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ANTARCTIC SERVICE MEDALLION

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The Australian Antarctic Territory was formally declared in 1933 and in 1947 the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) was established to plan and co-ordinate exploration and research of the Antarctic.

The Australian wintering stations in the Antarctic are,

Amery Ice Shelf wintered at during 1968 when a four man expedition spent a year at the foot of the Lambert Glacier, 280km WSW of Davis. They established a caravan complex living base at 69° 28' south 71° 24' east some 70km inland from the Amery Ice Shelf front and near its axis.

Casey established as Repstat (replacement station for Wilkes, which was being buried slowly by drift snow) with construction beginning in the summer of 1964-65 at Budd Coast in Wilkes Land about 3km south of Wilkes Station. Further summer parties in 1965 through to 1968 completed the erection of the buildings and in 1968 a construction team of four wintered in the buildings and completed their fit-out. Repstat was officially declared Casey on 19 February 1969. It is named in honour of Lord Casey, Governor General of Australia and a friend of Antarctic endeavour. In the late 1980's Casey was vacated as its buildings had become weakened by rust and the scientific facilities were no longer adequate. A new station, which had been under construction for some years, was established 1km away. It opened on 20 December 1988 and the first wintering party at the new Casey was in 1989. It has operated continuously since that year.

Davis established in 1957 at Vestfold Hills on the eastern side of Prydz Bay, on the Ingrid Christensen Coast of Princess Elizabeth Land with the first wintering in that year. It was named in honour of Captain John King Davis who captained vessels on Mawson's historic expeditions. On 25 January 1965 it was closed so that funds could be diverted to finance construction of the replacement station for Wilkes, namely Repstat. Davis reopened on 19 February 1969 and has operated continuously since that year.

Heard Island located north west of the Antarctic continent, established in 1947 with the first wintering in 1948 being at Atlas Cove. It was closed in 1955. In 1992 a party of five wintered at Spit Bay which is at the opposite end of the island to Atlas Cove.

Macquarie Island, located north east of the Antarctic continent, established in 1948 with the first wintering in that year at the site of Mawson's old hut at Garden Bay on the northern tip of the island. It has operated continuously since that year.

Mawson established in 1954 at Horseshoe Harbour on Mawson Coast in Mac Robertson Land with the first wintering in that same year. It is named in honour of Australia's great Antarctic explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson and has operated continuously since 1954.

Wilkes established by the USA in 1957 at Stonehocker Point on the coast of Vincennes Bay in Wilkes Land. It was named in honour of Charles Wilkes who commanded the first American exploratory expedition to the Antarctic in 1838.

Custody of Wilkes was transferred to Australia in 1959 with the first ANARE wintering being in that year. Australia operated the station for ten years with the first five wintering parties having a total of eighteen expeditioners from the USA as part of the Transfer Agreement. The last wintering party at Wilkes in 1968 was relieved by the 1969 Casey party.

Service Medallion Established

Until the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), all members of an Australian expedition who wintered on the Antarctic continent were awarded the Imperial Polar Medal¹. This was because of the emphasis given to awards being made on a team basis. However, following that year, rules for awarding the medal were altered so that it was no longer given for service in an expedition but became an award for individual merit.

In 1968, after taking over responsibility for the Antarctic Division from the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Supply considered that those who wintered with ANARE should receive some special recognition. Following discussions with the Prime Minister's and the External Affairs Departments, an exclusive Departmental award, the Antarctic Service Medallion (known unofficially as the Winterer's Medal) was conceived and subsequently approved by the Minister of Supply. It was to be issued by the Antarctic Division to those who wintered on ANARE service in Antarctica (i.e. south of 60 degrees south) and at Heard Island. Eligibility was extended to include Macquarie Island in 1973.

Wintering is defined as at least six continuous months and such period must include midwinter's day (June 22) with the

only exception being if a person dies during a wintering. The medallion is awarded posthumously.

It should be pointed out that winterers serving with ANARE are not necessarily Australian citizens. ANARE recruits suitable applicants from various countries. In addition, some countries send scientists to winter with ANARE and carry out research projects.

The first style of the medallion, with a certificate, was awarded for service at one of the Antarctic continental stations from 1968 although the actual distribution of medallions was not made until August 1971. Service at the sub-continental station of Macquarie Island was rewarded with a certificate for the years 1968-1972 with a second style of medallion, specifically for Macquarie Island, being awarded from 1973. In 1988 modifications were made whereby individual medallions were struck for each station with the station name incorporated into the design.

