



2023 Conservation Management Plans workshop participants. © AHT

## Preserving Historic Huts for Future Generations

In March Antarctic Heritage Trust hosted a two-day workshop to review its Conservation Management Plans. These plans form the foundation for the implementation, fundraising strategy and conservation efforts of the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project. Much of this initial implementation has been successfully undertaken, with the exception of the Cape Adare huts, which is still in progress. This workshop was a 'scoping and discovery' exercise with a view to updating the current Conservation Management Plans, which have been in place for 20 years.

Ensuring the Conservation Management Plans are refreshed enables the Trust to reflect relevant changes in international conservation policies and guidelines, to identify and mitigate future risks to the historic sites; and to incorporate learnings from the past two decades. During the workshop, key people from around the world who are knowledgeable about the historic huts, their management and protection, and conservation practice, worked collaboratively to identify high-level constraints and issues and to recommend

appropriate policy directions as the plans are reviewed.

Joining participants from the Trust were representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, Antarctica New Zealand, International Conservation Services (ICS), Cheshire Architects, Heritageworks Ltd, and United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust. Among the group were a number of the authors of the original plans including, Gordon Macdonald (Heritageworks Ltd and Secretary General International Polar Heritage Committee), Julian Bickersteth (Executive Director ICS) Pip Cheshire (Director Cheshire Architects) and Chris Cochran (Heritage Architect) as well as Trust staff Al Fastier and Lizzie Meek. Julian Bickersteth says, "The Trust conservation plans have proved to be model documents for ensuring that all conservation decisions on the huts and the artefact collections are grounded in an agreed philosophy and approach. Revisiting them 20 years on has reinforced how fundamental they have been to the success of the programme, but has given us the chance to ensure they are fit for purpose for another 20 years."

## Governance Update

We are delighted to announce that Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae GNZM QSO KStJ has joined the Trust's Board as an Independent Trustee. Sir Jerry served as the 20<sup>th</sup> Governor-General of New Zealand from 2011-2016 and subsequently as the 27<sup>th</sup> New Zealand High Commissioner to the United Kingdom from 2017-2020.



The Rt Hon  
Sir Jerry Mateparae.

With an impressive background in public service, New Zealand Defence Force leadership, and community involvement, Sir Jerry brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Trust and our mission.

Born in Whanganui and of Māori descent, Sir Jerry has made significant contributions to New Zealand throughout his illustrious career. His tribal affiliations are to Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Tamakōpiri and Ngāti Rangi. He also has links to Ngai Tūhoe.

Sir Jerry's distinguished military service, including commanding operations in Bougainville and East Timor, as well as serving as the Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force from 2006-2011, earned him numerous accolades and awards.

The Trust acknowledges Richard Mackay from Mackay Strategic for excellent facilitation of the workshop and Fiona Tennant (Principal Collections Manager ICS) for editing duties.

Executive Director Francesca Eathorne says it was a pleasure to meet with such a well-represented group of heritage professionals. "The two-day workshop was full of robust discussion about how we ensure the refreshed conservation plans address issues that are relevant today - from the potential impacts of climate change, to increased visitation, to how we continue to raise funds to ensure these sites are preserved for generations to come." Following the workshop, the Trust is now working to update the management plans, starting with the plan for Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds.

# Empowering the Explorers of Tomorrow

As part of our 2023 Inspiring Explorers™ programme the Trust hosted our Explorer Conference in June this year, inspiring 100 students from New Zealand schools in South Auckland who are part of the AIMHI network (Achievement in multi-cultural High Schools).

Students heard from inspirational speakers including Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae, Chief Executive of Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, who opened the Conference and encouraged students to develop an 'explorer mindset,' embracing traits including curiosity, resilience, and teamwork.

Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna'i, a master navigator on multiple double hulled waka voyages, drew on the wisdom of Pacific star

navigators to enable students to celebrate diversity, whakapapa (lineage or family history), and personal visions of success in a stunning key note address.

