

Sydney Midwinter 2016

Victoria and Albert Guesthouse

MOUNT VICTORIA

The New South Wales branch did a few things differently this Midwinter. We moved from an evening gathering to a lunch, and from a city venue to one out of town. We were rewarded for our innovation with the boost in our numbers to nearly 50, though some of the rise was due to the presence of seven veterans from Mawson 1966 (and some of their partners) having a 50 year reunion. MC David Ellyard was one of those. As we often see nowadays recent expeditioners were thin on the ground.

We met on Saturday 25 June at the Victoria and Albert Guesthouse in Mt Victoria in the Blue Mountains. Appropriately, we were blessed with some snow. We much enjoyed hearing our guest speaker Captain Murray Doyle, till very recently the master of the Aurora Australia, reminisce on his 20 year association with the "Orange Roughy", with many fascinating images.

The *Call of the Years*, which we do by decades, went smoothly, with expeditioners rising in descending order of the year of their trip south to declare their credentials and be acknowledged. All decades from the Teens back to the Fifties were represented, with the last man standing being the iconic Dick Thompson, whose ANARE experiences began in 1950, and who was present at the birth of the ANARE Club.

David Ellyard