SUMMER Dec/Jan/Feb 2022/3 Volume 42 No. 2

AURORA

Journal of The ANARE Club Inc.

* Family & Friends of Antarctic Expeditioners
* Antarctic Ice * Naming Nunataks
* Running with Huskies

AURORA

Quarterly Journal of The ANARE Club Inc.
Summer 2022/3 (Dec/Jan/Feb) issue
Volume 42, Number 2
ISSN 0004-8089i

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Published by The ANARE Club Incorporated
GPO Box 2534, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Registration Number A0014408G (Victoria)

All correspondence to the Secretary.
Subscriptions to the Treasurer at the Club GPO Box or by electronic transfer.
Annual Subscription $45. Overseas $55.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Aurora is published four times each year: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.
The journal provides news, old and new, to those interested in Antarctica and its climes.
Contributions on the theme are welcome.
Preferred length is up to 1,200 words, accompanied by four high resolution images (> 1.5 MB).
Submit text as a MS Word document in Arial 10 point single line spacing to: editor@anareclub.org.au
Deadline for copy is 1st of the month preceding publication.

Deadline for Autumn (March 2023) issue is 1st February 2023.

Front cover photo : First run on sea ice, late April 1993. Huskies (L-R) Ursa, running as lead dog, Brendan, Welf, Bonza, Elwood
Men (L-R) Geoff Ullman (doctor) Al Grant (Station Leader) Photo © Rob Nash

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dale Jacobsen, Editor

Welcome to the Summer edition of your journal, *Aurora*. The huskies of Mawson 'run' through various articles, marking the 30th year since the removal of the dogs from Mawson. We also honour the families and kinfolk who remain behind as expeditioners head South.

There is lots to read: tales from the past and up-to-date news from the South; book reviews; the naming of the nunataks of MacRobertson Land. We also introduce you to the branch Councillors, featuring Victoria and the ACT. Other branches will feature in future editions.

Put the kettle on, sit back, and allow your mind to wander over that place we all love.

Aurora photo: Mawson Station winter 2022
© Rebecca Jeffcoat Station Leader

Aurora masthead photo:
© Barend "Barry" Becker

Back cover photo: Huskies approaching Mawson on the sea ice © John Hogg 1969

President's Report

As presented to the National Council 22 October 2022

By George Friend OAM

Since my last Report and address to Council, the rhythm and tempo has continued to escalate, with increased membership and the number of noteworthy events which the Club has undertaken. These included the Hobart AGM, 75th Anniversary Luncheon, Phil Law Medal, and the Club's presentation of the HMALST *3501* and Tribute Bells. All of which has been reported in the ANARE Clubs' flagship publication (*Aurora*) and across our social media platforms. Activities undertaken by the Club, such as the Station teleconferences, continue to revitalise and underpin the relevance of our Rules of Association. As well as securing two new Vice Regal Patrons for the Club, and new Editor of *Aurora*, the past Council has set a high bar for the next 12 months.

We also have presented to us for this meeting, a full suite of Reports, compiled by resolute members of Council. I commend all of them to you, as a wonderful insight and reflection of the tremendous work, done behind the scenes, which underpins the Club and serves our Membership. Of note are the Treasurer and Secretary's mountain of work to deliver the Budget Papers and the comprehensive 25-page Member Survey Report and analysis. There is much to consider, discuss, contemplate, and build on, with an invaluable amount of quantitative and qualitative data, that we should not lose the opportunity to develop/grow our Club.

The depth and positive nature of the responses, as well as the many remarks, should give Council great confidence in moving forward to deliver even more value to our membership. Arresting the decline and stabilising our membership was one of my primary objectives at the start of my time as your President. It is a work in progress and it is imperative efforts, at both State and National level, reinforce the need to focus on continuing to attract the new generations of Expeditioners. Closer engagement with the AAD is crucial to this objective and continuing to broaden our base by thinking creatively. Being "inclusive" rather than "exclusive" in our attitude, as well as Club culture, will secure our future as a Club built on the shoulders of so many unpaid committed volunteers.

The work has just begun, and we remain indebted to those before us, for establishing such solid foundations upon which we must continue to build. We have much ground to cover today, and it is imperative we stick to the agenda, with an eye on the clock. So, to help move things along, especially on a Saturday, I will keep my Report brief and handover to the Secretary to keep us all on track. I commend all the Reports tabled and remind everyone that it is necessary to look at succession planning during your term on Council. Also, do not ever feel alone nor weighed down with whatever role you have volunteered for as a Councillor. There is always scope to enlist other Members of Council, or Financial Members of the Club, as "Sub-Committee" participants or "Assistants", to help you at any time.

Finally, my thanks to Mel, David, and Past Presidents Joe and Richard, for their continuing support, guidance, and counsel.

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ANARE Cultural Heritage Management Review

The importance of preserving the History of ANARE as a key role of the Club has been discussed for decades. The recent National Council meeting was given a detailed presentation by Richard Ferguson on the findings of the ANARE Club Cultural Heritage Management and Development Review which was completed earlier this year.

As an expeditioner and experienced collections manager and museum professional who has worked with a wide range of collecting institutions domestically and internationally, Richard was engaged to conduct the review and produce a framework and recommendations for Council as a way to ensure the history and memorabilia of ANARE and in particular its early years, is preserved and distributed to appropriate collection institutions for future generations.

The presentation was well received and Council voted to form a Heritage sub-Committee of ANARE National Council convened by myself as Club Historian. The sub-Committee will address the nine recommendations from the final report of the Review, with a view to accepting those deemed appropriate. Several Council members have elected to be on the sub-Committee; however it is seen as important to include at least one general member with a keen interest and possible expertise in this field.

Any ANARE Club member interested in finding out more and being part of this important work is asked to contact me by email or mobile.

Ian Toohill – Club Historian
0414 359 365 – Ian.toohill@bigpond.com

75th Anniversary Philatelic Envelopes

still available for Club members

A series of four special limited edition club philatelic envelopes/covers associated with the release of Australia Post's 75th ANARE/AAP anniversary stamps and the historic Hobart 75th Anniversary Luncheon event – with rare LST *3501* Bell and ANARE logo stamps, together with a special AusPost commemorative cancellation – are still available to Club members. Order forms and a descriptive detail of each stamp are now on the Club website under the members-only section, post free to members in Australia.

Alternatively, you can contact the Club's Vice President, David Dodd, at vicepresident@anareclub.org.au

As these are limited stamp releases, allocation will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Report from ANARE Council

Held 22 October 2022 via ZOOM

Compiled by Dr Melanie Van Twest, secretary

The first meeting of the National Council for 2022-23 was held via Zoom on Saturday, 22 October. It had been long intended to have a face-to-face meeting for the first time in almost three years, but in the month ahead of the meeting flight costs were found to be high and increasing. It was therefore decided that the expenditure of Club funds on meeting in-person could not be justified, hence a reversion to the Zoom format.

As had been intended prior to this change, the meeting was preceded by two presentations on current Club projects. The first presentation was by Richard Ferguson, heritage consultant and Vice President of the Victorian Branch, on the Heritage Review he has conducted over the past two years in cooperation with Club Historian Ian Toohill. Richard presented eight recommendations for the management of ANARE Club material heritage (eg. items, books donated to the Club) and its digital collection of photographs, oral histories etc.

The second presentation was by myself on the results of the Membership Survey conducted earlier this year, also covered elsewhere in this issue of *Aurora*.

After a break for lunch, National Council reconvened in the afternoon for the meeting proper. Every member of the new Council was present. It was a very full meeting and lasted almost three hours – as tends to be the norm!

President George Friend opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and all observed a minute's silence to note the two ANARE Club members who have sadly passed since our last meeting. Vale.

Pro tem Treasurer David Dodd gave his final report ahead of the transition to incoming Treasurer (and ongoing Membership Officer) Chris Eavis. The Club's finances are healthy with term deposits invested at a good rate (the only advantage of rising interest rates!) and a healthy influx of about $3,200 from sales at the Australian Antarctic Festival in Hobart in late August. A motion of thanks was carried for Brian Harvey, Sales Manager and Victorian Branch President, who not only organised the Club's stand at the Festival but also took down all the materials and merchandise, stood on the stand for most of the Festival, and covered his own costs. His generosity and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Chris Eavis, as Membership Officer, noted that while memberships were a little down on this time last year due to late renewals, we have 34 new members and no resignations since the last meeting on 30 July 2022 which was very pleasing news.

As incoming Editor of *Aurora*, Dale Jacobsen was able to report that she had received positive feedback on her first issue, which was great to hear. Dale has arranged some notable contacts on station and in the field who will write articles for *Aurora* over the coming summer season, a very exciting prospect.

David Dodd, as the person managing Projects and Special Events, expressed his thanks to all who contributed to the highly successful ANARE/AAP 75th Anniversary events in Hobart over the Antarctic Festival weekend, particularly the Luncheon and presentation of the historic LST *3501* and Tribute Bells to the Navy and then to the Maritime Museum of Tasmania (reported in the last issue of *Aurora*, vol.42 no.1).

Over the course of the meeting a number of important decisions and plans were made, including:

- Making future National Council meetings on Zoom open to Club member observers, details in development.
- Agreement that National Council would support the Victorian Branch 'Pennant Project' (see article in this issue of *Aurora*), details in development.
- Discussing and allocating priority of work to the re-commendations from the Membership Survey report (article in this issue).
- Formation of a Heritage Management Committee, to be led by Ian Toohill, to work through the recommendations of the Heritage Review and report back to forthcoming Council meetings on further action. Ron Hann, Melanie Van Twest, Trevor Cowell, Brian Harvey, David Dodd expressed an interest in being part of this group, and further involvement will be invited from Club members (article in this issue).
- Working to cultivate closer communications and cooperation between State and Territory Club Branches and the National Council.
- Agreement that while the costs of airline flights remain at current levels it is unlikely that the National Council will be able to meet in person: the next meeting will be via Zoom and we will reassess from meeting to meeting.
- Creation of a working group to examine the ANARE Club Constitution for currency, with a view to presenting a list of recommended amendments to the Council and then to the Club membership ahead of the 2023 AGM.
- Looking at ways to support David Dodd in the important work of maintaining contact with older Club members in Victoria, including observing milestone birthdays and providing support to families and attending funerals when they pass; also extending this to other states.
- Inviting outgoing Station Leaders to attend Council meetings as observers (if not already Club members) or to be co-opted onto Council.

After the last election there were two vacancies for National Council and we were very pleased to co-opt two Club members who had expressed interest to be Ordinary Councillors and fill those vacancies. As a result the President, George Friend, welcomes Denise Allen and David Ellyard back onto National Council.

Denise, as many will know, is a highly experienced expeditioner and returns to Council after a break of a few years. David had been on Council for many years as the *ex officio* Editor of *Aurora* and now returns to work on other projects.

As always, Club members are welcome to contact me (secretary@anareclub.org.au) with any questions or comments on the above.

The next National Council meeting will be held via Zoom on the afternoon of Saturday 11 February 2023. It is expected that Club members will be able to attend as observers: details, including the Zoom link, will be advised ahead of the meeting for those interested.

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Membership Survey 2022

Report – Dr Melanie Van Twest

The 2022 ANARE Club Membership Survey is complete! It is my pleasure to share the results with Club members here, albeit a few months later than I would liked to have done.

Firstly – thank you to every one of the 236 ANARE Club members who took the time and trouble to respond. This number represents 40% of the Club's membership at the time of the Survey in January-February this year, which is a remarkable response rate. Because of the high response rate, I feel very comfortable that the results are a fair and accurate reflection of the predominant opinions of Club members.

One of the reasons for the delay in sharing the results is that the final analysis of the 14 questions, plus discussion and recommendations, covers 25 pages! This makes it too large to be shared in *Aurora* in full. With the help of the Club's IT Officer, Peter Field, the data is now uploaded to the Club's website at https://www.anareclub.org/club-survey-2022/. Members will be able to download the full report and access the raw dataset as an Excel spreadsheet. There is no identifying data on the spreadsheet. I invite members so inclined to perform your own number-crunching and I look forward to hearing from you on your results!

As noted, there is not enough space here to reproduce the complete analysis and findings but I would like to share a few highlights and the resultant recommendations.

Question 1 aimed to identify the predominate demographics of Club members to help inform the interpretation of the rest of the survey. Results are shown below in **Figure 1**: the majority of the 236 survey respondents worked in Antarctica in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. The number of respondents who have travelled south in the 21st century is relatively small. This is likely a reflection that the ANARE Club is not attractive to, or is unable to recruit members from, more recent expeditioner cohorts and confirms the anecdotal experience of many.

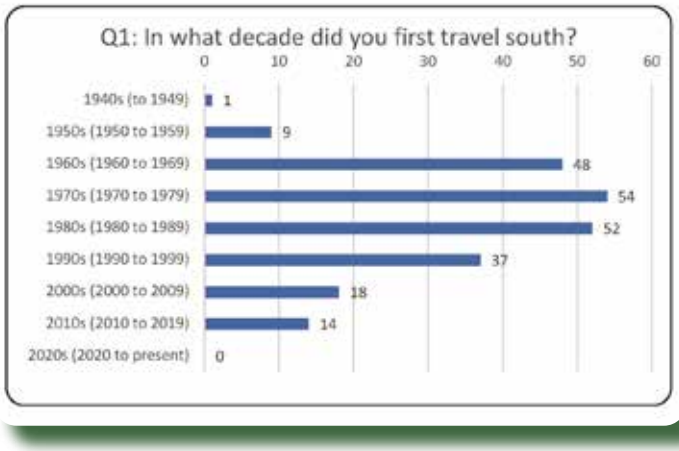

Figure 1: Results of Question 1 quantitative analysis

Question 3 asked respondents to identify the purpose of the ANARE Club. This was a multiple-choice question with unlimited responses and free comments added. Interestingly, all four choices were roughly evenly selected (**Figure 2**), and to my surprise the midwinter dinner – the social centrepiece of the ANARE Club year – gained the lowest number of responses. 'Maintaining contact' and 'staying informed' were more important to members. This indicates that perhaps the Club needs to improve the number of opportunities to connect and keep members informed – perhaps through activities that combine social and educational opportunities such as lectures and presentations.

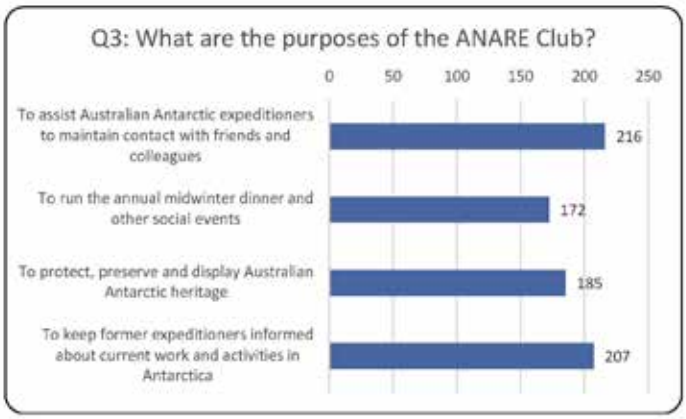

Figure 2: Results of Question 3 quantitative analysis

The last half of the Survey invited comments from members on how the ANARE Club could improve. Several of these questions did not attract as many answers as earlier questions but the answers, where available, were still of great interest.

One such was **Question 12** which sought opinions on what the Club could do to secure its future. Over half of total respondents did not give an answer here: unsurprising, given it is a difficult question to answer. Of those that did respond, 33 (14% of total) commented on the need for the Club to make itself more relevant to recent expeditioners. Finding out how to do that is probably the next step and could be the focus of a further survey in 2023.

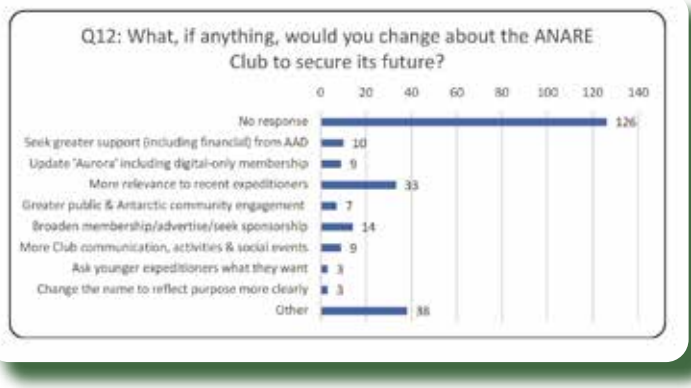

Figure 3: Results of Question 12 qualitative analysis

The final product of any survey report is recommendations on how the organisation should do things differently. **Table 1** (opposite) summarises the 12 recommendations I have made based on the survey results, along with the priority now given to each one by National Council and further comments about each. Note that the priority terms are classified as short-term (within six months), medium-term (12-18 months) and long-term (18-24 months).

This Survey has been a significant body of work but it is only the beginning of this process, which has much more to come. The next step, of course, is to start addressing the Recommendations, as Council will do in coming months and years. Our aim is to improve the ANARE Club for all members and to ensure its survival for another 71 years. Thank you again to all respondents and to National Council for its support of this project.

