



Ocean observations – a journey south!

Ocean observations generate the basic data on which our understanding of ocean processes and climate is developed. There are satellites, moored and driftings instruments, tide gauges, robotic profilers and commercial, naval and research ships. And there are people! The expendable bathy thermograph (XBT) observing program was initiated in the early 1980's and now involves a core of CSIRO scientists and support staff travelling on

routes across the oceans around Australia. In the Southern Ocean, a joint Australian-French project has generated more than a decade of results on the transect between Hobart and the French Antarctic base of Dumont D'Urville. Four return journeys of 17 days duration are made each year on the 65-metre supply ship *L'Astrolabe* with volunteers sharing ocean sampling duties. In February, 2005 Ashley Fuller, Manager, Australian Climate Change Science

Program at the Australian Greenhouse Office, and Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies graduate, Jo Naylor, made the journey south. They will share their experiences during this seminar, a mix of science and life at sea, to be introduced by Steve Rintoul. Steve co-manages the project and earlier this year spent eight weeks as voyage leader on *Aurora Australis* www.marine.csiro.au/media/05releases/17feb05.html

Find out about life as a volunteer observer on tiny *Astrolabe*, conditions at sea and entering the ice pack, on the French island base referred to as 'DDU' and recent developments in Southern Ocean research. Includes video filmed by Jo Naylor.

Monday 16 May 2005 CSIRO Marine Research Auditorium **11.30am – 12.30pm**