

Noticeboard

Diary

☞ Further dates for your diary

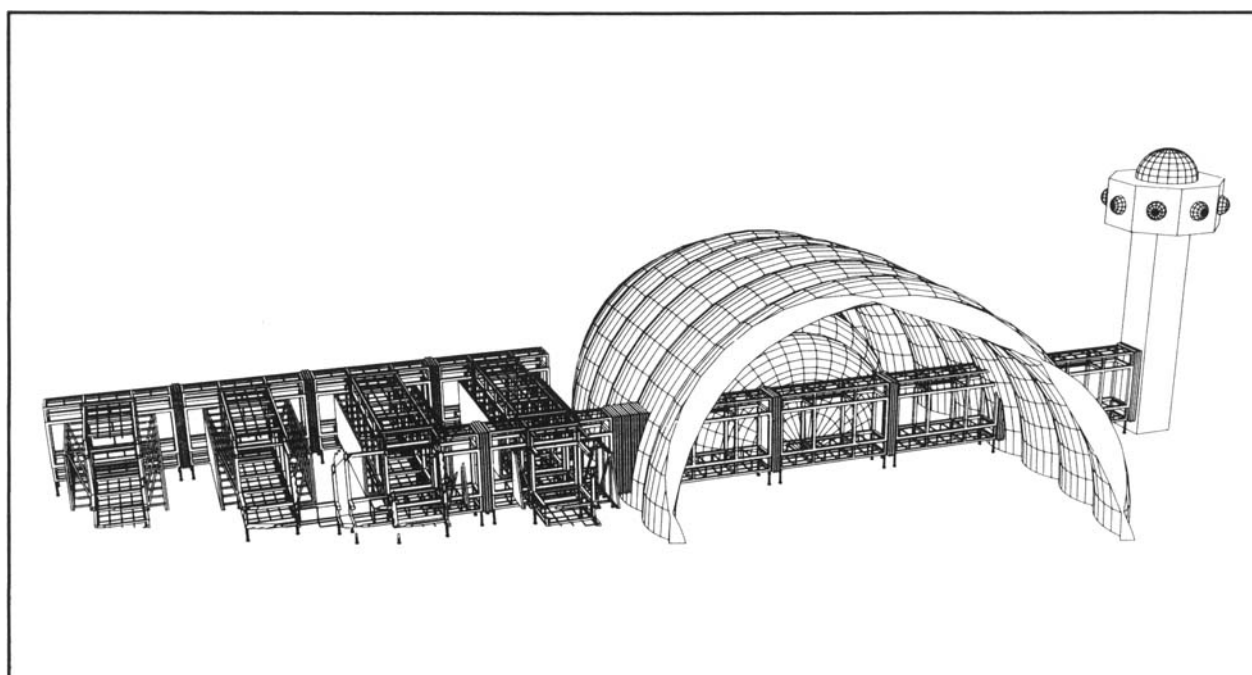
- 1989**
6–8 December **Twelfth Symposium on Polar Biology.** Tokyo, Japan.
Details from: National Institute of Polar Research, 9-10 Kaga 1-Chome, Itabashi-Ku, Tokyo 173, Japan.
- 1990**
4–9 February ☞ **10th Australian Geological Convention.** Hobart, Australia. [This meeting will include sessions on 'Historical geology of Antarctica and East Gondwanaland' and 'Antarctic Geology'.]
Convener: Dr C. Burrett, Department of Geology, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.
23–27 April ☞ **XV Assembly of the European Geophysical Society.** Copenhagen, Denmark. [This includes Symposium S.II.6: Polar Meteorology, with special emphasis on polar lows, stably-stratified boundary layers, and katabatic flows.]
Contact: EGS Office, Max-Planck Str 1, Postfach 49, D-3411 Katlenburg-Lindau, Federal Republic of Germany.
6–12 May **Pacific Rim 90 Congress.** Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. [The meeting will now include an Antarctic session.]
Details from: Ted Brennan, Consultant Convener, The Aus/MM–PACRIM 90, PO Box 731, Toowong, Queensland 4066, Australia.
9–11 May **Symposium on The Antarctic Treaty System in World Politics.** Oslo, Norway.
Details from: The Fridtjof Nansen Institute, PO Box 326, N-1324 Lysaker, Norway.
12–16 May ☞ **PRO MARE, Symposium on Polar Marine Ecology.** Trondheim, Norway.
Details from: Egil Sakskaug, Trondheim Biological Station, Bynesveren 46, N-7018 Trondheim, Norway.
15–17 May **International Symposium on Andean Geodynamics.** Grenoble, France.
Details from: R.A. Oliver, Institut Laüe-Langevin, 156X Centre de Tri, 38042-Grenoble, France.
20–25 May ☞ **International Congress on Circumpolar Health: Community Health — Problems and Solutions in the North.** Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. [A session on Antarctica is included.]
Details from: 8th International Congress on Circumpolar Health, 801–705 Jewis Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 2A9, Canada.
10–14 June **13th Polar Libraries Colloquy. Man's Future in Arctic Areas.** Rovaniemi, Finland.
Details from: Liisa Kurppa, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland.
11–15 June **International Conference on the Role of the Polar Regions in Global Change.** Fairbanks, Alaska.
Details from: Gunter Weller, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0800, USA.
16–27 June **International Whaling Commission Science Meeting.** Noorwijk, Netherlands.
Details from: International Whaling Commission, The Red House, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP, UK.
25–30 June ☞ **Seventh Quadrennial Symposium in Solar-Terrestrial Physics.** The Hague, Netherlands.
Details from: Prof. C.H. Liu, Secretary, SCOSTEP, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois, 1406 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-2991, USA.
25 June–6 July **XXVIII COSPAR Plenary Meeting.** The Hague, The Netherlands.
Secretary: COSPAR Secretariat, 51 Boulevard de Montmorency, 75016 Paris, France.
1–6 July **Geocongress '90, 23rd Earth Science Congress of the Geological Society of South Africa.** Cape Town, South Africa. [Main theme: Geology and mineral resources of continental margins: ancient and modern.]
Details from: The Congress Secretary, Geocongress '90, PO Box 1739, Bellville 7535, South Africa.

