

**QUEENSLAND
MUSEUM NETWORK**
PRESENTS



MEDIA RELEASE

World Science Festival Brisbane 9–13 March
Curiosity Brisbane 9–20 March

28 Jan 2022

Future of science at the heart of World Science Festival Brisbane 2022

World Science Festival Brisbane is set to stimulate curious minds in 2022 when science and art join forces to explore possibilities for the future.

Brisbane transforms into a city of science with interactive art and science installations, engaging conversations with leading scientists and experts and a curated program of free and ticketed events across the five-day Festival from 9 to 13 March 2022.

With its dynamic mix of scientific surprises and fun discoveries, World Science Festival Brisbane's 2022 theme is '**Science, People, Heart**', investigating how science, creativity and art are shaping a brighter world and humanity's willingness to embrace it.

Visitors will be inspired by real science, for real people and have the chance to ask real questions on health, the great space race, palaeontology, marine archaeology, ethics and much more.

2022 also marks the return of crowd favourites **The Hatchery: Turtle Conservation Experience** at Queensland Museum, **City of Science** free family science fun and a **digital program** allowing audiences from around the world to join in and listen to leading experts discuss a range of topics.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Jim Thompson said this year the Festival would traverse an extraordinary scientific and creative journey with new experiences and the return of some much-loved favourites.

"This year, with the addition of Curiosity Brisbane, audiences will have the chance to revel in science that thrills and challenges, explore interactive art installations, take part in dynamic talks and engage in loads of family fun," Dr Thompson said.

"Arts and science are similar in that they are expressions of what it is to be human in this world. Both are driven by curiosity, discovery and the aspiration for knowledge of the world or oneself.

"Now, more than ever, it's important that visitors have the opportunity to explore subjects and stories that also influence people's understanding and opinion on a range of topics, from science and history facts to social debates and discussions."

Minister for the Arts Leanne Enoch said the collaboration between arts and science weaves a story that has been told for thousands of generations and is the key to engaging our future.

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“The 2022 World Science Festival Brisbane will feature thought-provoking fun and scientific surprises to inspire the hearts and minds of Queenslanders of all ages,” Minister Enoch said.

“Following the March event in Brisbane, Queensland communities in Townsville, Gladstone, Chinchilla, Ipswich and Toowoomba will experience the wonder of the World Science Festival.

“Since it started in 2016 the World Science Festival Queensland has attracted more than 800,000 visitors across the state and injected more than \$36 million into the state’s economy.

“The Queensland Government is investing \$9 million over the next three festivals to ensure Queensland continues can engage with the wonders of science, grow economic outcomes and deliver community benefits.”

The World Science Festival, co-founded by physicist **Brian Greene** and award-winning broadcast journalist **Tracy Day**, has enthralled audiences around the world since 2008.

Professor Greene emphasized the vital importance of the Festival in elevating public engagement with science.

“One of our motivations behind the World Science Festival was to help shift the cultural attitude toward science, exploration and discovery,” Prof Greene said.

“The World Science Festival Brisbane brings science out of the lab and into public spaces of the city, heightening awareness of how science is all around us, informing and inspiring audiences of all ages, and celebrating the power of science to drive innovation and spark curiosity.”

New for 2022, World Science Festival Brisbane also encompasses **Curiosity Brisbane** from 9 to 20 March when it transforms Brisbane into a world of discovery for 12 days of immersive science, art and technology.

Curious visitors of all ages can explore, create and play with the physical and digital *Curiosities*, including never-before-seen installations created by artists and makers from across the state and around the globe.

The *Curiosities* will be spread across South Bank, South Brisbane’s Cultural Precinct along a 5km walking trail taking visitors on a unique journey of creativity.

Tourism and Innovation Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the dynamic partnership combination of World Science Festival Brisbane and Curiosity Brisbane would amplify the experiences of visitors to the state.

“This fascinating extension of art and science aims to establish Queensland as a destination for science engagement, attracting visitors nationally and globally,” Minister Hinchliffe said.

“Events like this help drive visitors to Brisbane to explore our regions and spend with local businesses, reinforcing Queensland’s position as a world-class tourism, events and cultural destination.”

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Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said hosting the World Science Festival would cement Brisbane's reputation as the Asia Pacific hub for science and innovation, while being a catalyst for the city's economic recovery.

"The World Science Festival will showcase the best Brisbane has to offer, while transforming our city into an interactive place to 'explore, create and play,' Cr Schrinner said.

"Brisbane is home to globally acclaimed research institutions and boasts proud achievements in science and technology, making us the perfect destination to host the brightest minds from across Australia and the globe."

With more than 130 events, this year's World Science Festival Brisbane will be a showstopper as thousands of people are expected to visit venues across the Cultural Precinct to take part in thought-provoking conversations, interactive installations, musical performances, and outdoor activities.

Opening night of the Festival, Wednesday 9 March, join Professor Greene as he presents **Einstein and the Quantum: Entanglement and Emergence** at QPAC.

