

ANARE Club – Annual General Meeting 2023
Secretary's Report – Melanie Van Twest

It is now two years since I took on this role and in the past year I am pleased that I have been able to build my knowledge of the Club and its administrative processes, improving on these where possible.

On reflection it sometimes feels like there are more things that I haven't been able to achieve in the last year than things that I have accomplished. The administration of the Club, ensuring that everything is done with procedural fairness and in accordance with our Rules of Association, has taken up the majority of the time that I have had available to give.

Our hopes of establishing a Values Proposition for the ANARE Club and a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise some of our connections with the AAD were unfortunately derailed by the departure of former AAD Director Kim Ellis, who had recommended both, in February 2023. Connecting with the incoming Head of Division, Emma Campbell, now that she has had some time to settle into the role, to re-establish this important relationship will be a priority for the incoming National Council.

On the plus side, I am glad to be part of the group that is developing connections with the National Museum of Australia (see the Heritage Committee report). It is also pleasing to have been able to reinstate a monthly Club Newsletter to keep members informed of events between editions of *Aurora*, and for election and AGM administration.

One of my missions for 2023-24, carrying on from 2022-23, is to help the ANARE Club improve its internal relationships to work together more effectively across the country. This will help the Club thrive as we head towards celebrating 75 years in 2026.

I am looking forward to another busy year as National Council Secretary and to working with all incoming National Council members under David Dodd as President.

Finally, my sincere thanks to outgoing President George Friend for his staunch support and huge energy over the past two years: all the best, George, it has been a genuine pleasure working with you.

Dr Melanie Van Twest
Secretary, National Council
08 August 2023