

Summer Conservation Season – Ross Island



The Trust's On-Ice Conservation team spent thirteen weeks in Antarctica this season, from early November until late January, undertaking an intensive digital data capture project, followed by the annual conservation programme at the historic Ross Island explorer bases of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Sir Edmund Hillary.

The Trust's On-Ice Conservation team outside Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut at Cape Royds (from left) Trust Building Conservation Manager Zack Bennett, Heritage Consultant Gord Macdonald, Conservator Conor Tulloch, Lead Conservator Nicola Stewart and Conservator Gretel Evans.
© AHT/Zack Bennett

Digital Data Capture at Historic Huts

The first of two Antarctic field deployments for Trust staff for the 2023/24 season saw a team of four spend three weeks at Cape Evans and Cape Royds, successfully completing LiDAR and photogrammetry work at Scott's *Terra Nova* hut and Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut. This was supported by Antarctica New Zealand's Community Engagement Programme, and the Trust extends its thanks for making this event possible.

With field leadership from Trust Building Conservation Programme Manager Zack Bennett, conservation support from Conservator Conor Tulloch, and data capture by StaplesVR videographer Charles Hill and contractor Brendan Wade, the team were able to digitally capture, in intricate detail, every aspect and angle of both huts. Utilising state-of-the-art

technical equipment generously supplied by StaplesVR, the team's efforts were monumental, capturing an impressive 33,000 photos at Cape Evans and 17,000 at Cape Royds.

For first time Antarctic Brendan Wade, the experience of working in the huts was deeply profound. Brendan reflected, "Being a seafarer, these places hold special significance to me – particularly with the hardships these parties endured and the isolation they were subject to. To be given the opportunity to acquaint myself so intimately with the huts is a privilege beyond comparison."

Brendan and Charles appreciated working alongside Trust staff Zack and Conor, who were able to share insights into the huts and why documenting them in great detail is such important work. "Having

Zack and Conor from the Trust supporting us and giving us our daily dose of history, answering questions, and explaining some of the story of the huts and artefacts has brought me an unexpected closeness to this place. It looks and feels like a museum exhibit, but it is so much more. It was a home, a refuge, and a shelter," said Brendan.

The Trust is working with experts to interpret and process this data, which will support conservation change management at the historic sites. Executive Director Francesca Eathorne says, "The data will also help the Trust to continue creating immersive digital experiences, which will enable people around the world the opportunity to virtually visit these historic huts and gain a deeper understanding of their significance in shaping the course of Antarctic history."



Monitoring Programmes and Archaeology

Historic pickaxe at Cape Evans, between a ranging pole and photographic chart, during archaeological documentation. © AHT/Zack Bennett

After completing the data capture, the two technicians returned to New Zealand, while Zack and Conor spent the next few weeks working at Scott Base and nearby sites. Conor carried out artefact treatments in the conservation laboratory, in preparation for returning objects back to the huts when the remaining team members arrived. In late December, Zack and Conor were joined by Lead Conservator Nicola Stewart, Conservator Gretel Evans, and Heritage Consultant Gord Macdonald, for the remainder of the summer conservation season which included a series of environmental, building and object monitoring programmes; mould investigation and mitigation; abrasive dust removal; emergency conservation treatments, collection audits and snow and ice mitigation.

“With a long season and at times challenging weather conditions to work in, having experienced and resilient team members like Conor, Nicola, Gretel and Gord was vital to the success of our planned work programme. It was a privilege to celebrate

Christmas Day at Cape Royds with such a wonderful team,” said Zack.

Taking advantage of a logistics plan change, Gord Macdonald was able to carry out LiDAR scanning and photogrammetry at various Ross Island locations, including the expedition bases at Cape Evans, Cape Royds, and Hut point, as well as the monuments of Vince’s Cross, Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, and Observation Hill Cross.

“LiDAR, or light detection and ranging, uses an instrument that emits lasers towards objects in the landscape, and measures how long it takes for the reflected light to bounce back to the instrument. Millions of points are recorded this way, enabling us to create a very precise map of the land’s surface and any objects within it. Recent advances in 3D laser scanning have made this process highly portable, allowing us to map large areas of the historic sites very quickly. Photogrammetry involves taking a high number of digital images from different angles and using specialised

software to stitch them together to create a 3D model. We use these techniques to accurately record site conditions so that we can monitor them over time. The data is also used to create accurate drawings and topographical maps,” Gord explains.

