

Melbourne Midwinter Dinner 2015.

Thanks to all those who attended the Melbourne Midwinter Dinner and contributed to making this years event another great function. We had 99 attending with several reunion groups. This was the first year of members bringing guests to the Melbourne function and it was pleasing to see names with Antarctic heritage such as Leckie re-appearing and the obvious pleasure of partners who had shared the Antarctic experience when their loved ones worked in Antarctica, able to share the Melbourne midwinter dinner experience.

Special thanks go to Anthony Hull who was the AAD guest speaker. His coverage of recent Antarctic activities was comprehensive and well received. He provided exactly what the audience wished to hear and held their attention throughout his presentation.

Several Mawson reunions were represented, possibly due to the "Mawson is Awesome" factor that our guest speaker re-iterated during the night. Mawson 1960 saw George Cresswell, Ian Bird, Graeme Currie, Jorgen Berg and Frank Benjamin attending. Brendan Godwin was very active in organising a Mawson 1974 reunion and combined with Casey 1972 managed to round up Dave McCormack, Mike Heap, Graham Henstridge, Graham Hinch, Dave Pottage and Bill Singleton. These years must have been great ANARE years shown by the camaraderie displayed at this table.

The 50 year reunions were Macquarie Island 1965 and Mawson 1965. Macquarie Island group saw John Bishop, Brian Jackson, Doug Pocock. Peter Graham, John Jenkin and Trevor Olrog attending. The Mawson reunion group were Max Corry, Brian Woinarski, Laurie Turnbull, Greg Martin, John Gordon, Don Allison. Other reunion groups included Mawson 63 and the regular ACS group.

Thanks go to Brian Harvey for stepping in as MC in the absence of "Noddy" Ralph Fletcher and very ably carrying out this task.

Our National President Dr Joe Johnson provided a few words regarding club activities. He congratulated Dick Thompson for being awarded an OAM in the Queens birthday honours list as long overdue recognition for his Antarctic service. Joe provided encouragement for club members to become involved in the forthcoming Council elections and advised that this year it was pleasing to see the re-commencement of West Australian Anare club activities by Phil Crosby and Jeremy Wills.

Joe announced Dr Des Lugg as the recipient of the 2015 Phillip Law Medal. Congratulations to Dr Des Lugg, who many of us would be familiar with for his many years of Antarctic service involved with Polar medicine. The 2015 Phillip Law Medal was presented to him at the Hobart Midwinter Dinner on Saturday 20 June 2015, by the National President Mr Joe Johnson.

Thanks go to Neil Brandie who provided the toast the "Men and Women of Anare". The remembrance to "Departed members" was carried out by Damian Love and those attending gave due respect.

It was pleasing to see the return of Rod Mackenzie for the Call of the Years which he has been doing for over 30 years. He entertained us with an Irish joke and performed his usual rendition of "Anare Man" in his usual outstanding style. We hope that Rod returns for many years to continue this tradition at the National Midwinter dinner held in Melbourne.

Our guest speaker Anthony Hull displayed his recent many years of Antarctic experience by remaining standing throughout the years from 2015 through to 2002. The first year without an expeditioner represented in the "Call of the Years" was 1971 and then several years throughout the 1950's were not represented. However I am sure that some of these expeditioners had attended the daytime luncheon of the "Chelsea Pensioners' at the Malvern Vale hotel.

Our regular attendee Norm Tame from 1948 Wyarp Earp was the earliest expeditioner attending the dinner. Norm Tame drew the lucky ticket prize of an accommodation package (donated by the Bayview Eden for having over 80 attendees at the dinner) and this was won by Trevor Hartley.

As Brian Harvey was also the MC, the sales table was set-up after the official speeches were completed and many contributed over \$600 to the ANARE Club through their purchases.

The ANARE Club [Annual General Meeting](#) is on 17 August 2015 and the Rules, in accordance with Victorian legislation, now require 10% of members for voting. So please attend OR if unable to do so, submit a Proxy form to the President or Secretary. We also welcome members to nominate for the National Council positions.