

# Tomorrow's Universe – The Discoveries that will Change Science: The 2024 Allison-Levick Lecture



MACQUARIE  
University

## Keynote Speaker

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Professor Fred Watson AM is the Australian Government's Astronomer-at-Large, an outreach, advocacy and expert advisory role in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Educated in Scotland at the universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Fred worked at both of Britain's Royal Observatories before joining the Australian Astronomical Observatory as Astronomer-in-Charge in 1995. Today, he is best known for his award-winning radio and TV broadcasts, books, music, dark-sky advocacy and the *Space Nuts* podcast. Fred is an adjunct professor in Macquarie University. He also has an asteroid named after him (5691 Fredwatson), but says that if it hits the Earth, it won't be his fault.

## Abstract

Astronomy today is going through a golden age with amazing new facilities exploring the Universe. The James Webb Space Telescope is re-writing the textbook on baby galaxies, while gravitational wave observatories are detecting vibrations in space caused by colliding black holes. But there's much more to come, with gigantic new telescopes in the pipeline that truly boggle the imagination. What are these awe-inspiring instruments, and what will they reveal about the Universe's deepest mysteries? And will Australian astronomers play a part? Join Australia's Astronomer-at-Large for this entertaining and fully illustrated look into the future of astronomy.