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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 1 December 2011

Pages: 2

Captain Scott's grandson to conserve famous Antarctic expedition base

Captain Robert Falcon Scott's only grandson, Falcon Scott, will work on his grandfather's most famous Antarctic base this coming Antarctic summer season as part of the Antarctic Heritage Trust's team of conservation specialists.

Departing from New Zealand, Falcon Scott will be onsite for over a month at Captain Scott's Terra Nova hut at Cape Evans, Antarctica during the centenary of his grandfather's attainment of the South Pole.

Falcon Scott will be part of the conservation team involved in the Trust's long-term conservation programme to conserve Captain Scott's Terra Nova hut and the thousands of objects of everyday life and scientific enquiry.

It will be the first time that Falcon Scott will visit his famous grandfather's base. A builder by trade, Falcon will be undertaking carpentry work at Cape Evans, re-installing stove flues and part of the acetylene plant system as part of the Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project to save this remarkable heritage site.

"It is an honour to work on my Grandfather's Expedition Hut and to work with the team who are conserving it. This wooden hut was the last home my Grandfather knew. It represents the height of his life's achievements. And it stands in testament to the courage and endurance of all those men who shared his passion to explore the science of this amazing continent, and to attain for Britain the South Pole. It's incredible that the hut still remains much the same one hundred years later," said Falcon Scott.

The Antarctic Heritage Trust is a New Zealand based charity that cares for Captain Scott's base at Cape Evans on behalf of the international community. Antarctic Heritage Trust Executive Director Nigel Watson said, "It is fitting that Falcon Scott will be part of the team this year during such an extraordinary anniversary." The conservation project to save Scott's base is well advanced with conservation teams working year-round in Antarctica.

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Photo Opportunity

Falcon Scott will be available in Christchurch, New Zealand on Thursday 29 December 2011 for media interviews and photographs. He will be kitting himself out prior to deploying to Antarctica on Friday 30 December 2011.

Background Information**Antarctic Heritage Trust**

The Antarctic Heritage Trust, based in New Zealand, is recognised internationally as caring for four iconic expedition bases associated with the great polar explorers Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton and Carsten Borchgrevink.

Located in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica they have been described as amongst the most evocative heritage buildings in the world. The Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project is an international, long-term cold climate conservation project which aims to conserve both the buildings and the extensive artefact collections.

Captain Scott's Terra Nova base has more than 8,500 objects left behind by Scott and his men. The Trust has conserved more than 5,400 objects to date.

The British Antarctic Terra Nova Expedition 1910 – 1913

When Captain Robert Falcon Scott embarked on his second and last expedition in 1910 he had previously led the major National Antarctic Expedition 1901 – 1904 during which he reached a record 82°11' south, and made many scientific and geographical discoveries.

Scott's British Antarctic Expedition 1910 – 1913 was to be the pinnacle of Edwardian exploration with the attainment of the Geographical South Pole. But as his ship, *Terra Nova*, sailed south he received news that veteran Norwegian Explorer Roald Amundsen was headed for Antarctica with the same goal of attaining the South Pole. Amundsen attained the South Pole on 14 December 1911 with Scott reaching the South Pole on 17 January 1912. Scott and the Polar Party perished on the return journey to Cape Evans.

The British Antarctic Terra Nova Expedition 1910 – 1913 is associated with a large body of scientific work and many noble feats of endurance, including Wilson, Bowers and Cherry Garrard's epic journey to Cape Crozier in 1911 to gather Emperor Penguin eggs and the Northern Party's winter over at Inexpressible Island in 1912. The base was later used by Ernest Shackleton's Ross Sea Party (1915 – 1917). www.nzaht.org