

**QUEENSLAND
MUSEUM**

PRESENTS

World
Science
Festival
Brisbane

March 25–29

The **WONDER** of **WHY**

WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE

2020 MEDIA KIT

Why is it
so hard
to switch
to clean
energy?

Why is
water

Why is
tripping
trending in
medicine

Why is the blue planet
running on empty?

Why does quantum theory
give Einstein the spooks?

ABOUT

World Science Festival New York

The World Science Festival mission is to cultivate a general public informed by science, inspired by its wonder, convinced of its value, and prepared to engage with its implications for the future.

The festival gathers great minds in science and the arts to produce live and digital content that allows a broad general audience to engage with scientific discoveries. Through discussions, debates, theatrical works, interactive explorations, musical performances, intimate salons, and major outdoor experiences, the festival takes science out of the laboratory and into the streets, parks, museums, galleries and premier performing arts venues of New York City and beyond.

The annual live, week-long festivals, which launched in New York in 2008, have collectively drawn over 3.2 million visitors worldwide, with millions more viewing the programs online.

The World Science Festival's original musical and theatrical works tour nationally and internationally, and March 2016 marked the launch of World Science Festival Brisbane.

World Science Festival Brisbane

The first World Science Festival Brisbane (WSFB) was held in 2016, presented by Queensland Museum with the support of the Queensland Government.

Queensland Museum Network holds the exclusive licence to host World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific until 2021.

The only global extension of this hugely popular initiative, World Science Festival Brisbane reinforces Queensland Museum's position as a leader in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and engagement.

Brisbane's Cultural Precinct will come alive for five days from 25 -29 March 2020 as World Science Festival Brisbane brings together some of the greatest thought leaders, showcasing local scientists and performers from around the globe.

World Science Festival Brisbane
25-29 March 2020

Regional Program

**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

MEDIA RELEASE 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.

Cricketer **Michael Kasprowicz** will join cricket-loving scientists to unravel some of the formulae and forces behind this game.

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**.

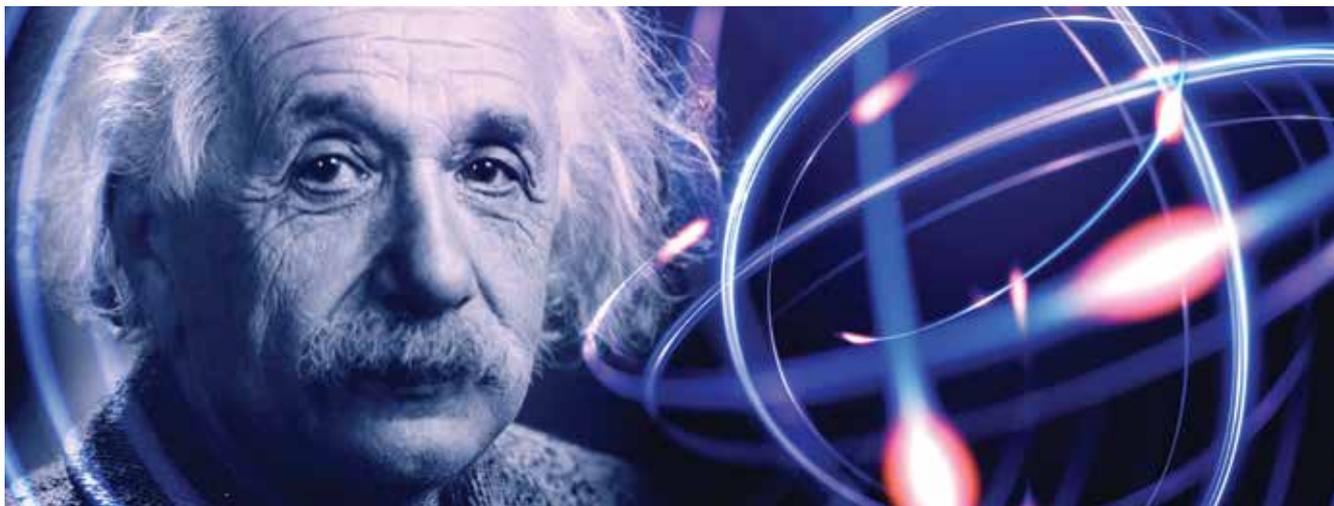
For four days, from 26–29 March, **City of Science** will wind its way from the River Terrace in front of Queensland Art Gallery, through Queensland Museum’s iconic Whale Mall, and on to the Knowledge Walk at State Library of Queensland ending outside Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

