

Melbourne Midwinter Dinner 2016.

Thanks to all those who attended the Melbourne Midwinter Dinner and contributed to making this year's event another great function. We had 104 attending, including several reunion groups. It was nice to see reunion groups from expeditions that trained in Hobart, such as Casey 1996 and Mawson 2006 which were organised by Craig Allardyce. This group comprised almost three tables with 25 guests. Col Christiansen organised a group from Mawson 1971 with some honorary attendees of Antarctic heritage, such as Damian Macey. The 60 year reunion group from 1956 were Doug Twigg and Noel Cooper and several regulars at Melbourne Midwinter made up a table from 1963, especially Mawson 1963. There was a small group from Wilkes 1966, Mawson 1976 and a table from ACS. Thanks to all those who organised reunions, as it is a result of the efforts of these people that the Melbourne Midwinter event is able to reach the numbers required to receive complimentary room hire from Bayview Eden and this saves the Anare Club a considerable expense.

Special thanks go to our Guest Speaker, Mark Filipowski, the Future Concepts manager of the Modernisation Taskforce at the AAD. His coverage of the RAAF C-17 trials delivering cargo to Antarctica over the austral summer was comprehensive and well received. He held the complete attention of the dinner guests. His speech also covered the trials of the use of UAV's (drones) in support of shipping navigation. These drones proved useful identifying ice leads for the shipping program. As he noted, not all ship voyages have helicopters on board, so the use of drones can be very beneficial. Both these facilities are planned as augmentation to the current cargo shipping and voyage requirements and not as a replacement to the current programs.

Thanks go to President of the Anare Club, Neil Brandie for filling the MC role and providing the President's report summarising recent Club activities. Brian Harvey manned the Sales table with a good range of merchandise and donated books. We raised \$920 for the club which consisted of \$800 from sales of club merchandise and \$120 from a selection of books donated to the Club from the estates of Mark Forecast and Ian Bruce.

The Toast to the Men and Women of ANARE was carried out by Noel Cooper and our Past President Joe Johnson gave an excellent toast to "Absent Friends".

Congratulations to Patrick Quilty, who Neil announced as the recipient of the 2016 Phillip Law Medal. The 2016 Phillip Law Medal was presented to him at the Hobart Midwinter Dinner on Saturday 18 June 2016, by the National President Neil Brandie.

It was pleasing to have Rod Mackenzie for the Call of the Years again. Rod has been doing this for around 50 years! He recalled a time in the 1970's when he had completed the call back to 1947 and one guest stood up to announce that he had wintered with Shackleton in 1913 and was 92 at the time of attending the Midwinter dinner. As usual he entertained us with an Irish joke and performed his usual rendition of "Anare Man" in his usual outstanding style. Rod announced that this was likely to be his last attendance to perform this tradition at the National Midwinter dinner held in Melbourne and was hoping that someone younger would take over the responsibility in the future.

Norm Tame from 1948 Wyarp Earp was again the earliest expeditioner attending the dinner. He is a regular attendee of the Melbourne Midwinter dinner. Norm drew the lucky

ticket prize of an accommodation package which is donated to the Club by the Bayview Eden for having over 80 attendees at the dinner. The winning ticket for the accommodation package was Rod Mackenzie - a most suitable winner especially considering his contribution to the Melbourne Midwinter dinner throughout the years by carrying out the Call of the Years.

Feedback has indicated that many considered the 2016 Melbourne midwinter dinner a very successful and enjoyable event. The 2017 Melbourne Midwinter is to be held on Friday 23rd June 2017, so be sure to mark it in your calendar for next year.

The 2016 ANARE Club [Annual General Meeting](#) is to be held on Sunday 21st August 2016 at 2 pm 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. Nominations close 11 July 2016.

Denise Allen, Social Secretary 20 June 2016.