



## David Malin

David Malin has been involved in scientific imaging all his working life. He joined the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO) as its Photographic Scientist in August 1975, shortly after scheduled observations began on the then-new, 3.9m Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) in June 1975. He is also now Adjunct Professor of Scientific Photography at RMIT University in Melbourne. He was born in England and trained as a chemist, working for many years with a large international chemical company in the north of England. There he used optical and electron microscope and X-ray diffraction techniques to explore the very small before turning his attention to much larger and more distant things in Australia.

David Malin worked for 26 years at the Anglo-Australian Observatory as photographic scientist and astronomer. There he developed hypersensitising processes which can give enormous gains in speed to the photographic materials that were used in astronomy. He also invented new ways of revealing information on astronomical plates, a speciality which has given him an international reputation.

These novel image enhancement techniques quickly led to the discovery of two new types of galaxy. Malin-Carter 'shell' galaxies have low contrast but large-scale features associated with otherwise normal galaxies, while in 1987 he discovered an extremely faint, uniquely massive 'proto-galaxy' which has since been named Malin-1. These are some of the faintest objects ever detected by an ground-based telescope and are the result of a photographic process that has been dubbed 'Malinisation'. Their discovery represented a significant advance in photographic astronomy, as well as being a major contribution to research on galaxies.

The several photographic techniques developed for research work come together in a method for making true-colour astronomical photographs from black and white plates taken in three separate colours. They have been widely published on the covers of hundreds books and magazines, including LIFE and National Geographic and as a series of Australian postage stamps. They have also been appeared in international solo art exhibitions in Australia, Britain, China, France, Italy, India and the USA.

David Malin has published over 120 scientific papers and a similar number of popular articles on astronomy and photography, as well as nine books. He is also a well-known and entertaining lecturer on these and related topics. *The Invisible Universe* is a large format celebration of the beauty of the night sky, a subject increasingly explored in his gallery exhibitions. He was also scientific advisor for *Heaven and Earth*, a profusely illustrated work that uses scientific pictures to explore all scales from the atomic to the cosmic. More recently, he was commissioning editor for the Scientific Imaging section of Elsevier's well respected *Focal Encyclopedia of Photography*. His latest book *Ancient Light* is a portrait of the Universe in black and white.