

THE CLIMATE ALARMIST'S SNOW JOB

Dr. John Happs



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Many readers will remember the famous predictions about snowfalls from Dr David Viner when he was a senior research scientist at the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia. (Yes – that’s the same CRU where Dr Phil Jones withheld climate data requested under Freedom of Information laws.)

In March, 2000, Dr Viner confidently predicted that within a few years:

“Winter snowfall will become a very rare and exciting event.”

He added: *“Children just aren’t going to know what snow is.”*

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2018/01/04/flashback-2000-snowfalls-are-now-just-a-thing-of-the-past-children-just-arent-going-to-know-what-snow-is-uk-independent/>

Of course there were always going to be those who agreed with such nonsense. Dr David Parker from the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research in Berkshire was one of them. He said:

“Ultimately, British children could have only virtual experience of snow. Via the internet, they might wonder at polar scenes – or eventually “feel” virtual cold.”

The go-to source of climate gospel for many politicians still remains the discredited Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In the IPCC’s AR5 WG1 Report we were told that snowfall trends will (very likely) show a decline:

“It is very likely that NH snow cover will reduce as global temperatures rise over the coming century.”

And:

“Future widespread reductions of SCE (Snow Cover Extent), particularly in spring, are simulated by the CMIP3 models (Roesch, 2006; Brown and Mote, 2009) and confirmed by the CMIP5 ensemble (Brutel-Vuilmet et al., 2013).”

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/02/13/record-2018-snowfall-continues-increasing-snowfall-trends-showing-un-ipcc-ar5-report-is-flawed/>

Reassuringly, Dr Jarich Oosten, an anthropologist from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, said that:

“Even if we no longer see snow, it will remain culturally important.”

Thank goodness for that.

On the 20th March, 2000, Charles Onians, writing for the UK’s *Independent* newspaper said:

“Britain’s weather ends tomorrow with further indications of a striking environmental change: Snow is starting to disappear from our lives. Sledges, snowmen, snowballs and the excitement of waking to find that the stuff has settled outside are all a rapidly diminishing part of Britain’s culture, as warmer winters – which scientists are attributing to global climate change – produce not only fewer white Christmases, but fewer white Januaries and Februaries.”

<https://www.sott.net/article/200061-Settled-science-Snowfalls-will-soon-become-a-thing-of-the-past-say-climate-scientists>

A worried reader asked the following question of that climate oracle *EarthTalk*:

“Dear EarthTalk: With the onset of global warming, how likely is it that ski resorts and skiing itself might soon become a thing of the past?”

She received the following reply:

“Last winter’s low snow year and unseasonably warm temperatures across much of the American West meant a bad year for business for some ski resorts, and also left many of us wondering whether skiing would even be possible in the warmer world we’re getting as we continue to pump out greenhouse gases.”

https://azdailysun.com/opinion/columnists/is-skiing-dead-due-to-global-warming/article_da309df8-e1b7-53d5-b175-3b1ea2f71e31.html

Now you would think that those people who have invested big money in ski resorts would have listened to *EarthTalk* advice, the IPCC and “climate experts” such as Drs. Viner and Parker. After all, Viner has given presentations to scientists from the IPCC and is currently a Principal Advisor on Climate Change for *Mott MacDonald*, a large international global engineering, management and development consultancy.

<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researcher-careers/researcher-career-stories/what-do-research-staff-do-next-career-stories/david-viner>

Surely Gian Franco-Kasper, the president of the International Ski Federation was mistaken when he recently said:

“There still is the so called climate change... There is no proof for it. We have snow, in part even a lot of it,” he said. “I was in Pyeongchang for the Olympiad. We had minus 35 degrees C.

Everybody who came to me shivering I welcomed with: "Welcome to global warming."

<https://www.climatedepot.com/2019/02/06/head-of-international-ski-federation-dismisses-so-called-climate-change-there-is-no-proof-for-it-everybody-who-came-to-me-shivering-i-welcomed-with-welcome-to-global-warming/>

Surely the Colorado-based mountain-resort operator *Vail Resorts* purchase of Victoria's Fall Creek and Mount Hotham Ski Resorts for \$174 million was money down the drain. Clearly they must have blown their money earlier when, in 2015, they bought the New South Wales Perisher Resort for more than \$176 million. This on top of their ownership of other ski resorts such as Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Crested Butte and Wilmot Mountain.

(Lisa Allen, Weekend Australian 23-24 February, 2019)

With so much money about to be lost on soon-to-be-without-snow ski resorts, one might think the Chairman of *Vail Resorts* would be reaching for his bottle of whiskey and service revolver.

