

WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE

MEDIA RELEASE

Science returns with a bang to regional Queensland

23 March 2017

Western Downs residents are encouraged to enjoy some seriously fun science at the Chinchilla Cultural Centre next Saturday 1 April when the World Science Festival Brisbane returns, taking science from the lab to the streets for one final, exciting day of the Festival's program.

The line-up features top scientists, researchers and professionals from geosciences, arachnology, biomedical research, robotics, engineering, astronomy and agriculture, with a free exhibition, talks across the day and a palaeontology exhibit dedicated exclusively to Chinchilla's vast and intriguing fossil record.

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch said bringing science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) events to regional Queensland was important to the Queensland Government's Advance Queensland initiative.

"We want to ensure all Queenslanders can hear from and be inspired by the researchers and leaders helping to shape our future," Ms Enoch said.

"The World Science Festival Brisbane's Regional Program means that whether you live in our cities or regional centres – you can experience the wonder and awe of emerging science and inspire future generations."

"Inspiring our young people to take an interest in science – as well as technology, engineering and maths – is critical to not only prepare them for the jobs of the future but so they can also create their own jobs."

Queensland Museum Network CEO and Director and Queensland Chief Scientist, Professor Suzanne Miller said the event was a fitting way to close out the World Science Festival Brisbane program.

"The Western Downs community embraced the Regional Program to its fullest in 2016 and we hope to see the same level of passion and excitement to explore science in 2017," Professor Miller said.

"There isn't a single part of our lives that science and technology does not somehow touch, so it's important that we help cultivate a sense of wonder and excitement around it.

"Thanks to the support of our community partner QGC we are thrilled to be able to bring the Regional Program back to Chinchilla to help us close out the World Science Festival Brisbane 2017 for another year."

Vice President QGC, Tony Nunan said the Festival would be a fantastic opportunity for young people, families and the Western Downs community to be inspired about the possibility of a future career in 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 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.

A full program of events can be found at worldsciencefestival.com.au

Media contacts:

media@worldsciencefestival.com.au

Christine Robertson
Senior Media Officer
+61 7 3840 7789
Queensland Museum Network

Laura Griffith
Senior Marketing & Communication Adviser
+61 7 3842 9838
Queensland Museum Network

Interviews and photographs are available with the following talent:

Speaker	Contact details
Professor Suzanne Miller, CEO and Director and Queensland Chief Scientist, Queensland Museum Network	Christine Robertson +61 7 3840 7789 Laura Griffith +61 7 3842 9838 media@worldsciencefestival.com.au

Program Participants:

- Dr Catherine Ball, Co-Creator, World Of Drones Congress
- Dr Robert Raven, Arachnologist, Queensland Museum Network
- Dr Scott Hocknull, Senior Curator, Vertebrate Palaeontologist, Queensland Museum Network
- Joanne Wilkinson, Geosciences Fossil Preparator, Queensland Museum Network
- Greg Pratt, Manager of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
- Madeleine Kersting Flynn, Biomedical Illustrator, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
- Associate Professor Jonti Horner, Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow, Astronomer and Astrobiologist, University of Southern Queensland
- Dr Malcolm Gillies, Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture, University of Southern Queensland
- Professor Lindsay Brown, Professor of Biomedical Science, University of Southern Queensland

Christine Robertson
+61 7 3840 7789

Laura Griffith
+61 7 3842 9838
media@worldsciencefestival.com.au