



NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER AND SIR EDMUND HILLARY VISIT ANTARCTICA. BRITISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE HUTS.

January 2007 saw the New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon. Helen Clark and Trust patron Sir Edmund Hillary visit Antarctica for the 50th celebrations of New Zealand's establishment of Scott Base. Whilst there they visited the Ross Island historic huts left by Scott and Shackleton. Both addressed the accompanying media on the need for British financial support to save the historic huts left by the famed British explorers.

The New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Trust patron Sir Edmund Hillary have long been supporters of the Trust's work. The trip was a wonderful opportunity for them to meet the team working on site and for the Prime Minister to see this outstanding heritage which, as New Zealand Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, she has supported for many years. Their calls for support made headlines both in New Zealand and Britain. The trip follows the launch with the UKAHT in November of a British appeal to raise NZ\$9M to save Scott's last base at Cape Evans. The appeal was made at an event held at the Natural History Museum attended by the NZ Prime Minister and British Culture Minister David Lammy. In February David Lammy announced £250,000 of British Government funding to kick-start the appeal to save Scott's hut. The announcement also indicated the Government would help the UKAHT in its fundraising campaign to raise the target sum. This is a very welcome change in policy from the British Government and much is owed to the many supporters who have lobbied for this result over a long time—both from within Britain and New Zealand. More details on our website. www.nzah.org.

Soon after that announcement the Garfield Weston Foundation announced their second grant to the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project—a £100,000 grant towards the Scott's Cape Evans Hut appeal.

There is still a long way to go but over NZ\$1.3M has been raised and committed to start the Scott's hut project which is now the focus of our fundraising efforts. And the work is urgent with our team removing over 100 tonnes of snow and ice from on and around the building this season. Snowdrift has buried the hut at times and a wall of ice continues to build up against the building, threatening to destroy it. In past seasons unprecedented warm temperatures have melted the snow and the resulting water has run through the building and then refrozen causing damage to the building structure and the extensive artefact collection. The detailed research and planning to address this issue is complete and the first season's work will commence, subject to permitting, this coming summer.

Project Update

The Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project continues to make great progress with the end of the Antarctic summer signalling the biggest heritage programme ever undertaken in Antarctica. This season has been a major success with all planned work completed and is due in large part to the leadership of the Trust's Programme Manager Al Fastier and the fantastic team of ten specialists working onsite on the project. The team spent the majority of their time completing the last year of scheduled work to the building fabric of Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds and undertaking urgent remediation work at Scott's Cape Evans

base. The three year work programme at Shackleton's hut involved the relaying of a new roof covering, the removal of decaying stores from around the site's exterior, the removal of tonnes of ice from under the site, replacement of doors and windows, waterproofing of Mawson's laboratory and the reconfiguration of the interior of the hut to reflect its dominant period of occupation. Measures have been put in place to mitigate ice re-forming under the building. Routine maintenance will be carried out each season. This project has received significant support from US organisations such as The Getty Foundation, World Monuments Fund and American Express Foundation. A capital maintenance fund has also been created for the site in the name of Audrey Dance. The executors of Mrs Dance's estate made a major contribution in 2006.

While onsite the carpentry team was joined by James Blake (son of Sir Peter) for a six-week period as part of the Sir Peter Blake Antarctic Youth Ambassador scheme. James was a great asset and was responsible for the surprise discovery of over a hundred new artefacts found while excavating ice from under the building.

With the building site secured the work continues on conserving the thousands of artefacts associated with the site. Launched in 2006, this technically challenging sub-project is a world first for conservation in high latitudes. In its second successful year conservators work year round in Antarctica conserving the collection.

Teams of conservators deploy twice a year where they are based at New Zealand's Scott Base and undertake either the "Winter" (Feb to Aug) or "Summer" (Aug to Feb) shift.

To date over 1,400 objects have been conserved and 730 returned to Shackleton's hut. Our Winter team of four conservators (Chris Calnan and Fiona Cahill from the UK and Philippa Durkin and Emily Fryer from NZ) are currently making great progress as they work through the 24-hour darkness of the Antarctic winter. *Cont...*



Photo: James Blake, Sir Ed Hillary & Rt Hon Helen Clark, Cape Royds Jan 2007. Credit W Drought, NZPA.

