

# WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Wading through global water issues at World Science Festival Brisbane**

World Science Festival Brisbane will be diving in to examine what it will take to achieve UN's global sustainability goal for water when it opens on World Water Day, Wednesday, 22 March.

A host of thought provoking events explores some of the inspirational successes as well as the current impediments to the goal of providing clean, accessible and sustainably managed water for all by 2030.

Queensland Museum Network CEO and Director Professor Suzanne Miller said the World Science Festival Brisbane was an important opportunity to highlight the great strides being taken to resolve some of today's real world issues.

"Water-related diseases still affect more than 1.5 billion people every year and more than 663 million still live without a safe water supply close to home," she said.

"Even developed countries like Australia are not immune with approximately 1 in 20 children in Australia's Indigenous populations affected by trachoma, a serious eye disease preventable with adequate sanitation and clean water."

"These series of thought-provoking panels will give visitors an opportunity to hear from some world-renowned experts in the field about their research and what is being done," Professor Miller said.

A lunchtime series of *Water Talks* hosted by The Age science journalist Peter Spinks and a host of special guests investigates water disease, engineering solutions to waste water, the possibility of extra-terrestrial water and takes a look at bottled water and its impact on the environment.

*Water: It's Not a Privilege* brings a panel of H2O experts from around the globe together to discuss whether transformative technologies, data analytics and engineering innovations can democratise access to water and make universal access a reality.

From fresh to salty, *Ocean Action* will delve into the downward spiral of our oceans since the industrial revolution and how science can save them.

The World Science Festival Brisbane will take centre stage for five days from 22-26 March 2017. 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, JC Decaux, 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.

Visit [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au) for more information.

World Water Day is observed around the world on 22 March to raise awareness about water-related issues around the world.

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**2017 Water Talks now on sale:**

**WATER TALKS: The Dirt on Water and Disease**

**When:** Wednesday 22 March, 2017

**Where:** The Edge, State Library of Queensland

**Duration:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Every 90 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease. The statistics are horrifying. Despite ongoing improvements in global water access and sanitation, water-related diseases still affect more than 1.5 billion people every year. Developed countries are not immune with approximately 1 in 20 children in Australia's indigenous populations affected by trachoma, a serious eye disease preventable with adequate sanitation and clean water. Find out what governments and corporations are doing locally and abroad to provide safe sanitation systems and drinking water to every person on earth.

**WATER TALKS: Engineering the Solutions**

**When:** Thursday 23 March, 2017

**Where:** The Edge, State Library of Queensland

**Duration:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Designs for a water-wise future. Engineered systems are critical in delivering clean and plentiful water to the world's increasingly urbanised populations, including new ways of recycling waste water. Traditional approaches such as damming, irrigation, and treatment systems are costly to build and maintain. They can also have devastating impacts on our natural environment. Discover how 'green engineering' could influence modern water management and whether the concept of 'used' water is too difficult to swallow.

**WATER TALKS: Other Worldly Water**

**When:** Friday 24 March, 2017

**Where:** The Edge, State Library of Queensland

**Duration:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** NASA's recent announcements of surface water flows on Mars inspired hope for a human-friendly environment on the red planet. The search for water elsewhere in our universe has long fascinated scientists and space enthusiasts, fuelling their search for other habitable planets. Join our planetary and space experts as they discuss the latest on extra-terrestrial water and the benefits that this rather expensive water-divining exercise might have for Earth's future populations.

**WATER TALKS: The Inconvenient Truth of Bottled Water**

**When:** Saturday 25 March, 2017

**Where:** The Edge, State Library of Queensland

**Duration:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Bottled water is convenient, sometimes fashionable and relatively cheap. The truth is it takes almost seven times more water get that bottle to the shelf than is actually in the bottle itself. What kind of impact does this have on the environment? Join our discussion to uncover how global society was persuaded that bottled is better and why science may convince us otherwise.

**WATER: It's Not a Privilege**

**When:** Wednesday 22 March, 2017

**Where:** Cremorne Theatre, QPAC

**Duration:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** The sustainer of all life on Earth, fresh water is our most precious resource and a basic human right. So, how in this age of endless technological innovation has clean water become a privately owned commodity that only the wealthier of the world can readily access? In 2014, the United Nations set a new target of universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. Join our panel of H<sub>2</sub>O experts from around the globe to find out if transformative technologies, data analytics and engineering innovations can democratise access to water and make universal access a reality.

### **OCEAN ACTION: Can Science Save this Precious Environment?**

**When:** Sunday 26 March, 2017

**Where:** Concert Hall, QPAC

**Duration:** 10am – 11.30am

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Join our world class panel of marine experts as they examine how human ingenuity and innovation could hold the key to saving our oceans... and ourselves in the process.

### **Other Water Related Talks**

#### **LET'S TALK CROCS**

**When:** Sunday 26 March, 2017

**Where:** Queensland Museum Theatre

**Duration:** 10am – 11am

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Super keen Herpetologist Toby Millyard is passionate about all things scaly, including crocodiles and venomous snakes. Toby will share more than twenty years of hands-on experience managing Australia Zoo's Croc Team along with his professional insights into wildlife conservation and research from trapping and safe capture of reptiles to processing and release.

#### **LET'S TALK CORAL**

**When:** Friday 24 March, 2017

**Where:** Queensland Museum Theatre

**Duration:** 10am – 11am

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Join Queensland Museum's Senior Curator of Corals, Dr Tom Bridge to delve deeper into the Great Barrier Reef than ever before.

#### **LET'S TALK TURTLES**

**When:** Saturday 25 March, 2017

**Where:** Queensland Museum Theatre

**Duration:** 3pm – 4pm

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Join renowned Queensland scientist and turtle researcher Dr Colin Limpus for a fascinating insight into the life cycles of Loggerhead and Flatback turtles. Dr Limpus will talk through the difficulty of successfully managing turtles in the face of human impact and share some extraordinary discoveries about these complex animals from his 49 years of dedicated research at the Mon Repos Rookery.

### **THE HATCHERY: Showcasing and Supporting Turtle Conservation**

**When:** Wednesday 22 – Sunday 26 March, 2017

**Where:** Queensland Museum

**Duration:**

**Tickets and Bookings:** [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

**Additional Information:** Visitors will once again have the opportunity to view baby Loggerhead Turtles hatching from eggs that are incubated onsite and timed to emerge during the Festival. Our Reptile Curator, Patrick Couper, will be on hand to oversee this project, which is designed in collaboration with Dr Colin Limpus, an internationally renowned turtle biologist.