



Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO

Senator for New South Wales

MEDIA RELEASE

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Science in the Snowies boosts involvement in 2017 National Science Week

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council will bring the fun and discovery of National Science Week to Eden-Monaro after receiving \$3,846 from the Australian Government to deliver Science in the Snowies.

Science in the Snowies will involve a series of five science shows and community science events through the Snowy Mountains region, in a partnership between the library network, local community groups and schools, and science communication professionals.

Senator the Hon. Arthur Sinodinos AO has congratulated the Snowy Monaro Regional Council for its efforts to inspire people about science, technology and innovation during 2017's national celebration of science, running from 12-20 August.

"I'm delighted that the Snowy Monaro Regional Council will be giving people an opportunity to participate in National Science Week this August with their project. It will fuse tried-and-tested science show performances with content tailored for the unique Eden-Monaro region – from the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme to a leafblower-powered snowboard-hovercraft," Senator Sinodinos said.

"The project's benefits will continue well beyond the life of the project itself. Pathways for further activity include take-home science activities and integration with online and mobile STEM resources, like a library catalogue and book reviews."

"It's also notable that 2017 sees National Science Week celebrate two decades of successfully involving people from all walks of life in the wonder of science.

"This longevity not only shows that people are fascinated by the science in our everyday lives, but also proves that anyone can participate in science activities, regardless of their background, age or location."

Science in the Snowies is among 39 projects chosen nationally to receive funding in a \$500,000 grant round announced this week by Senator Sinodinos in his capacity as Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science.

"These initiatives will give people in metropolitan, regional and remote areas opportunities to meet scientists, do science, discuss hot topics and celebrate the contribution of Australian science to society, culture and economy," Senator Sinodinos said.

“Science is critical to our wellbeing, prosperity and international competitiveness, so engaging the community and equipping young people with future-focused knowledge and skills is vital.”

Science Week activities are run right across the country to help to inspire Australia’s next generation of scientists and innovators and increase community awareness of science in everyday life.

Other projects supported by this year’s grants include pop-up science festivals, an astronomical observatory on wheels, an exploration of innovations for a Future Earth, and virtual reality journeys to the microscopic world inside a plant cell or to the outer reaches of the galaxy.

Several of the activities funded emphasise inclusivity, like science workshops designed for people with intellectual disabilities, sessions for people with different cultural and language backgrounds, coding skills workshops for youth on the autism spectrum, and DIY science film nights for even the remotest locations.

National Science Week 2017 will also feature a suite of Indigenous science initiatives and others highlighting female role models and encouraging girls to participate in science.

First held in 1997, National Science Week has become one of Australia’s largest festivals. Last year a staggering 1.3 million people participated in over 1800 events and activities, including local science festivals, music and comedy shows, expert panel discussions, interactive hands-on displays, open days and online activities.

More details about National Science Week which will run from 12-20 August are available at www.scienceweek.net.au

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