



The Trust's ninth Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ team at St Andrews Bay, South Georgia.
© Antarctica21/Rodrigo Moraga

Twenty-two young New Zealanders travelled with the Trust to South Georgia in October 2023 for our ninth Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ as part of the Shackleton Centenary Year Expedition.

To honour the centenary year of Sir Ernest Shackleton's final expedition, the *Quest*, and the end of the heroic-era of Antarctic exploration, our Inspiring Explorers™ were joined by 59 Trust supporters from around the world. The group met in Punta Arenas, Chile before travelling to the Falkland Islands to embark their ship the *Magellan Explorer*. The voyage across the Scotia Sea to South Georgia took two and a half days, and once there, the team explored twelve different locations over seven days.

This life-changing expedition connected the team with Sir Ernest Shackleton's legacy, itself intrinsically linked to the remarkable island of South Georgia. By pushing themselves outside their comfort zone in many ways, the Inspiring Explorers™ took lessons from the explorer mindset Shackleton and his team embodied.

Trust Executive Director Francesca Eathorne said it was moving to visit Shackleton's final resting place at the small cemetery in Grytviken. "Standing at his grave, I thought about how we still care for Shackleton's

Antarctic home - over 100 years later. So many people gave money and time to conserve this iconic heritage site - signalling its importance as a touchstone of discovery and exploration. Now we are connecting the next generation with Shackleton's legacy - it was a poignant moment."

The Inspiring Explorers™ also deeply connected with the jaw dropping landscape, the extremes of weather and South Georgia's taonga (treasured) species which includes penguins, seals and majestic birdlife. The team were heartened to learn of the recovery of South Georgia's biodiversity, thanks to conservation efforts. They also came face to face, however, with the visible impact of climate change, seeing valleys that were once filled with huge tidewater glaciers.

This special expedition has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of our Inspiring Explorers™ and created ambassadors for the legacy the Trust cares for.

The sea has always held a special place in Inspiring Explorer Kelsey Waghorn's heart. After studying marine science, Kelsey spent five years working on boats for White Island Tours, however on 9 December 2019 New Zealand's Whakaari/White Island

erupted, leaving her with full thickness burns to 45 percent of her body. Kelsey says the expedition has realigned the trajectory of her life after a 'lightning bolt moment'. "Despite telling myself I wouldn't go back to working in extreme environments, it is actually where I am supposed to be, and where I need to be. For the first time in years, I have direction and a reignited passion for the ocean. It's changed my life in the most incredible way," said Kelsey.

The team also formed impactful and lasting connections with the Trust's special guests, Trust Patron Rt Hon Helen Clark ONZ and Nigel Watson NZAM Trust Emeritus Executive Director. Ms Clark said, "The opportunity to visit a place that is so inextricably connected with Ernest Shackleton and his legacy of polar exploration was very special. To see the group of young explorers developing their 'explorer mindset' by being curious, stepping out of their comfort zone daily, and

The Trust would like to thank Inspiring Explorers™ Programme Partners MetService and Royal Society Te Apārangi and Inspiring Explorers™ Fund donors. Thanks also to supporter TrackMe NZ, expedition operator Antarctica21 and booking agent Wild Earth Travel.



finding unique ways to share their stories was impressive.”

A team of four Inspiring Explorers™ were hoping to make a guided attempt of Mount Worsley, however poor weather made this impossible. Instead, a successful ascent of Mount Hodges was completed, under permit, in the mountain range behind Grytviken.

Inspiring Explorer Millie Mannering says it was incredible for the team to explore some of South Georgia’s coastal mountains. “From the summit we could see right into the interior of the island. We watched as a weather system came through and enveloped huge towering peaks with crazy sharp ridgelines. It looked foreboding, exciting and inspiring,” said Millie.

During the expedition, the team worked on group outreach projects. The science team, led by Programme Partner MetService’s Peter Fisher, and Inspiring Explorer and MetService Meteorologist Kelly Davenport, used modern and heroic-era methods to make weather observations and gather data. In the process, they learned about the connectedness of the world’s weather systems and why it’s important for us in New Zealand to understand what is driving weather in remote locations. Porohu Hagai Noa, one of two Inspiring Explorers from the AIMHI network of schools in South Auckland, said, “I enjoyed collecting weather data just like Shackleton’s crew did, to help us understand the world we live in and how it is changing.”

