



L-R: StaplesVR Director Aliesha Staples, Trust Executive Director Francesca Eathorne, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand, His Excellency Dr Richard Davies, Trust Board Chair Mark Stewart at Government House to launch Scott's *Discovery* Hut Virtual Reality Experience.

Cutting-edge *Discovery* Hut VR Experience Launched

Captain Scott's first expedition to Antarctica, the National Antarctic Expedition 1901-1904, was recorded through photographs, drawings and diary entries by Scott and his men, including young New Zealander Clarence Hare. More than 120 years later, these recordings, along with cutting edge technology, have helped bring to life the Trust's latest virtual reality offer: Scott's *Discovery* Hut Virtual Reality Experience.

On 15 August, the Trust's Patron-in-chief, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand launched the VR experience at an event at Government House. Invited guests were able to explore the hut, its surroundings and the specially developed interactives that form the experience.

The launch is the culmination of more than a year of work to develop the experience,

and is part of the Trust's goal to share the world's greatest exploration stories, and to make the sites under our care accessible.

"Most people will never be able to visit these historic sites. Virtual reality brings the hut to them, and gives people an insight into the explorers lives, and how the hut supported some of the earliest science and exploration in Antarctica," said the Trust's Executive Director Francesca Eathorne. "We hope this unique experience will connect people with the early explorers and the Trust's conservation work."

Within the experience the Trust shares fascinating stories, which range from the domestic to the dramatic, and demonstrate why the spirit of exploration is still so important today.

One of the stories is that of Clarence Hare: a young man from New Zealand who

became Scott's assistant steward. Hare stepped onboard the *Discovery* at the port of Lyttleton, New Zealand, where the ship had stopped to pick up the prefabricated hut they would erect at Hut Point and extra provisions. His diary entry within the experience records pride in his country (New Zealand farmers provided sheep for the expedition), and the simple pleasures of a Sunday roast far from home. Two mutton carcasses still remain inside the hut, conserved by the Trust.

To create something as realistic and true to the real world, the Trust partnered with leading immersive technology expert, StaplesVR. The experience took 15 people, including interns from Auckland University of Technology (AUT), well over 1,000 hours to develop.

"It was incredibly important to ensure we accurately captured the heritage and



Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand officially launches Scott's Discovery Hut Virtual Reality Experience.

significance of the building along with the items inside, that each spot of rust and grain in the timber was processed and implemented into the digital replica," said Krystal Paraone, StaplesVR Technical Manager.

As well as recreating the hut in detail, using LiDAR and photogrammetry, StaplesVR has replicated the Hut Point environment surrounding *Discovery* hut, and developed a number of gamified interactives that heighten the experience and feed into the overall story of science, exploration, shelter and conservation. Participants can feed huskies, view penguins, meet an heroic-era explorer about to head off on a sledging expedition, and go up in a hydrogen balloon as Scott once did during his first expedition to Antarctica.

The Trust's project manager, conservation experts and education team spent time discussing the experience's key themes, researching and sourcing historic imagery, as well as testing and reviewing the experience to ensure the storytelling captured the spirit of *Discovery* hut, and interactive objects like the balloon were an accurate representation of the balloon used in Antarctica (one item that was not left behind in the hut).

Scott's *Discovery* Hut Virtual Reality Experience, while entertaining and informative, also provides an important historic record and showcases the Trust's conservation work.

In 2015, the Trust completed a two year programme of conservation work at *Discovery* hut, ensuring the hut's structural integrity, making it weathertight and conserving 500 artefacts which users can learn about in the VR experience. These include Huntley and Palmers biscuits, the last meal (seal meat) left behind on the stove, repaired canvas trousers, dog biscuits and a sledging harness.

"The conservation work our teams undertake is world-leading. Sharing it through VR helps us to educate people around the importance of saving this cultural heritage for future generations," said Francesca Eathorne.

Discovery Hut was the first expedition base built on Antarctica's Ross Island. The hut is significant as it provided shelter not only for Scott's *Discovery* expedition, but also every subsequent heroic-era expedition to Ross Island.

The Trust hopes thousands of people will explore the hut virtually. It will initially



Trust supporter Sue Allison experiences the VR at the launch event.

be touring the VR experience to schools, community groups, festivals and public venues throughout New Zealand, and in time, will share it internationally.

