

Dear members and whanau

I would like to use this opportunity to update you on the progress of preparations for the annual conference of the society and what I have been up to during the last few months.

Our annual conference will take place in Wellington from 25.11.-27.11. this year and will cover all aspects of climatology and meteorology, from observations, numerical predictions to research and climate projections. We are expecting around 100 participants, including invited speakers and keynote presenters.

To further elevate the importance of our conference and to increase its visibility beyond the atmospheric science community, the organising committee and I are working on inviting key people from central and local government as guests and/or invited speakers. At a forum with government ministers and the prime minister on the 19th of August I was able to talk with the Minister for Climate Change James Shaw and subsequently have been able to secure his attendance for this year's conference. Moreover, Climate Change Ambassador Kay Harrison was visiting MetService on the 22nd of August and I had a chance to talk with her not only about the important work MetService is doing for New Zealand and the Southwest Pacific region, but also advocate for the MetSociety and the important work we are doing by encouraging the interest in atmosphere, weather and climate, particularly as related to the New Zealand region (see pictures below). I invited her to our annual conference in November and she has also subsequently accepted the invitation. Furthermore, we are in contact with key people from other ministries and local government and hope to secure a few more guests and invited speakers for this year's conference.

As a reminder, if you haven't done so already, please submit your abstract and regardless if you are presenting or not, make sure you register for the conference before 01.10.19 to be eligible for early bird tickets and do consider buying tickets for the dinner, for which places are limited.

For more information and to register, please go to our conference website:

<https://www.metsoc.org.nz/metsoc-conference/>

In other news, I was at the Royal Society's constituent forum 1st of July. There we discussed the future of the Royal Society, how the Society can better and more efficiently engage with its constituent members and how to increase the cultural diversity of the Royal Society and its awards and fellowship programs. Furthermore, I've been working closely on the MoU with Andrew Marshall (current president of the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society) and we will likely have the agreement signed by the end of September. This will result in mutual benefits for members of both societies. Finally, we have made great progress in overhauling our prizes and awards for outstanding scientists and early career scientists and will hopefully be able to present the new rules and guidelines at the AGM in November.

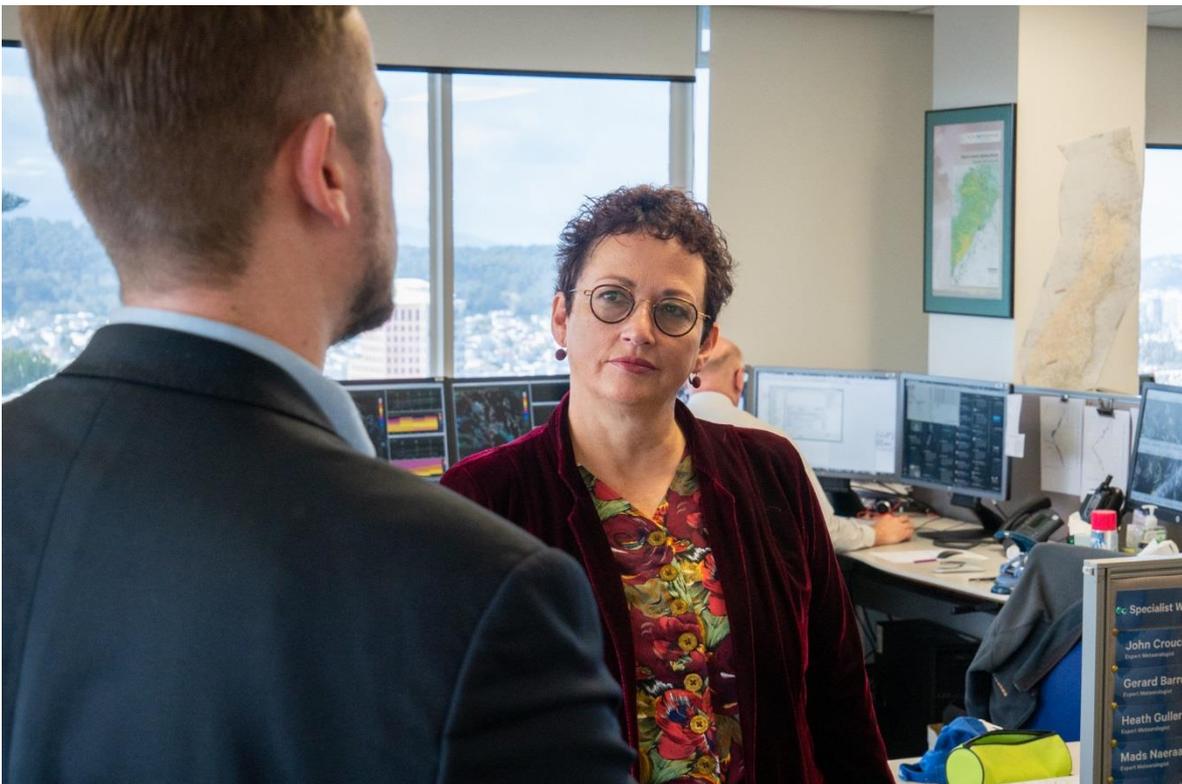
Ngā manaakitanga,

Michael Martens

President of the Meteorological Society of New Zealand Wellington September 2019



From left to right (Michael Martens [President of the MetSociety NZ], Norm Henry [General Manager Science Strategy, MetService], Kay Harrison [Climate Change Ambassador, MFAT], James Lunny [WMO Manager, MetService]).



Michael Martens in conversation with Kay Harrison.