



**Release date: 5 August 2018**

## **ABC explores the worlds of science, innovation, technology and nature in National Science Week**

The ABC is celebrating National Science Week (11-19 August) by taking audiences to the heart of some of the most important stories from Australia and the world.

Aidan Laverty, ABC Manager of Science, said: “We’re delighted to celebrate National Science week with a special suite of programs exploring the impact of science, innovation and technology on our daily lives.

“The ABC is the home of trusted science reporting and innovative storytelling, across television, radio and online. From the future of food production in Australia to a landmark citizen science project to protect the Great Barrier Reef, the ABC investigates the major scientific issues that will change how we live and work.”

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### ***Catalyst: Feeding Australia***

**Two-part special: Tuesdays 14 August and 21 August, 8.30pm ABC TV and iview**

Join presenters Paul West, Professor Clare Collins and chemist Dr Noby Leong as they explore how science and technology will change how we produce some of the nation’s favourite foods – from potatoes to wheat and grapes.

Clare investigates a vertical farm that could be delivered by truck to drought-affected outback areas. Paul visits a potato factory that handles almost a billion spuds a year. Noby explores potential future foods, including insect tacos.

Each day, Australians consume 75,000 tonnes of food. *Catalyst* looks at how technology might help feed our growing population. But can technology produce food that tastes better *and* is healthier? And can we do this sustainably?

#### **Virtual Reef Diver**

**Citizen science project launching Monday 6 August at [virtualreef.org.au](http://virtualreef.org.au)**

Dive into the Great Barrier Reef through your computer or mobile screen and help save Australia’s greatest natural wonder through this ABC citizen science project. The national initiative, developed with the Queensland University of Technology, marks the International Year of the Reef by inviting Australians to help researchers identify changes in coral cover to track the health of the reef.

Citizen scientists will look at underwater images on the Virtual Reef Diver website to help identify features such as coral and algae, using a simple classifying tool. This work will provide scientists and reef managers with the information they need to make critical decisions to protect the reef for the future.

### ***Reef Reflections***

**Australians reflect on the Great Barrier Reef and its meaning, 11-19 August, across ABC Local and Regional Radio**

In support of Virtual Reef Diver and International Year of the Reef, the ABC will explore the connections shared by six leading Australians with the reef, including biologist Dr Charlie Veron, Indigenous leader Cherissma Blackman and children's author and marine ecologist Dr Sue Pillans. Listeners on ABC Local and Regional Radio will also be invited to share their reflections on the reef, its history and their hopes and fears for its future.

### ***Unsung Secrets***

**Short stories across 11-19 August on ABC RN, Facebook and YouTube**

The ABC Science team will share "Unsung Secrets" from the world of science in three-minute audio and video stories, uncovering intriguing and illuminating issues, such as: Who's protecting us from space weather? Can you control your mood with your heart rate? And why should we all know about Einstein's wife?

### ***Life Matters: Whatever the Weather***

**Monday 13 August to Friday 17 August, 9am on ABC RN**

*Life Matters* on ABC RN, in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, will explore the many ways in which the weather impacts our daily lives and world. Presenter Michael Mackenzie will be joined by expert guests, including meteorologist and ABC weather presenter Nate Byrne and ABC weather reporter Katelyn Doyle, in tackling fascinating and intriguing issues about the weather, such as urban heat and the way weather affects our moods.

The RN special features will include a "weird weather" talkback special with listeners and a live broadcast from the Bureau's headquarters in Melbourne.

### ***Ockham's Razor live events***

**Live recordings on Friday 10 August and Wednesday 15 August, Hobart and Sydney**

ABC RN's "science soapbox" is hitting the road, with two live recordings of the program to celebrate Science Week: 10 August at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, as part of the Beaker Street @ TMAG pop-up science bar extravaganza; and 15 August at the Powerhouse Museum, for the Sydney Science Festival.

Speakers will include medical expert Dr Darren Saunders, neuroscientist Dr Lila Landowski and mathematician Professor Nalini Joshi. The live recordings will be broadcast subsequently on *Ockham's Razor* on RN, or available as podcasts.

## ***Search For Second Earth***

**Tuesday 14 August, 9.30pm ABC TV and iview**

This documentary charts the epic journey of an autonomous spacecraft to a planet beyond our solar system, in search of life. Some of the greatest minds in space exploration and astrobiology explore the enormous challenges presented by this interstellar mission, driven by a desire to know: Are we alone in the universe?

## ***Minibeast Heroes***

**ABC Education virtual reality experience, 11 August at Australian Museum, Sydney**

Take part in an incredible virtual reality experience based on the ABC Education children's animated series. Explore and interact with a giant ladybird, redback spider and ant, while learning about the super powers of these eco-warriors. Minibeast Heroes is on show at the Australian Museum, for the Sydney Science Festival.

## ***ABC Science collection on iview***

In celebration of Science Week, ABC iview will present programs such as: *Catalyst* and the Eureka Prize finalist *Can We Save The Reef?*, which follows scientists racing to understand and save Australia's greatest natural wonder.

ABC ME iview will feature *Project Mc2*, *Project Planet* and *Science Max! Experiments At Large*. ABC KIDS iview will feature STEM stories on *Play School* and science-themed episodes of programs such as *Peppa Pig*, *Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom*.

**During National Science Week and beyond, the ABC is home to fascinating science stories and extraordinary achievements. Join the conversation:**

**#ScienceWeek** or visit [abc.net.au/scienceweek/](http://abc.net.au/scienceweek/).

---

For further information contact:

**Peter Munro**

**Communications Lead**

**ABC Entertainment & Specialist**

02 8333 3082 | [munro.peter@abc.net.au](mailto:munro.peter@abc.net.au)