

HUMANIST viewpoints

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE - PLEASE CHECK BACK PAGE FOR PAYMENT DETAILS
THANKYOU FOR SUPPORTING THE WORK OF HUMANISM IN OUR LIVES AND IN THE WORLD**



The Australian Humanist of the Year (AHOY) for 2017 is Victoria's Dr Rodney Syme - a tireless advocate for physician assisted dying

PLEASE COME TO "TRIBUTE TO DAVID TRIBE" SUNDAY 9 JULY 3PM - AUTHOR & LIFE MEMBER WHO DIED IN MAY
CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AT OUR MEETUP 23 JULY 3PM - BRING FAVOURITE FOOD TO "HUMANISTMAS IN JULY"
JOHN AUGUST DISCUSSES THE POST-TRUTH WORLD AT OUR NEXT ACTIVISM MEETING SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 3PM
CHOOSE WORLD BEST PHILANTHROPIC PROJECT MEETUP'S "DEMOCRATIC HUMANITARIANISM" - AUGUST 27 3PM
KEEP SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER FREE FOR THE HUMANIST SOCIETY'S NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MEETUP'S POSTPONED "SOCIAL MEDIA AS SELFDEHUMANISATION" RETURNS SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 3PM
FULL DETAILS OF ALL OUR UPCOMING EVENTS ARE ON P 6
SEE P 2-3 FOR MEMBER NEWS & VIEWS WITH PHOTOS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MELBOURNE CONFERENCE
SEE P 4-5 FOR REPORT ON VISITS TO CANBERRA & MELBOURNE WITH CONFERENCE AND CAHS AGM
SEE P 8-9 FOR REPORTS ON APRIL-JUNE ACTIVITIES AND LIFE MEMBER MILESTONES
SEE P 10-11 FOR BIOGRAPHY OF DR IAN EDWARDS - STALWART & PIONEER OF THE SOCIETY IN ITS FIRST DECADE
ENJOY THIS ABUNDANTLY ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF VIEWPOINTS IN GLORIOUS COLOUR IN PDF



MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS



Six members of the NSW Society made it along to the Convention in Melbourne in April. From left are Fay Love, Margaret Beehag, Victor Bien, Fred Flatow, Murray Love & Ian Bryce.



Fay Love at the Australian Humanist Convention in Melbourne 7-9 April 2017, with two attendees from the A.C.T. Humanist Society - Liz Foreman and Lyndon Storey.

Please Consider Making a Donation or Bequest

From \$5 to \$10,000, any amount can help protect and sustain the diverse efforts of the NSW Humanist Society. Please also consider us in your Will. All bequests contribute to the longevity of the Humanist Society of NSW and Humanism. We thank members Geoff Stowell and Vicki Potempa for their recent generous donations.

President's appeal to members to volunteer

We have depended on elder members who have been outstanding workers for Humanism in NSW. We wish them a long life, but cannot expect them to carry the load indefinitely. Times change and modern generations do find many other demands on their voluntary time in the twenty-first century. So let's look for new ways to volunteer in smaller amounts at a time! There are many ways to help, and if you can send us your expressions of interest, indicating your availability, we can build a new corps of volunteers, to rebuild our NSW Humanists community. We particularly appeal to members between 20 and 70 years of age, to assist in growing a future for this organization, now 57 years young with assets to be treasured, a heritage to be celebrated, a world network of activism, and a positive philosophy to be shared.

Email President at lovemuz@gmail.com advising skills you'd like to use, & hours you can offer - however small.

With job-sharing teamwork we can carry on the Humanist tradition. This call will be a regular feature of our member page.

Do You have items for Book Room & Library

If you have any good-quality (particularly good non-fiction) surplus 'hard copy' books, then consider donating them to the Society's Library or for sale in the Bookroom. Volunteers in the Bookroom are often frontline contacts with those who enquire about Humanism while they browse the items around the walls. Gillian has reappeared for a few hours a week but other suitable volunteers would be welcome. Please contact the President, Murray Love at: lovemuz@gmail.com

Please Send Your letters, articles, information and ideas for inclusion in Viewpoints

Some members are not on the Internet and some live far from Sydney. Attendance and interaction get more difficult as we age, and distances need more assistance to overcome. Stronger, younger and newer members can assist. A newsletter is one thing all members can share in. We include material on what's happening at Humanist House through the year, but also need contributions from individual members of the Society. You are welcome and encouraged to send in news and views for publication. These can be controversial - there's no party line. They can be on diverse topics - Humanism has a broad range. We most-of-all love to hear from members who haven't contributed before. A short 'letter to the editor' is a valued inclusion. Disagree with anything you see - or share why you do agree! We can't guarantee everything will be used, but with patience and flexibility we'd love to include all we can. Communication by email is preferred. Handwritten and typed contributions might get postponed. Be careful items don't appear in both local and national journals. Email items to lovemuz@gmail.com.

