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ISCAST is a think tank of Christian academics, scientists, professionals, and theologians, which explores the interface between science, technology, and the Christian faith.

A Scientist's Creed



...And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

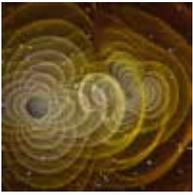


In this Issue:

- News Items
- News, Books and Resources
- Event News

News Items

News about the interface between science and Christianity, and of significance to the ISCAST community. Your submissions are most welcome.



Science cannot be an exclusive guide to reality

Science is not sufficient to explain all dimensions of existence, and to see science as our

only valid guide to understanding reality is a great mistake, argues a new book by British philosopher Professor Roger Trigg. John Pilbrow, Emeritus Professor of Physics, Monash University and a Life Fellow of ISCAST (Christians in Science and Technology), explains.

[Read more...](#)



Cosmologists should be more sceptical of dark matter

To get computer models to look similar to the

universe around us, cosmologists have assumed that around 96 per cent of matter and energy are in forms that we cannot directly detect. You might think that this would make cosmologists wary of relying on such hypothetical substances. Yet for the majority working today, dark matter and dark energy are every bit as real as the stars and galaxies that we can see.

[Read more...](#)



Why are we here?

Why are we here? is a new four part TV series airing on Foxtel, The History Channel from Saturday 9 July

at 6.30 pm.

[Read more...](#)



Mind meld—controlling an aircraft with your brain

After HOTAS, HMDs, touchscreens and

gesture control - is 'thought control' the final

evolution of the human-machine interface for pilots? TIM ROBINSON talks to Honeywell Aerospace about its cutting edge research into neural technology.

[Read more...](#)



Logos Live 43: The X Files returns: Is the truth still out there?

The return of the X Files to our television screens earlier this year has prompted many questions about the existence of aliens and the paranormal. Are we alone in the universe? Will the existence of aliens change our perception of Christianity? Is the truth still out there?

[Read more...](#)



Can we live by science alone?

New Atheist leader Richard Dawkins, who was to be in Melbourne in March, was invited to dialogue with ISCAST

Executive Officer, Rev. Dr Chris Mulherin, on the City Bible Forum's "Logos Live" radio program, but Professor Dawkins fell ill, cancelling his trip.

However, the program, on the question "Can we live by science alone?", went ahead, and Chris was interviewed by Rob Martin, Director of CBF in Melbourne.

[Read more...](#)



Why teleology isn't dead

Mention teleology in scientific circles and you'll usually get a skeptical response.

Purpose in the way the world is evolving? Patterns certainly—but purpose? No.

[Read more...](#)



Artificial intelligence: machines, minds or both?

Is your smart phone really smart? Do you

ever fear it will get too smart? Will it wake up one morning and decide to start running your life – deleting contacts it doesn't like, booking holidays online that it wants to go on with you or shifting your calendar appointments to suit its tastes? Perhaps, more realistically, you may be inclined to feel that your printer has a mind and mood swings of its own, seemingly out to get you when you are facing the most desperate deadline.

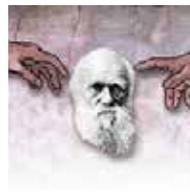
[Read more...](#)



Artificial intelligence should be protected by human rights, says Oxford mathematician

With huge leaps taking place in the world of artificial intelligence (AI), right now, experts have started asking questions about the new forms of protection we might need against the formidable smarts and potential dangers of computers and robots of the near future.

[Read more...](#)



The deep problem evangelicalism has with evolution

Why are so many evangelicals on full alert over evolution? Because they are afraid—afraid that, if evolution is correct, their evangelical heritage is called into question.

Their personal narrative is threatened.

[Read more...](#)

No access to the internet and want more information? Contact the ISCAST office (see back page) and we will forward the full item to you. Postage and handling fees apply.

News, Books and Resources

Following the visit to Australia by [Dr Graeme Finlay](#) in July 2016, we have compiled some perspectives on "origins" as tackled by various ISCASTians. Graeme's visit and the discussion of science and theology in this area has highlighted the challenges we face. Other papers can be found [here](#). These are not the last words on the subject but are contributions to the discussion. Any insights you might wish to share to supplement these are welcome. The conversation continues.



The state of play of the science—religion dialogue in Australia

The State of Play of the Science - Religion Dialogue in Australia: Six Emerging Themes, Six Key Strategies, Six Core Values (an ISCAST discussion paper) is now available for download. The paper was initiated by ISCAST Vic at a workshop on Saturday 15 August 2015. [Read more...](#)



Genetics, evolution, cancer, suffering and God—video

Dr Graeme Finlay presents on Genetics, Evolution, Cancer, Suffering and God at Tabor College. [Read more...](#)



Unequivocal genetic evidence for human evolution, and implications for Christian faith

Audio and PPT files of Dr Graeme Finlay's lecture and the Q & A session following it.