At the end of 1996, the manufacturing of the medallions was transferred from the Royal Australian Mint to the firm of J & J Cash of Melbourne. They produced new dies, which were slightly different to those used up until the end of 1996. The most obvious change was to the reverse design which made provision for the recipient's name and wintering year to be engraved in a specific position on the reverse, where it could be easily seen, rather than on the rim as had been the case previously.

Medallions are issued in a fitted presentation case with the Australian Coat-of-Arms on the front. The hinged case can be dark blue or black and made from vinyl in an imitation leather style or in at least one year, namely 1976, it was made from a royal blue velvet type of material. The Coat-of-

Arms is coloured gold in some years and silver in others.

The inscription on the white silk lining inside the lid matches the Department name as it is on the medallion; except from 1988 onwards the inscription is “Australian Antarctic Division” as compared to the medallion legend of “Antarctic Division”.

The first issue of medallions for the years 1968, 1969 and 1970 was distributed in August 1971. Thereafter, as a general rule, the medallions were brought by ship with the changeover staff and handed over by the voyage leader, usually an Antarctic Division staff member, to the leader of the winterers during the changeover ceremony. The voyage leader thanked the winterers, welcomed the changeover staff and congratulated the station leader who then handed out the medallions. An exception to the rule occurred with the one-off wintering party at Heard Island in 1992, as there was no changeover ceremony.

In several years service certificates of various designs and sizes have also been issued to winterers.

Following a review of the Australian system of honours and awards, it was decided in 1997 to award this medallion retrospectively to those winterers who had previously received no recognition either by way of an Imperial Polar Medal or an Antarctic Service Medallion.

As a result, 980 medallions were available to be issued in 1998 to expeditioners who wintered at Mawson, Davis or Wilkes in the years from 1959 to 1967, Heard Island from 1948 to 1954 and Macquarie Island from 1948 to 1972. No service certificates were issued. Expeditioners who wintered more than once received a medallion for each wintering. Next-of-kin are entitled

to claim medallions in respect of eligible winterers since deceased.

The medallions issued were identical with those currently on issue. In addition, a new one was made bearing the station name “Wilkes”. This station had been replaced by Casey in 1969, two years prior to the first distribution of medallions, and consequently never had its own medallion. Winterers there in 1968 had been issued with a “Mawson, Davis, Casey” obverse designed medallion but with “Wilkes” engraved on the rim after the recipient’s name. The same designed medallion had also been issued for the 1968 winterers at Amery Ice Shelf and Repstat with the respective station names engraved on the rim being “Amery” and “Repstat”.

Medallion Design

Obverse. There are four different obverse designs. The first two types were an adaptation of the then current ANARE logo and the last two types are identical with the current logo². The designs are,



Obv. Type 1

Type 1

A large globe depicting the Southern Hemisphere, and upon which is shown the South Polar circle and a series of three parallel and twelve meridian lines. In the upper section of the globe is Australia, the top of which stops at the edge of the globe. Below and to the right is New Zealand, lower and to the left and right are small dots representing Heard Island and Macquarie Island and at the bottom is the whole continent of Antarctica with Australia's territory highlighted with a mottled finish. Each one of Australia's continental wintering stations is indicated by a dot on the coastline of its territory. Starting from the left, these dots represent Mawson, Davis and Casey. The bottom right edge of the Antarctic continent stops at the edge of the globe. To the bottom left are the engraver's initials "V.V." (Vanbola Veinberg the Estonian born artist-engraver). Around the border is the legend, "AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTARCTIC RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS" at the top and "★ MAWSON ● DAVIS ● CASEY ★" at the base.

Type 2

As for Type 1 but with the following variations,

- a) Heard Island is depicted and named,



Obv. Type 2

"HEARD I." and above it is depicted another island which is probably Kerguelen Island. Macquarie Island, being an operational station, is represented by a dot and named, "MACQUARIE I."

- b) The whole Antarctic continent is replaced by that portion of the continent from the edge of Enderby Land in East Antarctica across to the edge of Marie Byrd Land in West Antarctica with Australia's territory highlighted in a mottled finish. Off the coast, below Macquarie Island, are depicted the Balleny Islands namely, Sturge, Buckle and Young Island.

- c) Six meridian lines are shown instead of twelve.

- d) The engraver's initials "V.V." are moved to the bottom right.

- e) The station names at the base are replaced by one name, "MACQUARIE ISLAND".

Type 3

As for Type 1 but with the following variations,

- a) There are five parallel lines instead of three.

- b) The top of Australia stops at the top parallel line instead of at the edge of the globe.