While at Scott’s *Terra Nova* hut, a thorough survey of site archaeology was completed, including archaeological deposits such as the dog hospital, mutton stacks, and the magnetic instrument stand that was initially buried 25 feet inside an ice cave, but is now visible due to retreating ice.

“The stand was originally housed in an ice cave because a humidity-stable environment was necessary for greater accuracy in measuring magnetic deviation during the *Terra Nova* expedition. The cave was lined with a timber support construction and Gibson quilting, featuring lighting and numerous instrument stands. Over time, this structure has collapsed as ice and snow has retreated. Photogrammetry and a thorough archaeological assessment were carried out in the area to gather sufficient data for analysing how the instrument room was constructed and what it would have looked like,” said Zack.

At Shackleton’s *Nimrod* hut at Cape Royds, the team returned conserved artefacts, re-located some which require further intervention and assessed historic chemicals. At the same time, they took the opportunity to update the artefact records database, undertaking condition checks and audits to improve the accuracy of the records. This is on-going, critical work, ensuring our conservators have a consistent and unbroken collection of data to work from. “Regular audits, updates and spot checks of our records database is important to the Trust’s conservation work as their accuracy



Charles Hill during LiDAR scanning of Shackleton’s *Nimrod* hut interior. © AHT/Zack Bennett



Gord Macdonald using a portable laser scanner to scan the interior of Scott’s *Discovery* hut. ©AHT/Zack Bennett



Conor Tulloch working inside Scott’s *Terra Nova* hut. © AHT/Zack Bennett

sets us up for successful future seasons,” says Zack.

Additional work at Cape Royds included repairs to the rigging straps and tightening the hemp rigging lines that were replaced on the chimney last season. Hemp rigging lines need to be tightened over time due to a natural process called “creep”. Creep is the slow stretching of hemp fibres under continuous tension, exacerbated by exposure to environmental factors like wind and moisture. Periodic tightening is important to uphold tautness and ensure



Painting underway on Hillary's TAE/IGY hut. © AHT/Zack Bennett

the safety and functionality of the rigging system, and stability of the historic chimney.

At Scott Base, significant repairs were undertaken on the door in the main room of Hillary's TAE/IGY hut. Issues with the worn soft door closer and door hinges were addressed, collaborating with the Scott Base engineers to fabricate a number of new components that had become irreparably worn in the original unit. Additionally, all exterior windows and hatches, and one West exterior wall, were repaired and repainted, with paint generously supplied by Dulux New Zealand.

In the final days of the season, Zack undertook photogrammetry work at Scott's *Discovery* hut at Hut Point to support the development of a virtual reality experience of the hut. The Trust extends gratitude to the United States Antarctic Program for supporting Zack in completing this important work.

The Trust also extends its thanks to Antarctica New Zealand for their logistical support throughout the season.

Conservation Management Plans

Recognising their vital role in guiding future endeavours, the Trust continues its review of our Conservation Management Plans (CMP). During the CMP workshop the Trust hosted last year, experts from around the world, well-versed in the management and protection of the historic huts, came together to collaboratively assess key constraints and issues. Their collective efforts aimed to recommend policy directions that align with the ongoing review process of the CMPs, ensuring that the Trust's conservation efforts remain informed and effective.

By refreshing these plans, the Trust will adapt to evolving international conservation policies and guidelines, proactively identify and mitigate potential risks to the historic sites, and integrate valuable insights gained over the past two decades.

Cape Adare Conservation Update

The Trust has been planning substantial conservation work on the historic huts at Cape Adare, the site of Borchgrevink's British Antarctic *Southern Cross* Expedition (1898-1900). During the planning phase, the Trust identified a possible safety risk around excavation from the suspected remnants of historic ammunition, explosives, and flares that are potentially buried in the environs.

To address this issue, the Trust is working with Antarctica New Zealand who have engaged experts from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to conduct a site visit to locate and confirm any such materials in the area, and if necessary, plan for their disposal. This work was scheduled to take place during the 2023/24 season; however, Antarctica New Zealand was unable to provide logistics support for the event. The Trust is working with Antarctica New Zealand and NZDF to plan for the completion of this task.

Trust Executive Director Francesca Eathorne says, “We are pleased to continue working with NZDF and Antarctica New Zealand to progress this important work, ensuring we can then safely carry out the conservation of this significant cultural heritage site — the first

expedition base built in Antarctica and the only example left of humanity's first dwelling on any continent.”

