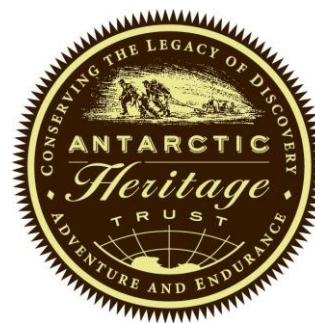


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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 12.30pm Tuesday 13 October 2015

NB: Backgrounder also attached.

Shackleton, Crean and Worsley inspire a new generation of explorers

Three young explorers have been picked from nearly two hundred applicants to join an international centenary expedition that honours the legacy of the early Antarctic explorers.

Sinead Hunt (IRE), Tom MacTavish (NZ) and James Blake (UK/NZ), chosen for their adventurous spirits and ability to inspire others, will join the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust's Inspiring Explorers Expedition 2015 to South Georgia Island. The team has assembled in New Zealand before departing on 16 October 2015.

"The three people we have chosen are each in their own way connected to the story, identities or nationalities of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Frank Worsley or Tom Crean who undertook the original crossing a century ago," said the Antarctic Heritage Trust's Executive Director Nigel Watson, who will also be taking part in the expedition.

The expedition team plan to disembark ship at King Haakon Bay and cross South Georgia on skis retracing the original route in a multi-day traverse of the Island before re-joining the ship at Stromness.

The original expedition undertaken by Shackleton, Crean and New Zealander Frank Worsley was the final 36 hour act of desperation and bravado to raise the alarm to rescue the crew of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition who were marooned on Elephant Island.

The crossing led by One Ocean Expeditions professional guides is highly dependent on weather conditions, with a success rate of approximately 60%.

Expedition updates will be posted on the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust's social sites:

<https://www.facebook.com/Antarctic.Heritage.Trust>

<https://twitter.com/InspireExplore>

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