

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

## **National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2008 activities**

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Antarctic Research**

**CHAIR: Prof R. A. Vincent**

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2008

**Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008.**

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at  
[www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)

### **MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON: 18 June 2008

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009 (include date and place, if possible):

National Committee meeting proposed for mid 2009.

### **MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU**

IN 2008 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) Open Science Conference, July 8-11 2008 St Petersburg, Russia.

XXX SCAR Delegates' Meeting, 4-16 July 2008, Moscow, Russia.

IN 2009 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

N/A

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2010

September, Argentina

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN  
DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

## AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 WERE:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
Dr I. Allison	ICSU-WMO Joint committee on International Polar Year 2007-08		Co-Chair,
<u>SCAR Physical Sciences</u>			
Dr N. Adams	Expert Group on Operational Meteorology in the Antarctic,		Member
Dr. M. Burton	Expert Group on Antarctic Astronomy and Astrophysics,		Member
Dr S. Farrell	Scientific Research Prog. Antarctica and Global Climate System		Member
Dr. G. Hosie	Expert Group on Oceanography,		Member
Dr I. Goodwin	Expert Group on International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition		Co-chair
Dr S. Nicol	Expert Group on Oceanography,		Member
Dr S. Pendlebury	Expert Group on Operational Meteorology in the Antarctic,		Member
Dr S. Rintoul	Expert Group on Oceanography,		Co-chair
Prof K. Rosman	Action Group on Environmental Contamination in Antarctica,		Member
Prof J. Storey	Expert Group on Antarctic Astronomy and Astrophysics,		Leader
Dr A. Worby,	Expert Group on Antarctic Sea-Ice Processes and Climate, AG Pan-Antarctic observing system		Co-chair Member
	Expert Group on Oceanography, Sea ice data base		Member
Dr T. van Ommen	Standing Scientific Group on Physical Sciences Scientific Research Prog. Antarctica and Global Climate System		Secretary Member
<u>SCAR Geosciences</u>			
Dr. H. Broisma	Standing Scientific Group on Geosciences,		Member
Dr. D. Gore	Programme group on Antarctic Climate Evolution,		Member
Dr. G. Johnston	Standing Scientific Group on Geosciences,		Member
Dr. G. Johnston	Expert group on Geospatial Information – Geodesy,		Co-Chair
Dr. J. Manning	Standing Scientific Group on Geosciences,		Member
Dr P. O'Brien	Standing Scientific Group on Geosciences, Officer		Dep. Chief
	Action group on Acoustics and Cetaceans,		Member
	Action Group on cold seeps and hydrothermal vents		Member
Mr J. Sayers	Standing Scientific Group on Geosciences		Member
<u>SCAR Life Sciences</u>			
Dr J. Ayton,	Standing Group on Life Sciences, Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine		Member Secretary
Dr D. Bergstrom	Programme Group on Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic, Standing Group on Life Sciences,		Member Member
Dr M. Hindell	Expert Group on birds and marine mammals Standing Group on Life Sciences,		Member Member
Dr R. Hopcroft	Action Group Census on Antarctic Marine Life,		Member
Dr G. Hosie	Standing Group on Life Sciences, Action Group Census on Antarctic Marine Life,		Member Member
	Action Group, SH continuous plankton recorder research		Co-Chair
Dr H. Marchant	Standing Group on Life Sciences,		Member
D. S. Nicol	SG Integrating climate and ecosystem dynamics		Member
Dr P. O'Brien	Action Group Census on Antarctic Marine Life,		Member
Dr I. Snape	Action group on Antarctic fuel spills		Member
Dr M. Stoddart	Standing Group on Life Sciences, Action Group Census on Antarctic Marine Life,		Member Chair
	Programme Group on Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic,		Member
Dr. D. Thiele	SG Integrating climate and ecosystem dynamics		Member
Dr D. Watts	Antarctic biodiversity database		Member
Dr E. Woehler	Standing Group on Life Sciences, Expert group on Birds,		Member Chair

Other SCAR Bodies

D. H. Broelsma	SC on Antarctic Geographic Information Antarctic Map Catalogue	Chief Officer Member
Dr K. Finney	SC on Antarctic data management Antarctic Data Directory Systems Antarctic Master Directory	Chief Officer
Dr G. Hosie	SCAR representative to CCAMLR, Standing Committee on Antarctic Treaty System,	Member Member
Dr. A. McMinn	Action Group on Capacity Building, Education and Training	Member
Dr M. Stoddart	Standing Committee on Antarctic Treaty System,	Member
Dr D. Watts	Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management,	Member
<u>World Climate Research Program (Antarctic-relevant components)</u>		
Dr V. Lytle	CliC International Project Office,	Director
Dr A. Worby	Scientific Steering Group, Climate and Cryosphere (CliC), CliC Data Management and Information Panel,	Co-Vice-Chair Member
Prof M. England	CLIVAR Working Group on Ocean Model Development,	Member
Dr S. Rintoul	CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean Region Implementation Panel	Member
<u>Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes</u>		
Mr J. Sayers		Member

**ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2008 Business Plan. 2008 Business plans can be viewed at [www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)**

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008anrep.htm>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2007 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2008 (200-250 words):

Australian scientists, including members of the NC, continue to play prominent roles in the international programs of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) with good representation on a wide range of committees. Activities covered include Antarctic climate processes, biodiversity, change and ecosystem response, and the geological evolution of Antarctica. Whenever possible new appointments to various SCAR and other relevant international bodies were proposed during 2008. There was considerable revision of membership of SCAR committees after the General Assembly in July 2008 and the list above represents the most accurate list at this moment.

One of the main activities of the NC was to provide input into the Australian Antarctic Division's Strategic Plan, which was to set the science strategy for Australia's Antarctic science program in the 5-year period commencing in 2009. NC members provided input through the Chair, who is ex-officio a member of the Australian Science Advisory Committee, which is responsible to the Minister for the Environment. However, there has been a considerable delay in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Office of the Minister the Environment has not yet released the Futures Document, which will inform the Strategic Plan, and accordingly the current Plan remains in operation.

The International Polar Year, which commenced in 2007, will finish in March 2009. NCAR is working with the IPY Australian Education Outreach and Communication Committee, hosted by Antarctic Tasmania, to publicise IPY activities. A number of lines of activity are being pursued, including Australia-wide lecture tours involving both senior and young scientists involved in Antarctic research.