



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Monday 7 December 2015**

**GP tickets on Friday 11 December 2015**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE & UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE PRESENT**

# **FOR THOUGHT: HOPE FOR THE PLANET**

**David Suzuki, Naomi Oreskes & Tim Flannery**

**Sydney Opera House & Melbourne Town Hall**

Environmental activists and scientists **David Suzuki, Naomi Oreskes** and **Tim Flannery** will discuss new imperatives for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, at the second talk in the Sydney Opera House and University of Melbourne's *For Thought* series, presented by the Wheeler Centre at the Melbourne Town Hall on Monday 7 March and at the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday 8 March 2016.

*For Thought: Hope for the Planet* will explore how more than 7.3 billion humans and 10 to 15 million other species can share the earth's biosphere and minerals, on which we all depend for survival. Do we need a different set of priorities? How we can effectively act as planetary steward and manage ecosystems, to handle the challenges of the present and future?

The event will take the form of separate keynotes from Suzuki, Oreskes and Flannery. Each inspiring and hopeful speaker will tackle different aspects of the challenges facing our environment, including climate change deniers, before the panel opens up for audience Q&A.

*For Thought* is an opportunity for audiences to hear from leading thinkers and immerse themselves in the particulars of a topic; discussing the latest cutting-edge research, the newest theories, or the history of how something came to be. The series was launched in June 2015 with Lawrence Krauss and Paul Davies.

**Head of Talks & Ideas at the Sydney Opera House, Ann Mossop**, said, "*Our For Thought series is an opportunity to delve deeper into topics of great importance and for our audiences to hear thinkers from Australia and around the world talk about their ideas and research.*"

"*With the Paris Climate summit happening this month, we know climate change and the environment is one of the most important issues in the world today. For Thought: Hope for the Planet is the perfect event for audiences hungry to hear more on this issue.*"

**Vice-Chancellor at University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis**, said, "*For Thought is a fantastic initiative and one we're proud to co-present alongside the Wheeler Centre and the Sydney Opera House. The feedback we received from audiences across the events this year was extremely positive, and I look forward to the 2016 event instigating further passionate and considered conversations on a topic that's important to all of us.*"

**Ideas at the House** is the Sydney Opera House's talks and ideas program. It presents ideas, conversation and debate from leading thinkers and culture creators. With its unique online content, Ideas at the House extends the reach and endurance of live events. As well as a year-round program of inspiring events, Ideas at the House features the annual festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, and one-day talks events *For Thought* and *Carnegie Conversations: Ideas for a Better Australia*.

**The Wheeler Centre** is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks on every topic, including literature, art, social responsibility, politics, ethics, copyright, urban planning, sports, Indigenous storytelling and public affairs. Across 230+ events each year, you'll find some of the finest local and international speakers sharing their expertise, their imaginations and their ideas. In the Wheeler Centre's first five years of existence, it has established a reputation for ambition, variety and quality.



## INFORMATION

**What:** *For Thought: Hope for the Planet*  
**Who:** David Suzuki, Naomi Oreskes & Tim Flannery  
**When:** Tuesday 8 March 2016, 6:45pm-9:45pm  
**Where:** Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House  
**Tickets:** From \$35  
**More info:** [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com)

**What:** *For Thought: Hope for the Planet*  
**Who:** David Suzuki, Naomi Oreskes & Tim Flannery (chair TBC)  
**When:** Monday 7 March, 5.15pm-7.45pm  
**Where:** Melbourne Town Hall  
 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
**Tickets:** \$35/\$20 Concession  
**More info:** [www.wheelercentre.com](http://www.wheelercentre.com)

David Suzuki & Naomi Oreskes will also be speaking at WOMADelaide as part of Planet Talks, 11-14 March:  
<https://www.womadelaide.com.au/program/the-planet-talks>

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**David Suzuki** is a scientist, broadcaster, author, and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. He is Companion to the Order of Canada and a recipient of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for science, the United Nations Environment Program medal, the 2012 Inamori Ethics Prize, the 2009 Right Livelihood Award, and UNEP's Global 500. Dr. Suzuki is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and holds 29 honorary degrees from universities around the world. He is familiar to television audiences as host of the CBC science and natural history television series *The Nature of Things*, and to radio audiences as the original host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks*, as well as the acclaimed series *It's a Matter of Survival* and *From Naked Ape to Superspecies*. In 1990 he co-founded with Dr. Tara Cullis, The David Suzuki Foundation to "collaborate with Canadians from all walks of life including government and business, to conserve our environment and find solutions that will create a sustainable Canada through science-based research, education and policy work." His written work includes more than 55 books, 19 of them for children. Dr. Suzuki lives with his wife and family in Vancouver, B.C.

David Suzuki spoke at the Sydney Opera House in 2010.

**Naomi Oreskes** is professor of the history of science and affiliated professor of Earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University, and an internationally renowned geologist, science historian, and author. She received a B.Sc. (First Class Honors) in Mining Geology from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London (1981) and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Geological Research and History of Science from Stanford University (1990). She joined the faculty at Harvard in 2013 after 15 years at the University of California, San Diego.

**Tim Flannery** is one of Australia's leading thinkers and writers. An internationally acclaimed scientist, explorer and conservationist, Tim's books include the definitive ecological histories of Australia (*The Future Eaters*) and North America (*The Eternal Frontier*). He believes that human activity is drastically altering the earth's climate, and that before too long these changes will have a devastating effect on life on this planet. He wants to mobilize the social and political will to address this problem before it's too late. Tim Flannery is the former director of the South Australian Museum, and is currently a professor at Sydney's Macquarie University. He spent a year as professor of Australian 2002, he became the first environmentalist to deliver The Australia Day address to the nation. In 2005 he was honoured as Australian Humanist of the Year and, in 2007, he was named Australian of the Year. Flannery is Professorial Fellow in the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at the University of Melbourne.  
<http://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/>

Tim Flannery spoke at the Sydney Opera House as part of Festival of Dangerous Ideas 2014.

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