- 2–6 July **International Whaling Commission Plenary Session.** Noorwijk, Netherlands.
Details from: International Whaling Commission, The Red House, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP, UK.
- 3–6 July **The Biogeochemistry and the Circulation of Water Masses in the Southern Ocean.**
Brest, France.
Details from: Southern Ocean Symposium Organizing Committee, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Institut d'Etudes Marines 6, Avenue Le Gorgeu, 29287 Brest Cédex, France.
- 15–27 July **XXI SCAR Meeting.** São Paulo, Brazil.
Chairman of local organizing committee: Dr A.C. Rocha Campos.
- 14–16 August **Polar Tech '90.** Copenhagen, Denmark.
Details from: Conference Secretariat, Danish Hydraulic Institute, Agern Alle 5, DK-2970 Horsholm, Denmark.
- 20–23 August **10th IAHR Symposium on Ice.** Helsinki, Finland.
Details from: Mauri Maattanen, Helsinki University of Technology, Otakaari I, Sf02150, Espoo, Finland.
- 26–31 August **IAPSO and IGS Symposium on Ice–Ocean Dynamics and Mechanics.** Hanover, USA.
Details from: Secretary General, International Glaciological Society, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK.
- August **Third International Symposium on South Atlantic Evolution.** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Symposium Co-ordinator: Dimas Dias-Brito, PETROBRAS/CENPES/DIVEX/SEBIPE, Cidade Universitária, Q. 7–1 Fundão, 21910 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.
- 28 August–
5 September **XXIII URSI General Assembly.** Prague, Czechoslovakia.
Convener: Dr P. Bauer, Service d'Aeronomie du CNRS, B.P. 3, 91371 Verrières le Buisson Cédex, France.
- 3–8 September **International Volcanological Congress.** Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany.
Secretary: Dr Gerhard Brey, Saarstrasse 23, D-6500 Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany.
- 5–11 September **Seventh International Symposium of the Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution (CACGP) 'Chemistry of the Global Atmosphere'.** Chamrousse, France.
Details from: Dr R.J. Delmas, Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Geophysique de l'Environnement, B.P. 96, 38402 St Martin d'Herès Cédex, France
- 18–20 September **Second International Conference on Ice Technology.** Cambridge, UK.
Details from: Liz Newman, Conference Secretary, Computational Mechanics Institute, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton SO4 2AA, UK.
- September–
October **International Symposium on Glaciers-Ocean-Atmosphere Interaction (ICSI).** Leningrad, USSR.
Details from: Prof. V.M. Kotlyakov, Institute of Geography, Academy of Sciences USSR, Staromonetny per., 29, Moscow 109017, USSR.
- To be announced **Ecology of the Antarctic Sea Ice Zone.** Norway.
Co-conveners: E. Sakshaug, Trondjem Biological Station, The Museum, University of Trondheim, Bynesveien 46, N-7000 Trondheim, Norway and C. Sullivan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, California 90089–037, USA.
- To be announced **Third Polar Diatom Colloquium.** Ottawa, Canada.
Organizer: Dr M. Poulin, National Museum of Canada, Botany Division, Ottawa K1A 0M8, Canada.
- 1991**
- 2–9 August **XIII INQUA Congress.** Beijing, China.
Details from: Secretariat, XIII INQUA Congress, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 52 Sanlike, Beijing 100864, China.
- 11–24 August **XX IUGG General Assembly.** Vienna, Austria.
Details from: IUGG 91 Organizing Committee, c/o ZAMG, Hohe Warte 38, A-1190 Vienna, Austria.
- 1–6 September **Symposium on the Physics and Chemistry of Ice.** Sapporo, Japan.
Details from: Norikazu Maeno, Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan.

