



Opening ears to Antarctica

A new six-episode podcast *77 Degrees South* offers listeners real-life sounds of Antarctic exploration.

Eight rangatahi (young people) selected for the Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ 2025 were bound for the Ross Sea, Antarctica onboard Heritage Expeditions' purpose-built ship *Heritage Adventurer*, to return a conserved book to Scott's *Discovery* hut where heroic explorers read it a century earlier.

While their mission was challenged by sea ice blocking the ship's passage and a closing window of time, they recorded conversations, deliberations and the sounds of Antarctica.



Series writer and producer Maia Ingoe at Cape Adare.
© AHT/Daniel Bornstein

Journalist Maia Ingoe calls sharing the experience a privilege, because it welcomes listeners right into their journey.

"In many ways, we are just like any other young person in New Zealand, suddenly thrust

into an exciting and challenging adventure," she says.

Audio engineer Calum Turner created ways to bring the silence and sounds of Antarctica to life. He handmade a parabolic dish to capture distant whales, seals and penguins, and used a contact microphone to record cracking pack ice against the ship's hull.



Calum Turner recording audio in Antarctica.
© AHT/Anna Clare

"Aiming to transport listeners into our expedition through recorded sound was a massively challenging but entirely rewarding experience," he says.



Antarctic Heritage Trust Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ team before entering Scott's *Discovery* hut to return a historic artefact. © AHT/Anna Clare

Narrator Jake Bailey considers the journey a life-changing privilege, saying "It's an incredible honour to share the experience of travelling alongside AHT to the most isolated parts of the planet."

The podcast reveals endurance, responsibility, and what it means to be kaitiaki (guardians) of a shared human history.

77 Degrees South is the latest contribution to Antarctic Heritage Trust's outreach programme, where participants share their experiences with the global community. It was made possible by donors to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund, expedition partner Heritage Expeditions and supporter Cheshire Architects.



You can hear the full podcast and bonus content on nzaht.org and major podcast platforms.



Left: The Inspiring Explorers™ team visit Borchgrevink's hut at Cape Adare. L-R: Calum Turner, Maia Ingoo, Louise Piggan, Lucy Hayes-Stevenson, Daniel Bornstein, Ngawai Clendon, Kitona Pelasio, and Jake Bailey, guided by Al Fastier. © AHT/Anna Clare

A Special Anniversary Expedition

To celebrate our upcoming 40th anniversary in 2027, the Trust is looking for eight young people keen to learn about our work in Antarctica and contribute to our mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration.

Next January, the group of 18 to 30 year olds will travel on a ship-based expedition to the Ross Sea region and the historic bases of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Executive Director Francesca Eathorne says the young people selected will become advocates for the protection of the globally significant sites the Trust cares for.

"Significant support and international collaboration over the past 40 years has enabled our Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project to become the world's longest

running cold climate conservation project," she says.

"The Inspiring Explorers™ will reflect that collaboration, undertake tasks at the huts to contribute to our work, and develop their 'Explorer Mindset' – qualities including curiosity, resilience, leadership, innovation and teamwork reflecting what the early explorers demonstrated themselves. The young explorers will then share their experiences with global audiences through their outreach programmes."

The expedition will be on board the world's most experienced Southern Ocean operator, Heritage Expeditions — a long-term partner and supporter of the Trust. The family-owned company is internationally recognised for more than 35 years of small ship expedition cruises to the Subantarctic Islands and Ross Sea region, offering opportunities to learn, discover and experience conservation, culture, wilderness and wildlife.

Applications open on 24 August at inspiringexplorers.co.nz.

Inspiring Explorers
Expedition™ Partner



Come with us to Antarctica

If you yearn to step foot inside the huts of Scott and Shackleton, and experience the wonders of Antarctica, here's your chance.

Join us in January 2027 on a voyage to the Ross Sea with Heritage Expeditions to witness our Inspiring Explorers™ in action, and take a close up look at what the Trust has achieved over 40 years working to protect Antarctica's significant historic sites.

Book as a Trust supporter and Heritage Expeditions will donate part of your fare back to us to support our ongoing work.

Get the expedition brochure and full details to book your berth at nzah.org





Strategy Drives Success

The Trust is excited to share that its new Strategic Plan (2026–2030) has now been published, providing a clear direction for how we will build on our strengths, respond to a changing environment, and create lasting impact. It reflects our commitment to deliver outcomes through collaboration, innovation, and stewardship.

