

WELCOME ADDRESS

PROFESSOR GRAHAM D. BURROWS AO KCSJ MD DSc

Royal Society of Victoria, 9 Victoria St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

On behalf of the Council and Members of the Royal Society of Victoria, I am pleased to welcome delegates to the Society's Georg von Neumayer Anniversary Symposium commemorating the 100th anniversary of his passing on 24th May 1909.

The Royal Society of Victoria has a long and proud history promoting science since 1854 and polar science since 1874 and is pleased to honour its former Member, Vice President, Councillor and Honorary Life Member to acknowledge the remarkable contribution that he made to the scientific advances in the Colony of Victoria during the 1850s and 1860s.

Georg Neumayer has been variously described as a scientist, magnetician, hydrographer, oceanographer and meteorologist and is best remembered as the Director of the Flagstaff Observatory, for the conduct of the Magnetic Survey of Victoria and for his support of the Burke and Wills Expedition, the 150th anniversary of which the Society will commemorate in 2010.

While his name and achievements are well known in the history of the Society and in Victoria, he is commemorated in our nation's capital, Can-

berra, with a street name, 'Neumayer Street' in the suburb of Page, commemorating scientists who have contributed to our nation.

Georg von Neumayer has left a scientific legacy in both Australia and Germany and we are especially pleased to welcome the President of the German Weather Service, Mr Wolfgang Kusch and fellow scientific colleagues from Germany visiting the Society for the Symposium.

Georg von Neumayer as an Honorary Life Member of the Society was instrumental in establishing the First International Polar Year 1882–1883 and the Society, through its members, has continued this polar association and has participated in all subsequent Polar Years in 1932–33, 1957–58, and the International Polar Year just completed in 2007–2008.

On behalf of the Society, I wish to personally thank the Director of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Presidents of the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and the German Meteorological Society for their sponsorship of this historic Symposium.



From left to right: Mr Wolfgang Kusch; Professor Graham Burrows AO; Her Excellency, Dr Anne-Marie Schleich; Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria; Emeritus Professor Rod Home and Dr Greg Ayers at the official opening of the Symposium at the Society's Hall on 28 May 2009.