



*Antarctic Family & Friends' Association
Australia*

Patron: Dr. Tony Press

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January-February 2017 Newsletter

Happy New Year to all our members.

January holidays are over and the work/home life has started; personally, I always enjoy January. It is the time when I find myself tidying/ organising those areas of the house that get neglected during the year. For some it is a time of loneliness and emptiness; if any member feels this way, please give Jill Whelan a call at the Division or try to attend one of our lunches. Even an email or phonecall to one of our convenors can help. We are here for you.

Please feel free to send me some news of your experience so that others know they are not alone.

Warmest wishes, Tina

In this edition of the newsletter I have included some photos of the earlier days of the Association, News from Davis station regarding their 60th anniversary and some news from Jan Adolph. For members receiving emails they are attached separately as I didn't/couldn't figure out how to copy the PDF to put into the newsletter. The members that receive a hard copy they are attached at the back. Thank you. Tina

New Members of our Association

If anyone would like to make contact with someone on the list below, please feel free to contact me on (03) 97946683 or email and I will give you their number or email address. If you would like your name on the list please drop me a note indicating this. Also if any existing members would like to be added to the list please let me know.

News from Jan Adolph

Hello Everyone,

More sad news I'm afraid. I've just returned home from the East Coast of Tassie to the sad news of the passing of Bill Storer.

This message was received from Ray MacMahon.

"This morning , Sunday the 27th November, our dear colleague Bill Storer died. He died at his nursing home in Sydney.

Bill's ANARE connections were Macquarie Island 1951 and 1954 Mawson Station, he served as a radio operator at both stations.. He was awarded the Polar Medal for his service with ANARE at Mawson Station.

Details of his memorial service are forthcoming."

Noel Cooper, M56, believes Bill was the last of the Mawson 54 party.

Here's some great footage from the Helicopter Resources drone flying off Aurora Australis travelling through the sea ice on Voyage 1 this last month.

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/2016/eye-in-the-sky>

Tue 29/11/2016,
Hello Everyone,

I have been informed by David Dodd, Secretary of the ANARE Club, that John Russell, Q49, HI52, M55, aged 95 years and living in Queensland is the last surviving member of the Mawson 55 Expedition.

Regards

Jan Adolph

More sad news I'm afraid. This note received from Robin Register today.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robin Register

G'day Jan,

Another of our Antarctic Family passed away last Monday week the 21st Nov.

Gordon Watson wintered at Davis in 1979 as part of the 3 man Met team. He worked all over Australia during his Met life and spent his last years at the Hobart Airport from where he retired.

He leaves behind a loving family, Wife Lois, four children, Tanya, Mandy, Carla and Nick, and eight grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by all that worked and socialized with him.

Regards,

Robin Regester

G'Day Everyone,

A Memorial Service for Bob Dingle was held on 21 January, at the May Shaw Health Centre in Swansea on Tasmania's East Coast.

ANARE Club members in attendance were Herb Dartnall, Des Lugg, Pat Quilty and myself. An apology was received from Ian Allison.

It was a beautiful day in Swansea and the May Shaw Health Centre did a wonderful job organising the event. The ANARE Club helped fund the plaque which was installed on a piece of East Coast granite at the entrance to the Health Centre.

You can see some photos and an article on the Antarctic Division website.

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/2017/antarctic-pioneer-and-war-hero-remembered>

Ray McMahon has sent the sad news of the passing of Rick Schmitter on 25 January.

One week ago I visited Rick at his home in Rye- Victoria, he had been suffering from a cancer that had wracked his body for quite some time, last night the 25th of January, he was admitted to hospital where he died.

Ulrich Schmitter , known to most of his Antarctic colleagues as Rick or Rickie, was 4 times employed with ANARE as the station cook, he looked after the well being of a collective of over 82 expeditioners in providing meals for them throughout their year's service at Davis station 1964, Macquarie Station 1966, Mawson Station 1978 and Casey Station in 1980. He will surely be remembered for his commitment to his job and his companionship as a fellow expeditioner. Rick was awarded the Polar Medal in 1978 and the Australian Antarctic Medal in 1987.

Rich was born in Grabs in Switzerland on the 27th of January 1942, the son of the village baker, a trade he learnt and worked at. He subsequently migrated to Australia and married and continued the family baking tradition in Melbourne and at Rye. Rich had been retired from the bakehouse for several years.

Rick leaves behind his wife Pamela and their 4 children Heidi, Daniel, Daryl and Steve and several grandchildren.

RIP Ulrich.

Cheers Jan

TASMANIA

We need a new convenor for Tasmania. Please let Tina know if you can help out in any way. Thank you.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I would dearly love to meet some of our Western Australian members please give me a call on my mobile telephone.

Regards Juliette.

Convenor contact : Juliette Chester – (08) 9274 5724 or Mobile: 0408 453 851

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The South Australian branch is still ‘alive’ if any members, past or present wish to have a chat or organize an outing then please contact me, usually after 6pm on 83531766.

Regards Peter Attard

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr Phil Silvestro has kindly offered to become the NSW convenor. Donna and Phil have had a February BBQ at their house in the past which has been very popular.

For any members wishing to make contact with either Donna or Phil you may do so on (02) 9905 2777

QUEENSLAND

Please feel free to contact Gwenda, your convenor.

Gwenda Schnieder: (07 5463 5708)

VICTORIA

If you are new to our meetings, and you don't know what we look like please ask at the counter for our table as we are always reserved as ANTARCTIC FAMILY AND FRIENDS, sitting at a reserved table which then becomes a table number. I would hate for anyone to miss out. Our last meeting at the Fitzroy Gardens in December, those attending were Wendy Hutchison, Doreen Perger, , Tina and Nemesia Congues.

Our next meeting will be on:

Date: Saturday 11th of February 2017

Venue: The Pavillion
Fitzroy Gardens
Wellington Street.

Time: 12.00 for 12.30pm lunch.

RSVP: Tina on 9794 6683 or email by February 10th 2017 for confirmation of numbers.

Future dates: Saturday 8th of April 2017
Saturday TBC of June 2017
Saturday 11th of August 2017
Saturday 7th of October 2017
Saturday 9th of December 2017