

Adelaide Midwinter Dinner

23 June 2012

The South Australian ANARE Club dinner was a great success with sixty-two in attendance including several members of the Mawson family.

Dr Rob Wooding from the Antarctic Division reported to the dinner on the Mawson Huts centenary visit and general activities down South. The attendees thought it was a great idea to have staff from the Division speaking at the dinner.

It was especially gratifying to have a presentation by Peter Rymill, son of John Rymill, who gave a talk on the expeditions in which his father took part in Greenland and also the expeditions that he led down to Palmer Land in the late 1930's (part of Graham Land).

Peter delivered an excellent presentation that included historic movie clips of his father's exploits. It was great to see film of the sailing ship "Penola" ploughing her way under sail toward the Antarctic.

Film of the small aircraft and general activity shots of expedition life made one realise what luxury expeditioners have today. Of particular interest were the very personal reflections of John Rymill as related by his son.

Peter drove all the way from his Coonawarra winery to Adelaide to give us this presentation. It is hoped that the excellent presentation might be able to be put onto a DVD or similar so that others may see the incredible efforts of John Rymill, whose work is not that well known.

John Riddoch Rymill, before his untimely death in 1968, had been presented with an ANARE Club tie. Unfortunately, his son Peter, the Guest of Honour and Speaker at the dinner, was unable to find it to wear to that night. Mark presented him with a replacement on behalf of the Club.