LEND A HAND ON THE LARAPINTA TRAIL

28 February 2014

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price is calling for volunteers to join rangers and the Friends of the Larapinta Trail to help on a maintenance program for the Larapinta Trail.

“Parks and Wildlife and the Friends of the Larapinta Trail are partnering together this year to run the annual repair and maintenance program over the entire length of this world renowned trail,” Mrs Price said.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for the public to get their hands dirty while enjoying one of the most outstanding attractions in Central Australia.

“The trail has become a ‘must do’ remote walking trail for both experienced hikers and day walkers, so it is important it is maintained.

“The Larapinta Trail stretches 223km from Alice Springs to Mt Sonder, crossing a range of naturally striking landscapes, from the jagged red rocks of the MacDonnell Ranges, to peaceful shaded waterholes and ancient river beds.

“The trail really is spectacular, and volunteers have the opportunity to be based in the West MacDonnell National Park at either Simpsons Gap or Ormiston Gorge.

Friends of the Larapinta Trail president Richard Mayne said this is a great chance for volunteers to experience the Central Australian beauty before the walking season starts.

“This is a unique opportunity for volunteers to participate in significant repair work that will help open up the trail for this year’s walking season,” Mr Mayne said.

The Friends of the Larapinta Trail are a not for profit association created to help maintain and promote the trail through activities and events designed to foster interest and care for the trail.

Volunteers will be assisting the rangers with pruning vegetation; repairing damage caused by erosion; replacing worn or damaged track markers; clearing grasses and other vegetation off the trail. There are day walks and overnight walks to complete.

This year’s maintenance program starts 7 April.

A volunteer information pack and registration form is available from the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission website (www.nt.gov.au/parks), or by calling the Ranger Stations at Simpsons Gap (08) 8955 0310 or Ormiston Gorge (08) 8956 7799 or emailing the Friends at friendslarapintatrail@gmail.com

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