

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL CYCLONE CONFERENCE,
PERTH, 25 TO 29 NOVEMBER 1979**

GENERAL SUMMARY

The aim of the International Conference on Tropical Cyclones was to provide a forum for discussion of current research on tropical cyclones and their socio-economic impact. This was successfully achieved in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere in Perth, Australia between 25 and 29 November 1979. A total of 175 participants attended including delegates from 21 countries. It was the first international meeting on tropical cyclones held in Australia for more than 20 years and the first time that such a broad cross-section of scientific and community representatives had been drawn together at an international level to discuss the tropical cyclone problem.

The program focused attention on six broad aspects of tropical cyclones:

- . socio-economic factors;
- . observational aspects (including climatology);
- . modelling (theoretical, numerical and laboratory);
- . boundary layer and moist convection;
- . artificial modification; and
- . operational forecasting.

Each topic was introduced by an invited expert speaker who reviewed recent progress in the field and outlined the most likely avenues for future success. Then followed short contributed papers and an occasional keynote address by an eminent speaker on a specialised subject. Time was allocated for discussion after each paper and this often resulted in a lively and controversial interchange. The Session Conveners' summaries give details of the main points discussed.

A total of 70 papers was presented to a multidisciplinary audience consisting of atmospheric scientists, practising meteorologists, physicists, geographers, mathematicians, lawyers, social scientists, and representatives from commerce, industry and emergency services organisations. A highlight of the conference was the informal poster display presentation on the Tuesday evening. Some 30 displays were prepared with each author being available to discuss his presentation informally with anyone who was interested.

The conference was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia, Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle. Extensive media coverage was obtained via radio, television and the press with daily coverage being given.

Successful post-conference seminars on the community impact of tropical cyclones were held at Port Hedland (30 November), Darwin (3 and 4 December), Townsville (6 and 7 December) and Brisbane (10 and 11 December). These consisted of both full public meetings and meetings limited to technical personnel and community service representatives. In retrospect the Port Hedland seminar assumed greatest significance in view of the two severe cyclones (Amy and Dean) that subsequently struck the city (9 January and 1 February 1980). The Port Hedland seminar on 30 November was attended by more than 300 people drawn from the Pilbara region, including all key cyclone emergency preparedness personnel. The community was thus well briefed by experts on the latest available knowledge on cyclones and their impact.

A.B.Neal