Trust Heritage Consultant Gord Macdonald was to join the Cape Adare event this season, to provide conservation expertise

while the team was at site. As he was already in Antarctica when the event was cancelled, Gord was redeployed to join the Trust's Ross Island conservation team, where his experience and knowledge were welcomed.



Borchgrevink's huts at Cape Adare, 2015. ©AHT/Lizzie Meek

Conservation Collaboration



Base W, Detaille Island. © UKAHT/Lizzie Meek

The Trust's conservation team had a successful season working collaboratively alongside our partner UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT), with significant strides made in conserving and maintaining two of their historic sites on the Antarctic Peninsula. Al Fastier, Trust Conservation Advisor, and Lizzie Meek, Trust Collections Conservation Manager, played pivotal roles in this endeavour, contributing their expertise to various projects aimed at safeguarding Antarctic heritage.

Al Fastier was based at Port Lockroy, which celebrated its 80th birthday in February 2024. Working alongside UKAHT conservation carpenter Pete Townsend, Al dedicated a month to conducting critical structural repairs to the roof of Base A, also known as Bransfield House. The historic Base A was built at Port Lockroy in 1944 as part of 'Operation Tabarin', a secret war

time operation to establish a permanently occupied British base in Antarctica.

Al's focus on repairing the damaged truss in the Base A bunkroom, along with other subfloor structural work, will help protect this historic building against snow loading and the harsh Antarctic elements. Al also played a mentoring role, helping develop the heritage carpentry skills of colleague Pete, to build the UKAHT conservation team's capacity to carry out their long-term conservation programme.

Meanwhile, Lizzie Meek undertook a three-week assignment at Detaille Island, where she played a key role in assessing and cataloguing the artefact collection. Established in 1956, the Detaille Island hut, known as Base W, was used for scientific purposes during the International Geophysical Year in 1957. However, operations ceased abruptly in early 1959

when sea ice conditions prevented critical winter supplies reaching base. The base team and their dogs sledged for 30 miles to make an emergency evacuation, leaving the hut and artefacts inside as a time capsule of 1950s Antarctic life.

Together with a team of experts from UKAHT, including Head of Conservation Ruth Mullett and Conservator Sophie Rowe, Lizzie catalogued a significant portion of the collection while also addressing major mould issues and conducting hazard identification surveys. The meticulous cataloguing process lays the groundwork for informed conservation decisions to ensure the long-term preservation of the artefacts.

Despite unpredictable weather patterns on site and the logistical challenges in reaching these remote locations, the season was highly productive, paving the way for future conservation efforts. Reflecting on their achievements, Al emphasised the importance of regular monitoring and maintenance to protect historic bases like Port Lockroy and Detaille Island from decay and disrepair:

"Like our homes, which need regular maintenance, so do historic buildings. This requirement is amplified in Antarctica due to extreme weather including cold temperatures, gale force winds and snow accumulation. It is critical that these historic buildings are inspected and maintained on a regular basis to protect both the structures and the artefacts they contain."

The dedication and expertise of the Trust's team, combined with the collaborative spirit of the partnership with UKAHT, underscores a shared commitment to safeguarding Antarctica's rich heritage for future generations.



Lizzie Meek, cataloguing artefacts on Detaille Island. © UKAHT/Sophie Rowe



Al Fastier inside Base A. © UKAHT/Laura Büllsbach

Conserving the Legacy of the Ross Sea Party

The remarkable story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917 is often hailed as the 'Greatest Story of Survival Ever Told'. While Shackleton's struggles with the *Endurance* are well-documented, the lesser-known survival story of the Ross Sea Party adds another chapter to this epic narrative.

Tasked with laying supply depots across the Ross Ice Shelf for Shackleton's planned Trans-Antarctic crossing, the Ross Sea Party operated in isolation, unaware that Shackleton's original mission had been thwarted. Despite enduring gruelling conditions with limited resources after their ship *Aurora* was blown out to sea, they succeeded in their depot laying task.

One pivotal artefact from this historic expedition is the Ross Sea Party tent - a shelter radically different to traditional polar expedition tents at the time, designed by artist and polar explorer George Marston. Found by the 1960-61 NZ Antarctic Division hut restoration party led by Leslie Quartermain, this tent bears witness to the hardships faced by the explorers, etched with soot from primus stoves and adorned with hand-stitched repairs.

To our knowledge, it is the only one left of its kind.

Now, with your support, we aim to conserve this invaluable piece of history. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, all donations to support our artefact conservation programme will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to NZD \$25,000, until May 31 2024.