No.	Recommendations	Priority	Comments
1	That the ANARE Club look at ways of identifying why recent expeditioners of the past 20+ years have not been joining, possibly working in partnership with the AAD.	Short-term	Consider a further survey of 21st century expeditioners in 2023
2	That the ANARE Club examines why it is so popular amongst trades and support staff, and how that can be translated to other work groups.	Medium-term	
3	That the ANARE Club continue to provide avenues for social connection between its traditional membership of Antarctic winterers, but also look carefully at ways to broaden social events and include members who fall outside that group.	Medium-term	Build relationships between national and state/territory-based Club administrations
4	That the ANARE Club maintain and look to invigorate the role of 'Aurora' magazine as an important and valued method of communication between the Club and its membership	Short-term	**In progress**
5	That the content of 'Aurora' should seek an appropriate balance between matters of historic interest and current activities of the Australian Antarctic Program, as both of these are of interest to members	Short-term	**In progress**
6	That the ANARE Club seek to improve means of communication with and between members, using both digital and in-person means including more regular social events, Zoom presentations, email contact and promoting more use of the website and Facebook page.	Medium-term	Explore website functionality to allow members to contact each other, noting need for data security
7	That while the ANARE Club National Council and Branches should be reassured on current levels of satisfaction amongst members, the Club should still continue to strive for improvement in order to make the ANARE Club meaningful to its current membership and attractive to future members, including addressing issues of a perceived lack of transparency in the Club's management.	Short-term	**In progress** To be led by the Vice-President
8	That the ANARE Club continue to seek a closer relationship with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the mutual support of both organisations.	Short-term	First draft to be developed in the next six months
9	That the ANARE Club consider carefully the prospective terms and conditions of non-individual (eg corporate or organisational) membership and seek input on these from ANARE Club members again before proceeding with any further expansion of membership types.	Medium-term	12-18 months: important but there are higher-priority matters
10	That the ANARE Club engage more closely with the membership on the important matter of managing Australian Antarctic heritage items as represented by the personal effects of past and present members.	Short-medium term	Concurrent with the Heritage Review and Report
11	That the ANARE Club engage with the membership on the matter of activity (or otherwise) regarding an Australian Antarctic museum.	Medium-term	Important but higher-priority matters will take precedence
12	That the ANARE Club look to conduct a similar survey on an annual or bi-annual basis in order to: • maintain a close connection with its members • provide a forum for members to express their views of the Club's current functioning and future development • gain insights into members' opinions and wishes regarding the Club to guide decisions and actions affecting the Club's future and wellbeing.	Medium-term	Biannual general survey? Specialised survey in alternate years?

Table 1: Membership Survey Recommendations

State Branch Councillors

Each edition, we will celebrate those who, state by state (and territory) keep the flag flying. This issue features Victoria and the ACT

Victorian Branch Executives

Brian Harvey, President

Brian first joined the ANARE Club in 1976, spending three winters down south (Mawson 1977, Macquarie Island 1979 and Casey 1981) as a diesel mechanic. He was motivated to become involved in the Club administration in 1987 after the sinking of *Nella Dan*. He has served on National Council for many years and has been President several times, most recently in 2007-2009. Brian has been involved in many ANARE Club projects including the *Nella Dan* memorial, the Husky sculpture 50 year commemoration of ANARE, and a project with Susan Gordon-Brown to record the stories of tradespeople who have worked down south. He is currently the Sales Officer of the National Council.

Richard Ferguson FRGS, Vice-President

Richard's polar field experience dates from December 1987 to February 1996. Between 1987 and 2003 he undertook research and curatorial projects focusing on polar photography on scientific expeditions. Three ANARE Voyages while on staff at the Mawson Institute for Antarctic Research and voyaging south on *Nella Dan* 1987, *Lady Franklin* 1988, and *Ice Bird* 1989. In 1993 he was elected as Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society for his polar research and fieldwork. He is also a member of the Royal Society of Victoria and has previously served on the National Council of the International Council of Museums. He is currently Victorian Vice President.

Rob Nash, Secretary

Rob wintered at Mawson as Meteorological Observer/Met OIC/Met Obs respectively in 1975, '77, & '93. Lem Macey (Station Leader) and Pat Moonie (Radio OIC, 1975) encouraged use of dogs resulting in his participation on sledging journey to Fold Island August '75. As Dog-man '77 he was responsible for emperor penguin rookery census counts, sledging to Fold Island again in May '77, and then Fold Island and Kloa Point in September '77. In '93 he was Dog-man to the last six huskies left at Mawson, the working teams have gone end of '76. The last huskies left the continent with him on board *Aurora Australis* Dec '93, Mawson huskies Morrie & Ursa spent their remaining years with Rob and they were active together raising monies for Husky sculpture '94-'97. National Secretary 2018 / 2019 and Vic branch Secretary 2018-2023.

Chris Gamgee, Treasurer

Chris wintered at Casey in 1975 as Electronic Engineer.
Chris has been a member of the ANARE Club since 1975, and held positions on National Council of Secretary and Treasurer for more than 10 years. He is currently Treasurer of the Victorian branch

Jorg Metz, Councillor Victorian branch

Jorg has worked as an analytical chemist in mining, mineral processing and smelting operations around Australia, before ending up at La Trobe University, School of Earth Sciences, running their Xray Facility. His dream was to become an amateur curator of fines artworks. The catalyst of this dream happened when he spent the summer season of 2011/12 at Casey Station where he was the Laboratory Manager, helping the various science teams settle in. On returning to Australia, with two artist friends, he created and named Ice Pact (a collage of about 30 art works), travelling around regional centres.

ACT Branch Executives

Kit Scally ACT Treasurer

Kit first wintered at Mawson in 1971-72 with the venerable Lem Macey as OIC. A year later, he undertook a 'gap year' working in London and met up with the '71 CosRay boffin for a MWD at the Mawson Arms in Chiswick, London. Upon returning to Sydney, Kit attended the '75 Sydney MWD. Kit remained one of the core NSW ANARE Committee members as Treasurer, President and envelope stamp-licker until 2010, except for wintering for the second time at Mawson in 1991-92 and as the ANARE Club's representative aboard the 'Orange Roughy' during the 2004-05 season visiting Mawson, Casey and Macquarie Island. He was co-opted in 2012 to join Malcolm Robertson as co-convenor of the ACT Branch where he is currently the section's Treasurer.

Malcolm Robertson ACT President

Malcolm Robertson wintered at Mawson in 1970, relieving the 1969 geophysicist John Major in December 1969. He somehow survived the next 12 months unscathed despite the best efforts of his fellow winterers, a broken heart, his life-threatening antics on the base Matchless motorcycle, and the rigours of a ten-day midwinter dog-sledging 'holiday' to the Taylor Glacier emperor penguin rookery. In December 1970, Josko Petkovic relieved Malcolm as geo and he joined the southern Prince Charles Mountains surveying expedition, being assigned to work with surveyor Norm Edwards. The 1970-71 surveying expedition was not one of National Mapping's finest years with several disruptions to the season due to weather and other adverse circumstances but nevertheless, Norm and Malcolm occupied the existing survey site at Fisher Massif before moving to Mt Stinear. On RTA, Malcolm continued to work with the Australian Government in the Bureau of Mineral Resources and CSIRO, and maintained his membership of the ANARE Club. With Kit Scally, he became co-convenor of the ACT Branch in Canberra in 2019, taking over from John Hyslop and Simon Cowling.

ANARE Pennant Project

Report from Rob Nash - Secretary Victorian Branch

From the President and National Council:

The Pennant Project, which has been developed by Robert Nash with the support of the ANARE Club Victorian Branch, is a great example of how Club members can make a substantial contribution to the conservation of Australian Antarctic heritage and share that with others. We have no doubt the framed ANARE pennant will be a valued addition to the heritage items on display at Kingston in due course. This Project has the support of National Council, though some administrative details are still to be finalised to meet regulatory requirements. These are being actively worked upon at the time of going to press.

The summer of 2022-2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of Australian expeditioners heading south to live and work in the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) and sub-Antarctic islands as part of the national commitment to the international Antarctic Treaty formalised in 1961.

Until early this century, each season those expeditioners headed south, they formed part of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE). This seasonal formation of various groups of expeditioners still forms part of what is now referred to as the Australian Antarctic Program (AAP) – a term that has been in use since the ANARE name was decommissioned from active service mid-2000s.

Livery associated with ANARE was developed during the founding years and applied in a variety of ways, such as letterheads, roundels, signage on aircraft and pennants across the organisation that has been the Australian Antarctic Division since formation in Melbourne, 1948. Since the change in name to the AAP the term ANARE has fallen out of use, deemed officially to no longer reflect the scale and scope of the work undertaken by the Australian Antarctic Division.

A project to conserve and display an ANARE Pennant used in the field has been gathering momentum over the past six months with the purpose to commemorate the sheer resilience and initiative that wrought the deeds of ANARE which, from 1947 onwards, built and established the Australian sub-Antarctic & Antarctic stations, then explored and mapped both the continent's hinterland and coastal regions by tractor traverse and dog sledge.

Display of the Pennant would salute the ANARE spirit and heritage that forged the contemporary AAP, honour the aspirations of the expeditioners who carried ANARE in triumph through adversity in doing so, and introduce and inspire newly recruited AAP personnel to the sense of belonging to a long-term national endeavour of international significance.

This was intimated in May 2022 and at the Queensland Midwinter Dinner in June 2022, Club President George Friend and Australian Antarctic Division Director Kim Ellis discussed the initiative. Both agreed to formalise it as a fitting 75th Anniversary project. On 22 October 2022 the ANARE Club National Council recognised the ANARE Pennant Project which will commemorate ANARE and AAP expeditions with the preservation and display of an ANARE pennant at the Australian Antarctic Division Head Quarters, Tasmania. The ANARE pennant is unique and represents the founding origins of ANARE and links our founding years with the current Australian Antarctic Program. As such, the ANARE Club National Council recognises the significance of conserving and framing of this pennant from early in ANARE.

Due to the age (40 to 50 years) and fragility of the pennant there is a need for museum standard conservation, and framing is necessary for preservation and long-term display. Quotes have been received from suitable providers (Recherche Speciality Framing – Neville Crawford, and Bradley and Parker – Conservator and Framer) and costs determined to form a project budget.

In September 2022 Club Member, past Council Member and long-term museum professional, Richard Ferguson, was co-opted to oversee the more technical aspects of project delivery by heritage specialists working to industry best practice.

Conserving cultural heritage is a skilled task and relies on understanding of the significance of the object as well as detailed structural and chemical knowledge. Conservation treatments should be carried out by qualified conservators. (Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material.)

Initial fundraising was commenced in July (through Try Booking) and to date, Club members have contributed close to $6,000. We are seeking further donations to support conservation, framing, transport and installation of this historic object. A further $8,000 is required to meet all costs.

The National Council asks that members remember previous significant ANARE Club projects – the *Nella Dan* memorial and the Husky sculpture – and be aware that the ANARE Pennant Project perhaps rates more so, as the pennant is an actual fragile material relic of the time; the very symbol of Phil Law's ANARE. Your support is essential to ensure that this pennant, symbol of ANARE, is saved for posterity.

Funding support donations for ANARE Pennant Project can be made at: https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/anare75thflagproject. An email receipt is issued on donation. A GOOGLE search will also find page: trybooking fundraising ANARE

or

Electronic Bank Transfer or Direct Deposit:
National Australia Bank:
BSB: 083266 Account (VIC. Branch): 170012477
Please identify NAB deposit with 'ANARE pennant & your Name'
Advise Payment to: vicbranch@anareclub.org.au for record.

ANARE Pennant with Wind Tower erection expeditioners Mawson March 2003
(Photo supplied by Ken Barrett)

ANARE Pennant – Being prepared for conservation and framing

Exact provenance of use at Mawson still being sought
(Photo by Rob Nash)

Significant Birthdays

Last Expeditioner at Macquarie Island 1952 turns 95.

With the passing of John Russell (MI 1949) earlier this year, the 'baton' of the last man standing at Macquarie Island now passes to two 1952 Macca Expeditioners, both Radio Operators – Roy Arnel (Hamilton, Vic) and Rob Gurr (Adelaide). Both 'sparkies' are now in Nursing homes and the older of the two, Roy Arnel, celebrated his 95th birthday at the Eventide Lutheran Homes in Hamilton on Friday 21 October 2022. Rob, the younger of the two, will celebrate his 93rd birthday in February next year. Roy went on to serve at Mawson in 1957 and was asked to stay on for another year (1958), with fellow Radio Operator Peter King.

The Club was pleased to arrange birthday greetings for Roy, which included greetings from the Macquarie Island Station leader, Pete Pedersen. The CEO of Eventide Homes, Tim Pitt-Lancaster, kindly arranged the celebrations and commented that 'Roy was absolutely thrilled to receive your birthday wishes. His contact with ANARE has certainly "sparked" some very fond memories'.

We are not sure what has caused this longevity; some would suggest it may be the result of the ANARE spirit, caught, or rather imbibed, by those pioneering expeditioners.

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A '100 Not Out' Birthday for Steve Grimsley

Steve celebrated his 100th Birthday on 14 November at the Royal Tara Motel, Binalong NSW, attended by his family, the Binalong community and his ANARE friends and colleagues. A Club birthday card from the President on behalf of Members of the Club was among the birthday wishes from around Australia and Overseas. Steve served at Wilkes in 1961 with the US Bureau of Standards on their Ionosphere and Auroral Program, spending a year at the University of Colorado in 1962, before returning to Wilkes in 1963 to continue his work. Steve's career included a 15-year term at ANU in charge of the electronics program at the Mt Stromlo Observatory. Nearing retirement, Steve's career took a remarkable turn, firstly as a real estate agent and then as a Registered Builder resulting in some 470 buildings/units in the Canberra area, including his own house in Binalong. A remarkable life.

La Reine Beal, Pam Webster, Gil Webster (M '65), Steve Grimsley (Wilkes '61, '63), Jock McGhee (Wilkes '62, M '65), Mary McGhee, Maureen Smethurst (Widow of Major General Neville Smethurst Wilkes '61 expedition leader).

We are sure that there are other 'Significant Birthdays' within our Membership and the Club, and we would like to be notified as early as possible of any special birthday celebrations coming up for our 'Old and Bold' members. In this way the Club will be able to maintain contact with our pioneer members to remember and acknowledge their contribution to ANARE . *David Dodd*

Dr Patricia Selkirk

Companion of the Order of Australia

Dr Patricia Selkirk was invested a Companion of the Order of Australia at Government House on Wednesday 19th October, 'for eminent service to science and conservation, particularly through research of Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic terrestrial ecosystems, to tertiary education, and as a mentor and champion of women'.

Her research led her to remote, field-based locations at sub-Antarctic Heard, Kerguelen and Macquarie Islands. From 1979 to 2004, she undertook 11 expeditions to Macquarie Island to study plant taxonomy, adaptations and genetics, landscape ecology and vegetation mapping (Selkirk Creek is named in her honour). In 1982/3, she spent a summer researching at Casey station. At this time, women working in Antarctica were rare.

She served on the Antarctic Scientific Advisory Committee (1995–2001), Australian National Committee for Antarctic Research (ANCAR) and the Antarctic Research Evaluation Group (AREG). In 2004, she was awarded the Australian Antarctic Medal for outstanding service in support of Australian Antarctic expedition. In 2018, she was awarded the Phillip Law Medal.

The ANARE Club proudly congratulates 'Dr Pat'.

Dr Patricia Selkirk – Companion of the Order of Australia – with ANARE Club Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) at Government House
Photo: Paul Knight (Smashing Panda Photography)

The Transporting Envelope

The Second Voyage of the *Nella Dan* – 1963

By Allan Moore in collaboration with Bob Eather (Mawson – 1963 Group)

It is doubtful if we first-timers realised that this was only the second voyage of the *Nella Dan* to the Antarctic, and it was going to be memorable. Departing on 9 January 1963 with expedition leader Dr Phil Law and his lieutenant, Eric Macklin, *Nella Dan*, in beautiful condition, was carrying the Mawson and Davis relief parties plus several other groups. The voyage was to proceed to Heard Island and drop off a group of six, three of whom would try to be first to reach the summit of the still-active volcanic mountain, Big Ben. The ship was then to continue to Mawson and Davis, and after the Davis changeover, return to Heard Island to collect the party, visit Kerguelen and finally return to Australia.

About five days into the journey electronics technician Gordon Smith became ill with appendicitis, and such was the weather that an operation on board was considered ill-advised. The ship diverted to Albany WA where Gordon was taken to hospital, and replaced by his quickly recruited replacement, Bob White. (Gordon Smith fully recovered and later joined the 1964 Wilkes party).

The Heard Island party comprised the climbers, Dr Jon Stephenson, Dr Grahame Budd (OIC HI 1954), and Major Warwick Deacock of the Outward Bound School. Support staff included Dr Alan Gilchrist (medical officer HI 1948), Max Downes, (biologist HI 1951), and Nils Lied, (pioneer radio operator/weather observer Davis 1957).

The ship's officers, among others, were Captain Gunnar Bertelsen on his first Antarctic voyage, and Chris W Petersen, radio officer, who undertook a number of voyages with us. The Hovmester was the well-known Sven Aage Neilsen.

