



# national science week 2009

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

www.scienceweek.gov.au

## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 15-23 AUGUST 2009

### WELCOME BACK!

We know it's only early days but we are already busy getting ready to ignite the science imagination of Australians for National Science Week 2009.

Last month Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, announced the recipients of the Australian Government grants to run National Science Week community events.

Over 130 grant applications were received this year, with 40 exciting science events from across Australia eventually taking out a grant.

From a Science Ninja Van in Western Australia to a Young Galileos project in Wollongong, the National Science Week events allocated grants look set to be some of the best yet. And with activities planned in metropolitan and rural areas, there is bound to be one near you!

### SOME OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK ACTIVITIES COMING TO YOU IN AUGUST INCLUDE:

#### ACT: SCINEMA

SCINEMA is Australia's only science film festival. In 2009, SCINEMA will explore the latest collaborations between science, film and art in over 200 cities and towns across Australia. To help celebrate 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy, there will also be a national student short film competition based on this theme.

#### NSW: YOUNG GALILEOS

The Young Galileos project will inspire younger children to look up at the night sky. They will have the chance to build their own telescopes, which will have a similar power to Galileos, and then view the Galilean moons of Jupiter.

#### NT: BUSH FOOD OF THE ARNHEM LAND

Long before settlement, Aboriginal people lived on bush food. But its value to other cultures is just starting to be recognised. Led by local rangers, a bush chef, a botanist and science teachers, this National Science Week event will involve a number of interactive workshops in which the culinary, botanical, cultural and nutritional value of bush food will be investigated.

#### SA: BEER: BARLEY TO BOTTLE

A treat for beer lovers, this event will explore the science behind beer production. Comprising short presentations that cover barley breeding, malting, brewing and beer tasting, this National Science Week event will be a treat for the senses!

#### QLD: SCIENCE FOR LIFE!

This National Science Week, the Queensland Museum will shine the spotlight on science with a series of science-based fun and learning experiences for all ages. The program will include science theatre and science cinema as well as allowing visitors the opportunity to meet museum scientists and discuss their research.

#### TAS: YOUNG TASSIE SCIENTISTS

This year, regional and remote communities throughout Tasmania will have the chance to hear from some of our best and brightest young science researchers. As part of the Young Tassie Scientists program, early career researchers will be visiting schools and communities to talk about their fascinating work.

#### VIC: SUPER MEGA BATTLE FOR PLANET EARTH

This fast-paced, interactive show features mathematician and comedian Simon Pampena. Premiering at the Melbourne Comedy Festival, the comedy show featuring interactive fun and multimedia will be touring to Darwin, Adelaide, Hobart, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

#### WA: SCIENCE NINJA VAN

The Science Ninja Van will take science to the wheat belt and wine growing regions of South West WA. By day the science ninjas will travel to producers and their families to conduct soil tests and provide scientific advice. By night the science ninjas will provide an interactive show and hands on activities for the whole community.



# national science week 2009

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

[www.scienceweek.gov.au](http://www.scienceweek.gov.au)

## IN OTHER NEWS:



### NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK SCHOOLS GRANTS

School grants for National Science Week activities will be opening soon. Grants of up to \$500 are available to any Australian pre-school, primary or secondary school.

Information and application forms will be available on the ASTA website from 2 March 2009 at [www.asta.edu.au](http://www.asta.edu.au).

### NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK ONLINE

Following the very successful launch of the National Science Week website last year, we are moving further into the cyber world with the development of a National Science Week myspace page and facebook profile.

In the coming months, you will be able to access these sites to find out about local events, read more about our famous science guests, watch interactive science experiments and sketches and enter a range of exclusive competitions.

Keep an eye out for more details in the coming months.

### SUPPORTING SCIENCE AND MATHS STUDENTS

The Australian Government is committed to investing in the future of maths and science.

From 1 January 2009, HECS for commencing maths and science students has been reduced from \$7,260 to \$4,077.

Furthermore, university maths and science students graduating from the end of the 2nd semester of 2008 will be eligible for a 50% reduction in their HECS repayments if they pursue a science- or maths-related career, including teaching.

### BE A PART OF SCINEMA

SCINEMA is a national film festival exploring the world of science through film and one of the major events of NSWk 2009. SCINEMA is looking for venues - if your school, library, town hall, museum or gallery is interested in being a part of this free national event - download the venue application form (<http://www.scinema.com.au/program/09Venue.pdf>). Students can be a part of SCINEMA's short film challenge this year, with the winning filmmaker to produce a short film (5mins) about space winning a trip to Australia's major astronomy facilities, including The Dish in Parkes, NSW. Download your entry form here (<http://www.scinema.com.au/enter/SkyStudentEntry.pdf>).

# IGNITE YOUR IMAGINATION