



New camp for oldest site

The turks are installed at Cape Adare. © Erik Bradshaw

A chance chat at a workshop between Trust Programme Manager Al Fastier and Queenstown adventurer Erik Bradshaw established a mutual interest in water tank huts. Al was in the process of designing a remote field camp and Erik had built a prototype tank hut as an emergency back country ski hut.

From there, a desire was born to work together to design a 'tank hut' that would be suitable for the extreme Antarctic environment.

Erik worked with Al and the Trust's structural engineer Win Clark to design the turks. Each turk has a 10m² floor area and the three structures form a living area, work shed and store room.

Based on this design Antarctica New Zealand then commissioned Erik to construct three huts, which Erik calls 'turks' - "Not a hut, not a yurt, not a tank so must be a turk."

The turks form part of a field camp at Cape Adare in Antarctica - a remote and wild place where temperatures can reach -30 degrees. The turks will serve as the temporary base for Antarctic Heritage Trust experts conserving the first building on the continent - early explorer Carsten Borchgrevink's hut.

Al says this project was a great example of Kiwi ingenuity, right down to the idea of filling the bases with two tonnes of gravel so they don't blow over in the 200km per hour winds that roar into Cape Adare.

The turks took six weeks to assemble, and were built in Lyttelton by Richard Harcourt, Gary Rochford and Dirk Passchier. They were transported on the Chinese national Antarctic programme's icebreaker *Xue Long*.

"Cape Adare is also home to the world's largest Adélie penguin rookery, so we have to time the turks' arrival for when the birds have finished nesting," says Erik.

The camp was successfully installed in



Cape Adare 'turks' team: Jeff Rawson, John Taylor, Erik Bradshaw, Doug Henderson.
© Julie Patterson

February this year. The team consisted of Erik, Queenstown builder Doug Henderson, engineer and mechanic Jeff Rawson and Department of Conservation backcountry construction specialist John Taylor. Luckily, around 35 members of the *Xue Long's* crew were available to assist, meaning the camp was installed in record time.

Erik said he is confident the conservation team will like what they see when they walk into the huts next year. "I think they'll be really happy. Compared with staying in a canvas tent, it's complete luxury."

A team of seven conservation experts will be working onsite at Cape Adare for a further two summer seasons to complete the conservation programme.

Executive Director Nigel Watson says, "We are very grateful to Antarctica New Zealand for their support on this important project and to the crew of the *Xue Long* for their assistance transporting and installing the camp in such a remote place. It provides the foundation for our work on this historically significant site that we care for on behalf of humanity."



Read more about the turks at nzaht.org



Stunning Stonington

East Base US on Stonington Island, Antarctic Peninsula. © Al Fastier

The Trust is delighted to have the team assisting our sister trust UKAHT on the Antarctic Peninsula as part of the new multi-year agreement. Nigel Watson (Executive Director) says it was wonderful to have UKAHT Chief Executive Camilla Nichol in New Zealand late last year to finalise the agreement, which sees the Trust sharing their expertise developed during the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project in Antarctica.

Programme Manager Al Fastier worked on the Peninsula with UKAHT last season at Horse Shoe Island and headed back this

season to work on Stonington Island.

During this expedition, Al and the team set out to complete a detailed conservation survey of a historic British scientific base, known as Base E, which was established in 1946. This survey is part of a larger UKAHT multi-year project to conserve six former British bases. The information collected during these surveys will be used to develop comprehensive conservation plans for the conservation and care for each site. As well as undertaking the survey the team also carried out emergency repairs to reduce snow and melt water ingress to

slow down the rate of decay to the building fabric and artefact collection until long-term repairs solutions are implemented.

With 30 years of experience working in remote places, Al said, "Stonington Island is the most stunning location that I have ever worked, with its 360 degree views of mountains, glaciers and ice bergs."

Lizzie Meek, the Trust's Programme Manager – Artefacts, took over from Al in the latter part of the season and is surveying and providing advice on the artefact collection.

Raising the Roof



The team gathers in front of Hillary's (TAE) Hut. © AHT

Antarctic Heritage Trust has finished the last major job of saving Hillary's (TAE) Hut at Scott Base – installing a new roof. The hut was built by a team under Sir Ed's leadership in 1957 as part of New Zealand's involvement in the Trans-Antarctic Expedition and International Geophysical Year. Trust Programme Manager Al Fastier says it's been a long and successful road to save the hut and conserve the hundreds

of artefacts within it. "As a historic site, its significance is that it's the birthplace of New Zealand's presence in Antarctica and the link to Sir Ed's famous tractor trip to the South Pole."