The round trippers group included Doug Twigg, Norm Linton-Smith, (PTO – Equipment) and Alan Campbell-Drury (Antarctic Division principal photographic officer and pioneer radio operator HI 1948). Already known to many of us was Colonel George Owens of the Army Psychological Branch who undertook psych tests on behalf of ANARE. The Army DUKW crew were also included in the round trippers group.

We mixed and spoke with all the travellers mentioned here and received lectures enroute by Jon Stephenson and others. We learned that Jon, a geologist, had been a member of Sir Vivian Fuch's party in the 1955-1958 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition on the trek to the South Pole, eventually meeting up with Sir Edmund Hillary's group coming from the opposite direction. He was the only Australian in the entire expedition. Warwick Deacock told of his adventures as a wartime British Marines officer, and a Green Beret commando. (Please read more about these men on the internet.)

After Albany, the Heard Island group disembarked and Doug Twigg (PTO – Radio), plus our relief radio supervisors and technicians, helped raise new aerial wires on the still-standing antenna masts. Nils Lied was now able to communicate with the ship, Mawson and Davis on schedules. The handovers at the two stations proceeded well and the ship then collected the Heard Island group and headed for Australia. Unfortunately, the attempt on Big Ben was unsuccessful having been thwarted by bad weather. But better luck lay in the not-too-distant future. Warwick Deacock (later OAM) organised another private expedition entitled the *South Indian Ocean Expedition* to Heard Island on the small vessel *Patanela* in 1964/65 and he, again with Grahame Budd (later AM), and several other companions, successfully climbed Big Ben on 25 January 1965. Dr Jon Stephenson (later AM) was unable to join them on this occasion.

An excellent man to have with us, it should be mentioned that Colonel George Owens, during the voyage, was asked his opinion as to the success of his psych selections, and he said with a smirk – 'We were all mad'!

However, another surprise was waiting for us many decades in the future. Like a message in a bottle tossed up on a sandy beach after years in the ocean, another message surfaced, but this time via the modern computers of our now-aging expeditioners – nearly 60 years later in 2022.

We had forgotten it, but this surprise message was a photo of an envelope containing all the signatures of those in the groups mentioned earlier. Between Albany and Heard Island our 1963 auroral physicist, Bob Eather, with great foresight, started to gather signatures of the groups on a large A4 envelope which he later posted to himself after changeover.

The mail with Bob's envelope went first to Davis and then to Macquarie Island. Peter McGrath was the postmaster there and he date-stamped and signed it as well. What great memories these signatures brought back of our old mates at the stations, and the other significant and brave explorers, adventurers, and pioneer station openers. It is an historical document which means a great deal to those of us still around, and a great honour to have known all those who signed the envelope. Of interest: Bob knew Warwick Deacock, having attended his first Outward Bound School in Australia, at Fisherman's Point, on the Hawkesbury River in 1959.

Our sincere thanks to Bob Eather for saving this memorable document and passing it on to us.

Necessity – The Mother of Invention

BY JOHN GILLIES

This article was written for the journal of the Historical Radio Society of Australia, *Radio Waves*, and published in April 2018 Pages 12–16

FROM THE PAST

The Problem

The last decade has seen advancement in supplying Australian Antarctic bases with the use of modern aircraft, even winter air-drops of equipment and supplies are possible with the help of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) new C-17A. Previously, supplies of fuel, new equipment and expeditioners were delivered once a year by chartered icebreakers each summer. This is a tale about a problem that had to be solved before the next ship arrived the following year.

In 1969, Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) was opening a new station to replace the old Wilkes Station. Wilkes had been built by the navy Seabees (construction battalion) of the United States of America (USA) in 1957 and handed over to Australian administration in 1959. The old station had been built on a rocky headland and it had become buried in snow almost every year. A new station, temporarily called Repstat (for replacement station), had been built across Newcombe Bay, about seven kilometres over snow travel around the coastline, Figure 1.

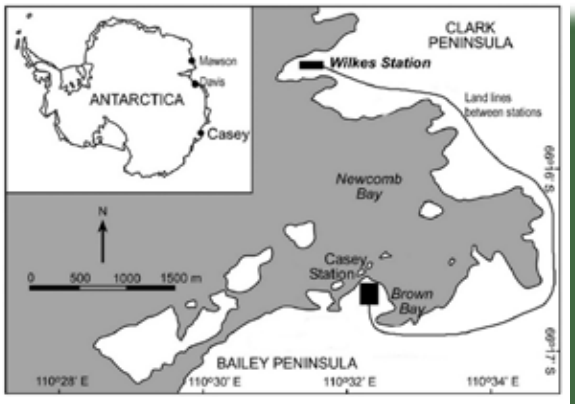


Figure 1

Construction was started in 1964 by summer expeditioners. An effort to speed up construction in early 1967 was thwarted when *Nella Dan,* with the team of tradesmen, was stuck in the pack ice for six weeks, 100 km from Wilkes. In 1968 some tradesmen spent the year living in the partially completed station and, with help from the tradesmen at Wilkes, Repstat was almost complete in early 1969.

ANARE had bought two new Collins Radio high frequency, 10 kW, radio transmitters – Type 208U10, which were capable of Amplitude Modulation (AM) and Single Sideband (SSB) operation – to be installed at the new station, later called Casey Station. The receiving equipment was to be brought over from Wilkes, when the transmitters at Casey Station were operational. The supplies for Casey were unloaded in only four days, with the help of US Coast Guard icebreaker *Southwind*, which had come to bring *Thala Dan* through the heavy pack ice, where it had been stuck for a few weeks. Because of the short changeover time the new transmitters were not installed as planned. This meant that Wilkes had to remain operational until the new equipment was installed at Casey.

Four radio technicians: supervising technician Graeme ('Chompers') Currie, Len Holbrok, Colin ('Squizzy') Taylor and myself, had been sent down to install the new equipment and bring the old equipment from Wilkes to build Radio VNJ at Casey. Due to the short changeover, and being familiar with the radio equipment from spending 1967 at Mawson station, I was sent over to live at Wilkes, with the four radio operators, to continue radio operations with the existing equipment. A diesel mechanic, Wilkes veteran from 1965, Ron Wiggins, lived with us to keep the power for the station running. We had to live in the old station and maintain communications while the new transmitters were installed and connected to the aerials. Two pairs of telephone wires had been laid around the coastal route from Wilkes to Repstat in 1968. One pair was used to send teleprinter messages to the radio office at Wilkes from the meteorological office at Casey, and continue the reports to Melbourne weather central office uninterrupted. The other pair was used for a telephone connection between the radio offices at Wilkes and Casey to connect to the transmitter at Wilkes for telephonic traffic to Melbourne and Sydney from Casey. The new station had one radio receiver to listen to replies, but the operator at Wilkes had to operate the push-to-talk key.

The aerials that had been installed at Casey were a new type of Log Periodic wire arrays, that enabled the use of one aerial for 10 different frequencies allocated to ANARE radio stations. (See figure 2). These were to replace the wideband rhombic aerials that were used at Wilkes. The transmit rhombic could be connected to the 5 kW AWA CTH7 Amplitude Modulation with Single Sideband adaptor transmitter, at either end by an aerial changeover switch, which also switched the dummy load at the far end, depending on the station to be worked – Mawson or Sydney. The new aerials were each connected to a separate transmitter by a coaxial cable, removing the need for aerial changeover switches.

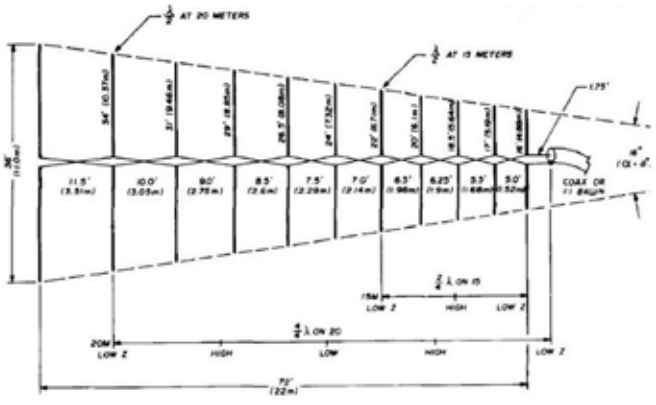


Figure 2

There were three aerials suspended from the one 150-foot-tall (45.7 metre) aluminium yacht mast section. One such arrangement is shown in figure 3. One aerial was directed towards Sydney Radio (Australia), one towards Radio VLV Mawson and Radio VLZ Davis stations, and the third towards the USA base at McMurdo Sound. Wilkes/Casey was a relay station to Sydney for these stations, and to send traffic to these stations from Sydney. The 10 kW transmitters were connected to aerials working Sydney and Mawson.

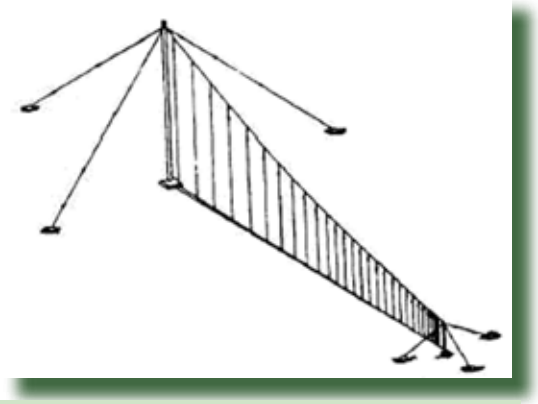


Figure 3. One of the three aerials on each mast

Aerials and stub masts.

The stub masts, made of insulated sections, were guyed with many insulators inserted in the guy wires. The other diagonal to the thin main mast is the feeder to the dipoles.

There were two other masts with the same type of aerials, located more than one kilometre away from the transmitters, and 100 metres apart, for the diversity receiving system.

The aerials had a steel catenary wire from the top of the 150-foot (45.7-metre) mast to the top of the 36-foot (10.9-metre) stub mast, which was made up of short sections insulated from each other. This mast supported the transmission line matching transformer (Balun) and the aerial feeder transmission line. The dipole feeder transmission line can be seen in Photograph 1.

Photograph 1

The upper dipole sections were supported from the catenary by lengths of fibreglass rod about 6.4 mm in diameter. The lower dipole sections were also connected to lengths of fibreglass rods. The lower end of the fibreglass rods were each tied with a piece of rope to a large concrete brick to keep the dipoles straight. The masts and aerials had been erected by the workers at Repstat and the radio technicians from Wilkes, early in1968.

The three technicians working at Casey – Graeme Currie, Len Holbrok, and Colin Taylor – unpacked the transmitters, positioned them in the transmitter hut, connected power and the feeder coaxial cables to the aerial matching transformers on the stub masts. The new transmitters were almost all solid state except the final linear amplifier. The transmitters could be remotely retuned to any of the 10 frequencies allocated to ANARE stations.

When the installation was completed, Graeme turned one of the transmitters on, on low power, and gradually increased the output power. The new transmitters had numerous safety provisions built in, to avoid any damage if there was a fault anywhere. The transmitter turned itself off. When they went outside to investigate the cause, they found one of the dipoles had broken away from the fibreglass rod and fallen across the transmission line. Replacing the fibreglass rod meant lowering the entire array, measuring a length of fibreglass to the same length, replacing it, and hoisting the array again. The same thing happened again as the output power was increased. The fibreglass was seen to have burnt and dropped the dipole. It was suggested that the fibreglass had become damp through being outside all year, so a fresh fibreglass rod that had been inside all year was used as replacement. It also burnt through. Several times, the catenary halyards jumped off the pulley at the top of the mast as the arrays were hoisted after they had been repaired. Graeme, Colin and Len had turns of the very risky job of being hoisted to the top in a bosuns chair to free the halyard; they were not very pleased with the new aerial system.

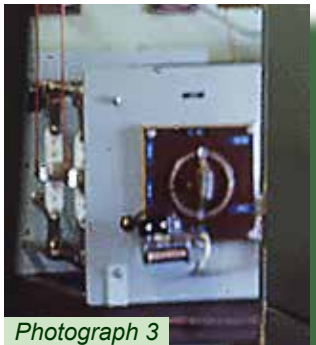
THE SOLUTION

I came over from Wilkes to witness the problem and saw the fibreglass begin to smoulder as the power was increased, give off smoke, and burn through 5 to 15 cm above the top of the dipole. At that time of the year there were over 20 hours of daylight each day so there was nothing seen to cause the fibreglass to burn. The transmitters could have operated on reduced power without damaging the aerials, but this would have reduced the range of operation. There were no supplies expected until the next ship in ten months, so we had to find a solution.

I had worked as a technician in training and then technician at the Postmaster-General's (PMG) Central Office Radio Branch before joining ANARE in 1966. Part of the PMG responsibility was the high power, high frequency (HF) radio transmitters at Shepparton and Lyndhurst in Victoria. There had been problems with switches in the transmission lines which changed direction of different aerials (slewing). Any sharp bends or unrounded edges caused a corona effect, (A corona discharge is an electrical discharge brought on by the ionization of a fluid such as air surrounding a conductor that is electrically charged.) This corona effect is not easily visible in daylight. Transmission lines and aerial changeover switches had been carefully designed by engineers at the radio branch to avoid sharp edges.

I had noticed after observing the fibreglass rods burning that the ends of the dipoles that connected to the fibreglass rod were made with plumbing-type compression fittings to clamp onto the fibreglass. (See Photograph 2.) I thought that even though we could not see it, the corona may be burning through the fibreglass when the power was high enough. The same type of aerial changeover switch that was developed by the PMG had been bought by ANARE and used at Wilkes and Mawson to switch the one high power transmitter to different aerials. (See Photograph 3.)

Photograph 2



Photograph 3

I went back to Wilkes and thought how we could make the ends of the dipoles smooth and still connect onto the fibreglass. At Wilkes there was a box of ceramic insulators (see photograph 4) as spare parts for the aerial changeover switch, mentioned previously. These ceramic insulators can just be seen inside the unit as the white rectangles in Photograph 3.

Photograph 4: Ceramic Insulator

Among many of the parts for constructing the open wire transmission lines used for feeding the rhombic aerial to the transmitter hut, and the aerials for the receivers in the radio office, were press type terminating sleeves, as shown in Figure 4, which is taken from the PMG aerial linesman's handbook.

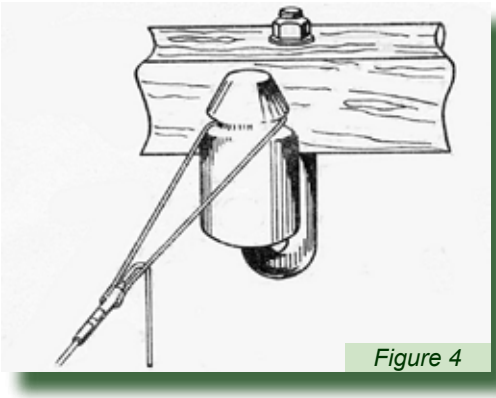
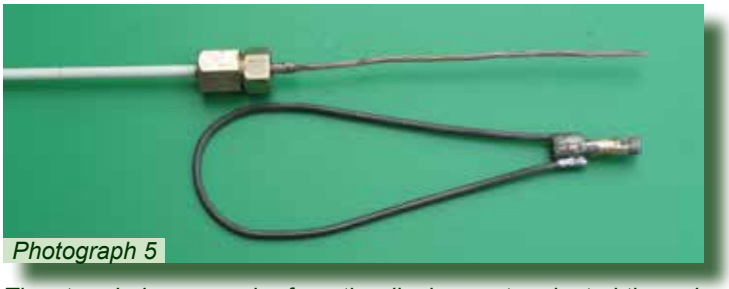


Figure 4

The plumbing fitting was still needed to clamp onto the fibreglass rod as we had no other type of fitting at hand to change this. The plumbing fitting was cut off the dipole with enough of the aerial wire to equal the length of the press-type terminating sleeve, as shown in Photograph 5.



Photograph 5

The stranded copper wire from the dipole was terminated through one of the holes of the ceramic insulator. (see Photograph 6).

Photograph 6

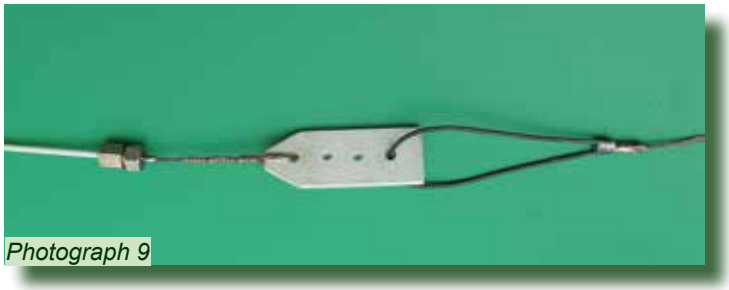
One of the ends of the press-type terminating sleeve was cut off along the side of the press sleeve, which was terminated on the remaining dipole wire, as shown in Photograph 7.

Photograph 7

The free end of the loop was passed through the insulator hole, as shown in Photograph 8.

Photograph 8

The loop of the crimping sleeve was silver-soldered back onto the crimping sleeve, to complete the repair as shown below, in Photograph 9.