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.



WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL NEW YORK SIGNATURE CONVERSATION



Einstein and the Quantum: Unravelling the Mysteries of Space and Time

Wednesday 25 March | 6:30pm–8pm | Concert Hall, QPAC | \$35

Presenter: Brian Greene

With his general theory of relativity, Einstein unleashed space and time, revealing that they warp and curve in the service of the gravitational force. Einstein's Nobel Prize, however, was awarded for his groundbreaking work leading to quantum mechanics—an astoundingly successful framework for understanding the microworld but one whose portrayal of reality Einstein found increasingly unnerving.

In 1935, Einstein thought he had finally found the theory's Achilles heel—a feature known as quantum entanglement in which distant objects can act as though they are one, something Einstein characterized as “spooky.” Yet in the decades since, experiments have not only confirmed quantum spookiness, but now, a bold new proposal suggests that quantum entanglement may stitch the very fabric of spacetime itself. Join a vibrant conversation led by renowned leaders seeking to unravel the deepest mysteries of relativity, quantum mechanics, space and time.

Presented with World Science Festival New York



BRIAN GREENE

Brian Greene is a professor of physics and mathematics at Columbia University and is widely regarded for his groundbreaking discoveries in mathematical physics and superstring theory, including the co-discoveries of mirror symmetry and topology change.

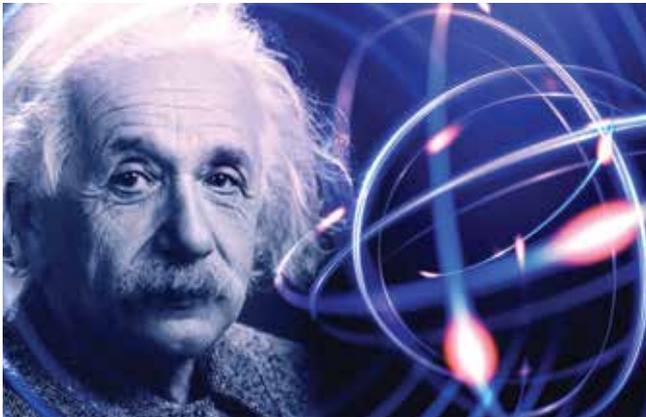
He is the author of *The Elegant Universe*, *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, and *The Hidden Reality*, which have collectively spent 65 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller list and sold more than two million copies worldwide. His newest book, *Until the End of Time*, will be published in February, 2020.

Brian Greene has made frequent media appearances on programs such as *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, and has hosted two NOVA specials, based on *The Elegant Universe* and *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, which were nominated for four Emmy Awards and won a George Foster Peabody Award. He has also had cameo appearances in Hollywood films *Maze*, *Frequency*, and the *Last Mimzy*, and played himself in an episode of *The Big Bang Theory*.

Brian Greene is the director of Columbia's Center for Theoretical Physics and with producer Tracy Day, he is co-founder of the World Science Festival.

SIGNATURE CONVERSATIONS

With an unparalleled line-up of speakers and performers, the festival's Signature Conversations take a deep dive into the dynamic connection between science and our everyday world. Explore the greatest challenges and ideas we face today and in the future.



