

MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY SCIENCE FESTIVAL WESTERN SYDNEY FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Bumper Program of Western Sydney Events Announced

Sydney Science Festival returns to Western Sydney this August, bringing a program of astronomical proportions to venues across Parramatta, Westmead, Penrith, Richmond, and Castle Hill from **Tuesday 7 – Sunday 19 August**.

Science fanatics can explore animal welfare science in ***The Science of Animals***, with RSPCA Scientific Officer Dr Bronwynn Orr; time-travel through the evolution of Australian medicine over the century in ***Health, Healing and Hospitals***; embark on a journey through the past, present and future of cancer treatment in ***World-leading Westmead: Oncology Innovations***; and learn about the influence of bilingualism on brain growth in ***Is Bilingualism Good for your Child's Brain?***

Other highlights include a bumper program across Western Sydney University campuses, including a virtual reality journey through places of the past in ***Travel Space and Time with Virtual Reality***; conversations with talented young designers at the forefront of innovation in ***Designing for Health and Wellbeing in a Smart City***; and ***Forensic Science: Crime Scene Investigation***, an insight into the fascinating world of forensic sciences.

See the full list of events taking place throughout Western Sydney below:

EARTH AND SPACE

- ***The Science of Animals: Humans, Wildlife and Pets*** – Do dogs prefer to be trained using treats or punishment? Do chickens have good or bad lives in battery cages? In this talk, RSPCA Scientific Officer **Dr Bronwynn Orr** explores the theory behind animal welfare science.
- ***Homeward Bound*** – In this engaging talk, Homeward Bound participant **Mary-Ellen Feeney** sheds light on her experiences with the project - an annual leadership program set in the waters off Antarctica, bringing together some of the best international women in STEM.
- ***Travel Space and Time with Virtual Reality*** – Travel back in time and take a walking tour through the past with virtual reality, from ancient Mesopotamia to Parramatta before Captain Cook's time, and The Rocks in 1901.
- ***Searching For ET*** - Are we alone in the universe? Learn about the latest developments in the search for life outside our planet with Australian astronomer **Dr Ragbir Bhathal**, who was involved in one of the longest searches in the Southern Hemisphere for laser pulses from ET life.
- ***Dr Karl in the West*** - Could there be life on one of Saturn's moons? What would happen if the Earth stopped spinning? Why are some people chronically late? How much power could you collect from all the lightning on Earth? And is your home WiFi really spying on you? **Dr Karl Kruszelnicki** presents a fun and fascinating talk explaining all.

HEALTH AND BODY

- ***Gut Health: Science Talk and Kombucha Workshop*** - A plant-based diet is often associated with improved gut health. But why? Learn more about how food processing can affect our gut health even before we consume it in this thought-provoking talk with Nutritional Food Scientist **Dr Anneline Padayachee**, all while you create your own glass of Kombucha.
- ***Health, Healing and Hospitals*** – Join the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre to time-travel through the evolution of Australian medicine in this engaging talk, from colonial times – when the convict hospital caused more illness than it cured – to the cutting-edge treatments of today.
- ***Is Bilingualism Good for your Child's Brain?*** – An intriguing talk on the science of language, **Dr Mark Antoniou** (Leader of the Speech and Language research program within The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development) explores the influence of bilingualism on brain growth among children.
- ***The Hidden World in your Gut with Alison Luk*** - Did you know that there are more bacteria living inside your intestine than there are people in the world? Microbiologist **Alison Luk** presents a stimulating talk on how you can keep your gut microbes healthy by eating the right types of food, and how your microbes return the favour by making you healthier.
- ***Nursing Innovations From And For The Heart*** – A talk delving into the intriguing story of Parramatta District Hospital's Cardiac Fitness and Rehabilitation Auxiliary. This pioneering unit was Australia's first, and one of the first in the world.
- ***World-leading Westmead: Oncology Innovations*** - This fascinating tour traverses the past, present and future of cancer treatment at Westmead Hospital, the world-leading research and teaching hospital in Sydney's West.
- ***Treating the Troubled Mind: Historical Tour*** - This coach tour journeys through the evolution of Australian mental health treatment, from colonial times to the cutting-edge, holistic treatments now being provided at Westmead. The tour concludes with a presentation by Director of Mental Health at Westmead Mental Health Services **A/Professor Beth Kotze**.
- ***The Chain of Survival*** – This series of pop-up events celebrates the medical breakthroughs that have increased the survival rate of cardiac patients over the last sixty years. Taking place across Parramatta's Robin Thomas Reserve, Farmer's Market and Lake Parramatta.
- ***Bush Medicine Workshop*** – Before personal trainers and gym memberships, how did people maintain their fitness and health? In this workshop, delve into the world of traditional Indigenous medicine and discover a range of natural cures and treatments for illness, injuries and infirmities which can be found in the Australian bushland.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- ***Designing for Health and Wellbeing in a Smart City*** - How do we live better as we age? Talented young designers at the forefront of innovation answer this question and more, in this talk exploring how we can integrate design, science and technology to live better, stronger and longer.

- **The Science of Pets:** How Humans and Animals Live Together – Join Macquarie University animal behaviour researcher **Matt Bulbert**, vet and University of Sydney vet science lecturer **Dr Anne Fawcett** and other animals experts for an afternoon dedicated to the discussion of our relationships with animals. Why we love them, why they love us, how we can make their lives better, how they make our lives better. Presented by the Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE).
- **Explore the Power of Code: Coderdojo** – Suitable for young programmers aged 7-17, these free, open air STEM workshops will teach kids how to code, develop websites, apps, programs, games and explore technology in an informal, creative environment.
- **Feel the Groove: Sync with the Musical Beat** - Join Western Sydney University's Music Cognition and Action Research Program Leader, **Professor Peter Keller** and Research Assistant Eline Smit exploring the limits of how well humans can synchronise with music and with one another.
- **Astronomy Night At Penrith Observatory** – All ages are welcome and curiosity is encouraged at this wondrous evening of astronomy fun. The event includes a presentation with Q&A presented by the team at Western Sydney University's Penrith Observatory, a short 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the Observatory's dome area, and an opportunity to view the night sky through a variety of telescopes.
- **Meet Real Life Scientists At Parramatta Library** – Come along to meet an eclectic panel of scientists and find out why they do what they do at this free event as part of Inspiring Australia's *Talking Science* series.
- **Forensic Science: Crime Scene Investigation** – Interested in studying forensics? Tour the Crime Scene Investigation Training and Research Facility that is used by the NSW Police Force to train their crime scene examiners, and find out what it's like to study forensics at Western Sydney University.

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Event: Sydney Science Festival

Dates: 7 – 19 August 2018

Website: www.sydneyscience.com.au