The education team, led by Inspiring Explorer and Programme Partner Royal Society Te Apārangi representative Kaitlyn Martin, worked to develop an educational card game for school students. The video team worked on a short film about the expedition. The visual arts team began work on artworks inspired by the expedition, and the children’s book team worked on ideas for a picture book with themes of conservation, teamwork, collaboration and hope.

As they complete their projects back at home, our Inspiring Explorers™ will be drawing on the connections they formed to South Georgia’s history and environment.

Outreach will be shared with the Trust’s global audience over the coming months.

2023/24 Conservation Season

The first four members of the Trust’s 2023/24 On-Ice Conservation team deployed to Ross Island, Antarctica in early November.

Led by Trust Building Conservation Programme Manager Zack Bennett, Conservator Conor Tulloch, StaplesVR videographer Charles Hill and contractor Brendan Wade spent time at Scott’s *Terra Nova* hut and Shackleton’s *Nimrod* hut, collecting digital imagery and point cloud data of the sites to enable the construction of three-dimensional models of the huts that will be invaluable to future conservation work and site interpretation. This work is supported through Antarctica New Zealand’s Community Engagement Programme. Thank you to StaplesVR for supplying technical equipment for the digital asset capture.

LiDAR (Light detecting and ranging) scanning, which is used to create geospatial data, was conducted both inside and outside each hut. The Trust will use this data to understand the relationships between

buildings, artefacts and their surroundings. LiDAR is also used in archaeology for understanding historic landscapes and revealing hidden features. The Trust is working with archaeologist Ben Jones and Trust consultant Gord Macdonald to collect, interpret and process data as part of change monitoring and management, with a focus on the way ice, snow and water move around the sites.

The Trust is excited to gather data from these iconic sites to continue creating immersive digital experiences of the historic huts, which will enable people around the world to ‘virtually’ visit them and to understand more about the significance of these cultural heritage sites.

In early December Zack and Conor were joined by Lead Conservator Nicola Stewart and Conservator Gretel Evans to undertake essential monitoring, maintenance and conservation tasks at each of the Ross Island explorer bases and associated sites.

A key focus for our conservators is to complete conservation treatments on artefacts identified last season as requiring treatment, and to re-paint the window frames on Hillary’s TAE/IGY hut with thanks for support from Dulux NZ.

At Scott’s *Terra Nova* hut, information will be gathered to support the archaeological assessment of the site, while at Shackleton’s *Nimrod* hut, work is ongoing to combat moisture ingress and improve storage conditions for the artefacts inside. Similarly, at Scott’s *Discovery* hut, the team will work to reduce snow ingress in and around the eaves on the South wall.

UKAHT Partnership

This season the Trust will continue to work collaboratively with partner organisation UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, with two Trust staff joining their team on the Antarctic Peninsula.



Trust Building Conservation Programme Manager Zack Bennett at Cape Evans. ©AHT/Charles Hill



Trust Conservator Conor Tulloch working inside Scott’s *Terra Nova* hut. ©AHT/Brendan Wade



Conor Tulloch assisting Brendan Wade with photogrammetry inside Shackleton’s *Nimrod* hut ©AHT/Zack Bennett



Unveiling *Icy Heritage*

Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut, Cape Royds. ©AHT/Nicola Dunn

The Trust recently launched its digital image archive *Icy Heritage*, a global digital heritage asset, and the culmination of a two-year project that unveils images from the last 21 years of the Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project (RSHRP) in Antarctica and our Inspiring Explorers™ programmes.

The project involved the Trust's digital collections team processing over 200,000 images from the Trust's archives, with over 70,000 of those meticulously researched and catalogued before being uploaded to our long term secure digital archive. Most of the images record conservation detail as part of work processes, however a selection has been made publicly accessible for the first time through our *Icy Heritage* portal. Initially a selection of 10,000 have been made public and this number will continue to grow.

