

# **WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Science takes over in Chinchilla tomorrow! 31 March, 2017**

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

From 9am to 4pm the Chinchilla Cultural Centre will transform into a hub of science-themed fun with exhibitions, interactive workshops, presentations and demonstrations to help visitors discover a love for science.

Discover what life was like 3.6 million years ago when giant kangaroo's, crocodiles and komodo dragons roamed the plane lands of the Western Downs and explore Chinchilla's intriguing fossil record.

Hear from 2015 National Telstra Business Woman of the Year Dr Catherine Ball on how drone technology is being used to help solve modern issues like humanitarian disasters; and get up close and personal with your favourite eight-legged creatures and Australia's leading Arachnologist Dr Robert Raven.

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch said it was great to see the World Science Festival Brisbane return to Chinchilla following the phenomenal success of last year's regional program.

"Last year I saw first-hand how the Western Downs community really embraced the World Science Festival Brisbane, and I'm thrilled to see it return to Chinchilla for another year," Ms Enoch said.

"There have been some incredible scientific discoveries made right here in this region and I would encourage as many people to head along to the event and immerse themselves in the wonder of science and be inspired by the science that's all around them."

Queensland Museum Network CEO and Director and Queensland Chief Scientist Professor Suzanne Miller said the Chinchilla event will provide regional Queenslanders a unique experience to connect with science.

"The World Science Festival Brisbane's regional program helps communities connect with the science hidden in our everyday lives," Professor Miller said.

"People are entangled in science even if they don't realise it and we hope to see as many Western Downs visitors head along on 1 April to learn more about the science in their own backyard.

"Thanks to the support of our community partner QGC we are able to bring the World Science Festival Brisbane to Chinchilla in 2017 after such a successful event last year."

Vice President QGC, Tony Nunan said the Festival provided a great way for the Western Downs community to engage with leading scientists and consider a future career in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

“Our partnership with the Queensland Museum is focused on encouraging young people, families and whole communities to take an interest in STEM,” Mr Nunan said.

“Sciences play an ever-increasing role in the future of work and one of the biggest challenges is encouraging young people to choose a STEM-related career.”

Visitors can get hands-on with science experiments and challenges, program robots and watch science brought to life in the explosive *Street Science* show! Visitors can learn how to be an engineer or what it takes to become a *Science Olympian* with activities for both children and adults to enjoy.

This year the Festival also includes a *Scientific Illustrations* workshop in the Lapunyah Art Gallery with QIMR Berghofer Biomedical Illustrator Madeleine Kersting Flynn; and visitors can step into another world as the Chinchilla Library hosts virtual reality workshops throughout the morning.

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.

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

**Media contacts:**

[media@worldsciencefestival.com.au](mailto: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 photo opportunities:

Speaker	Contact details
<p>Professor Suzanne Miller, CEO and Director, Queensland Museum Network</p>	<p>Christine Robertson +61 7 3840 7789 Senior Media Officer Queensland Museum Network</p> <p>Laura Griffith Senior Marketing &amp; Communication Adviser Queensland Museum Network +61 7 3842 9838 +61 401 102 265 <a href="mailto:media@worldsciencefestival.com.au">media@worldsciencefestival.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Program Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Catherine Ball, Co-Creator, World Of Drones Congress</li> <li>• Dr Robert Raven, Arachnologist, Queensland Museum Network</li> <li>• Dr Scott Hocknull, Senior Curator, Vertebrate Palaeontologist, Queensland Museum Network</li> <li>• Greg Pratt, Manager of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</li> <li>• Madeleine Kersting Flynn, Biomedical Illustrator, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</li> <li>• Associate Professor Jonti Horner, Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow, Astronomer and Astrobiologist, University of Southern Queensland</li> <li>• Dr Malcolm Gillies, Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture, University of Southern Queensland</li> <li>• Professor Lindsay Brown, Professor of Biomedical Science, University of Southern Queensland</li> <li>• Steve Liddell, Street Science</li> <li>• Katie Jones, Power of Engineering</li> <li>• Yelena Ramli, Australian Science Innovations</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>