The Russians are on the move

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A Russian Tent Spider.

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by Myjanne Jensen

A GROUP of nature enthusiasts were treated to a rare sight as part of a spotlight tour in Springfield Lakes last weekend.

The Springfield Lakes Nature Care Group Earth Hour Spotlight Tour guided 20 people through the White Rock Spring Mountain Nature Reserve where they spotted a range of wildlife including a rarely seen Russian Tent Spider.

President Luise Manning said the night was a huge success and was exciting to see the different types of wildlife living in the area.

"We had people come from as far away as Sherwood, plus there were some environmental students from the University of Queensland and even a lady from St Louis, Mississippi," Mrs Manning said.

"We managed to spot a baby Ringtail Possum on it's mum's back as well as a variety of birds and frogs.

"We also had a wildlife photographer Josh Bowell on hand who is regularly out nocturnal spotting, mainly owls and the like."

The Russian Tent spider (Cyrtophora hirta) is a rarely seen small pale spider with an oval body which usually hides in the white cap at the top of its tent-like web.

Mrs Manning said the group hoped to eventually hold one spotlight tour per month.

For more information about the Springfield Lakes Nature Care Group and its activities, visit the Facebook page.

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