Membership News

This quarter we warmly welcome new member Sarah Lonsdale, plus 3 new applications yet to be confirmed. One of our earliest leaders, Doctor Ian Edwards (Chairman 1964-67) died Saturday 11th March. An obituary appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Thursday April 6th. We include today on pages 10-11 another biography, emphasising his contribution to Australian Humanism. A short obituary will also appear in *Australian Humanist* (Ian was the first ever Chairman of CAHS). We have been given great assistance by Ian's family in preparing the biographical information. A Life Member of ours, David Tribe, died Tuesday 30th May. David had no close living relatives. He was a prolific author and activist, particularly in his earlier years. An obituary will appear in *Australian Humanist*. We will have a 'Tribute to David Tribe' at a meeting in place of HuVAT on Sunday 9th July.

TIME AGAIN FOR RENEWING ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS. DETAILS AT BOTTOM THE BACK PAGE.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER.



Murray & Fay Love at their table for the Saturday night Dinner at the Australian Humanist Convention in Melbourne with from left—Peter Hogan, Stella Thomas, & Meg Paul.



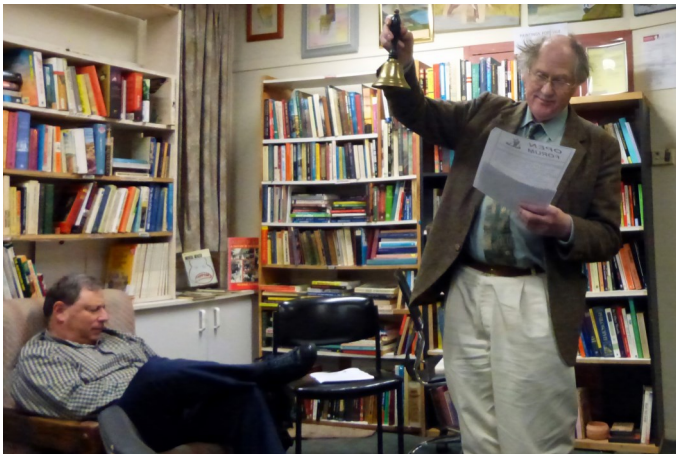
Fred Flatow and Margaret Beehag at their table for the Saturday night Dinner at the Convention in Melbourne



Ian Bryce mingling just before the Saturday night Dinner at the Australian Humanist Convention in Melbourne, with Elida Radig, left and Rosemary Sceats centre



Victor Bien mingling just before the Saturday night Dinner at the Australian Humanist Convention in Melbourne with Carmen Seaby (QLD) left and Kevin Bryant (ACT) right.



David Duffy rings the bell to rouse the denizens of Open Forum in May 2017. David's career began years ago as the leader of the Young Adult Humanists in the nineteen-sixties. In this letter David reminisces about those good old days.

Dear Editor,

I would like to offer a brief addendum to the histories of the Society presented in the Viewpoints for April to June 2017.

Murray Love mentioned the "First Humanist House" - a terrace at 194 Crown Street, Darlinghurst that the Society owned from about 1964 to 1969. The story of our 'Young Adult Humanist' group, which flourished there, seems to have been lost or overlooked in his sources.

It was indeed a very vibrant group, and very successful, hosting weekly meetings with invited guest speakers - very much as 'Open Forum' still does today. I was its President from March 1966 to June 1968. We had a 'stump' of our own for a while at Speakers Corner in the Sydney Domain (known as the 'Dom') - which had big crowds in those days. A short-lived rebel group 'HUMAC' was spawned in 1968.

Those were vivid and memorable days, and I'm quite sentimental about the 'Old Young Adults'! We had speakers like aboriginal activist Charles Perkins, and colourful businessman Ken Thomas of TNT Transport. One of our early regulars was Colleen McCullough - who left for the USA and never looked back.

Some of the names of those who attended were Leith Gillman (F), Ric Williams, Pat Collyer, Frances and Alan Hamilton, Margaret North, Bettina Bock, Brian Phillips, Michael Bribosia, Bob Hammond, Lloyd Patterson, Brian & Vivienne Tinning, Ray Leppik, Max Bonner, Charles Winterton and Carol Hadley. Some who I'm sure have since died are, Nuru Higham, Keith Rex, George Hofstater, Phil Jackson, John and Don Boyd, Colin Main, Frank Mears, and David Baker.

David Duffy

PRESIDENT REPORT ON CONVENTION

Secretary Fay Love, and her husband (yours truly) went down to Melbourne for the CAHS AGM and then the big Australian Humanist Convention on Friday 7th to Sunday 9th back in April.

Visit to Canberra Humanists

We drove, and on the way down, stopped in at Canberra. It happened to be the very night the newly formed local ACT Humanist Society were having their own AGM. We got to play the part of 'visiting dignitaries', and witness the vitality of this rebirth of Humanism in Canberra. There was no shortage of volunteers, and a rich variety of viewpoints to be shared.



Murray, Fay and the Canberra Humanists (Dierk took picture)

The Eternity-Humanity Exhibition



Sydney-siders know of the 'Eternity' man Arthur Stace. Though apparently illiterate, he 'miraculously' wrote the word *Eternity* in perfect handwriting in all sorts of places around Sydney during the thirties to the sixties.

Fay and I visited Canberra's *National Museum of Australia*, where some curators had been given the task of making 'Eternity' the thematic anchor for a collection of 'Australian stories' showing various lives unfold through the themes.

