

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 1974

The Committee consisted of the Chairman and Vice-President for Australia, Dr A.J. Dyer; Vice-Chairman, Professor B.R. Morton; Honorary Secretary, Dr K.T. Spillane; Honorary Treasurer, Dr J.G. Garratt and four Fellows, Mr S. Allen, Dr T. Gibson, Mr P. Price and Dr R.K. Smith.

Eight meetings were held during the year and were extremely well attended. The speakers and their topics were: Professor J. Oliver, Department of Geography, University of Townsville, 'Tropical cyclones as natural hazards: an evaluation of Queensland experience in its meteorological context'; Mr D. Gauntlett, Australian Numerical Meteorology Research Centre (ANMRC), 'Present and future developments in numerical weather prediction'; Dr W. Budd, Antarctic Division, Department of Science, 'The relevance of Australia's antarctic research program - a new assessment'; Mr D. Currey, Victorian State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, 'Water Commission used earth satellite'; Professor C. Bretschneider, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Hawaii, 'Wave forecasting - state of the art'; Mr R. Maine, Bureau of Meteorology, 'Automation in meteorology'; Professor E. Linacre, School of Earth Sciences, Macquarie University, 'Winds in Sydney'.

At the final meeting of the year, held at the National Science Centre, the Chairman, Dr A.J. Dyer, gave his address entitled 'The fear of climatic change'. This was followed by a dinner which was attended by sixty-two Fellows and others.

Current membership of the Branch stands at about 150 Fellows and a few Student Members.

Plans are well advanced for a major regional conference on the subject of Climate and Climatic Change to be held at Monash University from 7 to 12 December 1975. The conference is being co-sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science and generous grants from the Commonwealth Foundation, the Victorian Government, Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd and Jennings Industries Ltd will enable the Branch to secure participation from leading world experts in the field.

Other proposed future activities include:

- (1) An annual schools lecture for sixth-formers: the lecture for 1975 will be given by Dr G.B. Tucker, Chief, CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Physics, and is entitled 'Climate: is it changing?' The lecture will be held sometime in June or July, probably in the National Science Centre.
- (2) Meteorological field courses to be run in conjunction with the Environmental Studies Association of Victoria. The first is envisaged for early 1976 and will take the form of an inservice course for teachers. Subsequent courses for students are also planned.
- (3) The organisation and co-ordination of a program of pH-measurement in rainfall by high schools. Initially, the area covered would probably be limited to the Melbourne metropolitan area, and, if successful, future programs covering the State of Victoria and possibly the whole Australian continent would be anticipated.

- (4) A Working Group on Education in Meteorology has been established to inquire into the role of tertiary institutions and other contributors to this field of education in Australia.

R.K. Smith,
Secretary

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