

Perpetual Guardian Planetarium is Go For Launch

The countdown to the Perpetual Guardian Planetarium opening is on. The project is undergoing finishing touches as the Otago Museum prepares to launch Dunedin's newest attraction on Saturday 5 December.

To celebrate the opening of the 360° immersive dome theatre, the Museum is staging a weekend of family fun.

Powered by the latest Digistar 5 3D production/projection system, the planetarium will open for the very first time with three shows:

- *Amazing Universe* will take travellers from Hooper's Inlet on the Otago Peninsula through the universe to explore some of the most wondrous astronomical sights humanity has discovered. **Daily, 10.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm**
- *Mārama ā-Whetū: Light of the Stars* is an exploration of Māori myths and legends relating to the night sky. The show gives an overview of how Polynesian explorers navigated to Aotearoa New Zealand and highlights the significance of astronomical features for all New Zealanders. **Daily, 11.30am**
- Presenter-led, *The Sky Tonight* live show explores the sky over Otago tonight. Visitors will learn about stars, constellations and deep sky objects, and find out how to view them. **Daily, 12.30pm and 3.30pm**

Tickets are for sale from the Museum, at a price of \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Combo passes are available to the Perpetual Guardian Planetarium and Discovery World Tropical Forest. Tickets will be available from the Otago Museum during opening weekend, starting at 9am on Saturday 5

December, and bookings will be available online for all other shows from 30 November at www.otagomuseum.nz/planetarium.

On **Saturday 5 December**, the Museum encourages visitors to dress up in their **favourite space hero** costume and win spot prizes; **meet Astronaut Rex Walheim** from NASA to ask what really happens in space and get a signed photograph from 1–2pm; watch **Amadeo's Astronomy Adventures** at 10.30am, 12pm and 2pm; take a **Space Selfie** against an out-of-this-world backdrop; or add a star to **Otago's Night Sky**.

The fun continues on the Museum Reserve. If skies are clear, fly off to space in a space camp **Bouncy Castle**; join members of the Dunedin Astronomical Society as they show you how to use a **Solar Telescope** to safely observe the sun; become a rocketeer with the **Lab-in-a-Box** team as you build and launch your own rocket; or join the **Dunedin Space Programme** group and share in their knowledge of aurora hunting, astrophotography and rocketry, and get hands on with a meteorological weather balloon.

Space exploration is the theme on Sunday 6 December. Keep an eye out for the Otago Museum float in the Santa Parade, then head to the University of Otago's College of Education Auditorium at 5pm to hear a public talk from **NASA Astronaut and retired U.S Air Force Colonel Rex Walheim**, Assistant Director of Flight Operations in the Flight Operations Directorate. Walheim will talk about the adventure of spaceflight and his own experiences in space. Tickets for this talk are \$5 each, and bookings are essential. Tickets can be purchased from the Otago Museum at www.otagomuseum.nz/astronaut.

For further information please contact:

Kate Barron
Marketing Manager
kate.barron@otagomuseum.nz
03 479 3279

Saturday 5 December
In the Otago Museum

Far Out Fancy Dress

Throughout the day

Meet NASA Astronaut Rex Walheim

1-2pm

Amadeo's Astronomy Adventures

10.30am, 12pm, 2pm

Perpetual Guardian Planetarium

Showtimes:

Amazing Universe - 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm

Mārama ā-Whetū: Light of the Stars - 11.30am

The Sky Tonight (a live, presenter-led show) - 12.30pm, 3.30pm

Buy tickets at Otago Museum from 9am on the day

Create Otago's Night Sky

Throughout the weekend

Space Selfies

Throughout the weekend

On the Museum Reserve

Space Bouncy Castle

Throughout the day

Suitable for children aged 12 and under, must be supervised by an adult.

Lab-in-a-Box

Throughout the day

Solar Astronomy

Throughout the day

Dunedin Space Programme

Throughout the day

Sunday 6 December

The Adventure of Spaceflight, the Final Space Shuttle Mission and Beyond

5pm, \$5. Bookings essential; book at www.otagomuseum.nz/astronaut.

UOCE Auditorium Lecture Theatre, University of Otago College of Education, 145 Union Street East.

Santa Parade

Look out for the Otago Museum float in the Santa Parade from 3pm on George Street.