

More than 30 Years of Optical Conferences in Australia

by Stephen Collins

To mark the 30th anniversary of AOS it is valuable to get an overview of the history of optical conferences that have been held in Australia during that time.

To this end the author has compiled the accompanying Table as a listing of all AOS-related conferences plus ACOFT, including the publication title (as written on the cover of the conference volume or recorded in Libraries Australia [1]). As the origin of certain conference series of current interest to AOS precedes the actual formation of AOS, the set of conferences listed in the Table commences in 1977. Two of these conferences, under the ACOLS banner, were held in New Zealand.

Although much of the work that has been presented at these conferences now appears in journals it is important that the records of all these conferences be held for future generations. Fortunately the majority of these volumes are held in an Australian academic library [1], and the author has been seeking to ensure that there is a complete set of AOS, ACOFT (and AIP) conference proceedings (preferably at the National Library of Australia). Certain sets of full papers, particularly those related to ACOFT, have been lodged with IEEE since 2006 allowing ongoing international access [2]. Additionally some papers from AIP congresses are now available on-line also [3].

The first AOS conference (the "Foundation Meeting of the Australian Optical Society") was held at the CSIRO Division of Applied Physics, Lindfield, in 1983, and the second meeting was held the following year in Melbourne for which some of the papers were subsequently published in a journal [4]. Several years earlier the First Australian National Laser Conference had been held and a summary of the papers was published in an overseas journal [5]!

The history of ACOFT, i.e. the Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology, which commenced as the Australian Workshop on Optical Fibre Communication (AWOFC) has been discussed in detail elsewhere [6]. ACOFT was first co-located with AOS in 1999 but it was only in 2006 that it became

associated formally with AOS (as a partnership with Engineers Australia (EA)).

Given the strong overlap of interests amongst these various conference streams it was not surprising that the community grasped the opportunities to co-locate conferences. Thus in 1985 the lasers and AOS meetings were held together and subsequently by combining with a longstanding national spectroscopy conference the set of (nearly biennial) ACOLS conferences eventuated (for more details see [7]). In recognition of strong links with New Zealand ACOLS now refers to the Australasian Conference on Optics, Lasers and Spectroscopy.

As many AOS members also identify as physicists on many occasions a conference of AOS has been included as part of one of the (also nearly biennial) National Congresses of the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) [5], a practice that since 2000 has seen AOS receive formal recognition in the conference title. Indeed there has been a combined AIP Congress, AOS conference and ACOFT on three occasions to date (2002, 2010 and 2012).

As can be seen in the Table in certain years AOS or ACOFT (or both) have combined with international optics or optical communications meetings.

Whilst the ACOFT series has been held annually and a count of conferences has been maintained (with 2012 marking ACOFT-37) attempts to number AOS conferences proved problematic (due to the occurrence of co-located and subsumed meetings) and so at present each AOS conference is known by the year rather than conference number. A count of conferences listed as an AOS meeting in the Table shows that the 30th AOS meeting was in 2012, with two meetings being held in certain years and none in other years.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this conference list. The author would be grateful for any corrections readers may wish to offer.

Furthermore, if you have any of the conference volumes for which there are minimal details in the Table, the author would be pleased to hear from you (it may be that such volumes might help to complete gaps in Australian library holdings). In order to have the records of these conferences more widely available the conference programs (at the very least) could be made available at the AOS website in the future.

Acknowledgements

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References

- [1] <http://trove.nla.gov.au>
- [2] <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org>
- [3] <http://www.aip.org.au>
- [4] Ross McPhedran, 1985. Editorial, *Optica Acta* 32 (12) 1445.
- [5] Yu V Senatskiĭ and J L Hughes, 1979. "First Australian National Laser Conference", *Sov. J. Quantum Electron.* 9 (2) 257.
- [6] John Love, 2008. "The Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology: ACOFT", *AOS News* 22 (2) 9-13 [July]
- [7] <http://aos.physics.mq.edu.au/acols/prevACOLS.htm>

