

## Foreword

How will science help address the challenges Australia faces in the future?

Together with Australia's chief scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, we wanted to start a public discussion on the value of science: outlining how each of the major science disciplines makes a contribution to Australia both now and into the future. Put simply, we wanted to build a greater understanding — including with those outside of the scientific professions — on why science matters.

We picked 12 of the major science disciplines: physics, mathematics, earth sciences, biology and others, and asked luminaries in those fields to explain the contribution, role and relevance of their discipline, and how it can contribute to a prosperous, sustainable and knowledge-based Australia.

The result is this book: a collection of some of the nation's sharpest scientific minds sharing their insights and passions for science in clear language that is accessible to all.

We hope you will find it an inspiring collection of the value of science and an overarching view of why it is important we sustain the disciplines that underpin our common future.

This book is written for a young and young at heart audience, making it a valuable education resource, and a potentially inspiring reflection for young people considering how science might feature in their future studies, careers and lives.

Authors include two Nobel Laureates, the current Chief Scientist, a former Chief Scientist, two former Australians of the Year, and more than 30 other recognised experts with deep subject knowledge.

The chapters of this book originally appeared as articles on Australia's leading independent news and commentary site, The Conversation ([www.theconversation.edu.au](http://www.theconversation.edu.au)), and were co-commissioned with the Chief Scientist. We'd like to kick-start the serious conversation we need to have about the transformative contribution of science in our community. So, over to you: read, reflect and discuss with your friends and networks why science matters.

**Andrew Jaspan**

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