



# MEDIA RELEASE

## SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

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Monday, 10 August 2009

### **ASTRONAUT AMONG TOURING INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS**

A NASA astronaut who completed her last space mission just months ago, an international palaeontologist, a renowned theoretical physicist and a leading environmentalist will all hit the road during a tour for National Science Week.

The scientists – Katherine Megan-McArthur (astronaut), Scott Sampson (palaeontologist), Lawrence Krauss (theoretical physicist) and Tanya Ha (environmentalist) – will visit every state and territory during their National Science Week Tour from 12 to 24 August.

Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research said the scientists would provide a fun, informative and memorable experience for all who attend.

"Australia is very fortunate to have four of the best scientists in the world joining the activities of National Science Week," Senator Carr said.

"We are particularly fortunate to have a NASA astronaut during the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the first moon landing and UN International Year of Astronomy.

"The scientists will remind Australians of all ages that science not only plays a critical part in our everyday lives, but that it is fun and full of surprises.

"National Science Week, running from 15 - 23 August, provides a great opportunity for people from all around the country to discover the exciting world of science.

"I would encourage everyone to participate by watching one of our international guests or attending any of the other great events on offer."

National Science week, entering its twelfth year, is Australia's largest festival. Last year over 800 events were held throughout Australia, reaching an audience of over one million.

This year events include festivals, music and comedy shows, interactive hands-on displays, open days and online activities.

National Science Week is proudly supported by the Australian Government, as well as partners CSIRO, Australian Science Teachers Association and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Profiles of touring scientists and tour itinerary are attached. For more information about the tour or other activities of National Science Week visit [www.scienceweek.gov.au](http://www.scienceweek.gov.au)

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## **NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK TOUR SCIENTISTS**

### **Katherine Megan-McArthur**

Katherine Megan-McArthur recently completed her latest space mission in May this year, where she was part of the fifth and final Hubble servicing mission for the 19 year old telescope. Enthusiastic and ambitious, at only 38 years of age, she has already clocked 12 days and 21 hours, travelling 5,276,000 miles in 197 Earth orbits.

### **Scott Sampson**

Scott Sampson is a leading palaeontologist. Since graduating with a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1993, Sampson has been exploring the world's fossils, conducting fieldwork in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mexico, and Madagascar, as well as the United States and Canada. His work has uncovered a great number of well-preserved dinosaur specimens, including several new species. Sampson is the host of "Dinosaur Planet," a series of animated television shows on the Discovery Channel.

### **Lawrence Krauss**

Internationally renowned, theoretical physicist Lawrence Krauss is a bestselling author, editorialist, sought-after lecturer and radio commentator. His studies include the early universe, the nature of dark matter, general relativity and neutrino astrophysics. Krauss has also helped spearhead national efforts in the US to educate the public about science and ensure sound public policy.

### **Tanya Ha**

Tanya Ha has been name amongst Australia's leading environmentalists and is a champion of sustainable living. As a science communicator, she makes complex environmental issues easy to understand and offers practical, accessible advice. Ha has penned five books and worked as the Eco Coach in the SBS reality TV series, Eco House Challenge.

## TOUR ITINERARY

<b>WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Tanya Ha	Toowoomba	11:30am at USQ, 12:30pm and 2:00pm at Toowoomba State High School and 6:00pm at USQ – Alison Dickson Lecture Theatre	Tanya Ha will make a series of presentations to primary students, secondary students, senior academics and the general public about the pertinent environmental and sustainability issue affecting our world.
<b>THURSDAY 13 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Megan McArthur	Perth	11:00am at the Planetarium – Horizon, City West	Astronaut McArthur will speak to media and astronomy students, sharing her experiences in space and at NASA.
Tanya Ha	Darwin	2:00pm at Dripstone Middle School	Tanya will inspire the Year 7 students at Dripstone Middle School about one of her favourite subject matters, 'Green Stuff for Kids'.
<b>FRIDAY 14 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Megan McArthur	Perth	12:00pm and 6:00pm at University of Western Australia – Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, Crawley	Astronaut McArthur will give two presentations at the University of Western Australia. In the morning she will share with local secondary students and in the evening, the general public will be welcomed.
Tanya Ha	Darwin	9:00am at Charles Darwin University	Tanya will launch National Science Week in Darwin, speaking with media, science coordinators and key stakeholders, discussing 'How Science is Used and Misused to Sell your Stuff'.
Tanya Ha	Melbourne	8:00pm at BMW Edge Theatre	Hypothesis is a feature event comprising the 'Underground Science' club at BMW Edge Theatre. The program aims to inform and engage the audience across several topical issues.
<b>SATURDAY 15 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Megan McArthur	Sydney	4:30pm at Fort Street School, Observatory Hill	A general public event, Astronaut McArthur will talk about her experiences at NASA and what it's like in space before heading back to Sydney Observatory for an outside telescope viewing (weather dependant).
<b>SUNDAY 16 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Tanya Ha	Launceston	12:30pm at University of Tasmania, Newnham campus – Arts Lecture Theatre	Presented by National Science Week guest speaker and well-known environmentalist Tanya Ha, this session is for those who want to get a bit more science-savvy when shopping, particularly when trying to make sense of advertising claims for environmental products and cosmetics.
<b>MONDAY 17 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Megan McArthur	Melbourne	11:00am at Googleplex, Sydney	Local school students will be the lucky ones to hear from Astronaut McArthur about life in space and working at NASA.
Tanya Ha	Launceston	11:00am and 1:00pm	Tanya Ha looks at how the environment

