

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Sunday 27 November 2005**

Tree kangaroos in the spotlight

Nearly 80 delegates from around the world are gathering on the Tablelands this week to discuss current issues and future directions for the study and conservation of tree-kangaroos.

“Ecology and conservation of tree kangaroos: Current issues and future directions”, hosted by Atherton Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group with assistance and sponsorship from a range of local businesses, JCU and Rainforest CRC, runs from Sunday evening 27th November until Wednesday 30th November at the Gennazano Centre on the shores of Lake Tinaroo.

Roger Martin, author of a recent book on the biology of tree kangaroos is opening the conference tomorrow, Monday 28 November with a plenary lecture on evolution of tree kangaroos and their current status. Delegates include scientists, conservation groups, wildlife managers and community groups involved in studying and conserving tree kangaroos in captivity and the wild.

This iconic group of unusual marsupials faces serious threats throughout their range. This conference highlights their current status and looks for ways forward to conserve tree kangaroos into the future.

Sessions focus on research, captive management, education and conservation of tree-kangaroos and their habitat to ensure their survival and to set priorities for the next ten years. Speakers are presenting papers on evolution of tree kangaroos, ecology in Australia and New Guinea, behaviour, captive breeding and community initiatives to conserve tree kangaroos and their habitat.

Interested media can contact Lee Curtis on 0429 070 148 or 4095 3155. The conference program is attached to this release. Further details can be found on the conference website at <http://tesla.jcu.edu.au/Schools/Zoology/TreeKangas/>

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