- c) The bottom right edge of the Antarctic continent is inside the bottom parallel line in-



Obv. Type 3

stead of at the edge of the globe.

d) New Zealand is not depicted.

e) There are no engraver's initials.

f) There are no dots on the continent to indicate the location of the continental wintering stations.

g) At the base is the name of the station, "★ (station name) ★" i.e. CASEY or DAVIS or HEARD ISLAND or MACQUARIE ISLAND or MAWSON.

Type 4

As for Type 3 but with the following variations,

a) Heard Island is shown in a slightly lower position. Consequently it is shown further south than Macquarie Island, which is incorrect because Macquarie Island is 54° 30' south and Heard Island is 53° south.

b) The meridian and parallel lines are in slightly different positions and as a result the meridian lines coordinate with the medallion legend in different positions e.g.

1) At the U and third A in AUSTRALIAN instead of at the T and N.

2) At the N in ANTARCTIC instead of at the first T.

3) At the N of EXPEDITIONS instead of at the O.

c) The continents of Australia and Antarctica are slightly different in design and Australia's territory in Antarctica does not have a mottled finish.

d) "Wilkes" is added to the list of station names.

Reverse. There are two designs, the first with nine different legends. They are,

Type A

In the centre is the Australian Coat-of-Arms above a scroll bearing the word "AUSTRALIA" all resting on branches of wattle. Around the border is the legend, of which there are nine different types,

1) "★ COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ★" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY ● ANTARCTIC DIVISION" at the bottom.

2) "★ GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA★" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE ● ANTARCTIC DIVISION" at the bottom.

3) "★ GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA★" at the top and "ANTARCTIC DIVISION/DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS" at the bottom in two lines.

4) "★ COMMONWEALTH OF AUS-



Obv. Type 4



Rev. Type A2



Rev. Type A4



Rev. Type A6



Rev. Type A9

TRALIA ★" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE ★ ANTARCTIC DIVISION" at the bottom.

5) As type 4 but with spelling error, "ANTARTIC" (recipients were issued with a new corrected medallion).

6) "★ COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ★" at the top and "ANTARCTIC DIVISION/DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & THE ENVIRONMENT" at the bottom in two lines.

7) "★ COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ★" at the top and "ANTARCTIC DIVISION/DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY" at the bottom in two lines.

8) "★ COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ★" at the top and "AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION" at the bottom.

9) "★ COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ★" at the top and "ANTARCTIC DIVISION" at the bottom.

Type B

As for Type A9 except the Coat-of-Arms is in the top half and in the lower half is a T shaped plaque for engraving recipient's details.

Size/Metal 54mm bronze matt finish and from 1988 bronze antique finish.



Rev. Type B

Naming Impressed or engraved on the rim until 1996. For the year of 1992 at least, the engraving is in a computer generated calligraphic style. The details recorded are,

a) With Type 1 Obverse - Name, Station Name and Year (Note: Amery Ice Shelf abbreviated to Amery).

b) With Type 2 Obverse - Name and Year.

c) With Type 3 Obverse - Name and Year or Name only.

d) With Type 4 Obverse - Engraved on reverse with Name and Year.

NUMBER ISSUED See Tables 1 and 2 at end.

END NOTES

Note 1 (from page 47) One winterer at Mawson in 1957 did not receive a Polar Medal and there is no official reason for this omission. However, because Australia now has its own Awards System, apparently there is no provision for making back claims for the Polar Medal which is within the Imperial Awards System. To make matters worse, this person has not received an Antarctic Medallion for his service at Mawson in 1957 because the Government's approval, announced by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Antarctic, only provided for retrospective medallions for those who wintered at Mawson between 1959-1967. This forgotten winterer is still pursuing the matter.

Note 2 (from page 48) The original ANARE logo was designed by Nel Law, wife of Dr Phillip Law, soon after he became Director of the Australian Antarctic Division in 1949. It comprised a globe depicting the Antarctic in its centre with 4 parallel and 36 meridian lines radiating out to the southern sections of Australia, South

America and South Africa. This was surrounded by a band containing the legend, "AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTARCTIC RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS" and this band was encircled by a border in which was depicted Antarctic flora and fauna. In 1985 the logo was altered by Jim Bleasel who had been appointed Director of the Division in 1984. He simplified it by,

a) Removing the outer border of flora and fauna.

b) Altering the amount of detail depicted on the globe so that it only showed the Antarctic and Australian continents.

c) Showing 5 parallel lines and only 12 meridian lines.

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The numbers issued have come from tables and lists compiled by Max Corry using lists of ANARE wintering parties supplied by the Antarctic Division.

TABLE 1 *Number Issued by Design Type*
R = Issued retrospectively in 1998.