The new Strategic Plan positions the Trust to respond to current and future challenges including, logistics to reach the sites we care for in Antarctica, a changing climate and how this will impact the historic sites, and ongoing fundraising for multiple programmes.

Board Chair Sir Jerry Mateparae said the Strategic Plan provides a strong foundation for the future, “The plan reflects both ambition and discipline. The Board is confident it positions the Trust to

respond to current and future challenges, while strengthening its ability to deliver exceptional outcomes in line with our community’s expectations.”

Over the last decade we have developed expedition, education, and outreach programmes. These programmes have built an online global audience, provided young people an opportunity to explore the world to educate and inspire them, as well as ignited a passion for Antarctic heritage in the next generation of kaitiaki (guardians). Alongside growing these programmes we have continued our work on the world-leading, cold-climate conservation project – the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

As the Trust enters its 40th year in 2027, we remain committed to our vision of Inspiring Explorers, and our mission to conserve, share and encourage the spirit of exploration.

Our Strategic Plan is a demonstration of that commitment. It is the product of significant reflection and engagement and provides us with a clear roadmap for the Trust’s future direction.

Executive Director Francesca Eathorne says, “We will continue delivering the Trust’s planned multi-year programmes across our Conserve, Share, Encourage and Sustain goals, and look to benefit from opportunities through global leadership and strong partnerships that strengthen the Trust’s sustainability.

We extend our sincere thanks to our supporters, partners, donors, and our dedicated Board and staff, for the collective mahi (work) that will go into realising this bold and ambitious Strategic Plan (2026–2030).”



Read the Strategic Plan at nzaht.org

Antarctica Goes on Tour

In August and September, Antarctic Heritage Trust and the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) will come together to bring two immersive virtual reality experiences to public venues in Australia and throughout New Zealand.

Both organisations care for important cultural heritage sites in Antarctica, one of the most remote places on the planet, and have become leaders in sharing heritage sites via immersive digital technology to educate, inspire, and create equity of access to these hard-to-reach places.

The two VR experiences to feature are Scott’s *Discovery Hut*, a dynamic and immersive experience allowing you to step inside the first hut built on Ross Island



just as Robert Falcon Scott, and Ernest Shackleton did over a century ago, created by the Trust, and *A Frozen Night*, created by UKAHT. This experience takes participants to Base E on Stonington Island, a pivotal dog sledging outpost established in 1946.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to take a virtual visit to Antarctica during this tour at a range of locations.

AUSTRALIA

Australian Antarctic Festival, Hobart: August 22–23

NEW ZEALAND

International Antarctic Centre, Christchurch: August 26–27

New Zealand Maritime Museum, Auckland: August 29–30

Tūhura Otago Museum, Dunedin: September 9–10

The Trust thanks supporters of our Inspiring Explorers Education™ programme including Tait Foundation, donors to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund, and UKAHT with whom we share a long history of partnership.

To find out more about the venues on this tour visit nzaht.org



Students at the 2026 Explorer Conference worked together to build scaffolding as part of the teamwork workshop. © AHT/Brittany Fox

Exploring a Mindset and the Future

Young Cantabrians recently learned the skills and mindset the early Antarctic explorers used.

The Trust's second Explorer Conference in Christchurch (NZ) hosted a one-day gathering of over 100 students from 11 secondary schools.

Christchurch Mayor Phil Mauger opened the Conference by explaining the strong historic and current connection Christchurch has to Antarctica.

Conference MC and Inspiring Explorer Ngawai Clendon was a member of last year's Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to the Ross Sea. She had struggled with self-doubt, but said learning and applying the 'Explorer Mindset' changed that.

"I learned how often our own minds can be our biggest barrier, holding us back from things we are capable of," Ngawai said.

"Standing here as the MC of this Conference has pushed me well outside my comfort zone. But I have leaned into my 'Explorer Mindset' to trust my own voice and show up authentically."

Keynote Speaker and Inspiring Explorer Kelsey Waghorn was guiding at Whakaari/ White Island during the 2019 volcanic eruption and suffered serious injuries. She joined the 2023 Inspiring Explorers Expedition™ to South Georgia determined not to let fear define her.

"The expedition taught me I was braver than I had ever believed," she said. "I am now passionate about inspiring others and sharing the message that people can overcome even the most impossible challenges."

Hands on workshops led by Inspiring Explorers™ alumni and Trust staff were built around the 'Explorer Mindset' qualities of

curiosity, innovation, resilience, teamwork, and leadership.

Curiosity involved students exploring Christchurch's Antarctic connections on a walking tour, then creating their own art connecting Christchurch to Antarctica.

