IS THERE HOPE FOR SAVING THE TASMANIAN DEVIL?

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JANINE DEAKIN PhD

Tasmanian devils are the world’s largest living carnivorous marsupials. They have experienced a turbulent history over the last thousand or so years, becoming extinct on mainland Australia and surviving a couple of previous population crashes in Tasmania.

However, it is right now that devils are perhaps fighting their toughest battle as they contend with an unusual contagious cancer. This fatal cancer, known as devil facial tumour disease, is threatening the devil population with extinction.

This talk will explore some of the interesting features of devil biology, the research taking place to understand the genetics and evolution of the facial tumour as it spreads through the population, and how this research may be useful for the saving the devil.

The National Zoo & Aquarium team will do a live feeding to their resident Tasmanian devils following Janine’s talk – giving you the chance to get up close to these special creatures!

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Janine Deakin’s research interests include genetics and genomics of Australia’s native fauna, with a particular interest in Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease, and how the immune system of these native species develops and responds to disease.

Janine joined the Institute for Applied Ecology at the University of Canberra in June 2013 and is currently an ARC Future Fellow working on devil facial tumour disease.

EVENT DETAILS
THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014
8.45 – 9.45am
NATIONAL ZOO AND AQUARIUM
999 Lady Denman Drive,
Weston Creek ACT 2611

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Tickets $5 per person. All money from ticket sales will be donated to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. Visit www.canberra.edu.au/tasmaniandevil to book. Tickets will be limited.