

Media Release:

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Apprentice Ranger up for National Award

Talking to visitors, identifying native wildlife and learning about fire and weed management are all part of the job for Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife school-based apprentice Graeme Talbot Jr.

Based at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, Graeme's extraordinary enthusiasm, team work and initiative have earned him a nomination as Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year in the 2008 Australian Training Awards.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) would like to congratulate Graeme on his achievement and wish him luck as he heads to Canberra tomorrow as part of the interview process.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Director Graham Phelps said the nomination was well deserved and caps off a stellar year for the young ranger-in-training.

"Earlier this year Graeme won both the 2008 Group Training NT School-based Apprentice of the Year in April, and the Department of Employment and Training 2008 NT Training Awards School-based Apprentice of the Year in September," Mr Phelps said.

"This has been a remarkable achievement for Graeme and his supervisors – senior ranger Mark Fogarty and Acting Director of Parks North Barry Scott – who have helped develop an outstanding school-based apprentice program for NRETAS.

"Graeme is completing a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management, and will also finish Year 12 at Taminmin High at the end of this year."

Graeme Talbot Jr said he was honoured to be in the running for the national award.

"I really enjoy the work I've been doing in my Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management and I love being on the land and out in the fresh air," Graeme said.

"I look forward to continuing my career in Parks and Wildlife when I finish school this year, and this traineeship has been a great stepping stone for me."

The Australian Training Awards are the culmination of State and Territory training awards, with the winners from each State and Territory now competing in the national finals to be held in Darwin on Thursday 20 November 2008.

Graeme Talbot Jnr is one of four Territorians up for an award in the student categories.

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Media Note – for more information contact Karlie Goetze on 8999 4726

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