

In Memoriam Bob Carter

By Dr Gerrit J. van der Lingen, Nelson, New Zealand

I have known Bob Carter for a long time, since he was a senior lecturer in the Geology Department of the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. We knew each other as colleagues. At that time, Bob had written about a mid-Oligocene unconformity, which he named the "Marshall Paraconformity". This concept evoked some scientific controversy, in which I was involved (Geological Society of New Zealand Newsletter 72, 1986: 26-33). However, it also generated much new research.

We lost contact after Bob became professor of geology at the James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, in 1981. The only scientific connection was through the scientific Deep Sea Drilling Project. I took part in two early expeditions on the scientific drilling ship *Glomar Challenger* (Legs 21, 1971 and 30, 1973). Bob became involved later on, when the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) had morphed into the Ocean Drilling Project (ODP), with a new scientific drilling ship, the *Joides Resolution*. He spearheaded Australia's involvement in the deep sea drilling project, becoming director of the Australian Office of the Ocean Drilling Project. He planned several of its expeditions in our part of the world, and was co-Chief Scientist of Leg 181, which drilled to the East of New Zealand.

After many years, my wife Marianne and I met Bob unexpectedly at the 1996 Townsville International Chamber Music Festival, discovering our shared love of classical music. We remember that he arrived late at one of the concerts. He felt a bit queasy. While walking to his car in the dark, something hit him in the leg. He could not see what it was, but it seemed likely that it was a snake. Luckily, no major damage was done.

Our climate change association happened by chance. When passing through Christchurch on 26 February 2003, Bob picked up a copy of The Press newspaper in the airport. In it was an article I wrote, titled "Global warming doctrine latest environmental scare". Realising that I was a fellow "climate sceptic", he contacted me and we stayed in regular contact since.

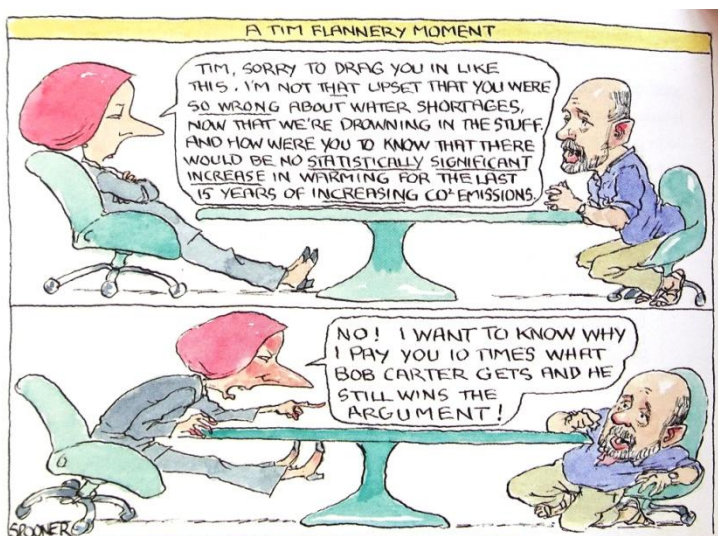
In 2006 we were in Noosa, Australia, where Bob debated Professor Ian Lowe on climate change, as part of the "Noosa Long Weekend" programme. Bob won the debate hands down. This was not difficult, as professor Lowe refused to address any of the points raised by Bob. He was more interested in promoting his book *Living in the Hothouse: How Global Warming affects Australia*. I was able to support Bob during discussion time. We had dinner together in the Sails restaurant in Noosa (see photograph).



Having dinner at the Sails restaurant In Noosa, Queensland, Australia, in 2006. From left to right: Anne and Bob Carter, Marianne and Gerrit van der Lingen.

A few years later we met Bob and Anne again in Christchurch, where they were visiting with Anne's sister and geology husband from California.

Bob has been a powerhouse in the man-made climate change debate. He had an unbridled energy and sharp intellect. His contributions to New Zealand and Australian geology were impressive. He has made huge contributions through research and teaching. These have been recognized by many awards. To mention just one: the Outstanding Research Career Award of the Geological Society of New Zealand (2005). Notwithstanding this record he has been vilified for his activities as a man-made-climate-change realist (sometimes called sceptic). But he has fearlessly defended the scientific method, against the subversion of that method by the man-made global warming activists. His most outstanding contribution was as co-author of the impressive publications by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). He also wrote two books on climate change: "Climate: the Counter Consensus", and "Taxing Air". The latter was produced together with the Australian cartoonist John Spooner. Cartoonists often can make a point succinctly and Spooner is a master in this art. Bob Carter was mentioned in one of his cartoons in "Taxing Air" (p.62). It shows the former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard berating the man-made-climate-change extremist, professor Tim Flannery. Tim Flannery was made a Climate Commissioner by Julia Gillard with a handsome salary (incidentally, he was sacked in this role by the successor of Julia Gillard, Prime Minister Tony Abbott).



Cartoon by John Spooner. Prime Minister Julia Gillard berating professor Tim Flannery, referring to Bob Carter. From "Taxing Air", p.62. I thank John Spooner for his permission to use his cartoon.

Bob was a very generous person. Whenever I asked him for comments or information, he answered promptly. Even after he recently came back from the Paris COP21 conference. I asked him to send me some of his impressions of COP21. I also asked him if he was willing to write a short endorsement to put on the back cover of my (self-publishing) upcoming book "The Fable of a Stable Climate". He promptly replied on both requests on 27 December. I will treasure his endorsement, which was probably one of his last actions.

He will be sorely missed. The best way for us to show our appreciation and admiration for Bob is to continue our fight against the dark forces of man-made climate change activism.