

PRESS RELEASE

ASDP APPRENTICE GUIDE WINS GTNT TRAINEE OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Alice Springs Desert Park is happy to announce that one of its Guides has won Group Training Northern Territory's Trainee of the Year Award for the Central Australian Region.

ASDP Specialist Guide Regena Medhurst said that since Matthew Turner's first day as an Apprentice Guide with the Alice Springs Desert Park he has been firmly in the public eye.

"His effervescent personality and charming demeanour have made him an instant hit with visitors and colleagues alike," Ms Medhurst said.

"There is no doubt that Matthew has added an extra spark to the Desert Park Guide team."

Ms Medhurst said that Matthew has a voracious appetite for knowledge about the flora, fauna and culture of Central Australia and has been an integral part of the Guide department Witchetty Grub rearing project.

"He has provided much of the day to day husbandry (ie. feeding, cleaning, etc) and note keeping," Ms Medhurst said.

"He is currently developing a new presentation entitled 'Wicked Witchetty Grubs', about the life cycle of the grubs and his experiences with them. We expect him to be independently delivering this to Park visitors in the near future."

Matthew Turner says that he has definitely grown as a person in the last nine months of his apprenticeship at the ASDP and does not let anything stop him from getting on with his job.

"I could let things get in my way and of course there are things that I can't do, but everything I can I do my best at and make sure I am always smiling," Mr Turner said.

“Also as a young person I think I have brought a different perspective to the work crew and I am a much more confident team member.”

Matthew has presented numerous talks with each of the guide staff and says his favourite presentations include Incredible Edibles and Desert Rivers Discovery Walk.

Group Training Northern Territory (GTNT) employed Matt on 12 February 2006 when he began his Cert III in Tourism - Guiding.

Emaly Josif, Field Officer with Group Training Northern Territory said she had no hesitation in nominating Matt for the GTNT Trainee of the Year Award because he never took his Apprenticeship for granted; “Apprentices like Matt make my work very rewarding,” Ms Josif said.

“Everyone has something to offer the workplace but I have never known someone to offer themselves so wholly.

“Matt has told me that he feels without this Apprenticeship he would not be the person he is nor where he is in life today”.