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Year	Conference - AOS-related and ACOFT	ACOFT	AOS	ACOLS	AIP	Publication name & details
2012	20th AIP Nat Cong & ACOFT, Sydney, Dec	37	AOS		20	Congress Handbook 20th Australian Institute of Physics Congress & CD-ROM: Extended abstracts and full refereed papers 20th Australian Institute of Physics Congress and 37th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology (AIP, AOS & EA, ISBN 978-0-85825991-1)
2011	IQEC/CLEO PacRim 2011, Sydney, Aug	36	AOS	2011		Handbook IQEC/CLEO Pacific Rim 2011 & CD-ROM: IQEC/CLEO Pacific Rim 2011 (AIP, AOS & EA, ISBN 978-0-9775657-7-1)
2010	19th AIP Nat Cong & ACOFT, Melbourne, Dec	35	AOS		19	Handbook 19th Australian Institute of Physics Congress & CD-ROM: Extended abstracts and full refereed papers 19th Australian Institute of Physics Congress and 35th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology (AIP, AOS & EA, ISBN 978-0-9775657-6-4)
2009	ACOLS ACOFT 2009, Adelaide, Nov/Dec	34	AOS	9, 2009		Program and proceedings ACOFT ACOFT 09 & CD-ROM: ACOFT ACOFT 09 (AOS & EA, ISBN 1 876346 61 2)
2008	18th AIP Nat Cong Adelaide, Nov/Dec		AOS		18	Program and Abstracts 18th Australian Institute of Physics National Congress incorporating the Conf. of the Australian Optical Society & CD-ROM: Refereed Papers (AIP, ISBN 1 876346 57 4)
2008	ICO-21 & OECC/ACOFT, Sydney, Jul	33	AOS	2008		International Commission for Optics ICO'21 Book of Proceedings (ISBN 0 85825 815 3), 13th Optoelectronics and Communications Conf. held jointly with the 33rd Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology Program Booklet & CD ROM OECC/ACOFT 2008 Conference (ISBN 0 0 85825 807 2)
2007	COIN/ACOFT 07, Melbourne, Jun	32				CD-ROM: "COIN-ACOFT 2007 Conf." (COIN-ACOFT, Melbourne Australia ISBN 978-0-9775657-3-3)
2006	17th AIP Nat Cong, Brisbane, Dec		AOS		17	Program and Abstracts 17th Australian Institute of Physics National Congress incorporating the Conf. of the Australian Optical Society & CD-ROM: Refereed Papers (AIP, ISBN 0-9598064-7-4)
2006	ACOFT/AOS 2006, Melbourne, Jul	31	AOS			CD-ROM: "ACOFT&AOS 2006" (ACOFT/AOS, Melbourne Australia, ISBN 0-9775657-1-8)
2005	ACOLS 2005, Rotorua, Dec		18	7, 2005		ACOLS 2005 7th Australasian Conf. on Optics, Lasers and Spectroscopy & CD-ROM: "ACOLS 2005"
2005	BGPP/ACOFT, Sydney, July	30				BGPP/ACOFT 2005 Program and Abstract Book & CD-ROM: "BGPP/ACOFT 2005" (ISBN 1 877040 33 9)
2005	16th AIP National Cong, Canberra, Jan/Feb		AOS		16	Handbook and Abstracts 16th Biennial Congress of the Australian Institute of Physics incorporating the Conf. of the Australian Optical Society
2004	ACOFT AOS '04, Canberra, Jul	29	AOS			Handbook ACOFT AOS '04 & CD-ROM: "ACOFT/AOS '04" (ANU, ACT, ISBN 0-7315-5222-9)
2003	ACOLS 2003, Melbourne, Dec		16	2003		Australasian Conf. on Optics, Lasers and Spectroscopy, 2003, Book of Abstracts
2003	COIN/ACOFT 2003	28				Proc. Conf. on the Optical Internet 2003 and 28th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Melbourne (EA, ISBN 085825 739 4)
2002	15th AIP National Cong co-located with 27 th ACOFT, Sydney, Jul	27	AOS		15	Handbook and Abstracts 15th National Congress of the Australian Institute of Physics incorporating the Conf. of the Australian Optical Society & Proc. 27th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Sydney (EA, ISBN 0-9581182-0-5)
2001	ACOLS 2001, Brisbane Dec		15	2001		Proceedings of the Australasian Conf. on Optics, Lasers and Spectroscopy 2001, Brisbane (ISBN 0-9580000-0-X)
2001	OECC/IOOC incorporating ACOFT, Sydney, Jul	26				Proc. OECC/IOOC Conf., incorporating 26th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Sydney (EA, ISBN 0 646 41752 5)
2000	14th AIP National Cong, Adelaide, Dec		AOS		14	Abstracts and Poster Summaries 14th National Congress of the Australian Institute of Physics incorporating the 13th Conf. of the Australian Optical Society, Adelaide
2000	ACOFT 25, Canberra, Jun	25				Proc. 25th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Canberra (ITEES)
1999	ACOFT/AOS'99, Sydney, Jul	24	AOS			Proc. 24th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Sydney (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 46 6) & Book of abstracts / AOS'99, Australian Optical Society, July (AOS, ISBN 0734017375)
1998	ACOLS '98, Christchurch, Dec		12	1998		ACOLS 98 Australasian Conf. on Optics, Lasers and Spectroscopy: Christchurch
1998	ACOFT 23, Melbourne, Jul	23				Proc. 23rd Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Melbourne (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 45 8)
1997	XI AOS Conf., Adelaide, Dec		11			11th Conf. of the Australian Optical Society, Book of Abstracts
1997	APCC'97, Sydney, Dec	22				Proceedings: APCC'97, the Third Asia-Pacific Conf. on Communications (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 44 X)
1996	ACOFT 21, Gold Coast, Dec	21				Proc. 21st Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Gold Coast (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 42 3)
1996	IQEC'96, Sydney, July		AOS	1996		Technical Digest 20th International Quantum Electronics Conf., Sydney (OSA, USA, ISBN 1-55752-459-9 or 1-55752-417-3)

