



ANARE Club Inc.

**President's Report to AURORA;
2022-2023 National Council Meeting;
2023 Annual General Meeting
19 August 2023**

Dear Members and Councilors,

Welcome to the last Session of the 22-23 National Council and last report as your President ending my two-year Presidential term and first and final year as Immediate Past President.

Regrettably, a family house relocation to Adelaide has coincided with the Annual General Meeting and I am unable to attend the meeting of the prior Council meeting, which will be chaired by the Vice President David Dodd, who will take the reins as President for the next Council Term.

As my previous reports will attest, during the two years as your President, much has been achieved. There have been many highlights.

Both years were significant 75th Anniversary years in the annals of the Club and of ANARE /AAD, with the post WWII establishment of our Heard Island and Macquarie Island stations under the banner of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions, the acronym ANARE, which the Club historically retains today, along with the annual expedition teams. The Club with support from the previous Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) Director Kim Ellis was able to arrange Video teleconferences with our Antarctic bases. Also, a celebratory 75th Anniversary Luncheon during which the Club was able to present the historic ships Bell from the HMASLST 3501 (aka HMAS Labuan). This ship, saw the establishment of the Heard and Macquarie Island Stations 1947/1948 and first amphibious craft operations (DUKW then LARC's), which continue today. As well as the presentation of a ships Bell (named the Tribute Bell) with the names of all the annual resupply Antarctic ships 1947-2022.

The Club itself will celebrate its own 75th Anniversary of its Foundation in October 2026 and moves are afoot to commemorate this milestone event along the lines which the Club undertook in 2001 for its 50th anniversary.

The acceptance by His Excellency General the Honorable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs. Hurley as our new Joint Patrons of the Club was fitting appointment since our last Patron Dr Phillip Law passed away in 2010 and the Club has welcomed this joint appointment.

From the President George Friend OAM

The Club again took part in the biennial Antarctic Festival in Hobart in August 2022 and thanks are due again to Brian Harvey for his dedicated work in presenting the Club at this important Festival in which the Club has participated since its inception.

There has been some enormous activity and energy in managing the Club's affairs by the National Council over these years, generously supported by the State Branches and the membership despite the aftermath of the impact of the Covid pandemic.

The Membership Survey developed by our Secretary Melanie has provided a benchmark of ideas for the future development of the Club, particularly pointing to ways in which the Club can work towards addressing the declining membership trends. Retaining the interest of our modern-day expeditioners is vitally important if the Club is going to reach its 100th anniversary milestone.

The modern style Aurora Journal pioneered by our new Editor Dale Jacobsen has given a remarkable lift to the Club, with its new design and content. Dale is to be congratulated for her work and enthusiasm. Well done Dale from all of us!

In thanking all of those on the National Council and the membership, whom I have met or corresponded with during my presidential term, I want to say that we have a unique Club. Our members have served the Nation well for over 75 years and that you, our past and present members, can be proud of your service. The Spirit of ANARE still survives and flourishes today.

There are plenty of tasks ahead for the incoming 2023-2024 National Council – particularly important is the re-engagement with the Antarctic Division under its new leadership – reinvigorating a working corporate partnership which has survived for 75 years despite many ups and downs. I am confident that Council will maintain the momentum and energy developed during the past two years and bind the Club in a positive and inclusive way.

Finally, I close this term with sincerest thanks to the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and our Hon. Legal Advisor and Past President, Dr. Joe Johnson, for their support and counsel throughout my term. I wish the new Council all the very best in their endeavours to build on the solid foundations of 75 years of this fine Club.

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