
The expeditioners of the 65th ANARE, Macquarie Island,
cordially invite you to join them on Thursday 21 June, 2012
for the biggest celebration on the Antarctic calendar ...

Midwinter Festival



Come to Macca...

Location: 54°30' S 158°57' E, Southern Ocean, approximately half way between Australia and Antarctica. A sub-Antarctic wilderness and World Heritage area, Macquarie Island offers you a Midwinter experience like no other!

If there's one event you must attend this year, Midwinter at Macquarie Island is it. Invitations are limited, and those invited have been carefully screened and selected.

Macquarie Island is the only permanently staffed sub-Antarctic station of the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), and the oldest of the four current AAD stations. Its human history stretches back over two hundred years: from fur sealers and elephant and penguin blubber harvests, to Douglas Mawson's Australian Antarctic Expedition exactly 100 years ago, and of course the establishment of the ANARE station in 1948, which has been continually occupied ever since. Unlike the stations within the Australian

Antarctic Territory, Macquarie Island is part of Tasmania and land management on the Island is the responsibility of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (TasPAWS) in collaboration with the AAD. The current staff number 26, of which 14 are TasPAWS employees (13 of those associated with the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Program, MIPEP) and three work for the Bureau of Meteorology alongside nine AAD staff who are responsible for station daily running and maintenance.

Your 'A' list invitation includes **luxury accommodation** in one of our fully-furnished dongas or for our VIPs... we can offer a night on the West Coast 'Featherbeds' available only for two months of every year, an experience which cannot be matched anywhere else. For the very brave 'bivvy out' - wake up on the plateau to sweeping views across the island on the comfortable sponge beds, or book into one of our exclusive well appointed caves suitable for intrepid troglodytes.

Expeditioners 2012

Karen Andrew – MIPEP Dog Handler/Hunter, Jack Bauer – MIPEP Hunter, Dave Bone – MIPEP Hunter, Dana Boyte – MIPEP Dog Handler/Hunter, Narelle Campbell – Station Leader, Richard Dakin – Ranger in Charge, Kevin Gunn – Met. Tech, Colin Heap – Supervising Comms Tech, Stephen Horn – MIPEP Hunter, Stuart Johnson – MIPEP Hunter, Peter Kirkman – MIPEP Hunter/Supervisor, Lauren Koehler – MIPEP Hunter, Mango Mangles – Comms Tech, Jim Milne – Building Services Supervisor, Deputy Station Leader, Matt Price – Met. Observer, Tom Salmon – Plumber, David Seelye – MIPEP Dog Handler/Hunter, Garry Shearsby – MIPEP Hunter, Kelly Smith – MIPEP Hunter, Jane Tansell – MIPEP Dog Handler/Hunter, Maria Tomasi - Chef, Robby van Tongeren – Mechanic, Mel Van Twest – Doctor, Cameron Walker – MIPEP Hunter, Andrew Winchester – Senior Met. Observer, Ray Wright – Electrician.
Photograph by Richard Dakin.



What we offer...

A wildlife experience like no other.

Where else can you go for a short walk and see numerous species of penguin, elephant seals and perhaps even a rare fur seal or New Zealand sea lion.

Unique heritage accommodation...

The bulk of Macquarie Island accommodation is found in buildings known as 'dongas'. Southern Aurora Donga (or S.A.D.) was built in 1958 and is still going strong, with new expeditioners occupying it each year. Other historical accommodation may be found in the Garden Cove donga (built 1969) or Hasselborough (Hass) House.

All bedrooms are private, though sound-proofing varies. Each 'donga' features a drying room and laundry facilities as well as shared ablutions.

Cumpston's Cottage, built in 1995-6, is the most recent and comfortable (though least character-full) accommodation

block, and features views across Garden Cove to Buckles Bay and a private lounge (when not required by the Station Leader as her office).

All guests have free access to the outdoor spa and sauna, and our very own golf course. All rooms come with colour TV and wifi.