This living, breathing piece of history may well be the most challenging artefact we will ever conserve.



The Ross Sea Party tent is held in the Trust's Reserve Collection at Canterbury Museum. © AHT



Conservators viewing bamboo repairs inside the Ross Sea Party tent. © AHT



Ross Sea Party members making camp c.1915
© Joyce Collection, Canterbury Museum



To learn more about the Ross Sea Party tent and give to the conservation efforts, visit nzah.org.



Inspiring Explorer Mike Dawson filming. ©AHT/Marthe Brendefur

Polheim Premieres

Polheim, the documentary film following the Trust's 2022 Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to the South Pole, had its world premiere at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (VIMFF) on 26 February 2024. Directed by Simon Waterhouse and Liddy Whiteman of Resonate, and featuring stunning footage captured by Inspiring Explorer Mike Dawson, this captivating documentary takes viewers on an extraordinary journey from New Zealand and Norway, to Punta Arenas, Chile, and across the icy expanse of Antarctica.

Named after Roald Amundsen's 1911 camp at the South Pole, *Polheim* ("Home at the Pole") tells the story of three young explorers given a once-in-a-lifetime

“Capturing an expedition of this magnitude is a massive challenge. There are so many components to getting the shot and telling the story, all while surviving in such a hostile environment, contributing to the team and being able to successfully make it to the Pole”

Mike Dawson

opportunity; to ski across Antarctica in celebration of 150 years since the birth of Amundsen, the first person to reach the bottom of the world. Enduring gruelling physical challenges and confronting the harsh realities of isolation, the team traverses nearly 1000km of unforgiving terrain. The film taps into the rich history of polar exploration and explores themes of mortality, ambition and family.

Capturing the essence of an expedition like this is no small feat. Mike Dawson, the cinematographer behind the lens, shed light on the immense challenges faced in bringing this remarkable journey to life.

“Capturing an expedition of this magnitude is a massive challenge. There are so many components to getting the shot and telling the story, all while surviving in such a hostile environment, contributing to the team and being able to successfully make it to the Pole,” said Mike.

The harsh Antarctic conditions present a myriad of obstacles for filmmakers. Mike relentlessly battled freezing temperatures, which wreak havoc on equipment, freezing LCD screens, draining batteries and fogging lenses.

The constant motion of the expedition team posed another challenge for Mike, “The train of five skiers towing their sleds never stops. The ability to reach the Pole was tied to the ability to be efficient and constantly move forward. This was a challenge to film. In order to capture moments, I needed to move around the group during the day, creating distance between the group to showcase the environment, the beauty, and the journey, while always being

ready to capture the little moments, the conversations, the tears, and the elation in-between.”

The film's premiere at VIMFF, known for its dedication to showcasing thought-provoking mountain films, was met with an enthusiastic reception. The Trust was delighted to have it feature alongside more than 70 engaging films celebrating climbing, snow-sports, the environment and more.

The Trust held a private New Zealand premiere in Christchurch in early April, where friends and family of South Pole Inspiring Explorers Mike Dawson and Laura Andrews joined Trust staff and supporters in celebrating their achievements on the big screen. The film has also screened as part of the London Mountain Film Festival, and the Trust will share it more widely later in 2024, once its festival run is complete.



Laura Andrews speaking at the New Zealand premiere. ©AHT/Anna Clare

The Trust extends sincere thanks to Resonate, co-directors Simon Waterhouse and Liddy Whiteman, and Expedition Photographic Partner Canon for their generous support in bringing *Polheim* to audiences worldwide.

The Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ South Pole, in partnership with Ousland Explorers, was supported by Clothing Partner Norrøna, 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, Helsport, Åsnes, TrackMe NZ and donors to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund.



Browse the Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ - South Pole image collection at icyheritage.org

Education Programme Update

The Trust's Inspiring Explorers™ Education team had another productive year in 2023, touring our education programme and fully immersive virtual reality (VR) experience of Sir Edmund Hillary's Antarctic hut.

This unique educational tool brings the story of New Zealand's first presence in Antarctica to life in a fresh and dynamic way. The tour reached schools as far north as Waiheke Island and as far south as rural Rimu School near Invercargill.

It also visited community venues and events across New Zealand, including libraries, community trust holiday programmes, Scout groups, young writer's programmes, professional development workshops, and respite care organisations for vulnerable young people, providing an educational and entertaining activity while making a significant impact on those who take part.