While working to conserve Hillary's Hut last season, the need for a weather-tight long-term roofing solution was identified. Al says the Trust wanted the roofing solution to last a minimum of 35 years but

more likely 50 to 60 years. A plan was then developed to overclad the historic roof, meaning the original roof remained intact.

A key feature of the newly restored hut is the aluminium roof, complete with new battens painted in the original bright orange. As if the project itself did not provide enough of a challenge, the team had to work around extreme weather systems that included snow and wind storms.

For specialist standing seam roofer, Mike Burgess, the conditions provided a job unlike anything he had ever tackled. The project manager for Architectural Metalformers is used to working through complicated roofing projects in rural, commercial and urban environments – less so in the world's harshest environment. Mike combined his more than 20 years in the business, with further research, to come up with the robust long-term waterproof roofing solution.

The Trust acknowledges Architectural Metalformers, Pacific Coilcoaters, Sika NZ, Nexus Foams and Dulux New Zealand for their donated products and technical assistance.

Inspiring Explorers Announced

We are thrilled to announce the selection of two New Zealanders and two Australians to take part in the Trust's 2018 Inspiring Explorers' Expedition to attempt a crossing of the Greenland ice cap in May.

The Trust's third Inspiring Explorers' Expedition will honour the remarkable legacy of Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen, whose first crossing of Greenland 130 years ago is one of the world's great polar exploration stories.

The Inspiring Explorers' team, which includes Executive Director Nigel Watson, will attempt the 560+ km journey on skis, dragging 60kg sledges behind them. The crossing is expected to take around one month. Joining the expedition is Master Polar Guide Bengt Rotmo from Borge Ousland Polar Exploration. The team will share their stories to inspire others to get out and explore.

We are delighted that outdoors company Kathmandu are a sponsor for the expedition. The team will be wearing Kathmandu's new XT Series of clothing, especially developed for extreme environments.



Fridtjof Nansen.
Source: George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress)



You can follow the expedition online at nzaht.org

BRANDO YELAVICH

Brando Yelavich will be a name familiar to many New Zealanders. He was the first person to circumnavigate the entire coastline of New Zealand, which was an adventure that changed his life.

Since achieving that remarkable feat of mental and physical endurance, Brando has dedicated himself to becoming a full-time explorer. He is passionate about inspiring others to explore the world around them through school talks and books and his growing online presence. In his own words, "There's no right or wrong in adventure. It's a beautiful way to bring people together and to spread happiness."



KEITH PARSONS

A skilled photographer and videographer, Australian Keith Parsons' work has taken him all over the world. In between stints in London and Melbourne working as a picture editor for a national media company and a content coordinator for a non-government organisation, he spent a year in sub-Saharan Africa, where he worked as a freelance visual journalist. Keith is an avid endurance runner, mountain biker and all-round outdoor enthusiast.

Coupled with his love of the outdoors is a passion for polar history, and the exploits of explorers like Fridtjof Nansen. Keith describes Nansen's influence in exploration and beyond, "Fridtjof Nansen's original journey is, in my mind, one of the most notable feats of polar exploration, as we know it ushered in a prolonged period of firsts. However, to me Nansen's political and humanitarian efforts are even greater; resulting in his 1922 Nobel Peace Prize."



BRIDGET KRUGER

Bridget Kruger is no stranger to the great outdoors, having worked for years as an outdoor instructor and adventure therapist all over the world. Bridget divides her time between Australia and New Zealand, depending on where her work takes her.

Bridget had a life-altering experience while working in Canada as a dog sled guide. She was involved in a serious accident, when a person lost control of their sled and ran her over, leading to a traumatic head injury. Through her long recovery, Bridget found solace in nature. She says, "There is something about adventuring in nature that ignites the spirit and brings out the best in us."



HOLLIE WOODHOUSE

Christchurch-based designer and adventure enthusiast Hollie Woodhouse isn't one to shy away from an opportunity to explore the world, a fact that's perhaps best summed up by the name of the magazine she founded in 2015 - 'Say Yes To Adventure'. Hollie's thirst for adventure has taken her to the Sahara Desert and the Amazon Jungle, where she competed in endurance events covering over 200km in five days. Back home, Hollie has competed in events including the Coast To Coast and Red Bull Defiance.