Quickly forgetting Stace's imagined stern, strong reminder of an urgent need to seek our personal salvation through Christ, they delight us with the news that: "*Eternity is about happiness and hedonism and what makes Australians laugh and cry*".

The result is an exhibition with a fabulous display of down-to-earth *Humanist* thinking - exploring the very many ways Australian human beings build our own meaning for ourselves, as we creatively live through our lives.

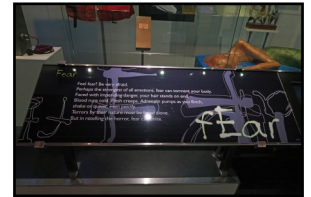
Hence I have 'rechristened' it the **Humanity** exhibition!



You can see the stories online, but for those who can't get the Internet I have included text of the chosen 10 emotional themes.

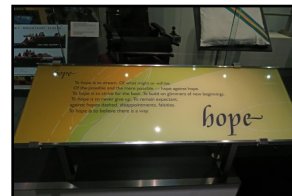
Chance - A moment in time can change the direction of a life, for better or for worse. It might be an accident, a fluke, a coincidence, or by taking a risk. Is it luck? Chance? Fate? A lottery? Just to be born is said to be lucky. Life then tosses up possibilities, moments to grasp. A chance to live and live again.

Devotion - Devoted to a cause or life's work, you are filled with great love. You feel compelled. You rise to the challenge and make sacrifices beyond duty, unfaltering and constant with grit to live with loyalty and passion. Devotion can inspire others. It can drive a life, be all-consuming. For some, their devotion becomes their life.



Fear - Feel fear? Be very afraid. Perhaps the strongest of all emotions, fear can crucify your body. Faced with impending danger, your hair stands on end. Blood runs cold. Flesh creeps. Adrenalin pumps as you flinch, shake or quiver, even petrify. Terrors by their nature must be faced alone. But in retelling the horror, fear can unite.

Hope - To hope is to dream. Of what might or will be. Of the possible, the mere possible - hope against hope. To hope is to strive for the best. To build on glimmers of new beginnings. To hope is to never give up. To remain expectant, against hopes dashed, disappointments, falsities - to believe there is a way.



Joy, delight and glee - sheer fun cheers the heart. To live fully, we should be free to follow our own ideas of joyful existence. The simplest pleasures, shared joys or extreme gladness, can transport us into other worlds. There, hearts thump, happiness reigns, ecstasy is contagious and laughter is free. What a lark!

Loneliness - Loneliness can spread a thick desolation. Out the back of beyond or beneath neon lights in a city street, you can experience the emptiness of being alone. Sense the vastness of this land, feel the solitude. Loneliness drives people apart or it draws them together in surprising ways.

Mystery - An elusive knot lies at the heart of any good mystery. What draws us in are the secrets and lies, the intrigue and talk of conspiracy. No matter how many times we tell the story, wonder what really happened, what might have been, questions remain. Not everything can be explained. The enigma, in the end, is something you feel.

Passion - Passion, like love, attracts and is attractive. Full of longing and desire, a passion for someone or something - intense love or an outburst of anger - can become so strong it's barely controllable. If you feed this raw appetite, passion can tip into obsession. Once aroused, in all its fervent keenness, passion can be something to relish.

Separation - Stories of separation are laced with anguish, loss, determination and resilience. Through forced circumstances, or by choice, separation divides people from people, and people from land, into disconnected worlds. You can measure it in feelings. Abrupt and forced separation can tear you to pieces. With choice, it sets you adrift to go a different way. Even to rule victorious.

Thrill - To get a thrill out of something, you feel it in your body. A throb. A nervous tremor. It can be a thrill of joy, excitement, anticipation. Or you can experience fear thrill through your veins by living dangerously, flirting with the forbidden and outrageous. Whatever it is — thrilling yourself, causing a thrill — be moved.

There were several personal stories, of the kind we see on the ABC's *Australian Stories*, to illustrate each of the themes. It's worth a look if you're in Canberra, or please check the web at: <http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/eternity/home>

I think you'll agree this exploration of meaning achieves depth, and invites involvement, without special claims, or unattainable places - and meaningless terms like 'Eternity'. The celebration of real human life is exciting and interesting, and goes to the core of the approach to Humanism that I support - a positive affirmation of the good life. - for anyone.

We ended our second day in Canberra with a Lebanese banquet with Dierk von Behrens, Lyndon Storey, and David and Mary-Anne Cosgrove from the Canberra Humanists.

On to Melbourne & the AGM

Then it was on to Melbourne. After a restful night we attended as first-time delegates to the AGM for CAHS. I had been negotiating with other states, and we were able to form an interstate grouping under the umbrella of NSW with myself (Murray Love) becoming Treasurer, Lyndon Storey of Canberra (but also a NSW member) becoming President, and Sarah Lonsdale (also living in Canberra and a NSW member), plus Scott Sharrad of SA continuing on the CAHS Executive—this time as Secretary. QLD's Carmen Seaby and VIC's Stephen Stuart joined us in a strong new team. All proposed constitutional amendments were rolled forward into a new joint review process for timely presentation at the next AGM.



