



New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern visits Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut in October 2022. © Antarctica New Zealand

## New Zealand Prime Minister visits Explorer Bases

In October 2022, New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern travelled to Antarctica to see the work of New Zealand scientists first-hand and mark the 65th anniversary of New Zealand's Scott Base. While there, Prime Minister Ardern visited the explorer bases the Trust cares for at Ross Island, established by Sir Ernest Shackleton, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, and Sir Edmund Hillary.

During her visit to Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut, Prime Minister Ardern spoke about how her childhood hero's name became synonymous with leadership: "You can see in the way that he [Shackleton] organised his hut, so much of what he was thinking about was how he built comradeship, how he kept the team motivated... I think he knew success would come down to his ability to keep the team together in really hard times. There is a lot to take away in that.

"How do we take the modern lessons of these amazing historic explorers to the world, but particularly to our young people...I want other young people to be able to learn that and be moved by it, like I was as a 15-year-old.

"I feel the weight of being one of the few people that will have the opportunity to stand here. So how do we give people the sense of standing here? That is some of the amazing work the Antarctic Heritage Trust is doing," said Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern.

In 2020, Prime Minister Ardern took a virtual visit to Sir Edmund Hillary's Antarctic hut at the launch of the Trust's Hillary's Hut - Antarctica Virtual Reality Experience. During her visit to Antarctica in October, Trust staff member Patrick Power, General Manager Operations and Programmes, had the

pleasure of showing Prime Minister Ardern through the real Hillary's hut, which the Trust spent more than 5700 hours carefully restoring and conserving more than 500 artefacts in time for Scott Base's 60th anniversary in 2017.



L-R: Patrick Power, Trust General Manager Operations and Programmes, Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Doug Henderson (Antarctica New Zealand) and John Taylor inside Hillary's hut. © AHT



## Cape Adare Reached

An Antarctica New Zealand led event saw a small team of four people reach Cape Adare, the site of Carsten Borchgrevink's expedition base, for the first time since the field camp on site was completed during the 2019-20 summer season.

This season the team carried out essential repairs to the turk (water tank) buildings on site, following some damage to them from an extreme storm. The turks are in place to support the conservation of the Cape Adare huts. The team consisted of Antarctic Heritage Trust staff Patrick Power, General Manager Operations and Programmes and John Taylor, Trust Heritage Carpenter. They were joined by Antarctica New Zealand's Doug Henderson (Doug is also a Trust conservation alumnus), and Professor Craig Cary from Waikato University.

On arrival at New Zealand's Scott Base, the team's deployment to Cape Adare was

delayed by two weeks while they waited on essential cargo to arrive due to disruptions to scheduled flights between Christchurch and Antarctica.

Cape Adare is a challenging place to get to. From Scott Base the team flew on a Basler BT-67 to Italy's Mario Zucchelli Station, where they spent two nights, before flying onto Edisto Ice Inlet where they rendezvoused with two HeliSupport International helicopters. The helicopters then flew two 80-minute round trips each (including two sling loads) to transport the team and 4000lbs of equipment to Cape Adare.

Due to the earlier delays, the team only had six days on site to carry out essential repairs to the field camp and worked long hours to get the job done. This work has future proofed the field camp for another four or five years, which will allow the Trust to

The team enroute to Cape Adare, L-R: Craig Cary, Doug Henderson, Patrick Power, and John Taylor. © Antarctica New Zealand/Doug Henderson



Repairs to the turks at the Cape Adare field camp. © Antarctica New Zealand/Doug Henderson

complete the conservation of Borchgrevink's hut. Calm weather, apart from one day of hurricane force winds, helped with productivity. The team also undertook a survey of Borchgrevink's hut to check for damage (none was found) and secured the field camp for what we hope is only one year before our team will return.

Patrick Power says, "Our special thanks go to Antarctica New Zealand, and the Italian Antarctic Programme, PRNA for Basler and helicopter air support, Kenn Borek Air for fixed-wing air support, and HeliSupport International Chief Pilot Lee Armstrong for his organisation and drive to make things happen, and his pilots Hamish and Ash for their expert flying and local area knowledge. Our deployment would not have been possible without it."

## Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ South Pole Under Way

The Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to attempt to ski to the South Pole is underway, celebrating 150 years since the birth of legendary polar explorer Roald Amundsen.

The team, made up of Kiwi Inspiring Explorers Laura Andrews and Mike Dawson, Norwegian Inspiring Explorer Marthe Brendefur, Trust Executive Director Nigel Watson, and Ousland Explorers polar guide

Bengt Rotmo, departed from New Zealand and Norway on 3 November 2022 to travel to Punta Arenas, Chile.

The team spent eleven days in Punta Arenas preparing to deploy to Antarctica. Tasks over this time included shopping for and packing 45 days of food, gear checks and tutorials on use, and crevasse rescue training.

