

THE Explorer

NOVEMBER 2017



ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST
— INSPIRING EXPLORERS —



Antarctic Heritage Trust celebrated its 30th birthday at a special event hosted at Government House by the Trust's Patron-in-Chief Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM, QSO Governor-General of New Zealand and His Excellency Sir David Gascoigne.

Friends and supporters of the Trust came together to celebrate 30 years of world-leading cold climate conservation work, including the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project which has seen the 'heroic era' bases of Scott and Shackleton conserved alongside Sir Ed Hillary's TAE/IGY Hut at New Zealand's Scott Base.

We were particularly grateful to Jacinda Ardern for attending our event, which was several days after the New Zealand general election, before she assumed the Prime Ministership. Those present heard about the Trust's work inspiring young people to connect with the spirit of exploration, including its recent Inspiring Explorers' Expeditions, outreach programmes and engagement through digital platforms.

Keeping the Trust's message relevant for the next generation was a challenge noted by Executive Director Nigel Watson.

The latest whisky from Whyte & Mackay was available to be sampled. 'Shackleton', a homage to the original whisky discovered




under Shackleton's Hut, is being released around the globe this year. The Trust receives a donation from each bottle sold.

Stories of people's time 'on the Ice' were shared over the course of the evening and in the spirit of Antarctica, old friends reconnecting and new friends meeting, made for a fitting celebration.

The Trust sincerely thanks all its members, donors, friends, Trustees and staff (past and present) for their ongoing support in helping the Trust achieve its mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration over the last 30 years.



 Visit nzaht.org to see all the photos and captions.



Fruit cake survives 106 years on ice

The discovery of a 106 year-old fruit cake among the artefacts from Antarctica's first building at Cape Adare went viral with more than 1700 media stories in 32 countries across the globe. Made by Huntley & Palmers, the fruit cake is still wrapped in paper and encased in the remains of a tin-plated iron alloy tin.

The cake was most likely taken to the ice by the Northern Party of Scott's 'Terra Nova' expedition (1910 - 1913).

The Trust's Programme Manager-Artefacts Lizzie Meek says although the tin was in poor condition, the cake was well-preserved.

"There was a very slight rancid butter smell to it, but other than that, the cake looked and smelled edible! There is no doubt the extreme cold in Antarctica has assisted its preservation."

The cake was among almost 1500 artefacts that the Trust temporarily removed from the two huts at Cape Adare. The huts were built by Norwegian Carsten



Borchgrevink's expedition in 1899 and later used by Captain Scott's party in 1911. All of the artefacts were flown back to Christchurch in New Zealand where they have been conserved by a team of international experts at a special laboratory at Canterbury Museum.

Lizzie says the fruit cake was among the final artefacts the team conserved.

"The last objects were a handful of unidentified and severely corroded tins. Finding such a perfectly preserved fruit cake among them was quite a surprise. It's

an ideal high-energy food for Antarctic conditions, and is still a favourite item on modern day trips to the Ice."

Conservation treatment to the tin involved rust removal, chemical stabilisation and coating of the tin remnants. Deacidification of the tin label and some physical repair to the torn paper wrapper and tin label was also carried out. The cake itself was left untouched.

The permit the Trust was granted to collect the artefacts stipulates that all of the items must be returned to the site following conservation, in accordance with the site's status as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA). This will happen once the huts themselves have been restored.

The Trust is very grateful for the support it receives from its funders, Norwegian Government, Canterbury Museum for its facilities and support from Antarctica New Zealand for bringing the team and artefacts into and out of Cape Adare.



Conservation Ambassador

Congratulations to Diana McCormack who has been selected as the Trust's first Conservation Ambassador. This new role, which was advertised globally, sought a new conservator (within five years of graduating) to join the team in Antarctica this season. Diana is from Belfast, Northern Ireland, and originally worked as an archaeologist before training in conservation at Durham University. Since late 2012 she has been working as a conservator at English Heritage, the Science Museum, National Museums Scotland, and the National Museum of the Royal Navy, where she is currently employed in the Historic Ships team. Her day job involves conserving some of the world's most famous historic ships including *HMS Victory*.

Working in Antarctica has been a childhood dream of Diana's and she is excited to contribute to the conservation of Scott's and Shackleton's historic huts, especially since Scott is one of Diana's heroes.



Read Diana's Antarctic Blog at nzaht.org.