The students also participated in workshops led by six of the Trust's Inspiring Explorers' alumni, who shared their stories and experiences. Brando Yelavich, the first Kiwi to circumnavigate the New Zealand coastline on foot and a 2018 Inspiring Explorer, motivated the students to explore the world around them, saying, "Every time you fail, you accumulate resilience; there's no finding yourself—only creating yourself."

Inspiring Explorer William Pike, who lost his leg in an eruption on Mount Ruapehu, shared his journey of overcoming challenges and going on to climb Mount Scott in

Antarctica with the Trust. Troy Sanday from De La Salle College found William's story inspiring, "William didn't let the challenges stop him and I thought he was very brave."

Laura Andrews shared what she learned during the Trust's 2022 expedition to the South Pole in a workshop titled 'Who's in your waka?', emphasising the importance of teamwork for achieving ambitious goals.

Oscar Hayhow from Rosehill College found hearing from the Inspiring Explorers' alumni eye-opening. "Do better and keep moving was a message I heard a lot today. Hearing how others overcame challenges gives you good perspective. Just give it a go."

Putting their newfound knowledge into action, the students engaged in a session at Wero Whitewater Park, constructing and paddling rafts. Treannah Truong-Truiai from Pakakura High School experienced rafting for the first time. "It was hard but we worked as a team and, most importantly, all finished together," said Treannah.

Francesca Eathorne, Executive Director said, "It's been fantastic to see these young explorers step out of their comfort zone. Our Inspiring Explorers alumni have loved sharing their stories - hopefully inspiring these students to answer the call to explore, to overcome their challenges - developing their explorer mindset."



Students participating in team building activities at the 2023 Explorer Conference. © AHT

## Summer 2023-24 Conservation Season

During the upcoming summer conservation season the Trust will have a team of five working at Ross Island historic sites under our care including Cape Evans, Cape Royds, and Hillary's TAE/IGY hut. Led by Trust Building Conservation Programme Manager Zack Bennett, the team will engage in monitoring, essential maintenance, future intervention planning, and treatment of historic artefacts. Following recent years where snow and ice cover at the sites has retreated, the 2023-24 team includes an archaeologist who will begin work on more detailed archaeological assessments for the sites, focusing on Cape Evans where large new artefactual deposits have been noted. As the Scott Base Rebuild project progresses, the Trust is working closely with Antarctica NZ to monitor and mitigate risks to the TAE/IGY hut.

Meanwhile, a Trust team will also deploy to the Antarctic Peninsula to work alongside our partner United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT). Trust Conservation Advisor Al Fastier will assist the UKAHT team at Port Lockroy with the repair of roof beams damaged by excessive snow loading, and Lizzie Meek, Trust Collections Conservation Manager, will be working on Detaille Island cataloguing the UKAHT artefact collection, a crucial step in their Conservation Management Plan process.

## Discover Scott's First Expedition Base

Following on from the success of Hillary's Hut - Antarctica Virtual Reality Experience, the Trust is excited to announce it is embarking on a new virtual reality (VR) project. The new immersive experience will bring Captain Scott's first Antarctic base, *Discovery* hut (constructed in 1902), to life for users all around the world.

We are grateful to have received some funding from Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund. The Trust is working with StaplesVR to develop the experience, which will open up virtual access to this historically significant site.



Scott's 'Discovery' hut. © AHT/Alasdair Turner



# South Georgia Team Announced

Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ team with Trust staff, representatives from Inspiring Explorers™ Programme Partners, MetService, Royal Society Te Apārangi and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, and mountain guides Lydia Bradey and Dean Staples at Hillary House Leadership Centre. © AHT

The Trust is delighted to introduce the 22 Inspiring Explorers™ who will embark on an unforgettable journey - heading to South Georgia Island in September 2023. This expedition, presented by respected operator Antarctica21, will honour the centenary year of Sir Ernest Shackleton's final expedition (*Quest 1921-1922*), which marked the end of the heroic-era of Antarctic exploration.

