



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Anthony Molyneux to Attend IAATE Conference**

Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP) specialist keeper/animal trainer Anthony Molyneux is set to travel to the US this weekend to attend the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) Conference in Tacoma, Washington.

Mr Molyneux said the week-long conference would enable him to share ideas, experiences and training techniques with international counterparts that would be passed onto his colleagues at ASDP and the Territory Wildlife Park.

"I have been to some extremely beneficial Australasian workshops in the past and everything I have picked up I have been able to share with my colleagues at the Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park (TWP)," Mr Molyneux said.

"I can honestly say the Northern Territory is at the forefront of Australasian avian trainers based on my experiences at these workshops and attending an international conference provides me with the opportunity to see how we measure up with the rest of the world.

"Conferences such as these allow those attending to create networks and exposure to continual development in training techniques once the conference ends, so that birds of prey displays such as the ones we have are as advanced as they can possibly be."

Mr Molyneux said information and techniques gained through the conference will be assessed, modified and utilised at ASDP with further collaboration with TWP to also take place upon his return to the Northern Territory.

He said visits to several zoos across the United States would also be incorporated as part of his overseas trip to see how other animal displays are put together.

"I have a great job that provides me with the freedom to try different ways of interacting with the Desert Park's birds of prey, as well as the other animals that take part in our daily displays," Mr Molyneux said.

"Focusing specifically on birds, we have free flight shows, which is the ultimate test of the bond and trust we share with these birds and obviously if the bird doesn't come back, you don't have that bond and trust.

"The other plus is I get to interact with people, which is something I also enjoy."

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Anthony Molyneux on 8951 8747**

Issued: 8.30am Friday, 2 February 2007