Ciaran Findlay, Discovery and Digital Coordinator for Waimakariri Libraries saw first-hand the benefits of the Trust's education programme. "I'm blown away by what a wonderful and informative experience you have offered—it really was the highlight of our holiday period. We were surprised by the age diversity of those who were using the [VR] experience and it changed some perspectives of digital opportunities and who they are for. We loved seeing grandparents and grandchildren both participate and then discuss their thoughts afterwards. I cannot stress enough how vital a service this is, especially in a community setting. Hosting

a VR event that was free, immersive, informative and wonderfully managed by the Trust is a real privilege."

Throughout the year, the team were delighted to share the VR experience with British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Iona Thomas, staff at national tour sponsor Dulux's headquarters, Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage staff, and the team at Royal Society Te Apārangi, one of the Trust's Inspiring Explorers™ programme partners.

Another highlight was engaging with hundreds of students at the Te Puke ō Taramainuku Kāhui Ako STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) festival, held in the South Auckland (NZ) community of Ōtara. Here, students had the opportunity to embark on virtual expeditions to diverse places from the rugged terrains of remote islands to the awe-inspiring vastness of polar landscapes. These interactive sessions not only educated but also inspired students to consider careers in STEAM fields, highlighting the role of technology in conservation and exploration.

The Trust's education team travelled to Australia to take part in the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) 21st General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Sydney in September and in December, they participated in the "Antarctica Day" celebrations in the gateway city of Hobart.



A student participating in the VR experience at the Ōtara STEAM festival. © AHT

Contact us at education@nzah.org to book an in-person visit for your school or community group. Our team thoroughly enjoy getting out into the community, so if you are involved in free holiday programmes and community trust organisations in New Zealand, we would love to hear from you

Learn more about the VR experience at nzah.org.

"I cannot stress enough how vital a service this is, especially in a community setting. Hosting a VR event that was free, immersive, informative and wonderfully managed by the Trust is a real privilege."

Ciaran Findlay, Waimakariri Libraries



Trust Public Engagement Officer Adelma Matthews presenting to students at St Joseph's School, Timaru (NZ) © AHT

Design Team Members Honoured



Pip Cheshire sketching at Cape Evans during the 2014-15 conservation season. © AHT/Lizzie Meek



Julian Bickersteth at Shackleton's *Nimrod* Hut during the 2003-04 conservation season. © Noel Saxon, Arrow International

Pip Cheshire and Julian Bickersteth, members of the Trust's Conservation Design Team, have both received high honours.

Pip Cheshire, of Cheshire Architects, has been honoured as a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for his exceptional contributions to the field of architecture and preserving cultural heritage. This prestigious recognition highlights Pip's impact on urban renewal, architectural design, and heritage preservation throughout his career.

Julian Bickersteth, of International Conservation Services, was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2024 Australia Day Honours for 'distinguished service to the museum and arts sector, and to conservation and the environment'.

The Trust is fortunate to have worked with both Pip and Julian for many years. Their work on the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project, Pip as Project Architect and Julian as Conservation Adviser, has been pivotal in developing the conservation plans and methodology for how the Trust would conserve the expedition bases of Carsten Borchgrevink, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Edmund Hillary. Both have spent time working on the Ice with the Trust, Pip during the 2002-03 and 2014-15 seasons, and Julian during 2003-04 and 2006-07.

In 2023, Pip and Julian took part in a two-day workshop to review the Trust's Conservation Management Plans, which have been in place for 20 years. The workshop participants worked

collaboratively to identify high-level constraints and issues, and to recommend appropriate policy directions as the plans are reviewed.

"We are very proud to work closely with both Pip and Julian as members of our international design team. Their passion for this heritage work alongside their individual expertise has been critical for the Trust as we have undertaken the initial conservation of these significant heritage sites and all of the challenges and opportunities that entailed," says Executive Director Francesca Eathorne.

Outside of working with the Trust, Pip's architectural prowess is exemplified by his work transforming Auckland's (NZ) urban landscape, blending contemporary design with the city's rich heritage on groundbreaking projects like the Britomart urban renewal initiative. He has been an advocate for the architectural profession

throughout his career, including a term as National President of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, where he helped promote excellence and inclusivity within the industry.

As the current President of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Julian is a prominent figure within the conservation profession and wider cultural heritage sector. He has been actively involved in the International Council on Sites and Monuments, serving as President of the International Polar Heritage Committee from 2010-2018. Julian's multifaceted expertise and dedication make him a valued asset to the global conservation community. His leadership and expertise around helping to manage the 20,000+ artefact collection left behind from the historic expeditions has been significant for the Trust over the last 20 years.



