A TREND IN MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL EXTREME MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE.

H. STERN.

There appears to be an upward trend in the annual extreme minimum air temperature at Melbourne. The trend is depicted by Fig 1, which presents year to year fluctuations of this parameter. Table 1, which gives the mean annual extreme minimum over successive twenty five year periods, summarises the data presented in the figure.

Table 1. Mean annual extreme minimum air temperature at Melbourne over successive twenty five year periods 1855 to 1979 inclusive (note that the value used for 1855 was based on May to December data only).

PERIOD	MEAN ANNUAL EXTREME MINIMUM (^{o}C)
1855 - 1879	-0.9
1880 - 1904	-0.6
1905 - 1929	-0.3
1930 - 1954	0.0
1955 - 1979	+0.4

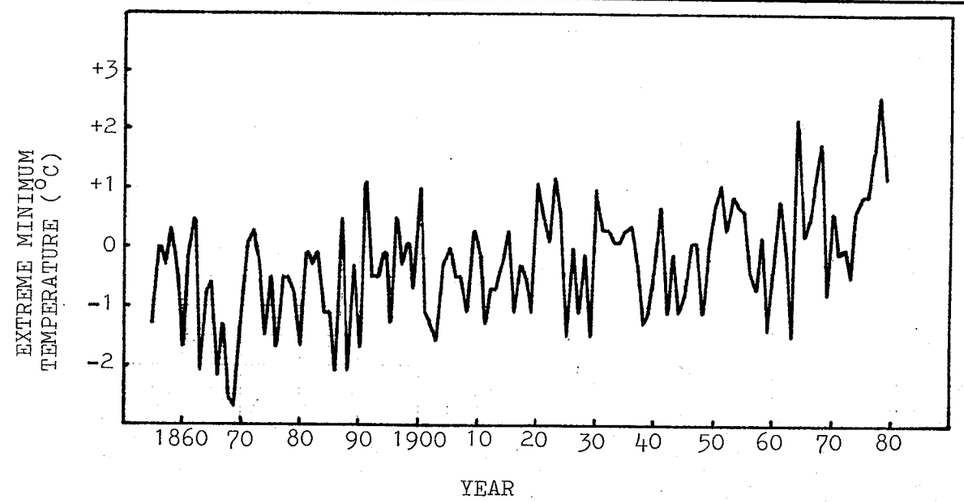

Fig 1. Year to year fluctuations in the annual extreme minimum air temperature at Melbourne from 1855 to 1979 inclusive (note that the value used for 1855 was based on May to December data only).

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 24 APRIL, 1980.

Address by R.B. Crowder to the Australian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society: *"Meteorology Up and Running in the 1980's".*

The Meeting will be held at the Bureau of Meteorology in the 5th floor conference room, 150 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, at 6:00 pm.

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, No. 4, April 1980

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The Editor welcomes contributions and correspondence on all aspects of weather and meteorology, but the responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and correspondence rests in every instance with their respective authors. Nor are the views presented necessarily those of the various institutions or the Australian Government. Anyone wishing to include material in the Newsletter is to ensure that it reaches the Editor by the 25th of the month preceeding publication.

CLIMANZ

Climatic Change of Australia and New Zealand - Late Quaternary events of the last 40,000 years.

Date: 8-13 February, 1981.

Sponsorship: Sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science

Venue: Howman's Gap is a Victorian State Government National Fitness Camp near Falls Creek and Mt Beauty on the northern margin of the Bogong High Plains. At an elevation of 1240m it provides a favourable summer climate; swimming is available nearby.

Theme: The reconstruction of Late Quaternary Australian and New Zealand environments in discrete time zones.

The conference will bring together data from a wide area, from tropics to southern ocean and from Western Australia to New Zealand. Data will be assembled into five time zones covering the period from 5000-35000BP. By focussing on (1) periods of climatic extremes, and (2) transitional periods between extremes, we aim to provide a spatial array of data critically evaluated in terms of chronology and environmental interpretation.

Seen in terms of the different climatic and physiographic regions represented, such an evaluation provides a first step towards the reconstruction of changes in the general circulation over this large region of the southern hemisphere.

Conference organisation: The time zones selected jointly by the Australian and New Zealand committees in consultation are designated in terms of 'spikes' and 'series'. 'Spike' is designed to identify extremes; 'series' seeks to focus on transitions between extremes. Spikes - 32 ± 5K (extreme wet); 18 ± 2K (glacial maximum, extreme dry); 7 ± 2K (wet Holocene maximum). Series - 25 to 20K; 15 to 10K.