



Media Statement

17 March 2015

PLAN LAUNCHED TO CONSERVE HILLARY'S ANTARCTIC HUT

Today, New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key has launched the Antarctic Heritage Trust's Conservation Plan for Hillary's Hut, in front of more than 125 Antarcticans at Parliament.

Hillary's Hut, 'Hut A', forms part of New Zealand's first scientific facility at Scott Base. It is the original remaining building established with the support of the New Zealand Government for the country's involvement in the Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-58 and International Geophysical Year 1957-58. It is designated as a Historic Monument under the Antarctic Treaty in recognition of its importance in the history of exploration and science in Antarctica.

The event was hosted by Hon Maggie Barry, Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage and included surviving members of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-58 and International Geophysical Year 1957-58 and members of Sir Edmund Hillary's family.

This conservation work is of great significance to New Zealand's history. "Sir Ed was the patron of the Antarctic Heritage Trust up until his passing. We are honoured to have the opportunity, in partnership with Antarctica New Zealand, to conserve the origins of Scott Base once we secure the necessary funding," says Nigel Watson, Executive Director, Antarctic Heritage Trust.

The Conservation Plan was written by a team of authors under the leadership of Conservation Architect Chris Cochran, and peer reviewed by international experts.

In 2012 the Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Antarctica New Zealand to manage this conservation work, including all fundraising for the site. Work will commence in the Antarctic summer of 2016-17 subject to the Trust securing funds.

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Notes to Editors:

The formal function to launch the Conservation Plan runs from 4:00pm – 5:30pm in the Banquet Hall, Parliament. Speeches commence at 4:30pm.

PHOTO-OP

Media are welcome to join a photo opportunity from 4:00pm – 4:15pm, 17 March 2015; front steps of Parliament / in case of rain please meet at the Banquet Hall foyer.

- Prime Minister, Minister Barry, original TAE/ IGY members and Antarctic Heritage Trust Chair Paul East
- Prime Minister, June, Lady Hillary (widow of Sir Ed), Peter Hillary (son of Sir Ed), and Antarctic Heritage Trust Chair Paul East
- Prime Minister, Minister Barry, Antarctic Heritage Trust Chair Paul East, Antarctic Heritage Trust Director Nigel Watson