On 16 November the team flew to Union Glacier, Antarctica with logistics provider Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions (ALE). From there, they have taken a second flight to the start of the Messner route, and they are currently skiing towards the South Pole.

The team are towing sleds containing their food, clothing, and equipment. They also have two food depots to support them along the way. It will take our Inspiring Explorers between 40 and 45 days to reach the South Pole.

On day seven of the expedition, Inspiring Explorer Laura Andrews reported, "After one week on the ice we have just passed

into the 83rd degree South! Walking along in our train is an isolating experience, for 50 minutes at a time, for eight hours of the day, you listen to the whistle of the wind, the repetitive scrape of your pulk and the squeak of your poles propelling you forward. Sometimes we listen to music or audiobooks but often we lose ourselves in our thoughts and surroundings. It could be monotonous, but in every moment it's incredible."

The expedition, in partnership with Ousland Explorers, is supported by Clothing Partner Norrøna, and Photographic Partner Canon, with logistics provided by Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions (ALE).

We are also grateful for the support of Roald Amundsen's House, Brynje of Norway, Fjellpulken, Helseport, and Åsnes.



You can follow the team's progress, and learn more about Amundsen's historic journey to the South Pole, on our website, [nzaht.org](http://nzaht.org), and social channels.



Day 12 on the team's journey to the South Pole. © AHT/Mike Dawson



L-R Megan Absolon, Jane Hamill, Lizzie Meek, Lachie Cromar, and Zack Bennett arrive in Antarctica.  
© AHT/Jane Hamill

The Trust's On-Ice conservation team deployed to Ross Island, Antarctica in late November. They will undertake maintenance on the historic explorer bases of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton and Sir Edmund Hillary that are under the Trust's care. The team, led by Lizzie Meek, the Trust's Collections Conservation Manager, includes Jane Hamill, Lead Conservator, Megan Absolon, Conservator, Zack Bennett, Lead Heritage Carpenter, and Lachie Cromar, Conservation Support.

They will spend the six weeks working on a programme of maintenance and monitoring as part of our ongoing care of the sites, and return 1000 artefacts to the explorer bases that have been given stabilisation treatments by the Trust's on-Ice Conservators over winter 2022.

The team will spend one week at Scott's *Terra Nova* hut at Cape Evans, where they will repatriate a box of cocoa tins and a Shell motor spirits box donated by former United States naval Captain Dave Baker and a sledge distance meter wheel donated by Ross and Bruce Bailey.

While there, the team will also install a sump to help drain off liquid blubber from the blubber stack in the Annex as it mobilises during the warmest summer weather and repair a damaged Stevenson's screen.

They will also continue work to implement the new site archaeological guidelines developed by heritage consultant to the Trust and archaeology PhD candidate Gordon Macdonald.

At Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut at Cape Royds, where the team will spend three weeks in the field, the focus will be on a permanent repair to the chimney.

During a recent visit it was found that the flue from the galley stove had become disconnected just above the roof line, most likely as a result of a southerly storm, when gale force winds regularly strike the hut. The Trust's process to repair post-winter damage was implemented. This involved photographing and documenting the damage. This information was then sent to the Trust so that our building consultants could develop an emergency repair solution. The Trust fortuitously had a team at Scott Base at the time, preparing to deploy to Cape Adare. They were able to reach Cape Royds to undertake the emergency repair, which consisted of capping the flue stump, and safely lowering and securing the main chimney flue at ground level.

While at Cape Royds the team will continue on with last summer's work to check the contents of the Venesta cases on the south wall, reducing moisture, and removing any deteriorated food contents. They will also replace damaged hessian on the fodder bales in the stables area.

At Scott's *Discovery* hut and Hut Point Peninsula the team will continue to monitor coastal erosion in collaboration with UNAVCO.

## Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit



© AHT/Anna Clare

In November, the Trust's second Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit for 2022 saw a group of 20 students, aged 11-14, from around New Zealand experience a weekend of exploration in Christchurch. The Summit was delivered in partnership with William Pike Challenge, and is supported by the US Embassy and Consulate in New Zealand. The students experienced an Antarctic storm, and met huskies and penguins at the International Antarctic Centre and learned about life at New Zealand and US Antarctic stations from the team at Antarctica New Zealand, and US Antarctic Program winter team member Sarah Bouckoms (who had just returned from the South Pole). They also learned about the transport logistics of getting to Antarctica from the New Zealand Defence Force, including a very special tour of a Royal New Zealand Air Force C130 Hercules.

## Governance

There have been a number of changes to the Trust's Board. We would like to thank our outgoing Board members, Emeritus

Professor Richard Bedford (Royal Society Te Apārangi representative), Linda Kestle (New Zealand Antarctic Society representative), and Independent Trustee Emeritus Professor Nicholas Bellamy,

for their time, energy, knowledge, and commitment to the mission of the Trust.