The Trust is grateful to the generous supporters who funded this work, including Antarctic Heritage Trust Inspiring Explorers™ Fund donors, a grant from Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Regeneration Fund, developer StaplesVR and Trust logistics partner Antarctica New Zealand.



Book the VR for your school or community venue at nzaht.org.

In Memorium

June, Lady Hillary 1931-2024

The Antarctic Heritage Trust was saddened to learn of the passing of June, Lady Hillary on 1 June. Lady Hillary had served as Trust Patron since 2008.

Trust Executive Director, Francesca Eathorne says Lady Hillary was a dedicated Patron, whose passion and commitment to Antarctica always shone through. "The Trust is extremely grateful for Lady Hillary's advocacy and support in our mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration. Her warmth and generosity were appreciated by many, and our thoughts are with Lady Hillary's family and loved ones at this time."

Lady Hillary, 92, was the devoted wife of one of history's most celebrated mountaineers, explorers and humanitarians, Sir Edmund Hillary.

Taking over the role of Trust Patron on the death of her late husband, Lady Hillary



© AHT/Jo Moore

played an important role in supporting the preservation of the rich history of exploration and scientific discovery in the Antarctic region. Her passion for the Trust's mission and her dedication to its work left a lasting impact.



Al Fastier Retires

After an incredible 18 years leading the Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project to the highest heritage and environmental standards, Programme Manager Al Fastier has retired.

On 5 July, at an event at The Canterbury Club (Christchurch NZ), where Scott, Shackleton, and later Hillary, spent time, the Trust acknowledged Al's significant contribution to protecting the incredible cultural heritage sites established by these early Antarctic explorers.

"We felt it fitting to have held this event at The Canterbury Club to honour Al, who has had such an impact on saving the explorers' physical legacy," said Executive Director Francesca Eathorne. "In many ways, leading remote teams in this wild and isolated place that is Antarctica, Al has experienced many of the things Scott and Shackleton experienced: incredible camaraderie, long days spent working in the cold, drawing on resilience and innovation to achieve ambitious objectives."

The Trust celebrated Al's achievements with his family, friends and members of the Antarctic community, including some he has mentored.

Al has hugely contributed to the success of the Trust's heritage conservation programme in Antarctica. As Programme Manager, Al has held overall responsibility for planning and directing the programme of conservation work, developing the

Implementation Plan for each site, working with the Building Conservation Design Team, overseeing a comprehensive monitoring and maintenance programme of work, and managing the multi-million dollar budget to ensure project delivery. He has spent over 2000 days On-Ice, over successive summers, to conserve the five explorer bases the Trust cares for.

Al exemplifies the Trust's values of positive risk taking, curiosity and innovation, treasuring the spirit and legacy of exploration, and striving for excellence.

During his time with the Trust, Al has supported international teams of conservation experts. Colleagues credit Al with the ability to run the project through good planning and ideas, humour, and an

Al Fastier inside Scott's *Terra Nova* hut, Cape Evans. 2017.
© AHT/Chris Ansin

unfailing work ethic, which inspires others to deliver their best. The team respect him for leading by example, often undertaking the most difficult and unwanted tasks.

"Conserving the huts has been my primary focus and passion for the past 18 years. This task has been frequently all consuming and challenging. It has also been an exciting and rewarding experience," said Al. "The success of the project has always been a team effort. I'm passing the baton to a very capable conservation team who will continue to look after the explorer bases."

Al's commitment, over this length of service, has provided the Trust – and its complex Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project – with more certainty. His continuity of service ensures that the knowledge he has brought to the project is maintained, built upon and shared with others, including with our sister Trust UKAHT.

Al has welcomed VIPs, creatives and visiting dignitaries to Antarctica, introducing them to the Trust's conservation work. He has also been at the heart of many great Trust stories. In 2010, he excavated three cases of Mackinlay's Whisky from under Shackleton's hut; in 2016 he drove a vintage TE-20 Ferguson tractor 2,000km across New Zealand (recreating the distance Hillary travelled to the South Pole) to raise funds for the conservation of Hillary's TAE/IGY hut.

While we formally bid farewell to Al in his role as Programme Manager, in 2025, he will join us to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Inspiring Explorers™ programme as we partner with Heritage Expeditions to take a group of young people to visit the historic huts. Al will share his stories of the legacy he has helped to save, and will continue to inspire the next generation to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration.



