

Media Release:

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Alice Springs Local Selected for International Opportunity

Alice Springs Desert Park apprentice zookeeper Jessie Bartlett has been selected to attend the 12th International Congress of Ethnobiology in Canada from Sunday, 9 May to Friday, 14 May 2010.

The Congress will provide Ms Bartlett with an opportunity to engage with Indigenous experts on the role that Indigenous peoples and communities have in cultural management of natural resources.

Ms Bartlett said she is eager to transfer this experience to her role as apprentice zookeeper at the Desert Park and within her own community.

“I’m really excited about having the opportunity to attend the International Congress of Ethnobiology,” Ms Bartlett said.

“I want to learn about how other Indigenous people use their knowledge and skills to conserve their culture and their environment.”

Ms Bartlett’s participation in the Congress provides an opportunity for the Desert Park to better understand how to embrace ethnobiology in the Park’s interpretive program and technical work in zoology and botany.

Ms Bartlett will be attending the Congress with seven other delegates from Central Australia, and she will be co-presenting a paper with local Papunya community member Lorraine Napurrula King on the topic of Intergenerational Knowledge.

In their presentation they will share their experiences of the loss of knowledge and skills in the community and action they have taken to preserve and promote the sharing of knowledge and skills within the community.

“Having the chance to meet with local Indigenous people from Vancouver Island and engage with representatives from like-minded institutions whilst in Canada will assist in developing my skills at the Desert Park, and also enable me to share my new knowledge with my local Aboriginal community,” Ms Bartlett said.

For more information on the 12th International Congress of Ethnobiology visit <http://www.tbgf.org/ice/content/about-congress>.

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Media Note – for more information contact Alice Springs Desert Park Sales and Marketing Manager Estelle Marshall on 8951 8707.

Image – Alice Springs Desert Park apprentice zookeeper Jessie Bartlett

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