

Rt Hon Helen Clark Joins Trust

The Trust is delighted to welcome Rt Hon Helen Clark ONZ as a Patron of the Trust. The former New Zealand Prime Minister and United Nations Development Programme Head joins June, Lady Hillary as a Trust Patron, following the passing of long-time Patron Bob Norman QSO. The Patron-in-Chief is an ex-officio role traditionally assumed by the incumbent Governor-General of New Zealand.

Helen Clark's involvement with the Trust began in the early 2000s. While serving as Prime Minister of Aotearoa New Zealand she was also Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage. Helen supported the Trust as we set about conceiving, launching and fundraising an international campaign to safeguard the historic explorer bases in the Trust's care. She advocated for our mission at the most senior levels internationally and launched our first Conservation Plan for Sir Ernest Shackleton's Hut, which laid



James Blake, Sir Edmund Hillary and Rt Hon Helen Clark visit Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds in 2007. © AHT

the foundation for the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Scott Base, in her capacity as Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen visited Antarctica with Sir Edmund Hillary (then a Trust Patron). There she launched our Conservation Ambassador Programme with Sir Ed and the inaugural

Ambassador James Blake (see page seven for James Blake's latest exploits).

We are thankful to Helen for her continued interest and support.

Year-Round Conservation Programme

The 2021-22 summer Antarctic season saw a seven-person conservation team spend nearly two months working on an extended monitoring and maintenance programme at the Ross Island explorer bases of Robert Falcon Scott at Cape Evans and Hut Point, Sir Ernest Shackleton's base at Cape Royds, and Sir Edmund Hillary's hut at Pram Point.

For the first time since 2014, we have a team of four wintering over in Antarctica. The winter team comprises Jane Hamill, Belinda Hager, Conor Tulloch, and Shannah Rhynard-Geil.

See pages 2, 3 and 6 for more details on the summer team's achievements and the winter team's work.



The Trust's 2021-22 summer conservation team at Cape Evans. © Antarctica New Zealand/Anthony Powell



John Taylor (left) and Zack Bennett (right) temporarily replacing and securing the boxes against the south wall of Shackleton's 'Nimrod' hut. ©AHT/AI Fastier

Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut

The largest and most challenging task this season was at Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut at Cape Royds. The cache of Venesta cases along the south wall of the hut contains remnants of the expedition's food supplies.

Harsh winds, blowing scoria, and snow-melt over the past century led to the cases and their contents disintegrating. In 2006 the cases and associated artefacts were excavated in very deteriorated pieces. In

2007 conservation was undertaken to prevent environmental contamination and to preserve as much original material as possible. Modern ply wood boxes faced with the original Venesta sides were constructed, and the food tins inside were vacuum sealed in bags and replaced.

However, the boxes continue to deteriorate

at a noticeable rate, and create a moisture trap against the side of the building. This season the team detached the historic box sides from their inner modern support, then air dried and stored them in a more protected location. The box stack was also separated from the building, and work was done to reduce the moisture throughout the stack.

The team removed the tins from their plastic packaging inside the boxes and sorted them. Most tins were severely corroded, with wet food products such as soups and stews oozing out of the corrosion holes. The heavily deteriorated contents were scooped out and disposed of to ensure the historic food does not contaminate the local environment or endanger wildlife. The dried tins are now stored back in the plywood boxes onsite.



Emptying historic food tins before they are replaced in modern boxes at Shackleton's 'Nimrod' hut. © AHT/Jane Hamill

Transition from Summer to Winter On-Ice

A major focus this summer season was to identify artefacts in need of treatment, or re-treatment. Approximately 1000 objects were collected from the historic expedition bases of Scott and Shackleton, packaged and transported to New Zealand's scientific base, Scott Base, for the Trust's winter conservation team to work on through the Antarctic winter.

In January, summer conservation team members AI, John, Nicola and Zack returned to New Zealand, and in February our fourth winter conservator Shannah Rhynard-Geil joined the winter team of Jane, Belinda, and Conor at Scott Base.

The winter team have started the work of retreating objects selected over summer. Conservator Belinda Hager says, "These objects were amongst the

first conserved by the Trust, but after 16 years in challenging conditions, they have re-corroded or become compromised in other ways. With our well-resourced conservation laboratory, we will carry out conservation treatments and prepare them to be taken back to the explorer bases next summer season."



