

Membership Application

Please enrol me as a member of the Antarctic Family and Friends' Association.

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone: H:

M:

Email:

Relationship: Partner, Parent, Friend, Sibling:

* I am willing to have my name and contact details listed in the members' newsletter (please tick)

Annual membership fee (per person) \$10.00 (plus add \$6.00 for overseas members):

\$.....

Snow Petrel membership badge @ 6.00:\$.....

(Available to members only) -----

Total amount enclosed:-

(Cheque / Money order / Direct debit) \$.....

Signature:

Please complete and send this tear-off section and payment to the Treasurer:

PO Box 2019

Dandenong East PO

DANDENONG 3175

Benefits you enjoy when joining the Antarctic Family and Friends' Association

- Make new friends who share Antarctica as a common interest. Just as your expeditioner will form new friendships during this time away, so you can expand your friendships to meet, contact and talk things over with others
- Meet face to face some of the family and friends of expeditioners who your own expeditioner might have met or talked about in the course of their association with the Australian Antarctic Division
- Receive a bi-monthly newsletter with information regarding state get-togethers, new members of the Association and other information relevant at the time
- Sometimes members are asked to give talks to schools, clubs, etc. and maybe share information about such activities with other members of the Association
- Become involved in the Association over a number of years and become eligible for any special deals going

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/living-and-working/family-and-friends/antarctic-family-and-friends-association>

*Antarctic
Family and
Friends'
Association
Australia*



Photo: Courtesy Margaret Morrison

Welcome to The Antarctic Family and Friends' Association (AFFA).

(formerly Antarctic Wives' Association, established 1965)

The Antarctic Family and Friends' Association was founded by Nel Law, wife of (Dr) Phillip Law AC CBE in 1965. She perceived a need for contact to be established between partners of expeditioners while their husband or friend was away in Antarctica for a long period of time with little means of communicating between Australia and Antarctica.

The forms of communication between Australia and Antarctica have improved dramatically since Nel founded this Association in 1965, however this doesn't overcome the difficulties of physical separation and isolation.

No-one understands the trials and stresses during this period of separation as much as someone sharing the same experience. AFFA provides opportunities for people with loved ones in Antarctica to meet, share stories and create friendships during the time their expeditioner is away from home. Many strong and lasting friendships have evolved by people meeting together in each state over the years.

We all view long periods of separation from loved ones differently. A friendship with someone you have met and formed a link enables you to perhaps meet them for a coffee or call them up and discuss how you are coping when you are missing a dear friend. A problem shared is often a problem halved!

The Association is comprised of people who share a love of and interest in Antarctica. The frequency and nature of meetings will vary depending on current membership in each state and are arranged by co-ordinators and advertised in the newsletters. Regular bi-monthly luncheons are held in Victoria. These get-togethers provide an opportunity for you to meet others who understand your current situation and provide a forum for discussion about anything and everything. Children and friends are welcome to attend these functions.

The Association particularly likes to join expeditioners in celebrating mid-winter, as it signifies the turning-point of the Antarctic year.

Form lifelong friendships

This 'Antarctica' experience will be a significant time in your life. Such are the friendships formed by this camaraderie at get-togethers that members often continue to subscribe and participate for many years after the return of their expeditioner.



Antarctic Family & Friends' Association
Australia

Our Emblem

The snow petrel was chosen as our emblem as it is found only in Antarctica and never travels further north than it must to maintain access to open water for feeding. It is reputed to mate each year with the same partner. You can purchase our emblem badge – (available only to members).

Why not join today!

Our Association has members throughout Australia. Co-ordinators in each state make an effort to hold get-togethers whereby members in that state have an opportunity to meet and exchange news about their particular expeditioners and events happening at home during the time of separation. You are encouraged to attend whenever possible where you will be made most welcome.

This is perhaps the cement that holds a diverse range of individuals together. It is also the underlying 'reason d'etre' for the Association, understood to be the only association of its kind in the world.