



Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

***ANARE Club Midwinter Celebrations***  
**June 2026**

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I send my warmest Midwinter greetings to members of the ANARE Club, wherever you are gathered across Australia and beyond. Midwinter has always held a special place in Antarctic life. It's a time of reflection, camaraderie, endurance, and great tradition, and we know the 'overwinterers' are made of tough stuff!

This year is especially significant, as the ANARE Club marks its 75th anniversary. For 75 years, the Club has helped preserve friendships, share stories, support expeditioners and their families, and keep Australia's Antarctic spirit alive. Through events and advocacy, and through the *Aurora* journal, your Club remains a vital source of connection and continuity within Australia's Antarctic community.

This year also marks 50 years since the first Australian woman, Dr Zoe Gardner, was the first woman to winter with ANARE as medical officer at Macquarie Island. And it's 45 years since Dr Louise Holliday wintered in Antarctica, as medical officer at Davis Station in 1981. Since then, women have made significant contributions to the scientific research, operations, leadership, and station life of our Antarctic presence.

I thank the Club for the work you do as guardians of Australia's Antarctic legacy, and for your support of the Antarctic collections of the National Library and the National Museum, from large artefacts like the mighty D4 tractor, to the small objects that tell so many powerful human stories.

I am very much looking forward to making a visit to Antarctica next year, to learn more and see in action how your service has advanced our knowledge, strengthened Australia's Antarctic presence, and contributed to our understanding of one of the world's most important regions.

Thank you to the ANARE Club members and community for all the work you have done over the last 75 years and continue to do. Enjoy these special Midwinter celebrations!