Photograph 9

I sent the prototype modification over to Casey with enough ceramic insulators and press-type terminating sleeves to replace all the transmitter dipoles – about 20 in each aerial.

Fortunately the modifications worked and the transmitters were able to operate at full power. ANARE head office in Melbourne had been advised of the problem, and the resulting local modification. They contacted the aerial supplier who told them that they knew of the problem and would send a modification kit down with the resupply ship in ten months. The aerials continued to work without any more damage, until late September, when an extra-strong blizzard blew down all our tall masts (See Photograph 10), commonly known as THE 'A' FACTOR! (A for Antarctic)

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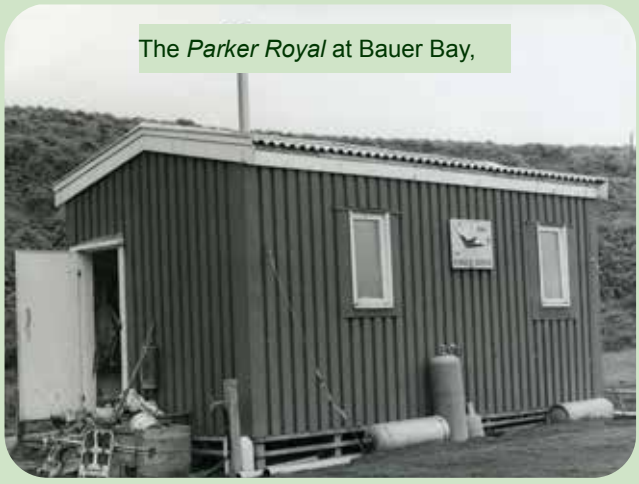
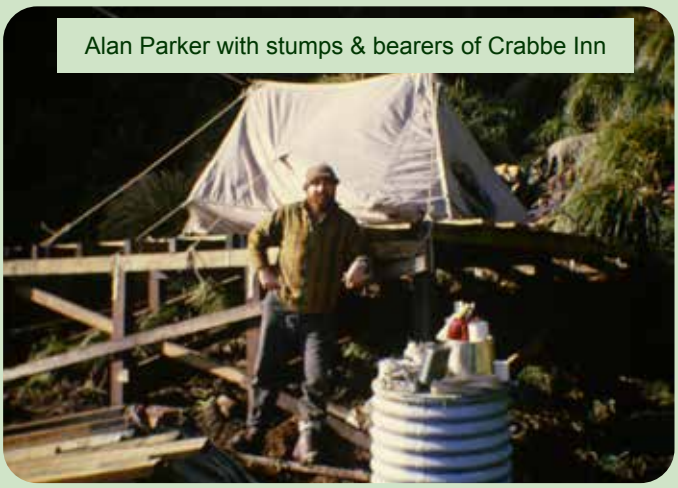
Judo and Huts on Macca in 1966

With thanks to Sue Hilliard (daughter of Alan Parker)



The *Parker Royal* at Bauer Bay,



Alan Parker with stumps & bearers of Crabbe Inn

Alan Parker was the first (and perhaps only) Judo instructor on Macquarie Island (he held the rank of 'black belt'). At the request of other expeditioners, he conducted classes through the various 'belts'. When they returned to Australia at the end of their stint, the group took examinations to officially gain the 'belts' they had studied for. His classes were featured in *Fog 'N Bog*, the Macca newsletter edited by Duncan MacKenzie: '*They all appreciated Alan's time, patience and professional experience that he unselfishly gave in training the class.*'

Officially, Alan Parker was on Macca as a carpenter, with his main objective during the year to build two huts: one at Caroline Cove; one at Bauer Bay – which was pre-fabricated in Melbourne and floated ashore by DUKW. Other building material, including a stove, had to be carried overland to the sites. It was given the grand title *The Parker Royal*.

The Caroline Cove hut was christened *Crabbe Inn* after Arthur Crabbe, the electrical fitter who assisted in the construction.

Arthur captured an overview of the building process of the hut in his logbook entry:

A short history of Crabbe Inn. *Alan Parker was the chief architect of this fine establishment, assisted by Arthur Crabbe who generously lent his name to this fine piece of building work. Both arrived at the site about 12.30 pm on 7 April 1966. The site was covered in mud and penguin dirt, and working was not pleasant. By 5.30 pm on the same day, tussocks had been removed, stumps were in and also bearers and floor boarding had been temporarily laid and a Bech tent erected. By 13 April walls and roof were finished and outside cladding fitted, so that it was possible to move out of the very cramped quarters in the tent and set up housekeeping in the hut. The hut as a structure was completed on 25 April, then painting etc had to be finished. In the opinion of all of this year's party this hut is the most pleasant and comfortable of all field huts excepting Bauer Bay, which of course is another Alan Parker triumph.*

Unfortunately, in 2000 several landslides occurred, and *Crabbe Inn* was no more.

The Judo Group:
Back row: Duncan MacKenzie, Graeme Smith, Peter Bowtell
Front row: Arthur Crabbe, Alan Parker, Geoff Pickering

Crabbe Inn, Caroline Cove

The Nunataks of MacRobertson Land

ROBERTSON NUNATAK

By Malcolm Robertson

NAMING NUNATAKS

A bleak and windswept spot – Robertson Nunatak: photo 2009: Troy Fleet, Skytraders

Not unlike the people they were named after, nunataks pale into the whiteout beside the massifs, glaciers, mountains and iceshelfs that carry the big names from Australia's role in the great southern continent. Malcolm Robertson is keen to know more about these unsung heroes from the '50s, '60s and '70s: who they were; what they did with their lives; where they are now. Here, in the first of a series of cameo articles, he lays bare the bones of his own life and career.

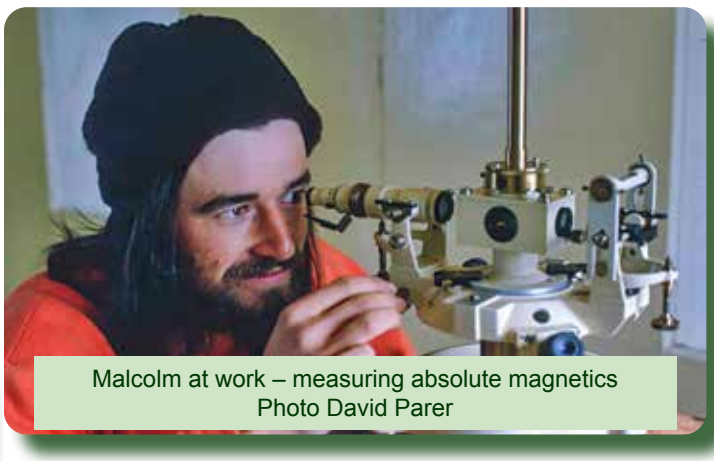
We have a lot to thank the indigenous Inuit people of Greenland, Canada and Alaska for when it comes to Australia's activities in Antarctica. We have borrowed heavily from their practices, especially in the early days of exploration with huskies and sledges, clothing and food. Many of their words have also slipped easily into our language, such as mukluk and nunatak. This story is about nunataks.

According to Wikipedia, '*a nunatak is an exposed, often rocky, element of a ridge, mountain or peak not covered with ice or snow within an ice field or glacier*.' When I was an expeditioner at Mawson in 1970, our mapping boys were in the middle of several years of doing the fine-tuning in the Prince Charles Mountains south and east of Mawson. Teams of surveyors invaded Mawson on the first ship at the end of the year and were deployed by the Pilatus aircraft and the Hughes 500 helicopters to work out exactly where and how high each mountain was. The surveyors were allocated an experienced hand as a field assistant to help set up camps, lug heavy radios and theodolites about and provide moral support during the arduous weeks of surveying.

They all went home on the last ship.

The magnetic huts were sited well away from the base to avoid magnetic interference. Photo Malcolm Robertson

One outcome of all this work was that every geographical feature in the Prince Charles Mountains, in and around the Lambert Glacier and the Amery Iceshelf, and in the general vicinity was identified, mapped, and had to be named. Hundreds of them, many of them nunataks. Hopefully someone will write in and explain how the naming process worked back then, but our favourite surveyor in the 1970-71 mapping season, John Manning, better known as 'the Blue Streak', clearly had a hand in it as I can remember him asking me one day at the end of the season if I would like a nunatak named after me. I expect he felt sorry for me as I had just been repatriated from the PCM to Mawson after receiving a belting on my thick skull from a rotating helicopter blade during unloading on one particularly bleak mountain peak, Mt Forecast. The wind was blowing a gale, the ground was on a slope and the blades were dipping up and down more than usual.



Malcolm at work – measuring absolute magnetics
Photo David Parer

So, of course, I said, 'Hell, yes!' with enthusiasm, 'why not? I'll be immortal!'

And so it happened and I thought no more of it until a few years ago when my son Jeremy, who at that stage of his own career was flying for Qantas, received an email from one of his pilot mates who had been piloting one of Skytraders' Antarctica supply flights along the coast over the Amery, the PCM and Mawson. Attached to the email was a photo taken out of the cockpit window. Jeremy's friend

asked if this miserable, windswept, bleak lump of rock identified as Robertson Nunatak on the plane's navigation system had anything to do with him?

And so, finally, I had a photo of my nunatak and that led me to do a tiny bit of research to discover Wikipedia's page called *The Nunataks of MacRobertson Land*. There, in all their glory, was a list of 64 nunataks named after the unsung heroes of Australia's long occupation of the Australian Antarctic Territory. There were diesel mechanics, radio operators, electricians, cooks, carpenters, scientists and technicians, a virtual catalogue of the glue that held our Antarctic operations together and the skills that kept us all alive.

Click on a nunatak and Wikipedia tells you who the nunatak is named after. Mine says '*named for M.J.M. Robertson, a geophysicist at Mawson Station in 1970, who took part in the ANARE Prince Charles Mountains survey in 1971*'. It even creates a link from our name to tell the world more about us but none of the links takes an enquiring mind further, and that's what got me thinking about these stories. Every one of us has a story to tell, so let's tell them, first in *Aurora*, then on to Wikipedia. Here's mine:

The seed to sign up for a stint in Antarctica had been well and truly sown while I was at school. Among our many fascinating teachers was one John Béchervaise who, in the course of telling us many tall tales and true, proudly told us that he had been 'four times leader of Australia's Antarctic expeditions'. He had written several books about his experiences which we devoured with enthusiasm.

Preparing the sledges Inuit-style with new leather strapping
Photo David Parer

So, on graduating in physics in 1968, and seeing an advertisement for two geophysicists to go to the Antarctic, I applied to the Bureau of Mineral Resources, now Geoscience Australia.

After a year learning the basic ropes of the tiny corner of geoscience that needed to be done in Antarctica, my colleague John Meath and I were despatched to Macquarie Island and Mawson respectively. Apart from the helicopter incident, our years were largely unexceptional, comprising daily recording of seismic and geomagnetic data which we sent home to Canberra, and the usual activities of station life with which you are all familiar.

On RTA in March 1971, my geophysics career continued with BMR for another seven years, with the work involving three-month field trips to some of Australia's most isolated regions to undertake more measurements and to write up the data collected. Although interesting, I could see that field work and science was not really the direction I wished to go with my work, preferring a more urban life style and less rigorous mental challenges, so I signed up for a part-time economics degree (no rigour needed) to broaden my mind and in 1978 eventually moved to CSIRO as a fully-fledged policy bureaucrat (definitely no rigour needed!). Good grief, I can hear you all saying – but it was interesting work with rigour replaced by common sense and clear thinking. I mostly got home at a reasonable hour; life in Canberra was easy living (if a little cold sometimes) and, like in the Antarctic, I felt working in CSIRO was doing something useful for the nation.

So for the next 25 years I worked with some of Australia's finest scientific leaders in a range of capacities to help them with the research challenges facing our nation. I graduated from policy work and meandered my way through the mire of a large bureaucracy through strategic planning and finally to media and communication where I found a useful and challenging niche. Life moves in strange ways, as my media work was with the insect division, a far cry from my degree in physics.

Malcolm today - enjoying MG touring in New Zealand near Mt Ruapehu. Photo David Spiegel

On retirement in 2003, I set up my own media company, a one-man band (my preferred mode of operating), to ensure I could keep working and keep active. My journalism focuses on classic cars and obituaries, fortunately not too many of the latter. Along the way, I married and had two children, divorced and set up a new relationship and had another child, now 21. My hobbies have been photography and old motor cars, mainly MGs, and my garage currently has four MGs in various stages of repair. Grandchildren are now starting to make their presence felt and I am motivated to delve into the family history from time to time and write that up in short stories for them and for perpetuity.

So there you have it. A life in a nutshell; a name on a nunatak. Have a look at the list of 64 nunataks of MacRobertson Land and if your name is there, or if you can tell a story about a name that is there, but the person is no longer with us, send in your ideas or contributions to the editor, or to me, and we will do the rest. I have several on my list to follow up, starting with Trevor Luff!

And while you are writing your life stories in less than 1000 words, how about adding in your 'best and worst' memories of your time in Antarctica. Here are mine, to round off this article:

- Best Memory: standing on the spot where Mawson raised the British flag and British sovereignty was asserted on 18 February 1931, just around the corner from Taylor emperor penguin rookery. We (Luff, Eastoe, McCarthy and Robertson) had got there using the huskies, a trip of about 50 miles along the coast.

- Worst Memory: the endless darkness over the winter months.

Malcolm Robertson
musgrovemedia@netspeed.com.au
October 2022

Anniversaries & Memories

By David Pottage

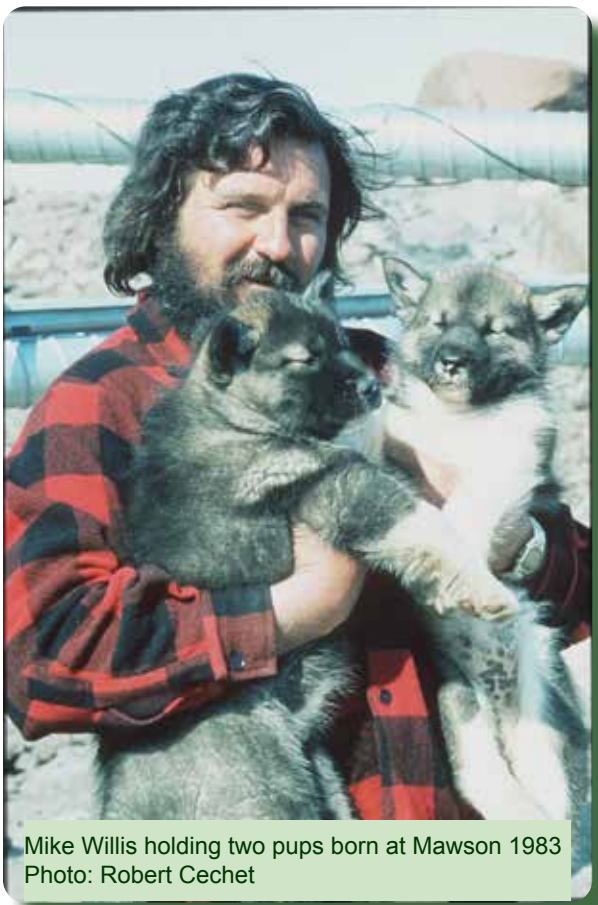
Sledge dog team in action, Mawson 1975, William Kulikowski, Ian McIntosh. Photo Russell Marnock

RUNNING WITH HUSKIES

The year 2022 celebrates three Antarctic anniversaries for me: 50 years at Casey 1972; 40 years at Mawson 1982; and 30 years at Mawson again in 1992. Each expedition has its special memories, but I must say Mawson stood out for two special reasons: **1** – the weather, in which I was involved in recording data as a weather observer – the wind blew every day and it was a challenge getting the weather balloon airborne without damaging the instrument package hitting the ground; **2** –the husky dogs.

I was so fortunate to have wintered in an era where the dogs were an integral part of station life. In the spring of 1982 I participated in the gruelling journey from Mawson to Kloa emperor penguin colony and return. Four of us (Ole Werner, Peter Mentha, Anagra Jackson and myself) spent 31 days (of which nine days were blizzed in) traversing the 640-km round trip.

It was the experience of my life and I wholeheartedly thank my work colleagues, David Grant (senior observer) and Russ Henry (met technician), for filling in for me during my absence in order for me to participate. Each travel day (approximately 30 km) had its many challenges due to weather and surface conditions, particularly crossing King Edward V111 Gulf from Mooney Island to Kloa where rafted ice, in places six feet high, made travel almost impossible. At the end of each day we fed and settled the dogs, then erected the two polar pyramid tents, lit the Tilly lamp and Optimus primus stove and cooked ourselves a meal and dried our clothes. The exuberant feeling of accomplishing our destination each day was exhilarating.



Mike Willis holding two pups born at Mawson 1983
Photo: Robert Cechet

I returned to Mawson in 1985 and enjoyed my job in challenging conditions and again participated in the Spring dog journey. This year we had so many expeditioners who were interested in doing the trip that we split the journey into two parts. Four went from Mawson to Kloa and four returned from Kloa to Mawson, meaning eight expeditioners experienced the unique dogsledding journey. This wasn't a bad idea as it also meant less time away from station and our primary jobs.

