

**Media Release:**

**10.11.08**

## **Wedge-tailed Eagles Released Into Wild**

The Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP) released a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles into the wild with the assistance of professional raptor rehabilitator Brian Davis last Thursday 6 November 2008.

ASDP Nature Theatre Specialist Keeper Anthony Molyneux said Brian Davies, a well-known and experienced raptor rehabilitator from Western Australia, commenced the on-site part of the rehabilitation plan with the pair of eagles on 21 October 2008.

“We managed to find a suitable rehabilitation and release site near Arltunga Historical Reserve with good elevation, good distance perspective and nearby water,” Mr Molyneux said.

“The birds were trained to chase a dragged ‘lure’ which replicates a moving animal, which helped to both increase their fitness and hone their hunting skills.

“Wedge-tailed Eagles scavenge for food, sometimes more often than hunting, because there is less energy invested in feeding upon an already dead carcass, which explains the large number of eagles often seen feasting on road kill.

“Once we were happy the birds were fit, able to recognise food, able to scavenge and even hunt for their food we were able to release the birds.”

ASDP Manager Gary Fry said the decision to release the birds was based on the aggressive behaviour of local wild Wedge-tailed Eagles.

“The Wedge-tailed Eagles based at the Park were part of our Nature Theatre Presentation, educating people about the characteristics and nature of these birds of prey,” Mr Fry said.

“However the local wild Wedge-tailed Eagles became increasingly territorial and started harassing them, and were subsequently an unacceptable risk to both the ASDP eagles and staff handling them.

“Consequently we had not been able to fly these two Wedge-tailed Eagles for longer than we would have liked, so it was wonderful to see them out flying again and building up their fitness for this next stage in their lives.

“Both birds are in good condition and we have done everything possible to ensure their release into the wild is a success.”

For more information about the Alice Springs Desert Park go to [www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au](http://www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au)

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Anthony Molyneux on 8951 8747 or Gary Fry on 8951 8713**

**Images –**

- 1. Wedge-tailed Eagles in training for their release**
- 2. Site of release**
- 3. Initial release**

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