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Spiders to weave their web at Queensland Museum

Visitors are set to be in a spin this summer when a cluster of spiders take over Queensland Museum in the new exhibition *Spiders – The Exhibition* which opens on Friday, 6 December 2019.

Spiders – The Exhibition jointly developed by Questacon and Australian Museum, will give visitors a chance to come face-to-face with Australia's amazing arachnids.

Guests can see 200 spider specimens and 12 live species including Sydney Funnel Web, Trapdoor, Huntsman, Redback, and Tarantula spiders.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Dr Jim Thompson said *Spiders – The Exhibition* would allow visitors to explore many facets of spider ecology from reproduction to their specialised jaws and silk, alongside research from museum experts.

"Queensland Museum has one of the southern hemisphere's most active arachnology units and our researchers have described more than 1,000 spider species – which is close to a third of all of Australia's spiders," Dr Thompson said.

"We are proud to be able to display some of our own research within *Spiders – The Exhibition* which includes the recently described palisade trapdoor spiders, which were found in Queensland.

"Our team of arachnologists are very active within the museum and community, hosting regular spider feeding demonstrations, showcasing their research, and the spiders programing at World Science Festival Brisbane is always a crowd favourite, so we are excited to be hosting an exhibition dedicated to our eight-legged friends."

Queensland Museum Principal Curator of Arachnology Dr Michael Rix said he hoped the exhibition would inspire a new generation of arachnologists.

"I discovered at a young age that spiders are endlessly fascinating, yet poorly known and terribly misunderstood, which inspired my career in arachnology. And while the hope is that the exhibition will inspire a new generation of arachnologists, I know that visitors will leave the exhibition with a new respect for spiders," he said.

"*Spiders – The Exhibition* will showcase the amazing lives of spiders from their unique diet, morphology and venom to their adaptations, reproduction and growth strategies in different habitats, as well as the chance to enjoy some hands-on fun with interactive displays."

Some of the highlights of the exhibition include the chance to challenge a colourful peacock spider to a dance-off, the opportunity to 'hold' a virtual wolf spider in your hand, take a peek into the insides of a spider using 3D scanning technology and step into the web of a net-casting spider for a photo.

Spiders – The Exhibition is developed and toured by the Australian Museum and Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre.

Visit www.spiders.qm.qld.gov.au for more information.

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