

ISCAST is a think tank of Christian academics, scientists, professionals, and theologians who explore the interface and interactions between science & technology with the Christian faith.

ISCAST and Mammon in 2015

ISCAST doesn't usually report much on things financial, just occasionally however it is worth documenting where we are so that our members know how things are going. ISCAST has five separate funds to which we consciously allocate money received according to the purpose for which it was given. See table below:

Fund	Description/Purpose	Budget Target	Status at 31 March	Projection to end of the year*
Executive Project Officer	Chris Mulherin's services & associated costs	\$35,000	\$16,640	\$35,000
Operating Fund	Operating costs (website, membership, finance, &c.)	\$21,800	\$3,500	\$21,000
Science & Christian Belief	S & CB subscriptions	To cover costs. (Est.: \$2,890)	\$450	\$2,890
Hugh Lyons Memorial Fund	In memory of Hugh Lyons, son of Prof. Lawrie Lyons.	\$3,000 from investments	\$115	\$3,100
Chapters	The chapters with own accounts for events and activities.	Break even at the end of the year.	N/A	N/A

*'Projections' include fee increases and assume a similar cash flow to that of 2014

The EPO Fund is travelling very well thanks to some generous donations. We thank them formally here. For the rest of you, please don't stop supporting Chris. He still needs your support and we are keen to extend his employment next year.

The Operating Fund is touch and go. We rely on membership fees and additional donations for this. When you are preparing your donation to the EPO Fund, please consider something to cover our operating costs also. To help us out the Board increased membership fees as follows:

Category	2014 Fee	2015 Fee
Fellow	\$175	\$190
Associate	\$60	\$66
Family/ Corporate	\$80	\$88
Student	\$20	\$22

All membership fees include GST and cover the 12 months after the anniversary of joining ISCAST. Please encourage non-members of ISCAST to join us.

Science and Christian Belief ISCAST has an arrangement with Christians In Science (UK) to distribute S&CB at a discount. With the drop in the Australian dollar, the value of this discount has dropped and we have had to increase the fees. These are now:

	Member	Non-Member
Hard Copy	\$60	\$70
Soft Copy	\$45	\$70
Hard and Soft Copy	\$66	\$75

The Hugh Lyons Memorial Fund is based on a bequest by Prof. Lawrie Lyons in memory of his son. Currently the funds are distributed through investments and term deposits. We have traditionally gleaned about \$4K annually from these, some of which are used for scholarships for COSAC and elsewhere.

We plan to use some of the capital to help pay for a new website to house the Christian Perspectives on Science & Christianity online journal. We are looking for an editor to guide us with this.

Chapters' Funds are the responsibilities of the individual chapters. The Board has set aside some additional funds to support the chapters to be disbursed at the discretion of the EPO and to help kick-start or under-write chapter events where required. As a rule however, ISCAST requires that chapters at least break even with their activities, events and costs.

In conclusion, ISCAST has significant reserves and a good revenue stream from its investments, memberships, activities and donations.

We continue to be grateful for your support especially for Chris Mulherin as our EPO. Because so much of our funds are specifically allocated (e.g. the HLMF, the EPO donations) the operating funds are tight. The Board has sought to address this by increasing the membership and other subscriptions but we are still relying heavily on your membership and additional donations here.

God bless you in your support for our work in his name.

Richard Gijbsers,
Secretary.

In this Issue:

- News Items
- Book Reviews & Resources
- Event News

News Items

Items of interest to the interaction between science and Christianity and of significance to the ISCAST family. Your submissions of these are welcome.



Prof Graeme Clark receives prestigious US bioengineering award

Professor Graeme Clark AC from the University of Melbourne is the first Australian to receive the US Russ Prize for an outstanding achievement in bioengineering innovation that is in widespread use to improve health and well-being: the cochlear implant.

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New survey finds Creationism in Britain has been overstated

Dr Amy Unsworth is a research fellow at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, S. Edmund's College, Cambridge University. Over several months last year, she conducted a survey with Yougov to dig deeper into the question of people's attitudes to evolution in the U.K.

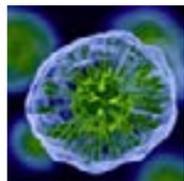
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Geoen지니어링 might work in a rational world... sadly we don't live in one

The publication of a hefty two-volume report on geoen지니어링 by the US National Research Council represents a marked shift in the global debate over how to respond to global warming.

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3D printing raises ethical issues in medicine

3D printing can offer great benefits in medicine, but it also raises a number of ethical questions as the technology develops, says Susan Dodds.

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The Sacrament of Creation: What can we expect from Pope Francis' ecological encyclical?

Pope Francis has made no secret of his conviction that human-induced climate change, along with other forms of environmental degradation, represents a grave threat to humanity's future.

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The Changing face of evolutionary theory

An interesting development is taking place in the biological and anthropological sciences today that has its roots in a decades-old discussion. Whispers in the halls of scientific faculties and hushed conversations in laboratories have solidified into outright dialogue and debate in top scientific journals.

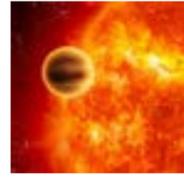
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How the digital age has changed our approach to death and grief

In the days and weeks leading up to the death of Leonard Nimoy, the actor and director most known for playing the gravel-voiced Vulcan Mr Spock in Star Trek, knew he was dying.

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If C.S. Lewis met E.T.

Scientists and Theologians write on the possibility of extraterrestrial life

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The atheist and his metal Detector

I grew up on the Jersey shore. (No, it wasn't like the TV show.) Every summer morning I'd see

several men combing the beach with metal detectors looking for jewellery and change lost the day before.

