



Media Release

ART EXHIBITION. FOSSIL – A SLOW ACTING VIOLENCE.

Exhibition dates: 2 August -19 August

Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, Level 8, Room 16, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne, Wed – Fri 1-5pm Sat 11am – 5pm, or by appointment 0407 317 323.

The art works in *Fossil – a slow acting violence* brings together five artists who create works using diverse media to explore the idea of the fossil and its connection to time and place, life and death and the inevitability of change. Their works are speculations on the idea of the fossil and the different and unexpected ways it can be interpreted or understood in the contemporary world. Over many millennia often violent changes have taken place on Earth which have gradually been revealed through the fossil record. These layers of history have contributed enormously to modern scientific knowledge. Curated by Felicity Spear this exhibition includes contemporary artists Simon Finn, Harry Nankin, Debbie Symons, Anne Scott Wilson and Felicity Spear. Their works remind us that while we may be seduced by Nature's intensely seductive surfaces, thinly exposed beneath them is a deep pathos embedded in the destructive power of nature, including 'human nature.'

National Science Week is Australia's annual opportunity to meet scientists, discuss the hot topics, do science and celebrate its cultural and economic impact on society. 2017 marks its 20th birthday.

First held in 1997, National Science Week has become one of Australia's largest festivals. Last year saw a staggering 1.3 million people participate in over 1,800 events and activities.

In 2017, National Science Week events will be held right throughout Australia—from insect Olympics in Darwin to 'Blood' at Melbourne's new Science Gallery to TASTroFest astronomy in the Apple Isle—with everything from science festivals, music and comedy shows, expert panel discussions, interactive hands-on displays, open days and online activities.

The festival is proudly supported by the Australian Government; partners CSIRO, the Australian Science Teachers Association and the ABC; and sponsors *Cosmos*, *Discovery Science*, *NewScientist* and *Popular Science*.

National Science Week 2017 will run from 12-20 August. Event details can be found at www.scienceweek.net.au.