

Correspondence

The Editor
Australian Meteorological Magazine

Dear Sir,

I am writing in gratitude to you for the half-page of the Magazine, 'Award of the 1985 Priestley Medal' in the December 1985 issue.

I should draw your attention, however, to a misstatement in the last paragraph. Not one, but *four* expeditions (1978-81) were organised by me to obtain data which led to the explanation of the 'morning glory'. These expeditions were largely self-funded.

- (1) October 1978: My wife and I spent 2 weeks camping out in the Normanton-Burketown-Karumba area, and obtained what I believe were the first time-lapse movies of a glory, on 14/10/78.
- (2) September-October 1979: As a result of experience gained in 1978, we sought and obtained the collaboration of Dr R. K. Smith and his students, Mr R. Merridew (owner of an aircraft, and a pilot), and Mr D. G. Reid, and we mounted an all-out assault on the 'glory', during which my wife and I set up a line of autographic instruments across Cape York. This was the crucial step.
- (c) October 1980: Being desirous of observing a 'glory' in its formative stage, my wife and I spent a month camped at Dunbar Station, near the western side of the Peninsula, doing balloon flights.
- (4) October 1981: Having fallen prey to several serious illnesses (one of which unfortunately still afflicts me) in May 1981, and not having recovered, I organised an expedition, which I could not attend, of five people, including my wife, under the leadership of Mr Reid, to do radiosoundings and balloon flights on the western side of Cape York. This was supported by the Bureau of Meteorology, through the gift of consumables, and was very successful.

This letter should not be seen as a complaint, but merely a setting straight of the record. I am grateful to have been spared sufficient health to have brought the program to a successful conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Clarke
Rosanna, Vic.
18 June 1986

The Editor
Australian Meteorological Magazine

Dear Sir,

We write in some protest at the increasing use of the acronym ENSO, commonly used in the meteorological scientific literature, and the misconceptions which it encourages. Typical of the latter was a forecast on one of our television stations that an 'El Nino drought' will be coming to eastern Australia.

The early research on the Southern Oscillation was carried out by Walker and consolidated by Berlage before our own time. During our time, it was reviewed with great insight by our younger colleague, the late A. J. Troup (*Q. J. R. Met. Soc.*, 91, 490-506, 1965). Troup deserves to be remembered for his contribution, in particular as he recognised the fluctuations in the South Pacific trade winds as a mainspring of the Oscillation.

In the ongoing research program, now with the benefit of computers and a much more comprehensive data basis, the emphasis should be on how a hemispheric-wide phenomenon may resonate regionally due to the ensuing air-sea temperature differences.

For, surely, El Nino variations are a consequence of the Southern Oscillation, not its driving force as 'ENSO' and the television quote would imply.
Sincerely yours,

**A. F. A. Berson and
C. H. B. Priestley**
Armadale, Vic.
11 April 1986