Follow their Antarctic blog at nzaht.org to learn more



Conservator Jane Hamill removes the residual blubber oil by drawing it out into blotter paper with the heat from a ski-waxing iron, in Scott's 'Discovery' hut. © AHT/AI Fastier

Scott's *Discovery* hut

At Scott's *Discovery* hut at Hut Point, a stack of seal blubber within the hut has been oozing oil onto the adjacent floorboards during the warm summer months. Visitors have been stepping on the oil when walking into the hut and tracking it through the building. This stack was lifted and a low-profile bund installed underneath to retain the oil.

AI Fastier described the operation: "We always knew lifting the blubber was not going to be easy, but after much brainstorming and armed with a selection of wooden wedges, levers and rollers we successfully lifted the blubber to expose a thick layer of black residual ooze. At this stage the challenge was to remove the blubber residue on the wooden floorboards before the bund could be installed." The conservators persevered through the very sticky and challenging task of removing the residue using scrapers, a ski-waxing iron and blotter paper before the bund could be placed into position.



Zack Bennett and John Taylor next to the completed blubber bund in Scott's 'Discovery' hut. © AHT/AI Fastier



Dusty scoria from the stables at Cape Evans being fed into the trommel. © AHT/AI Fastier

Scott's *Terra Nova* hut

A key project, in addition to maintenance and monitoring work at Scott's *Terra Nova* hut at Cape Evans work was to reduce the dust levels from the scoria in the stables and western annex. This was important because scoria dust is abrasive to artefact surfaces in the area, and the dust also attracts moisture to the objects, accelerating corrosion or spot mould. The gravel layer was removed by wheelbarrow and sieved using a custom built 'trommel' to remove all of the sand and fines. Once cleaned the gravel was returned to the walkways and the result has been very successful. Heritage carpenter John Taylor says, "The result was clean pea sized scoria, and not a hint of dust to be seen. The artefacts looked great after a conservation brush-vacuum by the conservators and should gather less dust from now on."

While at Cape Evans, the team repatriated a knife steel that had been returned to the Trust via Stephen Hicks from the estate of Wing-Commander John Claydon. This artefact was conserved in the Trust's conservation laboratory at Scott Base before being returned to the galley.

"I was thrilled to learn that my artefact was to be returned to its Antarctic home. Scott's hut at Cape Evans is such a significant monument to the heroic age of polar exploration. It is only fitting that wherever possible it be restored to its previous living and working condition. Hats off to the wonderful efforts of the Antarctic Heritage Trust," said Stephen Hicks.



Conservation of the knife sharpening steel © AHT



Knife sharpening steel in situ in the galley at Cape Evans. © AHT



Inspiring Explorers Sarah Magele, Jaylee Savage, guide Lydia Bradey, and Inspiring Explorer A'aifou Potemani on the summit of Mount Ollivier. © AHT/Anna Clare

Summit Reached In the Footsteps of Hillary

In February 2022, three young people from South Auckland, New Zealand summited their first mountain on the Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ *In the Footsteps of Hillary*, and their exploits were filmed for a children's television show (find out more about The Explorer Club on page 5).

Antarctic Heritage Trust partnered with Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate in Otara to offer students the chance to walk in the footsteps of their school's namesake by climbing Mount Ollivier, in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, Aotearoa New Zealand. This was one of the first peaks Sir Edmund Hillary climbed, and it began a lifetime of exploration that took him not only to the top of the world, in the first ascent of Everest, but also to Antarctica - achieving the third ever overland journey to the South Pole, after Amundsen and Scott reached it 110 years ago.

Sir Edmund Hillary described climbing Mount Ollivier as, "My happiest day I have ever spent...my new enthusiasm for the mountains went home with me and gave me little rest." This was a sentiment echoed by Inspiring Explorers Sarah Magele, Jaylee Savage, and A'aifou Potemani after achieving the same feat.

A'aifou was determined to get to the top, "When I got up there I was excited. I

felt like I had overcome something really great within myself. I'm probably the first Polynesian mountain goat, and I loved finding tough areas to climb over."

For Jaylee it was hard to start climbing, "but we kept on going. I have learned that your mind gives up before your body does. I pushed through more than I could have imagined."

"I've learned to encourage others, as well as myself, to keep striving until we get to

that common goal. It felt amazing to make it to the top of the maunga (mountain). We pushed each other to keep going and we made it as a team. I don't think it's worth it if one of us gets left behind," said Jaylee.

Climbing a mountain has made Sarah feel more confident to try something new, "This is something I want to do again in the future. When I was standing at the top I was shocked. I didn't expect the view. I loved it, it was great."



