



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

**“Attracting more Students to Physics”**

**Dr Mark Butler**

**Gosford High School**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 @ 5.30PM**

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:***

We regularly hear that too few of our young people are choosing to study the technological sciences or higher level mathematics in senior high school. Why do students choose to study these subjects and why they choose not to? How have some Australian schools managed to increase participation rates in the enabling sciences? Is it really possible to make Physics and mathematics ‘cool’ at school?

This presentation will examine current issues in secondary physics education from the perspective of a practicing high school physics teacher. What physics is being taught in Australian Schools, who is teaching it and how it is being taught? Enrolment statistics, teacher qualifications and training, National Standards, the Australian Certificate of Education, and current small and large scale initiatives to attract more students and teachers to physics will be discussed.





### ***Brief Biography of the Speaker:***

Dr Mark Butler is currently Head Teacher of Science at Gosford High School and the National Education Convener of the Australian Institute of Physics. He holds a PhD from Macquarie University in physics and has taught for over twenty years in private and public high schools in NSW.

In 2002 he won the BHP/Billiton National Science Teachers' Award, and in 2004 he was awarded a NSW Premier's Macquarie Bank Science Teachers' Scholarship and The Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Secondary Science Teaching.

### ***Detailed Schedule for Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008:***

- 5.30-6.30 pm **LECTURE by Dr Mark Butler.**
- 6:35-7.00 pm **REFRESHMENTS, Slade Lecture Theatre.**
- 7.00-8.00 pm **LECTURE by Dr Marlene Read.**
- 8.15 pm **DINNER with the Speakers at Buon Gusto (Italian), 368 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale.**  
*E-mail Dr Fred Osman ([fred\\_osman@exemail.com.au](mailto: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:***



***The Australian Institute of Physics – NSW Branch  
& The University of Sydney.***

