12. Global Warming?

The following is the graph of Annual Mean Temperature Anomalies for the whole of Australia compiled from 100 land-based met stations from 1910 to 2008 inclusive (BOM, 2009 e).

Note: The Australian Average Temperature for 1961-1990 = 21.81 °C.

Compare the above graph for Australia with the graph below of the Global Mean Surface Temperature Anomaly compiled by the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) in the UK from land (over 4000 met stations) and sea surface temperature measurements over the period 1850 to 2007. The CRU’s HadCRUT3v global gridded (5x5 degree resolution) temperature dataset is available from the CRU (2009) website. For a description of this dataset and a balanced discussion of the sources of uncertainty in interpretations from it see Brohan et al. (2005).

Note: The Global Average Temperature for 1961-1990 = 13.97 °C.

ACTIVITY: Global Warming”?

“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal ... The linear warming trend over the 50 years from 1956 to 2005 (0.13 °C per decade) is nearly twice that for the 100 years from 1906 to 2005....” (IPCC, 2007 p. 30).

Write a 2-page essay to evaluate this statement.