

Antarctic Heritage Trust (New Zealand)

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MEDIA RELEASE

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World-leading project saves Scott's and Shackleton's Antarctic legacy

The world's most extreme conservation project has saved three historic buildings and thousands of artefacts once used by Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton.

The milestone was reached this Antarctic summer after a decade of extensive conservation work by the [Antarctic Heritage Trust \(New Zealand\)](#).

Over the life of the project 62 specialists from 11 countries have [undertaken cutting edge heritage conservation](#) unprecedented in its scale and complexity in the polar regions, to conserve Scott's and Shackleton's Antarctic legacy.

The three heroic-era buildings and their artefact collections were in danger of loss after a century of extreme environmental conditions. To combat this, and in a world-first, the Antarctic Heritage Trust has been working year round in Antarctica with the support of [Antarctica New Zealand](#).

Working from purpose-built conservation laboratories, artefact conservators, have meticulously conserved 18,202 individual artefacts including food supplies, clothing, equipment and personal items left behind in the historic huts. Heritage carpenters have repaired and weatherproofed Scott's huts at Cape Evans and Hut Point and Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds, improving environmental conditions.

During the conservation work previously undiscovered artefacts have been found including most famously crates of [Scotch whisky](#) and brandy at Shackleton's historic base, [unseen photographs](#) and a [notebook](#) from Scott's historic hut at Cape Evans.

While ongoing maintenance of the buildings and artefacts from Scott's and Shackleton's bases remain a priority, the Antarctic Heritage Trust will now begin conservation work on the first building on the continent at Cape Adare and, upon securing funding, the original building, built for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1955-58, at New Zealand's Scott Base.

"The dedication of the conservation teams and the passion for the legacy that they are saving has been the key to the project's success. We are particularly grateful for the support of the New Zealand Government and supporters worldwide. With ongoing care these sites will stand for current and future generations," said Nigel Watson, Antarctic Heritage Trust's Executive Director.

[Backgrounder and photo credits and links on page 2.]

Background to Antarctic Heritage Trust media release 28 January 2015

Photos & Credits

1. Video overview of conservation work can be shared via You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObPJzhvBUtc&x-yt-cl=84838260&x-yt-ts=1422327029>
2. Lead Carpenter Gordon Macdonald lifts the floorboards at Scott's Discovery Hut © Alasdair Turner Photography and nzaht.org
3. Conservator Nicola Dunn and Project Manager- Artefacts Lizzie Meek record the location of objects, in this case a pair of leg-warmers, in Scott's Hut, Cape Evans. © Alasdair Turner Photography and nzaht.org
4. Captain Scott's Hut, Cape Evans © Alasdair Turner Photography and nzaht.org

The heroic age of exploration

At the turn of the 20th century Antarctica was the focus of one of the last great races of exploration and discovery, the 'heroic age' of exploration (1895-1917). Expeditions led by some of the most famous names in exploration built simple wooden bases from which they set-out to explore the continent. These explorers mapped and undertook the first scientific study of Antarctica. The departure of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party in 1917 marked the end of the heroic era and it wasn't until 1946 that the huts were re-entered.

The expedition bases that remain from the heroic age of exploration (and cared for by the Antarctic Heritage Trust) include:

- Captain Scott's 1902 Discovery Hut, Hut Point, Ross Island, Antarctica
- Ernest Shackleton's 1908 Nimrod Hut, Cape Royds, Ross Island, Antarctica
- Captain Scott's 1911 Terra Nova Hut, Cape Evans, Ross Island, Antarctica
- Carsten Borchgrevink's 1899 Hut, Cape Adare, Northern Victoria Land, Antarctica

Antarctic Heritage Trust

The Antarctic Heritage Trust (New Zealand) are experts in cold-climate conservation. A not-for-profit organisation responsible for the conservation of five historic sites in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica including Ernest Shackleton's, Robert Falcon Scott's and Edmund Hillary's expedition bases through its world-leading Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

The Trust receives support from the New Zealand Government through Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Antarctica New Zealand, who provides logistical support for the project. The Trust also receives support from individuals and corporate sponsors.

www.nzaht.org

www.facebook.com/antarctic.heritage.trust

www.scottslastexpedition.org

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