Trust Educator and Collections Advisor, Anne Gabriellsson, found working through

the images in the digital collection a remarkable experience.

"As the collections team made their way through the images from each conservation season, we saw how the work of our conservators brought more than 20,000 artefacts back from the brink, and our highly skilled heritage carpentry teams used 'out of the box' thinking to make the huts weather tight. I recommend browsing images of the Venesta cases outside Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut though the years, or the work to remove ice from under the floor of Scott's *Terra Nova* hut. It will blow your mind!" said Anne.

The launch event for *Icy Heritage*, held in Ōtautahi Christchurch on 31 October, brought together Trust stakeholders, supporters and heritage professionals eager to explore the depths of the archive.

The event highlighted the pivotal role *Icy Heritage* will play in showcasing the Trust's

mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration. The audience then had a chance to explore *Icy Heritage* first-hand and gain deeper insights into the Trust's work.

Ella Beckett, Trust Digital Collections and Data Coordinator, guided guests through their first experience with *Icy Heritage*. "Users were excited to see inside the explorer bases in more detail than previously available. Those lucky enough to have visited Antarctica in the past were delighted to revisit the huts and be reminded of details they had seen on their own trips." said Ella.

Icy Heritage is a dynamic resource, serving diverse audiences. Its value spans heritage professionals, conservators, the Antarctic community, academics, researchers, students, content creators, and learners of all ages.

Trust Collections Conservation Manager, Lizzie Meek, emphasised the significance of the database for their work. "As well as being a secure archive for our critical conservation record images, the ability to search *Icy Heritage* by specific hut, area, or subject instead of opening many, many folders is already making the Conservation team's lives so much easier and more efficient. The project has absolutely exceeded our expectations," said Lizzie.

The Trust is grateful for the support of the New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board for their match funding of the project.



Explore the digital archive at [icyheritage.org](https://www.icyheritage.org)

Icy Fun and Learning at Summit

In November, the Trust's Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit saw 25 students, aged 11-14, travel to Ōtautahi Christchurch from around New Zealand. Thanks to our donors, Royal Society Te Apārangi, and our major sponsor, the US Embassy and Consulate in New Zealand, this was our biggest Summit yet. This action-packed weekend was delivered in partnership with William Pike Challenge.

United States Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, Tom Udall, shared why they support the Trust's work. "We are honoured to support opportunities for young Kiwis to embrace their inner 'explorer' and discover, connect, and grow through Antarctic Heritage Trust's Inspiring Explorers™ Summits. The United States is a proud partner of New Zealand in Antarctica, and programmes like the Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summits ensure scientific

cooperation between our countries continues for years to come."

The goal for the Summit was to connect students with Antarctica and the legacy the Trust cares for. They rode in Häggglunds, experienced an Antarctic storm, and met penguins and huskies at the International Antarctic Centre. Students pitched Antarctic tents, tried on Antarctic clothing, and went on a virtual reality visit to Hillary's hut at Scott Base. They learned about Antarctica's history of exploration through a fun quiz, and Christchurch's Antarctic Gateway connections on a walking tour of Antarctic sites.

Special guests included Margaret Walrod of the US Embassy who shared first-hand insights into the United States Antarctic Program and highlighted the international cooperation taking place on the Ice.



Young Inspiring Explorers at the Captain Robert Falcon Scott memorial. © AHT/Mark Sanders

The students also spent the weekend with Inspiring Explorers™ alumni William Pike and Kaitlyn Martin who gave inspirational talks, with Kaitlyn also representing our Programme Partner Royal Society Te Apārangi. It was an inspiring weekend that pushed the students to step outside their comfort zones.

Encouraging the Next Generation of Antarctic Conservators



Abby Wilson with Trust Collections Conservation Manager, Lizzie Meek, who Abby interviewed as part of her research project. © AHT/Anna Clare

Since July 2023, the Trust has been working with Young Inspiring Explorers™ alumna Abby Wilson on her school's 'Adopt a Scientist' research project. Abby chose to focus her studies on Antarctica's heritage conservation and Dr Gabriela Roldan, Trust Education Manager who is also a Social Scientist, responded to the call and mentored Abby for four months.