Al Fastier enjoying a farewell speech from Trust Collections Conservation Manager Lizzie Meek. © AHT/Mark Sanders



Expedition footwear and Brocklehurst's leg protector (metal frame) next to a bunk, outside the Pantry in Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut. 2017. © AHT/Chris Ansin

2024-25 Conservation Season

During the upcoming summer conservation season the Trust will have teams working in three areas of Antarctica: at Cape Adare, the site of Borchgrevink's 1899 expedition base, and the remnants of Scott's Northern party Hut, on Ross Island working at the historic explorer bases of Scott, Shackleton, and Hillary, and on the Antarctic Peninsula, working with our sister trust, UKAHT.

On Ross Island, Zack Bennett, Trust Building Conservation Programme Manager, will lead the team as well as completing specialist built-heritage work. Joining him will be our Lead Artefacts Conservator, and two Archaeologists. The Trust's new General Manager of Programmes, Johan Bergman, is joining the team, to familiarise himself with the conservation project while also providing support to the conservation team on site.

The primary focus of this season's On-Ice work programme will be archaeology, with a particular emphasis on Cape Evans, the site

of Scott's *Terra Nova* hut.

"Building upon the initial archaeological site assessments and data capture conducted by Gordon Macdonald last season, the team is excited to deepen our understanding of how early explorers utilised these historic sites and how the sites are responding to changing climate conditions", says Zack.

The team will also undertake a wide range of important conservation tasks across the Ross Island explorer bases.

At Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut, Cape Royds, work will include annual building and artefact inspections, and the installation of new environmental monitoring equipment. The team will also perform conservation treatments on expedition footwear and Sir Phillip Lee Brocklehurst's leg protector – a unique artefact used after his frostbitten toe amputation following the first summit of Mt Erebus during the 1907-09 British Antarctic Expedition.

At Cape Evans the team will carry out essential maintenance, including repairs to Scott's *Terra Nova* hut. Artefact conservation efforts will focus on supporting the archaeological work programme, and assisting with historic chemical audits.

Hillary's TAE/IGY hut and Scott's *Discovery* hut will both undergo minor maintenance and repairs. In addition, the team will conduct an installation trial for a winter cover to protect the Observation Hill cross.

The Trust is working with Antarctica New Zealand and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to resolve potential ordnance issues at Cape Adare after the event was cancelled last year. Planning is underway for a Trust Heritage Consultant and experts from the NZDF to conduct a safety assessment to identify and manage any historic ordnance potentially buried at the site. This crucial step will enable future conservation work on the first expedition base ever built in Antarctica. The Trust is committed to safeguarding this significant piece of polar heritage while ensuring the safety of all involved in the conservation efforts.

As part of the Trust's ongoing collaboration with international partners, Collections Conservation Manager Lizzie Meek will again deploy to the Antarctic Peninsula, to work alongside the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) at their historic sites, this time at Blaiklock refuge, a small emergency shelter associated with the nearby Base Y (Horseshoe Island).

Thousands Raised for Ross Sea Party Tent

Over the past couple of months we shared the incredible stories of the Ross Sea Party (1914-1917).

These brave men were tasked with laying supply depots across the Ross Ice Shelf for the second half of Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917). Despite Shackleton's *Endurance* sinking, preventing his arrival, the party persevered through extreme conditions to complete their ultimately futile mission. They used a specially designed tent, documented as the only one unloaded from the *Aurora* before ice floes pulled it out to sea, leaving the men stranded to finish their mission alone.

"After *Aurora* was blown out in May 1915 with the bulk of the equipment on board, this tent, designed by Shackleton's official artist, George Marston, was crucial in the survival of the depot-laying parties over two

seasons. It is the only one of its kind to survive the expedition," shared Richard McElrea, former Chair of the Trust and co-author of *Polar Castaways*, a book about the history of the Ross Sea Party.

Just under 50 years later, the tent was found by the 1960-61 Antarctic Division hut restoration party led by Leslie Quartermain. With your help, we aim to conserve this incredible piece of history that tells the story of these brave men.

We're delighted to share that over NZD\$70,000 was raised to help us complete the conservation work on the tent. Over the coming months we will share



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

updates on the tent's conservation journey. Thank you to all of our donors from across the world who are making this conservation work possible!

To learn more or give to the conservation work visit nzaht.org/ross-sea-party-tent/



ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST
— INSPIRING EXPLORERS —

Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ 2025 ROSS SEA ANTARCTICA

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Inspiring Explorers™ programme, the Trust is offering a rare opportunity to young explorers: to walk in the footsteps of the early Antarctic explorers by stepping inside the historic bases the Trust cares for on the icy continent.

