



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

**“First Scientific Results from OPAL, the new  
Australian Research Reactor”**

**Dr Rob Robinson**

**Australian Nuclear Science & Technology**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 @ 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***

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***Summary of talk:***

Australian science is entering a new “golden age”, with the recent start-up of bright new neutron and photon sources in Sydney and Melbourne, respectively. The OPAL reactor and the Australian Synchrotron can be considered the greatest single investment in scientific infrastructure in Australia’s history. Fuel was loaded into the OPAL reactor in August 2006, and full power (20MW) achieved in November 2006. The formal user commenced in 2007, and fully analysed data sets have now been taken on all seven of the initial suite of instruments. 3 further instruments are in various states of construction, and substantial additional investment is also being made in sample-environment, extra instrumental options and polarised-neutron technology. An update will be given on the status of OPAL, the performance of its thermal and cold neutron sources and instruments, a selection of the first scientific results and future plans.





### *Brief Biography of the Speaker:*

Dr Rob Robinson is currently Acting Chief of Research and Head of the Bragg Institute at the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation, just outside Sydney. He received a PhD in experimental physics from Cambridge University in 1982. He then moved to Los Alamos National Laboratory in the United States to carry out postdoctoral research, and was a staff member there between 1985 and 1999. He has also spent time as a visiting scientist at the Institut Laue-Langevin (1984) the Japanese National Laboratory for High-Energy Physics (1992), and the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (1994). He has been a fellow of the American Physical Society since 1998. In December 1999 he moved to ANSTO to become leader of the Neutron Scattering and Synchrotron Radiation Group and he is also an Adjunct Professor in both the School of Physics at the University of New South Wales and the Faculty of Science at Sydney University and a fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics. He has been Head of the Bragg Institute, since its inception in December 2002. Rob's main research activities have been in condensed-matter physics. His current research interests include strongly correlated f-electron systems magnetism in uranium intermetallics, molecular magnets, the dynamics of amorphous materials and neutron-scattering instrumentation.

### *Detailed Schedule for Tuesday, 24th March 2009:*

- 5.30-6.30 pm **LECTURE by Dr Rob Robinson.**
- 6:35-7.00 pm **REFRESHMENTS, Slade Lecture Theatre.**
- 7.00-8.00 pm **LECTURE by Prof Roger Lewis.**
- 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.***