A taste of history...

Along both coasts of Macquarie Island are significant archaeological sites dating from the 19th century. Though each site is protected, there is much to be learned about how the hardy folks lived and worked in this harsh environment in those times before communication with the Australian mainland.

The station library features a large number of books on the history of Macquarie Island and Australia's Antarctic exploration and research, as well as a large collection for general interest.

Great social atmosphere...

The teams on each Australian station are highly social and a good time is had by all, Macquarie Island being no exception. Midwinter is the highlight of the social year, and your memories of it will be like no other party you will ever experience. Most expeditioners have beards, to feel part of our team we recommend you start growing one for the big day or purchase a fake one. Or see page 9 for the template to make your own.



Images - Right: Field hut at Brothers Point, Macquarie Island, 1999. Photographer Dale Main. Below: (L-R) Plumbers workshop, field store, carpenter, Hardware store, Sealers Inn and Electrical workshop, 1987. Photographer Mark Loveridge.





The linchpin of the whole festival is, naturally, the **Midwinter Feast**, held in the Station Mess which will be completely redecorated for the occasion. For several hours of Midwinter's Day, you will be a welcome guest at our table and bar for a meal that has been months in the planning and will surpass all expectations.

The Midwinter festival will also feature a highly respected and well-reviewed performance of the traditional entertainment, **'Cinderella'**, as well as a musical concert by the talented members of the station team.

A chance to get out and about... If walking around the island itself does not appeal, there are opportunities to get out and have some fun closer to home. The Midwinter festival includes the following activities:

- Midwinter's Day swim on both sides of the isthmus (West then East)
- Spa and sauna
- Games afternoon including haggis hurling, tug-of-war, indoor soccer and bocce in the Market Square
- A sumptuous evening banquet

It is recommended that you bring your own 'tough bathers' for the ocean swim as you may be approached by an open minded seal or penguin. June and July is the height of their breeding season.

The station also features a well-appointed gym with both weight and cardio equipment, and leisure facilities include a pool/table tennis table, cinema and a popular music room with a range of instruments.

For those seeking adventure by appointment only, go hunting with our well trained SAFARI MIPEP guides and their dogs.

You will, of course, be at liberty to go for walks around the station and Isthmus whenever you please. All walking paths are candlelit to ensure you don't stray off the path. Briefings on station limits, wildlife approach distances and emergency procedures will be held on arrival.

don't forget your camera



Images: Top - Midwinter celebrations, 1960. Photographer unknown.
Centre - Midwinter 1958. Photographer Peter King.
Bottom - Macquarie Island wine supply, 1970. Photographer unknown.



Getting here

With the departure of the *Aurora Australis* in late April after resupply, at present no other ships are expected to visit Macquarie Island until October 2012 when the tourist season commences. There is no airport, seas are too rough for sea planes and Macquarie Island is unfortunately out of helicopter range from New Zealand or Tasmania.

However, don't despair! Ship charter is a viable option with fishing vessels also permitted to work around the island with appropriate permits and outside the World Heritage exclusion zone. You may also want to source your own submarine or hovercraft. For those interested in participating in the **'Macca-teleport trial'** we could arrange to 'beam' you in, although please be aware we are still trialing this new technology and at times our bandwidth is limited – there is a chance we may lose you or receive only half of you during transmission.

We recommend that your charter include ship-to-shore transfers by Inflatable Rubber Boat (IRB) or LARCS, noting that Landing Beach, on the east side of the Isthmus and featuring landing beacons (not currently working), is the tried-and-true safest place to get to land. Your charter operator will also need to include appropriately qualified boating crew to ensure your safety during this transfer.

Once on shore, our staff will be happy to help pop your luggage into our nifty Polaris vehicle while you walk the short distance to the station. There is no passenger transport on the island due to the seal wallows, boggy and steep terrain; and the untold numbers of penguins and seals that frequent the paths and beach walks.