The team will also learn what it takes to conserve Antarctica's cultural heritage directly from the Trust's expert team, including Al Fastier, the Trust's former Programme Manager for the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project, the world's largest cold climate conservation programme. Al has dedicated the past 18 years to leading the conservation of these incredible sites.

An Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ team will visit the Ross Sea region on a ship-based expedition, between 7 January 2025 - 4 February 2025, with Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ Partner, Heritage Expeditions.

"Heritage Expeditions is proud to extend our support to our friends at Antarctic Heritage Trust as their new

Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ Partner. As New Zealand's only family-owned and operated pioneering expedition cruise company, and the most experienced Ross Sea and Subantarctic operator, we are looking forward to sharing this incredibly special, remote part of the world with the lucky young Inspiring Explorers™. We can't wait to welcome the Ross Sea's next generation of custodians and ambassadors on board for an unforgettable voyage of a lifetime into the 'heart of Antarctica,'" said Aaron Russ, Commercial Director and Expedition Leader.

Inspiring Explorers™ will contribute to a group outreach project, which will grow knowledge and awareness with the wider community and share the team's experiences inside the huts belonging to legendary polar explorers.

WHO CAN APPLY

We are looking for a range of young people aged 18-35 with an interest in Antarctic history, and a desire to grow their explorer mindset, and be pushed outside their comfort zone. From New Zealand we are looking for general applicants, and applicants with specialist skills to support the outreach project. We are also looking for young people with specialist skills in heritage conservation, who could be from New Zealand or Australia.

HOW TO APPLY?

Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to explore Antarctica's past, present, and future. Find out more and apply at inspiringexplorers.co.nz Applications close at midnight (NZDT) on Monday 7 October 2024.



HERITAGE
EXPEDITIONS

Governance Update

We are pleased to announce two new appointments to the Antarctic Heritage Trust Board.

We are delighted to introduce Andrew Barnes, Founder of Perpetual Guardian, as a new Independent Trustee. Andrew brings a wealth of financial and philanthropic expertise to our Board. Additionally, Leon Grice joins the Board as the new Chair of Antarctica New Zealand, succeeding Sir Brian Roche.

As we welcome these new members, we also bid farewell to Simon Allen and Roy Dillon, who have served as Independent

Trustees since 2015 and 2016, respectively. We thank them for their significant contributions and dedicated service. We also farewell and thank Governance Intern Tasman Gillies.



Leon Grice



Andrew Barnes

Have you left us a gift in your Will?

Please let us know so that we can honour your wishes.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you will help us to plan for the future and sustain the legacy of Antarctic exploration.

Contact Patricia Mackenzie at p.mackenzie@nzaht.org for a confidential discussion.

Icy Heritage



Observation Hill behind Scott's *Discovery* hut at Hut Point. 2013-14. © AHT/Josiah Wagener

Try Icy Heritage

If you are interested in learning more about Scott's *Discovery* hut, which is featured in the Trust's new virtual reality experience:

1. Go to [icyheritage.org](https://www.icyheritage.org)
2. Search for '*Discovery* hut' or click on the *Discovery* hut collection tile on the homepage

It's now been 10 years since the Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project commenced work on the hut and artefacts within, and the database has a fascinating range of images from pre-conservation through to its current state.

The Trust's digital image database, *Icy Heritage*, has made an impressive impact since its launch in October 2023. With over 5,000 unique visitors from 114 countries, it has become a global window into Antarctica's rich heritage, our ongoing conservation efforts, and our mission to inspire the next generation of explorers.

Our world-famous discovery of 'Shackleton's Whisky' still proves popular today, with a gallery of images showcasing the find being our most popular collection. Users are also fascinated by the daily lives of our Conservators on the Ice, with our 'Life in Antarctica' collection proving a big hit.

Recent additions to *Icy Heritage* showcase our Young Inspiring Explorers™ programme,

with images from our recent Summit and Explorer Conference showcasing how the attending students were encouraged to step outside their comfort zone while engaging with Antarctic heritage.

The platform has also proven to be a valuable way for us to engage with our global community, from interested publications to educational institutions.

