

Media Release:

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Threatened Species at TWP

Visitors to the Territory Wildlife Park (TWP) will have the chance to learn more about our threatened species this weekend with a special display and talks to coincide with National Threatened Species Day this Sunday, 7 September 2008.

TWP Acting Manager Brett Easton said National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September each year to encourage the community to help conserve Australia's unique native fauna and flora.

"There are a large number of threatened species and near threatened species found at the Park incorporating mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and plants, with the full list printed on the back of our maps for this occasion," Mr Easton said.

"On Sunday we will be holding a talk about the Park's Endangered Species Conservation Unit, who are working towards breeding a captive, genetically diverse population to ensure the future survival of these threatened species.

"We also have a Northern quoll, listed as critically endangered in the Northern Territory, on display in the main station and the Nocturnal House.

"Another critically endangered mammal species found here at the Park is the Carpentarian Rock-rat, which is only found in one small area within Arnhem Land.

"Other threatened mammal species located within the Nocturnal House and Woodland Walk include the Black-footed Tree-rat, Narbarlek and the Spectacled Hare-wallaby.

"Some of the threatened reptile species at the Park include Yellow-snouted Gecko, Northern Death Adder, Pig-nosed Turtle and Merten's Water Monitor.

"We had great success with one of our breeding programs earlier this year with 25 baby Northern Death Adders born in April, which was a first for the Park."

Mr Easton said threatened bird species including the Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Flock Bronzewing and Partridge Pigeon can be seen in the walk-through Aviary.

"Along the Paperbark walk you can see the iconic flightless bird, the Emu, which is listed as Vulnerable in the Northern Territory," Mr Easton said.

"And in the Aquarium you can see some of the threatened fish species including the Obbes' Catfish and Mcculloch's Rainbowfish."

National Threatened Species Day was first held in 1996, to commemorate the death of the last Tasmanian Tiger in captivity in 1936 in Hobart.

For more information about TWP go to www.territorywildlifepark.com.au or check out the NRETAS publication, 'LOST from our Landscape' for information about threatened species which is on sale throughout the Territory.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Brett Easton on 0427 772 178

Images – Gouldian Finch, Mertens Water Monitor, Northern Quoll

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