



Johannes van Kan.

## Rare Antarctic Artefacts Exhibited



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On 18 May, Antarctic Heritage Trust, in partnership with Canterbury Museum, New Zealand, opened the exhibition *Breaking the Ice: The First Year in Antarctica (1899-1900)*.

*Breaking the Ice* showcases artefacts left at Cape Adare by the men of two early expeditions: the British Antarctic (*Southern Cross*) Expedition 1898-1900, led by Carsten Borchgrevink; and the Northern Party of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic (*Terra Nova*) Expedition 1910-1913.

The exhibition provides the public with a once in a lifetime opportunity to see these unique objects before they're returned to Antarctica. Antarctic Heritage Trust Executive Director Nigel Watson says: "It's a very rare opportunity to exhibit these artefacts and through sharing their stories, give people a glimpse into early Antarctic exploration and what these men endured in the first year on the Antarctic continent".

The exhibition was curated by Kerry McCarthy, whose favourite item of clothing

is a pair of long johns (pictured) that belonged to Victor Campbell, First Officer of the *Terra Nova* expedition. "They are stained from wear and age, and have been carefully labelled with Campbell's name, possibly by a woman back home in England as she helped him prepare for the adventure of a lifetime," she says.

"This simple caring act has survived a century of Antarctic blizzards and helps us make a personal connection to Campbell today. It's rare enough to see Edwardian long johns, let alone a set that is associated with such an important moment in world history."

Antarctic Heritage Trust has begun conservation work at the Cape Adare site. In 2016, more than 1400 artefacts were removed from Cape Adare under a government permit, and conserved by the Trust's team of international experts in a laboratory at Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand.



Men from the *Southern Cross* expedition outside the hut at Cape Adare, 1899. © Canterbury Museum.

The *Southern Cross* landed at Cape Adare in January 1899, where the ten men of the expedition built two huts. These huts are the only example left of humanity's first dwelling on any continent. The expedition recorded a number of Antarctic firsts. The explorers were the first people to spend a winter on the Antarctic continent, they erected the first buildings in Antarctica, took the first steps on the Ross Ice Shelf, were the first to use dogs and Primus stoves on the continent, and recorded the first full year of Antarctic climate data.

The *Southern Cross* expedition was beset by difficulties. Tensions flared between the explorers during the long, dark winter in the huts. One of the buildings caught fire. Zoologist Nicolai Hanson became ill, and ultimately was the first person to die and be buried in Antarctica. Almost every man regretted his decision to take part.

Upon returning to England, Borchgrevink was disappointed to not be greeted with the acclaim he had hoped for. Nevertheless, the expedition had proved that humans could survive the winter within the Antarctic Circle. The scientific data accumulated during the expedition by Louis Bernacchi proved valuable.

The remnants of the *Southern Cross* expedition were overlaid by the use of the hut for most of 1911 by the six members of the Northern Party of Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition, who were the second group to winter-over at Cape Adare. Their job was to explore the area while Scott made his attempt to reach the South Pole. Although this party made use of Borchgrevink's huts, they erected their own hut nearby, which served as their main living quarters. They used the *Southern Cross* buildings as a workshop, gymnasium, darkroom and storeroom. In the years to come, the Northern Party's hut succumbed to the fierce Antarctic winds and collapsed, but

many of their supplies remained in the re-purposed *Southern Cross* buildings. Canterbury Museum say the exhibition has generated excellent engagement. Over 70,000 visitors have been through the doors since *Breaking the Ice* opened, which is a great indication that public interest has been high.

*Breaking the Ice* closes 13 October.

Antarctic Heritage Trust is grateful for the funding support received for its work at Cape Adare, particularly from the Norwegian Government. The Trust would also like to thank project partner Canterbury Museum, Antarctica New Zealand and the Chinese Antarctic Research Expedition for logistical support, and the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the NZ Ministry for Primary Industries for their assistance with permitting so the site could be accessed and artefacts removed temporarily.



View the online exhibition from late August on [canterburymuseum.com](http://canterburymuseum.com)



## Young Inspiring Explorers Head to Antarctic Gateway City

Antarctic Heritage Trust is delighted to announce the inaugural Young Inspiring Explorers' Summit.