"We recently fielded a request from a school teacher in the United Kingdom looking for information for their class on the food that Scott's expedition ate while on the Ice nearly 114 years ago. We were able to share some images of the food items still in the huts and put them in touch with our Education team for more resources", shared

Digital Collections and Data Coordinator Ella Beckett.

With approximately 12,100 public images and growing, *Icy Heritage* caters to heritage enthusiasts, researchers, and anyone fascinated by Antarctica. Its user-friendly interface makes it easy to dive into topics ranging from inspiring polar expeditions to modern conservation techniques.

Whether you're a longtime supporter or new to Antarctic heritage, we invite you to explore the database at [icyheritage.org](https://www.icyheritage.org). Discover the icy wonders of Antarctica and experience the frozen continent from the comfort of your home.



Inspiring Young Explorers

Young Inspiring Explorers trying on USAP gear. © AHT/Anna Clare

“The power of the Explorer Conference is seeing these young people step into their own. Working alongside Inspiring Explorers™ alumni allows them to develop their innate curiosity, courage, and innovation through the Explorer Mindset, hopefully expanding their vision of what’s achievable and broadening their horizons.”

LAURA ANDREWS
INSPIRING EXPLORER AND
GOVERNANCE INTERN

In the first half of 2024, the Trust hosted two significant Inspiring Explorers™ programme events: our sixth Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit, held in April, and our third Explorer Conference, held in June. These gatherings brought together young minds from across Aotearoa New Zealand, inspiring them to step outside their comfort zones, develop an ‘Explorer Mindset’, and connect with the legacy of Antarctic exploration.

The Trust’s Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit welcomed 25 students, aged 11-14, from across New Zealand to Ōtautahi Christchurch, the country’s Antarctic Gateway City. The Summit, delivered in partnership with William Pike Challenge, was made possible thanks to major sponsor US Embassy and Consulate in New Zealand and Inspiring Explorers™ programme partner Royal Society Te Apārangi.

An exciting programme saw students ride Häggglunds, meet penguins and huskies, and weather an Antarctic storm at the International Antarctic Centre. They were also treated to a fascinating tour of the US Antarctic Program facilities with Operations Manager Marie Heist, gaining first-hand insights into Antarctic research and transportation and trying on Antarctic clothing. Margaret Walrod from the US Embassy shared the importance of scientific cooperation in Antarctica. Thanks also to Antarctica New Zealand for arranging a live video call to Scott Base, to learn about life on the Ice.

Through talks and activities led by Inspiring Explorers™ alumni William Pike and Kaitlyn Martin, students were encouraged to push

themselves and develop resilience, echoing the historic explorers who faced Antarctic challenges with fortitude. The students also enjoyed hearing first-hand accounts of what it’s like to live and work on the Ice from the Trust’s Building Conservation Programme Manager, Zack Bennett, and members of the Trust’s Education team.

Though stepping outside her comfort zone to meet new people was challenging, Jade Bergman found the experience rewarding. “The Summit taught me a lot about exploring and made me realise I’m capable of big things in the future!” said Jade.

June’s Explorer Conference continued this spirit of exploration in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, bringing together Year 12



Students take part in white water rafting at Wero Whitewater Park. © AHT/Mark Sanders

students from eight South Auckland schools who are part of the AIMHI network (Achievement In Multi-cultural High Schools).

Keynote speakers Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna’I, Inspiring Explorer William Pike, and MC Laura Andrews (Inspiring Explorer and Trust Governance Intern) encouraged and inspired attendees with stories of personal exploration and resilience.

The Conference also offered workshops led by Inspiring Explorers™ alumni, with sessions focused on creativity, teamwork, and building resilience, challenging students to adopt an ‘Explorer Mindset’ in their daily lives.

Workshops led by Kaitlyn Martin and Gemma Wylie, and Georgie Archibald and Charlie Thomas, encouraged students to explore their own potential and celebrate diversity in exploration. Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna’i guided students through the concept of resilience, while Lawrence Rothwell and Porohu Hagai Noa inspired leadership and teamwork with a bridge building challenge in their workshop. The students were also challenged to step outside their comfort zones with whitewater rafting sessions at Wero Whitewater Park, encouraging them to apply their newfound skills in a real-world setting.

“I learnt that I have so much potential in me,” one Tamaki College student reflected. “I just need to step out of my comfort zone and push myself into becoming someone a person would look up to.”