Streaming live from New York, Professor Brian Greene and some of Australia's leading researchers will redefine the frontiers of Quantum Mechanics and Relativity. Astrophysicist Tamara Davis and ABC's Jonathan Webb will be live on stage to ask Brian your questions on the night.

NET ZERO: Investing in the Future on Friday 11 March will feature Australia's Chief Scientist Dr **Cathy Foley**, journalist and comedian **Dan Ilic** and businessman **Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest**.

It's said only two things in life are certain – death and taxes – but the Festival would like to add another to that list: humanity's drive to explore the unknown. **The Great Space Race 2.0** experts will discuss the commercialisation of space and what it will take to tame this new, wild frontier.

What on earth is so good about Mars dives into why humans are so fascinated with the red planet, what the Mars rovers are discovering and what the implications are for the human race.

On Saturday 12 March, it's the World Science Festival Brisbane's inaugural nerdy spectacular, **Night of the Nerds**.

Hosted by satirist **Mark Humphries**, joined on stage by Australia's favourite science communicator **Dr Karl Kruszelnicki**, comedians **Dan Ilic** and **Lawrence Leung**, scientist and TV presenter **Angharad Yeo** and a rocking house band led by ARIA-winning musician **Clare Bowditch**, to find out who is the ultimate nerd.

The Nucleus, located at South Bank Piazza will be the chilled out informative heart of the Festival as audiences engage with talks on topics designed to push boundaries and spark conversations.

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Queer Science! is about breaking down barriers for young queers pursuing a career in STEM. Audiences can hear first-hand from incredible queers in the scientific community including transgender neuroscientist **Dr Alison Wright**.

Paul Dempsey, lead singer of Aussie rock band Something For Kate, and sexologist Chantelle Otten will take to the stage and talk music and science in **Fantastic Science X Pecha Kucha**.

For those who prefer to consume scientific discovery and discussion from the comfort of home, a smorgasbord of intriguing digital content awaits, tackling the issues of Cybercrime, The Rights of Nature, and Climate Change.

Another first for 2022 are the **Get Green! Sustainability Markets** on Sunday 13 March promoting a collection of local sustainable and eco-conscious small businesses and workshops at South Bank's Flowstate green.

The markets will have everything from lovingly made sustainable products to weaving workshops and educational sessions on recycling and waste minimisation. The Festival once again hits the road with the World Science Festival Queensland bringing the wonder of science to the Townsville, Gladstone, Chinchilla, Ipswich and Toowoomba regions.

In 2021, crowds flocked to the regional programs, embraced the dynamic programming and listened to some of Australia's eminent scientists.

"We're looking forward to welcoming Dr Karl back in 2022, to answer more curly science questions, and to continue the momentum of engaging visitors of all ages in learning more about STEM," Dr Thompson said.

To keep up to date with programs and events for World Science Festival Brisbane and World Science Festival Queensland, sign up to receive news and offers via the website www.worldsciencefestival.com.au

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World Science Festival Brisbane 2022 is presented by Queensland Museum Network with generous support from Queensland Government and **Strategic Partners** Tourism Events Queensland and Brisbane Economic Development Agency **Major Partner** BHP **Academic Partners** Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and The University of Queensland **Community Partner** QGC **Media Partners** ABC Radio Brisbane, ABC Radio National, The Courier Mail, GOA and The Weekend Edition **Futures Partner** PwC Australia **Education Partner** Queensland Performing Arts Centre **Program Partners** Brisbane City Council, C&K, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, State Library of Queensland and South Bank Parklands **Official Suppliers** AARNet and Mantra South Bank.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE | 9 -13 March 2022 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

Queensland Museum Network holds exclusive licence to host World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific – the only global extension of this initiative, and WSFB has attracted more than 800,000 attendances, and \$36 million in to the Queensland economy, since 2016. World Science Festival Brisbane reinforces Queensland’s position as a knowledge economy and ignites new and challenging discussions about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) so that more and more people experience the value, impacts and wonder of science.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL QUEENSLAND | various dates, 2022 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

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

ABOUT CURIOCITY BRISBANE | 9 -20 March 2022 |

Since 2019, Curiosity Brisbane has sparked inspiration and innovation, transforming our city into an interactive place to “explore, create and play”. During March, Curiosity Brisbane showcases a number of physical and digital installations for visitors to discover and explore. In 2022, Curiosity Brisbane will be delivered as part of World Science Festival Brisbane, presented by Queensland Museum Network.

EVENT	DATE
World Science Festival Brisbane	9 -13 March 2022
Curiosity Brisbane	9 -20 March 2022
Regional Program	
World Science Festival Queensland Townsville	13 – 14 May June – July (School holiday program)
World Science Festival Queensland Gladstone	17 – 18 June
World Science Festival Queensland Chinchilla	29 – 30 July
World Science Festival Queensland Ipswich	9 – 10 September September (School holiday program)
World Science Festival Queensland Toowoomba	9 -10 October April (School holiday program)