This is a new initiative that will bring the spirit of Antarctic exploration to school students (Years 7-9) from around New Zealand. Delivered in partnership with the William Pike Challenge Award, the Young Inspiring Explorers' Summit will be held in September in Christchurch, New Zealand's gateway city to Antarctica. It will encourage and empower participants to meet the challenges of life head-on by connecting them with the spirit of exploration and the legacy of the famed Antarctic explorers.

William Pike says he's excited to be partnering with the Trust on this initiative: "It's going to provide a wonderful opportunity for 20 lucky young people to step outside their comfort zones, develop their life skills, and be explorers. I'm looking forward being a part of the Summit myself, working with young Kiwis from across New Zealand and growing the AHT and WPC partnership into the future."

Hundreds of applications were received to attend the Summit, which was open to students enrolled in a school or group that is part of the 2019 William Pike Challenge Award or is a student at our partnered school, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate in Otara, Auckland. Students will document their journeys so that when they return home they can tell their stories, convey what they've learned, and share the spirit of exploration within their communities.

The Trust is grateful for support from partners Christchurch NZ and The Antarctic Office.

William Pike with WPCA students. Image courtesy of WPCA.



# Sir Edmund Hillary Centenary

Sir Edmund Hillary at Shackleton's Hut, 2004. © P Reid.

July 20, 2019 was an opportunity to celebrate and honour the legacy of Sir Edmund Hillary. The date marked the centenary of his birth and despite his passing in 2008, his legacy remains as strong as ever.

Sir Ed supported the formation of the Trust back in 1987, and was a Trust Patron until his passing. Fittingly, June, Lady Hillary has taken on the role as Trust Patron.

In 1956-57 (only a few years after his momentous ascent of Mt Everest) Sir Ed led the 23-man Ross Sea Party of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE). The base hut for their operations was built at what has become the present-day Scott Base site on Ross Island.

The Trans-Antarctic Expedition was a huge success. Sir Ed led the first overland journey to reach the South Pole since Captain Scott, and laid supply depots to support the efforts of the British component of the expedition. British explorer Vivian Fuchs led the party that completed the first overland crossing of the Antarctic continent. Both parties gathered useful scientific information, and completed important mapping work.

At the New Zealand government's request, the Trust has taken over the management of Sir Ed's TAE/IGY Hut. After a major fundraising effort the Trust undertook an intensive programme of conservation at the site in 2016-17 for the 60th anniversary

of its construction. This iconic piece of New Zealand history now falls under the Trust's Ross Island Monitoring and Maintenance Programme.

To further honour Sir Ed's legacy, and celebrate New Zealand's first presence in Antarctica, the Trust has partnered with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to create a virtual reality experience based around Hillary's Hut.

The Trust is delighted to be giving people a glimpse into what life was like for Hillary and the men of his expedition on the Ice. This fully immersive experience will be the closest thing possible to exploring the expedition's base hut without actually going to the hut itself.

The experience will be free and available soon nationwide, as well as globally online. It is a ground-breaking project in terms of its scale and approach. Professor Barbara Bollard from AUT, who helped collect the data to build the virtual reality says: "The experience is unique in that it allows you to experience this special place without leaving a footprint. It opens up a long and rich history of Antarctic exploration to a wide audience who may never have the opportunity to visit in person."

The Trust would like to acknowledge project partner AUT, principal sponsor Ryman Healthcare, Antarctica New Zealand (logistics), and Staples VR (technical) for making this project possible.

 To see a short preview of the virtual reality experience visit [nzaht.org](http://nzaht.org)

## Young Minds Inspired by Antarctica

Following on from the successful expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula, the 2019 Inspiring Explorers have been sharing their experiences in a range of ways.

Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate students Mele Fetu'u and Lana Kiddie-Vai recently starred on two episodes of *Fanimals*—one of New Zealand's most popular kid's television shows. Mele and Lana describe the wildlife they encountered, the challenges of kayaking in Antarctica, what they learned about historic Antarctic explorers, and how the experience changed their lives. They are great segments, and well worth watching.

 Visit [nzaht.org/mele-lana-on-fanimals](http://nzaht.org/mele-lana-on-fanimals)



Mele Fetu'u and Lana Kiddie-Vai, with SEHC teacher Caragh Doherty (left) in Antarctica. Image courtesy of Fanimals.

Inspiring Explorer Rosanna Price presented a virtual Antarctic fieldtrip to over 4700 students in June. With support from Land Information New Zealand, Rosanna presented *Map My Voyage: a kayaking adventure at the Antarctic Peninsula* through the LEARNZ online learning platform.

