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## The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory appoints Head of Science

Dr Kirsti Abbott joins the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) as the new Head of Science on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

With an extensive ecology background, including invasive species management and leadership roles in scientific research, education and engagement, Dr Abbott's expertise is warmly welcomed. "We are delighted to have Kirsti join us at MAGNT. Kirsti's impressive scientific and public programs background will activate MAGNT's natural science area. The Head of Science will help our team to continue to research and interpret with imagination, making our vast scientific collections accessible for generations to come. – Marcus Schutenko, MAGNT Director.

Key highlights in Dr Abbott's career include leading the development of UNE Discovery, a science education and engagement initiative at the University of New England, Armidale NSW; the creation of the \$20 million Boilerhouse Discovery Space at the Armidale campus of UNE, and managing the UNE Natural History Museum education program.

Dr Abbott's research on Christmas Island into the ecology and invasion dynamics of yellow crazy ants was part of a Banksia Award winning program. On Pacific atolls and Islands Kirsti worked to understand and manage invasive ants as part of a larger invasive species management program to control the damaging effects of invasive ants throughout the Pacific.

"I can't wait to learn more about MAGNT and the stories of the Northern Territory through the lens of the natural sciences collections, research and Indigenous traditional knowledge. I look forward to growing mutually beneficial partnerships that advance and showcase science in the NT. I see a continuum of possibilities for all people to engage with, or actively contribute to scientific research and knowledge creation," said Dr Abbott.

### About MAGNT

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory is both museum and art gallery with collections, exhibitions and programs across our core areas of Aboriginal culture, natural sciences, history, and art focussing on Northern and Central Australia, and our near neighbours. MAGNT's Natural Sciences collections continue to inform research into faunal biodiversity and conservation. Curators, government, other researchers and students use the collections for investigations into taxonomy, climate change effects, biosecurity, human health and sustainable resource management.

### Available to interview:



Dr Kirsti Abbott, MAGNT Head of Science



Marcus Schutenko, MAGNT Director

### Contact

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