9pm Tuesday 11 November 2008

7 – 9pm Saturday 15 November 2008

Bookings are free. To book call Michael Barritt at Parks and Wildlife on 8951 8247 or 0401 112 525 or email michael.barritt@nt.gov.au.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Michael Barritt on 0401 112 525

Image – Centralian tree frog (credit Barritt & May)

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