



New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern officially opening the inaugural Explorer Conference. © AHT/Anna Clare



Students whitewater rafting at Vector Wero Whitewater Park. © AHT/Marcus Waters

## Explorer Conference Inspires

Antarctic Heritage Trust was excited to deliver our inaugural Explorer Conference in South Auckland, New Zealand, which was attended by 100 Year 12 students from local high schools.

The Conference was officially opened by New Zealand's Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, who told the students the story of her childhood hero, Sir Ernest Shackleton and urged them not to let a lack of confidence hold them back.

Focused on the explorer qualities of curiosity, resilience, leadership, innovation and teamwork, the Conference encouraged students to adopt an explorer mindset and have the confidence to step outside their comfort zones. They heard from inspirational speakers and workshopped topics led by alumni from the Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expeditions™. Eleven of the Trust's alumni took part, representing four of the Trust's polar expeditions. Trust alumni and former Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate students Jaylee Savage and A'aifou Kaufusi-Potenami encouraged their peers to challenge themselves before they headed to Vector

Wero Whitewater Park to take part in action-based learning activities.

Former Trust Governance Intern William Pike, who lost his leg in an eruption on Mount Ruapehu, delivered a keynote speech. William climbed Mount Scott in Antarctica with the Trust in 2017.

"My message is to step outside your comfort zone. Don't be afraid, have the confidence to know that new experiences will make you stronger – don't let anything hold you back," he told the students.

For Edgewater College students Hannah King and Yalda Ahmadi, the conference was a day to remember.

"I'll always remember the Prime Minister saying that you never know what you're capable of until you try," said Hannah.

Yalda says the stories the Inspiring Explorers shared were amazing.

"You don't often hear stories like that. It made me realise that we can dream big and achieve hard things if we set our minds to it," said Yalda.

Hannah and Yalda's teacher, Sean McGregor said, "My students and I felt very welcome. The day felt extremely well organised and professionally structured. The presenters were world class and did an exceptional job at captivating the audience. It was a highly successful and enjoyable day."

Teacher Amara Naus from Southern Cross Campus said, "My students were definitely inspired to step outside their comfort zones. At first, a few were sceptical, but by the end they were more open and excited to try new things. They are already speaking to younger students about the potential to attend next year's Conference."

Among Inspiring Explorer alumni was Brando Yelavich who was the first New Zealander to circumnavigate the country on foot, walking the 8,700km coastline. Brando joined the Trust's expedition to ski across the Greenland ice cap in 2018.

"Through the many different and challenging experiences I've had, I've learned that achieving your dreams can be as simple as changing your mindset and how you perceive things. I shared some of the times I

## Explorer Conference Inspires *continued*



Inspiring Explorers alumni delivered inspirational speeches and workshops. Left: William Pike © William Pike.

learned the hard way and urged the students to learn from my mistakes!"

Trust General Manager Operations and Communications Francesca Eathorne says that it was exciting to see the Inspiring Explorers alumni sharing their stories, leading the Conference with passion and confidence and seeing how they engaged with students, encouraging them throughout the day to embrace an explorer mindset.

## Thank You

The Trust would like to acknowledge primary supporters Sir Noel and Sue, Lady Robinson, and contributors to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund for making the Explorer Conference possible.



If you want to help fund more programmes like the Conference, visit [nzaht.org/sustain](https://nzaht.org/sustain)

# Gearing Up for a Big Conservation Season

**Covid-19 continues to have a major impact on people and programmes across the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project (RSHRP).**

## Ross Island

This season the On-Ice conservation team will undertake deferred maintenance, which means both a larger team size and longer duration on Ross Island than a standard maintenance season. Border restrictions and Covid-19 permitting, the team will consist of our two Trust Programme Managers (Al Fastier and Lizzie Meek), a heritage carpenter and four artefact conservators, who will spend two weeks in quarantine in New Zealand before deploying, followed by a two-month summer season at the Ross Island explorer bases. The four conservators will remain at Scott Base for the winter of 2022, which will be the first time the Trust has run a winter conservation programme since 2014.

The deferred maintenance programme is an opportunity for the team to address some of the more complicated conservation issues facing the sites. An example at Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds is the 1907 Venesta store cases that continue to suffer warping and delamination. There is the potential for the sides of the Venesta cases to rupture and be lost to the environment, causing environment damage. In order to halt the losses, maintain the storage capacity for historic contents, and maintain the interpretive qualities the boxes bring to the site, the team will continue the programme from the 2005 and 2010 seasons, both conserving and replacing the degraded panels, while continuing to store them onsite for possible future use.

At Scott's Cape Evans Hut, the main task will be to reduce the level of environmental contaminants in the stables and western annex, which are a risk to the artefacts there. At Scott's Discovery Hut at Hut Point, a solution has been developed to overcome the issue of blubber oil seeping into



Work on the Venesta store cases at Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds will be part of the upcoming season's deferred maintenance programme. © AHT/Lizzie Meek

adjacent floorboards then being tracked through the hut by visitors. To resolve this the team will place a protective tray or 'bund' beneath the seal blubber stack.

