

I. Greetings!

Dear Aeolian Scientists,

As your new president I am very happy to welcome you to this bumper packed addition of our society newsletter. Inside you will find photos and reports from the recent ICAR XII in Swakopmund, Namibia. We welcome new and returning ISAR board members, and encourage all members to consider nominating deserving colleagues for our societies annual awards, including Outstanding Graduate Paper Award, Early Career Award, Mid-Career Award, Service Award and Distinguished Career Award, as well as ISAR Honorary Members. Inside we also announce the location of ICAR XIII, along with dates to put into your calendar.

Jo Nield (President)

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or community updates to share in the upcoming newsletters. You can reach the ISAR board at admin@aeolianresearch.com. Also, stop by our website or new social media accounts for more info: <https://www.aeolianresearch.com>



II. Features

A. ICAR 2026!

ICAR 2026 successfully took over Swakopmund, Namibia between 12th and 18th July, 2026, after many years of preparation (we first attempted to run ICAR in Namibia in 2020). Over 145 delegates attended from 26 nationalities with an age range of 55 years between the youngest and oldest delegates. The week included six themed sessions spanning dust, dunes and everything in between, through 74 oral presentations in the Stand Hotel and 71 poster presentations in the nearby Swakopmund Museum. We were joined in several sessions by the conference patron Mary Seely, who has been a strong supporter of science in Namibia throughout her career, including her time as Director of Gobabeb Namib Research Institute. In addition to the oral and poster presentations we also heard inspiring Distinguished Career talks from recent ISAR award winners Tom Gill and Richard Reynolds.

A highlight of the conference was the mid-conference visit to the Namib Desert including a stop at the Gobabeb Namib Research Institute and a chance to climb Station Dune, walk to Helga's Dune, and interact with the students and staff working at the Institute, including current Director Gillian Maggs-Kölling. For the organisers, a highlight was successfully shepherding all 10 minibuses to and from the dunes, including returning with all delegates accounted for and a stop for a sundowner group photo at Vogelfederberg (below).



The final night was a chance to celebrate at the conference dinner, listen to the local 8 Octaves acapella group, connect with colleagues, dance, and share stories of the week, as well as between us consuming 106 beers, 71 tequila shots, 62 bottles of wine, and 1 double espresso. We hope everyone enjoyed the week of aeolian science as much as we did and look forward to seeing everyone at ICAR XIII.

B. ICAR XIII: Official Dates and Venue Announcement



We are pleased to announce that the 13th International Conference on Aeolian Research (ICAR XIII) will take place in **Warsaw, Poland, from 25th to 29th June 2029.**

The scientific sessions will be held in the Old Library building on the Main Campus of the [University of Warsaw](#). Situated along the historic Royal Route, the campus is located in the absolute heart of the city's historic centre. The core conference programme integrates scientific sessions with a mid-conference field trip to the ecologically significant and protected landscapes of the European Sand Belt and the Northern European loess belt. In addition, the organising committee is pleased to propose the following optional field trips:



Pre-Conference Field Trip (2 Days): A two-day field trip to the coastal dunes of the southern Baltic Sea. Participants will explore Europe's largest active dune field and natural foredune systems, both situated within the Słowiński National Park (a protected area since 1967).

Post-Conference Field Trip (7 Days): A comprehensive seven-day field trip exploring the past periglacial aeolian environments of Poland.

Maciej Dłuzewski
On behalf of the Organising Committee

C. New board members!

We had a wonderfully strong group of applicants interested in joining ISAR this year; everyone who expressed interest was highly qualified and brought impressive expertise. Although we only had space for five new board members in this cycle, we are always looking for additional help. If anyone is interested in contributing through a subcommittee, please feel free to reach out.

We're delighted to welcome Jimmy, Rosie, Dom, Zhiwei, and Patrick to the board! We're excited to have you onboard and look forward to the great work we'll accomplish together. You can find our full board membership here: <https://www.aeolianresearch.com/board-directors/>



D. Awards Nominations for 2027

The ISAR Award Sub-Committee invites nominations for the 2027 awards, with a deadline for receipt of applications on **15 December 2026**. Nominations of individuals from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged.

