

**Media Release:**

**09.12.10**

## **Desert Park Wins Blooming Award**

The Alice Springs Desert Park has won the State Award for Best Government Nursery 2010 at the recent Nursery and Garden Industry Awards, held at the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens on Thursday, 2 December 2010.

Alice Springs Desert Park Curator of Botany Scott Pullyblank said the award recognised the outstanding work of a small team achieving big things in the nursery industry.

“The Desert Park’s nursery propagates plants to be included in the Park’s collection of habitat based displays, to illustrate to visitors Central Australia’s arid zone native flora and fauna,” Mr Pullyblank said.

“The nursery is assisting staff at the Alice Springs Herbarium to propagate three new undescribed species.”

“All plants that are propagated in the nursery have wild provenance, are accessioned, numbered and have vouchered Herbarium specimens.”

As well as being recognised for the Park’s outstanding botany work, Mr Pullyblank said that Desert Park Horticulturalist Courtney Whitton won the State (Territory) Award for Young Leader.

“Courtney has a valuable skill for collecting and propagating endemic, rare species and propagating species previously not in cultivation, and it is fantastic that he has been recognised for these skills,” Mr Pullyblank said.

“Courtney has been working with fellow Park staff to take advantage of the good conditions to collect plants which have not been seen in the wild for many years.”

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**Media Note – for more information contact Scott Pullyblank on 8951 8764.**

**To arrange an interview with Courtney Whitton contact Estelle Marshall, ASDP Sales and Marketing Manager on 8951 8707.**

**Image – Courtney Whitton with his award.**

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