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MIDWINTER'S DAY 2013 HONOURS LIST

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following awards:

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

Captain Scott Francis LAUGHLIN
Tasmania

For outstanding service to the Australian Antarctic program as a crew member and Master of the *Aurora Australis*.

Dr Barbara Christine WIENECKE

Australian Antarctic Division,
203 Channel Highway, Kingston Tas 7050
For outstanding service to research into sea birds and the effect of commercial fishing operations on sea bird populations.

By Her Excellency's Command

Stephen Brady CVO
Official Secretary to the Governor-General

THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

(21 June 2013)

Captain Scott Francis LAUGHLIN

Tasmania

For outstanding service to the Australian Antarctic program as a crew member and Master of the *Aurora Australis*.

Occupation In Antarctica:

Master Mariner

Service in Antarctica:

Captain Laughlin has been a member of the crew of the *Aurora Australis* since 1994 and Ship's Master since 2002.

Captain Scott Laughlin has been a valuable contributor to the Australian Antarctic program for the past two decades as a crew member and Master of the *Aurora Australis*. He is renowned for his deep appreciation of the Antarctic and the Southern Ocean and his affinity with seamanship in such a harsh and hostile environment.

Captain Laughlin has rendered exemplary service as ship's master in ensuring that operations are conducted safely and with due regard to the sensitive Antarctic environment. He has consistently demonstrated a desire to work closely with the Australian Antarctic Division to refine and improve policy, procedures and process as they relate to the conduct of maritime operations in support of the Australian Antarctic program.

Captain Laughlin has demonstrated immense resilience in dealing with often dangerous sea conditions to ensure the safety of the ship its crew and expeditioners. He has always had a clear focus on safety and is to be commended on his attention to detail in this regard. He works extremely closely with the Australian Antarctic Division's (AAD) voyage management teams and Australia's scientific institutions to ensure that all operations at sea and in the ice are conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

In 2002 Captain Laughlin was involved in the successful breakout of the vessel 'Polar Bird' after a 6 week besetment in Prydzke Bay. In 2011 he conducted the successful rescue and subsequent tow to New Zealand, of a fishing vessel off Macquarie Island.

Captain Laughlin has contributed significantly to the refinement and continual improvement of the process and procedures used to support the refuelling evolutions at each of Australia's Antarctic and sub-Antarctic stations. Captain Laughlin also provided critical advice to the AAD when it was faced with having to refuel Mawson station by helicopter due to troubling ice conditions. His insight and experience to sea ice conditions and the capabilities of the *Aurora Australis* was a key foundation to the development of innovative solutions to this potentially damaging situation.

Captain Laughlin also endeavours to engender a welcoming atmosphere on the Ship's bridge to expeditioners and has an engaging and personable manner that endears him to others.

THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

(21 June 2013)

Dr Barbara Christine WIENECKE

Australian Antarctic Division,
203 Channel Highway, Kingston TAS 7050

For outstanding service to research into sea birds and the effect of commercial fishing operations on sea bird populations.

Occupation In Antarctica:

Seabird ecologist

Service in Antarctica:

26.2.1993 - 12.04.1995 (Mawson), 15.07.1998 - 31.07.1998 (Macquarie Island), 20.11.2000 - 29.03.2011 (Mawson via McDonald Is, Heard Is Davis, Zhong Shan), 2.12.2003 - 6.03.2004 (Heard Is), 9.3.2006 - 23.3.2006 (Argentina), 12.10.2006 - 14.01.2007 (Mawson), 21.01.2009 - 14.02.2009, 13.10.2009 - 23.01.2010 (Davis), 21.10.2010 - 18.03.2011 (Davis), 23.10.2011 - 14.4.2012 (Davis), 19.11.2012 - 22.02.2013 (Davis).

Dr Barbara Wienecke has made an exemplary contribution to research into sea birds and the effect of commercial fishing operations on sea bird populations. Her work has contributed to many research communications considered by the Scientific Committee of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and supported Australia's policy objectives in that forum.

Dr Wienecke's major contribution is her ability and commitment to conduct field studies on birds in Antarctica and sub-Antarctic islands under extreme and trying conditions. Soon after she joined the Australian Antarctic Division in 1993, Dr Wienecke spent 14 months at the Auster and Taylor Glacier emperor penguin rookeries including one complete winter. In 2001 she was a member of a two-person field party conducting research into albatross movements on the island of Diego de Almagro in Patagonian Chile. The work required tolerance of severe weather, cramped and uncomfortable camping conditions and hard physical work over extended periods of time. She tackled these adversities with characteristic good humour and thorough professionalism.

Dr Wienecke has participated in studies carried out at sea on long-line fishing vessels to decrease the by-catch of sea birds. With her ebullient personality and professionalism, her work ethic and unflappable attitude to the living and working conditions aboard ship she was able to win the confidences of hard-bitten and sceptical crewmen, and her contribution to an experimental deployment of fishing gear designed to enable baited hooks to sink rapidly on entering the water has resulted in major advances in the reduction of sea bird by-catch.

When not in the field in Antarctica Dr Wienecke regularly made extraordinary contributions to life on Antarctic stations. A habitual volunteer, Dr Wienecke was ever ready to organize social events on station, to teach expeditioners about the environmental values of Antarctica, and to be an enthusiastic ambassador for science, while at the same time, running busy and taxing programs of scientific research.