Einstein and the Quantum: Unravelling the Mysteries of Space and Time

Wednesday 25 March | 6:30pm–8pm |

Concert Hall, QPAC | \$35

Presenter: Brian Greene

Einstein famously worked on the big ideas of space and time, but he was also instrumental in developing quantum mechanics for understanding the microworld. Experiments since have confirmed his seemingly disparate theories, and now a bold new proposal suggests that quantum entanglement may actually stitch the very fabric of spacetime itself.

Presented with World Science Festival New York



Running the Planet Without Costing the Earth

Thursday 26 March | 7:30pm–9pm | Concert Hall, QPAC | \$35

Moderator: Paul Willis

Participants: Fanny Boulaire, Alexander Colsmann, Mark Paterson, Michelle Taylor

Humans need energy, and lots of it. But, our ever-warming climate and ever-increasing population means a move from fossil-fuel to clean and green sources, and quickly. Join our energetic experts to shine a renewable light on Australia's energy future and what it will take for us all to get there.

Presented with QUT



Hunting the Cosmic Dawn

Friday 27 March | 7:30pm–9pm | Concert Hall, QPAC | \$35

Moderator: Jonathan Webb

Participants: Nichole Barry, Tamara Davis, Lisa Harvey-Smith

Living on a terrestrial planet and orbiting a star that is just one of the hundreds of billions in our galaxy can make one feel insignificant. But to an astrophysicist, it is fascinating. How did it all begin, how will it end and are we alone? It's like, totally cosmic.

