

ANARE CLUB SA BRANCH
2019 MIDWINTER DINNER REPORT FOR AURORA

The ANARE Club South Australian Branch Midwinter Dinner was once again held at the Adelaide Royal Coach on Saturday 15 June.

There were 33 attendee's this year (up from 29 last year), including our regular interstate visitor, Phillip Tuckett from Melbourne.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Norbert Trupp who wintered at Macquarie Island in 2018. Norbert's presentation included many photos of the Macquarie Island flora before and after the completion of the feral animal eradication program carried out recently. It was pleasing to see how quickly the recovery of the flora is occurring, in fact in many of the comparison shots it was difficult to realise we were looking at the same site. "Macca" is fast returning to its glory of being known as the "Emerald Isle".

The \$50 million replacement of the Macquarie Island Station has begun with the demolition of some old station structures. However, the planning of the project is still needing to be flexible. One of the reasons for this is because the sea breached the isthmus so badly last year that the fire water main, water main and various electrical underground cables were exposed to the ravages of the elephant seals. As a result of this, the entire new station will now be built on the south side of the isthmus. Anyone want to suggest a name if North Head eventually becomes an island?

The theme subject of "Mawson 65 years" revealed a number of very interesting old photographs and memorabilia. However, the power - point presentation by Richard Willing from his 1957 year as the station doctor was the highlight of the theme. Richard took us through his year from a digitised movie of Richard Casey, Minister for External Affairs farewelling the Kista Dan and the wintering expeditioners for Mawson and and the station to be built at Davis for the International Geophysical Year to dog sledding and inland traverses using Caterpillar D4's and old WW II Weasels. The presentation included many more activities too numerous to be mentioned here, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

After a constructive discussion on the timing and venue of our SA Branch Midwinter Dinner it was decided to continue to stick with the current Saturday before the nearest Saturday to June 21 and thus ensure that we don't clash with any other Midwinter Dinners. Therefore, our Midwinter dinner for 2020 will be Saturday 13 June. The venue question was left open for the SA Branch Committee to decide if there are any better options, or stay with the Adelaide Royal Coach.

The calling of the years once again saw Richard Willing, Mawson Doctor 1957 the last man standing.

The AGM meeting was held resulting in the following changes to the SA Branch Committee. New President - Mostyn Hetzel, past President Ron Hann - committee member. We were also very pleased to welcome our first female, Jenn Proudfoot on to the committee.



Past President Ron Hann can't wait to open the box to see what wine he has just been presented with, while President Mostyn Hetzel gets on with the business of closing the MWD meeting.

President Mostyn then presented Ron Hann with a very nice bottle of red wine in appreciation of his 5 years as President of the SA Branch.

The meeting closed at 10-00pm.