

**Media Release:**

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## **Brahminy Kite Chick at TWP**

The Territory Wildlife Park (TWP) has welcomed their newest addition, a baby Brahminy Kite, which at just five weeks old has already led an eventful life after being rescued as an egg by the Park's Flight Deck team and carefully incubated until it hatched.

TWP keeper Mid Merry said the rescue mission took place on the 19 August 2009, after the Park was notified that there were eggs in a nest on Fort Hill Wharf in an area about to be demolished.

"I was fitted with a safety harness and lifted up by a crane onto the wharf, where I walked along the top of the wharf to the nest and retrieved two eggs, making sure they were kept in the same position as they were found in the nest," Ms Merry said.

"The eggs were taken to a local carer and incubated for 28 days, until one of the eggs hatched on the 15 September 2009 with a tiny male chick weighing 34.5g.

"The baby chick was then placed in a temperature controlled environment to mimic the natural development of the chick, a sheet was placed over the humidicrib and he was fed with tweezers and a sock over my hand, so he wasn't familiar with humans.

"Brahminy Kite sounds were played on CD during feeding times to ensure the chick couldn't hear any talking, and within the fortnight the chick started to whistle a call similar to an adult Brahminy Kite, and by 17 days old the chick started to self feed."

Ms Merry said Brahminy Kites are one of the most stunning coastal raptors with a pure white head and chest contrasting with chestnut back, wings and tail and black primary feathers, and are found in coastal regions across the top half of Australia.

"Being a raptor, Brahminy Kites catch and kill with their talons, snatching surface dwelling fish, insects in flight, and reptiles and mammals on the ground," Ms Merry said.

"The chick will shortly be transferring to the TWP Flight deck section where he will begin his initial stages of training, conditioning him to all sights and sounds and allowing the chick to see more of the outside world.

"Chicks often take around eight weeks after fledging to obtain independence so until then he's 'finding his wings'.

"Once he's able to fly and the post fledging dependence is over, he will be trained to free fly in our Flight Deck presentation, showcasing natural behaviours and educating the public about raptors and the conservation of their habitats."

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Mid Merry on 8988 7200**

**Image – Brahminy Kite chick at TWP**

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