

THE CLIMATE RECORD AT SCOTT BASE, ROSS ISLAND

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Meteorological recording at Scott Base began when the station was established in 1957, so there is now a 49 year record, one of the longest continuous records in Antarctica. Manual observations are made daily in much the same way as the earliest observations. In addition many parameters are now measured at 10 minutes intervals using automated data-logging first installed in 1996. The standardisation and continuity in manual observations maintains consistency with the historical record and makes trends easily and confidently identifiable. This is essential due to the differences in characteristics between the different technologies. The automatic observations then provide a suitable correlation record using modern technology and the much greater frequency of data many users now require. An overview of the data now available will be given.

Previous studies (Sanson 1989, Bromley 1994) have concluded that temperature trends measured from the Scott Base data are consistent with a number of other stations, and that little or no temperature trend was observable. These findings will be re-examined in light of the longer record now available.