

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

## **National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2011 activities**

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Earth System Science**

**CHAIR: Dr Roger M. Gifford**

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2011

**Please complete and return this form by 27 January 2012.**

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:

March 25 2011

November 30 2011

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2012 (include date and place, if possible):

March and September

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

IN 2011 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

The IUGG Congress "Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet" was held in Melbourne 28 June – 7 July 2011. This was attended by NC-ESS members Susan Wijfels, David Karoly and Andy Pitman. Voting Delegates were not drawn from NC-ESS.

SCOR held a meeting of its Scientific Committee in Helsinki, Finland, September 11-15, 2011. John Volkmann attended for the AAS and is its Vice-Chairman

WCRP held its Open Science conference "Climate Research in Service to Society" Oct 24-28 2011, in Denver, Colorado. David Karoly attended on behalf of the AAS

IN 2012 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

The IGBP has its Open Science Meeting "Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions" in London, UK, March 26-29. Roger Gifford will attend on behalf of the AAS. Will Steffen will also attend.

Following the "Planet Under Pressure" meeting ( March 30, 2012) there will be a meeting of international Chairs of National Committees for global change research. This is being organised by the European Alliance of Global Change Research Committees and will be at

the Royal Society of London. Roger Gifford as Chair of NCESS will attend this meeting for the AAS.

The 31st SCOR General Meeting will be in Halifax, Canada, during the week of October 22-26, 2012.

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 20\_\_

Not aware of future congresses or major conferences for WCRP, IGBP, or SCOR beyond 2012.

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

For the SCOR General Meeting in Halifax in 2012 :

Dr John Volkman,  
Dr Peter Doherty  
Professor Trevor McDougall.

#### **AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES**

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2011 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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*ESS-relevant bodies to which Australia pays a national subscription:*

Dr Trevor McDougall	SCOR	Australian Rep,	
Dr John Volkman	SCOR	Australian Rep and Vice President	
Dr Peter Doherty	SCOR	Australian Rep	
Dr Mark Stafford-Smith	IGBP	Co-chair of <i>Planet Under Pressure</i> open science conference London March 2012	
Prof Jean Palutikof	IGBP	Scientific Steering Committee, Member	

Prof David J Griggs WCRP Vice-Chair, Joint Scientific Committee Term finishing in 2012

Prof David Karoly WCRP Member, Joint Scientific Committee

Dr Steve Rintoul CLIVAR Member, Scientific Steering Group

Dr Wenju Cai CLIVAR Chair, Pacific Implementation Panel

Dr Scott Power CLIVAR Member, Pacific Implementation Panel

Dr Harry Hendon CLIVAR Co-chair, Asian-Australian Monsoon Panel

Dr Holger Meinke CLIVAR Member, Asian-Australian Monsoon Panel

Dr Oscar Alves CLIVAR Member, Working Group on Seasonal to Interannual Prediction

Dr David Karoly CLIVAR Member, Working Group on Coupled Modelling Term finishing in 2011

Dr Tony Hirst CLIVAR Member, Working Group on Coupled Modelling

Dr Simon Marsland CLIVAR Member, Working Group on Ocean Model Development

Dr Bernadette Sloyan CLIVAR Co-chair, Global Synthesis and Observations Panel

Dr Lisa Alexander CLIVAR Member, Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices

Dr Blair Trewin CLIVAR Member, Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices

Dr Tony Worby CliC Member, Scientific Steering Group

Prof Christian Jakob GEWEX Member, Scientific Steering Committee, Atmospheric System Studies

Dr Julie Arblaster SPARC Member, Scientific Steering Group From 2012

Dr Tas van Ommen	SCAR	Member Scientific Steering Committee
Dr Tas van Ommen	SCAR/Physical Sciences	Member SSC
Dr Ian Allison	IACS	President

*ESS-relevant bodies to which Australia does not pay subscription:*

Prof Andy Pitman	iLEAPS	Scientific Steering Committee
Dr John Gunn	GOOS	Member Scientific Steering Committee
Dr Ros Taplin	IHDP	Australian contact
Dr David Yeates	DIVERSITAS	Australian Rep

#### **Affiliations between ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives.**

##### **Earth Systems Science Partnership (IGBP, WCRP, IHDP, DIVERSITAS)**

Dr Colin Butler	Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH)	Member of Scientific Steering Committee
Prof Tony McMichael	Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH)	Corresponding Member of SSC
Dr Michael Raupach	Global Carbon Project (GCP)	Member of Scientific Steering Committee
Dr Pep Canadell	Global Carbon Project (GCP)	Executive Director

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2012:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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<b>ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2011 Business Plan. 2011 Business plans can be viewed at <a href="http://www.science.org.au/natcoms">www.science.org.au/natcoms</a></b>
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Go to <http://science.org.au/reports/2011anrep.html>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2010 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2011 (200-250 words):

Work focused on promoting and developing the recommendations of the strategic plan for Earth System Science – “*To Live Within Earth Limits*” – which was launched by the Chief Scientist in 2010. The Plan has been promoted via distribution of 8,000 copies of a promotional flier, and around 1,000 copies of the Plan have been distributed worldwide through key groups and conferences. This includes the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, the High Level Coordinating Group on Climate Change, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Congress, the International Botanical Congress, the World Climate Research Program, the Greenhouse 2011 meeting in Cairns, the IPCC lead authors meeting on Extremes at the Gold Coast, the Future Steps meeting in New Zealand, and the International Geosphere/Biosphere Program. A synthesis review has been prepared from the papers and discussions held at the First Earth System Outlook Conference (December 2010), for submission to an international journal. Planning commenced for the

second Earth System Outlook Conference to be held in late 2012. In collaboration with the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, a workshop was run in the Shine Dome on “*Geoengineering of Climate? A Southern Hemisphere Perspective*” (September 26-27). This conference was highly multidisciplinary involving ethical, legal and governance issues as well as technical and environmental aspects. A popular article was published afterwards about the conference and its contribution to rolling out the recommendations of the strategic plan for Earth System Science, in the e-journal “*The Conversation*” which generated a flow of viewpoints on the internet.