Both events highlight the Trust’s commitment to growing a new generation of explorers. Through immersive experiences, educational workshops, and inspirational talks, students not only learned about Antarctica’s legacy of exploration but also discovered their own capacity for resilience and leadership.



See more images from the Summit and Explorer Conference at icyheritage.org

Alumni News



A new paper by Drs. Mark Mabin and **David Harrowfield NZAM** (Trust Inaugural Executive Officer) has been completed and is expected to be published later

this year. Using a combination of historic archives, 1983 USAF aerial photos, and GIS, researchers believe they have located the message post placed on Possession Islands (Ross Sea region) during H. Bull's 1895 whaling expedition.

Since February 2024,

Annick Vuissoz

(Conservator 2014-15)

has been a project conservator and lab manager at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. She's currently preparing a new Ancient Egypt exhibit in a visible lab within the "Stories We Keep" exhibit, allowing public viewing of conservation work on



artefacts including coffins and a large funerary boat.

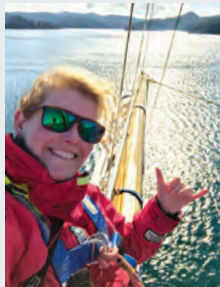
Ihlara McIndoe

(Inspiring Explorer 2020) has been accepted to Columbia University for their doctoral programme.



Kaitlyn Martin and Lawrence Rothwell

(Inspiring Explorers 2023) both recently volunteered as Watch Assistants aboard the tall ship *Spirit of New Zealand*, supporting the Spirit of Adventure Trust's mission to empower young New Zealanders by helping to look after and challenge forty teenagers (16-19 years old) as they learned about sailing, leadership, themselves, and life at sea.



International Publication

A research paper co-authored by Trust staff and alumni was recently published in the prestigious *Studies in Conservation* journal, a premier international peer-reviewed publication for the conservation of historic and artistic works.

The paper, titled *Sustainable Conservation Solutions in a Hostile Environment: The Historic Huts of Antarctica*, highlights the Trust's major conservation programme, the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project (RSHRP) launched in 2003 to conserve and protect the four surviving Ross Sea huts of the Heroic Era (1898-1917).

The paper was co-authored by the Trust's Collections Conservation Manager, Lizzie Meek, and Trust Heritage Consultants Julian Bickersteth and Gord Macdonald, who commended the Trust's support for making the project possible. "I would like to acknowledge the broader support of the Trust for making this possible. The publication of peer-reviewed material in journals such as *Studies in Conservation* really elevates the great work of the Trust and creates the possibility that others can benefit from our project too. This is a significant milestone for the Trust and I hope we can build upon this with future collaborative efforts," said Gord.

The paper uses conservation decision making for the preservation of the Observation Hill Cross as a focal point, with reference to the RSHRP's inception, key components, the challenges and learnings of this significant project, and critically considers the way the programme has been developed and delivered.

Latitude and Legacy: An Expedition into Portraiture

A Supporter Story by Rewa Rendall — Antarctic Explorer Member

As a child, Antarctic images in National Geographic captivated me. Their cold beauty and the bravery of the photographers behind them sparked a lifelong fascination. This intrigue led me to chart my own path to the frozen South.

In 2006, my journey began with Adventure Consultants, where we navigated Antarctic Peninsula landscapes, capturing moments with a small Russian stereo camera. This experience deepened my connection to the pioneers of Antarctic exploration—Scott, Shackleton, Hurley, and Ponting—and inspired me to delve into the art of wet plate photography, an early photographic technique where light directly creates images on glass or metal plates.

Last year, I discovered Sir Joseph Kinsey's darkroom in Christchurch, New Zealand. As a key supporter of Scott and Shackleton's expeditions, his darkroom is a sanctuary

where history and artistry meet. In this space, the echoes of early explorers, their resilience and spirit of adventure, resonate.

My *Frozen Echoes* project carries on this legacy, capturing the faces of our contemporary Antarctic community, blending the past with the present through my lens.

I invite you to join me at Kinsey's Den and Darkroom, where you can become a part of history by having your portrait handcrafted using this unique technique. These portraits and their stories will be exhibited at the Christchurch Arts Centre this October.

By supporting the Antarctic Heritage Trust, we can continue to preserve this legacy and inspire future generations to approach the unknown with curiosity and navigate beyond their limits.

For more information about *Frozen Echoes*, visit www.rewarendall.com



Portrait of Antarctic explorer Graeme Ayres. © Rewa Rendall

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.