We look forward to officially welcoming our new Trustees to the Board very soon.

# Winter-Over Team Return

In October 2022 our winter conservation team of four conservators – Jane Hamill, Shannah Rhynard-Geil, Belinda Hager, and Conor Tulloch returned from the Ice. During their time at New Zealand's Scott Base, the team carried out stabilisation treatments on approximately 1000 objects collected from the historic expedition bases of Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton. The team worked hard to resolve issues such as reversing previous coatings, and have



L-R: The Trust's winter conservation team, Shannah Rhynard-Geil, Belinda Hager, Conor Tulloch and Jane Hamill.

progressed and developed some advanced treatment techniques for the Trust, including desalination, and air abrasion.

# Alumni News

## Gordon Macdonald

(Trust Consultant and Design Team member) was recently appointed to the role of Secretary General of the International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC),



Gordon Macdonald © AHT

an International Scientific Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). ICOMOS recently adopted new Antarctic Archaeology Guidelines and Trust consultants Gordon Macdonald and Michael Morrison contributed to the multi-year effort to create these Guidelines, ensuring they reflected the experiences of the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project team.

## Marco de Kretser

(Inspiring Explorer 2019) has been awarded an exchange scholarship to the University of Iceland. Marco will spend six months in

Iceland progressing his degree in environmental science, and is looking forward to lots of exposure to Icelandic glaciers, volcanoes, and river systems. Marco says, "Meeting scientists on my Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ in 2019, hearing them talk about their work and seeing their passion inspired me to enrol in environmental science. I have my experience in Antarctica to thank for the path my life is on now."



Marco de Kretser © AHT/Leah Stewart

## Leah Stewart

(Inspiring Explorer 2019) has been competing in endurance mountain biking events. Leah was the second overall female in a 10-hour race at McLean's Forest Park in Christchurch, and first overall female in a 12-hour race at Hanmer Springs, North Canterbury.



Leah Stewart © Leah Stewart

# In Memorium

The Trust sends sincere condolences to the families of Robyn Brunton, Dr E I Robertson, and Arthur Brown.

## Robyn Brunton

Former Trust staff member Robyn Brunton passed away in November 2022.

Robyn joined the Trust as Finance Manager in 2006 and was a loyal, high performing and diligent staff member throughout a time of significant growth in the Trust's history. Robyn was universally respected by Trust supporters, donors, funders, the Board and staff over 15 years of dedicated service. Her contribution to the Trust was tremendous and she is greatly missed.



Robyn Brunton © AHT

## Dr E I Robertson

OBE CBE FRSNZ

Dr E I Robertson (Eddie) passed away in October 2022 at the age of 103. Eddie was one of the most influential persons in New Zealand science from 1951 to 1980. He was appointed the first Director of the Geophysics Division, DSIR. When the International Geophysical Year (IGY) 1957-58 was proposed, Eddie was appointed to the Royal Society of New Zealand's National IGY Committee and led the development and implementation of the New Zealand IGY research programme. He was also a member of the Ross Sea Committee for the New Zealand Transantarctic Expedition (TAE) to ensure that the new base being built by the New Zealand government also supported the IGY expedition requirements adequately. Eddie also chaired the Ross Dependency Research Committee, led the New Zealand National Committee for Antarctic Research, and represented New Zealand at meetings of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Member Countries. Mt Robertson just south of Hallett Bay is named for him.



Dr Eddie Robertson and Peter Macdonald (IGY) carrying out magnetic survey measurements near Scott Base in 1957. © WJP Macdonald

## Arthur Brown

The Trust recognises the passing of Arthur (Art) Brown in November 2022, aged 87 years. Art was the former National Science Foundation representative in New Zealand and dedicated nearly five decades of polar logistics and operations to both the Arctic and Antarctic. From 1990-2018 he worked out of Christchurch to manage the US Antarctic Program's involvement in New Zealand.

# Online Database Update

Over the last twelve months, the project team transitioning the Trust's image assets to an online database called Recollect have processed 126,580 images from the Trust's archives.

They have come across many fascinating shots from the early years of the Trust's operations. Here Trust

conservator Nicola Stewart (née Dunn) digs out the entry of Scott's Discovery hut at Hut Point in September 2006, near the end of the Trust's very first winter-over season. This level of snow ingress occurred before the full conservation of Scott's Discovery hut, which the Trust undertook in 2014-15.

We are grateful for the support of the New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board for their match funding of the project.



# Thank You

to our new Antarctic Explorer Members:

**Bronze** Amie and Elizabeth Claridge (NZ)

If you love the Trust's work and want to make a gift to continue the legacy of exploration visit [nzah.org](http://nzah.org).