



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

SCAR MEDAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

David Walton

David graduated in 1967 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Botany and joined the British Antarctic Survey to undertake botanical research on South Georgia, including the winter of 1970. He was awarded a PhD in 1974 for his thesis entitled: *Some studies on the genus *Åcaena**. He continued botanical research at BAS, apart from a two-year period as a micrometeorologist. In 1986 he was appointed Head of the Terrestrial and Freshwater Life Sciences, Human Physiology and Medicine Division. Administration then constituted a major part of his workload but he maintained his scientific interests that also broadened as he took a lively interest in the other sciences that had come under his wing. In 1999 he was appointed Head of the newly formed Environment and Information Division. His first involvement in SCAR was at the meeting of the Working Group on Biology in 1988 when he was invited to convene a new *ad hoc* Group on the Introduction of Non-indigenous Organisms to the Antarctic. He attended every one of the 12 meetings of the Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC) and was its Convenor from 1992–2002. He has been Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Antarctic Treaty System (SCATS) from 2002 to the present. He has been a member of the Steering Committees for the 6th and 7th SCAR Antarctic Biology Symposia. He has also represented SCAR at 14 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings since 1992, particularly at the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and its predecessor, the Transitional Environmental Working Group (TEWG). David takes an interest in almost everything that crosses his desk and, as Editor-in-Chief of *Antarctic Science*, this interest has covered the entire spectrum of Antarctic research. He has contributed to, compiled and edited six books on research in Antarctica. He has used this accumulated knowledge to good effect in SCAR committees and especially in the Treaty forum. As the Convenor of GOSEAC, he was the obvious choice to represent SCAR at the ATCM and present SCAR's views on environmental matters. Often, in answer to a question, this would mean developing a SCAR view on the hoof, which frequently prompted criticism as SCAR did not actually have a view, opinion or policy on the particular matter. On several occasions the question was asked: "Is this David Walton's view, the BAS view, or the view of the British government?" The answer was always that it was David's opinion that this is what the SCAR view would be. Such criticisms have been almost universally replaced by comments such as: "It's a good thing there is someone like David to represent SCAR!"

Jörn Thiede
SCAR President

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