Inspiring Explorers Jaylee Savage and A'aifou Potemani near the summit of Mount Ollivier. © AHT/Anna Clare

“One thing I’ve learned is that once I start I’ll keep going, even if it’s really hard. I’m pretty slow but I’ll get there. I didn’t want to be that one person in the team to stop everyone or turn back. So I had to keep going.”

The Trust’s Inspiring Explorers Expeditions™ enable young people to grow and develop an explorer mindset. On this expedition Sarah, Jaylee, and A’aifou were thrilled to be mentored and guided by legendary New Zealand mountaineer Lydia Bradey ONZM. Lydia was the first woman in the world to climb Mount Everest without supplementary oxygen in 1988. She has gone on to summit Everest six times, and has guided ascents of Everest more than any other woman in the world.

One of Lydia’s personal missions is to inspire young people to open their eyes to big nature. “To enrichen your life, life needs to be embraced in some way. I have a passion for stepping out of your comfort zone, not necessarily doing big sporting things, or climbing Mount Everest. It’s about making yourself more intelligent, forging new connections in your mind, and being exposed to differences.

It is important for me to share my journey. I was always bad at sports, I was teased about how I walked. Everything physical was quite a challenge and scary. So for me to work in the physical world of guiding has been hard and really scary. It was a long journey and it never came easy. I tell them ‘I’ve been there, I know it’s not easy, but that’s what makes life good’.

My approach is caring and supportive and encouraging. Awareness comes from them, it doesn’t come from me, and I have seen this growth from the whole team. In particular, I’m really proud of Sarah embracing moving over rough terrain, and she owns it now. It’s so inspiring, I get a little bit emotional.

It has been a total honour to be able to work with them. When you see this growth and potential for opening doors you don’t want to say goodbye to them. So the last day is going to be hard because I want to say, ‘let’s go have another adventure somewhere else,’” says Lydia.

Sarah said, “Lydia was really cool. She was really understanding. She let me go at my own pace. She helped me carry my bag. She was there for me, gave me words of encouragement, and she had really good conversation.”

In preparation for climbing Mt Ollivier, the Inspiring Explorers™ have undertaken fitness training sessions with New Zealand rugby league legend Ruben Wiki at his Wiki Works Gym in Ōtara, South Auckland. They



Inspiring Explorer Jaylee Savage. © AHT/Anna Clare

The Explorer Club

The Trust has collaborated with Greenstone TV on a new children’s television series The Explorer Club. The series introduces iconic New Zealand explorers to kids through hands-on adventures of their own. Episodes 5 to 7 feature the Trust’s Young Inspiring Explorers™ on our 2021 Worsley Weekend, and episodes 8 to 10 follow Inspiring Explorers Sarah Magele, Jaylee Savage and A’aifou Potemani as they climb Mount

Ollivier during our Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ *In the Footsteps of Hillary*.

The series premiered on 18 April 2022 on HEIHEI channel, which is available to New Zealand audiences on TVNZ’s on-demand platform, tvnz.co.nz. It also screened on The Feed on TV2, which airs weekdays, from 3:30-5pm. The series has been produced thanks to the support of New Zealand on Air.



Inspiring Explorer Sarah Magele. © AHT/Anna Clare



Inspiring Explorer A’aifou Potemani. © AHT/Anna Clare

also learned some essential mountain skills, during a training weekend at Mount Ruapehu, including 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.

“I started training for this almost a year ago. Training with Reuben Wiki was pretty cool, knowing that he used to go to our school too. My team really encouraged me to be there every training session even though sometimes I didn’t really want to. They were fun,” said Sarah.

By challenging themselves and embracing the unknown, just as Sir Edmund Hillary did before them, these Inspiring Explorers™ have developed skills that will influence their life’s path.

“I think it’s important to step out of our comfort zone because we need to get used to the wider world, not just our own community such as South Auckland. We need to spread our wings, and why not? It’s an amazing experience,” says Jaylee.



Historic Antarctic Artefacts Discovered

'Aurora's' second anchor with Scott's 'Terra Nova' hut in the background. © Antarctica New Zealand/Anthony Powell

The discovery of historic Antarctic artefacts at Cape Evans is one of the highlights of the season for the Trust.

The historic items, left behind from expeditions of the heroic age, were made visible to the conservation team due to the lack of winter snow accumulation and snowmelt. Items included a dog hospital, mutton carcasses, *Aurora's* second anchor (still with the shackles attached) and an ice pick.

The items are located around Scott's *Terra Nova* hut at Cape Evans - the iconic base associated with Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic Expedition (1910-1913) and his second, and final, attempt for the Geographic South Pole.