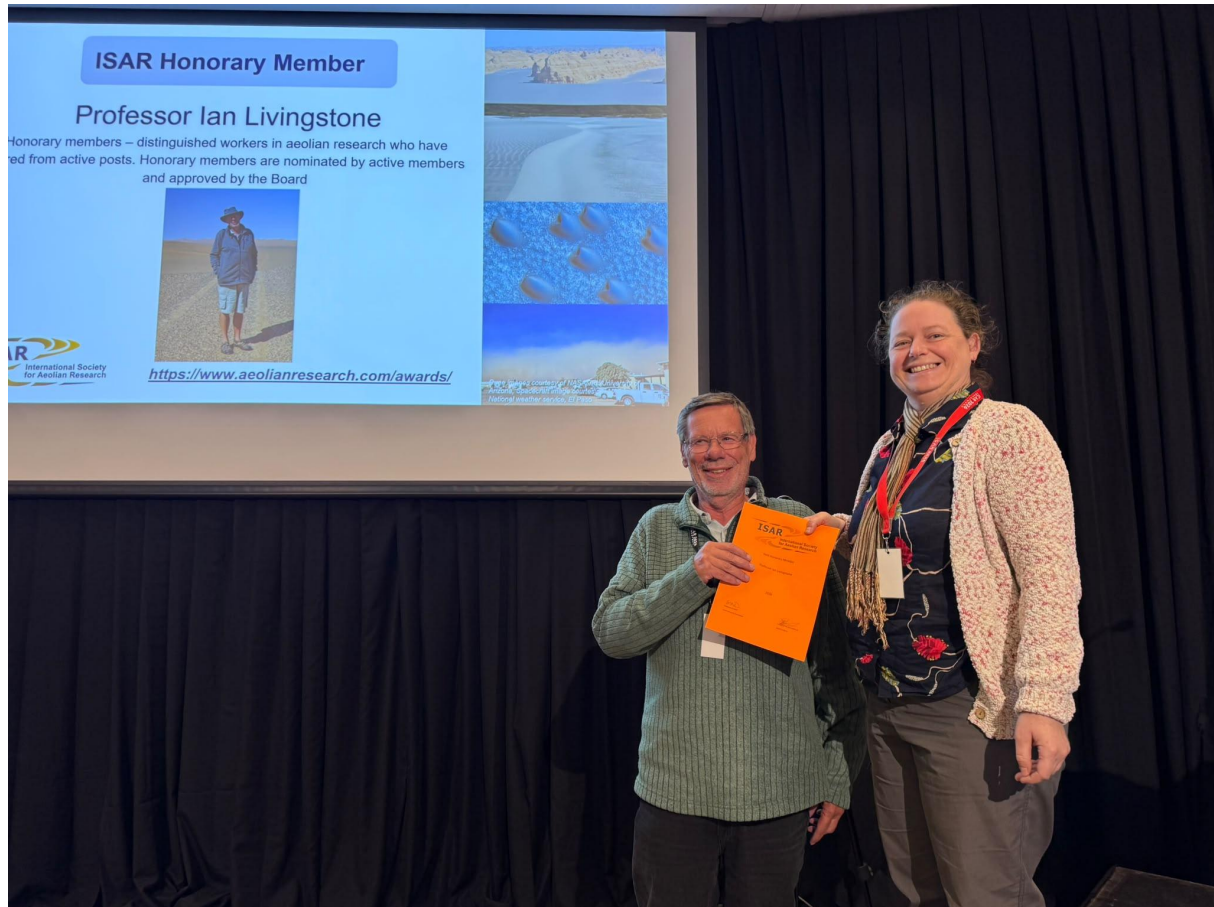
ISAR awards include **graduate, early-, and mid-career scientists, as well as our flagship Distinguished Career Award**. The call for nominations takes place annually, and unsuccessful nominations may be carried forward to a future round. Award presentations will occur through the ISAR Virtuaeolian Seminar Series or the subsequent ICAR conference. *To see the full list of previous winners and details on submitting an application for next year please visit our website: <https://www.aeolianresearch.com/awards/>*

	Eligibility *	Nomination Letter (max 1 page)	Bibliographic Sketch (max 2 pages)	Support Letter(s) (max 1 page per letter)	Other requirements/ documents
Distinguished Career Award		1	1	3	
Mid-Career Award	Nominees should be within 20 years of their PhD award at the time of nomination.	1	1	2	
Early-Career Award	Nominees should be within 7 years of their PhD award at the time of nomination.	1	1	1	
Outstanding Graduate Paper Award	Focus is on an accepted paper based on PhD/MSc research, where the nominee is expected to be the first author. Nominees should be current graduate students or within 2 years of completing their PhD at the time of nomination.	1	–	1 (from someone not a co-author on the paper)	-draft of the manuscript -a letter of acceptance.
Service Award	All career stages	1	1	2	

Nominations must be submitted through the ISAR Awards page by the deadline. The nominator is responsible for submitting all required documents (nomination letter, biographical sketch, letters of support, manuscript, etc.) on behalf of the nominee. The nominator must have an active ISAR membership. The submission page is only accessible when logged in with an active account. Those providing letters of support do not need to be active members. Please feel free to reach out with any questions via email to Dr. Jo Nield (J.Nield@soton.ac.uk), Chair of the ISAR Award Sub-Committee.