For all transport bookings please contact the Australian Antarctic Division – 03 6232 3209

Images: Main - Knowles Kerry introduces Soda to an Elephant Seal pup, 1959. Photographer Murray Price.

Small top - Nella Dan driven aground, 1987. Photographer Andrew Klekociuk.

Centre - Sealing team at work at the Isthmus, 1995. Photographer Christo Baars.

Bottom - The last LARC operation for ANARE. Circumnavigation of Macquarie Island in under 11 hours, 1993. Photographer Kevin Bell.



What to bring...

For the Festival

Midwinter is a very special occasion and expeditioners will bring several **after-five** formal outfits from which to choose for this night of nights in order to do it justice. **We hope you will do the same!**

For other activities

Warm winter clothes – as a minimum, merino or wool thermals, fleece jacket and pants, and water- and windproof outer layer – are strongly recommended. Stout waterproof walking boots, gaiters and walking poles are also a must. Some gear can be temporarily borrowed from the Field Store.

Your bedlinen, towels and general toiletries are provided, the last from our bulk store affectionately known as “Woolies”.



Images: Main - Macquarie Island expeditioner outfit, 1985. Photographer Steve Brookes. Small top - Macquarie Island Midwinter 2006. Photographer James Doube. Centre - Macquarie Island Tuxedo Model. Photographer unknown. Bottom - Macquarie Island clothing store, 1998. Photographer Mike Staples.

Macquarie Island



Image Charles Sandell, 1912

Midwinter Festival 2012

Kindly RSVP to:

or

Ms Narelle Campbell, Station Leader, Macquarie Island
narelle.campbell@aad.gov.au • T 0011 672 13 9902
by Saturday 16 June 2012, indicating your ability to join us.

If, for **outrageous** reasons best known only to yourself, you are unable to take advantage of this generous invitation, please send your best excuses so we may read them out during the Midwinter Feast.

We hope to see you here!

Station staff of the 65th ANARE, Macquarie Island

DIY BEARD KIT*

You too can look just like a bearded write-ist!