- 9–13 September **Sixth International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences.** Ranzan-Machi, Saitama, Japan.
Convener: Prof. Y. Yoshida, National Institute of Polar Research, Kaga 1-9-10, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173, Japan.
- 18–21 September **BIOMASS Evaluation Meeting.** Bremerhaven, Federal Republic of Germany.
- 23–28 September **SCAR Antarctic Science Conference.** Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany.
Planning Group Chairman: Prof. Dr Gotthilf Hempel, Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Postfach 120161, Columbusstraße, D-2850 Bremerhaven, Federal Republic of Germany.
- September **Sixth International Symposium on Ground Freezing.** Beijing, China.
Details from: Hans Jessberger, Ruhr-University Bochum, PO Box 102148, D-4630 Bochum 1, Federal Republic of Germany.
- 30 September–
2 October **Antarctic Challenge IV Conference.** Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany.
Details from: Prof. R. Wolfrum, Institut für Internationales Recht, Olshausenstr. 40, D-2300 Kiel 1, Federal Republic of Germany.

News

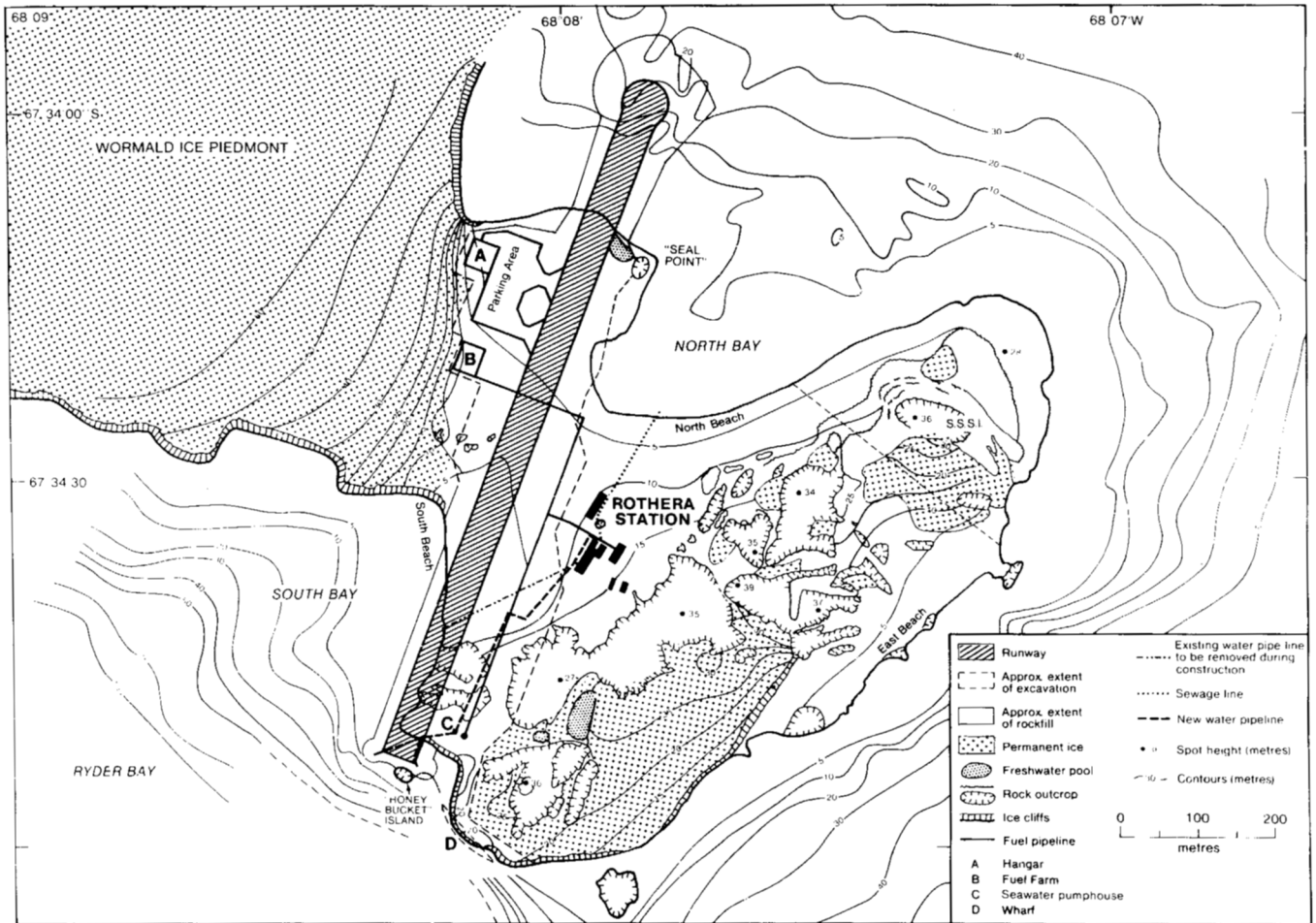
International station facilities



Section through Antarctic Planetary Testbed Facility Structure.

The interest in establishing new stations in remote areas of the continent is growing. A major stumbling block is financing the construction of such facilities. Recently the Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture, University of Houston, have put a proposal to National Science Foundation for an 'Antarctic Planetary Testbed' which they suggest could serve as a model for international multidisciplinary research facilities which need to be established by air at an acceptable cost.

Proposed new airstrip at Rothera Point



General site plan of Rothera Point and the proposed airstrip.

British Antarctic Survey currently operate four ski-wheeled de Havilland Twin Otter aircraft from a snow skiway near Rothera Station on Adelaide Island. However they are operating to the limit of their range. Larger aircraft will be necessary to support the scientific programmes in the future and these will require a hard runway with hangar facilities.

Site visits over an 18-month period and information and data collected since the establishment of this station in 1975–76 have formed part of an extensive study into the impact of the construction of a crushed-rock runway at this site. This has now been published in the form of a Final Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation, prepared in strict accordance with the guidelines set out in the 14th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. This, the first report under ATCM XIV–2, is available from British Antarctic Survey at £3.50.

Studies have shown that the floral and faunal communities in the area that will be affected are poor in species diversity, involve small numbers of individuals and are neither unique in themselves nor, together, comprise a unique ecosystem. Because the retreat of the Wormald Ice Piedmont and the reduction in snow cover is recent in the time scale of colonization, the isthmus area of Rothera Point is, on the scale of northern Marguerite Bay, a markedly barren area. This report concludes that, subject to detailed environmental safeguards and monitoring, the construction of a crushed rock airstrip and associated works at Rothera Point is justified and necessary. The value of support to global science objectives outweighs the local and limited environmental impacts.

