

The Society Today: An Overview

Val Jemmeson

AMOS Administrative Officer

For some 25 years, AMOS has fostered members' interest through meetings, seminars, conferences and its various Newsletters. The list of Past Presidents (see previous page) indicates the level of support the Society has received - and continues to receive - from senior administrators. Equally, the support of members willing to serve on Council in an honorary capacity has allowed the Society to grow and thrive. David Karoly, in particular, has given

necting AMOS members in the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and the various Universities are also vital. Your committee would like you to encourage all employees and students to be members.

Publications

The *Bulletin* is our principal communication tool, and members are urged to contribute articles and news items. Members can also take advantage of

Conferences

Since the 1970s, the Society has organised international and national conferences in an endeavour to communicate scientific advances to the meteorological and oceanographic community. We have always aimed for a high standard of organisation at low cost and this has been achieved largely by using the University venues and basic 'no frills' subscriptions. The support of the Bureau, CSIRO and the Universities has helped achieve this aim. Prior to the 1990s, specialised meetings in drought, meteorological services and the like were organised at the direction of Council. However, it was decided in 1991 that AMOS should hold a meeting in February of each year.

The Annual National AMOS conference superceded the successful series of Air-Sea Interaction Meetings. Our first National AMOS Conference was held in Adelaide in 1992, the second in Lorne (Vic.), jointly with the APOD, the third in Hobart and the fourth in Sydney (again, with the APOD). The fifth, in February this year, saw our first 'offshore venture' with the fifth annual conference in Wellington, New Zealand, jointly with the New Zealand Met. Society. The annual meetings have proved invaluable, particularly for students.

Australia has been a popular venue for important international meetings and the Society has been involved in many of these.

The list of international conferences, although probably not exhaustive, includes some of the most memorable.

The Conferences have, on most occasions, returned a profit to the Society.

Presidents: 1973 to 1997

Royal Meteorological Society (Australian Branch) and Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society

1973: Dr Arch Dyer	CSIRO Div. of Meteorological Physics
1975: Prof. Bruce Morton	Mathematics Dept., Monash University
1977: Dr John Zillman	Bureau of Meteorology
1979: Dr Reg Clarke	Bureau of Meteorology / CSIRO
1981: Dr Doug Gauntlett	Bureau of Meteorology
1983: Dr Brian Tucker	CSIRO Div. of Atmospheric Research
1985: Mr Bob Crowder	Bureau of Meteorology
1987: Dr Peter Baines	CSIRO Div. of Atmospheric Research
1989: Dr Mike Manton	Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre
1991: Dr Ian Jones	Joint Ocean Facility, University of NSW.
1993: Dr Graeme Pearman	CSIRO Div. of Atmospheric Research
1995: Dr Kelvin Michael	IASOS University of Tasmania.
1997: Dr Angus McEwan	CSIRO / Bureau of Meteorology

strong support and leadership whilst many others (in fact too many to mention) have served their time on the various Committees.

The AMOS community comprises those with a willingness to ensure that the status and standing of our disciplines is acknowledged in a variety of ways. Without subscriptions from loyal members, the Society could not remain independent, yet the links con-

necting AMOS members in the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and the various Universities are also vital. Your committee would like you to encourage all employees and students to be members.

The Society also manages subscriptions to the *Australian Meteorological Magazine* and has a 50% representation (with the Bureau of Meteorology) on its editorial board.

Later pages provide some insight into the development of the Weather Calendar which the AMOS provides to its members at a discounted price.

List of International Conferences

1975	Climate Change A Southern Hemisphere Perspective.
1979	International Conference on Tropical Cyclones
1982	International Conference on Mesoscale Meteorology
1987	International Conference on Climate Variability
1988	International Conference on Tropical Meteorology.
1991	International Conference on Drought and Desertification
1993	4th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography.
1996	International Conference on Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate.
1997	IAMAS/IAPSO - Co-sponsored.

Indeed, the 1993 Hobart Conference held at the Sheraton placed AMOS finances in a sound position.

Finance

Current (1998) AMOS subscriptions are:

- \$50 - full member
- \$20 - student
- \$25 - retired members
- \$90 - corporate member

Each full member subscription subsidises student subscriptions and the growing number of retired subscriptions.

Three events are responsible for the cash on hand of the Society:

- The 1993 Hobart Conference
- A period in the 1990s without an Administrative Officer
- The high interest rates of the 1980s.

These circumstances are, it would be fair to assume, unlikely to be repeated, and the AMOS Council is

aware of the need to responsibly and conservatively manage its funds. However, we are allowing some of our accumulated capital to be used to support the Education Committee of AMOS. This, surely, represents an investment in the future. For those interested, further information on the breakdown of subscriptions can be found in the December 1997 issue of the *Bulletin*.

Administration

As member numbers grew through the 1970s and 1980s, it became necessary to employ an Administrative Officer on a part-time basis to manage the database, members queries and subscriptions and record the administrative matters of the Society. Susan Karoly was the first Administrative Officer. In the early 1990s the Society was without an Administrative Officer and this allowed for a saving in funds. BMRC staff ensured that the *Bulletin* was mailed and crises were avoided. BMRC staff have supported AMOS for many years and their office has

been used in recent times as the AMOS operations centre. CSIRO (Division of Atmospheric Research) has also provided space for the location of AMOS files and computer. The Society is greatly indebted to these organisations.

Centres

Members in some states have available to them local Centres, which organise seminars and other functions. These are in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania. It is hoped that further Centres will be opened in the Northern Territory and the ACT. A percentage of the subscriptions paid by members is returned to the Centres to ensure their viability.

Centre Contacts

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WA:	Tom Lyons	08 9360 2925
Tas:	Midj Jones	03 6221 2022

The 1988 AMOS Council

President:	Angus McEwan
Secretary:	Mike Pook
Treasurer:	David Jasper
Past President:	Graeme Pearman

Centre Representatives

Neil Holbrook,
Tom Lyons
Midj Jones
Mark Williams

Committees

Awards:	Bruce Morton
Publicity:	Mike Pook
Meetings:	Val Jemmeson
Education:	Scott Power
Finance:	David Jasper
Publications:	David Jasper