



Isla Ellen Lonie

2 April 1936

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Isla was born in Christchurch, New Zealand and went to Dunedin in 1953 to study medicine. There she met her partner and soul mate, David, and they formed a remarkable partnership over more than 50 years together.

The young couple graduated in 1960; it was our good fortune in Australia when in 1964 they decided to move to New South Wales where they were offered a post at Morisset. With a young family, this suited them very well; Rachel had been born in Dunedin, Catriona was born at Morrisett and James came later.

Isla and David continued their psychiatry training together, completing a DPM and then College membership, Isla being one of the first candidates to receive what was then a College DPM. They continued thereafter a remarkable harmony in their professional lives, although David moved on to child and adolescent psychiatry and psychotherapy while Isla focused more on adult psychotherapy. Together they contributed enormously to training in psychiatry and psychotherapy, not only in NSW but more widely in Australia. They were part of a small group who founded the NSW Institute of Psychotherapy, which has since become The NSW Institute of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, and they were involved in setting up The Association for Infant Mental Health in Australia.

In the College Isla served for many years in various capacities, including as federal councillor and on the section of psychotherapy. A task that she put her heart and soul into was establishing the advanced training in the psychotherapies for the College. The first intake in 2001 culminated Isla's diligent work over some two years to develop the course. As with all her other contributions to psychiatry and psychotherapy in this country, this was a labour of love and one that Isla pursued with the same combination of dedication and flare that was characteristic of all her work.

Isla has been an inspiration to several generations of trainee psychiatrists; contributing as mentor, supervisor and lecturer to trainees not only within the College but in other areas of psychiatry and psychotherapy in Australia. She was a regular presenter and participant at College congresses and contributed a number of publications to the College journal and

elsewhere; and her interests and expertise stretched well beyond psychotherapy to include topics like chaos theory. Without doubt Isla was one of the shining lights in psychotherapy, particularly during the 70's and 80's when psychotherapy was enjoying what was its golden age in psychiatry. For all of this contribution Isla was recognised in 2003 when she received a College citation.

Isla and David formed a remarkable partnership; they shared so much together that this was truly a match made in heaven. As well as their passionate interest in psychotherapy they shared a love of music, with season subscriptions to opera, concert and theatre. They enjoyed travel together and managed to cover much of the globe over the years, yet equally they loved their weekends at the beautiful sanctuary they created at Pearl Beach. In all of this they did not lose their focus on family; they were a modern couple way ahead of their time in that they shared parenting at a time when that notion was unheard of; throughout the years they managed an equal distribution of time for career, study and children; this included a mutual love of gardening that in recent years saw them create a beautiful oasis at Towalla.

Isla was truly a remarkable person and incredibly gifted, not only as a psychiatrist, she also had a great talent for homemaking and for handcrafts; the achievements of her professional life Isla were matched with a prodigious output of hand knits for her family; her talents were so various that she could work meticulously on fashioning a chess set for each of her children, or laying bricks in the garden, painting the house, making the curtains and producing each year, the Christmas puddings. Isla was also a gifted writer with not just a considerable profile of professional publications but also several plays to her credit, some of which were produced.

Above all, Isla was an incredibly generous person. Her home was always open; there was always a bed for a travelling colleague, and she could just as readily provide an intimate soiree for a small gathering of colleagues or host a gala event for friends and family. Yet that generosity of spirit and openness to all was complemented by a feisty personality with fearless political convictions that one might challenge at one's peril.

It was my very good fortune to meet Isla in 1981 and it has been a great privilege for me to have been counted amongst her close friends. We enjoyed sharing our ideas, our work and professional interests as well as our interests in music and theatre, while our weekly bridge nights became an institution.

Isla is survived by David and their three children, Rachel, Catriona and James and their partners and the delightful grandchildren who, although sadly have now lost their grandmother, were able to share some precious years with her.

Dearly missed and fondly remembered by

Carolyn Quadrio

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