Resilience required building polar tents despite different challenges being thrown at groups. Building scaffolding taught teamwork, and leadership was explored through a game based on Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition.

"I loved listening to the chatter amongst my students after each workshop and speaker they attended. Excited, amazed, thoughtful, wondering, and inward thinking," said one teacher who attended the Explorer Conference.

Antarctic Heritage Trust Executive Director Francesca Eathorne ended the day asking



Students at Scott's statue during the Christchurch City Antarctic walking tour at the 2026 Explorer Conference in Christchurch. © AHT/Brittany Fox



MC and Inspiring Explorer 2025 Ngawai Clendon shares her story during the Explorer Conference. © AHT/Brittany Fox



Students draw their own Antarctic statue as part of the Curiosity workshop. © AHT/Brittany Fox

the students to say 'yes' to challenges and to unlock their 'Explorer Mindset'.

"It doesn't have to be going to Antarctica, but step out of your comfort zone, to see where it takes you."

Students left with a unanimous agreement the 'Explorer Mindset' is relevant today.

"I think the 'Explorer Mindset' is relevant today because the world is constantly changing and having an open and adaptable mind will really benefit you. Also, the idea of being open to trying new experiences and stepping out of your comfort zone is relevant today because many people miss out on cool things because they stick to what they're used to, and you get more out of life by being open," said one student who attended the Explorer Conference.

Thank you to our generous supporters and donors who made the Explorer Conference possible: Rātā Foundation, Sir Angus Tait Trust, Tait Foundation, USA 304th Air Squadron, ChristchurchNZ, and donors to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund.



Students explored Scott's *Discovery* hut using cutting-edge virtual reality as part of the innovation workshop. © AHT/Brittany Fox

Techweek Brings Antarctic History to Life with Minecraft



Christ the King school students meeting heroic explorers and finding artefacts in Scott's 'Discovery' Hut Minecraft World. © AHT/Georgia Airey

In May, the Trust took Scott's *Discovery* Hut Minecraft World to Tūranga Library in Christchurch (NZ) for Techweek, Aotearoa New Zealand's annual celebration of innovation and technology, bringing together organisations, educators, businesses, and communities to explore emerging technologies and ideas.

Working in groups, students began their journey aboard the RRS *Discovery* before going ashore to explore Scott's *Discovery* hut. Along the way, they searched for historical artefacts, built kennels for the expedition's huskies, and designed their own Antarctic huts fit for polar exploration. Through Minecraft, students discovered the history of Antarctic exploration while developing their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in an engaging digital environment.

Education Programme Lead Adelma Matthews guided 170 Christchurch primary school students through the interactive experience.

"It was fantastic to see students so quickly immerse themselves in the world of Antarctic exploration through Minecraft. They were problem-solving, collaborating, and engaging with history in a really creative way," said Adelma.

Students were equally enthusiastic about the experience.

"I really loved learning about the connection between New Zealand and Antarctica," said one student who attended Techweek.

The Trust is grateful to the following generous supporters, including project sponsor the Greater Christchurch Schools Network, project developer WDekkers Digital, and Antarctic Heritage Trust Inspiring Explorers™ Fund donors.

Visit nzaht.org to book a visit to your NZ school or find out more.



Education Programme Lead Adelma Matthews speaks to Ohoka School students. © AHT/Georgia Airey



The team feeling accomplished after maintaining Hopeless Hut. © AHT/Brittany Fox



Inspiring Explorer Melino repainting Hopeless Hut. © AHT/Brittany Fox

A new Generation of Explorers gives back to New Zealand's Backcountry

The Trust launched its first Inspiring Explorers™ New Zealand Huts programme in March, taking a group of seven young people into the Nelson Lakes region (NZ) to help maintain Hopeless Hut alongside programme partner Backcountry Trust and with support from the Department of Conservation.

Designed to connect young explorers with Aotearoa New Zealand's backcountry, the programme draws on many of the same skills and values used by the Trust's conservation teams working on the Ice each year.

Over three days, the team completed a range of maintenance projects at the hut, including digging a new toilet pit, repainting the hut, remarking sections of track, clearing vegetation, building a wood box, and strengthening parts of the structure.

When resources were limited, the team were challenged to think creatively, solve problems and work together, putting the qualities of the 'Explorer Mindset' into practice.

"We couldn't just pop down to the hardware store, we had to make do with what we had. There were times when I was able to step up and draw on some of my previous experience to help the team problem solve

and work through challenges together," said Inspiring Explorer Stella Hamilton.