After the AGM we enjoyed a dinner and made new friends in the restaurant at the base of the Ibis Hotel, (where we stayed) then we were among the first arrivals in the spacious Victoria Room where the main Convention sessions would be held.



Clive Hamilton called his talk 'Humanism and the Anthropocene'. Unfortunately, Clive's negative view of human beings in this regard, led him to misunderstand our positive 'Humanist' movement.



The crowd favourite was, of course, the excellent A. C. Grayling who opened the Saturday morning session with the uplifting presentation 'Humanism, the individual and society'.



There were moments of challenge and frustration, and moments of excitement at new ideas, and all in all a very stimulating round of examination of what Humanism means. A very professional, entertaining and provocative series of discussions, and a marvellous opportunity for face to face conversation.

Murray Love

Presented from left is the core of our new CAHS Executive: Carmen Seaby—QLD; Murray Love—NSW; Lyndon Storey—ACT (ACT Society joined CAHS in June); Stephen Stuart—VIC; Scott Sharrad—SA.



CALENDAR FOR JUL-SEP 2017

REMEMBER HUVAT & ALL OUR REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS NOW COMMENCE EACH TIME AT 3.00 PM

HuVAT Sunday 9 July 2017 3.00 for 3.15 p.m. is replaced by a TRIBUTE TO DAVID TRIBE

David Tribe died 30 May 2017 aged 85. He instructed no funeral. He was an only child, who never married. He outlived much of his generation. David established a prize in his name assisting new novelists, poets, philosophers, sculptors, and composers, and was talented in several creative arts. Artistic and academic talents were revealed early. In 1960s London, he enjoyed a varied career, creatively, as an intellectual, and as a secular activist. David came back to his birthplace Sydney in the seventies. He was a prolific contributor to the Humanist and Rationalist communities. His mind's sharpness made for few close friendships, becoming reclusive in his final years, yet the Humanist & Rationalist Societies were a community and family for him, as they were for many of his vintage. We look back to celebrate a long life of a Humanist, Rationalist and Secularist - one of us. We hope those who knew him can share stories. We'll try to present the whole life of an exceptional man. Any member needing assistance to attend should get in touch with other members in our network. We embrace our heritage members. This is when they need community most. Please make sure there's lots of us there, to recall the best of the days gone by, and to grow deepening community into the future.

NSW Humanists Meetup 'HUMANISTMAS IN JULY' 3-6PM on Sunday 23 July 2017

Sunday 23rd July is our fifth consecutive "HUMANISTMAS IN JULY" celebration - the spirit of Yulefest focused on Community. It's for 'New Humanists' - seeking to renew Humanism, having new perspectives on Humanism, or making new friendships in a Humanist community. Both old and new are invited back to Humanist House to share pizza, plum pudding, baclawa, turkey, pumpkin scones, fruit mince pies, dim sums, garlic bread, mixed nuts, waldorf salad, seafood cocktails, or whatever else you'd like to bring and share. Not to mention beer, wine and fruit punch. **Come avoid winter blues. See Humanism prosper. Share good food, bad drink and festive spirit. Share yourself, your dreams, and your ideas.** Build a real person-to-person community around Humanism in Sydney. Bring food you love to eat or love to share. Our events appeal to non-believers wanting alternatives to pub venues - with an atmosphere that allows for good conversation. **The first part of community is turning up. The second part is joining in. It's that simple. But it needs YOU.** We'll break the ice for newcomers, and pop the cork for those who've come before.

13 August 2017 is our next ACTIVISM MEETING examining the POST-TRUTH WORLD with John August

Facts - Opinions - Interpretations - We've always had propaganda, but many things are noticeably worse - in the age of social media. Respect for authority is in decline - even scientific authority. **More than just disputing the interpretation of events, we now find manipulation, and denial, of even the existence of the dangerous changes happening around the world.** Maybe there were once opportunities for principled disagreement - but there's not much room left for that. We'll discuss how things play out these days - and what it means for Humanism. We'll have some guests to contribute, plus update the Voluntary Euthanasia campaign.

NSW Humanists Meetup 'DEMOCRATIC HUMANITARIANISM II', 3-6PM on Sunday 27 August 2017

Do you have a cause, issue, concern or project that you favour and want to see everyone support? Sunday 27 August is halfway between *World Humanitarian Day* and *International Day of Charity* so it's a good time to think about projects—global or Australian. The rules of 'Democratic Humanitarianism II' will be as follows. Bring along your favourite philanthropic causes, and try to persuade others of their value. Participants will put some 'skin in the game', as we jointly decide how to use a pool of cash on a worthwhile project. Bring some cash you're willing to devote to worthy causes. We'll pass round a collection box several times during the afternoon, building a collective 'kitty'. We'll put all suggestions on a white board. We'll each speak, each time it goes round. Eventually, we'll shortlist the projects, and ultimately choose just one to receive all the money. We'd like to find something different from last year. The amount isn't critical. **What matters is that we cooperate on making the world a little better, and learn about good things going on around the world. And we'll test our critical faculties and humanistic values to the full.** It can be a passionate, informative and interesting examination of things about ourselves - and what matters out in the real world. Be there.

