



*Antarctic Family & Friends' Association
Australia*

Patron: Dr. Tony Press

Co-ordinator & Newsletter:

Treasurer

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January- June 2019 Newsletter

The warmest of Welcomes to all our new and existing members.

I apologise sincerely on the tardiness of the newsletters and understand that many of you may feel that the Association has forgotten you.

We haven't and you are in our thoughts as you experience the lonely times that come with being separated from your loved ones.

All of you are most welcome to either email me or leave a phone message on my phone and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

The year has certainly gone by slowly for some or rushing for others as MIDWINTER draws close this weekend it gives us time to reflect on the darkness that envelops the South and the marker that the days will be getting longer and lighter. Soon our expeditioner will be arriving back to Hobart and to you.

Please feel free to send me some news of your experience of when your expeditioner was/is away so others who are experiencing it for the first time may feel they are not alone.

Kindest regards, 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.

Australian Antarctic Division Director Nick Gales retired in November.

In 2015 Dr Gales was appointed Director, responsible for implementing the Antarctic Programme. He was instrumental in the development (with our Patron Dr Press) and staged implementation of the Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action plan which was announced in June 2016. In June 2016 he was appointed as Australia's new Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission.

Dr Gales said it had been a huge privilege to lead Australia's Antarctic Programme through rapid change and growth. *Australian Antarctic Magazine. P32.*

The magazine can be viewed online at www.antarctica.gov.au/magazine

Meeting with Dr Gales in Hobart with Pam and Doreen at the presentation of our Lectern and Memorial to Nell and Phil Law was a lovely occasion where he was very supportive of our role in the Antarctic community. We look forward to working with the new director.

The new Director is Kim Ellis who started in his news position in February.

News from Jan Adolph

Hello Again Everyone,

Ian McLeod (M58) has just informed me that Kent Keith, zoologist at Macquarie Island in 1956, passed away in Canberra on 3 January.

Another sad loss of one of our early expeditioners.

Regards Jan Adolph

From: Darren Harpur

Subject: Another loss to the Antarctic Community

Date: 5 February 2019 at 9:56:30 pm AEDT

To:

Hi Jan,

In case you haven't heard, Alan Elcheikh passed away yesterday (Monday) morning. I'm not really sure of the protocols around these sad events, but suspect your mailing list has people on it who would like to know.

He had been ill for some months with leukaemia. He is survived by his wife Fiona and 2 young children.

I'm pretty sure he wasn't an ANARE club member, but he's been going south since the early 90's and was much loved by all. He was an engineer who worked on the Amery Ice shelf drilling project for many years, as well as with the US Antarctic program on Operation Ice-Cube, drilling to install sensors deep in the ice near the south pole. He has most recently been back with AAD.

The funeral service to remember and celebrate Al Elcheikh's life will be held this Saturday, 9th February at 11am.

Millingtons Funeral Centre, 25 Mcintyre St, Mornington.

Fiona has asked people not to bring flowers. Instead please donate to the <https://www.leukaemia.org.au/>.

All the best,

Darren Harpur

TASMANIA

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Juliette is still unwell, please get well soon. If anyone would like to convene in the meantime please let Tina know either by email or phone.

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. At our meeting in February we decided to attend the Begonia Festival in Ballarat and catch up with our members there. It was a cold and windy day, but a lovely lunch and chat was had. In attendance were Pam and Graeme, Lynette and Bill Singleton, Tina, Brian, Nemesia and Murray.

We hope to see you on:

Date: **Saturday 22nd of June 2019**

Venue: Coffee Head
8 Railway Parade off Prospect Hill Rd
Camberwell.

Time: 12.00 for 12.30pm lunch.

RSVP: Tina on 9794 6683 or email by June 21st 2019 for confirmation of numbers.

Future dates: Saturday 10th of August 2019
Saturday 12th of October 2019
Saturday 14th of December 2019