



**Joint Meeting of
Australian Institute of Physics &
The Royal Society of New South Wales**

**“Searching for Nanosecond Laser Pulses
from Outer Space”**

Dr Ragbir Bhathal

School of Engineering, University of Western Sydney

Tuesday 22nd March 2011 @ 6.30PM

At the

Slade Lecture Theatre, School of Physics, University of Sydney

Public talk arranged by: The Australian Institute of Physics & The Royal Society of NSW

Entrance is FREE

Summary of talk:

The main strategy for the search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (ETI) over the last 50 years has been to search for ETI signals in the radio spectrum. However, about ten years ago three groups of scientists in the US (Harvard University, University of California and the SETI Institute) and one in Australia (OZ OSETI Project, University of Western Sydney) began a dedicated search for possible nanosecond laser pulses emanating from ETI. No positive signals great or small have been received to date. However, according to the famous 19th century mathematician and physicist, Karl Gauss the detection of a signal from ETI will “will be greater than the discovery of America”. The talk will review some aspects of the search for ETI and new directions in this fascinating field of science.





Brief Biography of the Speaker:

Dr Ragbir Bhathal is the Project Director of the OZ OSETI Project, the longest dedicated search for ETI in the optical spectrum in the Southern Hemisphere. He is considered the Father of SETI in Australia. He is an academic staff member of the School of Engineering at the University of Western Sydney and teaches engineering physics, project management, and radio and satellite communications. His research interests are in astrophysics, physics, physics education and Aboriginal astronomy. He is also conducting a National Oral History Project on eminent Australian physicists, engineers and astrophysicists which is sponsored by the National Library of Australia. He has published several papers in international journals and 15 books, six on astronomy.

He was awarded the prestigious Nancy Keesing Fellowship by the State Library of NSW, the C J Dennis Award for excellence in natural history writing and the 1988 Royal Society of NSW Medal for services to science and research. His latest book with Professor Hugh Young and Dr Roger Freedman is *University Physics with Modern Physics (First Australian SI Edition)*.



Detailed Schedule for Tuesday, 22nd March 2011:

- 6.00-6.30 pm **REFRESHMENTS, Slade Lecture Theatre.**
- 6.35-7.35 pm **LECTURE by Dr Ragbir Bhathal.**
- 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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