

Special guests for the three day desertSMART EcoFair 2014 are:



Adam Spencer

Adam Spencer began his career in radio by winning the Triple J Raw Comedy championship in 1996. From there, Adam took over the Triple J breakfast time slot and has since been a presenter on numerous radio and TV shows. Adam holds a first class honors degree in Pure Mathematics and has an immense interest in science. Adam's book Little Book of Numbers published by Penguin, has been translated into many languages around the world, with the second book due for release in 2014. He will be guest speaker at The Great Science Variety Show 6pm Friday 8th August.



Veena Sahajwalla

Professor Sahajwalla is an international award-winning scientist and engineer, whose achievements include inventing a process of recycling plastics and rubber tyres in steelmaking. The benefits of this technology for Australian and International steelmaking include reduced energy use, which means lower greenhouse gas emissions. She is the Director of Sustainable Materials Research & Technology Centre and Associate Dean Faculty of Science at the University of New South Wales. Veena is a councillor on the Climate Council. She is feature speaker at the Sunday Eco-markets at 12pm Sunday 10th August.



Costa Georgiadis

Costa Georgiadis is an Australian landscape architect, TV personality and host of ABC's Gardening Australia and the SBS Gardening Show Costa's Gardening Odyssey. He believes we are what we eat and where we live, and encourages people to create a fertile future through their daily actions. He will be hosting The Science of Gardening Practical Planting Workshop at the Alice Springs Community Garden at 2pm Saturday 9th August, and a planting at 9am Sunday August 10th at the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens.

desertSMART EcoFair set to inspire, educate and activate

Science, sustainability, looking after our own backyards and building community are the themes for this years' desertSMART EcoFair, Central Australia's premier sustainability event that runs for 3 days over the second weekend of August at the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens.

"Participate, Learn, Create is the vision and the EcoFair provides ample opportunities for the community to participate in presentations and workshops, learn from scientific and sustainability experts, and help create a more sustainable future by engaging in community discussions and networking," said event organiser Nicole Pietsch.

Highlights for this years' event include The Great Science Variety Show at 6pm Friday 8th August with radio and TV personality Adam Spencer and music by Mick Café and Katie Harder and the Artful Dodgers, The Science of Gardening and Practical Planting Workshop with Costa Georgiadis at 2pm at the Alice Springs Community Garden on Saturday August 9th, and the Sunday Eco-Markets 9am-3pm Sunday August 10th with markets stalls, panels, workshops and feature speaker international award winning scientist and engineer Veena Sahajwalla at 12pm.

"We are incredibly excited to have the knowledge and expertise of Adam Spencer, Veena Sahajwalla and Costa Georgiadis at this years' EcoFair as well as a host of local 'experts' discussing topics

including the importance of science in the arid zone, bushfoods and medicine, aridzone gardening and the potential impacts of fracking in the region," said Miss Pietsch.

"We are also very proud to be able to present Eco-Science Schools Day on Friday August 8th which provides local school students with access to workshops and activities on science and sustainability they don't normally have in their school curriculum, and think that the bike ride with Adam Spencer and Costa Georgiadis on Saturday 9th August at 9am will be a great fun way to get outside and appreciate the beautiful environment we live in," Miss Pietsch said.

There will also be the Great Science Quiz which provides people with an opportunity to test their scientific knowledge and win some great science prizes. Round 1 is part of the ABC 783 Outside broadcast at 4pm in the Bean Tree Café Courtyard, and Round 2 is later that night at the Great Science Variety Show. There will also be a special kids quiz at 6pm followed by a showing of the Australian classic science film "Young Einstein".

Saturday night features the always popular Alice Springs Bicycle Film Festival from 6.30pm.

"With recent funding cuts announced for ALEC, the future of desertSMART EcoFair is at this stage unknown, so we really invite the community to get involved and get behind the event this year, and make it the best EcoFair yet," said Miss Pietsch



Amelia Telford

Amelia Telford is a young Bundjalung woman who has a strong passion for social and climate justice. In her role with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Amelia is building Seed, a national network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to lead the youth climate movement in Australia and to stand up for action on climate change and sustainability. Amelia has just been awarded National NAIDOC Youth of Year. She will be presenting at Eco-Science Schools Day 9am-2pm Friday August 8th.

THE GREAT SCIENCE QUIZ FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST

The Great Science Variety Show Special Guests: Adam Spencer, Katie Harder, Mick Café

TEST YOUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES!

The Great Science Quiz

Round 1: 4pm - 6pm as part of the ABC 783 Outside Broadcast at the Bean Tree Café Courtyard. Guest speakers include Adam Spencer, Costa Georgiadis, and Amelia Telford. A free family friendly event.

Round 2: 6pm - 10pm as part of the Great Science Variety Show including Q&A session with TV & radio personality Adam Spencer, music by Mick Café and Katie Harder and the Artful Dodgers. Hosted by 783 ABC's Tim Brunero. Gourmet BBQ available from 6pm. Licensed event. Plus! Special kids science quiz and film showing of 'Young Einstein' from 6pm. Tickets presale: \$25 (from ALEC), \$30 on the door.

For more information www.ecofair.org.au
Bookings 8952 2497 business@alec.org.au
For full desertSMART EcoFair Program go to www.ecofair.org.au

Arid Lands Environment Centre

"Working towards healthy futures for arid lands and people for more than 30 years"

www.alec.org.au 08 8952 2497 info@alec.org.au

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