

Canterbury Museum
Rolleston Avenue
Christchurch, New Zealand

Telephone +64 3 366 5000
Facsimile +64 3 366 5622



Rolleston Avenue
Christchurch 8013
New Zealand

PH 64 3 366 5000
FX 64 3 366 5622

www.canterburymuseum.com

MEDIA RELEASE

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International partnership to tour exhibition commemorating Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition

On the anniversary of the departure of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition from Lyttelton, the Natural History Museum, London, Antarctic Heritage Trust and Canterbury Museum, New Zealand have announced a partnership to present a major commemorative exhibition.

Scott's Last Expedition will tell the definitive story of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition to Antarctica, bringing together for the first time rare scientific specimens collected on the expedition and artefacts used by Scott and his team. By combining the historical, scientific and polar expertise of the partners, the exhibition will go beyond the familiar tales of the journey to the Pole and the death of the Polar party to explore the *Terra Nova* expedition from every angle.

Canterbury Museum Director Anthony Wright said, "The complementary strengths of the three organisations involved in the development of this exhibition allows a real depth of knowledge to be presented along with incredible artefacts that have never before been available to the public in such a way."

At the centre of the exhibition will be a stylised representation of Scott's hut, which is part of conservation project undertaken in Antarctica today by the Antarctic Heritage Trust. The exhibit will give visitors a sense of everyday realities for expedition members, their scientific investigations and powerful stories of human endeavour and survival through original artefacts, some of which will be on display for the first time.

Scott's Last Expedition opens at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney in June 2011. It moves to the Natural History Museum, London in January 2012, and returns to Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand in November 2012.

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Background

- *Scott's Last Expedition* is a partnership between the Natural History Museum, London, Antarctic Heritage Trust and Canterbury Museum, New Zealand.
- Antarctic Heritage Trust is a New Zealand based charity that cares for the original explorer's expedition bases in the Ross Dependency, Antarctica. This includes Captain Scott's iconic hut at Cape Evans on Ross Island, Antarctica. More details at www.nzaht.org
- Canterbury Museum is a major New Zealand institution with a world renowned collection of artefacts from Antarctica's heroic era. Visited by around 600,000 people each year – over half of them tourists – the Museum holds more than 2.5 million collection items in trust for the people of Canterbury.
- Winner of Visit London's 2009 Best London for Free Experience Award, the Natural History Museum is also a world-leading science research centre. Through its collections and scientific expertise, the Museum is helping to conserve the extraordinary richness and diversity of the natural world with groundbreaking projects in over 68 countries.

Contact

Anthony Wright, Director, Canterbury Museum, Tel +64 (3) 366 9429 ext: 822, M +64 (0) 21 679 957. awright@canterburymuseum.com

Media release prepared by

Karin Stahel

Communications Manager

Canterbury Museum

Direct Dial +64 3 366 9429 ext: 869

Email kstahel@canterburymuseum.com