



**Australian Institute of Physics
NSW Branch (August Public Talk)**

“To PhD or not to PhD: that is the question”

**Professor Deb Kane
Macquarie University**

Tuesday 19th August 2008 @ 6.00PM

At the

Slade Lecture Theatre, School of Physics, University of Sydney

Public talk arranged by: The Australian Institute of Physics (NSW Branch)

Entrance is FREE

Summary of talk:

(With apologies to Shakespeare) 2008 is the 25th anniversary of completing my PhD – “Atomic laser spectroscopy in the UV and Visible”. I still have vivid memories of generating atomic spectra that resolved features of atomic structure previously unseen - the risk and excitement in the wee small hours in a lab in the Physics Department at St Andrews University, the prior art immediately shown to be wrong by the results of direct measurements, and the beginning of a life long interest in one of the pinnacles of physics achievement – theory and experiments on the hydrogen atom. It has been part of my good fortune that my professional life since has been as a physicist.

My areas of research activity have grown and evolved. 25 years on, I will share some reflections on what doing a PhD did for society and me; and how to approach making the decisions, in 2008 and beyond, on whether to do a PhD, where to do it, and with whom as a supervisor. This talk will aim to be of interest to all in physics, but will be of particular interest to students of physics contemplating a PhD, and any science “PhDs-to-be”.





Brief Biography of the Speaker:

Prof. Deb M Kane has a Personal Chair in Physics and an international research profile in the areas of semiconductor laser physics; laser processing, and interactions in laser / particle / surface material systems; and development of novel ultra violet and vacuum ultraviolet (UV / VUV) sources and their application to surface cleaning / treatments.

This broad range of research areas spans pure and applied physics, basic, strategic, and directly industrially relevant research (she is the co/author of > 200 publications and monographs). In addition to her contribution to research, Deb Kane has served as Head of the Department of Physics at Macquarie University; contributes fully as a university teacher; is a member of the ARC Nanotechnology Network Management Committee; contributes to organisation of major international conferences, and to outreach programs - including being the 2006 AIP Women in Physics Lecturer.

Detailed Schedule for Tuesday, 19th August 2008:

- 6:00-6.30 pm **REFRESHMENTS, Slade Lecture Theatre.**
- 6.35-7.30 pm **LECTURE by Professor Deb Kane.**
- 8.00 pm **DINNER with the Speaker at Buon Gusto (Italian), 368 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale.**
E-mail Dr Fred Osman (fred_osman@exemail.com.au) if you will be able to join us for dinner.

Travel Directions:

- Train to Redfern station and walk to the **School of Physics.**
- Buses 422, 423, 426, 428, 448, and 450 from Circular Quay to City Road / King, or 412, 435, 438, 470, 483 etc. along Parramatta Road from Circular Quay.
- Drive and park in various parking lots. You will need to pay for parking (**\$6 flat-rate after 4 pm**) and display the ticket in your car. You may also find parking places on public roads outside the Uni.

Event sponsored by:



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