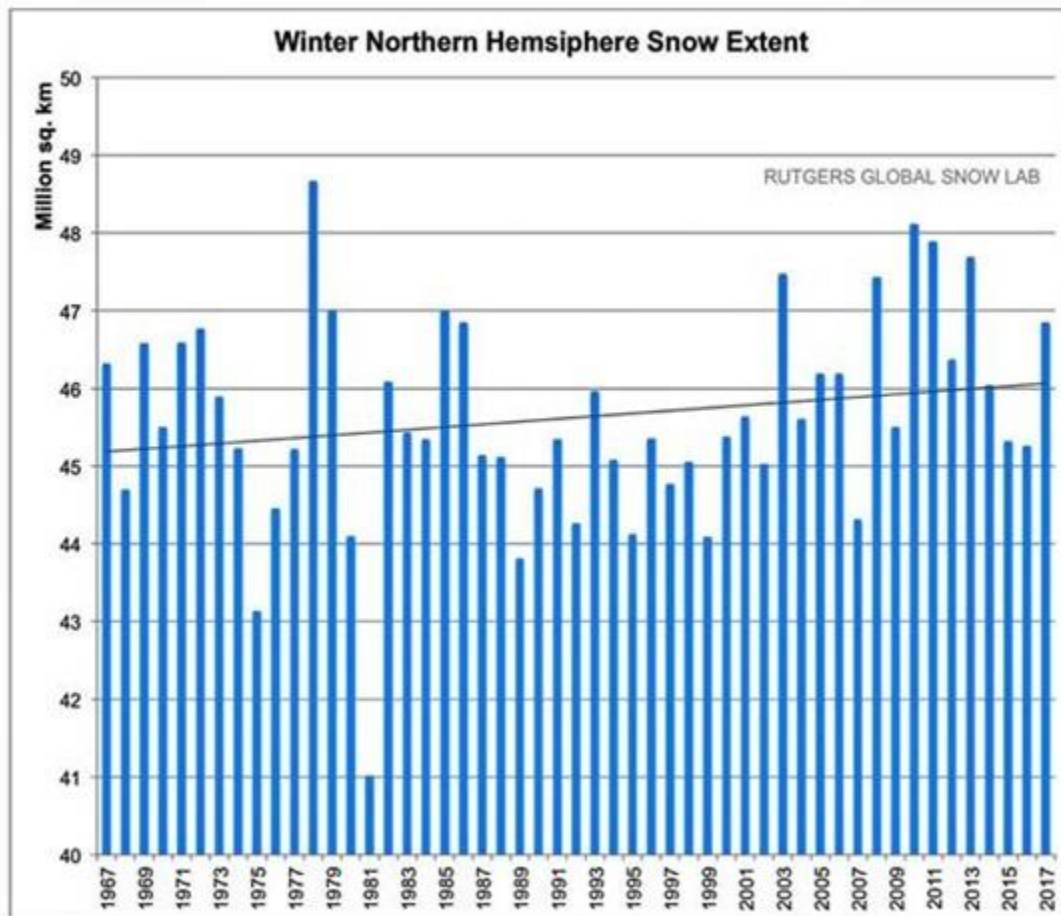
But no! *Vail Resorts* personnel clearly did their homework.

Rather than listen to the climate gurus Drs. Viner and Parker and the political/ideological IPCC, the "*snow is disappearing*" brigade might stop and look at the actual data. The question must be asked:

"How have those predictions by senior climate scientists turned out for the Northern Hemisphere?"

Not very well it seems.

Personnel at Rutgers University have kept records of Winter Northern Hemisphere Snow Extent and this doesn't even remotely suggest that "*Winter snowfall will become a very rare and exciting event.*"



Rutgers later reported that the November, 2018 snow extent was the 3rd highest on record and snow extent has been above normal for 10 consecutive years with a large increase for November over the past 40 years. Furthermore, since 1990, the snow area has been increasing at about a quarter million square km per decade.

<https://realclimatescience.com/2018/12/snow-doesnt-lie-but-climate-scientists-do/>

In the real world (that is the one outside of climate models) we see increasing snow extent that exposes the UN IPCC AR5 WG1 findings and conclusions as being flawed. Not surprisingly, the IPCC climate models are seen (again) to have little predictive value.

For the 2018-19 season, reports of abundant snowfall are everywhere.

Heavy October snow brought chaos to the 6 north-eastern states that make up New England. Apparently, this was the first time the region had experienced heavy snow in October since 1869.

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/>

Successive snow-storms in February 2019 led to 3 meters of snow on California's Mammoth Mountain in the Sierra Nevadas. This was on top of the 11 metres it had received throughout winter to give the area the snowiest ski resort in the USA with more snow on the way.

<https://snowboarding.transworld.net/news/mammoth-mountain-snow-country-open-july-4/>

From Europe we were told that:

"Heavy snow has brought parts of Europe to a standstill. At least 21 people have died as a result of the extreme conditions, and many more have been injured, including the victims of an avalanche which hit a hotel in Switzerland. Parts of Germany and Austria remain on high alert after extreme snow in Alpine regions."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46835677>

In Australia, parts of Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT received some winter snow. This triggered one of the best early-season snowfalls in decades and ski resorts reported 70-90 cm of fresh snow. Perisher received 80cm of snow so it looks as if personnel at *Vail Resorts* did know something that Dr. Viner and the IPCC had no idea about.

