

## Professor Ian Lowe AO



**Professor Ian Lowe AO** is Emeritus Professor of Science, Technology and Society at Griffith University in Brisbane, and an adjunct professor at Sunshine Coast University and Flinders University. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2001 for services to science and technology, especially in the area of environmental studies.

In 2002 Prof Lowe was awarded a Centenary Medal for contributions to environmental science and won the Eureka Prize for promotion of science. His contributions have also been recognised by the Prime Minister's Environment Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement, the Queensland Premier's Millennium Award for Excellence in Science and the University of NSW Alumni Award for achievement in science. Professor Lowe is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and was named Humanist of the Year in 1988.

Professor Lowe studied engineering and science at the University of NSW and earned his doctorate in physics from the University of York. He is the author or co-author of 10 Open University books, 10 other books, more than 50 book chapters and over 500 other publications or conference papers.

From 1983 to 1989 Professor Lowe was a member of the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council, chairing its standing committee on social, economic and environmental issues. He was Director of the Commission for the Future in 1988, and chaired the advisory council that produced the first independent national report on the state of the environment in 1996. He is a member of the Environmental Health Council and the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council. He chaired the Queensland Government task force implementing the reform of science education and the Brisbane City Council task force on climate change and energy. He is deputy chair of the Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Group, which advises the State government on energy innovations. He is a past member of the National Commission for UNESCO and has conducted consultancies for all three levels of government as well as companies and peak organisations in the private sector.

Professor Lowe has been a referee for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, attended the Geneva and Kyoto conferences of the parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and was a member of the Australian delegation to the 1999 UNESCO World Conference on Science. He was on the steering group for the UNEP project Global Environmental Outlook, an invited participant in the 2000 workshop on Sustainability Science and a referee for both the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program's 2004 book on planetary science and the 2005 Millennium Assessment Report. In 2004, Professor Lowe was elected ACF President. He has spent his time as head of ACF using his status as one of the world's foremost climate change scientists to promote awareness of climate change in Australia and the world. In 2009, Professor Lowe won the International Academy of Science's Konrad Lorenz Gold Medal carrying the title: 'Hope for the Future for a Sustainable World'.

Professor Lowe has made countless contributions to newspapers, radio, television and periodicals since 1991. He gave the ABC's Boyer Lectures in 1991 and has been a member of the advisory group for Brisbane's Ideas Festival since its inception. He is a former member of the board of Major Brisbane Festivals Ltd and former President of Queensland Academy of the Arts and Sciences.

In his spare time, Professor Lowe plays cricket, as probably the oldest serious outswing bowler in Queensland club cricket, sings tenor in choral groups, walks in the Australian bush and overseas mountains, reads voraciously, watches films and is trying to improve his golf game. He lives on the Sunshine Coast with his partner, Patricia Kelly. Between them they have three adult sons