Abby, aged 14, would like to be an Antarctic Conservator in the future. She became interested in this following her involvement in the 2020 Worsley Weekend that the Trust hosted. The research she conducted focused on the challenges and working conditions for conservators of historic huts in Antarctica, looking specifically at the different strategies, techniques, tools and expertise required to conserve Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut and Hillary's TAE/IGY hut, which were built 50 years apart. Abby presented the results of her work to her school community in November.

Dr Gabriela Roldan said it was a pleasure to work with Abby on this project. "She is a curious person, driven by a passion for Antarctica and for the work our conservators do to preserve this significant heritage. If we nurture the interest and motivation of young people like Abby, we are fostering the next generation of Antarctic heritage conservation leaders," said Gabriela.

Thank You to our new Antarctic Explorer Members :

Bronze

Bill Bishop (NZ)
Bruce Bernacchi (NZ)
Ginny Gilder (USA)
Keith & Helen Paterson (NZ)
Kim Turner (CAN)
Lawrence Rothwell (NZ)
Dr Lesley McTurk (NZ)
Lydia Bradey (NZ)
Michael & Michelle Patterson (NZ)
Mike Andison (CAN)

Mike Toomey (NZ)
Peter Davidson & Melanie Jones (NZ)
Porohu Hagai Noa (NZ)
Rachel Rose (NZ)
Rewa Rendall (NZ)
Rob & Jean Johnstone (NZ)
Robin & Bill Kermode (NZ)
Sue Allison (NZ)
Tegan Allpress (NZ)
Tennessee Blackmore (UK)

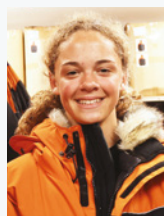
If you love the Trust's work and want to make a gift to continue the legacy of exploration visit nzaht.org.

Alumni News

Ihlara McIndoe (Inspiring Explorer 2020) had a new musical composition premiered at Festival de Royaumont in France, which was recorded and broadcast on Radio France. The piece was for French new music ensemble *Ensemble Court-Circuit* with soprano Johanna Vargas, and included text by New Zealand poet Hera Lindsay Bird. She also shared some of her compositions inspired by her expedition with the Trust in a lecture at the festival.



The Trust's former Public Engagement Officer, **Melanie Dixon**, was recently honoured at the 2023 Storylines Notable Book Awards. Her book *New Dawning*, the first in a planned trilogy, was recognised as one of the best young-adult books published in New Zealand this year.



Jacqueline Kennedy (Young Inspiring Explorer 2022) is currently preparing for the New Zealand team trial for kayaking, scheduled for early December. Additionally, she is training

for the Mount Monster, a challenging 24.5km endurance race at Mount Maunganui, also taking place in December.

Isobel Ewing (Inspiring Explorer 2017) and fellow journalist Georgia Merton recently premiered their short film, *Inshallah*, in Auckland. The 19-minute documentary captures their spontaneous bike trip

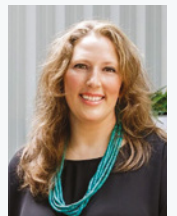
through northern Pakistan, celebrating the beauty found in unexpected places. Facing a change of plans due to a visa rejection for northeast India, they swiftly redirected to Pakistan, where visas were processed in 12 hours. From Lahore to Gilgit, they pedalled north along the Karakoram Highway, challenging preconceptions and showcasing the transformative power of exploration.



Artist **Sean Garwood** is working on an up-coming exhibition, planned for 2025, that will document Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917). Paintings will include *James Caird*,

Endurance, South Georgia and many more. This will be a 3-year full time project that has included extensive research and given him the opportunity to engage with some extraordinary people.

In November, **Susanne Rawson (nee Grieve)** (Trust Conservator 2009, Lead Conservator 2012) received her PhD in Museums and Heritage Studies from Victoria University Wellington Te



Herenga Waka. Her thesis research was partly inspired by her time working with the objects from the historic expedition bases and is titled, 'Holding Space for Communities in Heritage Practice: Relationships and Management of Underwater and Near Water Heritage in Taranaki, Aotearoa New Zealand'.