



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Alice Springs Desert Park to Host National Summit

A national summit aimed at establishing an Australian network of environmental education visitor centres will be held at Alice Springs Desert Park next week.

Desert Park manager Gary Fry said about 40 delegates representing different environmental education visitor centres such as marine centres, botanic gardens, museums and zoos from across Australia would attend the April 10-12 summit.

“This summit provides the Park with an opportunity to highlight its work in environmental education, which in many ways works within a cultural and an ecological framework,” Mr Fry said.

“It is important that a summit such as this occurs because there has not always been the level of discussion required across the many environmental education visitor centres throughout Australia.

“This summit enables all groups to share successes with each other, and ensure that a network among the centres is established.”

Mr Fry said one of the key delegates who would be attending is Eden Project foundation director Tony Kendle, who will deliver the key address on April 11.

Desert Park horticulturalist Petria Brown is currently on exchange in England as part of the Eden Project, which is an important tourism attraction that uncovers the connection between people, plants and places.

By showcasing plants from around the world in accordance with the people who use them, Eden emphasises that plants are the world’s riches and our most important resource.

Mr Fry said the summit also provided the Desert Park a chance to further strengthen its relationship with the Eden Project.

One of its horticulturalists and researchers Ian Martin is travelling from the Eden Project to the Desert Park to work with Park staff to undertake some research for a semi-arid Biome that Eden Project is constructing.

Mr Fry said a \$30,250 grant from the Australian Government will cover all costs associated with hosting the summit.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Gary Fry on 8951 8713**

Issued: 1pm Wednesday, 4 April 2007