



An Australian Government Initiative

national science week 2010

Background Information

Introduction

National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. Running each year in August, it features approximately 1,000 events around Australia, including those delivered by universities, schools, museums and science centres.

National Science Week is Australia's largest national festival, involving over one million event participants across the nation, with another 160,000 taking part in school activities. In fact, newpoll surveys reveal that over 50% of the general public are aware of National Science Week.

National Science Week is proudly supported by the Australian Government in a variety of ways, including the provision of up to \$500,000 for the National Science Week Grants Program. Other partners include the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA).

For over ten years, National Science Week has been providing an opportunity to acknowledge Australian scientists' contributions to the world of knowledge, encouraging interest in science pursuits and getting younger people fascinated by the world in which we live.

Now heading into its thirteenth year, National Science Week continues to expand and attract a wide audience from children to adults, and science amateurs to professionals.

Frequently Asked Questions

// In 2010, National Science Week will run from 14 to 22 August.

// National Science Week events are free, open to the public and offer an opportunity for the Australian community to get involved in science.

// Approximately 1,000 events occur each year across the nation, making National Science Week Australia's largest national festival.

// Newpoll surveys reveal that over 50% of the general public are aware of National Science Week.

// National Science Week is an initiative of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Research and Science and supported by industry bodies including Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).



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// National Science Week aims to promote science and highlight the importance of science in our everyday lives.

// Events on the National Science Week calendar are developed and run by a range of volunteers across the country.

// Anyone can be involved in National Science – by running or attending an event.

// Events occur at museums, schools, pubs, universities, public lecture theatres, libraries and even zoos.

// Major events are held in every major capital city.

// National Science Week events are held in regional and cosmopolitan areas from Darwin to Devonport, Perth to Penrith and beyond.

// More information can be found at www.scienceweek.gov.au

// National Science Week:

- > celebrates our talents and achievements in science, engineering, technology and innovation in Australia;
- > provides an opportunity for all Australians to participate in events and activities that showcase science, engineering, technology and innovation;
- > showcases sciences' modern explorations, making science interesting, challenging, important, and of direct relevance to our daily lives, from the wellbeing of our society to the environmentally sustainable growth of our economy;
- > encourages younger people to consider continuing studies in science;
- > connects science studies and science-based careers;
- > fosters partnerships throughout the community.