

7 February 2021

Taking science to the Extreme – World Science Festival Brisbane is back...bigger than ever.

Bursting into 2021 with a much-needed message of hope, wisdom and wonder, **World Science Festival Brisbane returns** 24-28 March 2021, celebrating science and human resilience in an unprecedented era of global change.

Now in its sixth year and hosted by Queensland Museum, the 2021 program aims to answer one of the biggest questions facing humanity: how does science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) hold the key to overcoming current and future challenges for the good of all people and our planet.

Think, everything from combating pandemics to natural disasters; tackling climate change and Australian bushfires; planning truly smart and connected cities; and even navigating the future of the universe.

Unveiling World Science Festival Brisbane 2021 theme of ***‘Extremes and Adaptations’***, the festival’s program reach has been supersized thanks to the introduction of an innovative series of digital events in tandem with live programming.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Jim Thompson says there’s no better time to inspire and inform people of all ages about the wonders of science and positive implications for the future.

“Without doubt, science, in all its wisdom and wonder, has become the silver lining of the global COVID-19 pandemic, unlocking and expanding human capabilities on a scale not witnessed before,” Dr Thompson said.

“What’s also encouraging is the boundaries of science have been pushed to a meaningful new level, tapping into transformative technologies, like artificial intelligence, to keep the world safe, connected and entertained during difficult times.

“Most exciting of all, global interest in and appetite for STEM solutions has soared to an all-time high. That’s something to be celebrated!”

Itself celebrated as ‘a cultural institution’, World Science Festival Brisbane is the only global extension of New York’s acclaimed science-meets-arts event, injecting more than \$32 million into Queensland’s economy since 2016.

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch said the arts is key to delivering our plan for economic recovery, each year injecting \$8.5 billion into the state’s economy and supporting more than 92,000 Queenslanders.

“In the past year, we have seen first-hand the impact science has had on our lives and its important role in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic,” Minister Enoch said.

“The 2021 World Science Festival Brisbane offers the perfect opportunity to showcase the advances and enjoyment of science.

“The Palaszczuk Government supports this landmark event, which is the only World Science Festival held outside of New York.

“This year World Science Festival Queensland will offer an extended program so communities in Chinchilla, Gladstone, Toowoomba, Townsville and Ipswich can explore innovation, science and technology throughout the year.”

Tourism and Innovation Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said World Science Festival Brisbane was a must-do event on the *It's Live! in Queensland* events calendar.

“Since the very first event in 2016, World Science Festival Brisbane has gone from strength to strength,” Mr Hinchliffe said.

“More than 700,000 Australians to date have been enthralled by the innovation of World Science Festival Brisbane and contributed more than \$32 million to Queensland’s tourism economy.

“It’s because of the great work of Queenslanders on COVID-19 that we’re able to host significant events like World Science Festival Brisbane that support local jobs and fast-track state’s the economic recovery.”

Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said it’s great to see the festival’s signature red banners across the city in the lead up to this internationally renowned event.

“In the midst of the extraordinary events that continue to happen around us, our thirst for knowledge has never been greater and I am thrilled that Brisbane is the only city in the Asia Pacific region to host this scientific celebration,” Lord Mayor Schrinner said.

“With our globally acclaimed universities, research facilities and scientific hubs, Brisbane is recognised as the perfect destination to host this event and we are excited to welcome residents of all ages to explore the nexus of science and experience the best of World Science Festival Brisbane.”

World Science Festival co-founder and renowned physicist Professor Brian Greene will premiere his new cinematic journey, ***Until the End of Time***, live from New York on the festival’s opening night.

Professor Greene will take audiences on a journey from the big bang to the end of time, exploring how lasting structures formed, how life and mind emerged, and how we grapple with our existence through narrative, science, the quest for truth, and a deep longing for the eternal.

“I’m looking forward to connecting virtually with the audience as we respond to a world where, now more than ever, it’s important to use scientific thinking to solve some of the greatest problems facing us today,” Professor Greene said.

“Since 2016, it has been a highlight of the year to join you in Brisbane for the annual Festival. In this year of extreme challenges, while I can’t be there in person, I’m pleased to be part of this celebration of science, and to help shine a light on how science touches all our lives, and is vital to our collective future.”

ABC Science Editor, **Jonathan Webb** will also host a live discussion with Professor Greene from New York following the premiere of the film.

As well as championing internationally renowned science research there will be plenty of jam-packed fun STEM-inspired activities and talks for all ages, from super science shows exploring extreme environments, to sustainable cities, the science of happiness and the crazy world of dinosaurs.

Australia's best science communicator **Dr Karl Kruszelnicki** will lead a panel discussion, **Why Trust a Scientist**, on how the world we live in today has been largely shaped by science and why humans are so sceptical about advances in medicine and technology.

From 12 -28 March Curiosity Brisbane returns for a celebration of science, art and technology debuting a series of **Curious Conversations** during World Science Festival Brisbane about our future hosted by *Master of Curious Conversations* **Benjamin Law**.

There will also be a number of Curiocities (interactive installations), throughout the City Botanic Gardens, South Bank, South Brisbane's Cultural Precinct and the Brisbane CBD, inviting visitors to explore and engage with a range of digital and physical attractions drawn from science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM).

