

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 1977

The Committee consisted of Dr J.W. Zillman (Chairman), Mr R.H. Clarke (Vice-Chairman), Dr J.R. Garratt (Treasurer), Mr P.G. Price (Secretary), and ordinary members Dr R.R. Brook, Dr T.T. Gibson, Dr A.B. Pittock and Dr R.K. Smith. Co-opted members were the Vice Presidents for Australia, Dr A.J. Dyer (to 30 September) and Professor B.R. Morton (from 1 October); Mr R.J. Hagger (Newsletter Editor); Mr A.B. Neal (1979 International Tropical Cyclone Conference Co-Ordinator); and Mr G.J. Holland (Workshop on Fronts Convenor). There were twelve ordinary and two special Committee meetings during the year.

Membership of the Branch continues to increase and, at the end of the year, stood at 312 Fellows and 20 Student members.

Eight ordinary meetings were held in Melbourne during the year. Speakers and their topics were:

- Dr W.L. Smith (NESS, Washington) - 'Recent results from satellite surface observations';
- Professor R.D. Johnson (University of Wisconsin) - 'Some trends and recent developments in meteorological training in the United States and at the University of Wisconsin';
- Dr P.J. Lamb (University of Adelaide) - 'Large-scale tropical Atlantic surface circulation patterns associated with sub-Saharan drought';
- Mr A.H. Gordon (formerly of the British Meteorological Office) - 'Air parcel trajectories over the oceanic tropics';
- Dr J. Gani (CSIRO) - 'The analysis of rainfall and river flow';
- Dr A.F. Bennett (Monash University) - 'Poleward heat fluxes from selected southern hemisphere cruises';
- Mr G.H. Sabin (Bureau of Meteorology) - 'Operational meteorology';
- Dr P.J. Webster (CSIRO) - 'Simple coupled system climate models'.

Two meetings were held under Branch auspices in Perth: Mr R.L. Southern (Bureau of Meteorology) spoke on 'Hurricane forecasting, preparedness, and disaster relief operations in Hawaii and the US', and Dr J. Gentili (University of Western Australia) on 'The economic consequences of climatic change'.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Melbourne in April when Dr C.H.B. Priestley (CSIRO) spoke on 'The images of a meteorologist - professional, public, mutual and self', and at the final meeting for the year the topic of the Chairman's address was 'The First GARP Global Experiment'. The Annual Schools Lecture for senior students, this year entitled 'What's the use of meteorology?' was delivered by Professor P. Schwerdtfeger in both Sydney and Melbourne.

The Branch's two day Summer Conference on Urban Meteorology held at Macquarie University, Sydney during February was attended by 129 delegates. The Committee is grateful to Professor E. Linacre and his organising committee, and to the University authorities for making the conference such a success. In Melbourne the Branch sponsored a two day Workshop on Fronts during May, an evening meeting on 'Wind and weather on the Bay - making the best use of the forecast' in October, and, with the Bureau of Meteorology and the James Cook University of North Queensland, co-sponsored a two day Remote Sensing Symposium during April. The Committee acknowledges its gratitude to the organisers of these meetings.

The Branch Newsletter was issued monthly throughout the year and continued to serve a valuable role in keeping members informed of Branch activities. A Handbook, including abstracts of papers, and a preliminary bibliography of urban meteorological studies in Australia were produced for the Urban Meteorology Conference,

while preprints of papers were published for the Workshop on Fronts. During the year the Committee established the principle of publishing Statements to give guidance to interested parties by providing institutionally impartial and independent assessments on aspects of the atmospheric sciences. The first Statement - on the practice of weather forecasting - was published in April. Other Branch publications during the year were its submission to the Inquiry into the CSIRO; a directory of Members; and a pamphlet 'About the Branch' as a companion to the Society's 'membership and activities'.

The Branch continued its formal association with the Bureau of Meteorology's *Australian Meteorological Magazine* through its nomination of six of the Magazine's thirteen member editorial advisory committee.

Planning is proceeding towards the 1978 summer AIRMET Conference in Canberra and the International Conference on Tropical Cyclones, to be co-sponsored by the American Meteorological Society, in Perth in November 1979.

P.G. Price
Honorary Secretary

14 February 1978