



**ANARE Club Inc.**

**WA BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

**The first meeting of the 2026 WA Branch of the ANARE Club  
to be held on Saturday 14 March 2026**

at 11:00 hrs AWST at the Guildford Hotel, 159 James Street, Guildford

**Attendance:**

In person:

**Phil Wolter, Jenna Kelley, Morris Pavlinovich, John Young, Grant Reid, Mandy Reid, Dave Willis, John Bennett, Emma Withers, Emlyn Thomas, Jeremy Wills, David Blaby, Lynda Blaby**

Via Zoom: NIL

**Apologies: Desmond Christie, Peter Malcolm.**

**1. President's report - Phil Wolter**

Welcomed all to the West Australian branch of the ANARE club - our first official AGM in many years to discuss its structure and operations.

Phil shared news about Peter Niblett who normally does interviews with him on his podcast, sadly passing away over a month ago.

Phil provided a short history of the club, noting Peter Stickland was the last Secretary, who resigned from the role in the 1980's. Over the years, others have taken over in an unofficial capacity, mostly to organise Midwinter Functions. Lee Slice, the last organiser, moved to Tasmania in 2025.

Over the years, the National ANARE Club lost touch with the WA Branch but in 2025 decided to reestablish the Branch. Last Midwinter Phil helped to organise

the midwinter luncheon and on August 16 2025 became a National Council Member along with Jenna who was accepted as a National Council member for a second year. Phil explained that the National branch had been reorganising and wanted the West Australian branch to exist again, leading to Phil's appointment as President and Jenna as Vice President

Phil as President, announced the induction of Paquita Boston as an honorary member of the ANARE club on 24 October, 2025.

## 2. **Vice President's report**

Jenna Kelley

Jenna welcomed attendees to the inaugural official AGM for the West Australian branch of the ANARE club, noting that the branch had been dormant since the late 1980s. Jenna mentioned that she had recently moved home to Western Australia, providing additional support for the branch.

Jenna introduced herself, stating she has been an ANARE member since the meetings were held at Polly Woodside in Melbourne. Jenna often assisted with the running of the Melbourne Midwinter functions and then worked at Scott Base (NZ) in 2000/2001.

Jenna's discussion also touched on organising social events, inviting non-members and potentially holding luncheons instead of evening events to increase attendance.

## 3. **Social Events – Mid Winter Function**

Phil and Jenna discussed plans to revitalise the club by organising social events and connecting with maritime history and the possibility of school talks.

The group discussed hosting a mid-winter celebration lunch on Sunday, June 21st, with Phil suggesting they use the current venue of the Guildford Hotel, rather than the Rose and Crown. Members discussed and noted a preference for a more private and comfortable setting to be more suitable.

The club tentatively planned a midwinter celebration for June 27<sup>th</sup>. Emlyn Thomas kindly offered to host the event at his home in Ellenbrook. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be an informal meeting prior to the lunch, which will be a BBQ. Everyone is requested to bring a plate to share. It is suggested

that members attempt to car pool where possible to ensure everyone can attend.

#### 4. **Membership**

Jenna and Phil

The Club decided to open membership to the WA branch to anyone interested in Antarctica and will attempt to expand membership going forward.

Discussion was held regarding the need for additional office bearers, particularly a secretary, to help with running the club. Dave Willis offered to assist as Treasurer as required. Nil offers for Secretary at this time, so Jenna will attempt to fill the role on a temporary basis.

Phil discussed the ANARE club's membership database and encouraged members to recruit non-member return expeditioners, noting that associate membership is now available to those interested in Antarctica even if they haven't been there. The group decided to keep the West Australian branch's structure informal and welcoming, encouraging both members and non-members to attend events.

#### 5. **Branch matters**

Phil Wolter

The meeting focused on determining the structure for re-establishing the club, with options ranging from informal to formal. Jenna emphasised the need for help with office bearer roles, particularly a treasurer and possibly a secretary.

The group discussed establishing a bank account, with ANZ being the preferred option due to its fee-free business account and branch locations in Perth. Phil explained that the club would require three signatures and could be used to manage funds for events and would enable subsidies from the National Council. The preference was to establish a bank account, with Phil potentially serving as de facto treasurer if someone else doesn't volunteer for the role. Phil (acting treasurer) to open a new ANZ bank account for the WA branch with three signatories (including Jenna and Dave Willis as the other two)

David Blaby expressed a desire to donate \$50 to the WA ANARE Club to assist with establishing funds in the bank account.

The following donations of \$50 cash for a total of \$350.00 were received by Phil Wolter from:

David and Lynda Blaby, Grant and Mandy Reid, Jeremy Wills, John Young, Morris Pavlinovich, John Bennett and Ron Wiggins. Phil's donation brings the total to \$400

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Once an account is open, Phil will transfer initial funds of \$400.00 received today, to the new bank account for the WA branch.

## 6. **General business**

8 Oct 2026: 75<sup>th</sup> ANARE Club Anniversary dinner in Melbourne. Several members will be attending from WA.

## 7. **Any other business**

The group addressed logistics for future meetings, including the possibility of using Zoom for remote participation.

Each attendee introduced themselves and spoke of their Role and year/s working in Antarctica.

Phil - Geophysicist at Mawson '76-'77

Emlyn Thomas – Mawson's grandson. Visited Mawson's Huts at Commonwealth Bay

Dave Willis – Chippy at Davis, '85/'86

Mandy Reid – ANARE Wive's Club 'Casey 73, Mawson '76

Grant Reid – Radio Tech, Casey '73 Mawson '76

Ron Wiggins – Mechanic, Casey '69, Mawson '65

David Blaby – Mechanic, Casey '70, Mawson '80

Jeremy Wills – Diesel Mechanic, Mawson '02, Casey '07, Mawson '09.

John Young - Part of the Original Team at Casey '70, Mawson '72, '88

Morris Pavlinovich - Weather Observer Davis '95, Casey '00

John Bennett – OIC, Macquarie Island, 1970

Emma Withers – Hale School Archivist on Syd Kirkby

Jenna Kelley – Scott Base 2000/01

## 8. **Next meeting – Midwinter Lunch, 27<sup>th</sup> June, to be held at Mr Emlyn Thomas' House**

**31 Glenora View, Ellenbrook**

### Next steps

- Jenna: Send out the link to the latest “Phil's Antarctic Adventures” interview video
- Organising team: Plan and coordinate the mid-winter lunch for 27th June at Ellenbrook, including logistics for attendees where possible
- All members: Volunteer for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary for the WA branch
- Phil: Note income and outgoings for the new bank account until a volunteer treasurer is found
- Organising team: Decide and communicate if a guest speaker will be arranged for the mid-winter lunch?
- Jenna: Suggested carpooling where possible for members attending the mid-winter lunch at Ellenbrook