Hollie says, "I don't want to look back on my time and regret not having given every opportunity that comes before me a go."



Governance

Congratulations to Board Chair Mark Stewart who was acknowledged as a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year's honours list for services to community and sport.

We farewelled British High Commissioner

Jonathan Sinclair who returned to the UK in December. We thank him for his service on the Board.

We also acknowledged Mariska Wouters, President of New Zealand Antarctic Society, who stepped down in October

2017 after serving for three years. We welcome Linda Kestle who was confirmed to the position in February 2018.



Mark Stewart MNZM

Ambassadors' Antarctic Awe



© Diana McCormack

Conservation Ambassador Diana McCormack and Antarctic Youth Ambassador Chris Ansin (in partnership with Sir Peter Blake Trust and Antarctica New Zealand) formed an important part of the Trust's team this season. They worked on the new roof for Hillary's (TAE) Hut and the monitoring and maintenance of Scott's and Shackleton's huts. Read about their time on the ice and impact it had on them, in their own words below.

Conservation Ambassador DIANA MCCORMACK

Since getting back everyone has been asking me "Well, how was it?" and I keep finding myself short on adjectives. It's hard to sum up just how special a place Antarctica really is or the real sense of privilege I found at being able to work in the historic huts. I met lots of interesting and lovely people, went snow-caving, bounced over the sea ice in a Hagglund, camped in sight of Mt Erebus, flew over the Barne glacier in a helicopter and learned so much about the first expeditions to the Ross Sea.

Joining Al and Lizzie and the team for just one season, it really struck me how much work has already gone into the huts and the enormous achievements of everyone in that team over the years. Thinking about all the logistics and planning that have been behind all that fieldwork is pretty humbling.

It has given me fresh positivity in tackling my own conservation challenges at home, because the historic ships can be daunting at times. We are constantly battling the elements and trying to preserve very large objects in the outdoor marine environment – but seeing what has been possible in Antarctica and getting a taste of working in those conditions has given me a new perspective.

When I get asked "What's the most memorable thing you took away from it all?" it still takes a minute to find an answer. But if I close my eyes the first thing that comes back is walking through the door to the Terra Nova hut at Cape Evans, and the amazing smell of blubber, and straw and timber. That's going to stay with me for a long time!

Antarctic Youth Ambassador CHRIS ANSIN

When I talk to people about what it is like to visit and live in Antarctica, everyone's imagination is that Antarctica is an incredibly remote, beautiful and stunning environment. While no truer words have been spoken, Antarctica has left a very different, and for me, even more special impression. It was the environment that the people created, one of collaboration, hard work, friendship and happiness. Nowhere else have I ever experienced something more powerful than being surrounded by people where everyone was living the life that made them happy.

I feel humbled to have worked alongside some of the most incredible people I have ever met. Al, Lizzie, Geoff and Diana were such an amazing team to work with. It was hard not to feel inspired just working and spending time alongside them.

Antarctica itself still seems such a surreal place, full of magic and wonder. Stepping into the historic huts flung striking pictures of the struggles of the men no older than myself into my mind. The vivid history of the surroundings envelopes you in emotion, it is impossible not to form a connection. To work on and help preserve the legacy of the heroic explorers that I idolise was such a rare treat and one that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Experiencing the grandest and most dramatic landscapes on the planet, I am now only beginning to realise the effect that Antarctica has had on me. I am truly excited by the possibilities of life, and feel so privileged to have experienced this amazing continent with the crew from AHT. I definitely have the Antarctic bug!



Read more on the Antarctic blog at
nzaht.org

Watch Now!

Thank you to Christchurch Airport (NZ) for the use of their Flying South Cinema to host a local screening of the Trust's latest Inspiring Explorers' film 'The Last 36'. The film retraces the footsteps of Shackleton, Worsley and Crean across South Georgia Island. There was a lot of family history with Andrew and Peter McCarthy (great-nephews of Tim McCarthy who was on the *James Caird* voyage), and Brian Honeybone (great-nephew of Tom Crean) attending the event along with 2015 Inspiring Explorer Tom MacTavish and AHT Executive Director Nigel Watson (pictured left to right).



© AHT



watch 'The Last 36' at nzaht.org

Thank You

We welcome the following new members:

Silver Maurice Bognuda (NZ)

Bronze Mike Shipway (UK)

If you would like to support our work, we would welcome your donation or support as an Antarctic Explorer Club member.

More information on how to support the Trust can be found on our website.

nzaht.org