Programme Manager Al Fastier says these sightings are really important, as the objects either weren't recorded or hadn't been seen for decades.

Al was the first person to come across the mutton carcasses, still wrapped in muslin, after taking a routine walk to inspect the site at the start of the season.

"We're learning more about the hut and the activities that took place around it and we're just getting to see things that haven't been seen in a very long time. The mutton would have been picked up in New Zealand on the way to Antarctica by Shackleton's Ross Sea party of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917) and then stored in the snow cave."

While Al has been visiting the site since 1987, he was fascinated to see the

mutton carcasses for the first time. The carcasses were recorded in the Cape Evans conservation and archaeological plans of the site and known to be in an ice cave.

"I love my job and am always amazed that I keep on learning and seeing more after visiting the sites so many times," says Al.

A second ice cave has also revealed the finds of a scientific hardwood bench that was used for gravity measurements. This had been partly exposed in previous seasons but this was the first time the Trust's teams had seen it fully exposed.

Scientists were part of the expedition team and undertook significant science, including some of the earliest advances in the study of earth sciences, meteorology and biology, which is still important to scientific research today.

Al says the dog hospital is a particularly interesting find, with the remains of small stretchers made out of cloth and bamboo.

He believes the stretchers were used to transport injured dogs around the site and the dedicated dog handlers would have worked there.

Archaeologists mapped out the area in the 1970s. While they identified many items, mapping did not reveal the full extent of these finds, making this season's discovery significant. These new finds provide an opportunity to learn about the expeditions.

The *Aurora's* second anchor, which is one of two (the other is exposed most seasons) is typically buried under snow and ice and it is rare to sight part of it let alone the

whole anchor. Al says the position of the anchor on the beach shows the enormous determination and strength of those who dragged it ashore to anchor the ship.

The ice pick revealed on the southern axis of the site would have belonged to one of the expeditions, says Al.

"Explorers would have had a range of tools. Potentially they were chipping away at ice to get water but snowfall might have caused them to lose it."

Antarctic Heritage Trust have formally recorded the location of these artefacts, and will follow professional best practice in dealing with them in the future. Artefacts in the environs are individually assessed for any emergency stabilisation needs, but typically are left in situ as part of the historical context of the site.

Scott's *Terra Nova* hut at the Cape Evans site houses over 11,000 artefacts, all conserved by the Trust as part of the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.



Conservator Jane Hamill documents the dog hospital artefacts. © Antarctica New Zealand/Anthony Powell



Endurance Found

The stern of the *Endurance* with the name and emblematic polestar. © Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust and National Geographic

In March 2022, the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust's *Endurance22* Expedition successfully located the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship *Endurance*. Our congratulations go out to the expedition team who have made this discovery.

Crushed by ice in the Weddell Sea, *Endurance* sunk in 1915, and sparked an

incredible tale of survival. Previous attempts to unearth the ship have been thwarted by heavy sea ice, including the loss of a remote search vehicle. This is a landmark find from one of the most remarkable stories of the heroic age of Antarctic exploration and it is fitting it has been found in the centenary year of Sir Ernest Shackleton's passing.

Kiwi Connection

The New Zealand connection to the *Endurance* story is strong. Captain Frank Worsley was born in Akaroa, New Zealand but a life at sea took him to London. Sir Ernest Shackleton hired Worsley for his Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition and made him captain of the expedition ship *Endurance*.

The expedition party were forced to abandon the ship in October 1915 after *Endurance* was crushed by ice floes in the Weddell Sea.

Worsley's role in ensuring the survival of the men was crucial as he navigated their three lifeboats to Elephant Island where they repurposed their largest boat, the *James Caird*, in the hopes that they could use it to get them to the whaling station at South Georgia, 1300km away.

Worsley managed to safely steer the *James Caird* to South Georgia amongst strong winds and powerful currents with only four sightings over the 16-day voyage.

This journey is still referred to as one of the most heroic ocean voyages of all time and its success came down to Worsley's navigation skills and unbreakable perseverance under the most difficult circumstances.



Commander F.A. Worsley. Photographer unknown, c.1920. © Frank A. Worsley Collection, Akaroa Museum. Donated by Patrick Bamford

Stories of exploration and bravery have the ability to transcend time and many generations. Captain Frank Worsley's act of recording the final position of *Endurance* in his logbook all those years ago was acknowledged by the search crew as a critical factor in finding the wreck. It was a remarkable and unheralded act by an incredible navigator in a time before GPS, but given the quality of his navigation skills is not a surprise.