Sunday 10 September 2017 is the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NSW

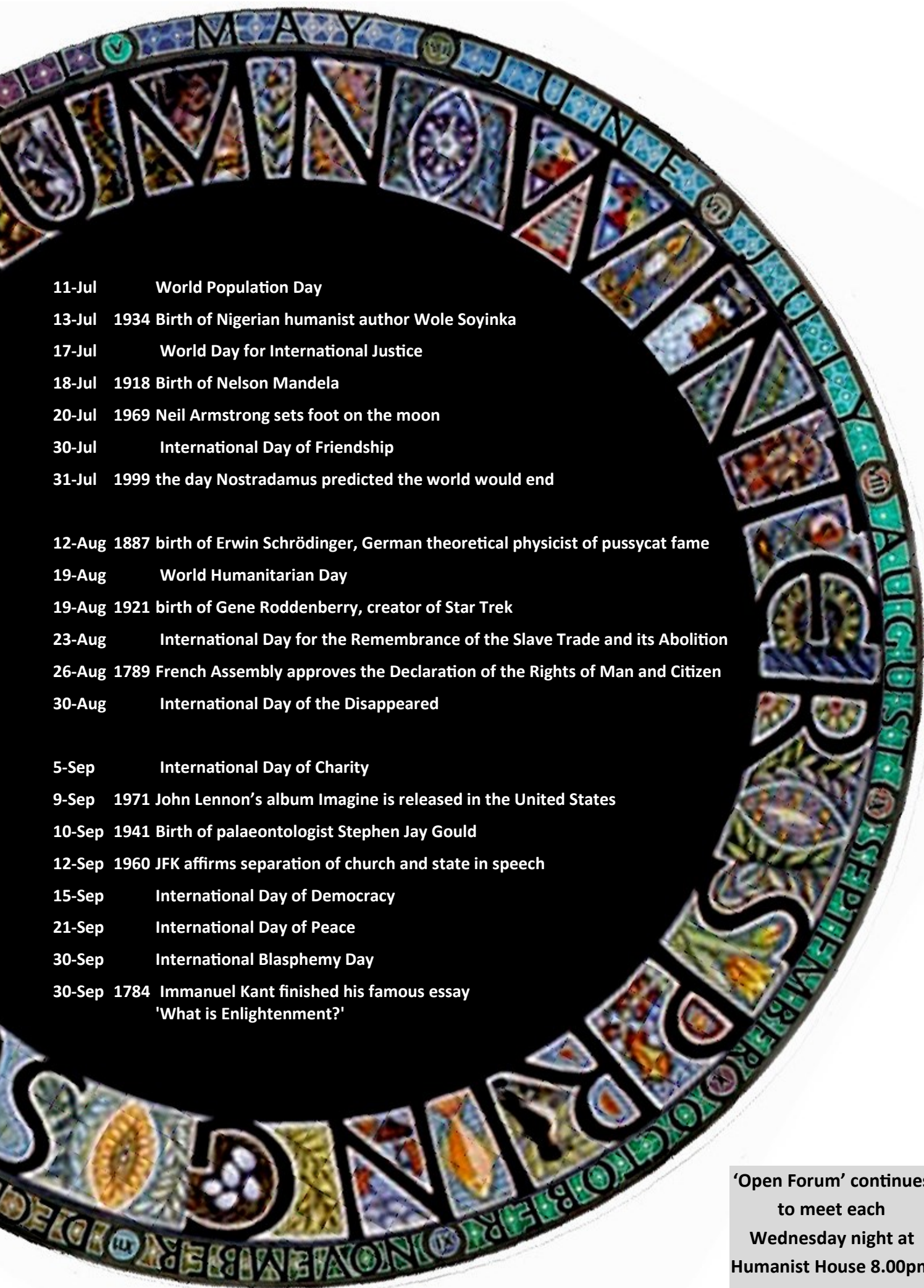
Formal announcement will be made in due course, but please keep your calendar clear for this important day. Join in the business of the society, discuss achievements, plans and vote in the new committee. THE AGM usually starts at 1.30pm for 2.00pm.

NSW Humanists Meetup 'SOCIAL MEDIA AS SELFDEHUMANISATION' 3-6PM SUNDAY 24 September 2017

The topic is **SOCIAL MEDIA AS SELFDEHUMANISATION** and our speaker is **Arash Sanghvi**. Arash is concerned at how social media interaction creates an exaggerated, prolonged identity crisis. Adolescents are anxious and conformist about superficial identity - for a period - but sites like **Facebook** can generate addictions that carry this longer and further. **Young growing lives become a video game accumulating scores** of Likes, Pokes etc. **Superficial values are internalised.** 'Sharing' replaces thinking and learning. **Individual identity is commodified.** Challenging ideas are swept away by packaged ideologies - matched to known interests and fed by automated marketing software. **Thinking for oneself is lost in an echo chamber which reinforces prejudice at a frightening rate.** Little people are crunched into Big Data. **Psychologists and Sociologists might learn a lot** about the dark side of humanity from all this crowd-sourced information. But - as a student of these disciplines - Arash is concerned the price in dehumanising a generation is too high! **Would this social-media circus pass an ethics committee if it was an experiment?**

Humanism fosters individual growth in a community valuing the real human needs and the full opportunities human life can offer. To get this happening, come together and discuss serious matters with other sensitive, intelligent humans. Please come join in.

