



Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

Visiting Professor To Talk On Charles Darwin

In these anti-intellectual times when the religious movement known as Intelligent Design Creationism attempts to discredit Charles Darwin and his astounding accomplishments, it is important to reflect on the life and character of this gentle genius.

Visiting Professor Tim Berra from Ohio State University will deliver a public talk on *Charles Darwin: The Man 1809-1882*, on December 7 that will feature 120 illustrations covering Darwin's life, his family, friends, books and significance to scientific thought.

Professor Berra said Charles Darwin's place in history had a lot more to it than his famous theory of evolution.

"Historians of science consider Charles Darwin to be one of the most important scientists who ever lived and his theory of evolution to be the greatest idea ever had by man," Prof Berra said.

"But in 1836 he also developed the theory of coral reefs growing on the sides of submerged volcanoes which has stood the test of time and remains true and accurate to this day.

"What many people also don't realise is that Darwin was a tremendous botanist who is responsible for the whole field of plant hormones and how cross-pollination is able to produce stronger and more viable plants than those that self-pollinate.

"Darwin also wrote the book on earthworm biology and managed to work out how much soil these worms are able to bring to the Earth's surface."

Prof Berra's December 7 talk begins at 7pm in the MAGNT Theatre.

On December 11 Prof Berra will present *The Darwin Adventure*, a film recreation of the voyage of the *Beagle* and the life of Charles Darwin up to 1860, at the MAGNT Theatre at 2pm.

Admission to both events is free.

Media Note _ For more information contact Professor Tim Berra on 8999 8201

Ends

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