

ANARE CLUB Inc. **Item 7.7**
National Council Meeting / 2023 Annual General Meeting
19 August 2023

Report on the Activities of the Special Projects / Events Committee
For the 2022-2023 Year.

1. Background

The Club Year 2022-2023 co-incided with three important 75th Anniversary Antarctic / Sub Antarctic expeditionary commemorative events (1947/1948, of significant importance in the annals of the history of the Club and ANARE.

The first was the establishment of the Heard Island Research Station during the period 11 December 1947 with the Island and the adjacent McDonalds Island being proclaimed on 26 December 1947, during which the Island was proclaimed as Australia's the first Sub-Antarctic External Territory by the Group Captain Stuart Campbell. The Ex-WWII landing ship Tank, HMALST 3501 (Lieutenant Commander George Dixon DSC RANVR), enabled the establishment of the station.

The Ship having returned to Melbourne, sailed to Macquarie Island on 27 February 1948 with LCDR Dixon as Captain and Voyage Leader, arriving there on 7 March 1948 to established the Research Station on Macquarie Island, leaving the Island on 25 March 1948.

The third expedition was the voyage undertaken to the Antarctic Continent by the HMAS Wyatt Earp (Commander OOM) to survey a possible site for a continental research station, however sea ice conditions prevented ship from landing and the ship returned via a brief landing on the Balleny Islands and at Macquarie Island in March 1948 during the establishment of the Station.

The Club's National Council in recognising the need to commemorate these milestone events, arranged with the support of the Director AAD Kim Ellis, for three commemorative events; the Video teleconference links with our three Antarctic Stations; Casey, Davis, Mawson and Macquarie Island. A special 75th anniversary Luncheon in Hobart on 19 August 2022 attended by invited guests, ANARE Club and AAD Members. One of the highlights of the function was the presentation by the Club of the Ships Bell from the LST 3501 (aka HMS Labuan) and a special Tribute Bell (a sister Bell presented by the Club in 2021 to the RSV Nuyina), engraved with the names of all ships involved in Antarctic re-supply and research voyages 1947-2022.

A third anniversary project to create and publishing of a 'Compendium of Australian Antarctic Statistics', involving *inter alia*, the publication of expeditioners service details, received approval in principle from the then Director Kim Ellis, however, logistical and privacy considerations have yet to be determined in discussions with the new AAD Director, Emma Campbell.

Reports on the above events have been fully reported in the recent editions of the Club's Aurora Magazine.

2. 75th Anniversary Commemorative Sales.

Sales of Philatelic commemorative anniversary envelopes (75th anniversary of ANARE & 75th Anniversary of Macquarie Island) and a commemorative 75th Macquarie Island Badge were organised by the Club and have proved to be very popular with Club Members. Further commemorative Philatelic envelopes will be issued with the Dan ships Memorial event in December 2023 and the Mawson 70th Anniversary in early 2004.

These sales continue to make net income contributions to the Club's financial standing and thanks are due to Club members for their support of these historic philatelic envelopes.

Looking ahead, it will be the 75th anniversary of the 1929-30; 1930-31 BANZARE expeditions next year (2024) and in October 2026, the Club's will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its establishment. The 65th anniversary of 'Raising the flag at Vestfold Hills' and the 55th anniversary of the hand-over of Wilkes Station are also being considered.

3. Update on the Dan Ship Memorial Event and the Completion of the Seafarers Rest Park North Wharf Redevelopment Project

The design work of the Dan Ship Memorial Plaque is now being finalised and it is pleasing to report that the Consortium has obtained a Federal Government Grant of \$8,500 towards the overall cost of the project.

There has emerged a problem with the timing of the completion of the Seafarers Rest Park complex due to construction delays, with the landscaping now estimated to be completed in August 2024.

As the original date for the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque was set to commemorate the departure of the first Dan ship voyage (the *Kista Dan*) to Macquarie Island, 70 years ago on 12 December 2023, (ie. Thursday 12 December 1953), the Consortium has agreed to hold to this date and hold an Memorial ‘installation ceremony’ when the Park is finished in August 2024. There is a suggestion that the Club’s Nella Dan Memorial (presently in storage) should also be re-erected in the park at the same time. This particular matter will be brought to the Council for decision in the New Year.

4. Thank You

Special thanks go to members of the National Council and Club members for their support of these historic items and events.

David Dodd

Vice President

30 July 2023