

Media Release:

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ASDP Guide Wins Noteworthy Award

Alice Springs Desert Park Guide Matthew Turner has added another award to his collection after receiving the Noteworthy Award at the Alice Springs Mayoral Awards, held last Thursday 3 December as part of the 2009 International Day of People of Disability.

The awards are to highlight, acknowledge and give thanks to the people in the Alice Springs Community who 'make a difference' – demonstrated either in their own lives, or by their actions and commitment to others.

"I didn't think I was going to win so I am very surprised and happy with what I have achieved," Matthew said.

Alice Springs Desert Park Director Gary Fry said Matthew is a great role model to the Desert Park team and should be commended for his achievements.

"Since Matthew joined the Desert Park in January 2006 as an apprentice guide he has been an instant hit with visitors and colleagues thanks to his bright and lively personality and charismatic manner," Mr Fry said.

"He has also won the 2007 Group Training Northern Territory's Trainee of the Year Award for the Central Australian Region, which was another well-deserved achievement.

"Matthew has developed an extensive knowledge and passion about the flora, fauna and culture of Central Australia, and now as a fulltime guide he is an integral part of the Park's guide department."

Desert Park acting guide manager Regena Medhurst said there is no doubt that Matthew has added an extra spark to the Desert Park Guide team.

"The Alice Springs Desert Park's diverse guiding team provides approximately 75 000 visitors per year with a wide variety of interactive experiences," Ms Medhurst said.

"Visitors can not only enjoy entertaining guide presentations throughout the day, but can also come along and experience the dawn bird tour or the nocturnal tours held each weeknight at 7.30pm."

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

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Media Note – for more information or to arrange an interview with Matthew contact Regena Medhurst on 8951 8728

Image – Matthew Turner with his Noteworthy Award

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