1995	ACOFT 20, Coolum Beach, Dec	20				Proc. 20th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Coolum Beach (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 39 3)
1995	10 th AOS Conf., Brisbane, July		10			Book of abstracts 10th Conf. of the Australian Optical Society, Brisbane (ISBN 0646247557)
1994	ACOFT 19, Melbourne, Dec	19				Proc. 19th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Melbourne (IREE, ISBN 0 909 394 36 9)
1993	ACOFT 18, Wollongong, Nov/Dec	18				Proc. 18th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Wollongong (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 37 7)
1993	ACOLS '93, Melbourne, Dec		9	1993		ACOLS 1993: Australian Conf. on Optics Lasers and Spectroscopy, University of Melbourne
1993	8 th AOS Conf., Sydney, Feb		8			8th Conf. of the Australian Optical Society
1992	ACOFT 17, Hobart, Nov/Dec	17				Proc. 17th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Hobart (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 30 X)
1991	ACOFT 16, Adelaide, Dec	16				Proc. 16th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Adelaide (IREE, ISBN 0 909 394 27X)
1991	ACOLS '91, Canberra, Sep/ Oct		7	1991		Australian Conf. on Optics, Lasers & Spectroscopy : Australian National University
1990	ACOFT 15 & OFS-7, Sydney, Dec	15				Proc. 15th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Sydney (IREE, ISBN 0 909 394 237)
1989	ACOFT 14, Brisbane, Dec	14				Proc. 14th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Brisbane (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 18 0)
1989	ACOLS '89 , Adelaide, Sep		6	1989		ACOLS 1989: Australian Conf. on Optics, Lasers & Spectroscopy: information, programme and abstracts handbook, Adelaide
1988	ACOFT 13, Hobart, Dec	13				Proc. 13th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Hobart (IREE, ISBN 0 909394 15 6)
1988	8th AIP National Cong, Sydney, Jan		implicit		8	Conf. programme Australian Bicentenary Congress of Physicists: Eighth AIP Congress, University of NSW
1987	ACOFT 12, Surfers Paradise, Dec	12				Proc. 12th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Surfers Paradise (IREE)
1987	ACOLS '87, Surfers Paradise, May		5	1987		ACOLS '87: Australian Conf. on Lasers & Spectroscopy: Information, programme and abstracts handbook, Surfers Paradise
1986	ACOFT 11, Geelong, Dec	11				Proc. 11th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Geelong (IREE)
1986	4 th AOS Conf., Melbourne, Dec		4			4th Conf. of the Australian Optical Society, Program and Abstracts
1985	4th Australian Laser Conf. & 3 rd Conf. of the AOS, Sydney, Aug		3			Fourth Australian Laser Conf., Third Conf. of the Australian Optical Society: digest of contributed papers (ISBN 0858379198)
1985	ACOFT 10, Perth, Dec	10				10th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Perth (IREE)
1984	ACOFT 9, Wollongong	9				Proc. 9th Australian Conf. on Optical Fibre Technology, Wollongong (IREE)
1984	2 nd Conf. of the AOS, Melbourne, Aug		2			*
1983	AWOFC 8, Adelaide, Dec	8				Proc. 8th Australian Workshop on Optical Communications
1983	3 rd International Laser Conf. Australia, Melbourne, Aug/Sep					3rd International Laser Conf. Australia Digest of papers
1983	Foundation Meeting of the AOS, Sydney, May		1			Optics in Australia: 24, 25 May 1983. Summaries of papers / Australian Optical Society.
1982	AWOFC 7, Sydney, Dec	7				Proc. Seventh Australian Workshop on Optical Communications
1981	AWOFC 6, Melbourne, Dec	6				6th Australian Optical Communications Workshop
1981	2 nd Australian Laser Conf., Canberra, Sep					2nd Australian Laser Conf. Digest of papers (ISSN 0728-9073)
1980	AWOFC 5, Melbourne, Dec	5				*
1979	AWOFC 4, Sydney, Dec	4				Fourth Australian Workshop on Optical Communications
1978	AWOFC 3, Canberra, Dec	3				Third Australian Workshop on Optical Communications
1978	1 st Australian Laser Conf., Canberra, Mar					Australian National Laser Conf. Canberra 20-23 March 1978
1978	AWOFC 2, Melbourne, Mar	2				*
1977	AWOFC 1, Sydney, Mar	1				First Australian Workshop on Optical Communications

AWOFC - Australian Workshop on Optical Fibre Communication

*Anyone with further information about these is asked to contact the author