

# **WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Science takes over in Gladstone tomorrow! 3 March, 2017**

Leading researchers and scientists have arrived in Gladstone ahead of tomorrow's free community event, to be held as part of the World Science Festival Brisbane Regional Program.

From 9am-4pm the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre will transform into a science hub with exhibitions, interactive workshops, presentations and demonstrations.

Throughout the day scientists will be sharing their work and giving visitors a chance to discover some of the wonders of science. Learn how 2015 National Telstra Business Woman of the Year Dr Catherine Ball is taking drone technology and using it to help solve modern issues like humanitarian disasters; get up close and personal with your favourite eight-legged creatures from the Gladstone region with Dr Robert Raven and discover hidden worlds with Dr Marissa McNamara and Dr Aaron Palke as they introduce you to parasites and minerals.

Visitors can get hands-on with science experiments and challenges, program robots and learning how seagrass plays an important part in our marine ecosystem. Those who love a good show can watch science brought to life in an explosive *Street Science* show and the *Atomic Kids!* workshops.

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch said the World Science Festival Brisbane, was a great opportunity for Central Queensland residents to engage with some of Australia's top scientists.

"The great thing about science is that it's happening everywhere around us, all the time and is in everything we do. All you have to do is look and you'll see science, from making a phone call to building a house – it's everywhere," Ms Enoch said.

"The World Science Festival Brisbane Regional Program provides a wonderful opportunity for the community to get involved and learn about how science affects not only our everyday lives, but also how it is helping to shape our future.

"Regional science opportunities allow community members to talk to leading scientists and researchers, interact with hands-on experiments and most importantly, have fun with science."

Queensland Museum Network CEO and Director and Queensland Chief Scientist Professor Suzanne Miller said the Gladstone event will kick off the 2017 Festival program and provide regional Queenslanders a unique experience to connect with science.

"Science is constantly changing our lives and challenging our perceptions, helping to craft a future we couldn't have imagined even a few years ago," Professor Miller said.

“We hope the World Science Festival Brisbane Regional Program will spark an enthusiasm for science, engaging audiences in its awe and wonder and inspire the next generation of scientists.

“Thanks to the support of our Community Partner QGC we have been able to expand our Regional Program for 2017 and bring this incredible, free event to Gladstone for the first time.”

Vice President QGC, Tony Nunan said the Festival would be a fantastic opportunity for young people, families and the Central Queensland community to be inspired about the possibility of a future career in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

“Encouraging young people to follow a career in STEM has proven to be one of the greatest challenges of our day,” Mr Nunan said.

“Through our Future Makers partnership with Queensland Museum Network we hope to help inspire students, teachers and whole communities to take a keen interest in STEM, and leave a lasting legacy of improved performance and participation in these fields.”

The free Community Day has something for everyone, including presentations from leading scientists, researchers and industry professionals, hands-on experiments, informative displays and workshops.

The World Science Festival Brisbane Regional Program is presented by Queensland Museum and the Queensland Government, in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland with proud support from community partner QGC.

Admission to the exhibition is free, but visitors wishing to attend presentations must pre-book their complimentary tickets through the GECC website at [gladec.com.au/event/world-science-festival/](http://gladec.com.au/event/world-science-festival/)

Explore the full program at [worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://worldsciencefestival.com.au)

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## Interviews and photo opportunities

Interviews and photographs are available with the following talent:

Speaker	Contact details
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<p>The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy</p>	<p>Daniel Lato Ministerial Media Advisor <a href="mailto:Daniel.Lato@ministerial.qld.gov.au">Daniel.Lato@ministerial.qld.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>Program Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Robert Raven, Arachnologist, Queensland Museum</li> <li>• Dr Marissa McNamara, Parasitologist, Queensland Museum</li> <li>• Dr Catherine Ball, Co-Creator, World Of Drones Congress</li> <li>• Naomi Paxton, double international Masters student, QUT &amp; University of Wurzburg</li> <li>• Dr Andrew Rozefelds, Head of Geosciences, Queensland Museum Network</li> <li>• Madeleine Kersting Flynn, Biomedical Illustrator, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</li> <li>• Dr Aaron Palke, Senior Curator Mineralogy, Queensland Museum Network</li> <li>• Steve Liddell, Street Science</li> </ul>	<p>Laura Griffith +61 7 3842 9838 +61 401 102 265 <a href="mailto:media@worldsciencefestival.com.au">media@worldsciencefestival.com.au</a></p>