



Sasha Harwood climbs with confidence. ©AHT/Anna Clare

Ministerial Changes

Following the resounding election result in New Zealand in October, updated New Zealand Government Ministerial roles have been confirmed.

We are honoured that the New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, in her capacity as Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage has taken on Ministerial oversight of the New Zealand Government's support for Antarctic Heritage Trust. We look forward to engaging with the Minister and Government in 2021.

We acknowledge and thank Deputy Prime Minister Hon Grant Robertson, outgoing Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. Minister Robertson oversaw the additional funding for the Trust allocated during the May 2020 Budget. It provided a much-needed platform this year to allow the Trust to operate with confidence and invest in essential staff during such uncertain times. It has allowed us to increase our efforts to engage and connect with all New Zealanders, particularly youth.

Celebrating Frank Worsley

The Young Inspiring Explorers™ programme encourages and empowers young, modern-day explorers to meet the challenges of life head-on by connecting them with the inspiring feats of early Antarctic exploration.

The Trust held the inaugural Young Inspiring Explorers™ Worsley Weekend in November in Canterbury, New Zealand to celebrate Antarctic explorer and Kiwi hero, Frank Worsley. Worsley captained Shackleton's *Endurance*. He undertook 'the greatest small boat journey of all time' and one of the greatest ever feats of navigation aboard the *James Caird* from Elephant Island to South Georgia Island to help save the crew of *Endurance*.

Twenty students aged 11 to 13, from around Canterbury travelled to Worsley's home town of Akaroa, in New Zealand's South Island. They were challenged to step out of their comfort zones as they learned some of the skills needed to be a legendary explorer like Worsley. Activities they took part in included visiting Worsley's bust, the house

where he was born, and a Worsley exhibition at Akaroa Museum.

The students also went on a bush walk to the site of Worsley's family home, challenged themselves on a high ropes course, learned about search and rescue and survival skills in the outdoors, tried out a sextant, and developed map reading skills though orienteering.

One very special part of the weekend was hearing from three of Antarctic Heritage Trust's Inspiring Explorers alumni. The students were enthralled to learn about Tom MacTavish's crossing of South Georgia Island as part of the Trust's inaugural Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ in 2015 to mark the centenary of Shackleton's famous expedition. William Pike and Anzac Gallate also talked about their Inspiring Explorers Expeditions™ to Antarctica in 2017 and 2020.

Young Inspiring Explorer Nico Blundell said, "If I had to pick just one highlight it was the

presentation by William Pike. It was inspiring, and it proved to me that even if something goes wrong you can build up on the little things that went right and step further out of your comfort zone. I think this is a really important thing to remember in life."

Emily Tipper said the high ropes course helped develop teamwork, "You're relying on the people at the bottom holding you, and another girl, Erin, helped me get to the top because I wasn't tall enough to achieve this on my own."

Having completed the Worsley Weekend, the students shared their experiences at an outreach event, where they were welcomed into the Trust's Alumni Programme.

The Trust would like to thank Worsley Weekend sponsors ChristchurchNZ and Christchurch Antarctic Office, and supporters Akaroa Museum and William Pike Challenge.



Visit nzah.org for video



Snow removal at Scott's *Terra Nova* Hut, Cape Evans. © Antarctica New Zealand/Katherine Vaughan

Half the Team, Half the Time, Double the Support

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, our conservation team have successfully completed a scaled back essential monitoring and maintenance programme at the Ross Island historic huts in November and December 2020. Thanks go to Antarctica New Zealand, in what has been an extremely challenging year for their operations.

This was a very different season right from the beginning, with our team of two, Al Fastier and Lizzie Meek, first going into two weeks of quarantine in Christchurch alongside the cohort they would be travelling to Antarctica with. This was followed by a week of strict segregation procedures at Scott Base before their cohort could mix with others or leave the base to begin their work at the historic bases.

Due to the reduction in team size and programme this season, our team were supported by Scott Base Carpenter, Mike Southworth, and Field Support Officer Angela Buunk. The limited extent of sea ice this season, meant access to Cape Evans and Cape Royds was by helicopter, with all the team's equipment carried by under-slung load.