International Antarctic Centre: Christchurch, New Zealand

Construction of an international Antarctic Centre is to begin on 1 November 1989. The development follows agreement between the New Zealand and United States Antarctic Research Programmes and authorities at Christchurch Airport.

Stage one of the Centre will contain library and data bases, communications, offices and warehousing. This is due for completion by 1 October 1990. Stage two of the complex will involve a public display and an 'Antarctic Experience' for visitors wishing to learn more about Antarctica without the necessity of visiting the continent.

Increased Australian activity

The Australian Government are further increasing their support for Antarctic activities to almost \$60 million. Much of this will go into providing a new air link from Hobart to Casey, using two RAAF Hercules landing on an ice runway. Australian Antarctic Division intend to undertake a two-stage environmental impact assessment before the trial and a more detailed study if the trial is successful.

The new research and support vessel *Aurora Australis* has now been launched and is expected to undertake its maiden cruise in February 1990.

Australian expeditions mapped

A 1:6 000 000 map 'Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions 1947–1966' has just been published by the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group in collaboration with the Antarctic Division. It summarizes exploration of Australian Antarctic Territory by ANARE up to 1966 and includes ships tracks south of latitude 60°S.

New books

Chronological list of Antarctic expeditions and related historical events compiled by R.K. Headland (ISBN 0 521 30903 4), published by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Ice technology edited by J.J. Connor, T.K.S. Murthy and C.A. Brebbia (ISBN 0 931 21527 7), published by Computational Mechanics Publications, Southampton.

The frozen earth by P.J. Williams and M.W. Smith (ISBN 0 521 36534 1) published by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Origins and evolution of Antarctic biota (Geological Society Special Publication No. 47) edited by J.A. Crame (ISBN 0 903 31744 3), published by The Geological Society, London.

Sediment/water interactions IV edited by P.G. Sly and B.T. Hart (ISBN 0 792 30259 1), published by Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht.

Design Award for *Antarctic Science*

The Publishers and Editors of *Antarctic Science* are pleased to announce that the journal was one of only two Highly Commended by the judges in the Desk Top Production Section of The Charlesworth Award for typographical excellence in journal and serial publishing. Publications were judged on clarity and readability of content, suitability of printing and binding, overall design and financial constraints placed on the Publisher. There were 140 entries for this competition