

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Friday 24th August, 6.30 PM

Wollongong Science Centre

Bookings Essential!



THE QUARK TO THE COSMOS – The 2007 Nobel Lecture

**Associate Professor Geraint Lewis
Institute of Astronomy, School of Physics
University of Sydney**

We've all heard of the Nobel Prize for Physics, but how many of us actually know what it is awarded for? This yearly lecture, run by the Australian Institute of Physics in collaboration with University of Wollongong's School of Engineering Physics and the Wollongong Science Centre enlists an expert in the field to explain the previous year's Nobel Prize in physics.

The Big Bang theory was proposed in 1927, but it took nearly forty years for proof to be found. Known as the "Afterglow of Creation", the discovery of the Cosmic Microwave Background in 1965 was hailed as outstanding evidence of the Hot Big Bang picture of the early universe, and won Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson the 1978 Nobel Prize.

Little did they know that the background radiation carries a deeper secret, a picture of the Universe at the very earliest moments that depicts the seething of the quantum vacuum throughout the cosmos. The 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to George Smoot and John Mather, who revealed this picture in amazing detail, showing the seeds that grew into the stars and galaxies we see around us today.

In this fully illustrated talk Associate Professor Lewis will explain in layperson's terms the fascinating history of the study of the cosmos and the ramifications of Smoot and Mather's discoveries.



The Speaker

Geraint Lewis was born in Old South Wales, and studied Physics at London University and Cambridge. Since completing his PhD he has worked in the State University of New York, Victoria University in Canada, and the University of Washington in Seattle. He then became a Research Astronomer at the Anglo-Australian Observatory before joining the University of Sydney in 2002 to study cosmology.

He is married to Zdenka Kuncic, who is also an astrophysicist at the University of Sydney, and they have two small astrophysicists, Bryn and Dylan.

RSVP Details:

Date: Friday 24th August 2007

Venue: Wollongong Science Centre, Squires Way, Wollongong.

Science Centre Interactive Exhibit Time: 6:00PM - 6:30PM

Lecture Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Parking: Parking is available at the Science Centre at no cost.

Cost: Free

Due to limited seating, bookings are essential.

Booking Contact: Kim Noble, Wollongong Science Centre

Phone: (02) 42865000 (menu option 3)

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Event sponsored by:

The Australian Institute of Physics – NSW Branch.
Wollongong Science Centre.
School of Physics, University of Wollongong.