



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sea Jellies Illuminated is now open at Sea World

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Sea World has brought the beauty and wonder of sea jellies to life with the all new *Sea Jellies Illuminated* exhibit in partnership with Griffith University.

Sea Jellies Illuminated features an array of sea jelly displays and educational elements to take Sea World guests on an illuminating journey as they delve into the fascinating underwater world of these aquatic animals.

This unique and exciting exhibit incorporates a working research laboratory allowing guests to view Griffith University researchers undertaking research into the fascinating world of sea jellies.

Sea World's Acting Head of Marine Sciences, Marnie Horton said sea jellies rank among the most fascinating creatures of the sea and he is extremely proud to open this world-class exhibit with Griffith University.

"Sea Jellies Illuminated is a visually impressive exhibit but importantly it also provides greater public awareness and education about a varying species of jellies, which are often misunderstood," she said.

"Guests can now get an up-close look at and be able to learn about a variety of local Australian species such as the Blue Blubber (*Catostylus* sp.), the Moon jelly (*Aurelia aurita*), Upside Down jellies (*Cassiopea* sp.) and many more in illuminated displays.

"In addition to the exhibit Griffith University have a working research centre on the top-floor of the exhibit which will allow scientists to learn more about the species.

"There is also Surf Life Saving Queensland information within the exhibit to educate guests about symptoms of stings and what to do if stung while using the marine environment."

Griffith University Head of Marine Science Associate Professor Kylie Pitt said it was extremely excited to partner with Sea World for the opening of Sea Jellies Illuminated.

"The new Griffith Sea Jellies Research Laboratory is a state-of-the-art facility, which places Griffith University at the forefront of jellyfish research internationally," she said.

"The laboratory provides an amazing opportunity for the public to see research being done and to gain greater understanding of what scientists do, why research is important and how research benefits the environment and society."

Surf Life Saving Queensland Chief Operating Officer, George Hill ESM said the exhibit is an unprecedented opportunity to educate the public on safe co-existence with marine jellies in their environment.

"There are a lot of myths and misconceptions surrounding sea jellies and treatment, and an opportunity to educate the public on sting prevention, the right treatment and more importantly identifying dangerous species like Irukandji, is vital to our vision at SLSQ," he said.

The best way to experience Sea Jellies Illuminated is with a Village Roadshow Theme Parks One Pass which provides unlimited entry to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, Wet'n'Wild Gold Coast and Paradise Country for 12-months. For more information visit seaworld.com.au or call 13 33 86.

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