

Mawson Material

By JILL NICHOLLS
Librarian

RECENT inquiries have highlighted the significance of the manuscript collection of the original meteorological records of the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition under the command of Sir Douglas Mawson.

The records were located in the Rare Book collection of the National Meteorological Library by librarian,

Jill Nicholls. They were never published and it appears that these manuscripts are probably the only source of the meteorological data kept on board the ship, the Discovery, during its two trips to the Antarctic between 1929 and 1931.

The data are to be used in the NOAA-CIRES surface-observations-only historical reanalyses under the 20th Century Reanalysis Project (Principal Investigator: Gil Compo) that is being supported through the digitisation activities of the

Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth (ACRE) initiative led by Rob Allan.

It is part of a specific effort to digitise outstanding historical surface meteorological observations made by the supply/support/rescue vessels and the expedition bases of various late 19th-early 20th Century Antarctic expeditions.



Librarian, Jill Nicholls, holds the "B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. Ship's Met Original Notebook: First Cruise"



Items in the B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. manuscript collection

The data will be archived in the International Surface Pressure Data Bank (ISPD) (terrestrial pressure) and International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Data Set (COADS) (marine pressure, sea surface temperature and sea-ice extent).