

Australasian Bat night March, April and May 2017

Australasian Bat Night is happening again in 2017.

March, April, and May

Australasian Bat Night is a public awareness programme aiming to educate people about bats, to raise the profile of bats and debunk the myths and fears, to achieve better conservation outcomes and assist people to live with bats.

Australasian Bat Night is getting bigger and better! Over 60 events all over Australia and New Zealand occurred during 2016 as bat specialists again teamed up with community and local government groups to raise awareness of bats, with some events attracting 100, 200 and even 500 participants!

Help make 2017 even better!

ABS invites local government, community and environmental and individuals to register events and activities for Australasian Bat Night 2017. Please consider holding a Bat Night event this year and promoting the program to your colleagues, friends and family and networks.

What can you do for Bat Night?

Add a batty element to your event next autumn.

If you run regular events, eg daily bat talk at a wildlife park, happening during Bat Night months, please badge it as part of Australasian Bat Night. If you are holding a nocturnal walk or building nest boxes, add a batty element to your event. Team up with a bat expert and detect for bats at night, watch an evening flyout of flying-foxes or build a bat box. ABS can provide speakers and guides for your event.

We will be promoting events on the ABS website, and our social media pages.

For more information and to register contact Maree Treadwell Kerr at batnight@ausbats.org.au. And then check the ABS website <http://ausbats.org.au/> to keep in touch and find out more.

Can you run a Bat Night event? Looking for ideas?

Into sports?! Why not organize a sporting event, like a “Bike for Bats” or an “Evening Bat Run” around the time bats fly?

If you live near a landscape where bat colonies are frequently spied in the twilight skies, a local Evening Bat Walk could be just the ticket. Expert bat conservationist advice and the right location may mean you have the makings for an exotic Eco-Bat Tour. Arrange a visit to a bat clinic or bat exhibit at a zoo or museum. If you manage such a place, add special bat talks to your activity program or an after hours tour. You could organize a bat shaped biscuit baking session or bake sale at your kindergarten or school! Or try a fun hour of finger painting or other craft activity with a bat-tastic theme. What about bat masks or bat mobiles? Family or group activities such as planting trees to benefit both bats and forests, is a good opportunity to spend the day in a stimulating environment of informal learning. Or ask your local hardware store, Mens shed or bat group, to sponsor a family bat box-building day at a nearby zoo, public park or landcare group. Why not hold a photographic competition on bats – the best photos could feed into the ABS 2018 Bat calendar.

Need more help?

If you haven't given a presentation before or don't think you have enough knowledge, we can help you. The ABS Bat Facts, which we send out to all registered events, is a great way to give out factual information on bats.

We also have Bat Night presentation templates to help you, and can help source extra photos. You can download kids' batty activities and ideas for bat games from the ABS website <http://ausbats.org.au/bat-resources-for-kids/4592660775>

Sharing ideas

If you have a good presentation please consider sharing it as a template for other bat presenters. We are putting together a file of resources for Bat Night including photographs that can be put into a PowerPoint

presentation, craft and other bat themed children's activities, bat movies etc and other information that can help make Bat Nights even better.

Holding a bat event outside of Bat Night months?

We can still promote it on the events page on the ABS website and on ABS social media. Just send details to ABS web manager and Twitter and FaceBook team through batnight@ausbats.org.au

Evaluate your bat night or other bat activities

As part of a student research program into societal values on bats, I am preparing questionnaires to look at attitudes to bats pre and post bat event, so if interested I will send these out to bat night organisers when you register your event. Thank you for your cooperation into finding out if a Bat Night event or other education/ interpretation events can change attitudes to bats.

Don't forget to register your event to batnight@ausbats.org.au

Maree Treadwell Kerr

Bat Night Coordinator

Australasian Bat Society Inc

Tel: 0412 311 403

Email: batnight@ausbats.org.au

Web: <http://ausbats.org.au/>