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The exile of the mind

British higher education is increasingly secular in outlook. This paper identifies three aspects of that secularity:

specialisation, instrumentalisation and globalisation.

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Can Christians believe in science and the resurrection?

Was the resurrection of Jesus Christ an anti-

scientific event? This question was discussed at a March 13 conference on science and religion hosted by The American Association of the Advancement of Science's Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion.

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Book Reviews & Resources

The ISCAST Online Journal – Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology is a forum for those exploring the interaction between science, technology and the Christian faith. Submissions are invited and they may be academic articles, less formal discussions aimed at non-academic readers, opinion pieces, or book reviews. Articles and discussions will be refereed. The intended readers are Christians interested in science and technology, and scientists and technologists interested in the Christian faith. Specialist knowledge is not assumed.



Resiting the goal-posts: a new direction in science-faith dialogue.

A review of Tom McLeish's book *Faith and Wisdom in Science*
Alan Gijbers, December 2014

Author

Alan Gijbers is the president of ISCAST.

Excerpt

The book is ambitious on a number of fronts. First it seeks to make science much less nerdy and much more accessible to the ordinary lay person in the street. In doing so he suggests that we replace the 'hard' concept of science with the 'softer' older concept of natural philosophy – a love of the wisdom of nature. And he communicates that love through the enthusiasm with which he presents so many different aspects of physics and beyond.

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A harmonious relationship: can science and faith be friends?

Author

James Garth is an ISCAST Fellow

Excerpt

Are science and faith compatible? James Garth believes a positive future lies not in conflict, but in harmony.

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SUTS - Why there is no conflict between science and Christian faith

The following are notes from a talk given at the CMS Victoria Summer Under the Son conference in January 2015.

Author

Chris Mulherin is the ISCAST Executive Project Officer.

Excerpt

In the early 21st century, Christians find themselves in a profoundly important cultural space. The issue concerns the credibility of Christian truth in a world dominated by science and technology. Let me state the case: leaving aside theological truths of election, and just speaking about the human side of the question, I think that the lack of an integration between science and faith, in the minds of believers and unbelievers, is the most destructive force working against Christian belief and against confident faith and witness

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Ecomodernist Manifesto: review

A review of *An Ecomodernist Manifesto*
Ian Hore-Lacy, April 2015

Author

Ian Hore-Lacy is an ISCAST Fellow

Excerpt

An Ecomodernist Manifesto is a document published on 14 April 2015 over the names of 18 individuals known for their environmental stance and writings. Mark Lynas, Michael Shellenberger, Linus Blomqvist, Ted Nordhaus and Stewart Brand are possibly the best-known internationally, along with our very own Barry Brook, and filmmaker Robert Stone. "We call ourselves ecopragmatists and ecomodernists." "As scholars, scientists, campaigners, and citizens, we write with the conviction that

knowledge and technology, applied with wisdom, might allow for a good, or even great, Anthropocene.

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Gender identity and sexuality

Dr Patricia Weerakoon, and her son Kamal Weerakoon gave an ISCAST-CASE lecture in April 2015.

Abstract excerpt

The presentation overviews, and seeks to harmonise, three different perspectives on gender identity definition – medical, social, and evangelical-theological – in the hope that a model of gender identity informed by all three will truly lead to holistic personal and social wellbeing.

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Congratulations
To Christina & Michael Smith
on the birth of Lydia.



Event News

ISCAST-CASE (Sydney)

Lecture 2

Date: Thursday 4th June 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Dr Andrew Brown, BA, BMin/BTh, BA (Hons), PhD

Lecture Title: The History of interpretation of Genesis 1

Venue: Main Common Room, New College, UNSW.

Further information: Andrew is an Old Testament Lecturer at the Melbourne School of Theology. Information will be updated as it comes to hand.

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ISCAST Vic: Ordered Universe Project Talk

Date: Friday 11th September 2015

Theme: Ordered Universe Project

Speaker: Professor Tom McLeish, MA, PHD, FRS

Information will be updated as it comes to hand.

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ISCAST Vic: Allan Day Memorial Lecture

Date: Friday 11th September 2015 at 5.30pm

Speaker: Professor Tom McLeish, MA, PHD, FRS

Venue: Ridley College - TBC

Information will be updated as it comes to hand.

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Other News

Look us up on:



Facebook: www.facebook.com/ISCAST



Twitter: [@ISCAST_Oz](https://twitter.com/ISCAST_Oz)



Tune in to our [Podcast](#)

Keep an eye on the website for events

www.iscast.org

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Annual Subscription by post: \$22 (Credit Card add \$2 processing fee) **Total Due: \$** _____

Contact the ISCAST office for payment details.



This is an official organ of ISCAST (The Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology, a not for profit organisation registered in New South Wales, Australia).

It is published quarterly in both hard copy and digital formats. It includes news items of relevance to both the ISCAST family and to the engagement of science and Christianity in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere.

It also includes abstracts of articles submitted to *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*, ISCAST's online journal and the latest information of events hosted by ISCAST chapters around Australia and New Zealand.

Items published on the ISCAST website and in this Digest explore the interaction between science and the Christian faith and will be published to foster the discussions and debate. ISCAST cannot endorse any or all of the opinions expressed here.

Details of events published will be correct as at the date of publication but you are encouraged to check the website or with the relevant contact before the event.

Hard copy versions of the Digest are available at the cost of \$22 pa and subscriptions can be arranged by contacting the ISCAST Victoria office.

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