

# CORRESPONDENCE

## FORMATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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An important milestone in Australian meteorology was reached on 18 December 1972 when the Australian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society was formally inaugurated at a gathering of almost 100 Australian Fellows, friends and representatives of kindred societies and organisations in Melbourne.

The Royal Meteorological Society was founded on 3 April 1850 for the advancement of meteorological science and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1866. In recent years the idea of forming an Australian organisation of meteorologists has often been raised in informal discussions and, as there was already in existence a significant body of Australian Fellows of the Society, it seemed that an Australian Branch would be an appropriate means by which to proceed. On 21 June 1972 the Council of the Society formally approved the creation of the Australian Branch under its By-Law 87 in response to a request made by an interim committee and endorsed by over two thirds of Fellows resident in Australia.

At the inaugural meeting, the draft By-Laws of the Branch were adopted and the first Branch committee elected. Dr A.J. Dyer, the first Branch Chairman, has subsequently been appointed to the Council of the Society as the first Vice-President for Australia.

As outlined in its By-Laws, the Branch was established '... to further the aims of the Society in the fields of Meteorology and associated sciences'. To this end, the first Branch Committee has, *inter alia*:

- (a) Established a sub-committee chaired by Prof. B.R. Morton to examine the teaching of meteorology in Australian schools and institutes of higher learning and recommend to the Branch any changes in this area thought to be desirable.
- (b) Moved to provide an independent forum for the conduct of meetings for the presentation of papers and discussion. The institutions which have conducted the Joint Meteorological Colloquia since their inception 25 years ago - the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Physics, the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Melbourne Meteorology Department - have agreed that these meetings now be presented under the banner of the Society. Summaries of each talk will continue to be published in the Australian Meteorological Magazine. The Branch has become an accredited society with the Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation allowing it a permanent headquarters for its meetings, although from time to time they may be held at other venues.
- (c) Decided to hold an Australasian Conference on Climate and Climatic Change. Dr A.B. Pittcock has been appointed chairman of the sub-committee organising the conference, which will be held in Melbourne from 8 to 11 December 1975 and aims to bring together people in the Australasian region interested in questions of climate and climatic change so that they may familiarise themselves with the broad scope of the field, its relevance to their particular needs, interests and disciplines, and interest others in the contribution they can make to the broader field. Further conferences will be held from time to time.

Eventually, it may be thought desirable to establish as Australian Meteorological Society as was done recently in Canada. Should this occur, an enthusiastic Branch committee supported by a growing number of Australian Fellows will ensure a solid foundation upon which to build.

Bureau of Meteorology,  
Melbourne.

31 March 1974