

We were shocked when we heard that Ian had drowned in the bush in white water. We were even more shocked when we heard he was 81 years old, prompting the question, what *was* he doing, doing that at his age? And yet this is so typical of Ian, out in the bush mentoring young men. It reminded me of a conversation I had with Ian's father-in-law after his third heart attack in the 1970s. He insisted on still going out in his tinnie to fish. Not for him sitting passively indoors waiting for the end!

No single person could encompass all aspects of Ian's many interests. At his core he was God's man, serving God in his relationships and in his vocation as an environmental scientist, initially for large mining companies and most recently as a lobbyist for the World Nuclear Association, advocating for nuclear energy. His recent article for the ISCAST Kingdom project<sup>1</sup> is in some ways his retrospective on how God has guided him over the years. I introduced him there as "a friend with whom you can seriously disagree without rancour; a mentor, a strategist, and a loyal ISCASTian. A search of the ISCAST website shows how often he has thoughtfully contributed to the conversation between the sciences (mainly the environmental sciences) and the Christian faith. His love for the abundance of God's creation can be seen in this essay."

I am very fond of Ian. He is as straight as a die, a guileless Nathaniel, with a strong independent streak, so that he was quite at home as a conservative among us more left-leaning friends. I regarded him as my Owen Barfield<sup>2</sup>, and I deeply respected his positions, and the thoughtful way he would come to these, but then how could he be so wrong? (🙄).

Ian was always networking, linking people strategically to enhance their faith and their understanding. He would nuzzle me on illicit drug policies, sexuality, and the pursuit of pleasure. A good example of his straightforward style is in an extract he sent me about pleasure from his handbook *Down to Earth Discipleship*<sup>3</sup> (typical, he wrote it with a mentee – Will Jones).

"The main spiritual discipline is simply in organising ourselves, and regularly reviewing our priorities in all areas of our lives. This flows to how we spend our time and money, and how we open ourselves to opportunities. A measure of self-denial is always required, but it should not become asceticism, or disparage proper pleasures of the heart, mind and body. Faith is not merely cerebral, the cognitive must be balanced by the affective.

"God intends us to enjoy pleasure. Pleasure is part of his gracious provision for us. Of course seeking pleasure can be as elusive as seeking happiness, and it can also lead us astray in many ways, since we live in a fallen world where indolence, hedonism and various addictions need to be resisted. However, rejoicing in the pleasure of God's provision within proper constraints is entirely appropriate and should be celebrated. The pleasure of relationships is foremost, in line with biblical teaching about love among the brethren and more widely. But the pleasure of recreation, food and drink, art, work, play, creativity can all be major, ranging from sensual pleasures to the heartfelt. And within one particular relationship, the pleasure of sex is epic - see the comments in chapter 2 about that. And before that particular relationship, there is some proper pleasure in that department which we discuss in 4.3 below.

"Sexual pleasure and the pleasures of eating and drinking are foundational to God's creation and are also redemptive images in the Bible, with the potential to reveal God's nature and grace. Having hearts filled with pleasures should motivate and empower godly living and worship."

Typical Hore-Lacy. Straight forward, disciplined and with a celebration of the abundance of creation. Ian was one of the first to contribute to the ISCAST Kingdom Project, which asked ISCASTians to reflect on what it means to pray, “your kingdom come, your will be done,” in our daily work. Ian delivered.

Due to the pandemic ISCASTians have been unable to enjoy Ian and Libby’s generous hospitality as we grappled with many science-faith issues on Saturday evenings. The last occasion Lois and I saw him was after that dreadful massacre in that mosque in Christchurch in March 2020. We spontaneously met at the East Doncaster Mosque when they were opened to the public and we both felt we should witness to our common humanity and express our goodwill towards our fellow Aussies by visiting their worship centre. It was good to be there together.

When the shock is over, and we take stock of the grief of Ian’s family and the mentees who were trying to resuscitate Ian in the bush before help arrived, we will reflect: what a great way to go home, in the bush he loved, among mentees who enjoyed his company, being about his Father’s business. Better than at home in an armchair with a crocheted rug over his knees slowly declining.

Alan Gijsbers. ISCAST past president.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iscast.org/kingdomproject#Hore-Lacy>

<sup>2</sup> CS Lewis’s ‘second friend’...the man who disagrees with you about everything. Gilbert D, Kilby CS. *CS Lewis: images of his world*. Hodder and Stoughton. 1973:44.

<sup>3</sup> <http://downtoearthdiscipleship.com>