Presented with The University of Queensland



Cities 2060: Thriving not Just Surviving

Sunday 29 March | 11:30am–1pm | Concert Hall, QPAC | \$35

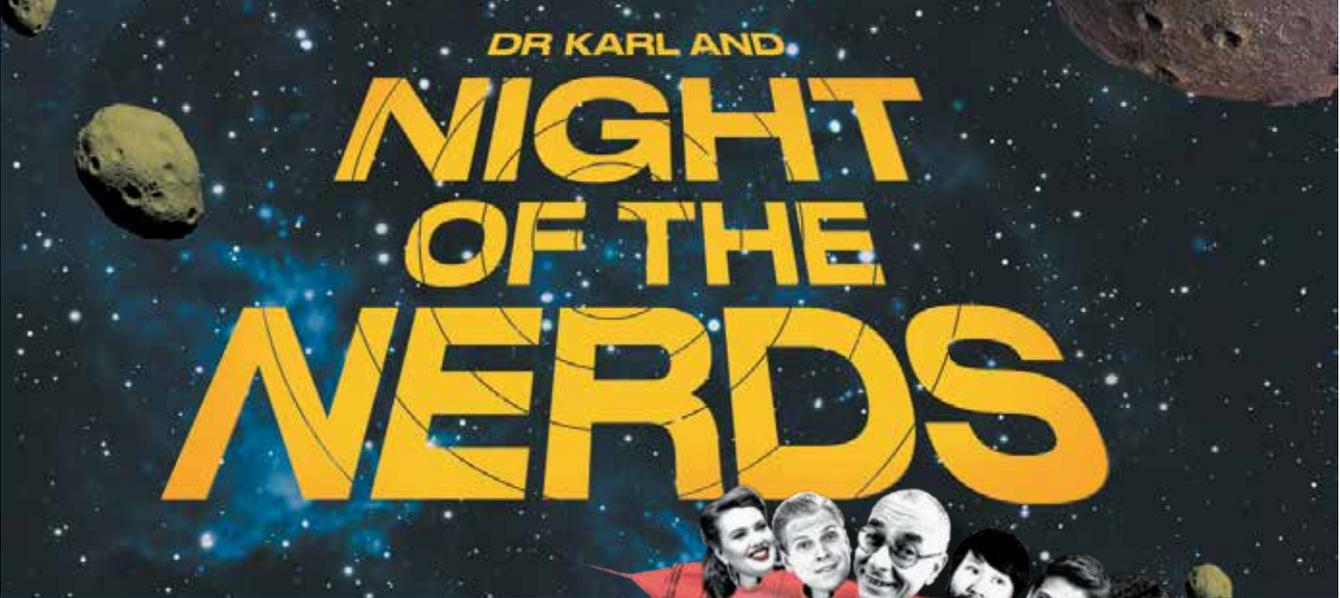
Moderator: Niraj Lal

Participants: Joerg Baumeister, Josef Hargrave, Tony Matthews

Cities have changed remarkably in the last few decades, and the next few will be no different as populations swell and climate change bites. Granted, we are unlikely to “meet the Jetsons”, but what will the city of the future look like and how will life differ as environments change and technology evolves?

Presented with Griffith University

HIGHLIGHT: SCIENCE FUN WITH DR. KARL



Dr Karl and Night of the Nerds
Saturday 28 March | 7pm–8:30pm Concert Hall, QPAC | \$60

Hosted by comedian Mark Humphries, it's the festival's very own, very nerdy, variety show! Dr Karl kicks things off with his greatest moments in science. The house band, led by Clare Bowditch, will keep things rocking as our all-star cast of professional and amateur scientists take to the stage for the ultimate nerd showdown.

Featuring: Matt Agnew, Clare Bowditch, Marty Brown, Dana Gehrman, Mark Humphries, Karl Kruszelnicki, Lawrence Leung, Kellie Lloyd, Margaret Sheil, Seja Vogel



Q and A with Dr K: Schools Show Brisbane

Friday 27 March | 10am–11am | Concert Hall, QPAC | \$10

Join science broadcaster Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and find out why it's safer for a cat to fall from a 32-storey building than a 7-storey building, and give you the low-down on the Bermuda Triangle, and how come wombats poo out about 90 little cubes (yes, cubes) each day!

Presented with QPAC



Future Careers in Science with Dr Karl

Friday 27 March | 1pm–2:30pm | Concert Hall, QPAC | \$10

Dr Karl discusses future careers in genetics, engineering, basic physics, computer science and the big one – your environment. Part science, part career guidance, part entertainment, and all fun. Bring your burning science questions for the Q&A!

Presented with QPAC



TURTLES – THE HATCHERY

World Science Festival Brisbane’s annual turtle hatching is an important conservation initiative allowing intimate access to Australia’s loggerhead turtles.

Visitors can get a rare glimpse a hatching turtles in their incubation chambers and the first moments of their lives as they meet a seawater environment in specially designed tanks.

The Hatchery aims to highlight the importance of the Mon Repos Loggerhead Turtle Rookery at Bundaberg as a conservation and ecotourism success story.

Designed in collaboration with internationally renowned herpetologist Colin Limpus and Queensland Museum Senior Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Patrick Couper the turtles are incubated at exactly 29.9 degrees so their hatchings are timed to emerge over the five days of the World Science Festival Brisbane.

Following the festival, the baby loggerhead turtle hatchlings are released 20km off Mooloolaba into the Eastern Australian Current where Loggerheads of this age begin the open ocean phase of their life.

CITY OF SCIENCE

Presented with BHP Foundation

This year the ever popular Street Science! will become City of Science, with a new format that winds all the way from Queensland Museum, along the Brisbane River and up to the Maiwar Green at GOMA. With more than 50 activity providers families will discover magnificent marine life, fascinating physics, new technologies and eco-art workshops.

Thursday



**Thursday 26 March | 10am–2pm |
Brisbane's Cultural Precinct**

For the first time in 2020, the all new City of Science will open on Thursday and Friday! Stroll around Brisbane's Cultural Precinct where you'll discover loads of fun and hands-on activities covering topics such as geoscience, chemistry, technology and environmental science.

Highlights

**Electronic waste in
a Circular Economy**
10am–2pm

Rescue Crew
10am–2pm

Friday



**Friday 27 March | 10am–2pm |
Brisbane's Cultural Precinct**

On Friday, City of Science will animate Brisbane's Cultural Precinct with interactive and engaging science! The fun will continue at night with extended hours (see map for more details) to entertain scientists of all ages. You'll also get a glimpse into our pre-historic past with Dead Puppet Society's Megafauna installation.