Students followed Rosanna's story of the expedition through mapped geolocation points matched to photographs, videos, and descriptions of the Antarctic environment and wildlife, all woven together with Rosanna's stories of exploration.

## Governance



The Trust has welcomed Emeritus Professor Nicholas Bellamy as an Independent Trustee. Nicholas has a keen interest in circumpolar adventuring, and has made several visits to locations in Arctic

Canada, Greenland, Norway and Russia, the first as a member of a medical research team. Nick first travelled to Antarctica in 2004, returning on five subsequent occasions, three times to the Ross Sea, and twice to the Weddell Sea. He graduated in medicine in Scotland, subsequently practised full-time as a university-appointed medical specialist in Canada until 1999, and then relocated to a full-time university research position in Brisbane, where he lives with his wife, Jenny. Nick's main recreational interest is wildlife and landscape photography.

# Antarctic Conservation Update



Base A at Port Lockroy. © UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

## UKAHT Programme Support — Port Lockroy

As part of our multi-year support agreement with our sister trust—the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust—Artefact Conservation Programme Manager Lizzie Meek will this season travel to the Antarctic Peninsula to survey and assess artefacts at Bransfield House, the main building of 'Base A' at Port Lockroy. 'Base A' was Britain's first permanent Antarctic station; it was established in 1944 and occupied until 1962.

## Ross Island Monitoring and Maintenance Programme

Planning is well underway on the annual Ross Island Monitoring and Maintenance Programme for the 2019-20 summer season. The annual programme comprises essential basic maintenance tasks and monitoring the conserved explorer bases at Cape Evans, Cape Royds, Hut Point and Pram Point. The conservation team will identify and rectify any issues before they become serious, monitor the overall condition of the building structures, including the interior microclimates, and remove snow that builds up at site. A long-term programme is in place to assess the

durability and stability of conservation treatments on a selection of artefacts of different material types. Trust Programme Manager Al Fastier will lead the month-long expedition with a team of four between mid-November and mid-December.

## Cape Adare Conservation Programme

The Trust is continuing with planning for work to complete the major conservation works programme at Cape Adare. Significant logistical challenges are being met head-on, and the Trust plans to spend another two to three seasons to complete conservation work at the site.

The building structures will be reinforced, made weather-tight and protected from snow and meltwater ingress. The stores hut will be reroofed. Original doors and windows will be repaired and made functional. The Trust is grateful to Antarctica NZ and the Chinese Antarctic Programme for their ongoing logistics support of this project.

## Thank You

We welcome the following new member:

**Bronze** Ruth Connor (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](http://nzaht.org)



In *Nansen's Footsteps* filmmaker and Inspiring Explorer Keith Parsons on location in Greenland. Bengt Rotmo.

## Alumni News

The Trust's short film *In Nansen's Footsteps*, which documents the Inspiring Explorers' Expedition 2018 ski traverse of the Greenland Ice Cap, was selected as a finalist for the 2019 New Zealand Mountain Film Festival. Inspiring Explorer (2018) and filmmaker **Keith Parsons** attended the festival screening in Wanaka in June, where the film was well received. Watch the film at [nzaht.org](http://nzaht.org).

Inspiring Explorer (2017) **Isobel Ewing** is planning a major cycling expedition. Starting in early August, Isobel plans to ride more than 2000km along the Silk Road, from Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. You can find out more about the expedition at [isobelewing.com](http://isobelewing.com).

A number of alumni have recently given presentations detailing their experiences with the Trust. **Geoff Cooper** (Heritage

Carpenter) presented at the British Eastern Region of the Royal Geographic Society and also at the Antarctica 200 Polar Lab Architecture Association Visiting School.

**Nicola Stewart** (Conservator) gave a public presentation in Taupo, New Zealand about her recent seasons working on Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut and the heroic-era huts.

**Melinda Bell** (Conservator) presented for Nature Calgary in Canada about what it was like to live and work in Antarctica during her time on the Ross Sea Restoration Project.

**Athol McCredie**, who was part of the AHT team on ice in 1991-92, is now photography curator at Te Papa. Athol has published a new book on documentary photography in New Zealand in the 1960s and early 70s, *The New Photography* tells the story of the beginnings of contemporary photography in New Zealand.

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