I travelled in the Hägglund to Kloa with the change-over party. (As an aside, I mention here the bad luck to Tony Everett who was dog man and trainer of the teams and pups. He was

to lead one leg of the trip only to damage his ankle a week or two before the start and had to withdraw.)

While waiting for the dog teams to arrive at Kloa, we visited the rookery to count the penguins and collect faeces samples. Handling plastic bags in 25-knot winds with blowing snow is no fun. At 1800 we walked to the end of Kloa point with binoculars, looking for the dog teams. We sighted one team and fired flares to guide them in. By 2245 they still hadn't arrived, so we went to the point again and saw flares from the sea ice near Styles Bluff. We contacted VLV, suggesting we take the Hägglunds out to meet the team. We went off just after midnight, after preheating the engines for 30/40 minutes.

All the dogs were exhausted, as well as the humans. We put the dogs in the Hägglunds and towed the sledge back to Kloa, arriving at 0230. We pegged out the dogs, who seemed alright except for UBB who had a frozen foot. I took him into the tent and applied heated water continuously for a couple of hours. At 0500, UBB had a convulsion and vomited a vial brown mess. Perhaps pemmican. He went limp, and we cleared his airway, and continued cardiac massage for 15/20 minutes, but there was no response. He had died. We removed him outside and finally went to bed at 0600. In worsening weather, we slept till noon.

With the dogs' condition on takeover and the loss of UBB, it was obvious they couldn't handle the weight of the sledges in the conditions encountered. There was no choice but to drastically reduce the weight. Four fibreglass sledge boxes were immediately reduced to three. From essential items to non-essential, everything was graded and what didn't fit in was returned with the Hägglunds. Food was as simple as we could get (dehydrated, soups, milk, sledge biscuits, peanut butter/honey). All up, our food box weight (including utensils) was approximately 20 kg. Dog pemmican was spread very well between Kloa and Mawson for the return journey (along with seal meat at Cape Wilkins) therefore the most blocks on each sledge at any one time was 55. This further reduced the sledge to acceptable weight for 9 dogs (Ahab's team) and 8 (Noogis team).

Last huskies on deck of *Aurora Australis*, Hobart 1992
Photo: Jan Dallas

Three continuous days of heavy track with 25/30-knot headwinds took toll on dogs and men. The last 10 kilometres into Cape Wilkins was sheer hell. This again made us review sledge weights and every item onboard was checked and further reduction from the two sledges of approximately 45 kg (ropes, tools, nuts and bolts, hammer, ice axe etc etc) together with approximately 50 kg in dog blocks (the dogs ate them) made a great difference. Our trip from Cape Wilkins to Mawson was a pleasure.

In 1992 I wintered again in this marvellous place enduring the challenges of the weather and environment. Alan Rooke and myself shared the responsibility of 'dogman' caring for the dogs together with Mark Conde and many others. The devastating news arrived mid-year that the Australian Government had decided that the huskies were not complimentary to the environmental standards that were being internationally implemented. This decision caused a lot of angst among our expeditioners. The upshot was that the American husky adventure groups (Paul Shurke and Outward Bound) would take the dogs, as long as they could be delivered that year. Well, all frantic logistics were in place and the first voyage for the summer of 1992 in November saw the dogs repatriated. The journey from Mawson to Minnesota has been well documented in previous articles and the ABC documentary *The Last Husky*. I'm very encouraged that the dogs were very well received in Ely Minnesota and were well cared for, which was the main aim for their welfare. A great hole had been established in the Antarctic adventure of dogsledding forever. Six older dogs were left at Mawson in 1993 and were repatriated by Rob Nash with loving care.

These lines from Henry Lawson's poem *The Teams* certainly applied on many days, but when you come to weigh the good and bad, above all, the great comradeship and personal achievement shared amongst us is there for keeps:

And thus – with glimpses of home and rest –
Are the long, long journeys done;
And thus – 'tis a thankless life at best –
Is distance fought in the mighty West,
And the lonely battle won.

I never returned to Mawson but did one last expedition to Macquarie Island in 1996 and enjoyed the marvellous camaraderie of Antarctic expedition life with wonderful people. I really acknowledge the privilege I experienced in an era where commonsense, good judgement and sensible rules applied, particularly in off-station journeys.

To have a beer at the end of the day was an integral part of station life and enjoyment. The company of female expeditioners since the 1980s made expedition life in isolation as normal as could be expected to society in general.

All recognition and medals to the lucky Antarctic adventurer pales into insignificance when the forgotten wife is left alone to raise the family of the long-lost husband. To my late wife, Bernadette – a very long overdue heavenly appreciation.

Thanks for the memories. Dave

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Dog Trip to Vanderford Glacier

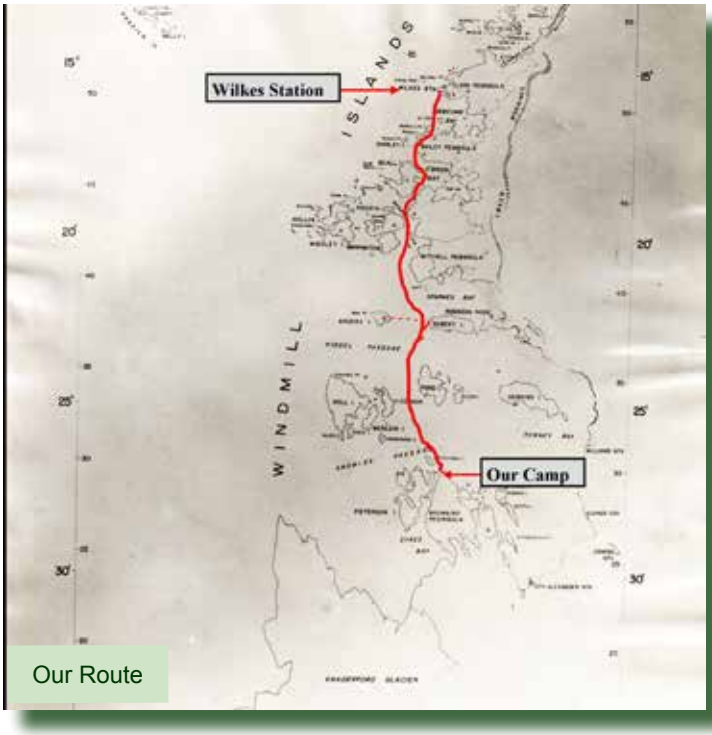
A sea ice adventure with 11 Huskies, two companions and a heavily loaded Nansen sled.
By Winston Nickols

Ron Harris & Peter Maslen

Wilkes Antarctica,

SEPTEMBER 24th-29th 1968.

During the year, the possibility of making a dog trip was talked about, and as it became known that I had some snow camping experience, they asked if I would like to accompany Peter Maslen and Ron Harris on a journey south of the station to see the Vanderford Glacier – a massive ice tongue at the southern end of the Windmill Island group. It was a great opportunity to experience the historic mode of travel that had once been so popular.



Our Route

Tuesday SEPTEMBER 24th:
We left Wilkes Station at 0900 after an early breakfast, last-minute packing and harnessing the dogs – an exhausting business. It took all our strength to hold each eager dog while we fitted the harness and clipped it onto the trace. Our lead dog, Finster, was an intelligent and experienced animal that knew voice commands well. Finster was a very special dog and I think the team knew that. He realised that his job was just to steer the team. He seldom pulled. The dogs took off with such speed that Peter jumped off the sled and ran the first part of the way with me. Ron held on desperately as the sled lurched over the broken ice and snow of the shoreline tide cracks, pausing when he reached the bay so we could catch up.

Snow was falling heavily, limiting our visibility, but the dogs settled down, running with the characteristic tail curled forward. We made good time across Newcombe Bay, past Repstat (now known as Casey Station) and Shirley Island. We rounded the ice cliffs of Shirley Island and saw O'Brien Bay on our left where Brian and I had walked along the cliff tops one evening last summer. We travelled for almost an hour before entering Roberston Channel and soon saw Ardery Island. We were walking and jogging in 15 cm of soft snow, making difficult going for the dogs as the sled was not sliding well, frequently becoming bogged down in drifts. I worked up a sweat, even though the temperature was well below freezing.

We reached the headland and Sparkes Bay, where we had originally decided to make our first camp, but found we had plenty of time to push on further. In poor visibility, we crossed Sparkes Bay and halted briefly at Odbert Island to rest the dogs. Then we were away again to Ford Island, where the snowfall thickened and we stopped to discuss our situation.

We had been able to see the Browning Peninsular for some time, but it was now lost in the whiteness of the snow. We decided to investigate the possibilities of camping on the island if visibility did not improve, but as we tried to climb up onto the land we fell through a snow-covered slot near the water's edge. We continued southward.

Late in the afternoon, arriving at Peterson Island near Browning Peninsular, we ran the dogs up onto the shore ice to camp. We unharnessed the dogs and clipped them onto a line staked out on the ice. Then the Polar Pyramid tent was erected and a meal

prepared. The temperature had averaged about -14^{0}C all day. During the night, the wind increased to gale force causing some anxiety as the tent was pitched, on ice, on the shore-line – the only reasonably level area available.

Wednesday SEPTEMBER 25th:
By morning, the wind had dropped. We set out from camp to gain a better view of Vanderford Glacier but, to our dismay, found the sea ice carrying 30 cm of snow with a thin crust on the surface. Walking slowly in full polar dress, we climbed a peak from which we had an unobstructed view and took some photographs. We noticed a small penguin rookery high up on one of the hills, where the rock formation was mainly granite. That night a blizzard set in. The wind blew gale force throughout the night in a blinding drift. We were warm and draught-free with plenty of room for cooking and sleeping in our tent, although the sounds of the sea ice grinding against the shore sent squeals, groans and clunking noises through our pillows. Sleep was difficult.

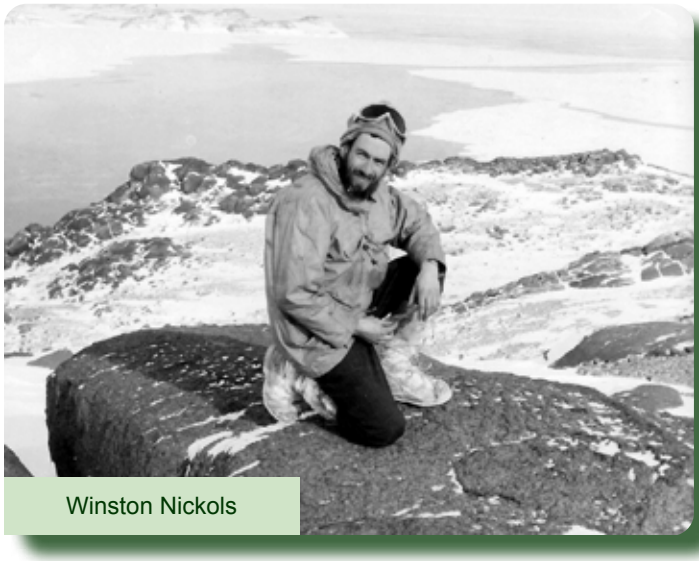
Thursday SEPTEMBER 26th:
The blizzard continued. When I fed the dogs, I found them curled up, nose to tail and covered with ice. Several were actually frozen into the hole where they lay, so I chipped their coats free with the ice axe. We hoped the wind would remove the light powder snow from the sea ice without removing the ice itself.


Finster

With the hand-cranked transceiver, I received two telegrams from home, including one from Elizabeth, forwarded by the radio operator at Wilkes Station on our daily sked at 1700. The strong wind continued so we prepared for another anxious night. The dogs howled in wolf-like manner all through the night, because of the wild conditions. What a din they made!

Friday SEPTEMBER 27th:
Calm weather through the night brought a heavy snowfall depositing 15 cm of powder snow. We moved off, again in low visibility, but the dogs pulled well and we made good time over rough patches of sea ice, heading north from Browning Peninsular to Odbert Island where we were forced to stop because of rising wind and drift.

A characteristic of the Nansen sled is its ability to bend and twist. Built with strong flexible timber, with all the joints lashed together


Winston Nickols

with leather thongs, it handles rough ice very well. The foot brake was only used when harnessing up.

Our intention had been to camp near Sparkes Bay, however sheer ice cliffs for much of the coast meant there was no easy route to get the dogs and sled ashore. We set up on Odbert Island where we fed the dogs and had a well-earned rest. Our Fairy Down 'Everest' sleeping bags on insulating board slabs kept us very warm.

Saturday night SEPTEMBER 28th:
We were out of bed and walking the mile or so across firm sea ice to Ardery Island by mid-morning. Getting ashore was tricky because of soft fresh sea ice along the tide cracks, but we skipped over the mushy areas and began the climb up steep rocks and snow slopes to the summit where we could see, to the west, icebergs that had been carved off the Vanderford Glacier. We could see the whole area from Browning Peninsular and Peterson Glacier north to Hollin, Midgley and Warrington Islands. Nelly Island was just visible through the haze. As we had discussed moving on to Repstat that night, we headed back to the tent. The sea ice to the west of Ardery Island looked very unstable and there were large areas of open water. We crossed the tide-crack on a spongy mush of 'plastic' sea water and reached camp half an hour later. After a quick snack of stew and Antarctic (sledging) biscuits we broke camp, harnessed the dogs and left for Repstat, 10 kilometres away. The dogs knew the way and did not require guiding at any stage. Despite the sled tipping over in high drifts, we made good time, arriving at Repstat in a heavy snowfall at about 1630. Even though visibility at this stage was only about 50 metres, Brian saw us arrive and ran down to meet us.

This trip was very strenuous, with some cause for anxiety should the sea become rough out beyond the frozen limit, causing the sea ice to break up which, with the prevailing wind from the plateau, could push it out to sea, leaving us marooned on an island (or on a floating ice floe). There could be no help; there was no boat available. We had covered a distance of 44 kilometres of sledging, mostly in gloomy overcast weather, including 22 kilometres on the first day.

From the comfort of my bedroom, after a shower and dinner, and double feature movie, *The Malta Story* and *Rear Window*, I reflected on the great thrill of a journey in such a cold, remote, lonely place where few people have ever been – totally dependent on our own skills and the ever-willing spirit of our friends the Huskies.

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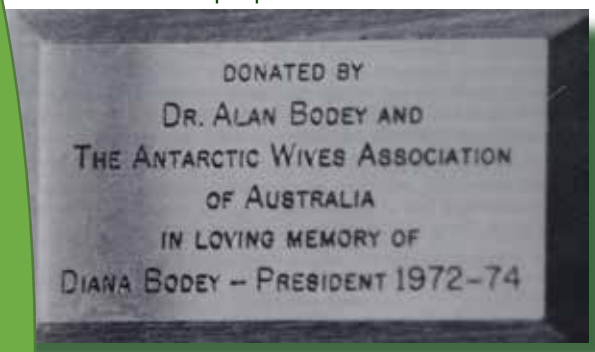
Antarctic Family & Friends Association


Photo J Hösel

WIVES & KINFOLK

Just before Easter in 1983 my mother was in hospital recovering from surgery. She was in a ward in the private section of the Alfred Hospital. As I was only 11 years old and the ward was in an old part of the hospital, it was fun to walk around and look at the sweeping staircase and play in the old creaky lift. At the bottom of the stairs was a plaque that read:



My thoughts were, wow – there are Antarctic Wives.

In January 1991 I met a young man whom I thought was wonderful. On one of our evening walks around the neighbourhood he casually said to me: 'I'm going to work in Antarctica one day and I'm not getting married until I'm 30'. I filed that away and thought, we'll be married before then.

We were married in 2000; Brian was 29, turning 30 in July. In June the same year he said – on another one of our walks – 'I've rung the Division and I'm applying in January.' He sailed to Mawson as a plumber in 2002. And so, I became an Antarctic Wife.

THE BEGINNINGS

No attention has been given to the shadowy figures of the women the men leave behind when they serve their twelve-to-seventeen-month term in Antarctica. No comparison can be made between these women and the wives of servicemen. At the end of the season, after the last ship leaves and the ice begins to close, though the sky may fall in, a husband cannot return until the ships arrive once again in the following summer.

What sort of women are these? What do they think of the long parting? How do they cope with the love-hate relationship which Antarctica's hold on their men brings? What do they do while they wait for the returning ships?

This is the story of the organisation formed by them and for them, the Antarctic Wives Association, the Antarctic Wives and Kinfolk Association and now renamed the Antarctic Family and Friends Association of Australia. (Page xiv WYTOY WYSSA 1990)

'Don't do it, don't do it, advised Lady Mawson, 'you'll only start a wailing wall for women!' But Nel Law was unconvinced. Both women were sitting in her living room discussing the wives and families of Antarctic expeditioners. In the summer of 1965, Nel stood on the wharf farewelling her husband together with the relatives of the departing expeditioners. It was the 16th year she had done so, and Nel reasoned that if there were over 70 personnel on the Antarctic bases there were at least 70 women in the Antarctic community with no support and who were unknown to each other.

On 3 August 1965 a meeting of interested parties was held at the Melbourne office of the Antarctic Division and an interim committee formed. In February 1966, the first members of the Antarctic Wives Association assembled in Melbourne and established a committee with Nel Law as Foundation President, Jan Styles as Vice President, Joan Saxton as Secretary and Edna Morrison as Treasurer.

