



ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST



EXPLORE SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S ANTARCTIC HUT

A new and unique virtual reality experience celebrating New Zealand's first presence in Antarctica

DEVELOPED BY



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



EXPLORE SIR ED'S ANTARCTIC HUT...



FURTHERING SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION

As part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1955-58) and the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), a collaborative science project involving 67 countries, the New Zealand Government was invited to establish a station on Ross Island as part of the network of stations that would be making geophysical, upper atmosphere and other observations around the globe.

In a little more than a year on the Ice, Hillary's TAE/IGY party had established Scott Base, supported British explorer Vivian Fuchs and explored and mapped considerable areas of the Ross Sea region and the Trans-Antarctic mountains, laying the foundations for the more detailed mapping and geology that was to follow.

Visit nzah.org to learn more about the science and exploration happening on the Ice during the 1950s.



Herb Orr and Peter MacDonald in the pressure ice. © Peter MacDonald Collection



Bob Miller and Peter MacDonald off to Cape Royds with the huskies. © Peter MacDonald Collection



Huskies were an important part of life at Scott Base. Here Spot tried to lick Peter MacDonald's face. © Peter MacDonald Collection

An anemometer used by British explorer Vivian Fuchs. This object features in the fully immersive version of the virtual reality experience where the user holds it to measure wind speed.



COME WITH US TO ANTARCTICA...



AHT team at conserved Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut. © AHT/Chris Ansin

New Zealand-based Antarctic Heritage Trust is a world leader in cold-climate heritage conservation and recently completed the conservation of the first building at New Zealand's Scott Base in Antarctica.

Antarctic Heritage Trust invites you to explore Sir Edmund Hillary's Antarctic hut through a new, ground-breaking virtual reality experience.

In partnership with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) the Trust has developed this virtual reality experience to celebrate New Zealand's first presence in Antarctica.

Once the scan data was collected in Antarctica it took more than 4000 hours of development to create this unique VR experience. This large scale project brings Antarctica to people in a way never seen before.

Hillary's Hut was initially used as a base for the party of 23 men engaged in exploration and important scientific research as part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE) and the New Zealand party of the International Geophysical Year (IGY).

Join us and step inside Sir Ed's Antarctic hut and find out what life was like living in the world's most extreme environment as these men furthered science and exploration.

With thanks to Principal Sponsor Ryman Healthcare and support from Antarctica New Zealand and Staples VR.

ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST

Antarctic Heritage Trust is a New Zealand-based charity with a vision of inspiring explorers.

Through its mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration the Trust cares for the remarkable expedition bases of early Antarctic explorers including, Carsten Borchgrevink, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton and Sir Edmund Hillary, and the 20,000 items they left behind. It shares the legacy of exploration through outreach programmes and encourages the spirit of exploration through expeditions to engage and inspire a new generation.



Inspiring Explorers! Expedition 2017 to Mt Scott, Antarctica. © William Pike



Sir Edmund Hillary, Derek Wright and Murray Ellis, South Pole, 20 January 1958. © Stan McKay Collection Canterbury Museum. Image reproduced courtesy of Star Media.

"I am hell bent for the South Pole, God willing and crevasses permitting."

SIR EDMUND HILLARY

SIR ED'S NEW ZEALAND TEAM

In 1953 Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay gained instant world-wide fame as the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain.

Within a couple of years, Sir Edmund Hillary was asked to lead New Zealand's team of 23 explorers and scientists as part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition and the International Geophysical Year.

These New Zealanders would be the first to spend the winter months at Scott Base.

Hillary would lead the team to the South Pole, laying food and fuel depots for the British explorer Vivian Fuchs along the way. As it turned out, the Hillary team reached the South Pole before Fuchs, becoming the first overland expedition to arrive at the Pole since Scott in 1912 and the first to do so using motorised transport.



Raising the flag at Scott Base, 20 January 1957. © John Claydon, Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection

WHAT'S IN THE HUT?

There are around 600 artefacts in Hillary's Hut from the TAE and IGY events and early years of New Zealand's Antarctic programme. They include food, expedition clothes and equipment, communication devices, scientific tools and items that helped to make the hut homely and comfortable.

High calorie food like chocolate was popular while out exploring.



Kitchen in Hillary's Hut © AHT



Conserved artefacts in the radio room. © Anthony Powell



Sir Ed Hillary's room © AHT/Sue Bassett

CONSERVATION IN THE WORLD'S MOST EXTREME ENVIRONMENT

Antarctic Heritage Trust's team of 12 people worked almost 6000 hours over three months to conserve Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut. It was challenging as the team dealt with extremely cold temperatures and very windy conditions at times.

Extensive conservation work included removing asbestos, painting the interior and exterior, reconfiguring the cold porch to be historically

accurate, repairing roof leaks and upgrading the building's electrical services and fire alarm system.

Around 600 artefacts were conserved within the hut, including food, clothing and documents. Three specialist conservators individually catalogued, photographed, and where necessary, gave conservation treatments to the artefacts.



© Murray Ellis



Circa 1997



2017



AHT conservator discovering the hut's original colours. © AHT/Sue Bassett

Architect Frank Ponder wanted the bright colours inside the hut to "contrast to the ice conditions outside".



Interior of Hillary's Hut following conservation. © AHT

LIFE ON THE ICE



Conserved artefacts in the radio room © AHT



Ted Gawn and Peter Mulgrew in the radio room at Scott Base. © Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection

Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut virtual reality experience lets you explore the five spaces that the men worked in including the cold porch, 'mess' room, radio room, kitchen and Sir Ed's room.

Life was challenging on the Ice, particularly in the winter months when it was dark 24 hours a day.

During the winter months there were no ships or aircraft operating so it wasn't possible to send or receive mail, which meant that the radio was the only means of communication. Transmission was very expensive so the men were rationed to only one call home a week.

1957 wintering party. © John Claydon, Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection



In the tradition of the heroic-era expeditions the New Zealand team celebrated mid-winter's day with a fantastic feast and much entertainment from the men. The Trust was gifted one of the original menus by team member Peter MacDonald. This menu is now back on display in Hillary's Hut in Antarctica. A digital version of the menu has been incorporated into the virtual reality experience — more than 60 years after this dinner took place!

View the full menu at nzah.org



© Peter MacDonald Collection

HILLARY'S HUT - ANTARCTICA VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

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Visit nzah.org to see who is hosting the fully immersive experience in your area.

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