

WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE

MEDIA RELEASE

22 February 2017

New events and programs added to World Science Festival Brisbane

The full World Science Festival Brisbane program has been released, bringing a stellar line up of science stars and thought provoking events to Brisbane's Cultural Precinct from 22 – 26 March 2017.

An orchestral performance of the classic science fiction film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, life with robots, ancient astronomy practices, colonising Mars and the race to save our water are just some of more than 225 events and activities on offer at the second annual festival.

Queensland Premier and Minister for the Arts Anastacia Palaszczuk said the World Science Festival Brisbane program will feature the best minds in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), alongside philosophers, authors, strategists and journalists to highlight cutting-edge science, ground breaking discoveries and technological innovation in our changing world.

“World Science Festival Brisbane also showcases Queensland's own scientific leaders and the amazing contributions they are making on the global stage,” Ms Palaszczuk said.

“My Government's \$405 million Advance Queensland initiative focuses on harnessing innovation across the state to unlock business potential, foster new industries, and give our future generations the skills and knowledge needed for the jobs of the future.

“This year's festival has expanded regional programming into Chinchilla, Gladstone, Toowoomba and Townsville, to ensure Queenslanders across our state can get hands on with science and engage with the scientific leaders that are shaping our tomorrow.”

Queensland Museum Network Director and CEO Professor Suzanne Miller said the World Science Festival Brisbane will be a fun, educational and interactive showcase of science and its multitude of applications.

“From astronauts to veterinarians, some of the world's top scientists and innovators are gearing up to head to Queensland for a five day celebration of science that encompasses everything from debates, theatre performances, interactive exhibitions and activities, lectures and explosive science shows,” Professor Miller said.

“The festival's engaging theatrical programs will explore the nexus between science and the performing arts by illuminating the ‘hard’ stuff — black holes, the universe and particle physics — using music, theatre, story and design.

“In a Queensland first, visitors will be able to view Stanley Kubrick's seminal masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey* with the ground-breaking score performed live by Queensland Symphony Orchestra and accompanied by the Australian Voices choir.

“From taxidermy demonstrations to turtle hatchlings, the unsung women of science and the future of driverless vehicles to an extraordinary insight into Indigenous astronomical knowledge, there is something for everyone within the program.”

In celebration of international World Water Day (March 22), the Festival will present a daily dose of water wisdom in a wide ranging series of programs examining the grave challenges, ongoing research and inspirational success stories in the global effort to assure a clean and safe water supply for all. Sustaining all life on Earth, fresh water is our most precious resource and a basic human right. In our mainstage event, *WATER: It's Not a Privilege*, water experts will debate whether, in this age of endless technological innovation, clean water is becoming a privately owned commodity that only the wealthier of the world can readily access.

For those who prefer the fun side of science, a visit to the Festival Lab is a must for those who wish to enjoy an array of events including *Brainfood Breakfast* and *Science Gets Social*.

And for the family, a full program of free family fun is on offer at the festival with events including Dr Karl for Kids, *The Hatchery: Showcasing and Supporting Turtle Conservation*, engaging displays, free star gazing activities and a huge range of *Street Science!* activities.

World Science Festival Co-founder and Physicist Professor Brian Greene said the festival aimed to foster a general public informed by science, inspired by its wonder, convinced of its value, and prepared to engage with its implications for the future.

“As the pace of scientific discovery and technological innovation accelerates, science increasingly impacts every aspect of our lives – from how we work, play and communicate to our health and lifestyle,” said Professor Greene.

“With some of the most complicated and urgent public policy debates centered on science, it is imperative that scientists working at the forefront of scientific exploration share their work and their passion with the public.

“The Festival allows people of all ages to expand their understanding of the science that impacts their lives, and to immerse themselves in the profound, beautiful and vital stories of science.”

World Science Festival Brisbane is presented by Queensland Museum with generous support of our partners Tourism and Events Queensland, Brisbane Marketing, Griffith University, QUT, The University of Queensland, BHP Billiton Foundation, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, QPAC, Channel 7, ABC Brisbane, Radio National, QGC, Inspiring Australia, Arup, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Google, ANSTO, C&K, QAGOMA, QIMR Berghofer, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Theatre, South Bank Parklands, State Library of Queensland, Translational Research Institute and The Mantra Group. To see the full program and purchase tickets to other exciting World Science Festival Brisbane events visit www.worldsciencefestival.com.au.

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