The charter of the Association was simple:

1. To be a social link between Antarctic wives, mothers, and fiancées, past, present, and future.
2. To be a source of support, encouragement and comfort to any member requiring help at any time.

Nel Law also designed a badge for the association: a beautiful snow petrel which also headed our stationery. In 1987, with many women working in Antarctica, the constitution was reviewed and the name of the Association changed to Antarctic Wives and Kinfolk Association of Australia.

The following were the stated objectives:

a. To be a social link between Association Members past and present.
b. To be a source of support, encouragement and comfort to any member requiring help at any time.
c. To foster interest in the activities of the Association.
d. To foster interest in the Antarctic Continent and Sub- Antarctic Islands.

Membership included the following two groups:

Ordinary Members – next of kin including wife, husband, mother, father, fiancée or boyfriend or girlfriend as nominated by the expeditioner.

Associate Members – granted to any other person nominated by an expeditioner. Associate members were not entitled to vote or hold office.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1994 the Association again changed its name, and the following motion was recorded:

a. That the Antarctic Wives and Kinfolk Association of Australia be restructured under the new name of Antarctic Family and Friends Association.
b. The ideals of the Association to be the same as those proposed by Nel Law in 1965.
c. The snow petrel badge to remain the same and will still be available to members only.

At the time when Australia's first Antarctic bases were established, communication was by radio only and the reception was often poor. All messages were partly in code to reduce the numbers of words needing to be sent. In 1949, as more personnel came to winter down South, it was evident that a person was needed to take responsibility for these cables as they were becoming too numerous for the typists.

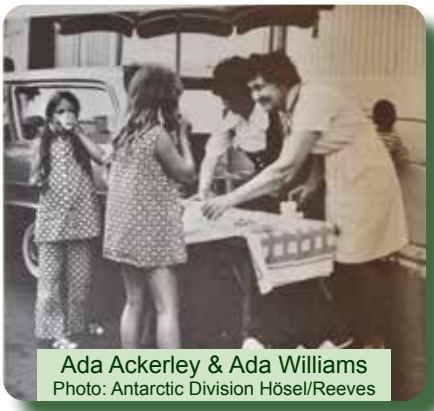
Enter Mrs Mac. Mynwe McDonald worked for the Division for 19 years during which she expanded the supplementary code. It became known as the Antarctic Code, our code.

Mrs Mac after her retirement with Marj Twigg and Lady Casey, 1967
Photo: S Robinson

When she retired, along came Shelagh Robinson, 'Mrs Rob', who again expanded our code. During the 1950s and 60s, expeditioners and their families were allotted a certain amount of free words each month. After these were exhausted, each word was costed. The Antarctic Code was popular as it said so much in one word. Many partners would also translate or make their own variation of the code so that their message was private.

Nowadays, with communications so much better with telephone and email, there are still restrictions on facetime during Summer due to the bandwith allowed. During Winter, video and WhatsApp messages are more frequent as there are fewer people on the Stations. However, there is still a need for the Antarctic Family and Friends Association as we can listen to the person left behind and fully understand and empathise with them. Other family members tend to listen with the attitude: 'Well, you let him go, why are you so upset' and 'To build a house you must have a good foundation, how can you have a good start to a marriage when the husband is away.' They were not very helpful.

Like Mrs Mac and Mrs Rob, another Guardian Angel was Mary Adams from the Calling Antarctica programme on Radio Australia. Mary would collect voices of loved ones back home and broadcast three times each Friday at 1pm, 2pm and 7.15pm on different frequencies – in case the broadcast wasn't clear on the first run for the expeditioners. Family Liaison Officers/Family Assistance are still required today to help expeditioners and their families during their time apart. These have included: Mary Wilds, Mary Mulligan, Jill Whelan and today, Vanessa Kearney and Sarah Oliver. Another part of our history in Melbourne was the Drinks wagon which came into existence in the summer of 1968.



Ada Ackerley & Ada Williams
Photo: Antarctic Division Hösel/Reeves

In the back of a station wagon sat two urns full of lemon and orange cordial and crushed ice; outside, a card table, umbrella, paper cups and tins of biscuits. It was a free service with the ANARE Club financing the ice, cordial and biscuits for the entire time the wagon operated. It received the nickname 'The Hand Maidens of the Drink Wagon' which remained until the Antarctic Division moved to Hobart in 1981.

We also published a newsletter that contained a section called Bergy Bits, where women were free to talk about their experiences: Lynn, '*There are a thousand emotions involved in Peter going. There's the anger when I have to pull out the lawnmower, sadness when I have no one to read the Sunday papers with, frustration when I can't get to the right spot for that itch on my back.'* Margaret, *'Now I fully appreciate a comment made by my friend, Joan Saxton, some years ago on the subject of one's husband returning home after a long absence – how nice it will be to say those three little words, "ASK YOUR FATHER!".'* Carole, *'Life has been difficult for us since Dave left to fulfil his Antarctic dream and those of you who have experienced this separation will know what I mean. But the happy times have been there also, like the chance to meet other Antarctic wives'.*

In 2001 my husband left on the *Polar Bird* to follow his dream. I went to my first meeting in February 2002 with my sister in tow as I was very nervous about what I was heading into. We parked across from the Novotel in the hotel carpark on Collins Street; we entered the bistro and were welcomed so warmly I felt at home straight away.

On 23rd October 2005 we celebrated our 40th Anniversary at The Royal Society in Melbourne. Phil Law was in attendance, as were many other members of the Association. Phil spoke about the Association fondly and how proud he was of Nel. Phil enjoyed being Patron of our Association as he felt he was continuing his wife's work. In 2015 we donated a plaque and lectern to The Division with a bequest from Nel and Phillip Law. Both were designed by our very talented Pam McDiarmid and made by local artists.

The Association is still going, albeit a little smaller in size than the earlier years. We hope to continue for many years to come and make use of modern technologies to reach out to our members – new and existing – including members who live in other states, and especially those who live in remote areas.

Tina Congues
Co-ordinator Antarctic Family and Friends 2002- present.

Jaala Watkins, Tina Congues and Charlotte Congues meet for lunch

BERGY BITS

For more station stories, visit Australian Antarctic Division website www.aad.gov.au

Compiled by Jeremy Smith

Macquarie Island

9 September

Macquarie Island (Macca) is truly a beautiful place filled with rugged terrain and spectacular wildlife. It fills our senses with a variety of sights, sounds and smells that can only be discovered to its maximum potential by exploring the island. The way this is done usually is by donning our issued field gear, throwing on our pack full of essentials like First Aid kits and bothy bags and getting those legs moving.

Now, as walking is the primary mode of transport up and down the island, a factor that can put uneasiness into most expeditioners (unless you are Urs, our seasoned Swiss mountaineer Field Training Officer who was a mountain goat in another lifetime) is the dreaded jump-up/down.

A jump-up/down is a specific route up and down the steep slopes of the plateau that encompasses the length of Macca. They are found at various points around the island, usually near the various field huts like Waterfall Bay and Hurd Point. They come in different degrees of incline and distance, covered in loose rocks and hardy tussocks which make them a definite challenge.

But don't despair, over the years the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers have marked the path with florescent orange stakes to identify the safest route. In addition there is fantastic training from the station FTO on navigating the island and all its potential hazards. But in the end, if you are going to tackle any jump-up/down, the best advice is 'Watch your step; it can be a long way down'.

Brad, Station Supply Officer

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28 October

Over two and a half thousand southern elephant seals (Mirounga leonina), the largest seal species in the world, have taken up temporary residence again on Macquarie Island's isthmus beaches – our station 'backyard' is a very important breeding habitat for this threatened species.

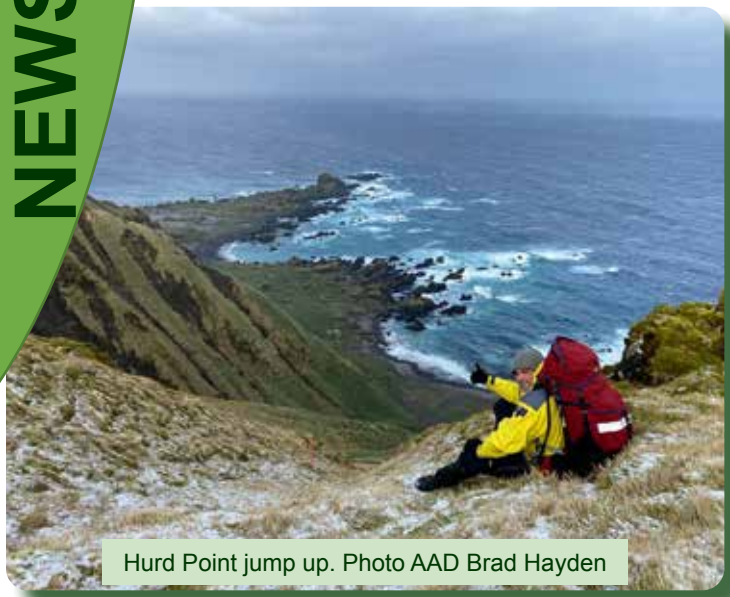
There is a lot of commotion. The females (cows) have gathered in groups called harems with their black furry pups. The much larger dominant males (known as bulls or beachmasters) are busy defending their harems from challengers. The older pups have quickly transformed into plump sleepy weaners and are dispersing – we are starting to find them all around the station.

One harem of over 200 cows is less than 50 metres from station infrastructure (the 'ANARESAT' antenna radome). Most of us can hear noises from the harems from our bedrooms, including lots of growling and snorting. It is a privilege to be living so close to these enormous extraordinary creatures.

This year's Macquarie Island temporary human residents have been helping the rangers with elephant seal counting as part of long-term monitoring. It can be quite a challenge – the largest harem near the station had over 600 cows this year and is probably the biggest harem on the island. At the peak of the seal numbers, it can take over four hours each day to count all of the isthmus elephant seals, which is usually shared between two pairs of counters. This year we're also comparing the traditional counting method to abundance estimates derived from aerial imagery.

Additional elephant seal counts along other sections of coastline are undertaken each year on 15 October. It doubles as an opportunity to pick up rubbish that has washed up, though our backpacks get heavy quickly – sadly, there is a lot of rubbish. This year we found the usual plastic bottles, bottle lids, ropes and fishing gear, as well as a toothbrush. Some of the fishing gear and the rusty metal barrels are too big or heavy and will need to be fetched another time.

Andrea and Jarrod (Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service rangers)



Hurd Point jump up. Photo AAD Brad Hayden

Southern elephant seal bulls fighting. Photo Andrea Turbett

Mawson

9 September

In exciting news, we have approval to send a team into the deep field in an attempt to reach Kloa Point. When the dogs were at Mawson, one of the most notable sledging journeys was the annual sea ice run to Kloa, a 650-kilometre return trip. Along the way a census of the various emperor penguin colonies would be completed. The last dog run to Kloa was made in 1992 and the sled used, Speedfiend, is now part of the dog-room display in our very own Red Shed.

Kloa Point is approximately 260 kilometres across the sea ice west from station, a prominent coastal point projecting from the east side of Edward VIII Plateau and the winter home of a small emperor penguin colony. This area has only been rarely visited since the dogs' departure with the most recent trip conducted in the early 2000s. So, we are embarking on an extremely rare activity – to have a team out such a long distance from station, self-reliant and camping over a number of nights. A true expedition!

Bec J, Mawson SL

7 October

The mission – to traverse over 350 kilometres west on the sea ice to Kloa Point to photograph the penguin colony, which had not been successfully visited by a wintering team since 2001. Additionally, we were to locate and return old camping caches from the dog-running days, perform much needed hut maintenance, and most importantly, photograph the Fold Island Colony.

The team – chef Donna, field training officer Mark, sparky Nathan, dieso Tom, station supply officer Tyson and plumber Ducky.

The situation – to take the red and orange Häggs fully loaded with supplies and the poly sledge carrying LPG for the field huts, and Special Antarctic Blend fuel for the Hägglunds. The poly sledge is capable of supporting 1500 kilos and still floating, in the unlikely event of a breakthrough of the sea ice.

GPS track from Mawson to Kloa Point across sea ice (AAD)

Day 1 – the first night was spent in luxury at Colbeck Hut (97 km). Some minor maintenance was completed and dinner was prepared and served by Donna and Tyson. It included a hefty cheese platter, cementing in the ol' saying that the most important thing to pack for a field trip is the chef.

Days 2 & 3 – the team headed some 68 km west to Ledingham Depot. This less impressive but still luxuriously sized hut, affectionately known as a zucchini, would be our home for the next two nights. We completed annual electrical and plumbing maintenance including installing a new hut vent. We scrambled up some hills in the local area and visited, from afar, the small emperor penguin colony at Fold Island. It is worth noting that although it was a small colony, the adult-to-chick ratio was almost 1:1.

Day 4 – some inclement weather had the team on a rest day. We then packed everything we needed back into the Häggs, left anything we could afford to, as the next three nights would be spent in polar tents.

Day 5 – the team spent most of the day travelling to Broka Island (75 km), stopping only for photos and to inspect any drill cracks. Arriving at 5pm, a suitable camp site was found and tents erected. Night one of camping would be a learning curve, teaching us the harsh reality of the environment we were staying in, and just how different it is from staying in the warmth of a heated field hut. Everyone fell asleep with dreams of cheese, biscuits and dinners prepared by Donna. Camping life dinner had consisted of instant soup and dehydrated ration packs affectionately known as, but not made of, RATS.

Day 6 – the next morning in a cool breeze and with cooler hands, we would pack down the tents before a quick brekkie of warm water, weetbix and milo – try it, you'll love it. We then hit the (ice) road for Crooked Island and the Oygarden group. We were hoping to find some historical caches and a suitable camp site at Moonee Island before a final run to Kloa Point. Once at Crooked Island, Tyson's 'skua-like' eyes spotted an old campsite where we recovered some glass jars of preserves and old cans – legacy waste from the campsites that were once used by the dog-run teams. We removed the items, thus doing our part to keep Antarctica clean.

The plan was to make camp in the Oygardens. But, Antarctica had different plans. We discovered an enormous crack in the sea ice to the south of our track. After multiple inspections and drills and travelling 20 km along it, we could not find a suitable crossing point. What were we to do? We couldn't get to the Oygardens and we couldn't head north to Kloa due to dwindling day light and Hägglunds' fuel levels. After a quick conflab and some number crunching from Tommy, the plan was struck to return to Crooked Island. We would make camp before attempting one last run to Kloa Point the next day. But would we make it?

Camping on night two was the polar opposite to the night before (pardon the pun). Everyone had opted for extra layers, an early night and a different flavoured dehydrated meal. I couldn't write this without mentioning that the 'savoury steak fingers' are possibly the worst dehydrated meal available (behind tuna mornay).

Day 7 – the sun was beating down and the track was looking good, but the cracks...oh, the cracks! Every time we tried to turn north from the Oygarden group, we found a crack. Most were caused by the pressure of multiple glaciers converging into the bay. Finally, we found a line and we were through. The wind picked up and the visibility dropped, but luckily only for 10 kilometres, and then, like something out of a fairytale, the skies opened, the light shone through and we made it to Kloa Point. 106 kilometres!

But where were the penguins? 'Are we in the right spot?' Tyson exclaimed. 'There's a few penguins' noted Donna. She was right. About 100 penguins were popping in and out of a large crack to the north, but it was far from a colony and notably there were no chicks.

We stood for a while watching them pop, frolic and toboggan their way around the point. After scrambling up the hill to gain a better vantage point, Nathan noted that all the tobogganing penguins were heading in the same direction – around the point and south west towards the glacier – before disappearing behind a bergy bit. Could that be it? Could we be so close, yet so far from the

colony? After setting off on foot in the same direction, the moment arrived with the recognisable chirping of a baby emperor penguin. Rounding the berg, the colony revealed itself under the shadow of the glacier. We had done it. We had reached Kloa colony.

Emperor penguin colony at Kloa Point. Photo AAD Tom Lievense

High-fives all round, and then the most important part – photos for Barb (penguin researcher extraordinaire). We found a nice viewpoint at a safe distance and spent what felt like hours watching and photographing the penguins. Some were inquisitive, bringing their chicks up to investigate these strange mammals that had appeared out of nowhere (remembering this rookery had not seen a human in generations). We maintained a safe distance, always remaining vigilant to not disturb. After we had our fill (although we could have stayed for days) we needed to head for home.

After another night in the tents, a beautiful sunrise had us on the road to Ledingham's Depot. The final legs home included a stop at Proclamation Point to visit the site where Sir Douglas Mawson claimed this area of Antarctica for the Commonwealth, and a viewing of Taylor Glacier emperor penguin colony. Those of us who hadn't previously licked a glacier, gave it a try.

We arrived home on a Wednesday, marking 11 days in the deep field.

A huge thanks is needed to the team who remained at Mawson, keeping the lights on, the water pumping and the food flowing (we hear that we may be rationing chips and gravy for the rest of the year). But most of all, thanks to Mark, Bec (SL), and the team in Kingston for making this all happen. The amount of work behind the scenes is inconceivable and the memories and friendships made throughout the trip will last my lifetime; as I think it will for all on the trip.

