

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: AUSTRALIAN BRANCH MEETING

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Meteorology: Up and Running in the 1980s

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Bob Crowder is well known for his humour and as a superb raconteur. His central theme was the serious one of how he saw meteorology developing in the next decade and this was encrusted with appropriate introductory cartoons and humourous insights. As the Assistant Director Services in the Bureau of Meteorology, Bob is well placed to gauge how meteorology will fare in the next decade.

Recent surveys by the Bureau have indicated that, in line with the higher educational standard of the community, there has been a positive shift in assessment of meteorological services. The new technology, such as satellite photographs and radar, which had contributed to greater understanding within the Bureau, had also given users a better understanding of, and confidence in, the service.

A challenge for the future is the need to maintain the flow of talent into the science to exploit further these new data and technology and maintain the advance. The recent improvements were seen as continuing and the increasing appreciation of the benefits of meteorological services should help to ensure that resources will be available for the next decade. Resources will always be finite, so that an important task for managers and scientists will be to choose between competing programs and projects. On a human level, increased automation could raise some complex problems and these will need to be faced and solved.

Bob saw meteorology entering a golden age if the scientists and managers do their work wisely and well; and with concern for the individual.

S.C.A.

