

FOREWORD

THE GEORG VON NEUMAYER ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

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In commemorating the centenary of his death on 24 May 1909, the Royal Society of Victoria was pleased to join with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the Australia Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (AMOS), and the German Meteorological Society (DMG), to conduct this special anniversary scientific symposium in Melbourne, Australia during 27-30 May 2009, to celebrate the achievements and legacies of this outstanding 19th century scientist, Georg Balthasar von Neumayer.

The Society especially wished to pay tribute to Georg von Neumayer as its former Councillor, Vice President and Honorary Life Member and in doing so, was pleased to provide an opportunity for the broader scientific community to learn about his remarkable achievements during his years in Australia and Germany.

Georg von Neumayer was one of the most respected figures of 19th century Australian and German science. Born Georg Balthasar Neumayer in the Palatinate in 1826, he first visited Australia from 1852 to 1854 as a seaman on the *Reiherstieg* and digger on the Victorian goldfields. After study back in Germany, he returned to Melbourne in January 1857 and established the Flagstaff Observatory of which he served as Director from 1858 to 1863. Returning again to Germany in 1864 he later became the foundation director of the German Hydrographic Service and was subsequently Chairman of the Commission which organised the First International Polar Year 1882–83. He was ennobled as von Neumayer by the King of Bavaria and in 1899 was elected as a Foreign Member of the Royal Society of London. He left a remarkable legacy of achievement in Australian and German magnetism, meteorology, navigation, oceanography and polar science.

The planning and the conduct of the Symposium was arranged by an Organising Committee

chaired by former Society President, Dr John Zillman AO, with Professor Rod Home, Professor Patrick Quilty AM, Dr Richard Gillespie, Dr Mark Williams, Mr Brian Greig and Mr David Dodd (Project Officer) as members. Dr Cornelia Lüdecke, German Society for Polar Research, and Dr Herbert Fischer, German Meteorological Society, assisted as corresponding members.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium was conducted in the Society's Hall during Thursday 28 and Friday 29 May 2009. On Wednesday 27 May 2009, the Chairman, Dr John Zillman, welcomed delegates to a reception held at the Victorian Regional Office of the Bureau of Meteorology, Docklands. On Thursday morning, invited guests and delegates were welcomed and addressed by the President of the Royal Society of Victoria, Professor Graham Burrows AO. The President then invited His Excellency, Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria, to formally open the Symposium. Greetings were given by Her Excellency, the German Consul General to Victoria, Dr Anne-Marie Schleich, the President of the German Weather Service (DMG), Mr Wolfgang Kusch and the Director, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Dr Greg Ayers.

The Symposium was divided into a series of sessions reflecting Georg von Neumayer's scientific life and times including his early work in Australia and his middle and later years in Germany.

The Symposium Keynote Address; *Neumayer, Humboldt and the Search for a Global Physics*, was delivered by Emeritus Professor Rod Home FAHA.

During the two day event, the following sessions were held and scientific papers delivered:

Session 'Von Neumayer in Australia', chaired by Dr John Long, Head Sciences, Museum Victoria,

with papers by Professor Patrick Quilty AM, University of Tasmania *Neumayer in Australia: His Scientific Legacy* and Dr Richard Gillespie, Museum Victoria, *Georg Neumayer and Melbourne Observatory: An Institutional Legacy*.

Session 'Von Neumayer in Germany', chaired by Professor Fred Smith AM, Monash University, with papers by Mr Wolfgang Kush, Director, German Meteorological Service, *Georg von Neumayer: His Influence on Marine Meteorology and the German Meteorological Service*, and Dr Cornelia Lüdecke, German Meteorological Society and German Society for Polar Research, *Von Neumayer's Impact on Meteorology in Germany*.

Session 'Magnetism', chaired by Professor Patrick Quilty AM, University of Tasmania, with papers by Mr Douglas Morrison, Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, *Neumayer and Magnetism in Victoria 1858–1864*, and Dr Charles Barton, Australian National University, *The von Neumayer Legacy in Geomagnetism*.

Session 'Meteorology', chaired by Mr Kevin O'Loughlin, Director, Altius Coaching Group, with papers by Dr John Zillman AO, University of Melbourne; *Von Neumayer and the Origins of Australian and International Meteorology* and Dr Mark Williams, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, *The von Neumayer Legacy in Australian Meteorology*.

Session 'Oceanography', chaired by Dr Tom Beer, President, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, with papers by Mr. Detlev Machoczek, German Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) Hamburg, *Georg von Neumayer: Marine Sciences in Service of Sea Trade*, (read by Dr Lüdecke) and Dr Neville Smith, Deputy Director (Research and Systems), Australian Bureau of Meteorology, *Australian Oceanography Today*.

Session 'Polar Science', chaired by Lieut. Col. Richard Lightfoot (Rtd.), Royal Society of Victoria, with papers by Dr Reinhard Krause, Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven, *Neumayer's ambitions for Polar Research and His Role in the Establishment of First IPY 1882–83*, and Dr Ian Allison, Australian Antarctic Division and Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, University of Tasmania, *The State of Polar Research after the International Polar Year 2007–2008*.

Session 'Reflection', chaired by Dr John Zillman AO, University of Melbourne, with paper by Professor Jörn Thiede, University of Copenhagen, *Georg von Neumayer and his Traces in Germany*.

Throughout the Symposium, delegates were able to view a special display of historical drawings and pictures relating to Professor Neumayer's activities during his years in Victoria. Of interest was the display of rare drawings and sketches made by the celebrated Austrian artist Eugene von Guérard who accompanied Professor Neumayer during his magnetic surveys of Victoria. Also of interest was the display of an 80 kg piece of the famous 'Cranbourne Meteorite' first examined by Neumayer in 1862 (see Mr Morrison's paper, *Neumayer and Magnetism in Victoria*). This piece of the meteorite (Cranbourne-13) was only recently discovered (2008) at the meteor shower site south-east of Melbourne and is currently held at Museum Victoria.

At the conclusion of the Symposium on Friday afternoon, an historic satellite telephone call was made to the Neumayer Station III, Atka Bay, Antarctica and delegates including Mr Kusch, President of the German Meteorological Service and the German Consul General for Victoria, Dr Anne-Marie Schleich, were able to exchange greetings with the Station Leader, Dr Gerhard Weigand. A Symposium Dinner was held that evening and guests were welcomed by Dr John Zillman. Dr Neil Williams PSM, Chief Executive Officer, Geoscience Australia, gave the After Dinner Address, *Von Neumayer: a Century Too Soon*. Toasts in remembrance of Georg von Neumayer and to our visitors were made and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

On Saturday 30th May, delegates visited the Public Records Office of Victoria, to view the Neumayer Scroll and various other historic documents. This was followed by a visit to the former site of the Flagstaff Observatory (1857–1863), the Melbourne Observatory site at the Royal Botanic Gardens and to Neumayer's original house nearby in Domain Road, South Yarra. The party then visited the site of the former Williamstown Observatory.

On behalf of the President and Members of the Royal Society of Victoria, the Organising Committee wishes to thank the Speakers, the Session Chairs, Delegates and all who contributed to the success of this historic centenary Symposium held to honour the life and times of Georg Balthasar von Neumayer.

This volume includes the Welcome Address delivered by the President of the Society at the Symposium opening on 28 May and all the Symposium papers submitted for publication. Pictorial highlights of the Symposium, displays and visits are included in the Appendices.