Angela's specialist rigging skills were invaluable this season as one of the main tasks at Cape Royds was to replace the anchoring rigging on Shackleton's Hut, which had rusted out over time. The rigging is essential for securing the building against Antarctica's extreme winds. A sample of the historic 1907 cable was taken last

season, and the team mounted a worldwide search to find a replacement with the same diameter, number of strands, and inner core as the original marine towing cable. With help from Trust heritage consultant Gordon Macdonald, the right product was located in Canada, and we are grateful to the manufacturer, Northwest Wire Rope Limited, for sponsoring the cost of the cable, and to shipping company Extreme Global, for providing discounted freight services. To install each cable, the team had to dig down through the scoria to reach the existing deadman (or anchors) they are attached to. With the frozen ground like concrete, this took an average of half a day each, with one deadman taking a whole day to expose.

Other important tasks at Cape Royds included replacing UV-damaged covering fabric on fodder bales in the stables, and clearing snow and ice build-up around the hut. This was made more challenging for the team by the extreme cold with temperatures averaging -25° celsius and high winds they faced during their time at Cape Royds this season. The store cases stacked outside were conserved in 2006, but experience continual degradation due to the environment, so the team selected five 'Venesta boxes' to bring back to New Zealand to enable testing of a new repair method, that should extend their resilience to the harsh Antarctic conditions.

In addition to the support of Mike and Angela, Antarctica New Zealand provided an extra four people to service the field camp at Cape Evans, and to help clear



Replacing the anchoring rigging on Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds. ©AHT/Lizzie Meek

snow and ice around Scott's *Terra Nova* Hut. Key tasks at Cape Evans were to put an aluminium cap on top of a section of the polycarbonate deflection dam that prevents water from flowing under the hut, as this was being damaged by foot traffic around the building.

Inside, the team developed a solution for a rusted flue section which drops large flakes of rust onto the wardroom table. Thanks go to Antarctica New Zealand and the United States Antarctic Programme for arranging the manufacture of a replica flue cap.

At all sites, the team collected annual environmental data, part of a series which has been unbroken since 1990. In particular, data is being collected to try and narrow down ongoing sources of moisture within the buildings, especially in the subfloor area. New logging stations were installed at Cape Evans, to determine dust sources and quantities, and the specific components of the dust which are contributing to artefact damage. A particular area of focus is the Cape Evans stables.

It is always exciting for the team to return artefacts to the iconic buildings we care for and this season as well as the Salter scales featured in this edition, we were able to return a number of items to Hillary's (TAE/IGY) Hut. These included a pair of windproof trousers, books, and manuals belonging to Arnold Heine, and a wonderful New Zealand flag thought to have been flown in Antarctica by TAE expeditioner George Lowe, a member of the first party to cross the continent. The flag was donated by Tony Lowe, a distant relative of George, and conserved with a fabric backing before being taken back to the Ice.



Read more at nzaht.org



The Salter scales hanging in Scott's Discovery Hut. ©AHT/Lizzie Meek

Scott's Scales Return to the Ice

In November 2020 the Trust was fortunate to repatriate a set of Salter scales to Scott's Discovery Hut.

The scales were souvenired by Captain James Douglas who was a distinguished engineer and Naval command officer in charge of the construction of eight United States bases in Antarctica in the late 1950s. Before he passed away, Captain Douglas gave the scales to his daughter Susanna Marquette.

The scales hung in Susanna's Idaho log cabin for around 15 years before she learned about the work the Trust had done to conserve Discovery Hut and the artefacts in it. Susanna approached the Trust and the scales were returned to New Zealand.

Trust Programme Manager - Artefacts

Lizzie Meek says she was delighted to receive such a special parcel.

"These scales are more than a hundred years old but despite their age and travels are in pristine condition. Captain Douglas and Susanna had taken incredible care of them," says Lizzie.

"They're an important artefact and were used by the heroic age Antarctic explorers likely to weigh items ahead of sledging expeditions, to ensure supply levels were accurate and the sled was as light as it could be."

"We've now taken the scales back to Antarctica and they add something really special to the ambience of Discovery Hut," says Lizzie.

A picture of the scales back in the hut was sent to Susanna.

"I had the biggest smile on my face when I saw it. I know Dad would be excited that they're back where they belong too - times have changed."

Lizzie has a simple message for any other families who are in possession of similar souvenirs.

"Get in touch. We'd love to be able to help repatriate such items. We have the cold-climate conservation expertise to ensure these artefacts are returned to where they belong, and are well cared for in generations to come".

People removing artefacts from the huts today are subject to prosecution.



