

Correspondence

The Editor

Australian Meteorological Magazine

Dear Sir,

Your reviewer of the two recent publications prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology, *Climatic Averages Australia* and *Climatic Atlas of Australia*, has noted several apparent idiosyncrasies of the publications which call for explanation.

At the outset I would like to make the point that both publications are prepared for reference purposes and not as popular volumes. They are summaries and analyses respectively from the extensive data files and original records of the Bureau.

Climatic Averages Australia: The data are from the computer archives and the station naming and numbering systems are retained in the event that more detailed follow up from the archives is required. This explains why an earlier discontinued station number may have been occasionally referenced. Editing was thorough and extended to 12 separate proofs to ensure that the typesetter had translated the data tapes correctly.

9.00 am and 3.00 pm are traditional reference times for climate purposes. The introduction of Daylight Saving Time has possibly rendered these statistics useless but the questionnaire is aimed at soliciting user reaction. A decision as to whether the space will be used for a more appropriate statistic in any future volume will be made based on responses.

Climatic Atlas of Australia: The comparison with *Atlas of Australian Resources, Volume 4: Cli-*

mate is not appropriate. The Climatic Atlas is directed at meeting a need for climate maps and in this context a selection has been incorporated but at differing scales to those in the *Atlas of Australian Resources*.

The preparation of the consolidated reprint volume of the Climatic Atlas has suffered from inadequate resources being available to update the map sets. As pointed out by your reviewer many of the maps date to the period of the 1970s. Although it is not expected that the basic features of the climate will have changed in the intervening period it would have been more satisfactory to have later data included in the analyses, particularly over the data sparse areas. As many of the earlier map sets are out of print the availability of a consolidated reprint volume will meet a demonstrated need.

On the matter of pricing, both volumes conform to current government guidelines and it is a matter of opinion whether they are excessive for reference works. The comparison with the *Atlas of Australian Resources* is relevant but only in the context of changed guidelines for these later publications.

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