ALL EVENTS ON THIS PAGE ARE HELD AT HUMANIST HOUSE 10 SHEPHERD STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW



- 11-Jul World Population Day
- 13-Jul 1934 Birth of Nigerian humanist author Wole Soyinka
- 17-Jul World Day for International Justice
- 18-Jul 1918 Birth of Nelson Mandela
- 20-Jul 1969 Neil Armstrong sets foot on the moon
- 30-Jul International Day of Friendship
- 31-Jul 1999 the day Nostradamus predicted the world would end
-
- 12-Aug 1887 birth of Erwin Schrödinger, German theoretical physicist of pussycat fame
- 19-Aug World Humanitarian Day
- 19-Aug 1921 birth of Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek
- 23-Aug International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 26-Aug 1789 French Assembly approves the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
- 30-Aug International Day of the Disappeared
-
- 5-Sep International Day of Charity
- 9-Sep 1971 John Lennon's album Imagine is released in the United States
- 10-Sep 1941 Birth of palaeontologist Stephen Jay Gould
- 12-Sep 1960 JFK affirms separation of church and state in speech
- 15-Sep International Day of Democracy
- 21-Sep International Day of Peace
- 30-Sep International Blasphemy Day
- 30-Sep 1784 Immanuel Kant finished his famous essay 'What is Enlightenment?'

'Open Forum' continues
to meet each
Wednesday night at
Humanist House 8.00pm

HAPPINESS & DISCONTENT

April was a busy month with some of us attending the Melbourne conference. With less time to prepare, I revisited an earlier topic - "THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS & ITS DISCONTENTS" - at the April 23 Meetup. In reviewing the introductory talk, I managed to extend the historical material, and to make the intro somewhat more 'serious' about the topic of 'Happiness', from a Humanist's perspective.

We had a great turnout of 26 people including some who've come along again since, and some who've applied to join.

There is a special 'Happiness' conference each year in Sydney, which costs up to \$1800 to attend. It's a big happiness industry out there. Humanism needs to get involved in people's search for fulfilment.

The event was well enjoyed by those who came (apart from a few who didn't stick around long). While I gave the intro, there was a slideshow of pictorial clichés of happiness - and some profundities - running anonymously in the background. The audience generally found it stimulating, and the round circle discussion afterwards seemed very fruitful for everyone.

I might have overdone seriousness, because 'depression' became a big part of the discussion - but maybe not, because real happiness isn't something easy and superficial. I think the event provoked the kind of reflective, thoughtful self-development I hope for at these Meetups. We need to build more momentum in offering Humanism as a way of coming together to grow as human beings.

Murray Love



Vicki Potempa, a Life Member and generous donor, shared birthday no. 95 with another group she's been a long-time member of - at the annual dinner of the *Union of Australian Women* in Newcastle. Committee member Angela Joined Vicki, and daughter Linda, for the special evening. A local Trade Union choir lead the singing .

Our Patron Dorothy Buckland-Fuller, also had a 95th birthday party, at her care home - her daughter, siblings, friends from Greece, colleagues from the Ethnic Council, and four of our Committee in attendance. Vice-President John August gave a tribute to Dorothy's contribution.

WORLD HUMANIST DAY CELEBRATION



Lyndon



Charles



Justin

Our World Humanist Day Celebration was very well attended as an event for our regulars, but it was a little disappointing that about 20 new and younger people didn't follow up on their RSVPs. Lyndon Storey and Justin Murray made the trek up from Canberra for a busy afternoon's work. Lyndon presented his visions for Humanism, as our new national President. Then both Lyndon and Justin, with Charles Foley present on video, shared the experience of Humanist Chaplain work at Canberra Hospital.

Lyndon showed how the decline of religion doesn't guarantee a humanist outcome. Worse things have happened than religion, like fascist authoritarianism and faceless communism. Humanism's first wave in the 60s & 70s, wound back religious influence in social values and laws. Second wave Humanism needs to be a platform for meaning and purpose in life - a replacement, not just a critique, of religion. As religion is declining, Humanism needs to offer values and principles for a rational, humane foundation for meaning, ethics and community - to stop ideologies like neo-nationalism filling the gap left behind. Our declining membership reflects thinking still caught in the first wave. We don't abandon the first wave, but all of us need to build on it, to create the second wave - for the world's sake. Through reclaiming social relevance, our membership can grow again. Lyndon's vision was warmly received. John August, Murray Love and Lyndon then formed a panel for a vigorous Q&A workshop.