Members of the original Conservation Design Team, from left, Chris Cochran, Julian Bickersteth, Gord Macdonald, Pip Cheshire, at the Conservation Management Plan workshop in 2023. © AHT/Karen Clarke

Governance and Staff Updates

The Trust welcomed two new permanent staff recently: Johan Bergman, our General Manager Programmes, and Laura Taylor, Operations Manager.

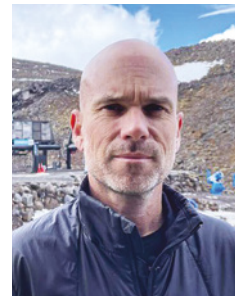
Johan comes to us from Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, where he served as the General Manager of Tūroa Ski Area, and is now responsible for overseeing the Trust's conservation and Inspiring Explorers™ programmes. Laura joined the Trust with a background in science, events and Antarctic Studies and will be supporting Trust operations in her role.

The Trust wishes Governance Intern and Inspiring Explorers™ alumna Laura Andrews a safe and successful expedition as she joins fellow South Pole Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ alumna Marthe Brendefur to attempt to cross a section

of the Northwest Passage, skiing on sea ice above the Arctic circle for 20 days from Gjøa Haven to Cambridge Bay, in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut, Canada.

"We're excited to overcome new challenges as we run, plan and execute our own expedition in the Northwest Passage, an area rich in explorer history," says Laura.

This expedition is part of a wider endeavour for the two, who are planning an attempt to reach the North Pole in the future. You can see updates from Laura and Marthe's expedition on their 'Project North Pole' social media accounts.



Johan Bergman



Laura Taylor



Inspiring Explorers Laura Andrews and Marthe Brendefur in Punta Arenas, Chile, in 2022. ©AHT/Mike Dawson

In Memorium



**Charles (Charley)
Cresswell Brentnall**
1956-2024

It is with great sadness that the Trust marks the passing of alumni Charley Brentnall. In addition to serving as a member of our Design Team during 2023-24, Charley spent three seasons working at the historic huts on Ross Island during the period 2005 to 2008. His deep knowledge of traditional carpentry tools and techniques was well matched by his understanding of the history of polar exploration, all of which he shared generously. Those who worked alongside Charley remember him for his infectious smile, meticulous hand sketches, and insatiable curiosity. He was always excellent company at our field camps, with a special knack for producing fabulous curries from limited freeze-dried ingredients! We will miss him. Our thoughts are with Charley's loved ones at this time.



Professor Craig Cary
1954-2024

The Trust recognises with sadness the passing of Professor Craig Cary, who collaborated with our Trust conservation teams over a number of years, most recently at Cape Adare in 2022. Professor Cary was a highly respected member of the University of Waikato's (NZ) academic community for more than 20 years and spent more than 40 years studying microbial life in extreme environments, including deep-sea hydrothermal vents and Antarctic soils. He spent 18 seasons conducting research in Antarctica with over 22 deployments - something only a handful of people across New Zealand have had the honour of doing. His last visit to Antarctica was in November 2023. Our thoughts are with Craig's loved ones and the wider Antarctic community.



Randal Murray Heke NZAM
1928-2024

The Trust also recognises with sadness the passing of Randal Heke. In 1957, Mr Heke was the chief building superintendent with the Ministry of Works and oversaw the construction of a base headquarters (Scott Base) at McMurdo Sound to facilitate the 1957 Trans-Antarctic expedition, the New Zealand government's first physical involvement on the Ice. He assisted with the construction of further buildings in Antarctica in 1959 and 1960 and remained involved with Scott Base as an adviser until the mid-1980s. In 2017, Mr Heke was awarded the New Zealand Antarctic Medal for services to New Zealand interests in Antarctica and historic preservation. Randal Heke was a proud supporter of the Trust, and our thoughts are with his loved ones.

Alumni News



Hazel Molloy (Young Inspiring Explorer 2019) attended the Spirit of Adventure programme in March 2024, and is currently completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award (gold level). "Thanks to the Young Inspiring

Explorers™ summit I attended, I was encouraged to get out there and try new things, including being elected Head Girl at my school for 2024," said Hazel.

Isis McKenzie (Young Inspiring Explorer 2021) has been putting her explorer mindset to work in all areas of life - being part of the musical and junior productions at her school, being awarded the 'Curious About Science' Prize, High Distinction for Drama, and MVP and Most Promising Junior Umpire awards for Netball.



