

**Mike Knox-Little (KL)**  
**Casey 1972, Mawson 1974, 1976, m1979, 1982, 1987 MI 1985 D 1990**  
**23/9/1943 - 22/7/2014**

We have lost a wonderful bloke that many in the ANARE community will have known and worked with over the years. Mike is one of only a handful of expeditioners who have made Antarctica a career accomplishing 8 winters as a Senior Radio Operator.

I wintered twice with KL (at Casey we all called each other by their initials) and can attest to the great courage of the man, for at Casey he lost his right thumb and two feet of tendon in a rock drill accident. This occurred early in the year and to his great credit he nursed the painful injury despite unsuccessful skin grafts and taught himself to send morse code left handed. This set back did not demoralise him and after surgery in Melbourne on his return he backed up immediately (together with 8 of our Casey crew) for Mawson 1974.

In May 1982 the Mawson OIC made an announcement that Mike had been awarded the Polar Medal for outstanding service to Antarctic field operations. This cheered him up considerably as he was fretting over his absence from his newly found love Ulla (Radio operator on Nella Dan). Once reunited, Mike and Ulla together did 3 expeditions as a couple, MI 1985, M 1987 and D 1990. In between expeditions their love of sailing saw the building of a 36 foot Jo Adams cruising steel yacht Palana and Ulla recalls that the loads of fun they had almost came to an end when they were caught in a horrific storm off Eden. But they lived to tell the tale.

In 1991 Mike and Ulla bought a farm at Kettering, Tasmania and commenced growing cherries and proteas. At great expense in providing netting for the cherries, ensuring bad weather and damage resulted in cherries being abandoned. However the proteas have flourished and have returned a break even reward.

In 2005 Mike was diagnosed with cancer after 3 years of "hideous" treatments his bladder and associated pieces were removed. Further chemo, problems with blood clots and eventually kidney problems took its toll. I attended the Hobart midwinter in June this year with the express intention of seeing KL at Kettering. I am so glad to have sat down over a sandwich and cuppa and talk of our experiences and his love of the farm and "sow'in things and grow'in things and watch'n of them grow"

Mike went downhill quickly in July and his last wish to Ulla was to be buried on his farm "but not next to the cats". On Saturday 26th July about 70 Antarctic and other supportive friends gathered at Dragonfly farm to farewell Mike and pay tribute to a great bloke who will sadly missed.

David Pottage