We celebrated our winners at ICAR XII, including certificates awarded to recent winners and inspiring talks by some of our distinguished career awardees.

At ICAR XII we also awarded our first ISAR Honorary Membership to Professor Ian Livingstone. ISAR Honorary Membership is for distinguished workers in aeolian research who have retired from active posts. Please consider nominating Honorary members. The process involves a nomination letter from an active ISAR member to the ISAR Board for approval. Please get in touch if you have any questions.



Professor Ian Livingstone receiving his ISAR Honorary Membership at ICAR XII in Swakopmund, Namibia.

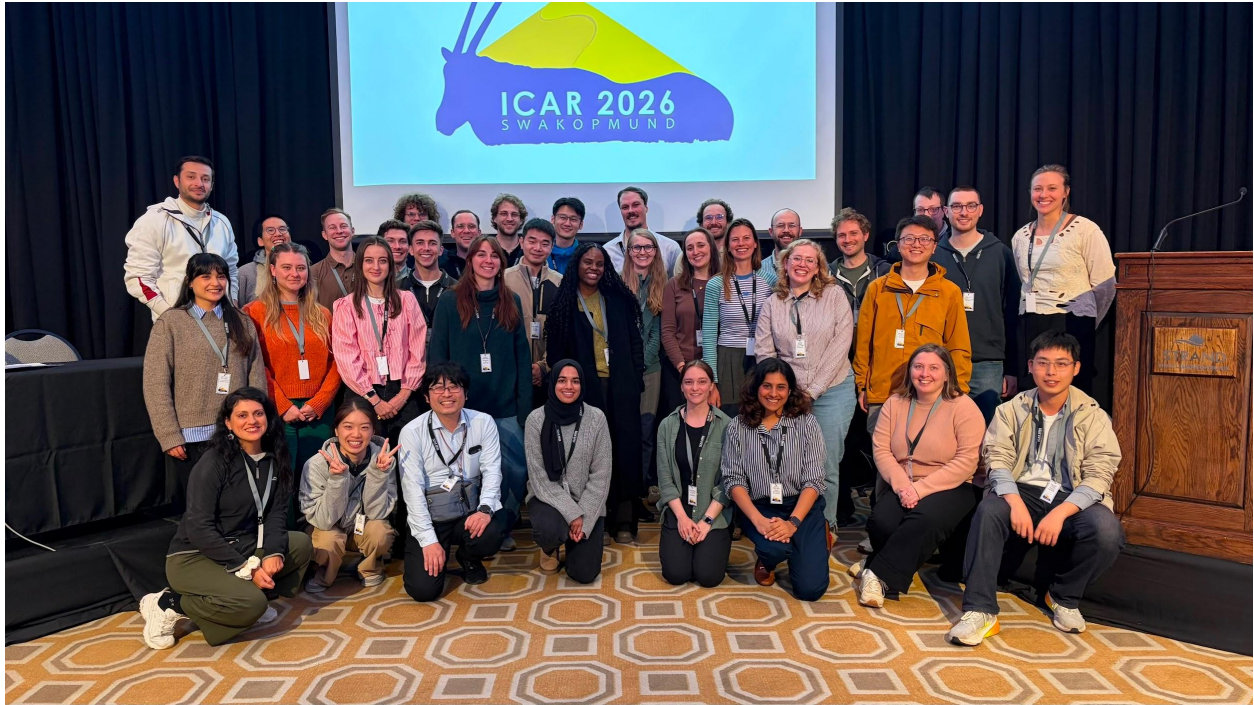
E. ISAR Travel Scholarship, ECR Lunch, and Student Awards for ICAR XII Namibia

ISAR was proud to sponsor 22 students and early-career researchers to attend the 2026 ICAR conference in Namibia. This meaningful investment helped broaden participation and ensured that emerging scientists could engage directly with global experts in the field. In total, ISAR contributed approximately \$28,000 USD to support the travelers' expenses, including both lodging and transportation.

