

Planetarium for Cosmos

CHARLEVILLE could be home to a planetarium.

A study commissioned by the Murweh Shire and written by a pair of Griffith university tourism professors, Doctors Char-lee Moyle (nee McLennan) and Brent Moyle, recommended adding a planetarium to the facility, a ten metre dome funded by a grant.

The report, as yet in draft form, also recommended lobbying for additional funding to obtain direct flights to town from Melbourne and Sydney.

Mayor Annie Liston said the additional facility would resolve one of the biggest

Tourism report recommends new facility

weaknesses of the Cosmos Centre: bad weather.

"It's primarily to provide an alternative to shows cancelled by cloud and rain," she said.

Brisbane has a planetarium, the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium in their Botanic Gardens. It features an enormous ceiling covered with the night sky. It's been one of the city's biggest tourism attractions since it was constructed in the 1970s.

The council is now looking to obtain funding for the

new project through the State Government's Building Our Regions infrastructure funding program.

Council will also invest half a million dollars from the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program into a general make-over of the facility. Mayor Liston said the new

facility would drive an increase in tourism in Charleville.
"The idea of that is just to

give it a real uplift," she said.

"We're very excited about

this new vision."

She emphasised that Council would be consulting with the staff at Cosmos before implementing the recommendations of the report. Dr Moyle is from

Charleville.
The full report,

Revitalising the Charleville
Cosmos Centre and
Observatory' is set to be
released soon, according to
Councillor Liston.
It recommends the council

It recommends the coun aim to become a dark sky reserve.

That essentially means the area around Cosmos should be completely free of any artificial night-time light, to promote astronomy. The International Dark-Sky Association regulates that designation.

Australia has currently got only one dark-sky reserve, in Warrumbungle National Park in NSW. It was granted this year.

Both Doctors Moyle hail from the Griffith Institute for Tourism, one of the world's top research organisations. They said the opportunity to work in partnership with Murweh shire was very exciting.







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COSMOS CENTRE SPACE SHUTTLE TUNNEL





PACKING FOR A LONG FLIGHT



WHAT WOULD YOU PACK FOR A TRIP INTO SPACE?

In addition to their assigned clothing. ISS crew is allowed to bring 5kg of personal items onboard. Astronauts bring pictures, games, holiday decorations favourity condingents and even instruments.





THE VOYAGER GOLDEN RECORD

THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF HUMAN CULTURE

In 1977 the Golden Record was sent on-board Voyager 1 for any intelligent extra-terrestrial life or future humans to discover. It contains images, natural sounds, musical selections, spoken greetings and a message from United States President Jimmu Carter.



ASTRONAUT TOM
STAFFORD SAID THE
FIRST SWEAR WORD IN
SPACE WHEN HE SAW
A MOON CRATER AND
EXCLAIMED "THAT'S
BIGGER THAN \$#!+".

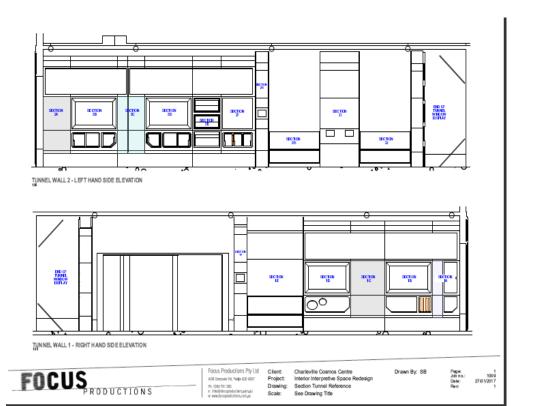
His astronaut buddy, Harrisson Schmitt
covered for him, replying
"He said, bioger than Schmitt".















Go way out west ... for virtual reality experience Market

A NIMATION is about to bring relics from bygone eras to life. Virtual reality gurus Christ Little from Brisbane's Griffith university and Ben Connelly from Adelaide's Manage and Service of the Connelly from Adelaide's Service of the Connell from Service of th Maptek were visiting the world war Il convoy tour last week scanning key points of interest, including the

hangar, radio tower and bomb vault.
The laser scanner scans the inside and outside of the building. It takes 3.5 minutes to collect data every 6mm along its axis. A second rotation of the scanner then captures photos. The photos are overlaid onto the original scan data to produce a 3D replica of the building. allow animators to bring the building to life in many different ways. Tourists could point their phone

at the building and you might be able to see WWII soldiers emerge out of the bomb vault, and hear and see their story," he said. "There are stories in these walls, so we're exploring ways we can make these buildings talk."

Chris is currently doing a PhD in heritage preservation through new technology. He said the virtual rewhat the landscape and building ence with all of this history." used to look like when visiting cerportunities were endless, he said.

that helps guide tourists through the tour on a virtual reality experience," he said. "There is an element



Ben Connelly operates the scanner while Chris Little shows Monique Johnson 3D views of the buildings.

tain points along the tour. While tant. The \$120,000 scanner he was force tour brand. it was still just a proof of concept, using at the site is the same scanner

Marketing and events coordi- the page." of mystery out here and you could nator Monique Johnson said that Griffith's institute for tourism Dr MARGUERITE CUDDNEY

ality app would allow tourists to see create a really immersive experi- while nothing was set in stone, this Brent Moyle said virtual reality was

"It's a really good story," she said. once the data was collated the op- used by forensic police to recon- "It takes over an hour as it is and struct crime scenes. His company that's only what the guide tells you looking at something world class. The council could create an app supplied the software and scanner that you can picture in your head. It won't happen overnight but if we that was used to recreate the Lindt With an app like this we can show join forces and apply for funding.

ence with all of this history."

Was a fantastic opportunity to look still very much up and coming. "Our Ben is a 3D laser-scanning consulto the future and grow the WWII air institute is ranked number three in the world, we do quite innovative projects," he said. "If we win a big grant to get this off the ground we're so much more. It lifts the history off this will be an amazing experience."



WARREGO WATCHMAN . THURSDI









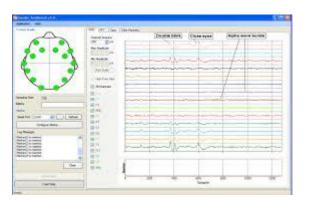




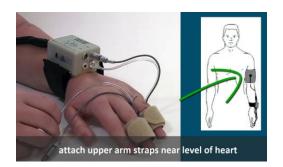




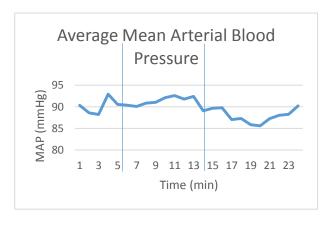




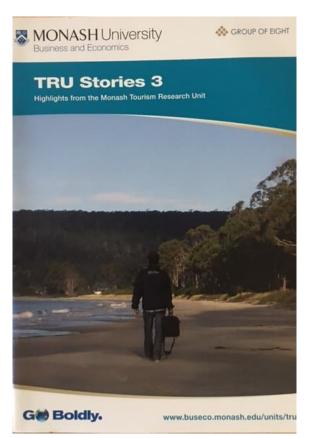
















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