2017 Inspiring Explorers: Isobel Ewing, Simon Lucas, Sylvie Admore and William Pike. © William Pike.

'Mt Scott' film launched

'Mt Scott – An Adventure to the Antarctic Peninsula' has now been released on the Trust's channels. This short film was produced by Inspiring Explorer Expedition member Simon Lucas as part of his outreach for the 2017 AHT expedition to climb Mt Scott in Antarctica. Simon's stunning footage of Antarctica captures both its beauty and awe-inspiring vastness. The Inspiring Explorers' team, alongside Executive Director Nigel Watson and partners One Ocean Expeditions, successfully summited Mt Scott in February this year. The film premiered at the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival. It tells the story of their quest to honour the spirit of exploration and the personal challenges they each faced.



View online at nzaht.org.



Left to right: Sophie Rowe, Michael Powell, Liesl Scherthanner and Al Fastier © Sophie Rowe.

Working Across Antarctica

In February the Trust's Programme Manager Al Fastier assisted the UKAHT in completing its building survey of Hut Y, Horseshoe Island on the Antarctic Peninsula. The Trust is pleased to collaborate with UKAHT and share expertise and experience gained through the work on the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

To help understand the sequence of building modifications, the project architects researched the history of the hut and compiled a book of historic photographs, which helped the on site team to understand changes and damage to the hut as well as the building's current configuration. The team had many a happy and productive evening in the mess tent reviewing these photographs, including discussing the changes over time.

An important part of the scheduling process was taking samples to be analysed in Britain, for example, timber samples used to identify the wood species, growth rate, size and number of knots so that repair timbers can be matched.

At the completion of the proposed Horseshoe conservation programme the hope is the buildings will be structurally sound to withstand the harsh Antarctic environment, and weathertight to safeguard the artefact collection within.

The information collected will be the foundation to successfully conserve the site so future generations can be inspired by Britain's Antarctic history.



Read more details at ukaht.org.

Antarctic Youth Ambassador

We would also like to congratulate Chris Ansin who has been selected as this year's Antarctic Youth Ambassador on behalf of the Trust's partnership with Antarctica New Zealand and Sir Peter Blake Trust.

Chris developed a contagious love for all things outdoors after he was lucky enough to experience the *Spirit of New Zealand* voyage at high school. Chris studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Canterbury where he became increasingly interested and concerned about the natural climate and its effects on the world. He now works as a production engineer for Argenta.

Chris is looking forward to experiencing Antarctica and being inspired by the early polar explorers' legacy. He says, "The expeditions of Scott and Shackleton set a precedent for discovery and learning in Antarctica by carrying out scientific studies to understand the climate and the environment that they set out to explore.

I hope to learn about the history and the science that has established Antarctica as a hub for scientific discovery and to learn first-hand, the strength the early explorers must have had to endure in this white wonderland."



Read Chris' Antarctic Blog at nzaht.org.



Chris Ansin

Season Update

Martin Meldrum



Aurora over Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut in Winter 2017.

NEW ROOF FOR HILLARY'S (TAE/IGY) HUT

Alongside the annual monitoring and maintenance run for the 'heroic era' explorer bases on Ross Island, the team

will be undertaking roof repairs to Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut. In last year's major conservation project the team removed the pitched roof addition to reveal the original flat roof. It was determined that a more sustainable weather tight solution

was needed to ensure that, over time, the meltwater didn't start entering the building again. During the off-ice season the Trust's expert design team worked with Mike Burgess from Architectural Metalformers to develop a new roof, which will be installed this season. Sitting on top of the flat roof (raised by around 100mm) this solution allows the original roof to stay intact and ensures its longevity. Programme Manager Al Fastier says that they are delighted to have created this new roofing solution so that the original flat roofline of the hut remains, reflecting its 1950's design.

CAPE ADARE UPDATE

The Trust is working with its partner Antarctica New Zealand who are endeavouring to install a field camp at Cape Adare so work can be completed on the conservation of Borchgrevink's Huts in future seasons.



Stamps now on sale

Each year, the Stamps and Collectables team at New Zealand Post create a stamp issue for the Ross Dependency. This year, NZ Post teamed up with the hugely talented artist Sean Garwood to create stamps based on paintings from his latest expedition. They feature historic huts of

the legendary expeditions led by explorers Sir Ernest Shackleton and Captain Robert Falcon Scott. These stunning stamps showcase the huts and their artefacts, the legacy of which Antarctic Heritage Trust cares for in Antarctica. Sean's lifelike paintings were paired with elements of



Sean Garwood outside Scott Base on the pressure ridges.

graphic design to create a take home collectable. The stamps come with detailed stories explaining the significance of each painting and are available for purchase at nzpost.co.nz/ross-dependency.

Thank You

We welcome the following new members:

Bronze

Fred Davey (NZ)
Stephen Freed (NZ)
Vern Gerard (NZ)
Aaron Smail (NZ)

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. nzaht.org