



Christianity.  
Science.  
In conversation.

## ISCAST scientists in schools for Science Week 2021

### Information for schools and FAQs

ISCAST has many scientists who have offered to speak or be interviewed in schools during the coming months. Yes, we are linking the program to National Science Week (August 14 to 22) but that should not be a limitation; we are happy to arrange visits before and after that.

We are happy to recommend some scientists to do a full presentation of up to half an hour and take questions. Others, with less experience in schools, are better interviewed, and we can help you with the sorts of questions you might ask to get the ball rolling.

All ISCAST scientists will have a different story and style of presenting but the core take-home messages for students will be the same: 1. That science can be a rewarding and God-given vocation, and 2. that science and faith are not at war. (Have you seen [our promo video](#) featuring three scientists?)

The [online booking form is here](#). For further questions, don't hesitate to contact ISCAST Program Director Dr Sarah Wilson at [SarahWilson@ISCAST.org](mailto:SarahWilson@ISCAST.org) or on 0421 046 020. Chris Mulherin, our Executive Director, is also happy to take calls on 0431 330 380.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is ISCAST?

For over 30 years, ISCAST has promoted constructive conversations between Christianity and the sciences. Our members range from lay people to distinguished academics.<sup>1</sup> As we like to say, in an increasingly global and secular scientific culture, the science-faith conversation is at the cutting edge of Christian engagement. ISCAST engages Australians in this conversation, calling people to take the message of Jesus seriously. You can find more details about ISCAST at [www.ISCAST.org](http://www.ISCAST.org).

### How much will it cost?

There are no fees for an ISCAST scientist to visit your school. However, we are a small not-for-profit organisation funded solely by donations. Usually, schools make a donation, in which case we are happy to invoice your school.

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<sup>1</sup> One ISCAST Fellow won the PM's Science Prize; another was named Western Australian of the year; one invented the bionic ear; another is on the Reserve Bank Board, and another is responsible for turning desert into trees over an area of Africa the size of Tasmania ... the list goes on. But all are committed Christians who integrate their science and their faith.

### **Can I choose the scientist(s) for our school?**

We are happy to try to arrange a scientist that best meets the needs and interests of your students. For example, girls' schools may prefer to host a young, female scientist. Or you may favour a climate scientist because your students are passionate about caring for the environment. Please do let us know your preferences and we will do our best to cater for them.

### **How much time is needed to host a scientist at our school?**

Around 40 minutes is often good for a presentation followed by questions, and perhaps 20 to 30 minutes for an interview, but we can adapt to meet the needs of your timetable.

### **Can we book a scientist for another time during the year?**

Yes. Scientists from ISCAST regularly visit schools throughout the year and we can arrange a speaker at a day and time that suits your curriculum and timetable.

### **What year level is the target audience?**

The talks or interviews can be pitched at a range of year levels, but we think it will have the biggest impact on students from years 9 to 11. Students in these levels are at an age where they are rapidly forming their own worldviews and we think they should know that a career in science can be a worthwhile and honouring Christian vocation.

### **How can I moderate the scientist if they go off track?**

Yes, scientists can sometimes wander into the depths of their beloved field and risk losing their audience. Where this is a possibility, an interview style is likely to be worthwhile. Once visits are set up, we will be in touch with individual schools to offer advice.

### **Do your scientists have a WWCC?**

The safety and wellbeing of children is a priority for ISCAST. Please let us know if a WWCC is required for a scientist to visit your school and we'll provide you with those details.

### **What have we forgotten?**

Please let us know: [SarahWilson@ISCAST.org](mailto:SarahWilson@ISCAST.org) / 0421 046 020.

### **Meanwhile ... what else is ISCAST planning for Science Week?**

Thank you for asking! If you are in Melbourne, why not plan a school trip to St Paul's Cathedral to meet Tony Rinaudo, the "Forest Maker" talk about **Hope for a Planet in Crisis**? School groups can arrange a fixed-price block booking for \$100 by contacting ISCAST. Details below or at [www.ISCAST.org/SWAC21](http://www.ISCAST.org/SWAC21)



#### **SCIENCE WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Featuring Tony Rinaudo,  
world renowned  
"Forest Maker"  
August 25th 6:30pm  
St Paul's Cathedral

A rapid, low cost, scalable solution to climate change? This year's annual Science Week at the Cathedral (SWAC) will feature the revolutionary work of Melbourne missionary agronomist Tony Rinaudo. Millions of hectares of Africa have been regenerated through Tony's work, which now offers great hope for climate change. SWAC is a partnership between St Paul's and ISCAST—Christians in Science and Technology.

Registration details at: [www.ISCAST.org/SWAC21](http://www.ISCAST.org/SWAC21)