Lana Kiddie-Vai (Inspiring Explorer 2019) is in her final semester at the University of Auckland where she is studying for her degree in Health and Society and Anthropology.



On top of organising three presentations to share about her experience on the Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ - South Georgia, **Kelsey Waghorn** (Inspiring Explorer 2023) has a podcast, a panel presentation in Auckland, and a presentation to medical professionals coming up. Kelsey is also expanding her skillset with a five day outdoor first aid course to help get others out exploring safely.

David Harrowfield NZAM (Trust Inaugural Executive Officer) delivered the sixth annual Reverend AP Spencer-Smith lecture "An Enduring Legacy" at All Saints Church, Dunedin (NZ), in early March.



The lecture marked 108 years since the death of Spencer-Smith, a member of the 1914-17 Ross Sea party, and included reference to the work of the Trust. A commemorative stained-glass window was blessed and formally unveiled at the event. David also recently completed a 120,000 word draft for his record of Physical Geography at University of Canterbury (NZ), which included information about science undertaken at Cape Royds in the early 1960s. David has completed a further paper, written with Dr Mark Mabin, on islands of the Ross Sea and their exploration.

Ihlara McIndoe (Inspiring Explorer 2020) is currently in Canada, working towards completing her Master's degree. She recently gave a presentation to her MBA class on the potential for non-arts organisations to collaborate with artists on mutually beneficial projects. Ihlara spoke about the work the Trust does to support young artists, as part of its work to encourage young people to embrace the spirit of exploration. Examples she gave included her own Antarctic inspired compositions, Anzac Gallate's *My Explorer Journal*, A'aifou Kaufusi-Potemani's visual art, and Marco de Kretser and Alexander Hillary's photographic exhibition.



Devon Ormsby (Young Inspiring Explorer 2019) was recently selected to the Under 18 Waikato Lacrosse team, one of two New Zealand teams to compete at the 2024 Lacrosse Australia Under 18 National Championship tournament in Melbourne. Devon is also currently training for a half marathon.



In December, **Emily Wilson** (Inspiring Explorer 2022) and her friend Georgia Whitla won the 24 hour Australasian Rogaine Championships female division, coming in fifth overall. In January, Emily attempted the Revenant Ultra Adventure Run, an ultra-running event with a few twists, which helped her reflect on her personal resilience and growth in trusting her abilities. Emily also recently worked on a US adventure TV show, filmed in the upper South Island (NZ). Initially operating as a safety guide for the cast, Emily ended up assisting the National Geographic videography team with story producing and filming, and is excited to pursue further opportunities in this area. Emily was thrilled to catch up with Laura Andrews (Inspiring Explorer 2022), who also worked on the show as a medic.

William Pike (Inspiring Explorer 2017) is proud to have 126 schools participating in the William Pike Challenge programme this year, from Stewart Island to the far north of New Zealand. William is speaking at all six National Young Leaders Day events around Aotearoa this year, with an expected total audience of approximately 10,000 young people. William is also excited to have a large number of corporate speaking engagements lined up, who will all hear about the 2017 Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ - Mount Scott.



In Memorium

Tracey Lambert (temp Trust Administrator 2023) passed away in April after a short illness. Tracey was a much-loved member of the Trust's admin team, despite her short tenure.

South Georgia Expedition Outreach



Inspiring Explorer Perry Hyde recording glacier calving in Drygalski Fjord, South Georgia. ©AHT/Anna Clare

The Trust's ninth Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ honoured the centenary year of Sir Ernest Shackleton's final expedition (*Quest 1921-1922*) and gave 22 young New Zealanders the opportunity to explore South Georgia Island in October 2023, connect with the legacy the Trust cares for and embrace their spirit of exploration.

Sharing their expedition with the world, our Inspiring Explorers™ have so far written 19 blogs, undertaken public speaking engagements in their community, recorded podcast interviews, and shared their experience in media articles.

In their blogs, the Inspiring Explorers™ shared vivid glimpses of their awe-inspiring experience. From Charlie Thomas's emotional encounter with a snow petrel to Lawrence Rothwell's description of what it took to stand at Shackleton's final resting place, each blog captures the essence

of exploration and how it impacted each team member.

Lawrence says of Shackleton, "More than a century after his death, his legacy continues to inspire explorers worldwide. I remember thinking it quite appropriate that in order to visit the grave of one of the greatest explorers the world has ever seen, you must yourself first cross one of the world's most treacherous oceans."