The award program reflects ISAR's ongoing commitment to fostering growth, collaboration, and professional development within the aeolian research community.



On Monday, ISAR also hosted a separately funded Early-Career Researcher Networking Lunch, providing a dedicated space for emerging scientists to connect, share ideas, and build supportive professional relationships. The event featured structured networking activities and small-group discussions that encouraged participants to talk about their research interests, early-career needs, and the common challenges they face in scientific fields. This focused gathering helped ECRs exchange insights, reflect on their experiences, and strengthen connections that will support their growth throughout their careers.



ISAR is also delighted to recognize the student presentation award winners, each of whom received a complimentary one-year ISAR membership in honor of their achievements.

Oscar Bruneau earned the award for Best Student Oral Presentation, while **Jeanne Alkalla** was recognized for Best Student Poster Presentation. **Oeki Verhage** was named Runner-Up for Best Oral Presentation, and **Nicholas Gabriel** received the Runner-Up award for Best Poster Presentation. Their outstanding contributions showcase the talent, dedication, and scientific excellence within our community!



F. ICAR Pre-Conference Trip

Prior to ICAR Swakopmund, 16 delegates embarked on a 7-day pre-conference field trip from Upington, South Africa up to Swakopmund, Namibia. The trip explored the diverse landscapes, ecologies and human use of the southern Kalahari and southern Namib, with stops at many aeolian and geomorphological sites along the way. Highlights included the vegetated dunes of the Kalahari, barchan dunes blocking railway lines near Lüderitz, the sand-reclaimed town of Kolmanskop, the Fish River Canyon, enigmatic fairy circles, and the towering dunes of the central Namib. Despite the organisers insisting it was “not a Safari”, the trip encountered lots of wildlife along the way. Delegates saw and got up close and personal with Meerkats, a baby African Oryx, many Ostrich, and a herd of Giraffe. Bringing together early and later career scientists, the experience made for an unforgettable introduction to the deserts of southern Africa.



G. ICAR Post-Conference Trip

Following the conference in Swakopmund, UCT's Environmental and Geographical Science Department led an international group of 18 researchers and students on a six-day, 3,000-km field excursion to Cape Town, offering ICAR participants a hands-on exploration of southern Africa's hyper-arid landscapes. Guided by Dr Johanna von Holdt, Sayed Hess, and Dr Frank Eckardt, the team traveled through the Namib's dune fields, gravel plains, ephemeral rivers, and diverse vegetation zones while discussing dune development, sediment transport, the origins of Namib sand stores, and interactions between wind, water, land degradation, mining, and conservation. Joined by aeolian researchers and students from institutions worldwide, the group used the journey to compare desert systems globally, highlighting both the shared dynamics of aeolian processes and the uniquely slow, ancient evolution of southern African landscapes.



H. Social Media and website updates

ISAR is now active on multiple social media platforms, where we will post updates and event information. Please see the links below and follow us for ongoing updates!

 **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/aeolianresearch>

 **Youtube:** https://www.youtube.com/@Virtuaeolian_ISAR

 **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/isar_aeolianresearch/

 **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-society-for-aeolian-research/>

Listserv:

If you would like to join, please send a request to aeolianresearch-owner@lists.nmsu.edu that includes your preferred email address and name.

To post to the list without joining, you can email your post to aeolianresearch@lists.nmsu.edu.

More details: <https://www.aeolianresearch.com/listserv/>

I. Membership

We kindly remind members to check the status of their membership by logging in online (<https://www.aeolianresearch.com/membership-login/>), as some accounts may have recently expired or may be soon due for renewal. If your account has expired or is due for renewal and you would like to continue to access ISAR member benefits, please log in first, and then select a membership option on the renewal page (<https://www.aeolianresearch.com/member-renewal/>). Your account status will be updated automatically upon completion.

We appreciate your continued support and involvement as part of ISAR. If you have any questions about membership status or renewal, please send an email to admin@aeolianresearch.com.

J. ISAR Graduate Technical Assistant 2026

We are looking for an enthusiastic graduate student in good academic standing to join the board as an ISAR Graduate Technical Assistant. In addition to providing insight during board meetings, the candidate will work closely with the board on website design, community engagement, and organizational tasks. The student will receive financial support. More information is available here alongside the submission form:

<https://www.aeolianresearch.com/2026/08/31/isar-graduate-technical-assistant-2026/>.