<https://www.weatherwatch.co.nz/content/australian-cold-snap-produces-heavy-snow-challenges-some-records>



We now have reports of recent snowfalls in the Arizona Desert:

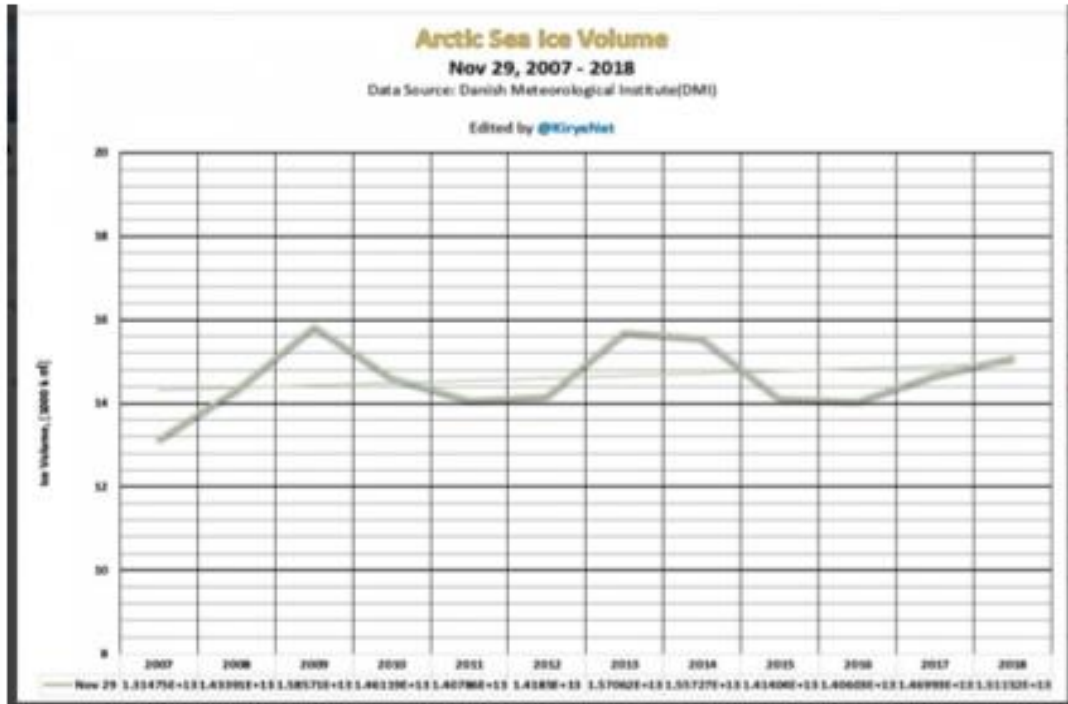
https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2019/01/03/photos-more-snow-coats-arizona-desert-than-northeast-its-stunning/?utm_term=.17ec8f42e19e

And we are reminded that around 1 metre of snow fell in the Sahara Desert in January, 2017:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/africa/algeria/articles/a-metre-of-snow-falls-in-sahara-desert/>



Additionally, the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) data show that the late November sea ice volume has been trending upwards over the past 12 years:



Of course we might be forgiven for thinking that increasing sea ice, heavy falls of snow and snowfalls in places that normally don't get snow means there is little sign of global warming.

We might also have thought that uncontaminated satellite data confirms our suspicions about temperature stasis but then along comes Nobel Peace Prize recipient Al Gore to put us straight. He was adamant that:

"Bitter cold is exactly what we should expect from the climate crisis."

So which expert does Al refer us to if we are still not convinced?

None other than Dr. Michael Mann, Director of the Pennsylvania University State Earth System Science Center and manufacturer of the infamous hockey stick, used in his attempt to change climate history.

<http://www.uoquelph.ca/~rmckitri/research/WegmanReport.pdf>

Mann was quick to link monster snowstorms with climate change, saying:

"This is what the models project that we see more of these very large snowfalls."

Perhaps Dr. David Viner actually meant to say:

“Light snow(fall) will be a rare and exciting event.”

Little wonder there is confusion about conflicting model predictions of *“end of snow”* when it snows a lot and confusion about model predictions of *“global warming leading to cold winters and very large snowfalls.*

Model-based evidence is an oxymoron. When it comes to computer model predictions about climate change, we can be sure there will always be more *mortis* than *rigour*.

Dr. John Happs M.Sc.1st Class; D.Phil.

John has an academic background in the geosciences with special interests in climate, and paleoclimate. He has been a science educator at several universities in Australia and overseas and was President of the Western Australian Skeptics for 25 years.

Now retired from academia and consulting work, Dr. Happs frequently writes to scientists, journalists and politicians, providing evidence-based information about climate change whilst exposing the ways in which the issue has become captured by politics and ideology. He has had one of his letters, detailing IPCC malfeasance, tabled in the Canadian Parliament. He gives regular talks on climate change to community groups such as Probus, U3A and Rotary since he believes that the public has essentially obtained its information about climate change through the media and political commentary.