

Science on the Road: contextualising science for community

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Science engagement isn't just about the content itself – it is about facilitating the creation of local science networks and establishing safe learning environments in which science concepts can be explored. Run annually by the Australian Museum, *Science on the Road* events provide face-to-face experiences, inspiring curiosity in students and sparking interest in science by making it relevant to the lives and futures of the communities involved. The events bring the expertise and knowledge of the Museum and its partners to communities across NSW, Australia, and focuses on the needs of regional areas, aiming to raise awareness of the values and relevance of local science, technology and innovation in our everyday lives.

Science is contextualised through hands-on activities based on cutting edge research and knowledge and the content is designed to bring different communities together. Engagement with science content that has a specific relevance to the local geographic area is enabled, while also highlighting the potential for community to be involved in the Australian scientific community for participants locally, and at state and National levels.

The Science Engagement and Events team designs versatile and diverse programming for the outreach events that have targeted content that not only shows the breadth of STEM, but also the contribution of local scientific organisations. With over 6 years of evaluation data, and industry knowledge and experience running these events, the team will share the results of targeted STEM outreach events on community attitudes towards science in regional NSW and internationally.