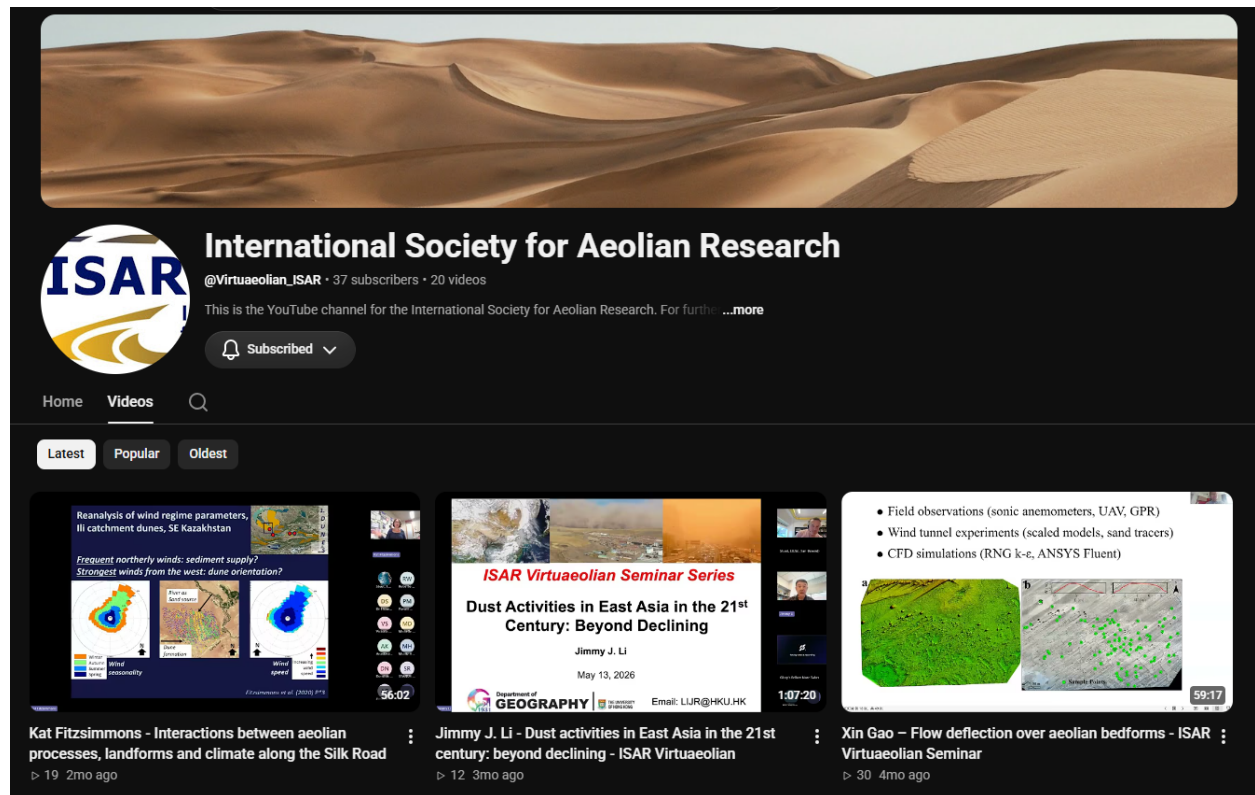
The deadline for submission is **30 September**.

K. Virtuaeolian seminar series

We are underway planning the next round of Virtuaeolian seminar talks! If you have a topic, project, or person that you'd like to recommend, please reach out to: admin@aeolianresearch.com

For more details please visit the web page www.aeolianresearch.com/seminar.

Previous recordings are also available from the ISAR youtube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/@Virtuaeolian_ISAR.



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This is the YouTube channel for the International Society for Aeolian Research. For further information, visit www.aeolianresearch.com

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19 2mo ago

ISAR Virtuaeolian Seminar Series
Dust Activities in East Asia in the 21st Century: Beyond Declining
Jimmy J. Li
May 13, 2026
Department of GEOGRAPHY
Email: LUR@HKU.HK
Jimmy J. Li - Dust activities in East Asia in the 21st century: beyond declining - ISAR Virtuaeolian
12 3mo ago

Field observations (sonic anemometers, UAV, GPR)
Wind tunnel experiments (scaled models, sand tracers)
CFD simulations (RNG k-ε, ANSYS Fluent)
Xin Gao - Flow deflection over aeolian bedforms - ISAR Virtuaeolian Seminar
30 4mo ago

L. Community updates

Windy Day 2026 (May 29th, Southampton)

On the 29th May the School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton hosted the 30th Windy Day (organised by Jo Nield and Rosie Huck). Windy Day is an annual gathering of aeolian geomorphologists in a friendly environment somewhere in the UK. We hosted 37 scientists and listened to 17 talks, presented by PhD students, emeritus professors and everyone in between. Next year, Windy Day will be held at University of Salford, Manchester, organised by Thomas Smyth.