They are carrying on the great work undertaken by Rob Clendon and Amy Ng (both from NZ) who worked both onsite at Cape Royds and at Scott Base last summer. The team's work is viewable on the Natural History Museum website dedicated to the project: www.nhm.ac.uk/antarctica-blog/

The Artefact Conservation Project enjoys significant funding support from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board and Hallensteins together with operational support from Antarctica New Zealand.

Other News

Trustees and Staff

Congratulations is extended to Trustee Paul Hargreaves who was awarded an ONZM for services to business and the community in the New Year's Honours 2007.

We welcome Norm McPherson in his new capacity as President of the New Zealand Antarctic Society.

It's been a year of growth for the Trust with three new personnel onboard in our offices in Christchurch and four conservators working at Scott Base in Antarctica.

In Christchurch, we welcome Robyn Brunton as Finance Manager, Karen Clarke as Administration Assistant and Matt Brown as Antarctic Co-ordinator (seconded from New Zealand's Department of Conservation).

Websites

The Trust has revamped it's website:

www.nzah.org

We also launched in November, at a function on the deck of the Fram in Norway, a website celebrating the little known heritage at Cape Adare.

www.norwaysforgottenexplorer.org

Our Supporters

The number of individuals and organisations supporting our work continues to grow.

Remember with the Trust's administrative costs being met by the New Zealand Government (through the **Ministry for Culture and Heritage**) and operating sponsors your donation goes directly to the Trust's project in Antarctica.

We are delighted to welcome **Singapore Airlines** as sponsor and **Official Airline of AHT**.

www.singaporeairlines.com

Hallensteins, a NZ clothing company, continues outstanding support of the RSHRP through royalties from its Scott Base range of clothing.

www.hallensteins.co.nz

Appreciation is extended to **Lion Foundation** who recently funded computer and office equipment for the Christchurch Office.

www.lionfoundation.org.nz

Christchurch International Airport Limited is a long-term supporter of our work and artefacts from the expedition bases are currently on display at the Christchurch New Zealand domestic airport until August.

www.christchurch-airport.co.nz

Southern Trust continues its very welcome support of the Trust's core operations through a grant made in 2006.

www.southerntrust.org.nz

Tourship operators **Quark Expeditions**, **Orion Expeditions** and **Heritage Expeditions** once again had a successful summer season in the Ross Sea visiting the expedition bases. All tour companies support the Trust's work through passenger contributions.

Quark Expeditions and **Orion Expeditions** also continue their long-standing support of the Trust through holding charity auctions onboard their ships.

We acknowledge the ongoing support of **Warners Historic Hotel**, Christchurch.

www.warnershotel.co.nz

Our sister Trust **UKAHT** continues to provide outstanding support through fundraising in the UK. Our congratulations is extended to Rachel Morgan on her appointment as Director. We also appreciate the longstanding support of **UKAHT** trustees and Chair Philippa Foster-Back.

Following a corporate donation to the project we welcome US website company **iExplore** as a supporter. **iExplore** specialises in adventure travel.

www.iexplore.com

Appreciation is extended to the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** for its recent annual contribution to the project.

Thanks to UK PR company **Captive Minds** for their support of the project through PR services in the UK.

www.captiveminds.co.uk

Thanks to **Digiweb** www.digiweb.co.nz who are hosting our website at reduced rates and to **Cabbage Tree Creative** for their long-term support, particularly their recent assistance with the website upgrade. www.cabbagetree.co.nz

Thanks to **David Wilson** and **Roger Wilson** for again donating proceeds from the sale of their CD "Songs of The Morning". Email chords@paradise.net.nz to obtain a copy.

The Trust is a charity chosen to be the recipients of the **Hewlett-Packard Planet Partners** reward scheme. HP's major clients can redeem loyalty points earned for recycling HP toners and redeem them against donations to the Trust.

Christies is holding The Polar Sale on 26 September 2007 in London.

www.christies.com

Memberships

Remember you can help us reduce paper by receiving your newsletter by email. If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically email us at info@nzah.org and we will include you on our electronic distribution list.

Membership subs will be sent out to all our Antarctic Explorers next month. In the meantime we welcome the following:

Antarctic Explorers: C Plug, Dr P Callaghan, R Banks, B Bernacchi, T Charbonneau, R Collins, J Dvenhoelter, N Morwood, Dr R Quinn. **Silver Explorer:** C Green. **Gold Explorers:** G Bayley, J Cameron, F & A Fisher.

Photo: Working in the Trust's artefact conservation laboratory. Summer 2006/07.

