

DAVID COOPER MEMORIAL LECTURE 2015

There is Life on Mars, Probably (!)

Professor Malcolm Walter

October 1st, 7:00 pm

Innovations Theatre, Anthony Low Building (#124)
Eggleston Street, Australian National University



Australian
National
University



*This event is part of the 15th
Australian Space Research Conference*



There is Life on Mars, Probably (!)

Malcolm Walter is Professor of Astrobiology (retired) at the University of NSW and is the Founding Director of the Australian Centre for Astrobiology.

Malcolm Walter's research has evolved from an interest in the paleobiology of the earliest Earth to that on the environmental context of early evolution and the geochemical consequences of that evolution. It is characterised by simultaneous research on both ancient systems and their modern analogues. It has involved working in, managing and leading teams of up to about 60 people. As a result of an invitation in 1978 to a NASA conference on the search for life on Mars he became fascinated with that quest. His book *The Search for Life on Mars* was published in 1999 and in 2001 he curated the Centenary of Federation exhibition *To Mars and Beyond: Search for the Origins of Life*. In 2002 he established the Australian Centre for Astrobiology, a formal Associate of NASA's Astrobiology Institute.



The David Cooper lecture

This annual lecture commemorates the life and work of Dave Cooper, an Australian space advocate who made a significant contribution to promoting Mars exploration in his home country.

Born in Adelaide, David Cooper worked for many years as a commercial pilot in remote parts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. He was a member of the Planetary Society since the 1980s and also of the National Space Society and regularly attended space conferences, including one in the United States in 1990.

In 1998 Dave co-founded the Mars Society Australia (MSA, dedicated to promoting Mars exploration and serves as an Australian network for Mars researchers and enthusiasts. He was vice-president until February 2005 and president until his death in 2012.