

## NEWS

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### TWELFTH N.Z. SCIENCE CONGRESS

The Twelfth New Zealand Science Congress will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North, from 31 January to 4 February, 1972. The congress is being organized around the theme "The Cost of Growth", which the Manawatu Branch of the Royal Society of N.Z., who are organizing the congress, consider a very relevant topic for New Zealand scientists to discuss at the present time.

The Congress Organizing Committee is pursuing a policy which is aimed at communication between scientists and the public. It is hoped that a consequence of the congress will be a reduction of the ever-increasing gulfs between the sciences, and between scientists and other groups in society. To achieve the aims of the congress, the papers will be presented under three groupings. An intra-disciplinary group will run on one afternoon and three mornings to provide a forum for scientists to hear papers of a fairly specialized nature. The inter-disciplinary sessions, containing papers presented for scientists of other disciplines, will cover three afternoon sessions. To encourage participation of the non-scientist, the public will be invited to two evening symposia in Palmerston North City, to hear papers and discussions on "The Cost of Growth" and "The Cost of Stagnation". The papers to be presented during the daytime sessions will be grouped under the following headings within the theme: (a) the growth and development of science in New Zealand, (b) growth and use of natural resources, and (c) growth and its impact on society.

Further information may be obtained from  
Dr T. J. Brown,  
Secretary, 12th N.Z. Science Congress,  
c/o Public Relations Office,  
Massey University,  
Palmerston North.

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### CATCHMENT CONTROL SEMINAR

This year, the N.Z. Hydrological Society is combining with the Association of Soil Conservators to organize a seminar which has as its objective the evaluation of catchment and regional soil and water conservation schemes. This seminar will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North, from 22 to 25 November, 1971.

Papers offered to date cover erosion processes, examination of catchment control techniques, and the evaluation of various existing catchment schemes. Parallel sessions will be run in the latter part of the seminar to cater for those who have specific interests in either soil conservation or hydrology.

Any queries regarding the seminar should be addressed to

R. J. Bellamy,  
c/o District Commissioner of Works,  
Ministry of Works,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington.

or to

J. T. Hogg,  
c/o Rangitikei Catchment Board,  
P.O. Box 92,  
Marton.

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### **HYDROLOGICAL SOCIETY BRANCHES**

Members are reminded that branches of the Society have been established in Christchurch and Hamilton. Persons wishing to obtain information about branch programmes should contact:

J. Hayward,  
c/o Tussock Grasslands and Mountain Lands Inst.,  
Lincoln College, Christchurch.

or

R. J. Pittams,  
c/o Ministry of Works,  
Private Bag, Hamilton.

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### **METRICATION IN METEOROLOGY**

A major step in the change to the metric system was taken by the N.Z. Meteorological Service in July when the remaining Fahrenheit-calibrated thermometers at climatological stations were replaced by Celsius instruments, and millimetre rainfall measures were supplied to all official rainfall stations throughout the country.

For some years weather reports for international exchange and for use in forecasting offices have followed international procedures in expressing all temperatures in degrees Celsius. Commencing with the volumes for 1968, the N.Z. Meteorological Service's annual

publications 'Meteorological Observations' and 'Rainfall Observations' have been compiled in the new units.

From July this year, in accordance with the timetable developed by the Metric Advisory Board for New Zealand's change to the metric system, the N.Z. Meteorological Service has been supplying information to the public on the Celsius scale for temperature and in millimetres for rainfall. Millimetres have also been brought into use for evaporation measurements. Thus, all future measurement of these elements and new data summaries will be in metric units.

There are, of course, very considerable collections of back data still in the old units. To provide reference material for working with metric data, a start has been made in translating numerous climatological statistics. For example, tabulations are available in millimetres giving monthly rainfall totals from the commencement of records for all stations, and tables of normals and percentiles have been produced. Monthly means of temperature elements and long-term temperature averages have been converted. Selections of this material will be published in due course. Individual daily readings have not been converted, and it is not proposed to do this in general. Daily rainfall records since 1967, however, are held on magnetic tape file and there would be no difficulty in principle in producing millimetre listings of these by computer.

While it is inevitable that both systems will need to be used for some time to come in dealing with historical material, the N.Z. Meteorological Service strongly advises recipients of meteorological information to try to accustom themselves to thinking in terms of metric units.

A few reference points worth remembering are:

- Average annual rainfalls recorded at N.Z. Meteorological Service stations in New Zealand range from around 300 mm in the vicinity of Alexandra to around 7000 mm at places such as Homer Tunnel in Fiordland.
- Less than 0.2 mm rainfall in 10 minutes would normally be classed as light rain; more than 1 mm rainfall in 10 minutes would be classed as heavy rain.
- In a typical summer month in New Zealand, evapotranspiration from well watered pasture is about 100 mm.
- The highest air temperature recorded in New Zealand has been 38°C.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE JOURNAL

The following list is a summary of the distribution of the Journal of Hydrology (N.Z.), as at June 1971.

Algeria	1	Iraq	1
Argentina	1	Israel	3
Australia	33	Italy	2
Austria	3	Japan	4
Belgium	2	Jordan	1
Brazil	2	Kenya	1
Bulgaria	1	Korea	1
Burundi	1	Malaysia	2
Cameroon	1	Nepal	1
Canada	17	Netherlands	6
Chile	3	New Zealand	333
China	6	Norway	3
Colombia	3	Peru	1
Congo	1	Poland	1
Cuba	1	Philippines	1
Czechoslovakia	2	Rhodesia	1
Dahomey	1	Rumania	1
Denmark	1	South Africa	1
Ecuador	1	Spain	1
Egypt	1	Sweden	3
Eire	1	Switzerland	4
Fiji	1	Taiwan	3
Finland	1	Thailand	5
France	7	Togo	1
Gabon	1	Turkey	3
Germany	3	Uganda	2
Ghana	1	USSR	5
Greece	1	UK	17
Hong Kong	3	USA	51
Hungary	4	Venezuela	1
India	5	Yugoslavia	1
Indonesia	5		
New Zealand		:	333
Overseas (62 countries)		:	243
TOTAL CIRCULATION		:	576