Title

Unequivocal Genetic Evidence for Human Evolution, and Implications for Christian Faith

Abstract

In this lecture Graeme wants to do two things. Firstly to present the unequivocal evidence from comparative genomics that we are an evolved species. And then (because he knows that many Christians find it difficult to assimilate this) he goes on to emphasise that this strengthens and enriches our faith. [Read more...](#)



Adam and anthropology: Taking Genesis seriously in the light of contemporary science

Author

Allan John Day, January 2000

Abstract

In this paper an attempt is made to assess the findings of modern anthropology in relation to the interpretation of the Genesis account of Adam and the fall. It is maintained, that neither a strictly literal interpretation, nor one which identifies an individual historic Adam with the biblical Adam, is consistent with the findings of cultural and physical anthropology. [Read more...](#)



Genesis 1–3: Science? History? Theology?

Author

J A Thompson, September 1996

Abstract

This is the 1966 Tyndale Lecture given in Melbourne, reproduced with the author's permission. The creation accounts in Genesis are analysed, considering their language, literary forms, relation to history, and theological interpretation. [Read more...](#)



Athens and Jerusalem: Interpreters of Genesis 1 through the centuries

Andrew Brown, June 2015

A survey of high-profile Christian interpretations of the creation week in Genesis 1:1–2:3

reveals a range of implicit stances about the relationship between the biblical portrayal of creation and data derived from the natural world and incorporated into explanatory schemes of the origin and ordinary functioning of the cosmos. [Read more...](#)



The Genesis of Everything: A historical account of the Bible's opening chapter

John Dickson, March 2008

This paper seeks to plot a path through the controversy surrounding the Bible's opening chapter by examining Genesis 1 in historical context. The author assumes and endorses no particular view of human origins but argues for a 'literal' interpretation of the text, as opposed to what may be called 'literalistic'. The former reading gives due weight to both the literary genre of Genesis 1 and the cultural milieu of the original writer, whereas the latter gives sufficient attention to neither. [Read more...](#)



Evolution: Still a theory in crisis—book review

A review of Michael Denton's book,

Will Jones, July 2016

Exerpt

Michael Denton is a biochemist who has some questions for Darwinian evolution. Many of those who work in the field of evolutionary developmental biology, he notes, have started to question whether Darwin's theory really does hold all the answers for the traits they are studying. [Read more...](#)

Do you have an article to submit to *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*? Contact the editorial team via www.iscast.org/journalpage

Event News

ISCAST Vic News:

ISCAST Vic is currently planning a forum on complex problems and how we cope with these. We have invited speakers to talk about drug and alcohol addiction, Indigenous health, microwaves and other often difficult and multi-faceted problems.

This event will be held on Saturday 24 September, with further details being added to the [ISCAST website](#) as they come to hand.

ISCAST Vic has also approached ISCAST Fellow James Garth to present a lecture on his research into

[Perceptions of Faith](#). Keep an eye on our website for updates.

Vic Events

Saturday 3 September, 2016
[Simeon Network dinner](#)—Evening

Other Events

Friday 15 September 2017 - Monday 9 October 2017
[History of the Scientific Revolution International Tour](#)



New ISCAST Website

Watch this space!

Work has begun on re-designing and upgrading our website. This is in line with our strategic direction to extend ISCAST's communication function. Our new website will look fresh and clean and have mobile and tablet functionality supported. It will continue to be the news and resources hub for ISCAST happenings.

This project has been made possible by funds provided by Professor Lawrie Lyons, the Founder of ISCAST, in memory of his son Hugh.



Executive Office Fund

To date we have raised \$20,205 in support of our Executive Officer, Chris Mulherin. This year we have a target of \$60,000. Please consider your support for Chris's work and think about whether you can donate something further. If each member of ISCAST were to donate \$300, we would meet our target quickly. For those of you who have given this already, we thank you.

If you wish to donate, we can accept monthly and one-off payments via direct bank transfer, cheque, PayPal or credit card.

Please [visit our website](#) to donate via PayPal or [download a donation form](#).

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 Cards 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 community 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 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 office.

Contact ISCAST:

C/- Stockdale ACS
Suite 3, No 6 Atherton Road,
Oakleigh Vic 3166

Phone: (03) 9254 1045
Fax: (03) 8610 1936
Email: admin@iscast.org