

FREE MUSEUM WEEKEND 25 & 26 JUNE



RECORD NUMBERS VISIT SYDNEY'S FAVOURITE MUSEUMS

SUNDAY 26 JUNE. SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: Thousands of families have enjoyed Sydney's two leading museums for free this weekend – the **Australian Museum (AM)** and **Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS)**, in celebration of the NSW Government's free kids policy at both museums.

Attracting nearly 70,000 visitors across the Australian Museum, Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory, the second annual Free Museum Weekend has been a huge hit with fans

"The Free Museum Weekend is to make science and culture accessible to everyone, and to remind Sydney-siders of the incredible world-class museums they have available to them." Kim McKay AO, Australian Museum Director and CEO, said.

"We are thrilled to have welcomed so many visitors through our doors marking the first year of Kids Free at both Museums."

The Australian Museum welcomed **30,279** people through its doors to experience its award-winning exhibition *Trailblazers: Australia's 50 greatest explorers* as well as the new *Wild Planet* gallery.

Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory saw **over 38,800** visitors across the weekend, who were among the first to participate in *Tanabata: Star Village*, a collaborative community art installation celebrating the Japanese fable of the night sky.

"Museums are places where life-long memories are created, and by working in collaboration with the Australian Museum we can facilitate discovery and inspire generations of Australians to dream, to imagine the possibilities and realise their ambitions," Dolla Merrillees, Director of MAAS, said.

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Australian Museum (AM)

Australian Museum (AM), founded in 1827, is the nation's first museum, and is an internationally recognised natural science and culture institution focused on Australia and the Pacific. As custodian of more than 18 million objects, the AM is uniquely positioned to provide a greater understanding of the region through its scientific research, exhibitions and public and education programs. Through the Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI), the AM also has a leading role in conserving Australia's biodiversity through understanding the environmental impacts of climate change, potential biosecurity threats and invasive species.

Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences (MAAS)

The Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and Museums Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.

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