

## MEDIA RELEASE



*Star Wars* fans will descend on the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney this year for the *Star Wars* Ultimate Fan Weekend. In celebration of the annual 'May the 4th Be With You' fan day, the Museum and The Walt Disney Company Australia will host a large-scale event over the weekend of May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

From Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>, a 1:1 scale X-wing Resistance fighter will land outside the Museum and over weekend, the *Star Wars* universe will come alive throughout the Museum with Jedi Training, character appearances, costume competitions, augmented reality experiences, coding workshops, games and more.

**MAAS Director and CEO, Dolla Merrillees**, said, "For over four decades *Star Wars* has been the pop culture expression of where science meets imagination. If the craft from *Star Wars* were actual space ships they would certainly be on display at the Powerhouse Museum! The MAAS collection does include rare, original *Star Wars* merchandise that we are excited to be putting on display. We are delighted to welcome fans to the Museum for the *Star Wars* Ultimate Fan Weekend."

### **Star Wars Ultimate Fan Weekend highlights**

- Jump in the cockpit of a 1:1 scale X-wing Resistance fighter
- Experience the thrill of an augmented reality lightsaber duel with Lenovo's *Star Wars*: Jedi Challenges
- Repair BB-8 and friends in the virtual reality story, *Star Wars*: Droid Repair Bay
- Hone your lightsaber technique and don training robes with Jedi Experience
- Bring BB-8, BB-9E and R2-D2 to life with hands-on Sphero coding classes
- See *Star Wars* collector's items from the MAAS collection
- Join talks and panels with *Star Wars* fans and commentators
- View screenings of both fan-made and official *Star Wars* content
- Capture selfies with life-size character statues (including Chewbacca!)
- Let the kids loose in space in the themed playground
- Sign up for coding workshops and costume competitions
- Lots more to be announced!

The ultimate *Star Wars* experience will spill out onto the forecourt of the Museum and into the evening when the Museum is open on Saturday night for an adults-only evening.

May the Fourth be with you!

Event: *Star Wars* Ultimate Fan Weekend  
Dates: 9am – 6pm, Saturday 5 May & Sunday 6 May; 7pm – 10pm, Saturday 5 May (adults only)  
Tickets: Bookings essential: \$15 adults, \$8 concession, Members and children under 16 free with a reserved ticket.  
[starwarsfanweekend.eventbrite.com](http://starwarsfanweekend.eventbrite.com)  
Address: Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo NSW 2007  
Website: [maas.museum/event/star-wars-ultimate-fan-weekend/](http://maas.museum/event/star-wars-ultimate-fan-weekend/)  
Images: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fkgcyjke478rms4/AADLrDNHFADmOF7p\\_TL8D4oia?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fkgcyjke478rms4/AADLrDNHFADmOF7p_TL8D4oia?dl=0)

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### About the Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences

The Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and 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 founded in 1879 has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.

### About May The 4<sup>th</sup>

May 4th is a day *Star Wars* fans have chosen to celebrate and honour all-things-*Star Wars*, be it by posting *Star Wars* related content to social media, hosting *Star Wars* screening parties, wearing *Star Wars* costumes and clothing, or shopping for *Star Wars* merchandise.

Why May 4th? Because, as it happens, fans invented a clever turn of phrase based on the classic *Star Wars* slogan "May the Force Be With You" back in 1978: "May the FOURTH Be With You". While originally invoked among US fans as a Fourth of July greeting, it was reset to May 4th the following year when a full-page ad appeared in the May 4, 1979 issue of *The London Evening News* to congratulate British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on her taking office that day: "May the Fourth Be With You, Maggie. Congratulations!"

Since then, and especially in recent years, *Star Wars* fans have claimed May 4th as their day, a day that has also given Lucasfilm an opportunity to give back to the *Star Wars* community that honours that galaxy far, far away.

Since 2012, Lucasfilm has encouraged May the 4th activities through its official website and social channels as well as provided built-in discounts and special offers on *Star Wars* merchandise. And since "May the 4th Be With You" doesn't carry the same witty punch when translated into other languages, "*Star Wars* Day" has been adopted to establish a global meaning for this annual worldwide celebration.

For more information on the history of *Star Wars* Day, check out this article on StarWars.com:

<http://www.starwars.com/news/gearing-up-for-may-the-4th-and-with-good-reason>