

REPORT ON THE 6TH AUSTRALASIAN FORUM ON CLIMATOLOGY

The Australia-New Zealand Climate Forum held its 6th Australasian Forum on Climatology at the University of Otago, Dunedin from 4-6 February 1991. This conference was hosted by the Geography Departments of the Universities of Otago and Canterbury, and sponsored by the New Zealand Meteorological Service, Trust Bank, BP New Zealand, Hertz and Ansett New Zealand. The conference was attended by approximately fifty delegates, with slightly less than half from Australia. The programme consisted of a number of paper and workshop sessions covering contemporary topics in climatology. Paper sessions included:

- climate change
- agriculture, forestry and climate
- processes and scaling at the land surface interface

while workshops covered:

- current research programmes in climate change
- climatology in environmental education
- agriculture, forestry and climate
- the future of the ANZ Climate Forum

Twenty-eight interesting papers were presented during two and a half days of sessions in an environment enhancing a stimulating exchange of ideas. The range of topics covered by the papers clearly indicates the extensive interest in atmospheric research of many different groups in Australia and New Zealand, although human and financial resources still appear to limit the extent of research conducted.

The major outcomes of the workshop sessions included the drafting of a letter to appropriate Ministers in Australia and New Zealand regarding the major concerns in our area of interest, and general agreement over the future of the Climate Forum. In relation to this second outcome, it was agreed that the Forum should remain informal, and be neither affiliated to other interest groups nor be formally constituted. It was also suggested that the next meeting be held in Australia, and that Townsville be considered as the next venue for the winter of 1992 (if elsewhere, February was considered the best time).

The organising committee felt that the conference successfully achieved its objectives of the exchange of information, and the stimulation of ideas in both teaching and research in the field of climatology.

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