

Mundaring and Hills Historical Society

My Antarctic Days - Ron Wiggins



In the 1960s, Ron in his late twenties, decided to leave his warm Derby existence and join a small group to spend a year in Antarctica.

Ron's skills as diesel mechanic were essential in his role in the life of

an isolated station in the great south land. Not only was he required to maintain the vital services that enabled the team to live in an extreme environment but the team was tasked to build a new base called Casey to replace the aging present base of Wilkes.

Three months training were undertaken, including using explosives, safety in Arctic conditions, power generation, abseiling and other survival skills. As much of the work at the base would involve heavy lifting, all of the team needed to be strong and fit.

The Thala Dan sailed from Melbourne on the 10th of January 1965 and so the adventure which would change his life forever, began.

The tasks ahead for the team, were to improve Wilks Base to provide safe and comfortable living conditions while carrying out necessary research projects and also building the new base of Casey about 10 kms away.

The next twelve months brought many challenges. The fierce storms which lashed the base caused all outside work to be delayed. Near misses occurred with crevasses opening up

under vehicles and dog sleds. A number of these could have resulted in loss of life but for the resourcefulness of the team. Ron has some wonderful stories of his challenges with heavy appliances rolling in deep snow, rescuing his mates from crevasses and constructing the new station in hostile weather.



On the 7th of March 1966, the adventure was over as the men returned home. Ron will tell us how the group supported each other so far from home in extreme conditions.

These days Ron Wiggins and his wife Sue are living on a rural property in Mt Helena. With a few fruit trees and some sheep to mow the grass, they are living the dream.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

to be held on Saturday 17 August at the
Boya Community Centre, 135 Scott St, Boya
at 2pm

Followed by General Meeting at 2.15pm

Guest Speaker Ron Wiggins

at 2.45pm

"My Antarctic Days"

Light refreshments will be served after Ron's talk.

Ph: 9295 0540 E: mhhs@mundaringhistory.org

Glen Forrest Bridge Club (GFBC)



There is nothing like the warmth of a fire to warm the cockles of one's heart. This is a picture of the lovely fire that will greet you at our lovely local bridge club. Maybe you have considered learning to play or to renew your interest in the game.

Glen Forrest bridge club, is a friendly and supportive club that caters to beginners and experienced players. It is located at the Glenforrest Sports Club in Mc Glew Road. Fees are very modest and include membership of the Sports Club.

For beginners, a very friendly and supportive session is held on Wednesday mornings 9.30 to 11.30. People can learn to play from scratch, refresh skills, or just play socially without the pressure of competition. No need to feel shy, everyone is made very welcome.

Apart from being a very interesting and challenging game, it is a great social outlet, meeting and mixing with all kinds of people from all walks of life. Many life-time friendships have formed over the bridge table.

Regular sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, learners/social session Wednesday morning.

Ring Ronnie 0419961711 or look us up at glenforrest.bridgeaustralia.org.