The Trust will continue its monitoring programme, including collecting information on temperature and relative humidity at each historic site, building levels and snow/ice deposition, timber moisture content data, and inspection and documentation of a select range of conservation treatments on different material types. This helps us understand the changes being experienced and guides and informs future maintenance needs.

Over the winter, conservators will carry out focused re-treatment of vulnerable iron alloy artefacts, which despite previous treatment, continue to corrode at varying rates. They will select these objects during the summer and transport them to Scott Base where they will work on them in a laboratory between February and October 2022.



Ciarán Lavelle and Sue Bassett cleaning the stables at Scott's Cape Evans Hut. © AHT/Lizzie Meek

## Cape Adare

Work on site at Borchgrevink's Huts at Cape Adare has been postponed this season, due to logistic constraints associated with Covid-19.

With the Antarctic Heritage Trust AR App you can bring objects into your own environment that were left behind at Cape Adare by Carsten Borchgrevink's expedition and Scott's Northern Party expedition. The app is available to download for free from Google Play or the App Store.

## UKAHT Partnership

The UKAHT conservation programme has also been impacted by Covid-19, resulting in a much-reduced plan for an On-Ice team this season. The Trust's Programme Managers continue to support UKAHT under our partnership agreement, to develop conservation and implementation plans for the sites on the Antarctic Peninsula which UKAHT cares for.

# Students Upskill in Preparation for Expedition

In July, South Auckland high school students from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate took their first steps in the Trust's *In the Footsteps of Hillary* Inspiring Explorers Expedition™, which will culminate in an attempt to climb Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku (South Island, New Zealand). The team spent a weekend at Mount Ruapehu in the central North Island of New Zealand to learn some of the essential mountain skills they will need for their expedition later in the year.

Expedition Leader and Trust General Manager Commercial and Partnerships, Marcus Waters, and mountain guide, Anna Keeling, taught the students about the basics of what to wear in the outdoors, how to use harnesses and fixed lines, how to walk with crampons, and carry out self-arrests.

The students have been working hard to increase their fitness and stamina with the help and mentoring of New Zealand rugby league legend Ruben Wiki, and his wife Santa Wiki. Funded primarily by CLM Counties Manakau, Ruben and Santa run weekly training sessions for the team at their Wiki Works Gym in Ōtara, South Auckland, along with regular weekend training walks.



Left to right: Liz Iakopo, Harry Clark, Julip Mati, Tusiga Maalo, Sarah Magele, Denise Su, Lasini Tali with guide Anna Keeling at Mount Ruapehu. © AHT/Marcus Waters

Marcus says, "The students have developed an amazing team dynamic, they are incredibly supportive and encouraging of one another to try new things, push outside their comfort zone, and persevere when things get tough. Sir Edmund Hillary counted

Tapuae-o-Uenuku as his first real mountain climb, and the opportunity for the students to follow in his footsteps will be an incredible experience. It will help them develop their explorer mindset."

## Funding Update

The Trust is grateful to the New Zealand Government which continues to fund the Trust's core operations costs for the 2021-22 financial year. This funding, delivered through the Ministry for Culture and Heritage under the auspices of our responsible Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, in her capacity as Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage ensures every dollar donated to the Trust this year will go directly to programme delivery.

### Inspiring Explorers™ Fund

In April the Trust launched the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund. This exciting new initiative is helping to grow the next generation of inspiring connected youth with an explorer mindset. Spanning a wide variety

of programmes from Inspiring Explorers Expeditions™ to Inspiring Explorers™ Education the diverse programme engages and inspires youth with the incredible legacy of exploration we care for, ensuring it is relevant, accessible and meaningful in today's world.

We are delighted to share that our launch match challenge appeal was successfully completed on 30 June 2021. We reached our goal of raising an initial \$150,000, which becomes \$300,000 towards the Fund thanks to the generous 1:1 match funds offered by a few key donors. Thank you to all our supporters who donated to the launch of the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund. We hope you have enjoyed reading some of the ways your gift is already making an impact in this newsletter.

We are looking to grow support for the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund and programme to engage and connect more youth with exploration.



Visit [nzaht.org/sustain](https://nzaht.org/sustain) to learn more

## Grant Success

The Trust is particularly grateful to the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board for a \$193,000 grant to assist a major cataloguing project of the Trust's image collection which contains around 100,000 images.

Over the next two years a team of four full time project technicians will work to transition the Trust's current image assets (which are a mix of digital and hardcopy) and associated metadata, to an online database called *Recollect*. The project also includes the development of a public website portal that will make an extensive collection of images available to the public and showcase Antarctica's most important historic assets being restored, maintained and managed.