Highlights

**Dr Joe,
Travelling Scientist**
10am–2pm

**Build a Balancing
Sculpture**
10am–2pm

Saturday



**Saturday 28 March | 9am–5pm |
Brisbane's Cultural Precinct**

From Queensland Museum to GOMA, City of Science is again taking over Saturday. Get hands-on with over 50 activity providers, and see free and engaging shows at the Osmosis Stage. The fun continues into the evening with an unmissable Stargazing event and a spectacular 250-voice choir led by the amazing Emma Dean from Cheep Trill.

Highlights

Formidable Vegetable
6:15pm–7:15pm

Earth Hour Concert
8:30pm–9:30pm

Sunday



Presented with BHP Foundation

**Sunday 29 March 9am–4pm |
Brisbane's Cultural Precinct**

On Sunday, the fun continues. Find out more about bowerbirds and their interest in the colour blue through the magic of puppetry, become an expert beatboxer with Mal Webb or get your goggles on and see some amazing science. Lastly, don't miss the chance to discover The Ants from Polyglot Theatre!

Highlights

The Ants
10am–10:30am

**Bandmouth, Beatbox
and Beyond**
12:15pm–1:15pm

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK

Queensland Museum Network (the Network) is the keeping place for the State Collection of more than 1.2 million objects and specimens, valued at more than \$546 million, and more than 14 million research collection items.

The Network has grown since the Queensland Museum was founded by the Queensland Philosophical Society in January 1862, coming under the responsibility of the State Government in 1871 and moving into its first purpose-built premises in 1879.

Today, the Network is governed by the Board of the Queensland Museum (the Board) and includes:

- Queensland Museum (including the Sciencentre) in the heart of Brisbane's Cultural Precinct at South Bank
- Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba
- Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville
- The Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich
- Queensland Museum Collections, Research and Loans Centre in Hendra
- Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying in Woolloongabba, Brisbane
- Earth Sciences Museum, The University of Queensland

Over the years, Queensland Museum Network has changed with Queensland as it discovers, documents and celebrates the state's natural, cultural and scientific diversity.

With respected scientific and cultural research, significant and varied collections, and community outreach services, QMN continues to offer Queensland's residents and visitors enriching cultural, social and intellectual experiences.

QMN reaches far beyond the walls of its museums, connecting with millions of people through museum experiences, events, workshops, talks and lectures, school education kits, publications, online resources.

Regional support across the state is enabled via our Museum Development Officer Network and World Science Festival programming.

We continually strive to be a cultural and scientific leader by successfully harnessing the support of industry, governments and communities.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND CONTACTS

A selection of World Science Festival Brisbane images is available for media use and additional images can be sourced on request.

Supplied photo credits must accompany publication:
"Image courtesy of Queensland Museum"

[Click here](#) to access the suite of images

Media Accreditation

Media accreditation for the World Science Festival Brisbane 2020 is now open to all working media representatives who are required to report/photograph events.

Please note that accreditation is subject to approval and application alone does not guarantee accreditation.

Accreditation is non-transferable and conditions apply.
Photo ID will be required to collect passes.

Apply online: www.worldsciencefestival.com.au

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Like any complex chemical compound, **World Science Festival Brisbane** is a carefully curated combination of elements.

Partnerships feature prominently in these equations, as the oxygen to our propane (the critical elements of combustion).

We are serious about partnerships and dedicated to developing genuine relationships premised on shared vision, clearly articulated outcomes and measurable, mutually rewarding impact in STEM.

If you are serious about partnerships, and want to take a leadership role in STEM engagement, contact us on +61 (7) 3842 9344 or email wsfbpartners@qm.qld.gov.au to discuss the opportunities available.