Inspiring Explorer and MetService representative Kelly Davenport's blog shows how South Georgia's unpredictable weather created challenges and wonders throughout the expedition's journey.

Inspiring Explorer Peregrin Hyde has produced a fascinating programme on the expedition for Radio New Zealand's 'Our Changing World' show. It describes how the Inspiring Explorers™ science outreach team continued the early explorers'

scientific legacy by collecting data and weather observations under the guidance of MetService's Kelly Davenport and Peter Fisher, which will be important for weather and climate science today. The programme features audio and interviews with Perry's fellow Inspiring Explorers™ recorded in South Georgia.

The team are also working on group outreach projects to be delivered throughout 2024 and 2025. The science team are creating an interactive web article and social media video series, the education team will be bringing the wonders of South Georgia's history and environment to young learners through a card game, the video team are working on projects to share their experience, the visual arts team are creating works for a collaborative exhibition, and the children's book team are working on a story and illustrations.



Inspiring Explorer Jenny Sahng presents to 300 students at Maungahau School. ©AHT



Inspiring Explorer Lawrence Rothwell at Right Whale Bay. ©AHT/Anna Clare

To listen to the podcast: scan the QR code, or search for **'Our Changing World'** on all major podcast platforms.



Visit nzaht.org to read the team's blogs.

Supporter Stories

In this new column for *The Explorer*, we spotlight the heartfelt connections our members and donors hold with Antarctica and their dedication to our mission. From adventurers to advocates, each story will showcase the diverse passion that unites us in conserving Antarctica's legacy of exploration.



Richard at New Zealand's Scott Base.

A Dream Fulfilled!

By Richard Clement — Antarctic Explorer Member

In 1972-73 I attempted to travel from the Arctic to Antarctica.

While onboard a research vessel in Ushuaia, Argentina, I heard about the *Lindblad Explorer* taking tourists to Antarctica. Minutes later we were interrupted by two people from this ship making a courtesy call. The man was fascinated by the journey I'd already made and that I was trying to hitch to the Antarctic Circle. He quizzed me about my Antarctic knowledge, eventually stating I could visit next morning with a payment offer as his company couldn't be seen taking hitchhikers. He then started to leave. I hadn't caught his name earlier, assuming he was just a Lindblad Travel representative. "Oh, I'm Lindblad" he said laughing. I'd been chatting up the only person in the world who could get me to Antarctica.

Next morning Lars-Eric Lindblad welcomed me onboard his ship and we shook hands on a deal. He was delighted it had become possible and was extremely generous to me. The next two weeks were probably the most exciting, fascinating, and enjoyable of my life. I'd fulfilled a dream: thank you Lindblad!

In 2016 I was back in Antarctica, again as a tourist in the Ross Sea region. This trip was my initial connection with Antarctic Heritage Trust membership, as I learned about the conservation of the historic huts. It was an astonishing and extremely moving experience to stand in the huts that had long ago been populated by great Antarctic explorers, one that I'll treasure forever. I'd fulfilled another Antarctic dream, and since then I have always felt that the Trust's activities have been extremely worthwhile, far-sighted, and necessary to support.



Trust Relocation

After over two decades alongside our friends at Antarctica New Zealand on the Christchurch (NZ) Antarctic campus, Antarctic Heritage Trust has a new home. Our relocation, less than a kilometre away, to 7 Ron Guthrey Road marks an exciting milestone in our organisation's history.

The move became necessary as Antarctica New Zealand's operations expanded, requiring additional space for their Scott Base rebuild team. Over the last few years, our own team at the Trust has grown as well.

Our new office provides ample room for all staff, including those who aren't always desk-bound, along with dedicated meeting

spaces and a comfortable lunchroom. Despite the change in location, we remain connected to the Antarctic campus, with our cargo still processed through the Antarctica New Zealand warehouse and regular catch ups with those based on the campus. All our other contact details, including PO Box and phone numbers, remain the same.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Christchurch International Airport for their remarkable support, going above and beyond in providing us with this space. Their generosity ensures that we can continue our mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration.

Thank You

to our new Antarctic Explorer Members:

Bronze Allan Thomson (NZ)
Dr Carol Martin (CAN)
David Hurburgh (AUS)
Dr Drew Smith (CAN)
Evelyn Fay (USA)
Glen Serbin (USA)
Dr Stephen Waite (AUS)

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