

COSAC 2018: "The Heavens Declare ..."

23 - 25 March 2018, Brisbane

Conference on Science and Christianity

Cosmology – Theology – History – Apologetics – Ethics – Philosophy

ISCAST News Release (Jan. 23, 2018)

Australia's first "Science, Faith and Apologetics" conference will see 40 national and international presenters grappling with difficult questions Christians face.

The public event in Brisbane from March 23 to 25 will help Christians wrestle with challenges to their faith and enable them to engage in conversation with skeptics.

One of the keynote speakers is NASA astrophysicist **Jennifer Wiseman** (photo below), ex-president of the US network of Christians in science. Dr Wiseman, who has a comet named after her, is also speaking at the World Science Festival Brisbane about her work as senior scientist on the Hubble Space Telescope.

The speaker line-up includes cosmologist **Ken Freeman**, partly responsible for discovering dark matter in the universe. **Ravi Zacharias Ministries** will be represented by three speakers; **Natasha Moore** from the **Centre for Public Christianity** will speak, and well-known economist and member of the Reserve Bank board **Ian Harper** will speak on "Economics in the service of God".

The conference is being run by ISCAST – Christians in Science and Technology which has a long history of tackling such questions. Past internationally known ISCAST speakers include theologian/apologist and scientist Alister McGrath, physicist-priest John Polkinghorne, and philosopher Nancey Murphy.

ISCAST Director, Rev. Dr Chris Mulherin says that "in an increasingly secular society, it is vital that people defend the Christian faith. There is no conflict between Christianity and the best of human knowledge. Yet we so often hear people say 'I believe in reason and science, so I couldn't be religious.' That is plain wrong and we have to overcome it."

Chris says, "There are so many issues that believers and non-believers wrestle with: for example, 'If God is good, why are bad things happening to me?' or 'How to respond to Australia's assisted dying debate' or 'How do miracles and science fit together'. So we organised this public conference with a host of incredible speakers and topics to help people think through these sorts of questions."

The conference offers scholarships to students and has a "meet a mentor" program for younger people to hear advice from experienced people in their fields.

Chris says the conference is aimed at Christians in general from students to pastors, teachers to university professors. "In fact," he says, "it's for any Christian who wants to think hard about the way Christian faith relates to the culture and issues of our day. And we are particularly keen to get students along, because they often face hard questions from teachers and lecturers who are dismissing of Christian faith."

Details of the conference, including speakers and talks, as well as student scholarships are available at www.ISCASTCOSAC.org. Childcare is available and earlybird pricing ends February 6th.

Rev. Dr Chris Mulherin is available for questions and interviews on 0431 330 380 or ChrisMulherin@ISCAST.org