Year	Design	Number
	Mawson, Davis, Casey (Obverse Type 1)	
1968-72	C of A, Supply (Rev A1)	309
1973-74	G of A, Science (Rev A2)	135
1975	G of A, Science & Consumer Affairs (Rev A3)	67
1976-78,85,86	C of A, Science (Rev A4)	365
1985	C of A, Science (Rev A5) Error – Antartic	85
1979-80	C of A, Science & The Environment (Rev A6)	146
1981-84	C of A, Science & Technology (Rev A7)	352
1987	C of A, Australian Antarctic Division (Rev A8)	86
	Macquarie Island (Obverse Type 2)	
1973-74	G of A, Science (Rev A2)	36
1975	G of A, Science & Consumer Affairs (Rev A3)	21
1976-78,85,86	C of A, Science (Rev A4)	97
1985	C of A, Science (Rev A5) Error – Antartic	20
1979-80	C of A, Science & The Environment (Rev A6)	37
1981-84	C of A, Science & Technology (Rev A7)	74
1987	C of A, Australian Antarctic Division (Rev A8)	17
	Various Stations (Obverse Type 3 Reverse A9)	
1988-96	Casey	194
1988-96	Davis	226
1988-96	Heard Island	5
1988-96	Macquarie Island	136
1988-96	Mawson	217
	Various Stations (Obverse Type 4 Reverse B)	
1997-98	Casey	35
1959-67	Davis	53R
1997-98	Davis	37
1948-54	Heard Island	90R
1948-72	Macquarie Island	395R
1997-98	Macquarie Island	38
1959-67	Mawson	237R
1997-98	Mawson	39
1959-67	Wilkes	205R

TABLE 2 Number Issued by Year and Station

*R = Issued retrospectively in 1998. * Repstat (replacement station for Wilkes) was not officially declared Casey until February 1969. Medallions have REPSTAT engraved on the rim.*

Year	Amery	Casey	Davis	Heard	MQ. Is.	M'son	Wilkes
1948	-	-	-	14R	14R	-	-
1949	-	-	-	11R	11R	-	-
1950	-	-	-	14R	16R	-	-
1951	-	-	-	15R	17R	-	-
1952	-	-	-	14R	14R	-	-
1953	-	-	-	13R	14R	-	-
1954	-	-	-	9R	13R	-	-
1955	-	-	-	-	14R	-	-
1956	-	-	-	-	15R	-	-
1957	-	-	-	-	15R	-	-
1958	-	-	-	-	16R	-	-
1959	-	-	8R	-	16R	23R	18R
1960	-	-	8R	-	15R	33R	18R
1961	-	-	9R	-	13R	25R	24R
1962	-	-	9R	-	15R	24R	23R
1963	-	-	9R	-	16R	26R	23R
1964	-	-	10R	-	17R	26R	24R
1965	-	-	-	-	19R	27R	23R
1966	-	-	-	-	19R	26R	27R
1967	-	-	-	-	18R	27R	25R
1968	4	4*	-	-	20R	23	26
1969	-	33	10	-	19R	28	-
1970	-	24	10	-	18R	22	-
1971	-	26	12	-	16R	24	-
1972	-	25	12	-	15R	26	-
1973	-	29	14	-	17	25	-
1974	-	27	14	-	19	26	-
1975	-	26	14	-	21	27	-
1976	-	23	14	-	19	29	-
1977	-	23	14	-	20	28	-
1978	-	24	14	-	20	26	-
1979	-	25	15	-	19	30	-
1980	-	25	21	-	18	30	-
1981	-	28	25	-	18	32	-
1982	-	34	26	-	19	33	-
1983	-	29	28	-	18	29	-
1984	-	30	22	-	19	36	-

TABLE 2 Continued Number Issued by Year and Station

Year	Amery	Casey	Davis	Heard	MQ. Is.	M'son	Wilkes
1985E	-	33	24	-	20	28	-
1985	-	33	24	-	20	28	-
1986	-	31	27	-	18	27	-
1987	-	36	24	-	17	26	-
1988	-	27	29	-	20	28	-
1989	-	23	31	-	14	25	-
1990	-	26	22	-	16	24	-
1991	-	28	26	-	13	22	-
1992	-	17	30	5	15	30	-
1993	-	19	25	-	14	32	-
1994	-	19	26	-	14	20	-
1995	-	19	17	-	14	18	-
1996	-	16	20	-	16	18	-
1997	-	18	19	-	19	20	-
1998	-	17	18	-	19	19	-
Total	4	797	680	95	871	1076	231

Note: - This article is an excerpt from a series of books being prepared by the author on official and private awards to Australians.