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ISCAST is a network of people, from students to distinguished academics, exploring the interface of science, technology, and Christian faith.

Dear ISCAST friends,

Greetings from Auckland and the annual conference of ANZATS (Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools). The science and faith stream of the conference is coordinated by Nicola Hoggard-Creegan, co-director of NZ Christians in Science.

Conflict in New Zealand

My paper was entitled "Whose Science? Which Conflict? Clearing the Air About the Conflict Thesis." The final paragraph reads:

Part of the mission of the church today, immersed in a culture dominated by technoscience and inexorably more secular, is to proclaim that there is no *substantial* conflict with science and that such a conflict thesis is misguided. It is misguided because historical skirmishes are no evidence of irreconcilable or philosophical conflict, and it is misguided because much of the force of the conflict thesis rests on a naïve view of science.

If you would like a copy (including an explanation of the HUFPAT at right), do let us know.



New board members and notice of the AGM

Despite valiant enlistment efforts, the ISCAST board has never had female members. Until now. In August we expect to welcome Peggy Kern and Karen Hale to the board. Peggy is an associate professor at Melbourne University (psychology) and Karen is head of religious education at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar where she also teaches science.

ISCAST will hold its AGM on 6 August. ISCAST fellows are eligible and encouraged to participate either by teleconference or by posting their proxy votes. We strongly encourage fellows to nominate if they wish to serve on the board and also to submit their votes or proxies.

ISCAST's future: more of the same

As we mentioned in last month's eNews ([see here](#)), a year of discussion about an ISCAST merger with another organisation has concluded with a decision not to pursue the possibility. This means the board is planning for ISCAST's growth as we move ahead with some things that have been on hold. Our task remains the same but changes are needed to serve that calling as we plan for the next years.

One need, prompted by the retirement of Glenys and Richard Gijbers and their team, is to form an ISCAST staff team. We have had an Executive Director for over two years; it is now time to appoint one or two more part-time ISCAST staff.

In your prayers please commit the board and all that we do to God. Pray for wisdom as we plan. And pray for effective engagement: through the website, events, school and church visits, book publications, and simply through being an encouragement to all within our orbit.

As always, we are keen to hear from anyone who has read this far: what would you like to say as we think about the next phase of ISCAST life?

Kind regards and God's peace to you,

Chris Mulherin

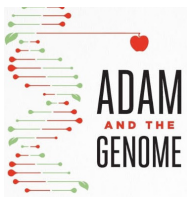
ISCAST Executive Director (0431 330 380, ChrisMulherin@ISCAST.org)

In this Issue:

- News Items
- 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.

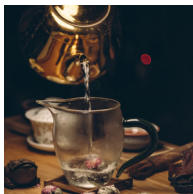


Review: *Adam and the Genome*

This book has been written out of concern for many who, once confronted with the

evidence for evolution, find a faith based on the Bible to be no longer tenable. The authors also strive to convince those Christians attached to a literal interpretation of Genesis chapters 1 to 3 as an article of faith. The book has two authors, a biologist / geneticist and a biblical scholar, each of whom contributes separate sections

You can read [this review here](#), and for other book reviews by [click here](#).



John Ortberg On Boiling Kettles and Remodeled Apes

ISCAST readers who were around in 2017 might remember Michael Smith's review of *How I Changed My Mind about Evolution*. ([You can find the review here](#))

For those who didn't get to read the book itself, or would perhaps like to revisit some of the ideas explored therein, the Science and Belief website has published an excerpt by John Ortberg, titled "Boiling kettles and remodeled apes."

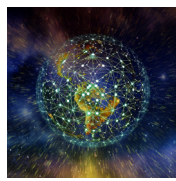
[Read more...](#)



Reflections on Quantum Physics, Mathematics and Atheism

Past ISCAST fellow Nick Hawkes reflects in these two articles on the significance of quantum physics for mathematics, atheism and God.

