



MEDIA RELEASE

Dolphin Trainer Joins Alice Springs Desert Park

A woman who once trained dolphins in Bermuda has recently commenced working at the Alice Springs Desert Park as its newest zookeeper.

Jessica Riederer today described her move from Bermuda to Alice Springs last November as a dream come true.

"I first came to this part of the world seven years ago during a backpacking holiday and have always wanted to come back since then," Ms Riederer said.

"A position became available last year to work at the Desert Park and when I found out I'd got the job I was absolutely thrilled.

"I've worked with animals for much of my life and to be able to do that here is great."

Ms Riederer works primarily at the Desert Park's nature theatre, where much of her time is spent training a brown falcon, some magpies, a galah and a bearded dragon which will be an integral part of the twice daily nature theatre presentations.

"Living and working here in Alice Springs is just incredible and something I love," Ms Riederer said.

"Even though I work with the animals that feature in the nature theatre presentations on almost a daily basis, I am continually amazed by what they can do.

"And my colleagues here have been so friendly and supportive of me from day one that it's just a great feeling to get up in the morning and look forward to going to work."

Alice Springs Desert Park marketing guide Regena Medhurst said Ms Riederer was not the only recent addition to the popular biological park.

Ms Medhurst said that as of 7 January 2007, each Sunday would be a designated family day at the Desert Park with children's activities covering topics such as animals, plants, local landscapes and Indigenous culture.

"There will be two activities each Sunday, one at 9am and the other at 10.40am, which follows the first of the twice daily nature theatre presentations," Ms Medhurst said.

"A family barbecue will also be held in the Desert Park courtyard to coincide with the activities."

Ms Medhurst said Territorians visiting the Desert Park are still eligible for the Territorian Pass, enabling year-long access to the Desert Park for the price of one admission.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Jessica Riederer on 8951 8747 or Regena Medhurst on 8951 8727

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