



**Media Release**  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Bat Conservation in Queensland**

Gecko's next Guest Speaker night is on Wednesday 28 September, and we are proud to present the President of Bat Conservation & Rescue Queensland Louise Saunders, who will be bringing along a couple of furry friends, Grey Headed flying foxes Oscar and Snowy.

These two forest superstars, along with others of their kind, have been receiving a lot of negative media attention lately with the recent Hendra Virus outbreaks in Queensland and New South Wales.

Louise's talk will help to dispel some of the myths and shatter some of the preconceptions that may have built up around these beautiful little creatures, whilst at the same time highlighting the important role our flying fox friends play in maintaining Australia's biodiversity, ecological systems and some of our unique plant species.

Louise's talk will canvas all the relevant issues faced by flying foxes today including their current large numbers in South East Queensland, the risks associated with disease, why culls would never work and why we need bats now more than ever before!

Find out the answers to some of the burning questions you may have about bats including, why they hang upside down, what good they do for the environment, and for us, how we can live peacefully alongside them and most importantly, how we can help them.

Louise fell in love with her first baby flying fox on a trip up the Brisbane River 18 years ago and her life was changed forever. The malign comments and misunderstanding about bats became ever more apparent to Louise after a chance meeting with senior lecturer in Veterinary Pathology and Anatomy Dr Les Hall led to her providing illustrations for his 2001 publication '*Flying Foxes and Fruit Blossom Bats of Australia*.'

Now President of Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld, Louise says the group, whilst operating primarily in rescue and care, aspires to a bigger picture philosophy, and hopes to achieve a better welfare outcome for all flying foxes through education and inspiration, so people might better understand and celebrate bats, and their important role as forest makers.

Join us on Wednesday 28 September, upstairs at Gecko House, 139 Duringan St, Currumbin for drinks and snacks from 6:30pm, then Louise's presentation from 7 to 8. BYO questions.

*Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to [speakers@gecko.org.au](mailto:speakers@gecko.org.au) or call 5534 1412. For more information, visit [www.gecko.org.au/guest-speaker](http://www.gecko.org.au/guest-speaker)*

*A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. Alternatively, Gecko encourages the contribution of vegetarian/organic/environmentally-thoughtful food options at all of its events.*

### **ENDS**

Information for media:

Guest Speaker	Louise Saunders	0425 734 008
Gecko Secretary	Lois Levy	0412 724 222