[Read More...](#)



Publish or Perish? Melbourne and Sydney Publishing Conferences

Our friends at The Simeon Network (run by ISCAST fellow and board member Lewis Jones) have a regular academic writing workshop entitled "Publish" designed for Christians to boost their publication record, learn tips for academic publishing, and possibly even be encouraged to expand into some cross-disciplinary publishing of faith and research ideas.

The two coming workshops are:

- In Melbourne, July 4 to July 6
- In Sydney, September 30 to October 2

For more details about these workshops, [please click here](#)



When Science is Not Enough

Resources from ISCAST Vic's event: "When science is not enough," held on 25/05/2019, are now available to download.

The slides from Alan Gijbbers' talk "What is Science?" [can be downloaded here](#).

The slides from Andrew Wood's talk "Post-normal Science and Science in Crisis" [can be downloaded here](#)



Biologos Conference Videos now Available

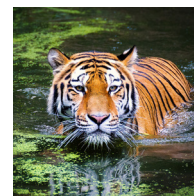
Our friends at BioLogos in the USA have just released the videos of their recent conference, which was entitled "Beyond Conflict: Science, Faith, and the Big Questions."

[Read More...](#)



BBC4 Presents: *The Secret History of Science & Religion*

In this program, Nick Spencer examines the history of science and religion and questions the extent to which they have been in conflict with one another. With the assistance of various contributors, he examines the various ways science and religion have interacted with new explorations of the world, and with each other, in historical context. [You can listen to the first episode here](#).

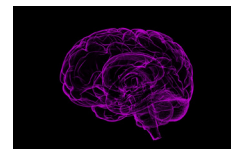


UN Says 1M Species Face Extinction: Mike Clarke Comments at *Eternity News*

The UN announced recently that 1 million species face extinction in the foreseeable future if we do not act. *Eternity News* [covers the report here](#), with comments from ISCAST fellow Professor Mike Clarke, Professor of Zoology and Head of the School of Life Sciences at La Trobe University.

Excerpt:

The report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, a UN body) is being heralded as the most comprehensive assessment of its kind. Compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries over three years, it assesses changes in the past five decades to show the relationship between economic development and its impact on nature. A 40-page summary of the 1500+ page full report was delivered to policymakers around the world today.



Book Preview: *Am I Just My Brain?*

The book *Am I Just My Brain* is out now. For the full preview and information about buying follow the link below.

[Read More...](#)

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

ISCASTian Activities



On the Physics of Resurrection

ISCAST fellow Andrew Sloane has recently published an article on resurrection as both a spiritual and scientific phenomenon, and what it means to engage with the concept of death as a person of faith.

Excerpt:

Transhumanists and the Apostle Paul aren't generally seen as having a lot in common. But here's one thing they do: both see us as needing to be rescued from the current constraints of physical existence. They both see that, to use Paul's words, we need to be "rescued from this body of death." But, of course, the nature of that rescue, and the end for which we are freed, are about as different as they can be.

[Read the full text here](#)

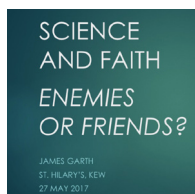


Transforming Vocation Conference Run by ISCAST Fellow Andrew Sloane

ISCAST fellow Andrew Sloane is organising a faith and work conference at Morling College in Sydney. It features Mark Greene, Executive Director of The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, and a range of key figures in the faith and work movement in Australia. Running from July 4 to 6, the conference is open to all. The conference provides an opportunity for participants to engage at the highest level in theological and practical reflection on the nature of work, the changing cultural and economic landscape in which we now operate as workers, and how churches and their leaders can more effectively equip their members to think well and live faithfully as workers.

More details of the conference can be found in the:

[Conference press release](#)
[Conference info page](#)

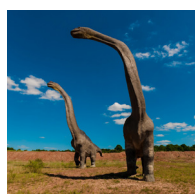


Science & Faith with James Garth

ISCAST fellow James Garth spoke on "Science and Faith: Enemies or Friends?" to a large crowd of young people recently at St Hilary's Anglican Church in Melbourne.

