We present Ian Axford as the director, manager, partner and host of the Max-Planck Institute for Aeronomy in Lindau. The focus is on how he by his exceptional expertise and standing, by his broad-mindedness, generosity, and liberalitas, and by his gentleness and positivity put the Institute on the map of the world in space and planetary sciences. It is also on how he provided the essential support for the launch of the world's largest open access publisher in the geosciences and the largest union in the geosciences in Europe.