Wendy Rowe (trading as Wombat Education) has been organising training conferences across Australia, NZ, Hong Kong and Singapore since 2007.

Wombat Education aims to help schools and teachers improve the standard of their offering in Religious and Values Education and Philosophy as well as to support provision for Gifted and Talented students.

By combining academic rigour with relevance to the modern world, Wombat conferences show how important it is that young people become particularly familiar with themes in Philosophy, Ethics and Religion for their development into adults.

A Grand Design
Science, Ethics and Religion in Dialogue

with Dr Peter Vardy
An intensive one-day event for senior students, the leaders of tomorrow's world

2017
Adelaide 8th May, Melbourne 10th May, Canberra 12th May,
Brisbane 15th May, Toowoomba 17th May, Cairns 22nd May,
Sydney 24th May, Hobart 25th May

To Book…
Student places for A Grand Design Science, Ethics and Religion in Dialogue cost $30 each with a free place for teachers accompanying 12 students or more.

Registration will take place at 9.30am for a prompt 10am start. The conference will conclude at 2.30pm.

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided for teachers but no refreshments are provided for students who should bring a water bottle and a packed lunch.

Discounts available for 100+ students.

Detailed notes, supplementary resources and extension reading suggestions will be provided which can be loaded onto the school’s intranet for students’ use.

Bookings must be made through Wendy Rowe.

To reserve your place, please email or telephone Wendy Rowe, or bookings can also be made via the website.

An invoice will be forwarded with payment instructions.

www.wombateducation.com/bookings
mail@wombateducation.com
t. 02 62 274 191 m. 04 29 07 87 14
(landline preferred)

Our postal address, for cheques and remittance advice is
12 Wellington Street, Binalong,
New South Wales 2584, Australia
ABN 31 699 068 585
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Sessions will include:

**War of the Worlds?**
This introductory lecture considers how the relationship between Science and Religion developed from the days of Aristotle through the Enlightenment to the present day. The common idea that science and religion have always or even often been in conflict will be challenged, not least with reference to “God’s Philosophers” of the Middle Ages, and consideration will be given to the origins of the modern trope of Science and Religion being at war.

This session ends with a pairs or small-group discussion opportunity.

**The Grand Design?**
This session explores Natural Theology, the ancient attempt to prove God’s existence through scientific reasoning. The focus will be the Design Argument and the extent to which it remains a useful support for religious faith following Darwin’s Theory of Evolution through Natural Selection, Auschwitz, the Big Bang Theory and Quantum science. In the second part of this session, consideration will be given to the contemporary arguments advanced by scholars such as Behe, Dembski, Moreland, Ward, McGrath and Lennox – and the extent to which they offer (or do not offer!) potential for science and religion to be reconciled.

This session will conclude with an opportunity to debate the and vote on the motion “This house believes that order and purpose in the universe are best explained by an intelligent designer!”

**The Cosmological Revolution**
This session explores the ancient Cosmological Argument for God’s existence; as an infinite series of causes and effects is impossible an uncaused causer (which is what everybody calls God) must exist. Did the argument pre-empt the Big Bang Theory and even Quantum Science? Does cutting-edge cosmology support the idea that God could exist – or is any such suggestion naïve? Is the God supported by cosmological exploration compatible with the God of religion or just a feeble “God of the Gaps” about as worthy of worship as the Higgs Bosun?

This session ends with an open Q&A session.

**Humanity +**
The final session turns to the possibilities opened up by genetics to reduce human suffering and even enhance the next generation’s potential for experiencing pleasure. Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, mitochondrial donation, somatic cell therapies, CRISPR gene-editing... today, all these are science fact not science fiction. Exploring both religious (natural law) and non-religious (utilitarian) approaches to decision-making in bioethics, and considering the viewpoints of scholars including Peter Singer and Julian Savulescu, Nick Bostrom and David Pearce, Catholic ethicists Germain Grisez, Charles Camosy and Bernard Hoose, this session will ask what can, will and should we do with the knowledge and capabilities that science has given us and does religion have any role in shaping the future of humanity.

At the end of this session students will be invited to prepare and make a reasoned contribution to a whole-group discussion on germ-line genetic engineering...