

MEDIA RELEASE

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Spiders: Ignite your curiosity and conquer your fears

A spine-tingling new exhibition featuring some of Australia's deadliest arachnids opens this weekend at the City of Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk.

Spiders explores the facts and fiction behind nature's eight-legged wonders, while challenging visitors to confront their fears and get closer to some of nature's most deadly, yet misunderstood creatures.

This is a face-to-face interactive encounter with real spider specimens including live Australian tarantulas, giant water spiders, Sydney funnel-webs and redbacks.

The touring exhibition is a joint project between the Australian Museum and Questacon - The National Science & Technology Centre and opens at QVMAG on Saturday 30 June.

Incorporating the latest science, *Spiders* invites visitors to learn about key spider characteristics – venom, silk, where they live, how they hunt their prey, how they have adapted to the changing environments – and the critical roles they play in our ecosystem, as well as what to watch out for in your backyard.

QVMAG Director Richard Mulvaney said *Spiders* offers an up-close glimpse into the fascinating world of arachnids.

"Whether you're a spider pundit or would prefer to keep your distance, this exhibition is sure to have you in a spin!"

"Questacon-engineered interactives will allow visitors to dance with a peacock spider using kinect gaming technology, hold a virtual spider in their hand, test the strength of silk, feel web vibrations and even experience the jaws of a spider."

"Spiders are often misunderstood, so we're hoping this exhibition will better explain these talented creatures capable of climbing, swimming, parachuting and even growing back limbs!"

You are invited to preview the exhibition and chat with Richard Mulvaney and Dr Robert Raven, Australia's leading spider expert, today at 12:30pm at the Museum.

We will have a funnel web and golden orb weaver for you to meet, too.

Spiders

Dates: open every day, 30 June - 28 October 2018

Cost: \$5 entry. Free admission for children aged under two. Tickets available at the Museum's front counter.