



---

# MEDIA ALERT

---

13 June, 2010

## ASTRONOMERS BID FAREWELL TO OLD ENGLAND

The Anglo-Australian Observatory, one of Australia's premier scientific institutions, is shedding its link with the UK, changing its name, and throwing a 'party' — including events for the public.

The AAO has been jointly funded and overseen by the UK and Australian Governments since its inception in 1974.

But on 1 July 2010 it will become a division of the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, and will also change its name to the Australian Astronomical Observatory.

To mark this event the AAO is hosting a week-long meeting of astronomers in Coonabarabran NSW, the town closest to Siding Spring Observatory where the AAO's two telescopes are located.

The 3.9-m Anglo-Australian Telescope is the largest optical telescope in Australia and one of the world's most productive.

### **Free public events in Coonabarabran**

**Talk**, 7:30 pm Tuesday 22 June: Professor David Malin on how he photographed the universe in colour.

**Talk**, 7:30 pm Friday 25 June: Professor Malcolm Longair (Uni. of Cambridge) on what different telescopes and spacecraft have shown us about the universe.

*These talks will be held at the Coonabarabran Shire Hall in John St, Coonabarabran.*

**Open Day** at the Anglo-Australian Telescope — Saturday 26 June

### **Further information**

Meeting homepage — <http://www.aao.gov.au/AAO2010/>

Astronomers to interview — <http://www.aao.gov.au/press/aao2010/interviewees.pdf>

Public events — [http://www.aao.gov.au/press/aao2010/public\\_events.html](http://www.aao.gov.au/press/aao2010/public_events.html)

Photos — [http://www.aao.gov.au/press/aat\\_photos/images.html](http://www.aao.gov.au/press/aat_photos/images.html)

### **Enquiries**

Helen Sim

02 9372 4251 (office)

0419 635 905 (mob.)

hsim@aao.gov.au

###