

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday 19 August 2014

The Accelerating Universe

In 1998, the expansion of the universe was traced back over billions of years and it was discovered that it was accelerating, a startling discovery that suggests that more than 70 per cent of the cosmos is contained in a previously unknown form of matter called Dark Energy.

Thirteen years later, Brian Schmidt, a Distinguished Professor at the Australian National University, won the Nobel Prize for Physics for his work leading the research.

Today, as one of the brightest stars in physics, he arrives in Tasmania for a series of talks about his role in the discovery and what it means for our understanding of the cosmos.

Adjunct Researcher at the University of Tasmania and member of the Executives of both the Australian Institute of Physics and the Astronomical Society of Australia Dr Marc Duldig said Professor Schmidt was a phenomenal and in-demand speaker.

“Professor Schmidt is passionate about young people and science. We are very lucky to have him in Tasmania not just for public lectures but for visits to schools throughout the State,” Dr Duldig said.

“There are not a lot of Nobel Prize winners in Australia so the chance to go and hear him speak and to ask him questions is very special indeed.”

Professor Schmidt’s tour is part of National Science Week, and has been organised by the Astronomical Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Physics, with support from the University of Tasmania and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

School visits will take place in Don College, Launceston College, Fahan School and The Friends’ School with public lectures in Launceston and Hobart.

Public lectures – The Accelerating Universe Launceston

When: tonight, Tuesday, 19 August, 8pm with refreshments served from 7.30pm.

Where: Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, Newnham campus of the University of Tasmania.

Hobart

When: tomorrow, Wednesday, 20 August, 8pm with refreshments served from 7.30pm.

Where: Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus of the University of Tasmania.

Information released by:

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