

Museum set to explode back on the scene with a celebration of science

Museum of Tropical Queensland will re-open its doors with a bang this May to coincide with World Science Festival Queensland's return to Townsville for an action-packed, free community day exploring the wonders of science.

To celebrate, the museum will host a free World Science Festival Queensland's *City of Science: Townsville* on Saturday 8 May as part of the 2021 World Science Festival Queensland program.

North Queensland schools are also invited to participate in a free dedicated student day for the festival celebrations on Friday 7 May with talks from leading scientists and events and activities for STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) learning.

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch said World Science Festival Queensland's return to Townsville was a perfect way for the Museum of Tropical Queensland to celebrate its re-opening after completion of essential roof restoration works.

"We're excited to reopen the Museum of Tropical Queensland in time for World Science Festival Queensland to re-connect locals with the wonders of science, together with its engaging exhibitions and collections," Minister Enoch said.

"Now in its sixth year, the World Science Festival offers Queenslanders the opportunity to celebrate the advances of science.

"The Palaszczuk Government supports this landmark event, the only World Science Festival held outside of New York, to showcase innovation, creativity and the true wonder of science.

"The arts are key to delivering the Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery, each year injecting \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs for Queenslanders.

"MTQ is a big part of the North Queensland community, and the reopening means visitors can once again come along and re-discover all the museum has to offer," Ms Enoch said.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Dr Jim Thompson said the museum closed its doors in March 2020 during COVID, which allowed extensive exterior and interior roof repair work to be undertaken.

"The roof works have been completed and we'd like to thank the Townsville community for their patience and also their unwavering support of us online on our Museum at Home website, during the closure," Dr Thompson said.

"Our teams are looking forward to reconnecting with visitors in person and inviting them to rediscover all their favorite things inside the museum and join in the fun during World Science Festival Queensland in Townsville in May."

Members with annual passes will get a special sneak peek before the official opening with early access to the museum from 27 April to 5 May to enjoy the museum's permanent galleries including *Pandora* and the ever-popular *Sciencentre*, visitors will also be delighted to discover the latest travelling exhibition *Ancient Rome: The Empire that Shaped the World* when it opens in Townsville on Saturday 22 May.

Important dates and information for Museum of Tropical Queensland reopening:

- 27 April – 5 May 2021. Annual Pass holder pre-opening access only to the museum. Bookings will be required. Booking details will be released closer to the date.
- Friday 7 May 2021. World Science Festival Queensland, Student Day. Bookings now open for teachers and schools. [web address]
- Saturday 8 May 2021. Official reopening event. World Science Festival Queensland, *City of Science: Townsville*. Free entry, however bookings will be required. Booking details will be released closer to the event.

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