

MEDIA RELEASE

27 October 2022

World Science Festival Brisbane's 2023 school program is full of super scientific surprises of STEM engagement!

Queensland students and educators are invited to step out of the classroom and into a dynamic world of STEM discovery when Queensland Museum's World Science Festival Brisbane school program returns in 2023.

Educators can select from a smorgasbord of sessions that explore the scientific wonder of our everyday world—from chemical transformations, mathematical magic and the robotics domain to biology, biodiversity and conservation up close.

From 22-26 March 2023, World Science Festival Brisbane will take over the city, and during that time the three-day education program will run from Wednesday 22 March to Friday 24 March 2023 to energise and inspire our inventors, explorers, creative thinkers and scientists of tomorrow.

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch said the World Science Festival Brisbane presents students with fun and engaging scientific experiences.

"Each year an average of more than 200 different schools from across Queensland take part in the school program for World Science Festival Brisbane," Minister Enoch said.

"The World Science Festival Brisbane is the only festival of its kind held outside of New York, with a regional component travelling to five communities across the state.

"The school program provides a brilliant opportunity for Queensland students to experience a truly innovative festival.

"The Queensland Government has supported the World Science Festival Brisbane since its inception in 2016, attracting 872,415 visitors in Brisbane and in communities across the state.

"Our Government investment of \$9 million to secure the event from 2022 to 2024 gives Queenslanders, students and visitors to the state the chance to explore the wonders of science, helping to grow our reputation as a leader in delivering outstanding cultural events," Ms Enoch said.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Dr Jim Thompson was looking forward to welcoming audiences back to World Science Festival Brisbane in 2023 after programming was reimaged to a virtual offering due to flooding in early 2022.

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“After a challenging start to 2022 that saw our school programs delivered online, we are looking forward to hosting live, in-person events where students can immerse themselves in hands-on STEM learning,” Dr Thompson said.

“We are proud to offer an exhilarating range of interactive experiences for students of all ages that are grounded in curriculum and support a culture of lifelong learning. Encouraging students to step out of the classroom and experience STEM in real-world applications demonstrates the importance, and excitement of STEM careers.

“World Science Festival Brisbane provides teachers with another dimension to class-based learning. We know that students thrive on exposure to new experiences, and that providing a fun, yet informative environment outside the classroom helps to reinforce what students are learning at school. Linking student’s learning with our real-world research and experts is key to the continued success of our school program.”

World Science Festival Brisbane 2023 school program includes:

- **The Hatchery: Turtle Conservation Experience** – Enjoy a rare glimpse of baby turtles hatching in the nursery at Queensland Museum.
- **Biology: The Fascinating Diversity of Life** – A live-stage extravaganza showcasing living systems and their interactions to inspire and empower with deep knowledge about the grand nature of life
- **Insect Investigators: Uncovering Australia's Biodiversity** – An exciting collaborative science project between taxonomic experts and schools to collect specimens of invertebrates right across Australia, *Insect Investigators* is truly engaging citizen science! Queensland Museum’s entomology experts will share their secrets on what they know of Australia’s insects and the critical research happening right here at the museum.
- **CHEMISTRY: Molecular Transformations and Enchanting Reactions** – World-class chemists will take students on a magical journey into transformations, interactions and energy transfers of everyday materials in this electric stage show.
- **Math Games!** - Dr Chris Ferrie’s team of fun and creative mathematicians show the fun side of math, with mind-blowing puzzles and games using problem solving and logic to convert any mathematical sceptic into a math lover.
- **Wild Rangers Wildlife Encounters** – World Science Festival Brisbane’s special live-animal show lets students get up close and personal with some of Australia’s favourite animals.
- **Build A Spy Robot: Workshop** – Students will explore the fundamentals of robotics and open-source technology with a surveillance twist!
- **Science Pranks!!** – Putting practical science in practical jokes, students will challenge the laws of physics, biology, and chemistry through wildly entertaining (and perfectly safe) activities.

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- **PHYSICS: Matter, Energy and the Blueprint of Our Universe** – The fascinating and powerful world of physics will be demonstrated through exhilarating live stage experiments, taking students on a thrilling ride from quantum phenomena to the expanse of the universe.
- **STEM Integration – Professional Development** – This is one for our educators! STEM Punks and Queensland Museum present an educator PD and museum activation adventure that explores embedding advanced and relevant technologies to spark interest and deliver on content/curriculum demands. Networking and evening entertainment included.
- **Erth's Prehistoric Picnic** – Featuring Erth's towering three-metre Thunderbird puppets, this is no average stroll in the park! Meet ancient creatures that are remembered in the stories of our nation's first people, as the majestic Thunderbirds return to walk their lands.

Schools can further extend their World Science Festival Brisbane excursion experience with additional activities and exhibitions, including live snake feeding, free *Curiosity Brisbane* art/science tours, a visit to *SparkLab*, *Sciencentre* and the many exhibitions available throughout the museum.

World Science Festival Queensland 2023 regional program also includes school and education events in Chinchilla, Gladstone and across Queensland Museum Network campuses in Townsville, Toowoomba, and Ipswich.

For more information on the 2023 school program, *Curiosity Brisbane* and updates about World Science Festival Brisbane and World Science Festival Queensland visit www.worldsciencefestival.com.au

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*World Science Festival Brisbane's 2023 school program is presented by Queensland Museum with generous support from Queensland Government and **Strategic Partners** Tourism Events Queensland and Brisbane Economic Development Agency and **Education Partner** Queensland Performing Arts Centre.*

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE | 22 - 26 March, 2023 | 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 injected \$36 million into 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.

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ABOUT CURIOCITY BRISBANE | 22 March – 2 April 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

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 2023, Curiosity Brisbane will be delivered as part of World Science Festival Brisbane, presented by Queensland Museum Network.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL QUEENSLAND | various dates, 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

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

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