



## MEDIA RELEASE

### MAGNT 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Hundreds of people are expected to celebrate the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Darwin tomorrow.

MAGNT director Anna Malgorzewicz said the anniversary was a significant milestone for what is arguably the Territory's most popular cultural institution.

"More than 3.7 million people have visited MAGNT since it opened at Bullocky Point 25 years ago," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"Home to such Territory icons as Sweetheart, the *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, the Colin Jack-Hinton Maritime Gallery and the permanent Cyclone Tracy exhibition, MAGNT continues to attract strong visitor numbers annually.

"It was in fact Cyclone Tracy that brought about MAGNT's inception at Bullocky Point in 1981 after the original museum that was housed at the Old Palmerston Town Hall was destroyed by Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

"MAGNT plays an important role in recording our many histories and describing, to ourselves and visitors alike, who we are and where we fit in with the rest of the nation, as well as our region in South-East Asia.

"With more than 200,000 people visiting MAGNT each year, it is one of the few cultural institutions in the nation that supports a visitation level exceeding its population.

"I urge as many people as possible to attend tomorrow's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with MAGNT continuing its long tradition of being a great place to visit for all members of the community."

The anniversary celebrations are being combined with the launch of MAGNT's new logo.

Behind the scenes tours of MAGNT curatorial areas and stores combined with appearances by Territory Wildlife Park animals and Chantal the Fairy are some of the activities scheduled for tomorrow's free open day.

Other activities include a natural science tent and field camp display, concert, jumping castle and farm animals with food and drinks also available.

Festivities begin at 10am and are set to conclude at 4pm, with the official cake cutting at 3.30pm.

MAGNT has more than 1.2 million natural history specimens, with more than 4000 added each year.

There are 40,000 visual art, history and cultural collection items, with more than 100 added each year.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Anna Malgorzewicz on 8999 8220**

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