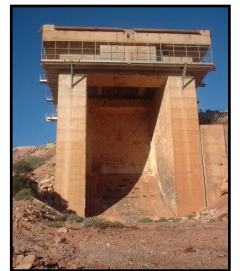
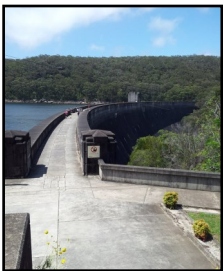
The second half began with a wonderful video interview of Charles Foley, former Humanist Chaplain, by his successor, Lyndon - who then briefly explained his own work, as a volunteer Chaplain at Canberra Hospital. Justin Murray, a volunteer pastoral care worker at the Hospital added a fresh perspective. 70% of patients at the hospital are classed as non-religious! Then Justin and Lyndon became a dynamic panel discussing humanist involvement in humanitarian volunteering - exemplifying 'second wave Humanism' as a platform for meaning and community. It was a stimulating event, acknowledging concerns for Humanism today. Lyndon wants to get the new wave rolling around Australia. Thanks to Lyndon, Justin and Charles for a fascinating afternoon.

MAY MEETING SLIDESHOWS

On Sunday 28th May the Meetup at Humanist House needed a quick change of programme so we organised an expanded version of last year's slideshow on Humanist Pilgrimages. There was mostly a very young audience who hadn't even heard of people like Bertrand Russell or Giordano Bruno so it became more like a history lesson. Here's more pilgrimage photos from Murray Love.



Sunday 14th May at Humanist House saw our Vice-President John August give a visual presentation on his many adventures exploring engineering and industrial history, finding curious artifacts of human ingenuity in Australia and overseas. John showed a Roman cistern beneath Istanbul—one of many things the Romans did for us, pyramids in Wollongong, the curious standing stone circle in Glenn Innes, lots of dams and bridges, as well as the rocket launching pads at Woomera. Below are some more strange objects from John's massive collection of photographs of industrial history and curiosities.



John August, HSNWS Vice-President broadcasts the "Roving Spotlight" program on Radio Skid Row, Marrickville. Tuesdays from noon-2pm, 88.9 FM and also streaming at www.radioskidrow.org

See John's own website: <http://www.johnaugust.com.au/>

Download and listen to some of these past programs :

A discussion with Tim Josling on Pedophilia in the Catholic Church : johnaugust.com.au/audio/timp.mp3

Again, with Tim Josling on Voluntary Euthanasia and Palliative Care : johnaugust.com.au/audio/timve.mp3

John's views on the recent abortion vote in NSW Parliament : johnaugust.com.au/audio/johnab.mp3

THE LIFE OF IAN EDWARDS, HUMANIST



Dr. Ian Edwards, a pioneer of Humanism in Australia, died recently on Saturday 11 March 2017. Ian was the second 'Chairman' of the Humanist Society of NSW - following John Hirschman who left to work for the W.H.O. in the Philippines. The job title changed to President, later that decade. Ian led NSW from 1964 to 1967, and was at the meeting in August 1965 that formed CAHS (Council of Australian Humanist Societies). He became its first 'Chairman', and led its first Convention on the Easter weekend in 1966 in Sydney. By that time the NSW society had about 600 members and the conference spread from AMP Conference Hall to Federation House and the new Humanist House at 194 Crown Street - of which Ian was one of the first group of three Trustees.

After his term as leader, Ian continued pioneering, editing the movement's first Australian book 'The Humanist View' - published in 1969. He led the writing of another published work - 'Sex for Modern Teenagers', and was an important local medical pioneer in the provision of abortion and vasectomy services. He helped set up Preterm - itself a pioneering organization - which became a foundation, providing safe, affordable health and termination services for women. Sadly, it closed in 2015. The Surry Hills clinic was a frontline in battles with backyard abortionists, thugs, arsonists, and later right-to-life activists for over forty years.



Born Ian Swales Edwards on 15 February 1929 at Uralla NSW, Ian was the eldest of four boys. His father George was a solicitor, but it was the Great Depression and money was scarce. To help, they farmed their own cows, chickens, fruits and vegetables, so Ian learned all the skills of a country boy.

His mother Beatrice Swales knew he was also a bright lad.

She gave him a chemistry set for Christmas, and let him read grown-up books - even the banned 'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley. She had him read 'Straight & Crooked thinking' by Robert Thouless - an early classic work on critical thinking, which he liked, but even better was 'The Science of Life' by Julian Huxley and H.G. Wells. Beatrice had strong views, against censorship and anti-semitism, and favouring divorce - later issues for the Humanist Society in Ian's time in the sixties.

Ian didn't take to sports or musical performance growing up, whereas his wide reading steered him towards intellectual achievement. One achievement was an academic scholarship to the Kings School at Parramatta.

An Aunt funded enrolment in medicine at Sydney University when he was just 17. Graduating in the fifties, he took off to London to work as a Resident Medical Officer, the first of many travels. Here he married his Australian fiancé Norma Ludowici in June 1953. They honeymooned on a shoestring, hitch-hiking around Europe.



When Norma became pregnant they returned to Sydney to start a family. Ian joined the Cronulla Medical Clinic in 1955 staying for 40 years - much of it in obstetrics. He delivered the first baby born at Sutherland Hospital and much later - the 20,000th. He was busy with the district's babies and his own children for quite some time, although he did manage a trip to New Guinea in 1962.

