

**9 February 2020**

## **World Science Festival Brisbane 2020 goes to extremes for science!**

From the science of cricket, ballet, and astrophotography, through to unravelling the deepest mysteries of relativity, quantum mechanics, and space and time, there is something for everyone at this year's World Science Festival Brisbane, which returns 25-29 March.

Now in its fifth year and hosted by Queensland Museum, the 2020 festival program will bring science to life in imaginative ways across Brisbane's Cultural Precinct with over 95 events for all ages.

Some of the world's leading scientists, educators, authors and thinkers from around the world and across Australia, will come together for five nights and four days, including **Brian Greene** World Science Festival co-founder and physicist.

Brian Greene's new production of ***Einstein and the Quantum: Unravelling the Mysteries of Space and Time***, will kick off festivities on the evening of Wednesday 25 March, and tells the dramatic story of Einstein's electrifying discovery of the General Theory of Relativity.

Australia's favourite science communicator **Dr Karl** is back by popular demand showcasing future careers in science and also presenting an all ages event about the fun and quirky side of science in ***Q&A with Dr K*** and ***Future Careers in Science with Dr Karl Kruszelnicki*** on Friday 27 March.

Astrophysicist, author, and Australia's inaugural Women in STEM Ambassador **Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith** will take a cosmic journey in, ***'Hunting the Cosmic Dawn'*** to understand our future and find out - How it all began? How will it end? Are we alone?

Lisa will also share her personal stories, life challenges and career highlights as part of the 2020 Education Program, ***Pioneers In Science***, which gives high school students rare and intimate access to some of the world's most renowned scientists.

Then on Saturday 28 March, it's the World Science Festival Brisbane's inaugural nerdy spectacular ***Dr Karl & Night of the Nerds***.

Hosted by satirist **Mark Humphries**, Dr Karl will be joined on stage by Astrophysicist (and Bachelor) **Dr Matt Agnew**, comedian **Lawrence Leung** and a rocking house band led by ARIA award winning musician **Clare Bowditch**, to find out who is the ultimate nerd.

The future of psychedelic drugs and whether they will become a useful tool in treating medical conditions, will be examined in ***A Psychedelic Renaissance***, led by US based **Matthew Johnson**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, John Hopkins Medicine and **Margaret Ross**, Senior Clinical Psychologist, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

From bowling to ballet, the ***HOWZAT! The Science in Cricket*** and ***Science of Pointe*** conversations will deconstruct these physical activities to find out how the body moves across each discipline and unravel the forces behind the laws of physics.

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Queensland Ballet's Artistic Director, **Li Cunxin**, will be joined on stage by a physics guru and dance physiotherapist to explain the physicality in this very graceful and enlightening collision of art and science of ballet.

Back again in 2020 will be our most popular attraction '*The Hatchery*', which showcases and supports turtle conservation and allows visitors to watch baby loggerhead turtles hatch from eggs that are incubated onsite.

A fusion of fun and inspiring hands-on science demonstrations, augmented reality experiences and science shows will also be on display at the new **City of Science**.

For four days, from 26-29 March, **City of Science** will wind its way from the River Terrace in front of Queensland Art Gallery, through Queensland Museum's iconic Whale Mall, and on to the Knowledge Walk at State Library of Queensland ending outside Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

You can also take a look at 'everyday science', with interesting talks on the science of happiness, wild and weird weather, and join Dr Matt Agnew as he looks to '**Life beyond Earth**' at the **Brain Food Breakfast** series on daily at Queensland Museum Café Muse.

If you like your science with a dose of laughter, or a laid-back science talk with added beer, there are plenty of 'After Hours' events to choose from at *The Nucleus*, located at Queensland Museum, including a look at the science behind love, is a science brain different to a creative brain, and an open mic night for poets, musicians, dancers and performers to share their art form and personal experiences of climate change.

**Queensland Museum CEO Dr Jim Thompson** said there will be a host of diverse, entertaining, engaging and above all inspiring events taking place at venues across the Cultural Precinct and across Queensland at World Science Festival Brisbane 2020.

"We're also looking forward to delivering a new World Science Festival Brisbane regional program that will extend throughout the year in Chinchilla, Gladstone and our museum campuses in Toowoomba, Townville and Ipswich in 2020," Dr Thompson said.

"With more than 130 events on offer across the entire festival program this year, and 140 participants from Australia and around the world on hand to deliver cutting edge science shows, share world-class research, and help inspire the next generation, this is one event not to be missed."

**Professor Brian Greene, World Science Festival co-founder**, said the aim of World Science Festival Brisbane is to engage the public with science through compelling storytelling techniques.

"We recognise there is a great public hunger for the ideas of science, but only if those ideas are presented in a way that captures the drama of discovery," Professor Greene said.

"When children and adults realise that science is so much more than what is in textbooks, it comes alive. It speaks to who we are: an inventive, curious, and courageous species of explorers. World Science Festival Brisbane is on the front lines, fundamentally changing how we all engage with science."

**Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch** said the World Science Festival Brisbane was presented exclusively in the Asia Pacific.

“This landmark event, the only one produced outside of New York, brings people together to celebrate the wonders of science, explore ideas and debate the challenges confronting humankind,” Minister Enoch said.

“A record number of regional events will be presented under the new name of World Science Festival Queensland, featuring schools programming, stargazing, talks and demonstrations from Queensland Museum experts, giving communities the chance to get hands on with STEM.”

“Since 2016, the festival has injected more than \$32 million into the state’s economy and attracted more than 700,000 people to its diverse program of science education, thought-provoking debates and inspiring discussions about the world around us,” she said.

“The Queensland Government supports World Science Festival Brisbane and its associated regional program with \$3 million in funding annually, securing the rights to this world-class event until 2021.”

**Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones** said World Science Festival Brisbane, part of Curiosity Brisbane, was an economic driver for tourism in Brisbane and surrounding regions.

“There were more than 200,000 visitors at the festival last year, delivering more than \$11 million for Queensland,” Minister Jones said.

“The event program includes activities in Chinchilla, Gladstone, Toowoomba, Townsville and Ipswich – making Queensland-wide festivities.

“Queensland Government supported events like the World Science festival will contribute over \$880 million to the economy in 2020.”

**Brisbane Deputy Mayor Krista Adams** said Brisbane was proud to host the only extension of the World Science Festival outside of New York.

“Brisbane has global fame for our research institutions and achievements in science and technology which makes our city the perfect destination to host the brightest minds from Australia and around the world,” Cr Adams said.

“The World Science Festival is a popular fixture on Brisbane’s events calendar and is one of many major events that help inject more than \$150 million into our local economy each year and support our hospitality, tourism, retail and service sectors.

“We can’t wait to see thousands of visitors and residents celebrate the wonders of science in our great city.”

For more information and to buy tickets visit [www.worldsciencefestival.com.au](http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au)

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EVENT	DATE
World Science Festival Brisbane	25-29 March 2020
<b>Regional Program</b>	
World Science Festival Queensland Chinchilla	28 – 29 February 2020
World Science Festival Queensland Gladstone	20-21 March 2020
World Science Festival Queensland Toowoomba	6-20 April 2020
World Science Festival Queensland Townsville	15-16 May 2020 19 September – 5 October 2020
World Science Festival Queensland Ipswich	27 June – 12 July 2020 27-28 November 2020

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