



Robyn Williams is an Australian Academy of Science Fellow, science journalist and broadcaster with the ABC and presents Radio National's Science Show, Ockham's Razor and In Conversation. His most recent publication on science discusses the notion of intelligent design in *Unintelligent design (why God isn't as smart as she thinks)*. Robyn has served in various capacities, including President of the Australian Museum Trust, Chairman of the Commission for the Future, and President of the Australian Science Communicators. In 1987, he was proclaimed a National Living Treasure.

Prof Stephen Simpson is an ARC Federation Fellow and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, an honour he obtained through his long career working on and publishing about entomology, animal behaviour and neurobiology. Before coming to the University of Sydney in 2005, Stephen held a number of visiting research posts. He has also worked as Lecturer, Zoology and Curator at Oxford University's Natural History Museum, and Professor of the Hope Entomological College at the same university.

ABOVE: Wedding portrait. Carl Linnaeus holding a sprig of *Linnaea borealis*, the plant named after him. TW Haagen. Courtesy Linnean Society of London.

RIGHT: *Nautilus pomilius* L. one of five hundred specimens on view in the Macleay Museum's exhibition for *Rational order: Carl von Linné 1707-1778*

Invitation

Macleay Museum with The Swedish Embassy

A toast to the Father of Taxonomy, celebrating Linnaeus's 300th birthday

Robyn Williams on taxonomy and museums in Australia today.
Stephen Simpson on names, locusts and behaviour.

Carl Linnaeus was a classificatory genius and a true Enlightenment-age man who brought his considerable learning and abilities to the fields of botany, zoology, mineralogy, medicine, entrepreneurship, nationalism and natural history for the one great purpose of building a taxonomic system for the world. This binomial system is still in use today.

Robyn's talk will focus on the legacy of Linnaeus's binomial system in Australian museums.

Swarms of locusts and their destructive potential has captivated and horrified humans for thousands of years. In 1758 Linnaeus named two species of locusts, identifying differences from their behaviour, one swarmed and other did not. It was not until 1921 that émigré Russian biologist, Boris Uvarov, realised that both the 'solitarious' and the 'gregarious' were in fact separate forms of the same species, *Locusta migratoria* L. (African migratory locust - also found in Australia). This discovery of locust 'phase transition' led on to some exciting science, with big implications for control of this swarming pest.

Stephen will discuss the intricate and social world of the *Locusta migratoria* and recent advances in biological research.

Wednesday 23 May; 6 for 6.30 start
Old Geology Lecture Theatre
(opposite the Footbridge Theatre)
and afterwards at the Macleay Museum
(Gosper Lane off Science road)

Cost: \$20; \$12 students

RSVP macleaymuseum@usyd.edu.au or 9036 5253

