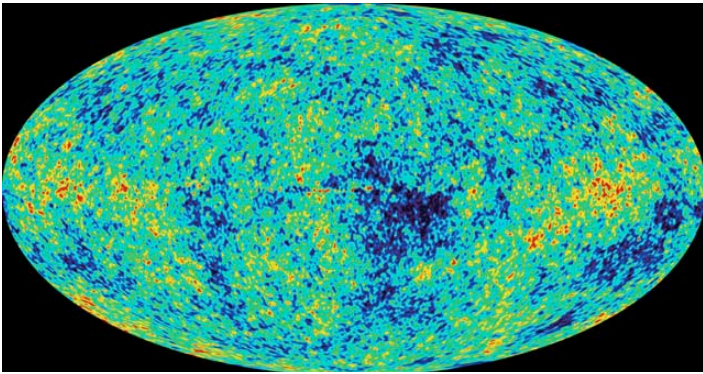


Date: Thursday, 29 October 2015
Time: 5.30 - 7.00 pm
Venue: Harry Messel Lecture Theatre 4002,
Sydney Nanoscience Hub, The University of Sydney

[Register](#)

To celebrate the **International Year of Light**, CUDOS is **hosting a set of presentations** describing how scientific breakthroughs in the understanding of light have changed and improved our lives. Using **Nobel prizes awarded for light-related research** as a guide, an inspirational group of Sydney University Professors will discuss how our understanding of light has changed since the early 20th century, how this understanding has helped change society for the better, and how it helps us understand our place on earth and beyond.

SPEAKER: JOSS BLAND-HAWTHORN
In search of the oldest light in the Universe



In 1899, scientists declared that most of the important science had been discovered. And then came Einstein, space-time, the discovery of the expanding Universe, quasars, pulsars, black holes. A hundred years on, astrophysicists were keen to declare once again that most of the important science had been uncovered. And then came the "accelerating" universe, the discovery of a universe filled with mysterious dark matter and dark energy.

We know a great deal about our astonishing universe, but do we understand any of it? What are our plans for the next hundred years? Professor Joss Bland-Hawthorn will endeavour to give some insight into these questions by highlighting advances in astronomical instrumentation that has led to Nobel Prizes since the 1960s.

Following the presentation light refreshments will be served and you will have the opportunity to view the displays that showcase the Sydney Astrophotonic Instrumentation Laboratory (SAIL)'s light based technologies. See the Raman Spectrograph for Field Robotics which has been developed for the farming industry and we will also show you how imaging 'earth-like' planets can be made easier with larger telescopes.

Please **register** for this event.

Professor Joss Bland-Hawthorn is an astrophysicist and specializes in extragalactic and galactic astronomy, and in developing astronomical instrumentation. In November 2007, he moved from the Australian Astronomical Observatory to take up a Federation Fellow Professorship at the Institute of Astronomy, School of Physics, The University of Sydney. In 2014, he was awarded a Laureate Fellowship; he has won numerous awards including the Jackson Gwilt Medal in Astronomy (2012) and the W.H. Steel Medal in Optics (2015). Joss is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and the Optical Society of America. He is Director of the Sydney Institute for Astronomy (SIfA) and co-founder and associate director of the Institute of Photonics and Optical Science (IPOS).