Inspiring Explorers with sign commemorating the hut being opened by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1967. © AHT/Brittany Fox

Launching the programme at Hopeless Hut was especially meaningful for the Trust having been officially opened in 1967 by Sir Edmund Hillary, one of New Zealand's greatest polar explorers. Hillary led the New Zealand party of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition and established New Zealand's first permanent presence in Antarctica at Scott Base, now one of five historic expedition bases cared for by the Trust.

The programme brought together a diverse group of young people from partner organisation Spirit of Adventure Trust, alongside former Trust Programme Manager Al Fastier, whose extensive conservation experience helped mentor and guide the team.



Inspiring Explorer Alesha learning from former Trust Programme Manager Al Fastier repaving the hut entrance. © AHT/Brittany Fox

"You get a flavour of that remote living in Antarctica, and by weaving in all the stories from our conservation team and life on the Ice, the young people on the New Zealand Huts programme can experience a little bit of what it might be like to work down in Antarctica," said Al Fastier.

The programme represents another pathway for young people to connect with exploration, conservation and heritage, while building the confidence and skills to contribute to the places they care about.

"It's been special working alongside a group of young people experiencing the outdoors and contributing in this way for the first time. They bring fresh eyes, enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in. While they're learning practical skills, they're also discovering more about themselves and what it means to care for places like this. It's a rich experience for everyone involved," said Backcountry Trust South Island Project Coordinator Ollie Clifton.

The Trust is grateful to the Inspiring Explorers™ Fund donors whose support made the programme possible, helping young people step into New Zealand's backcountry, learn new skills, and give back.



Inspiring Explorer Mosese digging a new toilet pit. © AHT/Brittany Fox

A Pioneering Woman

A 1960s map owned by New Zealand's first female meteorologist at Scott Base has been returned to Hillary's TAE/IGY hut during the Trust's 2025–26 on-ice season.

Edith's nephew and Trust supporter Andrew Kemeny donated the map, titled *Facilities in the Region of Scott Base*, to the Trust last year and visited Antarctica this February with Heritage Expeditions to see it.

"My aunt Edi has been my hero my whole life," he says. "When she emigrated from Hungary, her qualifications were not recognised in New Zealand so she returned to university to obtain her Masters degree in physics.

In 1951, she joined what is now the NZ Meteorological Service and worked there for 35 years. Her decades of scientific diligence and detailed data collection, particularly studying the ozone layer, helped the world discover the 'hole in the ozone layer'.



Facilities in the Region of Scott Base map repatriated to Hillary's TAE/IGY hut.
© Andrew Kemeny



Edith and her instruments inside Hillary's TAE hut.
© Andrew Kemeny

She gave me her many boxes of archives. I donated the map to the Trust, and items to the Hungarian Geographic Museum in Budapest, where she is honoured as one of four Hungarian female pioneers."

When Andrew and his wife left for their Antarctic expedition, they were warned weather might limit places they could visit, but they had what Andrew calls a 100 out of ten visit.

"The weather was amazing and people said my aunt was watching over us," he says.

"We anchored 100 metres offshore from Scott Base and visited Hillary's hut, along with four other explorers' huts. I was allowed two minutes alone in the radio



Trust supporter Andrew Kemeny inside Hillary's TAE/IGY hut during his visit in February.
© Andrew Kemeny

room where Edi worked. It was a very emotional experience I will always be grateful for."

Andrew is now editing a video of his visit and re-publishing a book he wrote in 2014 called *The Farkas Files*, telling the story of the woman known as "The Wizard of Ozone."

Reflections of a Conservator

Mentally challenging and wondrous are descriptors Artefact Programme Coordinator Shannah Rhynard-Geil uses when reflecting on her first visit to Scott Base in 2022.

"I wasn't able to visit any of the huts because of the sea ice conditions, but I was in a lab with about 1500 objects needing treatment and felt grateful to experience the isolation of winter," she says.



Artefact Programme Coordinator Shannah Rhynard-Geil at Cape Evans during the 2025-26 on-ice season.
© AHT/Lizzie Meek

Returning this summer as our Artefact Programme Coordinator was a different experience, especially stepping into Scott's *Terra Nova* hut.

"I stood in the hut and absorbed its details. The personalities of the men are moulded into the fabric of the huts. I felt the responsibility of immortalising the huts, their possessions and intangible mana in perpetuity," she says.

"Conserving the huts and artefacts is a precarious balance of ethics, resources and preservation on a world stage, while attempting to protect and honour the men's sacrifices, courage and the foundation of all modern science undertaken in the vast white expanse.