Visit nzaht.org for video

Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit

Notwithstanding the challenges of Covid-19, the Trust was delighted to deliver our 2020 Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit in Christchurch, New Zealand, Gateway City to Antarctica.

At the end of October, 19 students aged 11 to 13 spent the weekend with Antarctic Heritage Trust and Kiwi explorer and Trust alumnus William Pike. The group challenged themselves and took part in Antarctic learning experiences that included weathering an Antarctic storm, riding in a Hagglund, and meeting huskies and penguins up close at the International Antarctic Centre, along with learning about climate change first hand from NIWA Marine Physicist, Dr Natalie Robinson.

The students also found out what it's like to live at New Zealand's Scott Base from the team at Antarctica New Zealand, and visited Canterbury Museum to hear tales of the early Antarctic explorers' hardships,



Students attending the Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit came from all over New Zealand. © AHT/Anna Clare

achievements, and leadership, in the name of furthering science and exploration in the world's most extreme environment. While there, they also had a go at hauling an Antarctic sledge, and trying out Antarctic clothing, followed by a walking tour to explore Christchurch's Antarctic connections.

The explorers camped out overnight, and documented their journey along the way so they could share what they learnt with their

communities when they returned home.

The Trust's Summit is run in partnership with William Pike Challenge and is supported by Christchurch NZ, The Christchurch Antarctic Office, International Antarctic Centre, Antarctica New Zealand, and Canterbury Museum.



Visit nzaht.org for photos and videos



Anthony Powell's exhibition included this stunning image of Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds. © Anthony Powell



AHT Patrons June Lady Hillary and Bob Norman with Trust's Patron-in-Chief the Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy at the AHT's 30th birthday celebration in 2017. © AHT

Photography Auction Benefits Trust

Renowned Antarctic photographer Anthony Powell put on an exhibition of his magnificent photographic and video works during the Days of Ice Festival held in Christchurch, New Zealand in October 2020. Anthony also kindly offered to auction off his works to benefit the Trust, raising \$3,635. We extend a huge thank you to Anthony and Christine Powell for their support.

During the Days of Ice Festival the Trust also hosted an event showcasing our Hillary's Hut Antarctica Virtual Reality Experience to local Christchurch supporters. 2020 Inspiring Explorers Anzac Gallate and Laurette Siemonek talked about their recent expedition to Antarctica at an Inspiring Explorers™ evening held

for supporters and the general public. They were joined by Caleb Fraser who took part in the Antarctic Cities Youth Expedition supported by the Trust and Marcus Waters (Trust General Manager Commercial and Partnerships) who shared his story about his world record first kayaking the length of the Antarctic Peninsula.



L-R: Marcus Waters AHT GM Commercial and Partnerships, Inspiring Explorers Laurette Siemonek and Anzac Gallate, and Caleb Fraser from the Antarctic Youth Coalition. © AHT



Students take a virtual trip to Hillary's Hut in Antarctica. © AHT

Virtual Reality Tour

In the last term of the New Zealand school year, Antarctic Heritage Trust have toured Hillary's Hut Antarctica Virtual Reality Experience around schools, focusing on schools attended by our Young Inspiring Explorers™ alumni.

The Trust is continuing to tour New Zealand in 2021 thanks to our sponsors Ryman Healthcare and Dulux.



Register a school visit online at nzaht.org or email info@nzaht.org

Bob Norman QSO retired as one of the Trust's Patrons in September 2020. Bob is now 97 and has been involved with the Trust since its formation in 1987, becoming a Patron in 1993. Bob also lead a distinguished public service career retiring as Commissioner of Works, a role in which he oversaw many assets including New Zealand's Scott Base.

We would like to thank Bob for his service, including an astonishing 27 years as a Patron. An innovative, creative thinker his leadership, guidance and availability for discussion and advice have been greatly appreciated by everyone involved with the Trust over the years. Bob loves writing and often penned Antarctic-themed poems, which he sent to the Trust team that were always very much enjoyed.

Bob was farewelled at a moving event at our last Board meeting. He gave a commanding and powerful speech providing wonderful insights into his connection to and admiration for the Trust's work.

Thank you, Bob, for your many years of support. We wish you well.

Thank You

We welcome the following new members:

Bronze Leo Dexter (New Zealand)
James Haselman (United States)
Andrew Mackenzie (New Zealand)
Annette Quigley (New Zealand)

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