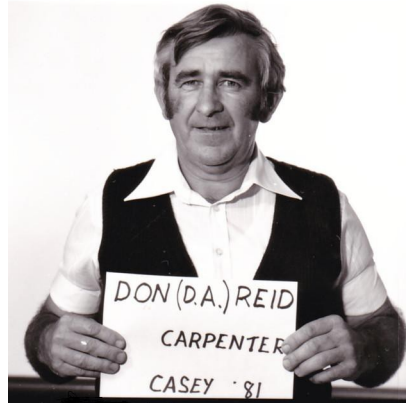


Vale Donald Alexander Reid AAM



Don on the day he joined ANARE in 1980

Donald Alexander Reid, better known as Don, passed away on 15th May 2014 after suffering from dementia for some time. Don first joined ANARE as a carpenter on the 1981 Casey expedition, of which I was the Officer-in-Charge. Prior to this he had been a carpenter with the New South Wales Roads Authority where he had been a foreman of gangs working on timber bridges. He had started his career at the Army Apprentices School, Balcombe, Victoria.

During his time at Casey, Don was an enthusiastic participant in all station activities. Due to his being the oldest member of the expedition, he was known as 'Dad' or 'The Old ... (insert noun of choice)' to which he would respond 'I may be a ... but I'm not bloody old!' He was a regular stand-in cook and made the occasional appearance in the kitchen in a cotton print frock – an image best forgotten – on which occasions he was referred to as 'Donna'. In order to create an impression of intrepidity despite his age Don soon became the most rescued person at Casey. A keen amateur ornithologist, Don came to regard Shirley Island as his personal estate, and the Adelie Penguins there became known as 'Don's chooks'. Don was, nevertheless, an outstanding expeditioner, always ready to go the extra mile and to undertake any extra station duties.

Subsequent to his time at Casey, Don returned to the Antarctic three more times: Davis in 1984 and 1986, and Macquarie Island in 1988. He is, however, probably best known in the Antarctic Community for his time in the AAD's clothing store, where he worked from 1990 through to his retirement. In that role he became known to all expeditioners for his help and humour in kitting them out. Don quickly became an 'institution' and was an integral part in the expeditions area.

Unsurprisingly, Don was awarded the Australian Antarctic Medal, being in the first batch of recipients in 1987. His citation reads *Don Reid's work as a carpenter at Casey in 1982, and at Davis in 1984 and 1986, was a fine record of long hours and diligent service that twice saw him selected for the position of Second-in-Charge. He maintained a peaceful and happy station atmosphere by his thoughtful and considerate manner, setting an outstanding example as to how an expeditioner should respond and behave.*

Don was a real Australian – he had the humour, reliability and improvisation skills that characterise the ‘old timer’ and was universally regarded as a ‘good bloke’. He will be fondly remembered by all who came in contact with him, and his name will live on in the Larsemann Hills where both a lake and a hut are named after him. Our sympathies go to his widow, Jenny, and to his children.

Joe Johnson