"Over summer, the huts seemed to reveal their personalities and I found myself talking to them

and the men. When we lived for five weeks in tents near the huts we got a very small taste of what it would have been like for the heroic era explorers."

Shannah says leaving the huts was difficult after weeks of working in them.

"It was almost like leaving friends stranded."



Artefact Programme Coordinator Shannah Rhynard-Geil looking at artefacts inside Scott's *Terra Nova* hut. © AHT/Lizzie Meek

Alumni News

David Harrowfield NZAM

(Inaugural Trust Executive Officer). David has recently assisted the Trust with Scott's *Discovery* hut Conservation Management Plan due to be launched in the coming months.

He has also been helping an author with a proposed biography on Ernest Edward Mills Joyce, the noted Antarctic Royal Navy Petty Officer, and is busy with his co-author on the second draft for a paper on Inexpressible Island.



Josiah Tualamali'i

(Inspiring Explorer 2026) Josiah and film partner Benji Timu released their new short film *Tautoko The Panthers* — 2024. This short film shows the lead

up and how Josiah and Benji led friends and communities to #TautokoThePanthers after a public call in 2021 for a Dawn Raids



apology tied to their 50th anniversary. Their short film was also screened at Black Grace Niu Dawn Festival coinciding with New Zealand Samoan Language week. Watch now on YouTube.



Hans Masunu

(Young Inspiring Explorer 2024) Hans (left) was part of our Young Inspiring Explorers™ Summit in 2024 where young people aged 11-14 from all over New Zealand came to Christchurch (NZ), Antarctic gateway city, to develop their 'Explorer Mindset' and engage with Antarctica's history. Now, Hans was able to take his youngest brother to the Antarctic Centre in Christchurch and taught him all the cool things he learnt on the summit. Hans said his brother especially loved the Hagglands and huskies and now gets excited every time they drive past!

Owain John

(Inspiring Explorer 2020)

Owain has recently launched a mobile sauna in Christchurch (NZ) and had fun supporting the New Zealand Antarctic Society Polar Plunge in New Brighton to celebrate the winter solstice. Check out their Instagram @oceanembersauna.



Patrick Power

(Cape Adare Project Manager and former GM Programmes)

In the role of Antarctic Operations Manager, Earth Sciences NZ, Paddy was part of the SWAIS2C team that collected samples in West Antarctica last summer, 700km from Scott Base, and safely flew them back to New Zealand. The samples were extracted from under 500m of ice and 200m of bedrock to analyse evidence of when ice melted in the past, to predict future sea level rise.



Staff Updates

Lizzie Meek

Heritage Manager

We are delighted to congratulate longstanding staff member Lizzie Meek, who has recently been confirmed as a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), one of the highest recognitions in the conservation profession. This achievement reflects Lizzie's outstanding contribution to conservation and her longstanding commitment to protecting cultural heritage. Over many years, she has shared her specialist expertise across the Trust's heritage work, while leading, promoting and advocating for effective heritage management. Lizzie has been instrumental in supporting teams to deliver the world leading conservation solutions for which the Trust is internationally recognised. Her Fellowship is a fitting acknowledgement of her expertise, leadership and dedication to the conservation profession.



Dave Lynch

Chief Operations Officer

We welcomed Dave Lynch to the team as our Chief Operations Officer. Dave is a former diplomat who has spent the bulk of his career offshore, including postings at the New Zealand High Commission in London and Ottawa, and New Zealand's Embassy in Moscow. For the last eight years, Dave has been working at the New Zealand Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and brings with him a wealth of experience in international relations, strategic planning, policy development, and operations. Dave has recently returned to Christchurch to be closer to family and reconnect with his hometown as it continues to grow from strength-to-strength. He is thrilled to be joining the Trust and looks forward to leveraging his skill set and experience to support and contribute to the team's success.



Farewelling Patricia Mackenzie

Former Development & Philanthropy Manager

In June, we farewelled Patricia Mackenzie as she stepped away from the Trust to spend more time with her sons, Stirling and Monty, during these precious early years. Pattie has played an instrumental role in growing and strengthening the Trust's fundraising portfolios. We are grateful for her dedication and contribution, and wish her and her family all the very best for this next chapter.

Thank You

to our new Antarctic Explorer Members:

GOLD

Peter Cottier

SILVER

Mark & Anne Smith

BRONZE

Hans Bathija
Steve Dibbern
Drew Hartstone
Russell Yeh

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