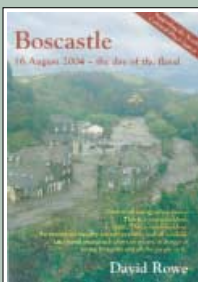


lack of foresight – in its own way forming a type of racism of apparent domination. We are asked to think about the current obsession of some that technology will allow us to regulate the environment, whatever change may occur and whatever effect this may have on others. Have we so much contempt for nature and God's creation?

This book is well-produced and well-edited with interesting illustrations and comments between many of the chapters. It feels solid and has a feel of quality. It clearly meets the remit of the book to look at social effects of Australia's climate and humanity's response to it. However, I wonder about its real value to environmental scientists, given its social approach and authors who are mainly social scientists. For anyone with a musical interest, the inside of the front and back covers will be fascinating. A melody by Jennifer Kesteven is printed, produced using the Southern Oscillation Index, Austral rainfall deciles and pressure in Austral cities, 1952–1978 with anomalies represented by the notes of a scale. For such an unusual method of music writing, it is surprisingly tuneful!

**Jim Galvin**

doi: 10.1256/wea.28.05



## Boscastle – 16 August 2004 – the day of the flood

By David Rowe

Truran Books, Truro, 2004

64 pp.

Paperback £4.99

ISBN 1 85022 193 6

Most of this book is a series of personal, often harrowing, but also courageous, accounts of the 2004 Boscastle flood.

The accounts are very moving and describe the evolution of the flood graphically. Whilst not a meteorological account, all the elements of the meteorology are evident in the various accounts. However, the specific aspects of the meteorology reported towards the end of the book seem rather ill-considered or 'off the cuff' (see, for instance, Golding *et al.* 2005; Burt 2005 for a record of the weather developments that led to the flood).

Although I would have liked to see a map of Boscastle as a reference to match with the various accounts, the pictures of the village printed in the book suggest the location of

many in relation to the rivers Valency, Jordan and Ottery (that drain Hendraburnick Down above Boscastle).

The flood in the harbour area received a great deal of news coverage at the time, but this book, with its variety of personal accounts, fills in many gaps in the broader-scale picture, such as the flooding higher in the village, as well as in nearby parts of Cornwall.

The book's 64 pages contain many excellent photographs of the event as it unfolded, demonstrating how many people (especially holidaymakers) carry cameras these days, as well as the evident ability of many to take well-composed pictures, even in the most harrowing of conditions. Other images show the people affected, whose stories are in the text.

I congratulate David Rowe and Truran Books on publishing this well-produced book quickly to raise funds for the North Cornwall Flood Appeal. I heartily recommend this book to readers of *Weather*.


**Jim Galvin**

### References

**Burt, S.** (2005) Cloudburst upon Hendraburnick Down: The Boscastle storm of 16 August 2004. *Weather*, **60**, pp. 219–227

**Golding, B., Clark, P. and May, B.** (2005) The Boscastle flood: Meteorological analysis of the conditions leading to flooding on 16 August 2004. *Weather*, **60**, pp. 230–235

doi: 10.1256/wea.183.05




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