

MEDIA RELEASE

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Out of this world line up for WSFB 2023

An out of this world line up for **World Science Festival Brisbane 2023** has been unveiled today showcasing a jam-packed program overflowing with science, art, culture and family fun.

Running 22-26 March 2023 and presented by Queensland Museum Network, World Science Festival Brisbane will make a triumphant return with more than 130 events and activities on offer that will inspire, delight and entertain.

World Science Festival Brisbane will unlock the mysteries of ancient medical practices and the dinosaurs that once roamed the earth; we will launch into the wonders of space and the great unknown beyond our solar system and dive into the science of the First Australians and how it can influence our future.

Returning to Australia for the first time since 2019, World Science Festival co-founder and renowned physicist Professor Brian Greene will headline four key conversations including ***The Golden Age of Space Exploration*** on opening night, ***Memory: The Hidden Pathways That Make Us Human***, ***Rewriting the Story of Humankind*** and ***The Unfolding Cosmos: Revelations from the James Webb Space Telescope***.

The festival will host the winner of Australia's Best Comedy Podcast - ***A Rational Fear!***, live on stage with a special recording at World Science Festival Brisbane, while the Planetarium will take a dive into the Great Barrier Reef with a showing of ***CORAL: Rekindling Venus*** from award-winning filmmaker **Lynette Wallworth**.

Following sold-out shows in 2022, ***Night of the Nerds*** will return with quizmaster **Mark Humphries** alongside team captains comedian **Dan Ilic** and science communicator extraordinaire **Angharad Yeo** vying for victory.

Also returning will be the popular **Lunchtime Labs** in Queen Street Mall and **City of Science** – a pop-up extravaganza of hands-on activities, demonstrations and STEM stations right around Brisbane.

At the heart of the festival, Queensland Museum will be transformed into a hub of live music, shows, comedy and science with a new event **Social Science** on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 March.

Crowd-favourite, **The Hatchery**, will return with visitors able to capture a rare glimpse of baby loggerhead turtles hatching in their incubation chambers, with tickets to this free event expected to sell out quickly.

Curiosity Brisbane will once again run as a key pillar of World Science Festival Brisbane from 22 March – 2 April, showcasing 14 inspirational artworks across South Bank.

This includes **Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey's PIVOT**, a field of semi-intelligent seesaws that talk, sing, and create conversations; **Simone Eisler's** seven metre tall **The Climate Wars**;

Indigenous artist **Jennifer Herd's** large scale vinyl image *Amplify/Defy*; while **Hochschuh & Donovan's** *Cybernetic Intimacy* investigates interspecies communications.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Dr Jim Thompson said World Science Festival Brisbane and *Curiocity Brisbane* were set to return with a program that has something for everyone.

"Since 2016, Queensland Museum Network has presented World Science Festival Brisbane and as the festival continues to evolve, so does the diversity of programming on offer," Dr Thompson said.

"There is something about the unknown elements of space travel and the cosmos beyond that resonates with our audiences and this year we'll welcome guests from NASA, the European Space Agency and the Australian Space Agency both in person and virtually to Brisbane for the festival.

"And, coinciding with the new *Dinosaurs of Patagonia* exhibition opening at the museum, there will be a range of dinosaur themed conversations and activities, including the closest thing you can get to a live dinosaur with *Earth's Prehistoric Picnic* roaring into the South Bank Piazza."

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch said World Science Festival Brisbane delivered outstanding science experiences combined with elements of art and creativity.

"In 2023, World Science Festival Brisbane and *Curiocity Brisbane* will take people on an eventful journey, visiting our ancient past, the cosmos, turtle hatcheries and so much more," Minister Enoch said.

"The festival will showcase the work of Queensland's first scientists - First Nations peoples - and apply this important work to help secure a sustainable future for our planet.

"The Palaszczuk Government supports Queensland Museum with annual funding of \$3 million to host the World Science Festival Brisbane and World Science Festival Queensland.