James Blake during the Trust's 2015 Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ Crossing South Georgia. © Rob Stimpson

James Blake on *Endurance22* Expedition Team

Trust alumnus James Blake was Director of Photography on the *Endurance22* Expedition. He is creating a feature documentary on the search and discovery for Disney+ and National Geographic. James was controlling the camera when the iconic footage of *Endurance* were captured.

Through the Trust, James has a special connection to Sir Ernest Shackleton's legacy and the story of the *Endurance*. In January 2007 he visited Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut at Cape Royds in Antarctica to launch the Trust's Antarctic Youth Ambassador programme in partnership with Blake Trust and Antarctica New Zealand and was involved in the work to uncover Shackleton's whisky. In 2015, to honour the centenary of Shackleton's crossing of South Georgia, James took part in the Trust's inaugural Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to retrace the epic crossing made by Shackleton, Worsley and Crean to raise the alarm and get help for the crew of the *Endurance*.

His film, *The Last 36*, is available to watch at nzaht.org.



James Blake and Trust Executive Director Nigel Watson crossing South Georgia in 2015 on the Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition™. © AHT



A student explores Hillary's Hut in virtual reality. © AHT/Anna Clare and Tim McPhee

Explore More in Sir Ed's Antarctic Hut

The Trust is excited to announce the release of a new version of the Hillary's Hut – Antarctica Virtual Reality (VR) Experience. This new immersive version allows people to explore even more of this historic site in Antarctica and choose how they interact with each of the rooms in the building.

It has additional interactive features, including archival audio of Sir Ed and other members of his team (thanks to RNZ collection at Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision). The experience also includes photo galleries showing historic images of the expeditions, science, landscapes and wildlife as well as contemporary images of the conserved building and its artefacts today.

The Trust has been touring the VR experience around New Zealand schools and community venues since late 2020 and has received a fantastic response, bringing Antarctica to thousands of Kiwis in a fresh and dynamic way.

Our education team inspire people with their presentations on Antarctica, Sir Ed Hillary, and his team's work to further science and exploration as part of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition and International Geophysical Year.

People then have the opportunity to experience 'going to the Ice' themselves with the VR, learning more about New Zealand's first presence in Antarctica.

The impact of the fully immersive experience, bringing people to Antarctica virtually, has been powerful.

Gary Green who worked in Antarctica in 2002 and 2004 said, "I never thought I would be back. I was there as a mechanic and I met Sir Ed. It was one of the greatest moments in my life...thank you for taking me back."

Christchurch school student Hannah said, "My dad worked in Antarctica before I was born, I can now understand why he loved it so much and wanted to go back."

Another student shared, "When I put the headset on I thought I was in Antarctica. Everything was so real, it was like I was there. It was really cool, and the gloves were amazing!"

The Trust's Education Manager Dr Gabriela Roldan says, "Connecting people with these incredible stories of Sir Ed and his team helps to bring Antarctica closer to New Zealanders. We hope that people will be inspired by this spirit of exploration, and will become ambassadors for the Trust's work caring for this remarkable legacy and advocate for Antarctica and its importance to the world today."

With thanks to continued sponsorship from Dulux New Zealand, the Trust is delighted to be able to tour the VR through 2022. Covid has been challenging and caused

"I love the detail. As a history teacher, I see so much packed in there."

TEACHER, WAIMATE HIGH SCHOOL, NEW ZEALAND

some restrictions recently; however the Trust is taking bookings now for schools and community venues for the rest of the year.

Access the updated Hillary's Hut – Antarctica experience from Vive Focus 3 from the VIVE Business App Store.

Or install the app from your Vive Focus 3 by searching Hillary's Hut Antarctica in the VIVE Business App Store.

Or contact us at education@nzaht.org to book an in-person visit for your school or community group.



Learn more about the VR experience at nzaht.org.

Thanks to Auckland University of Technology, Dulux NZ, StaplesVR, Antarctica New Zealand and donors to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund for their continued support.

Education Manager Joins Trust

The Trust is delighted Dr Gabriela Roldan has joined as Education Manager for 2022. Her extensive experience as an educator and Antarctic is helping shape the Trust's education programme as we share emerging technology content with schools and communities around New Zealand and the world.

