

Melbourne Midwinter Dinner 2012.

The 2012 Melbourne Midwinter dinner was held at Bayview Eden on Friday 22 June 2012. 94 members attended this members only function and reunions from Casey 1972 and Mawson 1972 made up a significant number of those present. Other reunions were Casey 1977, with a small number from Macquarie Island 1972.

Mr Ralph 'Noddy' Fletcher volunteered to be our MC for the occasion again and ran a very smooth evening. The Toast to the Men and Women of Anare was given by the ANARE Club Social Secretary, Ms Denise Allen and the response by Mr Philip Barnaart. After a soup entree David Parer commemorated the departed members and the list of names seems to be getting longer each year.

This was followed by our President Mr David Ellyard providing a short history of the Phillip Law Medal which the ANARE Club established in 2010 to honour Dr Phillip Law for his contribution to the Antarctic and Anare Club. This year we were fortunate to have some outstanding nominations and Mr Brian Harvey, who co-ordinated the selection sub-committee, announced Mr David Parer and Ms Elizabeth Parer-Cook as the winners of the 2012 Philip Law Medal. Our Guest Speaker, Mr Jason Mundy, Manager Strategies, Australian Antarctic Division was called upon to present the medals and certificate. Congratulations to David and Elizabeth who are worthy recipients amongst a very strong field of nominees.

After the main course Mr Jason Mundy gave an excellent overview of the 2011-2012 Antarctic season including the Centenary voyage to Commonwealth Bay. The formalities of the evening continued with an auction of a weekend for two at Coolum Caprice apartments, kindly donated by Mr Mike Heap. Over the years Mike has contributed considerably to the ANARE Club with this donation. A centenary voyage T-shirt kindly donated by Mr David Ellyard was also auctioned and the lucky ticket number draw saw an accommodation package provided by Bayview Eden go to Mr Derek Thornhill.

The Call of the Years was carried out by Mr Rod Mckenzie and only a small numbers of years were lacking representatives. Congratulations to Norm Tame for representing 1948 as a participant of the WYARP Round Trip program. He still looks far too fit and young to have been working in Antarctica so many years ago. Rod's jokes and his usual outstanding rendition of ANARE MAN was enjoyed by all and provided us with a hint of the midwinter performances at the stations. This rendition ended the formalities of the evening, allowing us all to mix and mingle, catch up with old friends and colleagues and recall 'tall but true' antarctic tales.

Such an enjoyable night was had that at the close of proceedings at midnight the Bayview staff had great difficulty in moving us down to the bar.

Thanks to all those who contributed many volunteer hours towards making this function a success – whether it be processing bookings and payments, manning the sales tables, acting as MC during the evening, preparing and delivering speeches or one of the many behind the scenes decisions and tasks - they all contribute to a successful function. Feedback has indicated that many members considered the meal and service provided by Bayview Eden was outstanding and great value for an all-inclusive venue.