"Since 2016, World Science Festival Brisbane has reached more than 1 million people, with an economic impact of more than \$39 million to Queensland.

"This signature event helps to secure Queensland's reputation as an international destination for innovation and bold ideas in the lead up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games," Ms Enoch said.

International guests will once again return to Queensland for the festival to re-connect with local audiences, presenting their ideas and showcasing world-renowned scientific research.

World Science Festival co-founders Professor Brian Greene and Tracy Day said they are looking forward to returning to Australia for World Science Festival Brisbane in 2023.

"We're excited to participate in the WSF Brisbane in person for the first time since 2019," Ms Day said.

"While we were able to join remotely through our digital programming in each of the past three years, there is nothing more gratifying than seeing the throngs of visitors to the festival's events.

"We look forward to exploring all that the World Science Festival Brisbane has to offer during this month of activities across Brisbane, celebrating science and the arts."

Professor Greene added, "The World Science Festival is at the forefront of bringing the most provocative discoveries of our time to a global audience. The four programs that I am moderating at this year's festival feature renowned scientists and explorers whose expertise range from the discovery of new species of human relatives, to the mysteries of how memories form, to peering into the farthest reaches of the cosmos, and to the future of space exploration.

These programs join the myriad events and activities at the World Science Festival Brisbane that will inspire, excite and delight audiences with the power and vital importance of scientific knowledge."

Tourism and Innovation Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the World Science Festival Brisbane and *Curiosity Brisbane* were a highlight of the Palaszczuk Government's *It's Live! In Queensland* events calendar.

"The World Science Festival Brisbane and *Curiosity Brisbane* are set to deliver an unbeatable combination of science, innovation, art and tourism in 2023," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"With so much to inspire and explore, this is a hugely popular event with Queensland and interstate visitors who are predicted to spend more than \$12.7 million with Brisbane tourism and hospitality providers."

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said hosting the festival highlighted the city's reputation as an industry world leader and major events capital.

"Brisbane is renowned as a global hub for science, technology and innovation, along with a thriving local arts scene, making it the perfect city and only place outside of New York to host this unique event," he said.

"A popular drawcard for residents and visitors globally, this year's event is expected to attract 80,000 visitors to experience our beautiful city and bolster local business with a \$12 million boost to the economy."

In 2022, crowds flocked to the regional programs, embraced the dynamic programming and listened to some of Australia's eminent scientists.

The festival will hit the road throughout 2023 with World Science Festival Queensland bringing the wonder of science to Toowoomba, Chinchilla, Townsville, Gladstone and Ipswich.

Tickets for World Science Festival Brisbane are now on sale and the full program is available to view online.

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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Media accreditation is now open via www.worldsciencefestival.com.au

World Science Festival Brisbane 2023 is presented by Queensland Museum Network with support from Queensland Government and Strategic Partners Tourism Events Queensland and Brisbane Economic Development Agency.

PARTNERS:

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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. WSFB has attracted more than 800,000 attendances, and added \$36 million 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 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 invites visitors to let their imaginations roam free, with installations, workshops and talks from high-profile artists that celebrate the connection between art, science and technology. 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, including Toowoomba, Townsville, Ipswich, Chinchilla and Gladstone.

WSFB and WSFQ 2023 dates

World Science Festival Brisbane	Wednesday 22 – 26 March
Curiosity Brisbane	Wednesday 22 March – 2 April
World Science Festival Queensland Toowoomba	Sunday 21 May Monday 22 May (Schools Program) 24 June – 9 July (School Holiday Program)
World Science Festival Queensland Chinchilla	Friday 2 June (Schools Program) Saturday 3 June
World Science Festival Queensland Townsville	Friday 23 June (Schools Programs) Saturday 24 June 24 June – 9 July (School Holiday Program)
World Science Festival Queensland Gladstone	Friday 28 July (Schools Program) Saturday 29 July
World Science Festival Queensland Ipswich	1 – 16 April (School Holiday Program) Friday 11 August (Schools Program) Saturday 12 August