Gabriela is a social scientist and educator with a passion for Antarctica. She has a PhD in Antarctic Studies from the University of Canterbury and her interests span from geopolitics and history to human connections with Antarctica. Gabriela's Antarctic

experience have led her to take on a variety of roles, from assisting policy-makers on Antarctic tourism matters to creating and implementing strategic plans for the development of gateway cities. Antarctic education and community outreach programmes are pillar projects in her career; she has designed and delivered school-based curriculum Antarctic programmes in New Zealand, Argentina and Chile. Also, at an international level, Gabriela collaborates as a member of the Advisory Committee on Capacity Building, Education and Training for the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

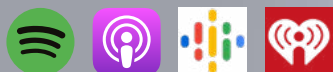


Dr Gabriela Roldan. © Dr Gabriela Roldan

An avid and curious traveller, Gabriela lectures regularly on cruise ships and has visited Antarctica over sixty times.

FROZEN IN TIME SCOTT'S ANTARCTIC LEGACY PODCAST

Access at nzaht.org
or the usual podcast platforms



Antarctic Heritage Trust invites you to

A MUSICAL JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA

with Antarctic Heritage Trust Inspiring Explorer Ihlara McIndoe

The Trust invites you to join us online for *A Musical Journey to Antarctica*, featuring five compositions by Inspiring Explorer Ihlara McIndoe accompanied by stunning visuals of Antarctica captured by renowned Antarctic filmmaker and photographer Anthony Powell.

Ihlara was the NZSO National Youth Orchestra Composer-in-residence for 2021 and her beautiful compositions for flute, violin and viola, and full orchestra, were inspired by her 2020 Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to Antarctica.

Performers include Mark Menzies, Professor of Music and Head of Performance at the University of Canterbury on viola and violin, UC performance students Rakuto Kurano on violin, and Marlene Cooper on flute, Chris Everest from the New Zealand School of Music on guitar and the NZSO National Youth Orchestra.

WATCH THE RECORDING ONLINE AT NZAHT.ORG



In Memorium - Vernon Gerard

Trans-Antarctic Expedition and International Geophysical Year (TAE/IGY) party member Vernon Gerard passed away in March 2022.

Vernon was born and educated in Christchurch, gaining a BSc in 1946, and an MSc Hons in 1947. He was employed by the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research (DSIR) Magnetic Observatory in Christchurch from 1942; saw short war service in the artillery in 1944-45; and spent a year stationed in Apia Observatory in Western Samoa in 1949. Vernon was also principal scientist at the Physics and Engineering Laboratory (PEL) where he made the first atomic clock and gas laser to be operated in New Zealand.

In 1957 Vernon travelled to Ross Island, Antarctica with New Zealand's TAE/IGY party. His role as a physicist was to study the Earth's magnetic field, and his extensive experience in magnetic

observations was invaluable. Vernon installed and operated the Geomagnetic Observatory instruments at Scott Base during the 1957 year. He had to check his equipment, which was housed in huts away from Scott Base, every 12 hours.

Vernon reflected on this task, "I had to change the [recording] paper and I did that every 12 hours, for 12 months, without a break. I had to go out even if there was a blizzard." He returned to Scott Base in early 1959 to re-calibrate the instruments.

Vernon worked with the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), London, 1960-63, and later worked in the Geophysics and Geodesy Department at the University of Cambridge in 1975, returning to work at the DSIR until retirement in 1981. He was made a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society in 1948 and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 1963. He was also awarded the Polar Medal for his work in Antarctica.



Vernon Gerard in Antarctica. © Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection, 1957

Vernon was the author of many published scientific papers in journals in New Zealand and overseas, and also wrote the book *With Hillary at Scott Base, A Kiwi among the penguins*, published in 2012. He was the penultimate surviving member of the first over winter team at Scott Base.



John Nankervis and Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand at his investiture into the New Zealand Order of Merit. © Government House

In Memorium - John Nankervis

Friend of the Trust, John Nankervis MNZM, passed away in January 2022 at age 75. John was one of New Zealand's most gifted mountaineers and was greatly loved in the climbing community both in New Zealand and in Nepal.

John had a passion for natural science, worked to preserve the environment, and had a deep love of the mountains.

His climbing accomplishments included 50 New Zealand first ascents, many in Aoraki/Mount Cook and Westland/Tai Poutini

national parks. He completed 12 major expeditions, and over 20 ski mountaineering trips, in the Himalayas, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Norway and Myanmar. John was a past president of the New Zealand Alpine Club and was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2010 for services to mountaineering.

John worked at Scott Base in Antarctica during the 1976-77 season, as a Field Assistant and was a supporter of the Trust's mission.