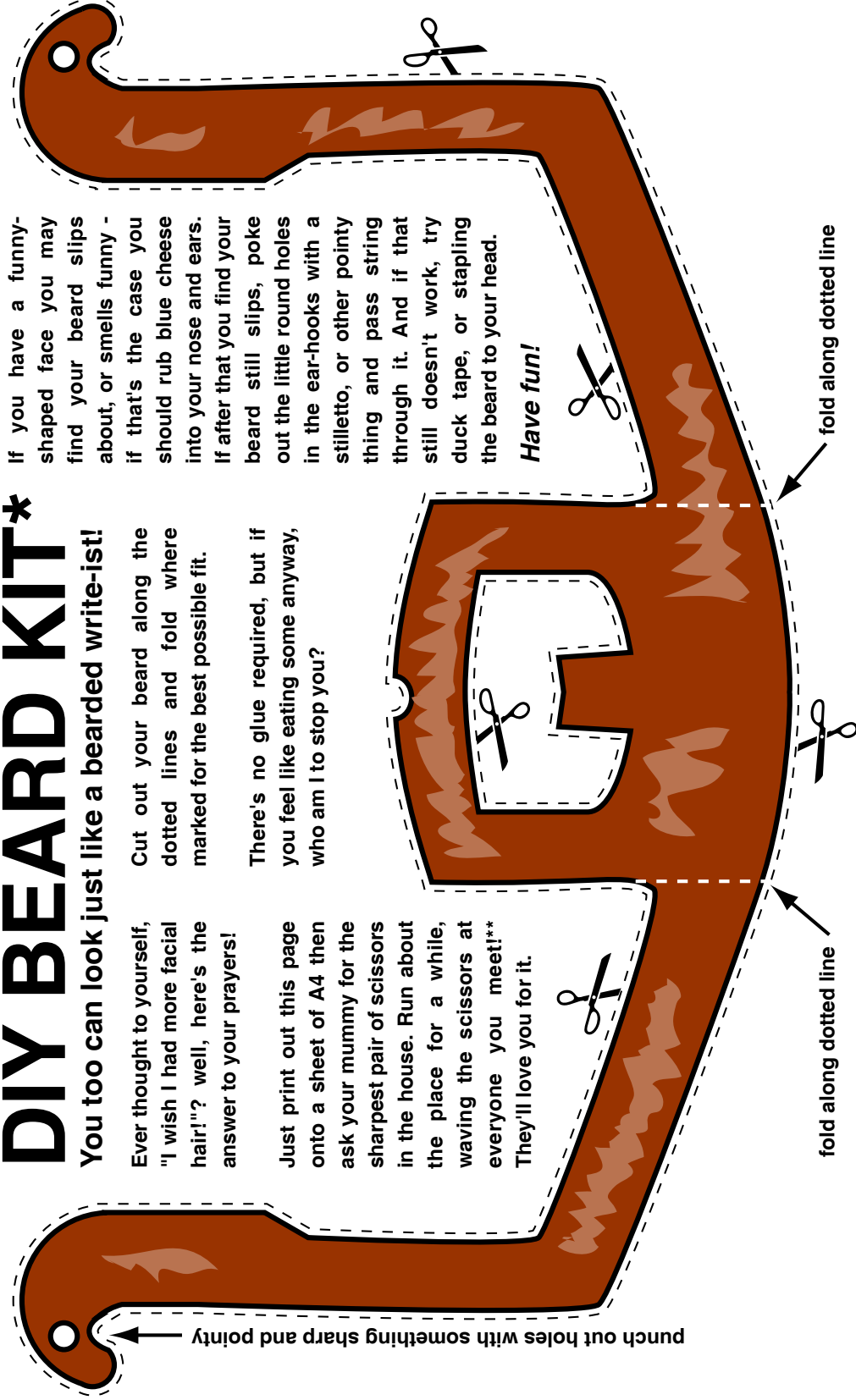
Ever thought to yourself, "I wish I had more facial hair!"? well, here's the answer to your prayers!

There's no glue required, but if you feel like eating some anyway, who am I to stop you?

Just print out this page onto a sheet of A4 then ask your mummy for the sharpest pair of scissors in the house. Run about the place for a while, waving the scissors at everyone you meet!** They'll love you for it.

If you have a funny-shaped face you may find your beard slips about, or smells funny - if that's the case you should rub blue cheese into your nose and ears. If after that you find your beard still slips, poke out the little round holes in the ear-hooks with a stiletto, or other pointy thing and pass string through it. And if that still doesn't work, try duck tape, or stapling the beard to your head.

Have fun!



punch out holes with something sharp and pointy

fold along dotted line

fold along dotted line

*WARNING - 1: may cause severe paper cuts to nose, ears, cheeks and face
**WARNING - 2: running with scissors is very, very naughty and can lead to serious injury and nose warts.



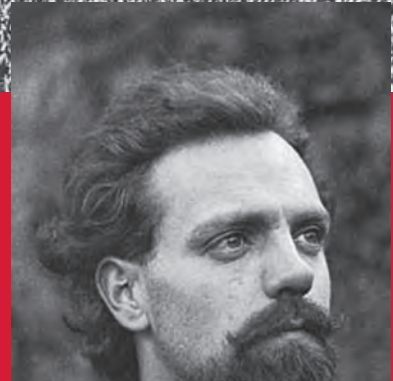
Macquarie Island



GEORGE FREDERICK AINSWORTH
33, Australian (Sydney),
Leader - Macquarie Island
Meteorologist



LESLIE RUSSELL BLAKE
21, Australian (Queensland)
Geologist, Cartographer



CHARLES A SANDELL
25, British
Wireless Operator, Mechanic



HAROLD HAMILTON
26, New Zealand
Biologist



ARTHUR J SAWYER
26, New Zealand
Wireless Operator



1912-2012