

13 April 2017

Meteorological Society of New Zealand Members

Dear Members

Opportunity to claim climate records earmarked for disposal

The National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA) has a large holding of physical historical paper records which are 25 years of age or older. NIWA has been storing these records at a storage facility in Wellington for decades to support NIWA and New Zealand scientists. NIWA has observed a reduced use of these historic records and therefore decided that the current level of use of the facility does not justify its operation.

In 2014 NIWA completed an initial appraisal report for part of the data holdings. This resulted in the transferral of about 1600 rolls of hand-drawn meteorological charts (approximately A1 size) to Archives New Zealand in Auckland. NIWA has reviewed and catalogued the remaining holdings of the store and have identified records which are perceived to now have low value, particularly as much of the data have been aggregated and digitised. Therefore, NIWA have proposed to dispose of these records. The following records have been earmarked for disposal:

- **Upper atmosphere records:** This holding comprises meteorological records from radiosondes, upper wind observations, and upper atmosphere ozone concentration observations for New Zealand and other regional locations. Meteorological variables measured in the upper atmosphere from radiosondes comprise temperature, humidity, and atmospheric pressure. The data are recorded by hand into tabular forms. Records are approximately from the time period 1960-1990.
- **Barometric charts:** This holding comprises paper graphs/plots of barometric pressure (so called barographs), which were mechanically transferred from the sensor to paper charts. The records are from many New Zealand locations. Records are approximately from the time period 1980-1990.

The purpose of this communication is to allow members of the Meteorological Society of New Zealand the opportunity to collect any records which have been earmarked for disposal, before disposal is carried out on May 15, 2017. If any member would like to obtain some of these records, NIWA can provide a copy of the detailed catalogue that indicates the specific location and date range for which paper records are available. Note that members will be expected to pick up the records themselves, i.e. NIWA will not deliver any records that have been requested by members.

For further information please contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



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