Farewell to Chris Cochran

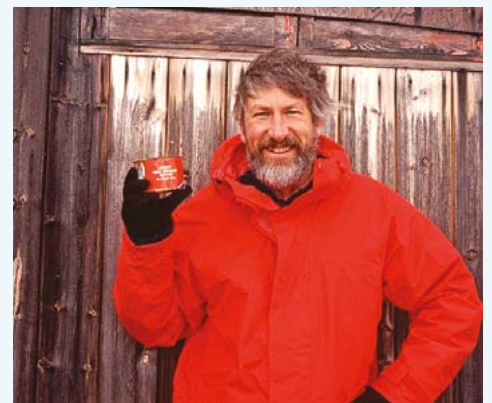
Chris Cochran MNZM has been a friend and trusted advisor to the Trust since its inception in the late 1980s. During that time he has acted in a variety of roles including, Chair of the Conservation Advisory Group, Conservation Architect, Conservation Plan Editor, and a member of various Design Teams. After 34 years of valued service to the Trust, Chris has taken the decision to step down from the Conservation Design Team in June 2022.

Chris took a leading role in the early years of the Trust's conservation efforts. He helped to develop the conservation plans for each of the sites the Trust cares for, which laid the foundation for the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project. He has also contributed to safeguarding the future of the UKAHT's sites on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Chris is one of New Zealand's most experienced conservation architects. Prior to 1988, Chris worked for the Ministry of Works in an advisory role to the New Zealand Government on heritage buildings before establishing his own practice. He has written numerous conservation and management plans for heritage structures in New Zealand.

In 2007, Chris was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the conservation of historic buildings. He is also a member of the Heritage New Zealand Board.

The Trust would like to acknowledge and thank Chris for the significant contribution and extraordinary commitment he has made to the conservation of the Ross Island explorer bases.



Chris Cochran in Antarctica during the 1987-88 summer season. © AHT

Nigel Watson Trust Executive Director says, "After the privilege of working with Chris for two decades, I truly appreciate how fortunate the Trust has been to have his expertise and knowledge to call on."

Alumni News



Annika Andresen © AHT

Annika Andresen (Antarctic Youth Ambassador in partnership with Blake Trust and Antarctica New Zealand 2016) recently started a new role as Marine Projects Manager at Inkfish and will soon be undertaking an expedition to the Kermadec Islands with Ngāti Kuri and Auckland Museum.



Ben Gluyas. © AHT

Ben Gluyas (Young Inspiring Explorer 2021) spent a week as a volunteer hut warden, alongside his mother, at Lake Angelus Hut in Nelson Lakes National Park, walking in via the Robert Ridge Route.



Catherine Vogt © AHT

Catherine Vogt (Young Inspiring Explorer 2021) has been selected for the role of Deputy Head Girl at her school.



David Woodings © David Woodings

David Woodings (Inventory Manager 1990s) recently moved from Christchurch to Winchester and opened a new studio and art gallery there, Woodings at Winchester, in a repurposed local church.



Emily Wilson © Emily Wilson

Emily Wilson's (Inspiring Explorer 2021) summer of exploring has included, coming fifth in the Longest Day of the Kathmandu Coast to Coast (World Multisport Championship

event), competing in the GodZone multi-day adventure race, with her team finishing in fifth place, and working with young people while sailing with the Spirit of Adventure Trust.



Falcon Scott inside his Grandfather's hut at Cape Evans. © AHT/Falcon Scott

Expeditions on their trips to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia. In 2014-15 Falcon took his wife, daughter, and two sons to the Peninsula, becoming only the second family to have had four generations in Antarctica (after the Ronnes). Falcon has also worked for One Ocean Expeditions, Polar Latitudes, and Poseidon Expeditions. He continues to run a holiday lodge business on an island in Argyll, on the West Coast of Scotland, and continues building houses for people locally in Argyll.



Fiona McLaughlan. © AHT

Conservator during the museum redevelopment. A job opportunity at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum in Dunedin came up and Fiona and her husband relocated to New Zealand in 2011.



Isis McKenzie. © AHT

It's now 10 years since **Falcon Scott** (Grandson of Captain Robert Falcon Scott) helped with the Trust's work on his grandfather's hut at Cape Evans in the summer of 2011-12. In the austral summers since he has worked as a historian for Quark

Fiona McLaughlan (Conservator 2007). After leaving Antarctica, Fiona returned to the United Kingdom to her role at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. She then joined the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge as a

Isis McKenzie (Young Inspiring Explorer 2021) has been selected for the role of Head Girl at her School.



James Blake © Rob Stimpson

James Blake (Inspiring Explorer 2015) welcomed a new addition to the family in August 2021, a girl named Bonnie. Read more about James Blake on page 7.



