



MEDIA RELEASE

Quolls Fundraising Lecture

Territorians have the chance to help protect the endangered northern quoll by attending a fundraising lecture next week at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts research scientist Brooke Rankmore will be one of the keynote speakers at the November 2 fundraising lecture.

Ms Rankmore said cane toads were a dangerous threat to northern quolls and all money raised from the lecture would go towards local research aimed at protecting the endangered marsupial.

She said Territorians would also be able to make a financial contribution to saving the quolls by buying northern quoll stickers at any Australian Geographic store.

Ms Rankmore said money raised by buying the stickers will be passed onto AG's not-for-profit research arm _ the Australian Geographic Society _ to continue working towards northern quoll protection.

"The northern quoll is a carnivorous animal that dies from eating cane toads," she said.

"Northern quolls also have a very strange breeding model where the males only live for a year, mate during May and June and die less than a month later. We call this 'male die off'.

"The females live for up to three years but usually reproduce only once in their lifetime but without males, due to the invasion of cane toads, this could wipe out an entire generation of northern quolls."

Ms Rankmore said the Island Ark conservation program is showing promising signs of preserving the northern quoll.

The program involved translocating northern quolls from Kakadu to two remote Territory islands in 2003 to avoid the threat of cane toads with estimates showing an increase in the northern quoll population.

The November 2 lecture starts at 7.30pm with proceeds from the \$10 tickets going towards local research to help save the northern quoll from extinction.

Media Note _ For more information contact Brooke Rankmore on 8944 8458.

Ends

Issued: 2.45pm Monday, 24 October 2005