

A New Look

Welcome to the first edition of *The Explorer*, the news bulletin of the New Zealand based Antarctic Heritage Trust. It is a change in look and name for the Trust's publication under our new logo. Having been in existence for nearly 30 years the Trust has a proud history of conserving the legacy of Antarctica's early explorers. It is something we are passionate about and are committed to continue. Yet we also recognise that to ensure younger people and indeed generations to come value this Antarctic legacy, our mission must remain relevant. We need to connect young people today with the timeless thread which the Antarctic explorers whose legacy we care for all displayed – the spirit of exploration.

To that end we have a new vision of *Inspiring Explorers*. It pays homage to

Antarctica's first explorers as well as issuing a challenge particularly to young people today to explore the physical world with the hope it will educate and inspire them. The vision is supported by a new mission to *conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration*. Our operations are focused along these three themes.

With the creative assistance of DDB New Zealand the Trust has a new logo. Not only is it reflective of the new vision, it is more modern and usable in the digital world. At the same time we have developed a more functional and mobile friendly website to better share the Trust's stories and work. Please take a moment to discover more at www.nzah.org

Our Antarctic season has been a very productive one conserving the spirit of

exploration with the Trust's expedition to remote Cape Adare; the site of the first building on the continent. The scheduling work for conserving Hillary's Hut is complete and, subject to securing the necessary funding, we plan to undertake the work in the 2016-17 season to coincide with the 60th anniversary of its construction and the establishment of New Zealand's Scott Base.

The Trust has also been busy encouraging the spirit of exploration in young people with our centenary expedition to traverse South Georgia Island.

We hope you like what you see, read and view online as we embrace change.

Nigel Watson
Executive Director

Inspiring Explorers Expedition 2015

The Antarctic Heritage Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition 2015 to traverse South Georgia Island in October 2015 was the Trust's first expression of its new vision and intention to inspire youth to explore and share their experiences with others.

The Trust chose three young explorers from nearly two hundred applicants to join an international expedition to mark the centenary of Shackleton's famous Endurance expedition (1914-1917).

Sinead Hunt (IRE), Tom MacTavish (NZ) and James Blake (UK/NZ) were chosen for their adventurous spirits and ability to inspire others. Each in their own way connected to the story, identities or nationalities of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Frank Worsley or Tom Crean who undertook the original crossing a century ago.

The expedition, led by the Trust's Executive Director, Nigel Watson, and supported by guides from One Ocean expeditions, took three days to cross the Island from King Haakon Bay to Stromness on skis.



Photographs of the Inspiring Explorers Expedition 2015 can be found on the Trust's website www.nzah.org

Sharing the expedition with others was a key part of the experience. The expedition was shared via the Trust's social channels and each expedition member has an outreach plan to communicate their experiences; Tom with New Zealand schools in Otago, Sinead with schools in Ireland and the Irish Defence Forces, while James, a professional cameraman, is working on a documentary after capturing the traverse on film.

We are grateful to Expedition Patron The Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, Sir Ernest Shackleton's grand-daughter, and the support we received from One Ocean Expeditions, the New Zealand Alpine Club and GoPro. Thanks also to the British High Commissioner and the Honorary Consul General of Ireland for hosting a farewell function in Wellington.

Saving Hillary's Hut

The Trust is raising funds to conserve Sir Edmund Hillary's legacy in Antarctica; the building connected to the activities of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-58 and International Geophysical Year 1957-58 that remains as part of New Zealand's scientific facility, Scott Base.

Known by many names over the years, the building was the original mess, kitchen and Hillary's office. It is designated as a Historic Monument under the Antarctic Treaty in recognition of its importance in the history of exploration and science in Antarctica.

Last year the New Zealand Prime Minister Rt. Hon. John Key launched the Conservation Plan for the building and



the artefact collection. We have since completed all the scheduling works necessary for the work to commence.

We are now seeking to raise NZD960K to conserve and waterproof the building, remove the asbestos lining, conserve the artefact collection and maintain the building and collection for an estimated

25 years. If you would like to help save this Antarctic legacy, please contact the Trust or donate online at www.nzaht.org

Conservation work will be undertaken and completed next Antarctic summer (2016-17) subject to the Trust securing the funds necessary to do the work.

On Ice Update

The Antarctic 2015-16 summer season followed two main programmes of work at Cape Adare and Ross Island.

Accessing the expedition base established by Carsten Borchgrevink at remote Cape Adare posed a number of logistical challenges for Antarctica New Zealand, which supports the Trust in Antarctica with transport and camp logistics. With good planning and a favourable weather window, the Trust was able to successfully access Cape Adare and begin its multi-year conservation programme of work.

The Trust's conservation team, which included the Trust's two Programme Managers, Al Fastier and Lizzie Meek, and Norwegian heritage Carpenter Torbjorn Prytz, undertook emergency repairs to the accommodation building, scheduled future carpentry work and relocated the majority of the artefact collection – almost 1,000 objects – temporarily to New Zealand for conservation.

The Trust team at Adare also included two filmmakers from NRK (Norwegian



Antarctic Youth Ambassador Robyn Ryan working at Cape Evans

Broadcasting Corporation) who are producing a documentary on Carsten Borchgrevink, including the Trust's work to conserve his legacy.

The Ross Island work programme included maintenance and monitoring work at the three heroic era huts established by Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton. Antarctic Youth Ambassador Robyn Ryan joined the team under a partnership between the Antarctic Heritage Trust, Antarctica New Zealand and The Sir Peter Blake Trust.

Governance

We have recently farewelled a number of long standing Trustees due to retirement from their ex-officio roles. We would like to acknowledge their dedicated support of the Trust and welcome our new Trustees in their stead; Rob Fenwick has been replaced by Brian Roche as Chair of Antarctica New Zealand, Sue Powell replaces Bruce Chapman as Acting Chair of Heritage New Zealand while Niamh McMahon replaces Rodney Walshe as Honorary Consul General for the Government of Ireland in New Zealand. We also welcome Simon Allen as a new independent trustee.

Supporting the Trust

We are very grateful for the support we receive from our donors and Antarctic Explorer members. We welcome the following new supporters: Silver Explorer Peter O'Connor (UK); and Bronze Explorers Tim Dyer (NZ), Stephen Buckridge (UK), Nicholas Swezey (US), Mary Ann Wright (AU) and Elizabeth Waites (US).

If you would like to support our work, we would welcome your donation or support as an Antarctic Explorer Club member. More information on how to support the Trust can be found on our website.

Thank you

Thank you to our long-term supporters which includes our core funder, the New Zealand Government through Antarctica New Zealand, Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We are grateful to supporters: The February Foundation, Christchurch International Airport, Whyte and Mackay, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, DDB and Heritage Expeditions.

Discover more ...

on our redeveloped website
www.nzaht.org