Following the talk James, along with Christina Smith and Chris Mulherin, fielded numerous questions from the youth.

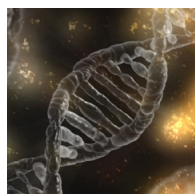
Thanks to our friends at St Hilary's for hosting!



ISCAST ED Responds to Ken Ham

This article at [Eternity News](#) about Ken Ham and his Young Earth Creationist position includes a response by ISCAST Executive Director Chris Mulherin.

For those interested in this conversation see the resources on the ISCAST site under the subject Creation & Evolution. Worth noting are Allan Day's article on Adam, [Anthropology and Genesis](#), John Thompson's booklet on Gen 1-3 (available from the ISCAST office), and John Dickson's article on [The Genesis of Everything](#).



Randy Jirtle Receives Alexander Hollaender Award

Randy is a friend of ISCAST who visited us last year. He is a leading researcher in genomics, particularly in environmental mutagenesis, the process whereby the environment can affect the expression of genes and phenotypic traits in living things.

We congratulate him on receiving the 2019 Alexander Hollaender Award.

The full award citation [can be found here](#).



Tony Rinaudo: The Missionary Forest Maker

This is the extraordinary story of Sub-Saharan Niger, one of the world's poorest countries, and the reforestation of an area the size of Tasmania through Farmer Managed Natural Revegetation (FMNR).

Behind this good news story is a quiet-spoken Melbournian—agriculturalist, humanitarian, development expert—who has just won the "alternative Nobel Prize" as well as being made a Member of the Order of Australia. Tony Rinaudo is seeing his life's work come to fruition as the movement he started decades ago continues to gather momentum.

ISCAST Executive Director Chris Mulherin, who knew Tony and his wife Liz before they went to Niger, conducted an interview with Tony on February 4, 2019.

This is the full interview in which Tony, now principal natural resources advisor at World Vision, talked of theology and agriculture, the challenges of cross-cultural development, the sins of an affluent West, and of angrily wrestling with God in prayer. An edited extract of this interview was published in *The Melbourne Anglican* in March 2019.

Excerpt:

So I was in charge of a preparatory Bible college which was placed on a property which was a farm school. So the idea was to ... well prepare students to go into Bible college ... but the original purpose was with the view to them becoming farmer evangelists

[Read More...](#)



Homo Divinis: Denis Alexander On Purpose in Biology and Human Life

ISCAST distinguished fellow Denis Alexander talks about whether there is purpose in biology and in life, in a podcast with Natasha Moore at the Centre for Public Christianity.

To listen to the full podcast, [please click here](#).

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 Victoria Symposium

Theological Approaches to Wicked Problems

CALL FOR PAPERS: ISCAST invites those with professional standing in public policy, in the science and technology fields, and those who have reflected theologically on these matters to present papers (20 minutes and discussion). Submission guidelines [can be found here](#).

Bookings for this event are now open, and you [can find ticket details here](#).

When:

Saturday, September 7, 2019 - 09:00 to 16:00

Where:

East Camberwell Baptist Church
Cnr Hunter and Highfield Rds, Camberwell

ISCAST Victoria is hosting a symposium to explore how Christians can get involved in dealing with the incredibly complex problems we are facing in society today. Refugee resettlement, climate change, the global loss of biodiversity, Aboriginal health, family violence, and economic development are examples of some of these problems for which there are no simple, straightforward solutions.

Such problems typically feature incomplete data or scientific knowledge, significantly differing perspectives and priorities from those affected, and are (or are becoming) urgent so we cannot ignore them in the hope that they might go away. These are sometimes called “wicked” not because they are inherently evil but because they are so difficult to deal with.

For more information, see the symposium page [on our website](#).

If you have any questions, or to submit your paper, please contact the ISCAST administration at admin@iscast.org

Other News

Look us up on:



Facebook: www.facebook.com/ISCAST



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



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.

Items published on the ISCAST website and in this Digest explore the interaction between science and the Christian faith and are 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.

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