Lynn Campbell © Lynn Campbell

Lynn Campbell (Conservator 1990-91 and 1992-93) is a member of the Canterbury Disaster Salvage Team, which provides training and advice to cultural and heritage institutions on disaster planning and response. She has presented at a conservator's conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, on disaster preparedness and at a conference in Croatia (presenting a digital paper online) about the response to the 2010-11 earthquakes in Christchurch.



Owain John. © AHT

Owain John (Inspiring Explorer 2020) is settling into a new role at Philanthropy New Zealand, where he has supported the launch of a new service to help both those seeking, and distributing, philanthropic funding. Called Match | Te Puna Taurite, the service aims to provide a more equitable, accessible and collaborative funding system and more easily connect those with funds to those that seek them.

Antarctica 360 VR



Inspiring Explorer Leah Stewart kayaking on the Antarctic Peninsula. © AHT/Mike Dawson

Take a trip to Antarctica in 360° with our Antarctica 360 VR video series. Filmed during the Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to the Antarctic Peninsula in 2019, you can share the journey on your own virtual expedition, kayaking in frozen waters, viewing penguins, shipwrecks and sleeping out on the ice.

There are five videos to explore featuring Port Lockroy, Portal Point, Paradise Harbour, Half Moon Island, and Foyen Harbour, and where you can get up close to a piece of Antarctic history by visiting the Governoren Wreck with the Inspiring Explorers™.



View the videos on the Trust's website nzaht.org

How to Navigate the videos

Mobile users:

Swipe screen / move hone

PC users

Use WASD or hold left mouse button to look around

You can also view the videos on a virtual reality headset. For the best experience, change the quality settings on your device to the highest setting

Thank You

to our new Antarctic Explorer Members :

Bronze Jennifer Wade (USA)
Andrew Terris (NZ)
Dave Baker (USA)

If you love the Trust's work and want to make a gift to continue the legacy of exploration visit nzaht.org.

During our annual appeal, your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 until 30 June 2022.



Phillipa Durkin. © AHT

Phillipa Durkin (Conservator 2007) is still working as a private conservator with a studio in Wellington, as well as running an accommodation business 'Waihora Homestead', in Martinborough.



Pip Cheshire. © AHT

Pip Cheshire (Conservation Architect) has been teaching (via Zoom) at the University of Auckland Architecture School as a visiting Design Tutor, and writing a regular column for Architecture New Zealand Magazine. Pip has also been the subject of a one-hour documentary, 'Design Dreams', which was shown on Prime TV in New Zealand in November 2021.



Sam Macdonald. © AHT

Sam Macdonald (Young Inspiring Explorer 2020) was accepted on the inaugural Building Awesome Young Men (BAYM) trip, a traverse of the Southern Alps over three days.

"We started going

up the Deception Pass to Goat Pass Hut. The next day we went down the Mingha River. We then stayed in Arthurs Pass then rafted the Waimakariri River to Toby Hill Station, then then biked from Rolleston back to school to a big crowd of parents," said Sam.



Win Clark. © AHT/Jo Moore

Win Clark (Trust Structural Engineer) continues to be involved in providing structural engineering advice, assessments and retrofit design solutions for owners of heritage buildings.

Win says, "The challenge of finding structural solutions for heritage buildings is fascinating as you develop an understanding of the heritage values, structural forms and needs of the building to achieve longevity. It is significant to not only find an appropriate structural solution, but also a solution that has minimal, or no discernible effect on the heritage values. The trick is to identify the inherent structural capacity of the building and how this capacity can be enhanced to achieve desired outcomes."

Win is working on completing a wind loading assessment for the Borchgrevink hut site at Cape Adare, and a structural report on retrofit details for the two main huts at Cape Adare.

Online Database Update

The project to transition the Trust's current image assets to an online database called Recollect is progressing well. Over the last five months the Trust's team of four specialists have processed an incredible 45,000 images from the Trust's archives.

Digital Technician Mark Sanders reflects, "Working on the images from the various conservation seasons and getting to see each team member's perspective of their time at the expedition bases, gives you a real sense of the often-challenging journey they're on, and huge appreciation for just how difficult it must have been for the Heroic Age explorers. The stories are nothing short of inspiring, and it has helped me gain a wider understanding of the role our project, and that of the Trust, can play in encouraging the spirit of exploration in future generations by sharing these stories."

Work is poised to start on the development of a public website portal that will make an extensive collection of images available to all. We are grateful for the support of the New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board for their match funding of the project.