Ducky

Emperor penguin. Photo Dale Jacobsen

Casey

19 August

Well, the time has come. The Wilkins Aerodrome team is finally heading off back up the hill. The Wilkins team has been living at Casey station since April. While there have been many jobs to do around station, the main role for the team is to establish and then maintain the 3.5-kilometre-long ice runway at Wilkins Aerodrome. The key for this year is to prepare Wilkins for the first inter-continental flight of the season, which officially opens Casey's 22/23 summer!

Wilkins runway is put to bed in March and remains in hibernation over the cold winter months when the weather isn't favourable for flying aircraft into Antarctica. The winterising process involves dragging all the buildings (which are on sleds) using our heavy machinery into a winter location, then relocating the machines to Casey so that maintenance and annual services can be conducted in the comfort of a heated workshop. We also drain all the services of water to prevent pipes bursting when the buildings freeze.

Over the past couple of months we have been slowly relocating our machinery back to Wilkins (a 140-km round trip from Casey Station each time) and getting prepared for the day where we will depart from station and try to wake the runway from its deep sleep. One of the most critical phases is the first few days, when we need to get the buildings powered up and heated so that our team has a warm and safe refuge. Then begins the arduous process of preparing the runway, which will take the best part of two and a half months. With the runway left alone over the winter we will have all the snow build-up to contend with: a mammoth amount varying from a few centimetres up to metres deep, over an area of approximately 265 acres, all to be completely removed back to blue ice.

Dylan Scott – Wilkins Aerodrome Manager, Winter '22

Transporting vehicle back to Wilkins Aerodrome
Photo AAD D. Scott

21 October

What do you do when your tractor is broken and the postal service doesn't have an icebreaker available to deliver spare parts? Well, at Casey station, we jump on the phone to the Air Force and ask them if they wouldn't mind picking up a couple of spare parts and throwing them out of the back of a plane for us.

That's exactly what happened this month when it was found that two out of the three snow blowers used to prepare the ice runway at the end of winter failed. One was in poor condition, the other, catastrophic. We were warned that the parts delivery would be 'just an air drop – pretty much it happens then it's over.' However, we're still remembering and talking over the intricacies of this spectacular operation.

Apart from confirming part numbers, specifications, load weights and dimensions of the all important spare parts, it was also crucial to collect a few important space fillers to ensure the cargo did not rattle around. This consisted of chocolate, cling wrap, mail bags, and a few other items from the 'if you have space for it' list.

The next order of business from Casey's perspective was the formation of the drop-zone crew, observers crew and station crews to stay back and cover standard Fire Team and Search and Rescue positions. (These teams are rarely called upon, but due to our self-sufficient status in our little isolated home, they are always on standby.)

Work tasks for the day were shuffled to allow the provision of compressed training to the receivers and communications personnel. But of course, nothing goes 100% to plan in Antarctica. This was proven when my morning tea break was interrupted as I, not formally trained in communications, learned that the Zetron Communications interface incorporates a phone line of sorts, and how to answer it. I rapidly assumed the position of 'Mission Control' (as I like to think of it) and began rattling off facts and figures for the latest update, frantically scratching down latitudes and longitudes, followed with numbers in 'Zulu' time. I relayed the info back to the operator: the Stallion was on track and on time, and the drop zone crew were at the ready, having rolled out the 'We are go' blue tarp to signal the pilot.

C-17A Globemaster flying low overhead
Photo AAD Brenden Sainty

Over the gentle hum of our station power generators, the roar of our C-17 delivery transport began to rise. A grey shape took form in the sky, which I went out to meet with my camera.

We witnessed the aircraft surveying the ground conditions and saw the rear door open on the final approach. Seeing two squares fall out and the parachutes deploying through a magnified lens was an impressive sight. To know that the critical spares needed to secure our way home were contained inside those packages was an elating feeling, I can tell you.

The snow blowers have since been repaired and tested. Now we just have to wait for some clear weather for our Wilkins team 'up the hill' to prepare a very flat piece of ice for the summer's first flight to land on, so we can hand over to the incoming crew and then head home.

Brenden Sainty (Electrician)

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Davis

7 October

Over the past couple of weeks, the team here at Davis has taken advantage of some incredible weather with temperatures hovering around the minus 10° Celsius mark and the wind has pretty much been non-existent. There have been plenty of recreational trips out and around the Vestfold Hills, as well as a few opportune work trips, including the delivery of the new snow groomer to our remote airfield at Woop Woop.

One of the many recreational trips involved several people and a couple of Häggs. They made their way to Platcha Hut and Trajer Ridge melon where they embarked on a hike from one to the other, swapped Häggs and returned to station. By all accounts this was a memorable trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all. This also saw the closing of Ellis Narrows (one of the temperamental sea ice areas) due to poor sea ice conditions. This serves as a sobering reminder of the dwindling time remaining here on station for the 75th ANARE.

Hiking near Ellis Narrows. Photo AAD Hayden Reid

Not everyone was able to get out on recreational trips during these times though, as a few of us had to stay behind to make sure the lights stayed on and nothing went up in flames. The on-call trades and fire teams have been biding their time and are all looking forward to cashing in on this glorious weather. There is still plenty to see and do in the coming weeks.

Everyone on station has also been busy with packing and processing their UPE (unaccompanied personal effects) for their return home. As our time here is ending, and our transport home is just around the corner, excitement has started to grow with anticipation of what is to come in the following weeks. Between the diesos, preparing to groom the ski-way by enjoying a few warm-up laps with the snow groomer on the sea ice, to other trades tying-off loose ends and ensuring everything continues to run smoothly, the wheels are in motion for a (hopefully) successful change over in a couple of weeks. Until then its business as usual.

Hayden Reid, Electrician

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Whither the Ice?

By Dr David Ellyard - Science Communicator

The potential for rising global temperatures to impact on Antarctic ice, and thereby on the wider environment, has been the subject of recent news reports and analysis. This article seeks to summarise the current scientific understanding of this important matter. Much information from reputable sources is available on-line and some references are given at the end of the piece

Where we are now.

Antarctica has a lot of ice. The icecap that covers all but two percent of the continent extends over 14 million square kilometres. With an averages depth of 2000 metres (up to 5000 metres in places), the volume of ice totals 26 million cubic kilometres. That would cool a lot of Scotch. If it were all to melt, seas levels around the globe would rise by 60 metres.

The icecap is a vast dome, reaching 5000 metres altitude at its highest. The seemingly solid ice is really slightly plastic and flows downhill under gravity towards the sea. It flows faster in certain regions dubbed glaciers or ice streams. When it meets the sea, the ice usually continues to flow, forming large areas of floating ice known as ice shelves or glacier tongues.

The last act of the moving ice can be to break away ('calve') from the edges of the ice shelf or the glacier tongue to become free-floating icebergs, which can be hundreds of square kilometres in size. If they drift far enough north into warmer waters, their fate will be to melt and to add their water to the Southern Ocean.

Antarctica is also surrounded by ice, floating on the Southern Ocean. Unlike the land ice which has formed from the hardening of millions of years of snowfall, sea ice forms when the upper layers of water freeze, sometimes to depths of two metres or more. Though it is commonly capped with snow. The extent of the sea ice fluctuates with the seasons, reaching a maximum of around 19 million square kilometres in mid-September and shrinking to a mere three million square kilometres in mid-February. At its peak, sea ice doubles the effective size of Antarctica.

So the land ice and the sea ice have different life histories and are likely to react differently to alterations in the environment, such as climate change or global warming. We cannot speak of Antarctic ice as if it were all the same.

Trends in sea ice.

The area of Antarctic sea ice varies greatly from year to year, and variability seem to have increased in recent years. In the last decades, we have seen both record and near-record maximums in sea ice and record and near-record minimums. Unlike the Arctic sea ice, which has declined markedly in extent in recent decades and may disappear altogether in summer in decades to come, no substantial long-term trend in Antarctic sea ice in either direction has emerged from the data.

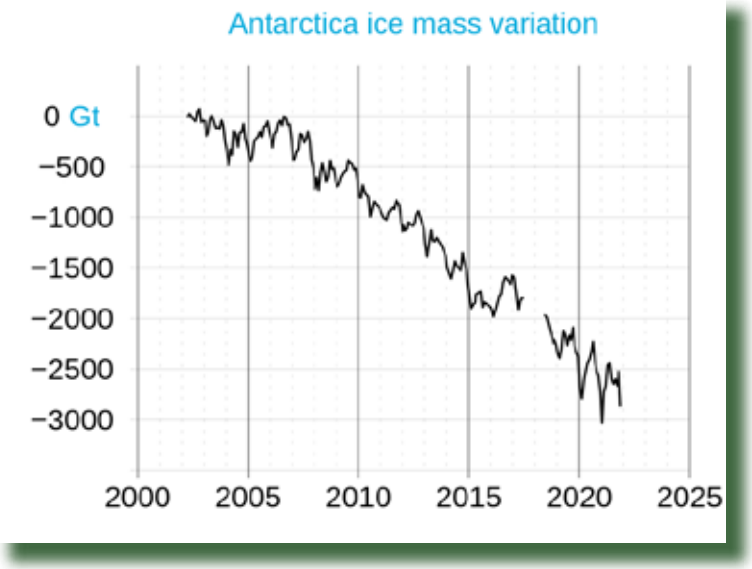
Two competing factors affect any trend in the amount of sea ice. One is the rising temperature of the Southern Ocean – a consequence of global warming. We would expect that to slow the formation of sea ice. The other is the periodic southward shift of the broad band of westerly winds that blow over the Southern Ocean. This enhances the production of sea ice and is likely to become more frequent as the world warms. Both these effects are influenced by global warming but work in opposite directions. So the situation is complex, and clear predictions are difficult.

More action on land.

The situation is clearer with the ice cap. We see evidence that ice is being lost, especially in certain coastal areas, and that global warming is playing a role.

One way to measure changes in the volume of ice in the Antarctic ice cap is to measure changes in the pull of gravity, through its impact on the orbits of satellites passing overhead. NASA has flown the GRACE satellites for this purpose, for studies here and elsewhere.

Analysis of the data shows that since 2002 Antarctica has been getting lighter through the loss of ice by an average rate of 150 billion tonnes a year. The rate of loss has accelerated over the period of the data from around 50 billion tonnes a year in the 1980s to some 250 billion tonnes a year in the 2010s. This is an increase approaching 300 per cent.



Graphic 1: Loss in Antarctic Ice since 2002 using data from GRACE satellites. (NASA)

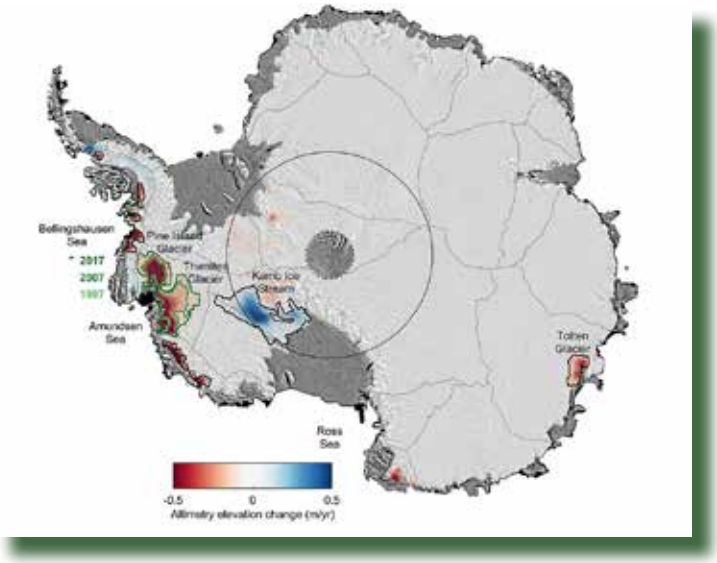
Such loss of ice is not happening everywhere. It is greater in Western Antarctica (the region below the Atlantic and the eastern Pacific) than in Eastern Antarctica (where our Australian bases are). Most of the ice loss mentioned above has occurred in the region of the Amundsen Sea, between the Ross Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula. That sector alone is now losing as much as 150 billion tonnes a year.

Another way of tracking the loss of Antarctic ice is to measure the altitude of the top layer of the ice using laser beams fired from orbiting satellites. A series of satellites for such "altimetry" has been launched for this purpose over recent decades and used around the planet. For example, that is the best way to find out how sea levels are changing.

If regions of the ice cap are losing ice and thinning, the upper surface will drop. According to recent studies that utilise readings

between 1992 and 2017, most of Western Antarctica is 'stable'; the loss of ice flowing away in glaciers is matched by the rate of new ice formation from snow. But for nearly a quarter of the region that is not so; the ice is growing thinner, and the ice surface is getting lower.

Eastern Antarctica is much more stable. Only one percent shows thinning, notably around the Totten Glacier near Casey Base, though ice losses there are much less than in the western sector. Elsewhere, snow and ice appear to be accumulating.



Graphic 2: Regions of Antarctica where ice is thinning (red) or thickening (blue) from satellite altimetry. (Sourced from ref.1)

Is Thwaites the "Doomsday Glacier"?

The current concern about the stability of the Antarctic Ice Sheet, and what that might mean for sea level rise and the global environment, is headlined by what is happening to the 200 km-wide Thwaites Glacier, which has been under surveillance for more than two decades, and to the smaller, nearby Pine Island Glacier. Both of these empty into the Amundsen Sea. The Thwaites Glacier, dubbed the Doomsday Glacier by the popular press, is currently the subject of a five-year investigation by an international consortium, seeking to better understand its current behaviour and likely future.

Over recent decades, we have observed a number of trends. Since around 2001, the 'grounding line', the point on the coast at which the Thwaites Glacier lifts off from the bed rock and begins to float, has been receding by a kilometre a year. At the same time, the ice has been pushing toward the coast at a similar speed.

Around 2002, satellite altimetry and gravity measurements began to detect a thinning of the glacier, which was soon seen to accelerate and has now reached 120 metres near the coast. This has speeded up loss of ice from the catchment of the glacier from around 10 billion tonnes a year late last century to more than 70 billion tonnes a year 25 years later. Later studies showed that features on the sea floor are helping to stabilise the glacier, slowing its movement and possible collapse, at least for now.

Where the Thwaites Glacier meets the sea, it feeds the floating Thwaites Ice Shelf, which in turn acts as a brake of the motion of the glacier ice, as happens elsewhere. But ice shelves are not eternal. We have seen a number of them collapse, such as the Larsen B Shelf beside the Antarctic Peninsula. That may happen here, uncorking the flow of the glacier where it empties into the sea, and hastening the whole process. The timing is by no means certain, but such an acceleration is likely in the long run.

Looking for a cause.

So why is this glacier and others like it under such threat? The villain appears to be a flow of deep-lying warmer water, eroding the glacier from below at a rate that has surprised the scientists. Waters along the base of the glacier are reported two degrees above freezing. As a result, a vast cavern, 300 metres high and half the size of Manhattan Island, has been carved out of the innards of the Thwaites, likely to accelerate the decay of the glacier.

These eroding currents are most likely part of the world-wide changes in the circulation of the oceans, driven by global warming, and are set to continue, and even accelerate, as long as global warming continues.

Should the Thwaites Glacier basin collapse completely, and all its ice end up in the Southern Ocean, sea levels around the world would rise by about 60 cm from that source alone. By itself, that is rise enough to cause trouble in coastal cities, though it would be overtaken by changes happening elsewhere simultaneously.

We will have time to prepare, such as we can, as ice moves and melts slowly, and the whole transformation would take hundreds of years. Thwaites' reputation as the 'Doomsday Glacier' may be put on hold, but there is a very good chance it will prove apt, even if we halt further global warming.

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Graphic 3. The Thwaites Glacier in place (Norwegian Polar Institute).

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The Dawning of Antarctica:

Through Exploration to Occupation

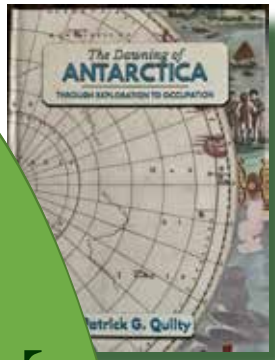
Patrick G Quilty.

Published by Dr Eva Meidl, Hobart (2021). xviii + 474pp. $A 75.00.

ISBN 978-0-646-84234-9.

(Edited version of a review published in Cambridge University Press journal Antarctic Science *by Dr Ian Allison AO AAM FAA)*

BOOKS OF INTEREST



This comprehensive record of Antarctic human history is authored by Patrick Quilty, Chief Scientist of the Australian Antarctic Division from 1980 to 1999 and recipient of the 2016 Phillip Law Medal. The book embraces the history of exploration of Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic Southern Ocean from pre-discovery speculation; through early global circumnavigations; commercial sealing and whaling in the Southern Ocean; the 'Heroic Age' of Antarctic exploration; the 'Inter-war Year' expeditions; to the pre-modern era leading to the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year. Quilty ends his history after IGY when the Antarctic had been basically 'explored' and was 'occupied' by permanent stations.