Our ninth Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ marks a significant milestone as it is the Trust's largest expedition group yet. The diverse team from all over New Zealand includes Charlie Thomas, Cole Yeoman, Destiny Martin, Gemma Wyllie, Henry Conquer, Jenny Sahng, Kelsey Waghorn, Lawrence Rothwell, Peregrin Hyde, Rose Lasham, Savannah de Vos, Siobhan O'Connor, Te Aroha Devon, and Tegan Allpress.

Joining them is a group of four Inspiring Explorers attempting the first Kiwi ascent of Mount Worsley, named in honour of Kiwi explorer Frank Worsley. The climbing team of Lily Green, Millie Mannering, Sam West, and Sasha Cheng will be guided by renowned mountaineering experts, Lydia Bradey and Dean Staples, and accompanied by Trust Emeritus Executive Director, Nigel Watson.

Lily Green, a 20-year-old explorer in the Mount Worsley team, calls it a 'bucket-list experience.'

"It's just insane, I can't even explain how amazing this opportunity is. Mount Worsley

is a big deal, and I can't believe I get to be a part of the first Kiwi group to attempt it."

High school students Porohu Hagai from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate and Rykien Amiatu from Tangaroa College, were selected through the Trust's ongoing partnership with the AIMHI network of schools in South Auckland (NZ).

Rounding out the Inspiring Explorers™ team is Royal Society Te Apārangi representative Kaitlyn Martin and MetService representative Kelly Davenport.

We are grateful to have valued Inspiring Explorers™ Programme Partners, MetService and Royal Society Te Apārangi, supporting this expedition and fostering the Inspiring Explorers' passion for exploration, discovery, and science.

MetService meteorologist Kelly Davenport will lead the science programme, mentoring our Inspiring Explorers to use historic and modern technologies to gather weather data and make weather observations and forecasts. This work will deepen understanding of the area's weather and ocean conditions, and contribute to knowledge of climate change impacts.

"I love sharing my knowledge of meteorology and I look forward to taking the team through the process of making weather observations and conveying how they contribute to weather forecasting today," says Kelly.

To ensure the team get the most out of this exciting experience, a team building

weekend took place in June 2023. This was a chance for the Inspiring Explorers™ to meet each other and Trust staff, understand the reasons behind the expedition, learn about the Trust's legacy, and plan their group outreach projects, inspired by their time in South Georgia, covering topics such as climate change, education, history, and science.

The Trust is grateful to Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate and the Hillary House Leadership Centre for hosting the team building weekend.

South Georgia Island, located in the remote South Atlantic Ocean, is renowned for its abundant wildlife, home to king penguins, fur seals, and 50 percent of the world's southern elephant seals.

In addition to the natural wonders of South Georgia, it is also a place deeply steeped in the legacy of polar exploration. Shackleton's legacy and the heroic-era of Antarctic exploration will resonate with these Inspiring Explorers, inspiring them to embrace the spirit of exploration in our rapidly changing world.

The Inspiring Explorers will set sail to South Georgia on Antarctica21's ship, the *Magellan Explorer*, in late September.

# Alumni News

## Laurette Siemonek

(Inspiring Explorer 2020)

has taken on a new position as Chief of Staff at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. In her new role, Laurette will be contributing to the collective efforts of over 200 of the world's leading sustainable businesses, all striving for a net-zero, nature-positive and more equitable future.



The Trust's former Communications Assistant,

## Shinae Montie,

recently submitted her PhD thesis, which delved into marine heatwave trends and their impact on New Zealand's algal populations and their epibiota. Shinae has accepted a prestigious postdoctoral research position at the University of Western Australia in Perth. Congratulations to Shinae also on her recent engagement to Liam.



