

# ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: AUSTRALIAN BRANCH MEETING

## ANNUAL REPORT 1976

The committee consisted of the Chairman, Professor B.R. Morton; Vice-Chairman, Dr J.W. Zillman; Honorary Secretary, Dr R.K. Smith; Honorary Treasurer, Dr J.R. Garratt; the Vice-President for Australia, Dr A.J. Dyer; and four Fellows, Dr R.R. Brook, Dr T.T. Gibson, Dr C.M.R. Platt, and Mr P.G. Price.

Six ordinary meetings were held during the year. The speakers and their topics were: Mr A.B. Neal, Bureau of Meteorology, 'Meteorology in the space age - the development and use of meteorological satellites'; Mr P.A. Prichard, Education Department of Victoria, 'Today is Monday: it is raining'; Professor E.O. Holopainen, Department of Meteorology, University of Helsinki, 'Energy balance of the earth'; Dr K.T. Spillane, CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Physics, 'Applications of meteorology within the United Kingdom power industry'; Mr H.T. Ashton, formerly of the Bureau of Meteorology, 'China: a glimpse of how meteorology serves the people'; and Mr C.E. Wallington, Canberra College of Advanced Education, 'The impact of gliding on meteorological research'. In addition, two discussion meetings were held, one concerning the Branch Submission to the Australian Government's Green Paper *Towards New Perspectives for Australian Meteorological Services* and the other to assist in the preparation of a Branch statement on 'The Practice of Weather Forecasting'.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the University of Melbourne in April; the address was given by Senator the Hon. J.J. Webster, Federal Minister for Science, who spoke on the subject 'Science, satellites and meteorology'.

At the final meeting of the year held at the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, the Chairman, Professor B.R. Morton, gave his address entitled 'Tornadoes'. This was followed by a Chinese banquet at a local restaurant, attended by more than eighty Fellows and others.

In March, the Branch instituted a monthly newsletter under the editorship of Mr R.J. Hagger. The newsletter carries articles, notices of meetings, etc., and letters, and serves a valuable role in keeping members informed on Branch activities, especially interstate members.

Also in March, the Branch organised a weekend field study course in conjunction with the Environmental Studies Association of Victoria. The course, entitled 'Weather, Wind and Clouds', was held at the Pine Lodge Guest House in Inverloch, Victoria and attracted twenty-seven participants.

The second annual sixth form lecture for schools was held in July. The talk was given by Mr A.B. Neal and was a repeat of his lecture to the Branch earlier in the year. It was given in the National Science Centre, Melbourne and repeated a week later in the Australian Government Centre Theatre, Sydney.

A one-day discussion meeting on 'Vorticity' was held at Monash University, Melbourne in October and was attended by almost fifty Fellows and others.

A two-day conference on 'Urban Meteorology' is planned for February 1977 and will be held at Macquarie University, near Sydney.

The book based on plenary lectures given at the climatology conference held in 1975 and to be published by Cambridge University Press is expected to appear about mid-1977.

Membership of the Branch continues to increase and now stands at about two hundred and seventy Fellows and eight Student Members.

R.K. Smith  
Honorary Secretary

19 April 1977

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