Highlights of the 2021 World Science Festival Brisbane now on sale:

PANELS AND TALKS

THE PULSE OF THE PANDEMIC:

Join a discussion among Australia's top experts as they examine the COVID-19 outbreak, the near misses that came before it and the likely scenarios of another pandemic. They will give us insights into the situation from a biomedical point of view and how can we avoid viral outbreaks altogether.

Presented with Academic Partner The University of Queensland.

WHY TRUST A SCIENTIST?

In an age when fake news and misinformation can go viral, there is probably no better time to ask why should we trust scientists? Do doctors know what's best for us? Should we take climate experts for their word? To find out the answer join **Dr Karl Kruszelnicki** and a panel of experts for this timely and provocative discussion.

HUNTING THE COSMIC DAWN

Join a constellation of astrophysicists and their celestially inclined counterparts as they shine new light into the cosmos to determine what the first stars looked like, the nature of dark energy and the future of the universe. Presented with Academic Partner The University of Queensland.

CITIES 2060

By 2060 Australia's population will have reached 40,000,000. Two-thirds of us will live in one of the four largest cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane. What can be done to keep cities sprawling outwards? How can technology be used to create a better place to live? And will the COVID pandemic leave a lasting impression on our future city blueprints? Presented with Academic Partner Griffith University.

RUNNING THE PLANET WITHOUT COSTING THE EARTH

Energy experts will explore the path to a sustainable future and reveal some of the ground-breaking solutions that just might save our planet in **Running the Planet Without Costing the Earth**. Presented with Academic Partner QUT.

LIVE MUSIC AND CONVERSATIONS

THE NUCLEUS

They say laughter is the best medicine and there's lots of laughs to be had at **The Nucleus**, a purposed built marquee located at River Plaza, Queensland Cultural Centre, when you combine late-night variety shows with trivia, comedy and science stuff that will stimulate the senses while you listen to some cool tunes; so grab a ticket and a drink and enjoy a spot of science comedy among friends.

- Expect a jam-packed afternoon of short talks that will intrigue, excite and inspire with the return of ABC Science show **Ockham's Razor**, a soapbox for all things scientific: stories, insights, arguments or tributes – anything that can be packed into an entertaining ten minutes.
- Brisbane based acoustic R&B group **Beauty & The Beats** will create an explosion of pop-inspired, R&B acoustic mixed with rap. Featuring soul singer Lana Tukaroa, fingerstyle guitarist Sarah Koppen and award-winning beatboxer Hope One. This is a unique musical recipe you'll want to hear.
- **Science (in) Fiction** will explore the role of fiction in communicating scientific facts. A trilogy of writers will draw on their own and others' works to share techniques that weave science facts into fictional storytelling.
- Uncover some weird and wacky science at **A Lighter Side of Science**. When you combine a late-night variety show with trivia, comedy and bizzarro science stuff, you're up for an unforgettable evening of mind-boggling, jaw-aching, simulated science-silliness!

BACK AGAIN IN 2021

THE TURTLE HATCHERY

World Science Festival Brisbane's most popular events returns to Queensland Museum. 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. Plus, you can tune into 24-hour live stream of turtles hatching.

CITY OF SCIENCE

For the first time **City of Science** will stretch beyond Queensland's Cultural Precinct taking science out of the lab and onto the streets of Brisbane and all the way to Mt Coot-tha from Wednesday 24 – Sunday 28 March. Visitors will see cool scientists doing crazy experiments in the Queen Street Mall, learn about chemistry, space, biology, weather, animals, technology and more and connect online with new digital programs, podcasts and audio tours. Plus, get ready to unleash your 'disruptive' tech geek in a mind-boggling, hands-on deep dive into artificial intelligence, robotics and extended reality!

WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL PROGRAM

The festival's regional program in 2021 will again provide Queensland regions the opportunity to get involved locally. Programs designed to engage community members in stimulating and inspiring experiences, will be unique to each location, and will offer a selection of science activities and discussions with leading scientists, and workshops.

For more information and to buy tickets visit www.worldsciencefestival.com.au

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ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE | 24 - 28 March, 2021 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

World Science Festival Brisbane explores and celebrates the entanglement of science and art through a curated program of thought-provoking conversations, inspiring theatrical and cinematic experiences, interactive workshops and engaging demonstrations. Originating in New York, Queensland Museum Network secured an exclusive licence to host World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific from 2016–21. 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.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL QUEENSLAND | various dates, 2021 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

World Science Festival Queensland explores and celebrates the entanglement of science and art at regional locations around Queensland.

EVENT	DATE
World Science Festival Brisbane	24 - 28 March 2021
Regional Program	
World Science Festival Queensland Townsville	7 – 8 May 18 September – 4 October (School holiday program)
World Science Festival Queensland Chinchilla	6 and 7 June
World Science Festival Queensland Gladstone	29 and 30 August
World Science Festival Queensland Toowoomba	10 and 11 October 26 June – 11 July (School holiday program)
World Science Festival Queensland Ipswich	7 and 8 November 18 September- 4 October (School holiday program)

ABOUT CURIOCITY BRISBANE | 12 – 28 March 2021 | curiocitybrisbane.com

Curiosity Brisbane builds on Queensland’s reputation as a leader in innovation, technology and the future through a creative mix of events, music, conversations and hands-on Curiocities—fun and engaging interactive physical and digital installations in public spaces.