American Geophysical Union (AGU) 7–11 December 2026 (San Francisco, CA)

This coming AGU is packed with aeolian research sessions, talks, and posters. In particular, two sessions of note are:

Atmospheric Dust: Advances in Modeling, Ground-Based Validation, and Human Impacts

Advances in Aeolian Processes and Windblown Dust Emission on Earth and Other Planetary Bodies: Measurement and Modelling in Susceptible Environments



AGU26 | EARTH & PLANETARY SURFACE PROCESSES
 SESSION EP001

Advances in Aeolian Processes and Windblown Dust Emission

Measurement and modelling in susceptible environments on Earth and other planetary bodies

INVITED SPEAKERS
 Greg Olin (UCLA)
 Karsten Schepanski (TROPOS)

CONVENING TEAM
 Giles Wiggs (University of Oxford)
 Robert Bryant (University of Sheffield)
 Pei Zhang (New Mexico State University)
 Madeline Kelley (Washington Department of Ecology)
 Natalie Wallum (University of Oxford)
 Joel Sankey (United States Geological Survey)

WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS ON
 • Windblown dust emission and soil erosion
 • Sediment transport and bedform dynamics
 • Field, laboratory, remote sensing and modelling studies
 • Earth, planetary and human-impacted environments
 • Interdisciplinary approaches spanning multiple spatial & temporal scales

ABSTRACT DEADLINE
5 AUGUST 2026

7-11 DECEMBER 2026
 SAN FRANCISCO
 CALIFORNIA, USA

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS!
 We look forward to your contributions

There will be an ISAR supported **Aeolian Social Event** during AGU 2026 to bring together the many Aeolian researchers at the conference and celebrate these sessions. Please check the ISAR website and upcoming NewsLetters for more details.

M. Journal highlights / updates



News from our journal

We are in discussion with our publisher about restructuring the editorial board and about how to strengthen the relationship between the society and Elsevier.

We are aiming at a well-balanced board with regard to continents, genders, and academic age. As scientific works that are published in *Aeolian Research* are diverse involving a range of approaches and techniques addressing a variety of objectives in the field of Aeolian research, we aim at having a range of expertises being represented by the board members.

At ICAR we had a very nice editorial-board-meeting/thank-you-dinner, at which we said goodbye to Jack Gillies, who has been serving as associate editor since the founding of the journal in 2011. Also, we had a well-attended “meet-the-editors-lunch”, together

with an editor of the AGU journal *Earth Surface*: Joel Sankey. Many ICAR attendants used the opportunity to ask questions about the editorial process while enjoying pizzas, which were kindly sponsored by AGU.

The journal is doing really well; by the end of August the amount of submitted manuscripts exceeded the total yearly amounts so far. We keep calling on you to please help us increase the quality of our journal by accepting invitations for review and by submitting your latest finding. In addition, we welcome proposals for topical so-called *special issues*. At the moment, we have one such special issue “Wind action in cold zones”, guest-edited by Stephen Wolfe and Michal Łopuch.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any question you may have related to the journal: (teresa.konlechner@otago.ac.nz and jan-berend.stuut@nioz.nl).

Teresa and Jan-Berend

N. Closing remarks

It was wonderful seeing so many friends and colleagues in Namibia. In my opinion, ICAR is one of the most rewarding conferences, fostering strong networks and inspiring research. While I'm already looking forward to 2029, ISAR will continue to support the aeolian community through engaging virtual talks, celebrating our membership with community awards, and sponsoring social events until we can gather again in Poland. That's all for this edition! Thanks so much for being part of the ISAR community.

If you've got an interesting update to share in our next issue, or if you just want to say hi, we'd love to hear from you. Please don't be a stranger, drop us a line anytime at admin@aeolianresearch.com or on our social media accounts. Your feedback and ideas truly keep us going.

Until next time,

Maddy Kelley

make461@ecy.wa.gov

On behalf of the ISAR Board of Directors