

# Sydney Midwinter Dinner

**Friday 21 June 1996**

The Great Antarctic Trivia Quiz!

Review by Lucinda Coates

Whether inspired by rumours of our Quiz Master's (Steve Symonds) genius in all things Quizzical, or persuaded by the change of venue from Macquarie University back to the city, a record 150 members and guests chose to celebrate Midwinters in NSW at the Bowlers Club this year.

David Ellyard MC'd the AGM, where Trevor Olrog (current NSW Branch President) was re-elected (after an unheard of vote for the position!). The following committee members were duly elected: Denise Allen, Bill Burch, Rowan Butler, Col Christiansen, Lucinda Coates, David Ellyard, Kit Scally, Richard Stephen and Steve Symonds. At the first committee meeting (August), office-bearers will be decided.

Two other matters were decided at the AGM. The first was that \$600 be donated to Taronga Park Zoo, in support of the NSW Branch Elephant Seal Sponsorship. The second was the decision to donate \$250 to the Mawson Antarctic Collection Appeal.

After entrees, the Past (& current) President Trevor Olrog welcomed all - in particular two tables of reunited Mawsonites - from 1966 and 1986. A special welcome was given to Mawson 1966 glaciologist Koshi Kizaski and his wife Yoshi who had come all the way from Japan for this event.

Special welcomes were also extended to some long serving members of ANARE. These were Peter Blaxland (HMALST 3501 47-48) and John Lavett (HMALST 3501 Labuan 47-49), and two other Heard Island veterans - Leo McGarrigle (50-51) and Otaker Rec (50-51-52).

Continuing the Presidential address, Trevor read out some interesting statistics concerning those ANARE Club members present: 10% had served in the 1950s or prior, 25% in the 60s, 25% in the 70s, 25% in the 80s, and 15% in the 90s - a reflection, perhaps, of the wide reaching ties of ANARE. Of course, Trevor's statistics were slightly confounded by some expeditioners such as one Graeme (Chompers) Currie, who has served 11 winters over the period 1960-1996!

The recipients of the Antarctic medal were announced. George Cook M66 briefly spoke to the gathering on the retrospective awarding of the Antarctic medallion for those who wintered within the period 1962-70. George urged these members concerned to get in touch with their local MP and push the idea.

Finally, Trevor introduced Ian Cumings who, on behalf of Tim Bowden, brought us up to date on the ABC documentary currently being produced. He made a general request for film or videotape on everyday station life in Antarctica - past and present - for use in the documentary.

And then the Great Antarctic Trivia Quiz began in earnest! At each of the 19 tables (identified by coloured and numbered helium balloons anchored to an ingenious device engineered and crafted by Rowan Butler and Richard Stephens - souvenired by a lucky few at the end of the evening) was an A3 sheet showing some 13 portraits. These of course had to be identified, but tables could take their time over this. Even with such clues as "All are famous people";and "All have given their name to some landform or body of water", some of the identifications were difficult.

There were three rounds to the Quiz, interspersed by an excellent dinner, the Call of the Years (undertaken by David Ellyard), the Toast to ANARE was given by Graeme (Chompers) Currie who was the most recently returned expeditioner. Chompers, as a frequent expeditioner, is known to many old and new ANARE members. He spoke of the rigours of the Antarctic and the high standard of ANARE personnel. Everyone also responded to the sale raffle tickets for prizes to be drawn later in the evening.

Quizmaster Steve Symonds, responsible for engineering the whole Trivia Quiz, was ably assisted by ANARE women extraordinaire, Denise Allen and Lucinda Coates. For those readers who are quiz buffs a sampling of the curly trivia questions are shown at the end of this article.

Overwhelming winner of the Quiz was table 5, the Katabatics, with a grand total of 57 points out of a possible 70. This win was doubtless aided by the winning combination of Warwick Williams and Rowan Butler on the table. Chiffon (42.5) and Balleny (42) came second and third, closely followed by The Experts (40.5) and Mawson 66 (40). The Katabatics were each presented with an ANARE Club Tshirt and a bottle of wine. Chiffon scored a mix of ANARE Club stubby holders and Antarctic postcards and Balleny scored Club stick-pins. Spot prizes were also held throughout the evening.

Rowan Butler was particularly delighted to win a copy of Shelagh Robinson's (MRSROB) book "Huskies in Harness" He achieved this by beating everyone on a Who Am I question. Rowan really surprised Steve by giving the answer within about two seconds of the start of the clues.

A splendid evening concluded with the drawing of the raffles. The major prize of the evening, which everyone wanted to own, was an etching "Dog team out from Mawson" executed and kindly donated by Shelagh Robinson. To the envy of all, the etching was won by Alan Williams (M66), D70). Many double Zoo Passes were given out to other lucky winners, courtesy of Taronga Park Zoo.

The NSW Branch Committee plans an even bigger and better event for the 1997 Jubilee Year. Let your committee know of your thoughts or ideas for 1997. Contact Trevor Olrog or Lucinda Coates We suggest you keep an eye on the NSW Branch Internet home page.

### The Great Antarctic Trivia Quiz

The questions 1. Captain Scott is always cited as being the second person to reach the South Pole. In fact he was equal sixth. What are the names of the first five people to reach the South Pole?

2. Two women have wintered at each of the four ANARE bases. Who are they? A clue - they share the first name.
3. The earliest recorded but unconfirmed landing on the mainland of Antarctica was in 1821. When was the first confirmed landing?
4. Who wrote the book "The Ascent of Rumdoodle"?
5. After who or what was Gadget's Gully on Macquarie Island named?
6. What is a JAFO?
7. Mawson's 1911-1914 expedition set up three bases - Commonwealth Bay, Macquarie Island and the Western Base. Mawson led the former. Who were OICs or station leaders at the latter two?
8. When did the Nella Dan sink? (Year, month, day).
9. What was the first bird to be called a penguin?
10. Who is the first person known to have sailed within the Antarctic Circle? (Bonus point for the name of his ship).

Answers

1. *Amundsen, Bjaerland, Hansson, Hassel, Wisting.*
  2. *Denise Allen, Denise Jones.*
  3. *1895.*
  4. *WE. Bowman.*
  5. *One of Mawson's huskies.*
  - 6 *Just another flaming observer.*
  7. *Ainsworth and Wild.*
  8. *1987 December 24*
  9. *The Great Auk*
  10. *Captain James Cook in the "Resolution"*
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