## Saoirse Williamson,

(Young Inspiring Explorer 2022) has created a remarkable conservation project, drawing inspiration from her participation in the Trust's Young Inspiring

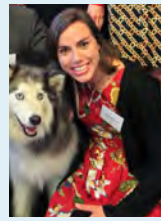
Explorers™ Summit. Saoirse is taking action to address the declining population of native moths and butterflies in New Zealand, especially at her school, Koputaroa School. Since February, Saoirse has secured \$4500 in funding to build a butterfly sanctuary. The sanctuary will feature a 9-metre tunnel house and garden area, designed to attract and protect various species of moths and butterflies, including the red and yellow admiral, magpie moth, North Island lichen moth, and copper butterflies – all unique to New Zealand.



In late May, **Marthe Brendefur** (Inspiring Explorer 2022), embarked on a ski trip across the Jostedal Glacier, the largest glacier in continental Europe. The challenging journey was

filled with technical glacier elements and steep hills. Despite heavy fog obscuring the view, Marthe thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hopes for clearer skies on future expeditions.

After dedicating four years to studying kea diet and behaviour, former Trust Communications Administrator, **Lydia McLean** is graduating this month with a PhD in Ecology. Currently, Lydia is making significant contributions to conservation as a Senior Ranger for the Department of Conservation in Fiordland.



In June, the New Zealand Antarctic Society published an obituary written by Trust inaugural Executive Officer **David Harrowfield NZAM** on the late Graeme Wilson.



Graeme's remarkable role as one of Leslie B. Quartermain's hut restoration party at Cape Royds and Cape Evans in 1960-61 was highlighted. Currently, David is focused on documenting the physical sciences undertaken by University of Canterbury geographers. His contributions, including his own research at the Ivory Glacier on the Main Divide of the Southern Alps, will be part of the university's 150th Anniversary celebration.



Young Inspiring Explorer alumna, **Abby Wilson**, has been selected to go on a Japanese exchange programme as a Student Goodwill ambassador later this year, through

the Christchurch Kurashiki Sister City Committee. Abby also obtained her black belt in karate in December last year.



In 2022, the Trust's former Public Engagement Officer, **Sarah Bouckoms**, collaborated with fellow winter-over team members Aman Chokshi, Hector Plaza, and Karsten

Look, at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Together they participated in designing and voting for the geographic 90°S marker, both for the winter and summer plates. The winter plate pays homage to some extraordinary astrological events of 2022, immortalising them through the use of constellations, eclipses, and celestial features, including a star off the Antarctic Peninsula, symbolising the location of the sunken *Endurance* shipwreck, discovered on 9 March 2022. It also features a quote commemorating the 65th Anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary's Trans-Antarctic Expedition.



## Climate Insights from Antarctica: Interview with George Denton

On Antarctic Midwinter, 22 June 2023, we were thrilled to release an exclusive interview with distinguished climate scientist, George Denton. This interview, hosted by Trust Emeritus Executive Director, Nigel Watson, delves into the captivating stories and insights that George has gained throughout his extensive career in the field of climate science.

George has dedicated his life to studying the history of glaciers all over the world, including the Antarctic and Southern Alps of New Zealand. With 30 visits to Antarctica under his belt, his contributions to the field have earned him the honour of having two Antarctic landmarks named after him: the Denton Glacier and Denton Hills. George's research has inspired generations of students and continues to shape our understanding of climate science today.

In this exclusive interview, Nigel engages George in a conversation about the remarkable scientific legacy left behind by early polar explorers like Scott and Shackleton. Discover how the pioneering data they recorded continues to inform climate science and shed light on the intricate relationship between Antarctica and climate change. This enlightening conversation brings together history, science, and exploration to provide invaluable insights into our planet's future.



Watch 'Climate Insights from Antarctica: Exclusive Interview with George Denton', online at: [nzaht.org](http://nzaht.org)

## Thank You

to our new Antarctic Explorer Members :

**Silver** Steve Coombe (NZ)  
Anne Stewart (NZ)

**Bronze** Tom Chase (USA)  
Warren Chinn (NZ)  
Hilary Oxford-Smith (NZ)

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