		at University of Tasmania, Newnham campus – Lecture Theatre 5, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre	supports us, looks after us and underpins our society; how environmental issues are a series of problems and how science sets about solving them; and puts emphasis on why this is important for the next generation to take seriously. For example, Tanya shows the difference in electricity running costs and greenhouse emissions of the bedrooms of a lean green teen and a technophile teen, complete with 'black balloons' to represent CO2 emissions.
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<b>TUESDAY 18 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Megan McArthur	Melbourne	11:00am at Tallygaroopna Primary School	Astronaut McArthur will head out to the regional suburb of Shepparton, speaking with the students of the local school about what it's like in space and how she got one of the best jobs in the world.
Megan McArthur	Melbourne	6:30pm at RMIT University, Kaleide Theatre	Astronaut McArthur will share her experiences with the general public about life as an astronaut, her mission to work on the Hubble Space Telescope and NASA's plans for the future.
Scott Sampson	Perth	10:00am and 11:30am at Perth Zoo, South Perth; 6:30pm at Western Australia Museum, Fremantle	In the morning, Scott Sampson will be at Perth Zoo, presenting to a host of high school students about the 'Dinosaurs of West America'. In the evening, WA Museum will host an event for the general public to hear more in depth from Sampson.

<b>WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Megan McArthur	Albury	9:30am at Charles Sturt University – Henry Nowik Theatre, Albury	A guest at Charles Sturt University, Astronaut McArthur will make a series of presentations to school students, university students and the general public, talking about her background and experiences at NASA.

<b>THURSDAY 20 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Tanya Ha	Melbourne	7:30am at RMIT University – Story Hall Auditorium, Melbourne	Tanya Ha will present at the RMIT Careers breakfast seminar. The breakfast profiles projects and people, and the role of science and technology in addressing issues of sustainability in Australia.
Tanya Ha	Ballarat	7:30pm at City of Ballarat offices	Hosted by the region's leading environmental group, BREAZE, Tanya Ha will present to the general public about sustainability and the environment.
Scott Sampson	Melbourne	6:00pm at Redback Brewery, 75 Flemington Road, North Melbourne	As part of Evolution – The Festival, Scott Sampson will engage in an informal discussion about the 'Dinosaurs of West America' as part of 'Science at the Redback'.

<b>FRIDAY 21 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Tanya Ha	Ballarat	9.30am and 11:00am at University of Ballarat, SMB Campus	Tanya Ha will provide knowledge and training for students studying home sustainability. Students will then be able to provide assistance and advice to people on how to implement sustainable practices in their homes.

Scott Sampson	Hobart	11:30am and 7:30pm at University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay campus – Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre	Scott Sampson will explore the latest ideas and controversies about the world of dinosaurs, presenting to secondary students and in the evening, the general public. His work has uncovered a great number of well-preserved dinosaur specimens, including several new species. Scott is also the host of Dinosaur Planet, a series of four animated television shows on the Discovery Channel.
Lawrence Krauss	Adelaide	12:30pm at Mawson Lakes and 7:00pm at the University of Adelaide	Internationally renowned physicist Lawrence Krauss will keep a crowd of thousands attentive, guiding them on a speed journey through the Star Trek universe, which he uses as a launching pad to offer a glimpse of the fascinating world of modern physics. Includes his top 10 physics bloopers from the Star Trek series.
<b>SATURDAY 22 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Scott Sampson	Hobart	7:00pm at University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay campus – University Staff Club	Scott will be the honorary guest at the University of Tasmania's annual Science Dinner. Scott will give a short presentation to the room full of 175 guests, before the evening kicks on with lively entertainment.
Lawrence Krauss	Canberra	4:00pm and 6:00pm at CSIRO Discovery Centre	Lawrence will give two sophisticated presentations, 'An Atom From...' and 'The Physics of Star Trek', to the general public, sharing his expertise on the world of physics.
<b>SUNDAY 23 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Scott Sampson	Canberra	12:00pm and 2:00pm at Questacon	At the nation's home of science, Questacon, Scott Sampson will make a presentation to the general public on the 'Dinosaurs of West America', sharing his expertise on dinosaurs, evolution and sustainability.
Lawrence Krauss	Melbourne	3:00pm The University of Melbourne – Elisabeth Murdoch Theatre A	The Australian Institute of Physics Victorian Branch will host an afternoon presentation with Lawrence Krauss at the University of Melbourne. Krauss will explore 'An Atom from...', tracing the biography of a single atom from the beginning of the Universe, before atoms themselves existed, until the end, as we currently envisage it.
Lawrence Krauss	Melbourne	8:30pm at RMIT University – Capitol Theatre	Lawrence Krauss will lecture as part of the Big Ideas series at the Melbourne Writer's Festival, Melbourne's Capitol Theatre. These are high profile, non-fiction events.
<b>MONDAY 24 AUGUST</b>			
<b>Guest</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Event details</b>	<b>Event description</b>
Lawrence Krauss	Sydney	6:00pm at Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo	Lawrence will be a keynote guest at the lively Ultimo Science Festival. Making a presentation open to the general public and interacting on a one-on-one level, he will inspire those joining in on the festivities.