



national science week 2024

Media Release

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Fingerprinting forensics, looking for glow worms, and astronomical light shows

Explore caves of glowing creatures at night, learn about the science of the local wildlife, knit your own neuron, and literally try your hand at forensically fighting crime.

“I invite the Arcadia Waters community to get involved in National Science Week, Australia’s annual opportunity to meet scientists, discuss the hot topics, do science and celebrate its cultural and economic impact on society,” says Mayor Col Dunkley.

“Local activities include forensic fingerprinting and Neural Knitworks workshops at Central Library, night tours visiting the glow worms in the Arcadia Caves, and talks with scientists about native rosellas and how our backyards can provide urban habitat to support them.”

“We’re fortunate to have a climate that’s wet, warm and quite enough to allow glow worms to thrive,” says glow worm expert Violet Short. “They’re not actually worms; they’re the bioluminescent larvae of a type of fly and their glow attracts prey that becomes entangled in the larvae’s sticky silken threads.”

First held in 1997, National Science Week has become one of Australia’s largest festivals. Last year about 2.7 million people participated in more than 1860 events and activities.

In 2024, National Science Week events will be held online and right throughout Australia—from dinosaur encounters in the East to quokkas in the West, from food farming in the tropics to space tech in Tassie, and star gazing and dark sky mapping right across the country—plus science festivals, music and comedy shows, expert panel discussions, interactive displays, open days and online activities.

The festival is proudly supported by the Australian Government; partners CSIRO, the Australian Science Teachers Association and ABC Science.

National Science Week 2024 will run from 10-18 August. Event details can be found at www.scienceweek.net.au.

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Mayor Col Dunkley and Violet Short are available for media interviews.

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