Examples of the diverse range of images in the Trust's digital collection. Left: The 2017 Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ team on the summit of Mount Scott, Antarctica. © William Pike Right: Images of a jam jar before and after conservation treatment. © AHT

## Trust Supporter News

### Sir Grahame Sydney

In New Zealand's Queen's Birthday Honours, artist and Trust supporter Sir Grahame Sydney has been named a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Best known for his landscapes of Central Otago, Sir Grahame was honoured for services to art. He has a strong connection with Antarctica and we extend our congratulations to Sir Grahame and his wife, former Trust Administrator, Fiona Lady Sydney.

### A Painted Voyage

#### Depicting New Zealand's Maritime History The Art of Sean Garwood

Trust supporter Sean Garwood's exhibition 'A Painted Voyage' will be held at the Jonathan Grant Galleries, Auckland, New Zealand from 9 to 24 October 2021. The paintings featured in this exhibition, represent the most comprehensive visual survey of New Zealand's rich and diverse maritime history ever assembled in a solo exhibition. Featured in the exhibition will be Shackleton's *Nimrod* departing Lyttelton in 1908.



Detail showing Shackleton's *Nimrod* departing Lyttelton 1908 by Sean Garwood. © Sean Garwood



More information visit  
[fineartsociety.net](http://fineartsociety.net)  
and  
[seangarwood.co.nz](http://seangarwood.co.nz)

## Alumni News



Anzac Gallate.  
© AHT/Marcus Waters

### Anzac Gallate

Inspiring Explorer (2020)  
Anzac, the creative visionary of the Trust's augmented reality activated *My Explorer Journal*, has been recognised as a finalist in the Young

Enterprise Scheme (YES) Alumni Awards. YES aims to inspiring young people to discover their potential in business and in life and the awards celebrate the achievements and impact of YES alumni.



Diana McCormack  
clearing snow at  
Cape Evans in  
2017. © AHT

### Diana McCormack

Diana was the Trust Conservation Ambassador in 2017. After taking maternity leave last year, Diana has returned to work at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, UK, in a new role as Head of Conservation. Diana also had a short article about her Conservation Ambassador role published in Icon News, the Institute of Conservation's magazine for members.



Graeme Wilson.  
© AHT/Lizzie Meek

### Graeme Wilson

Recently the Trust had an unexpected but very welcome visit from Graeme Wilson, one of the earliest historic hut caretakers (before the Trust was formed). Graeme and his daughter Ainslie were in town for the Antarctic Society mid-winter dinner, and following that, took the opportunity to catch up with Programme Manager Lizzie Meek. Graeme was part of Leslie B Quartermain's hut restoration party in Antarctica 1960-61 summer season. Joining the team as an

Antarctic Society Volunteer, he took part in early hut restoration efforts at Scott's *Terra Nova* Hut (Cape Evans) and Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut (Cape Royds). We greatly enjoyed Graeme's detailed and entertaining accounts of his time on Ice, and the way his impressions of the place 60 years ago remain as indelibly sharp and meaningful as they did back then. Antarctica is like that!

### Dr Fred Davey

Emeritus Scientist, GNS Science, Former Trustee and Member, Fred Davey has recently published a research paper in the New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics on Cenozoic continental rifting in the north-western Ross Sea. In layman's terms Fred's paper is looking at the geological development of the western Ross Sea during the past 60 million years.

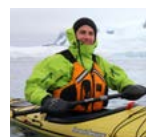


Ihlara McIndoe. © AHT/Owain John

### Ihlara McIndoe

In her role as NZSO National Youth Orchestra Composer-in-residence, 2020 Inspiring Explorer Ihlara's Antarctic inspired composition

*Ephemeral Bounds* has been performed by the NZSO National Youth Orchestra in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand in July. Ihlara has also been interviewed by Radio New Zealand, and SOUNZ, the Centre for New Zealand Music.



Mike Dawson.  
© AHT/Marcus Waters

### Mike Dawson

Mike's film *Kwanza: The Drowning Diamond of Angola* featured as part of an adventure film evening with screenings around New Zealand. The film showcases

Mike's journey to kayak the Kwanza River - Africa's fourth largest river and one of the world's last un-run rivers! Mike was an Inspiring Explorers™ mentor (2019, 2020) and is a Trust Governance Intern.

## Virtual Reality National Tour BOOK NOW FOR 2022

Hillary's Hut - Antarctica Virtual Reality Experience New Zealand tour continues to be heavily booked. Register at [nzaht.org](http://nzaht.org) to bring the VR to your school or community venue or contact:

### Gabriela Roldan

Project Manager,  
Hillary's Hut Virtual Reality Tour  
E: [g.rolan@nzaht.org](mailto:g.rolan@nzaht.org)  
P: 03 358 0212

Thanks to principal sponsor Ryman Healthcare and national tour sponsor Dulux New Zealand.



To find out more visit [nzaht.org](http://nzaht.org)

## Thank You

We welcome the following new members:

**Gold** Beverly Shipka (USA)

**Bronze** Bruce McLaren (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](http://nzaht.org)



Students at Rowley School, Christchurch enjoy the VR experience. © AHT