Ian felt he needed to "sort out what I believed and didn't believe". Having rejected religion in his adolescence, he looked into Julian Huxley's book 'The Humanist Frame'. Impressed, he hunted up the NSW Humanist Society in the phone book - and joined! Here he found like-minded people, and a platform for involvement in working to change things for the better. He was well remembered for his years as a leading light of the society - recalled as "extremely highly regarded, a bit like a saint"!

The Spring 1967 issue of the 'Australian Humanist' reports that in NSW: "The chairman, Dr. Ian Edwards, represented the society on both radio and television. An evening newspaper

featured a special series on the Meaning of Easter, which took the form of a discussion between Dr. Edwards and Rev. Dr. Broughton Knox....The annual general meeting held in July was a memorable occasion.... The retiring chairman, Dr Edwards, provided splendid leadership during his three years of office. The Society's rapid growth in recent years, both in numbers and in influence, owes very much indeed to the work of Dr. Edwards as committee chairman, Society spokesman and, very often, initiator of policy."

Ian held his own with the several academic society members, and they all crossed swords with the churches in the media in the sixties. During an interview for 'The Sydney Morning Herald' it was suggested he write a book - which he promptly did, editing 'A Humanist View'. His daughter Sally selected the following paragraph from his own introduction to that book, to best express his values.

"A humanist is more than just an unbeliever. The consequences of his unbelief are that man is alone in the universe, without a God and without an after-life; that if man is to survive he not only can but must accept responsibility for his own destiny; and that only by making full use of the arts and sciences, of the genius of individuals, and of the vast resources of social co-operation, can man hope to overcome the evils of ignorance, poverty and disease, and the hazards of war and the population explosion". The paragraph concludes: **"If a humanist is prepared to shoulder the consequences of his unbelief, he becomes personally committed to the solution of the problems of mankind."**



Ian expanded his involvement in providing vasectomies, and lobbying to overcome resistance in the medical profession. -"I thought it was a load of bull and we just kept going." By 1971 professional policy changed to: "there is no ethical objection to a doctor performing a sterilisation operation where it is in the best interests of the health or welfare of the patient". Ian eventually got 'the snip' himself. In 1972, he took a study trip, also taking Norma to see New York, New Orleans, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Hawaii, then on to a 1973 international vasectomy conference in Switzerland.

Having spent a week in 1972 in New York - investigating how to run abortion clinics - he turned his attention to this fraught issue. In NSW in 1973, services were costly, and counselling was inadequate. With his brother Brian, he brought together the Council for Civil Liberties, the Australia Party and the Humanist Society. He worked at getting women into important lobbying and planning roles. This led to the independent non-profit Preterm clinic, with financial support from the likes of Kerry Packer and Gordon Barton.

Life changed in 1974 with a heart attack. Ian reduced his

workload and made the best use of modern medical science, living almost as long after his heart attack as he had before it.

Those who knew him, saw an excellent lobbyist who shunned the limelight, and focused on the issues. He saw the years of the decline of the NSW Humanist Society with sadness.

Ian lamented to an interviewer:

"[back] in those days [the sixties] we were looking for things to do to make the world better, nowadays they've more or less gone back to talking to each other about why they left the Catholic Church ...we were looking for something to replace religion for people to get guidance in life. We weren't fighting the church so much as looking for an alternative."

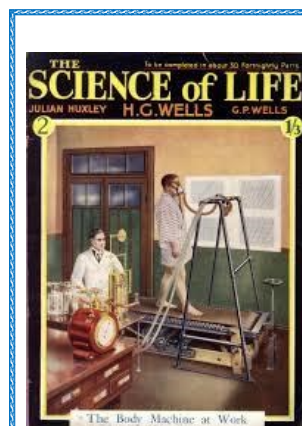


Ian looked back on his Humanist activism with good humour: "We published another book called ...Sex for Modern Teenagers (1969) – reprinted twice would you believe! It was also on sale in England and NZ. It was written by a sub-committee of the Humanist Society, reads rather as if it were written by a sub-committee! But there were no other suitable books at the time. Looking at it now, a teenager today would fall over laughing! There was nothing else. In those days, we were trying to look for things you could do to help".

Ian put his trust in medical science, had further heart surgeries, four hip replacements and treatment for heart and kidney failure. In his final years his hearing deteriorated but his intellect remained strong. He continued his lifelong love of reading and mastered the computer. He took pleasure in his garden to the end, despite losing some mobility, taking special interest in pheasants and palms.

Finally his medical issues overwhelmed him. Ian is survived by his wife Norma, children Hilary, Sally, Frith and Andrew, and eight grandchildren. Thanks go to Sally Edwards for much of the information, and also Ceridwen Dovey, who interviewed Ian shortly before his death.

Murray Love



'The Science of Life' - Ian's favourite book as a child - was first issued as a serial, and eventually published in several bound volumes. It was a big success at the time, and promoted the evolutionary view. It was extensively illustrated, and would have been a treasure in the home of any budding Humanist whose parents could afford it.

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Dorothy Buckland-Fuller AM, MBE

Mother, feminist, bilingual sociologist, peace activist. Dorothy is also an environmentalist, and committed to the cause of reconciliation with indigenous Australia. A founder of the Ethnic Communities Council, Dorothy was, and is still, a vital influence in the ethnic communities.

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