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MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

‘FREE FOR ALL’ WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE ‘FREE KIDS’ INITIATIVE AT POWERHOUSE MUSEUM AND THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM PLUS WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Powerhouse Museum will open its doors ‘free for all’ on the weekend of **Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June** to celebrate the NSW Government’s commitment to ongoing free general admission for children under 16 and high school aged students.

On this special weekend, admission will be free for adults and children alike, with children of all ages unleashing their creativity with contemporary theatre company **Polyglot**, transforming the Powerhouse Museum with *Paper Planet*, a world made of paper.

“*Kids Free* is an exciting initiative of the NSW Government to create more opportunities for children and families to experience arts and culture,” Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Troy Grant said.

“With school holidays starting that weekend, visiting a museum is a great way to get the kids out of the house and into the arts” he said.

MAAS Director, **Rose Hiscock** said both museums provide inspiration for enquiring young minds.

“Encouraging curiosity is our business, which is why we are so excited to be offering free admission for kids,” said Ms Hiscock.

“With a wealth of programming unfolding over the next twelve months there will be every opportunity for kids to build, make, explore and learn more about the way our world works at Powerhouse Museum.”

During the free weekend the curators of the Powerhouse Museum will also reveal the secrets behind treasures in the Museum’s collection. Visitors can marvel at a ‘mystery object’ and guess what it might be as Museum experts showcase an object not usually on display.

Visitors over the weekend can also bring along a personal object to share in the ‘Mini Expert Show and Tell’. The iconic Boulton and Watt steam engine will also in action, and visitors can drive a robotic rover in the Mars Yard and go wild in our zero gravity chamber.

FOR FURTHER MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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MAAS WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

PAPER PLANET

Cost: included with Museum admission

Duration: 27 Jun-12 Jul, 10am-4pm, drop-in

Ages: 4+

During the school holidays Polyglot Theatre will transform the Powerhouse Museum into a *Paper Planet*.

Paper Planet is a spectacular world of tall cardboard trees inviting kids and adults to fill the world with fantastic paper creations.

CITY SCAPES

Cost: included with Museum admission

Duration: 27 Jun-12 Jul, 9.30am-4.30pm, drop-in

Ages: 4+

Calling all budding architects and engineers! Step into the construction site and collaborate to build massive structures using only interlocking cardboard pieces.

PERFORMATIVE STORYTELLING

Cost: included with Museum admission

Duration: 27 Jun-12 Jul, times 11am 12pm, 1pm and 2pm, 15 minute shows.

Ages: 4-10

Spark your curiosity through performative storytelling that explores the creativity needed to create our world and everything in it. Using the Museum's collection as a backdrop expert storytellers use improvisation and audience participation as visitors get swept up in the captivating retelling of the building of NSW's railways.

RECOLLECT: TOY TRAINS (DISPLAY)

Cost: included with Museum admission

Duration: 6 June 2015 – February 2016

Explore the wonderful miniature world of toy trains with this fascinating display showcasing more than 200 objects from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences' extensive collection.

DIGITAL MEDIA WORKSHOPS, 27 June – 12 July

Visit maas.museum to book online and for specific workshop dates/ times

Ages: 7+

Mega Minecraft

The world is empty with new biomes! They've created strange new blocks and magical biomes but need help assembling them. Be part of imagining a new built world and creating it from the ground up. This workshop features design skills, team building and a safe moderated multi-player environment. Experienced and new players all welcome to be part of the creative collaboration.

Game design and coding

Explore your inner game designer with professional game development workshops using industry Unity3D engine. Learn to code in Python by building amazing structures and mini games in Minecraft. Explore electronics by programming robots and making wearable technology.

Movie making

Explore the secrets to becoming a YouTube movie star with our in depth 3 day movie making workshops. Get access to a professional studio and tools to create a movie in a full production environment. Explore the tricks behind Claymation using a tablet and take your skills home to keep making more!

Family programs

Come and learn as a family. Parents accompany and participate in these workshops with their children. Designed to encourage learning and collaboration at home by giving you the building blocks to continue exploring outside of the museum. Workshops cover a wide variety of topics from visual coding with Scratch, making Claymation with a tablet to coding with the Python programming language popular at schools.