

# MWD Report for Aurora 2015

The ANARE Club, South Australian Branch 2015 Midwinter Dinner was once again held at the Royal Coach on Sat 20th June.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr Duncan Mackenzie, Biologist Macquarie Island, 1966. Duncan gave us a good old-fashioned projector and slide show of the animals, (both native and feral) of Macquarie Island in the 1960's.

There were 32 people in attendance, a number lower than anticipated, caused mainly by interstate reunions, grey nomads travelling north to warmer weather and a completely unexplained low number of younger members compared to their good attendance last year. Branch President Ron Hann conveyed information regarding Dick Thompson's OAM, the ANARE Clubs 100 year anniversary 'Endeavour' loss plaque and 100 year ANZAC great war 1914-18 Antarctic Honour Board.

Mention was also made of a speech made in the South Australian Parliament on the 7th of May by the member for Flinders, Mr Treloar, outlining the voyage and establishment of Mawson Station. This was as a result of a donation to the parliamentary library by Jim Brooks, Geophysicist, Heard Island 1953 of the book on that subject, 'Antarctic Odyssey', by Phil Law.

The AGM was conducted resulting in the same committee from last year being re-elected unopposed. President Ron thanked the committee for both their past years assistance and their willingness to do it all again. Mostyn explained that they have a reunion every 2 years and the patches down the left-hand side of the platoon pennant are from each reunion since 1994.

Endorsement of the purchase of Oral History recording equipment was also proposed and carried at the AGM. Those present were asked to register their willingness to assist ANARE Club octogenarians and nonagenarians. The result was astounding, with the list of those willing to assist including most expeditioners present, even one octogenarian.

Each year we are surprised by the presence of people associated with unusual or topical Antarctic events. Last year we had people from the rescue of the "Academic Sokolsky". This year we were surprised and pleased to have Dr J A T (John) Bye with us. John was a member of the 1976-1977 Flinders Institute for Atmospheric and Marine Sciences glacial-oceanographic Antarctic Expedition, featured in the 'Science on Ice' article in the 2015, March/April issue of AURORA. This was John's first attendance at an ANARE Midwinter Dinner.

Ron Hann President ANARE Club SA Branch 2015-16.