Patrick Quilty was an enthusiastic palaeontologist and geologist who had been involved in Antarctic research since 1965. His enthusiasm for Antarctica shines throughout the book. Quilty made many field trips to Antarctica and his personal experiences give meaningful insight into his interpretation of the conditions of earlier expeditions. His careful scholarship is clearly reflected in the detail and thoroughness of the narrative.

This history draws substantially from original sources such as the diaries and logs of expedition leaders and the other participants in early explorations. One of the strengths of the book is that it records the lesser-known contributions of the ordinary expedition members that were critical to the overall outcomes. The book also documents the often productive peripheral field explorations that were undertaken alongside the main expedition objective. Quilty finishes his account of most expeditions with a concise summary of the expedition's achievements, with a strong focus on their scientific outcomes. He often includes within this summary, his assessment of the personal characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the leaders. I found these assessments, while subject to some personal bias, interesting and insightful.

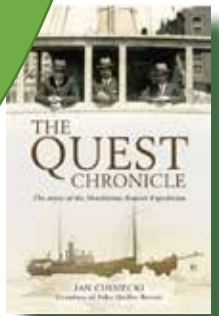
Another very valuable feature of the volume is that it includes maps of the routes taken by each of the expeditions. However, I did find that the place names on the maps did not always match the most important locations discussed in the text. The depiction of ice shelves on the maps is also inconsistent. Sometimes they are shown as an ice feature and sometimes they are shown as ocean. In at least one case (the map of the 1957-58 International Trans Antarctic Expedition route) the Filchner is shown as an ice shelf, but the Ross Sea is shown as open ocean. The layouts of historic stations and plans of the interiors of the huts of most expeditions are also detailed in diagrams.

Pat Quilty worked on this volume as a labour of love for over a decade after he retired. When he died in 2018, the book was still only at a first draft stage. Editing and completing the book in his memory was taken on by Eva Meidl and other friends and associates, whom must be gratefully thanked. Without Pat's intimate knowledge of things Antarctic, a number of small factual errors have crept in. These do not however at all detract from the overall value of this encyclopedic, thorough and entertaining history.

The volume covers the development of ANARE and the establishment of the Australian Antarctic stations before and during the IGY. Although the ANARE events described occurred before the time of most present ANARE Club members, it will appeal to those Club members with an interest in the precedents to their own Antarctic service.

In summary, the book is a very welcome addition to the chronicles of Antarctic exploration. It is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and thorough history of human activity in the Antarctic yet published, far exceeding earlier historical works, and it will be a source of scholarly information well into the future. It provides a thorough record of many little-known expeditions and a comparative assessment of those that are better known, particularly those of the 'Heroic Age'. The record nicely documents the parallel development of geographical knowledge and science with technological developments. The book is written in a narrative style and is an enjoyable read. There are also three separate indexes: people, ship names and geographical place names. It is a fitting legacy to Pat Quilty's involvement in the Antarctic, his contributions to Antarctic science and his irrepressible enthusiasm for geoscience.

The book has been published as a limited edition. It is, however, available by mail-order from the Hobart bookshop website: hobartbookshop.com.au



The Quest Chronicle

The story of the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition

By Jan Chojecki

Written by the grandson of John Quiller Rowett – a childhood friend of Shackleton who financed the expedition. There is a strong Australian interest in that the 'natural historian' in the team was George Hubert Wilkins. His is a key – and previously unheard – voice throughout the tale. His diaries from this expedition are unpublished and held at the Ohio State University archives.

Limited first edition published September 2022
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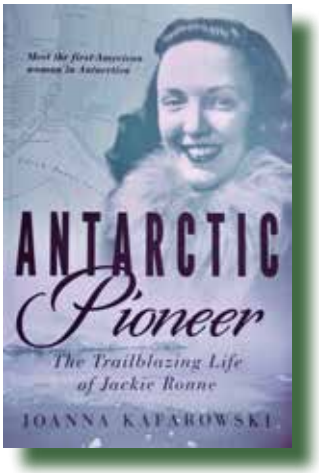
ISBN 978-1-913719-72-2
RRP GBP £34.99.
Published and distributed by Goldcrest books

Antarctic Pioneer:

The trailblazing Life of Jackie Ronne
By Joanna Kafarowski
Dundurn Press (2022)
ISBN 9781459749535 (softcover): 9781459749559 (e-book)



This is the first book I have read by the author. It won't be the last. I had imagined (incorrectly) this might be some form of feminist 'rant' about how women were ignored, not just in society, but down South – in the frozen realms of Antarctica. Far from it – this is an excellent, painstakingly-researched, and balanced account of the life of TWO outstanding polar pioneers, husband and wife Finn and Edith (Jackie) Ronne. Jackie became the first American woman to set foot on Antarctica and, along with Jennie Darlington, the wife of an Expedition pilot, she became the first woman to over-winter.

Jackie's role in the run-up to the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition 1947-8 was huge. Whilst Finn was indisputably leader and widely known in exploration circles, his wife's role and contribution to RARE should not be underestimated. Indeed, throughout Kafarowski's telling account Jackie can be seen as a prime mover in all things. They were equal partners in the process. RARE proved a most successful endeavour, achieving much in the way of Antarctic geographical discovery and science. It established once and for all that Antarctica was a single landmass and not one bisected by a water strait stretching between the Weddell Sea and the Ross Sea.

Ironically, it was never Jackie's intention (or even desire) to accompany her husband on RARE. At the very last moment, however, after years of joint planning and fundraising, Finn announced to his wife that he wanted her to accompany him on the expedition – not simply for companionship but because she had a crucial part to play in the team. The response from of the other (male) members of the expedition was classic, '*We, the undersigned, feel it would jeopardise our physical condition and mental balance if the Ronne Expedition, consisting of twenty men, were to be accompanied by one or more females in Antarctica*'. Harry Darlington, a pilot on RARE, declared, '*There are some things women don't do. They don't become Pope or President or go down to the Antarctic*' – this, despite his own wife's (Jennie) intention to accompany Jackie as a female companion. He was not a happy man, and it is little wonder that very early on in the expedition the Ronnes and Darlingtons fell out – badly! Sadly, the enmity between the Ronnes and Darlingtons made a further steep dive when Jennie's book *My Antarctic Honeymoon: A year at the bottom of the world* (1957) took an acrimonious swipe at Finn's style of leadership.

Most of us have probably heard of the Ronne Ice Shelf. In honour of his wife's industry Finn named a huge tranche of newly mapped land south of the Shelf after her - 'Edith Ronne Land'.

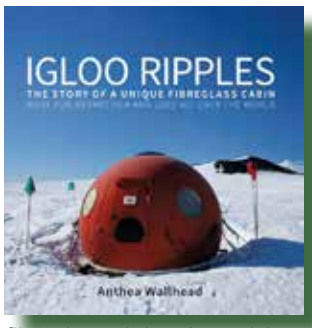
Antarctic Pioneer is one of those books which is hard to put down because it showers you with fresh knowledge and fascinating insights into the polar world pre-ATS. It tells of an important transition – when Antarctic exploration gave way to Antarctic science (finally) – or as I like to put it, when the Great White Desert became the Great White Laboratory. Above all, the book gently but most assuredly progresses from a story about a remarkable Norwegian son and his new young wife (Finn was 20 years older than his bride) to the breakthrough of polar womanhood from the 1950s through to Jackie's death and beyond.

As I write this, Preeti Chandi will soon be heading off South from the UK in a bid to become the first woman (of any colour) to cross the continent solo and unsupported. In many senses she will be walking in the footsteps of a great polar woman.

Stephen Scott-Fawcett FRGS
October 2022

IGLOO RIPPLES

The story of a unique fibreglass cabin
By Anthea Wallhead
Paperback
https://shop.fortysouth.com.au



The Australian Antarctic Division nicknamed their igloo the 'Apple' or 'Apple Hut', because it was 'round and red and made in Tasmania'. 2022 marks the 40th year since the very first fibreglass Igloo Satellite Cabin was ordered by the Australian Antarctic Division.

Igloo Ripples is the story of these fibreglass 'Igloos' used by expeditioners in Antarctica and other remote regions of the world. The book is written by Anthea Wallhead, whose husband, Malcolm Wallhead, was the original designer and manufacturer of the Igloos.

While Malcolm drew up his original designs in London in 1973, the first Igloo wasn't made until 1982 (by which time Malcolm was living in Hobart, Tasmania). From 1982 to 2000, Anthea and Malcolm shared the making and business aspects of the Igloos. Since Malcolm's death in 2000, Anthea has been the guardian of the business.

Based on the diaries kept on every Igloo made, Igloo Ripples describes the places the Igloos were used and the diverse influences of the Igloos on Anthea and her sons' lives.

The book was launched by Sir Guy Green in Hobart.

Dr Tony Fleming
1958 - 2022


Tony Fleming on board Aurora Australis
© Nisha Harris/Australian Antarctic Program

The Australian Antarctic Division pays tribute to former Director, Dr Tony Fleming, who passed away on 13 September 2022. Dr Fleming led the Division with distinction from 2011 to 2015.

Dr Fleming had a lifelong passion for Antarctic science, the environment and history, with his grandfather, Raymond Priestley, a member of Scott's Terra Nova Expedition (1910–1913).

During his time at the helm of the AAD, Dr Fleming was the Australian Commissioner of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), playing a key role in developing a proposal for Marine Protected Areas off East Antarctica.

In 2012 he led a significant commemorative voyage to Mawson's Huts at Commonwealth Bay as part of Australia's celebrations to mark the centenary of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911–1914.

Dr Fleming was instrumental in the modernisation of the Australian Antarctic Program, including initiating the procurement process for Australia's new icebreaker RSV *Nuyina*.

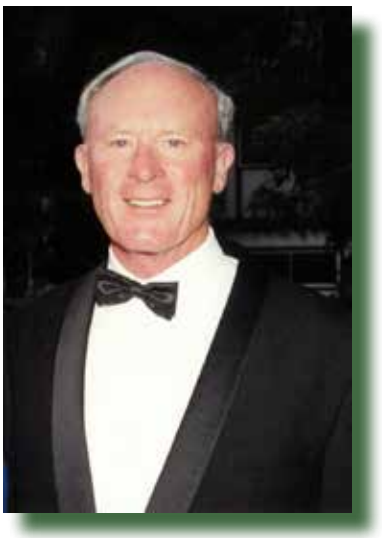
He championed the importance of promoting the value of Antarctica and the Australian Antarctic Program, enabling visits of high level officials, including the first visit by an Australian Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AD CVO.

With a PhD in biology and a talent for photography, Dr Fleming was a passionate defender of the environment throughout his personal and professional life.

Prior to his time with the AAD, he held senior executive positions in both the Federal and New South Wales public service for more than 20 years, and in the non-government conservation sector.

The AAD offers sincere condolences to his wife Helene, step-sons Alexander and Adrian, his siblings Gillian, Martin, Tim and Josephine and their families.

Dr John Denholm
1933 - 2022



Dr John Victor Denholm died peacefully on 16th September 2022, aged 89 years, in the Olivia Newton John Palliative Care Unit of the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, Victoria.

John was born in Melbourne on 16 May 1933. He lived with his parents, Sylvia and Bill, and siblings Elaine, who survives him, Beverly and Graeme, in East Kew.

Upon graduation from Melbourne University with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Physics, John worked for the Kodak photographic company in the research laboratory where he invented an aspect of colour photography. This interest continued through his working life and explains the huge numbers of photographic slides still in his treasured possession at the end of his life.

John joined the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions Division in September 1956 and was at Macquarie Island from December 1956 until the end of 1957. The International Geophysical Year commenced in 1957 and at that time intensive studies were carried out on the upper atmosphere. John carried out observations of various kinds on the aurora. He also made measurements of atmospheric ozone for the CSIRO, having set up the first ozone spectrophotometer to be taken south from Australia. Upon return from Macquarie Island, he was asked, in mid-1958, to be a member of the first Australian party at Wilkes Station, Antarctica, during 1959. At Wilkes he was again involved with observations of auroral events and with some glaciological observation work on the measurement of ice movement and accumulation. The highlight of his year at Wilkes was in December 1959 when he set off with a zoologist and a 12-foot dinghy for a three-day trip to nearby islands on a wildlife study recording birdlife and seals. There is a population of emperor penguins named after John. One of his special duties became the responsibility for maintaining the water supply of the base. As a tribute to his participation in this expedition, Mount Denholm in the Nye Mountains in Enderby Land is named after him.

In 1961 he was appointed lecturer in physics at Melbourne University in the RAAF Academy at Point Cook. He obtained a Master of Science for his research on the aurora. He lectured in physics from 1961 until December 1985, during which time he obtained the degree of PhD with a thesis on solar radiation and became a senior lecturer.

It was through John's interest in languages that he met his wife, Viveca. Viveca was a tutor in Swedish at Melbourne University, and they married in May 1975.

In 1980/81 John obtained a diploma of education. In 1985, John left Melbourne University and moved with Viveca to live and work on a farm they purchased near Colac at Warncoort breeding beef cattle. This was a particularly happy time for John and Viveca. Their love of the land and gardening flourished.

A chance encounter led John being asked to teach physics and mathematics part-time for six weeks at Trinity College, Colac. This six weeks turned into 10 years. John loved it and his students gained enormously from his care and strong understanding of his topics. While teaching at Trinity College, John had his first music lesson at the age of 63, being introduced to the clarinet. John was also a volunteer firefighter with the Country Fire Authority for about 13 years. In April 1997, John and Viveca sold the Warncoort property and moved to Geelong. John did some casual lecturing and tutoring in physics at Deakin University, Waurn Ponds campus, for about five years. In Geelong, John continued having clarinet lessons and eventually played with a small jazz group.

In July 2008, John and Viveca moved to the retirement village Springthorpe in McLeod, Melbourne. Viveca's health deteriorated and she died on 11 July 2011. John continued with his full life, being an active member of the family and helping out with many various activities. John made an unobtrusive but significant contribution to Springthorpe. He was a member of the Owners' Corporation Committee from 2012 until his recent retirement. His regular monitoring of water usage and preparation of detailed submissions to the Yarra Valley Water has led to rebates in their water bills. His clarinet playing was an important part of the success of the regular Tuesday night singalong sessions.

John loved hearing about the activities of the family. His organisational abilities meant that he never missed a birthday greeting and if you mentioned something to him, in passing, months earlier, he'd be able to recall and incorporate it into the new conversation.

As an extremely strong and active man throughout his life, in his final years John's body began to deteriorate. John found this period frustrating as he remained as sharp and alert cognitively as ever.

While in hospital, John was heard describing himself to the Pastoral Care worker as someone who has been a scientist, a farmer and a teacher, plus a budding musician in his later years. He was also warmly thought of as a son, brother, friend, husband to Viveca and father, grandfather and great grandfather figure to his families.

John loved and was loved. His full and fulfilling life touched many people. He valued knowledge and he passed this appreciation of life to his many students, friends and family.

Tom Holman

Rodney Champness
Photo: Simon Bingham

Dr Ann Savours Shirley

1927 - 2022

The internationally-known Polar scholar, Dr Ann Savours Shirley, a long-standing member and contributor to the Hakluyt Society, died peacefully on 8 October shortly before her 95th birthday. Her interest in the Polar regions began with her participation in the Cambridge Spitsbergen Expedition in 1955 and the Australian National Antarctic Expedition in 1960. She later worked at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge and was then Assistant Keeper at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich until her retirement in 1987.

She continued with her research after retirement and in 2010 she published an edition of the fourth volume of *South Polar Times*, the newspaper of Scott's *Discovery* (1901–4) and *Terra Nova* Expeditions (1910–13). Ann Shirley served on the Council of the Hakluyt Society and gave its annual lecture, which was published under her pen-name, Ann Savours, in 2003, as *The North West Passage in the Nineteenth Century: Perils and Pastimes of a Winter in the Ice*. Her most recent contribution was an article for the Society's online journal in July 2021, 'The Life and Antarctic Voyages of John Biscoe', edited by one of the Society's Series Editors, Maurice Raraty, to whom I am very grateful for some of the details of Ann Shirley's life.

Ann Savours on Board *Magga Dan*, Dec 1960 (Photo Museums Victoria)

Reprinted with permission from the Hakluyt Society.

Rodney Champness

Rod was a quiet member of the 1967 Macquarie Island party, dedicated to his job and the operation of his ham radio station, VK0CR. Many expeditioners were able to contact family members thanks to Rod's amateur radio. Always mild-mannered, Rod's language got no stronger than saying 'ruddy bloomin' (thing)' which inevitably led to him being called 'Ruddy Bloomin'' for most of that year and beyond.

Later, Rod worked for Radio Australia in Shepparton. He was a member of the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club and wrote numerous technical articles about vintage and amateur radio. In 2004 he published his book, *Outback Radio: From Flynn to Satellites*.

Rod died after a brief battle against cancer on 22nd October 2022. He is survived by his wife, Lyn, two sons from his first marriage, a stepson and six grandchildren.

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Midnight sun shines on Mt Woinarski across the Antarctic glacier ice from Mt Stinear, PCM. Photo Malcolm Robertson

Wishing Members of the Club and their Families and Friends
Best Wishes for the Festive Season.
To our expeditioners down South, a Safe and Successful Summer Season
President George Friend and the National Council