

WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE

MEDIA RELEASE

Central Queenslanders discover a love for science **15 March 2017**

Last weekend's World Science Festival Brisbane Regional Program in Gladstone saw more than four thousand residents spark their enthusiasm for science.

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch, who took part in the Community Day celebrations, said there is a keen appetite for science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in regional communities.

"It was encouraging to see so many people of all ages from across the Gladstone region immerse themselves in all things science and discover a new appreciation for STEM," Ms Enoch said.

"STEM skills are critical, particularly for Queensland's young people, not just to prepare them for the jobs of the future but so they can create their own jobs."

Queensland Museum Network CEO and Director and Queensland Chief Scientist, Professor Suzanne Miller, said she was excited to see the community embrace the unique opportunity to engage with top science professionals.

"We have a responsibility to ensure we help all Queenslanders discover a love for science – remote or metropolitan – as science and technology continue to shape our world," Professor Miller said.

"Thanks to advances in these areas, the future will present jobs that we can't even imagine today, new opportunities for businesses, innovative and sustainable farming methods and improved healthcare.

"With the support of our community partner QGC, we were able to take some of the best scientists and researchers to Gladstone for the first time for two days of exciting science events."

More than 200 students and teachers from Gladstone State High, Rockhampton State High, Tannum Sands State School and Miriam Vale State School heard directly from scientists, researchers and STEM professionals as well as taking part in real-world engineering challenges.

Vice President QGC, Tony Nunan said the regional component of the World Science Festival Brisbane was incredibly important in engaging future generations in STEM.

"As a technology-focused organisation, we truly see the value in engaging children from an early age in STEM," said Mr Nunan.

"Through our partnership with Queensland Museum, we are helping bring world-class events like the World Science Festival Brisbane to regional centres, where there's a real hunger for this kind of event.

The World Science Festival Brisbane continues its regional tour of Queensland this coming Friday in Toowoomba before the main event in Brisbane 22-26 March and Townsville 26 & 27 March, before concluding in Chinchilla 1 April.

A full program of events can be found at <http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au>

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