



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Harry the Jabiru Goes Missing**

The public is being urged to be on the lookout for a three-year-old female Jabiru after she flew away from her home at the Territory Wildlife Park (TWP).

TWP animal trainer Priscilla Leeson said Harry the Jabiru, Australia's first trained free-flying stork, has not been seen since she "flew the coop" on Easter Saturday.

"Harry was about to commence her usual training routine but flew off when released from here holding pen," Ms Leeson said.

"On this particular occasion she flew away instead of coming back and we are certainly worried about her.

"We urge anyone who has seen Harry, who was fitted with a radio tracker, to please call the Park on 8988 7200 if they have any information that could lead to us finding her.

"The radio tracker only has a 500m radius on land because of the density of the surrounding bush and nearby buildings, and we haven't been able to pick up her signal, which makes our search quite difficult.

"But if we are able to get up in a helicopter, we should be able to get a 50-80km reading.

"The radio tracker is small and rectangular-shaped with a brown plastic coating, and is fitted with a 30cm wire that is visible on her back."

Ms Leeson said Harry had reached maturity and probably wanted to explore more of her surrounds.

"Had this happened during the middle of the dry season it might be a bit easier to locate her but with so many waterholes around she could be anywhere," Ms Leeson said.

"Harry also likes to roost on the ground so we hope she doesn't come into close contact with animals such as wild dogs that may pose a threat to her wellbeing."

Ms Leeson said the prospect of utilising a helicopter and seeking help from local helicopter operators was being considered to help find one of the Park's star attractions.

"Since coming to the Park about two years ago, Harry has fitted in nicely as one of the star attractions that form the Birds of Prey display," Ms Leeson said.

"Harry's disappearance was the only negative of what was otherwise a great Eggstra Long Weekend, with hundreds of people coming through the front gate to enjoy the various eggciting family activities we had available at the Park."

Ms Leeson said Harry's disappearance is not without precedent, as Errol the female Black-breasted Buzzard and emu egg cracker has flown away in the past, only to return home a few days later.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Priscilla Leeson on 8988 7200**

Issued: 11.40am Tuesday, 10 April 2007