

**Parramatta and District Historical Society
announces the Speaker for the
*February 2026 Monthly Meeting***

The Speaker on this occasion will be

Prof. Fred Watson

Who Will Present



Australia's 1922 'Einstein Eclipse' (& What's Coming Next)

In the immediate aftermath of the First World War, the scientific sensation of the age was Einstein's epic theory of gravity – the General Theory of Relativity. Today, most textbooks tell us the theory was confirmed by observations of a total solar eclipse in 1919, but the reality was that many in the scientific world were sceptical of the result, demanding further proof. In September 1922, another eclipse provided the opportunity. With the Moon's shadow traversing Australia from west to east, five major expeditions were mounted to observe the phenomenon.



In this entertaining and copiously-illustrated talk, Fred Watson AM explains the background to the 1922 eclipse, tells the story of the observing expeditions and looks forward to 2028, when an uncannily similar total eclipse will be visible to more than a quarter of the nation's population.

Fred Watson is an honorary professor of astronomy advocacy and engagement at Macquarie University. From 2018 to 2024, he was the Australian Government's first Astronomer-at-Large, having served for the previous 20 years as the Astronomer-in-Charge of the Australian Astronomical Observatory. He is perhaps best known for his award-winning radio and TV broadcasts, books, music and the Space Nuts podcast.

TIME and DATE: **7.30 pm Monday 16 February 2026**

VENUE: **Burnside Gardens Community Centre
3 Blackwood Place, Oatlands**

**The presentation is free and will be followed by supper.
Enquiries Jeff Allen at jallen6@bigpond.net.au or 0414 996 497**

Visitors Very Welcome