



NZ Government Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage Hon Maggie Barry outside Hillary's hut before announcing a Government grant of NZD\$180,000 to complete the appeal. Left to right: Martin Wenzel Lead Heritage Carpenter, Doug Henderson Heritage Carpenter, Nigel Watson Executive Director, Hon Maggie Barry, Al Fastier Programme Manager, Geoff Cooper Heritage Carpenter and Mark Stewart, Chair Antarctic Heritage Trust.

## Hillary's Hut, Scott Base

A major focus for the Antarctic Heritage Trust is saving Sir Edmund Hillary's and the IGY/TAE Antarctic legacy.

Currently a team of conservators are undertaking work on-site at New Zealand's scientific facility, Scott Base, to conserve 'Hillary's hut', an integral part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-1958 and the International Geophysical Year 1957-1958.

'Hillary's hut' (Hut A), was the original mess, kitchen and Hillary's office. 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, and is the foundation of New Zealand's modern Scott Base and continuous presence on the Ice for 60 years.

In March 2015 the New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key launched the Conservation Plan for the building and the artefact collection.

We are delighted that the Trust has reached our target and raised

NZD\$964,000 to conserve the building and artefact collection and maintain both for the foreseeable future.

We are extremely thankful to all those individuals, foundations, corporates and to the New Zealand Government who have helped us achieve the goal. This has included major grants from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and the New Zealand Government amongst others. The Trust also raised funds via a unique public fundraising initiative, *Expedition South* (see story overleaf).

Currently the team in Antarctica, led by our conservation managers Al Fastier and Lizzie Meek, are undertaking major work that includes waterproofing the building, removing its asbestos lining and conserving the artefact collection.

It is hoped that the major conservation work will be completed by 20 January 2017 to coincide with Scott Base's 60th anniversary.

## Governance

September 2016 marked some key changes in the Trust's governance. Long-standing Chair, Rt Hon Paul East CNZM QC, has stepped down after a decade in the role. He has been a dedicated Chair and advocate for the Trust over that time. Paul joined the Board in 2002 following a distinguished career in the legal, parliamentary and diplomatic services and will retire from the Board in May 2017.

We congratulate new Trust Chair, and current independent trustee, Mark Stewart on his new role. Alongside his business commitments Mark is also Honorary Consul for Malaysia in New Zealand and holds Malaysian Royal Honours. Mark has been a board trustee since 2012.

We also acknowledge the retirement of long standing independent trustee Sir Chris Mace KNZM, CNZM from the Trust board in September after many years of loyal service. Chris has held various roles over the years both as an independent and ex-officio trustee.

We also welcome new independent trustee Roy Dillon, a professional director, to the Board.

## Thank You

We welcome the following new Antarctic Explorer members:

**Gold Explorers** Leatitia Ballagh (NZ), Mark Cullen (NZ), Todd Stewart (NZ);

**Silver Explorer** Paul Martin (NZ);

**Bronze Explorers** Richard Clement (NZ), Andrew Gould (UK), Evan Jenkins (NZ), Allister Jennings (NZ), Sue Walsh (NZ) and Ian Williams (AU).

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).

## Expedition South

To raise awareness and funds to conserve 'Hillary's hut', the Trust launched *Expedition South*, a quintessential Kiwi journey that honoured the original Hillary-led expedition from Scott Base to the South Pole by Ferguson tractor.

On 23 August 2016 two vintage TE-20 Ferguson tractors along with a modern Massey Ferguson tractor set off from the Hillary Trail at Piha, New Zealand. Their destination was Aoraki Mt Cook some 2,000 kilometres 'down the road' in sight of the Hillary Ridge. In touring the country the tractors covered the same distance that Sir Ed's original Antarctic party made on their epic tractor journey to the South Pole.

*Expedition South* arrived safely at Mt Cook on 19 September, despite some rough weather days and the occasional mechanical breakdown, to be greeted by some TAE descendants, the media, excited members of the public, Beaver and Auster aircraft and even a pack of huskies. Sir Ed's son Peter Hillary, who drove one of the tractors over the finish line, said it was a nostalgic moment. "Being on the same type of tractor as Dad's expedition had when they went to the South Pole was a nice nod to history."



Peter Scott NZ Manager AGCO, Lydia McLean Expedition Co-ordinator, Peter Hillary, Al Fastier Expedition Leader and Brian Blyth Driver and Mechanic, Mt Cook. © Fairfax

En route the team visited many communities and sites associated with Sir Ed Hillary's life. They took part in thirty events and visited ten schools with fifty schools also following the journey online. The expedition raised over NZD\$100,000 towards our target.

Our dedicated website allowed the public to follow the expedition online and linked people to our givealittle page. Gratifyingly, *Expedition South* received major media interest, raising awareness of this legacy in Antarctica.

The Trust would like to thank the many

individuals and schools who have helped to save 'Hillary's hut'. The Trust also gratefully acknowledges the sponsors, supporters and service providers including AGCO, The Hermitage Hotel, Bluebridge, Christchurch Airport, DDB, PwC, Commodore Hotel, Earth Sea Sky, AMI, Tait Communications, Logic Wireless, Allan Scott Family Winemakers, Great Scott Communications, Z Energy, Auckland Grammar School and Old Boys' Association, Tuakau Primary School and many others too numerous to mention here.

## AHT and UKAHT collaboration

We are delighted to further strengthen our close relationship with the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. In July 2016 our Programme Manager, Al Fastier, travelled to the UK to participate in a planning and health and safety training workshop with UKAHT. The workshop laid the foundation for the conservation work, which will be undertaken in February 2017 on the Antarctic Peninsula. Al will be part of a UKAHT four-person team spending a month on-site at Base Y, Marguerite Bay, Horseshoe Island undertaking emergency repair work to the building and scheduling building and artefact work for future years. The scientific base (1955-1960), now under UKAHT's care, once conducted geology, meteorology and topographic survey research.

This collaboration follows reciprocal visits over the 2014-2015 season, first by

UKAHT Chief Executive Camilla Nichol to the Trust's Ross Sea Island sites to view the conservation work achieved, followed by our Executive Director, Nigel Watson, viewing the Peninsula sites under UKAHT's care ([ukaht.org](http://ukaht.org)).

## Cape Adare

The successful expedition by the Trust's conservation team to Cape Adare in 2015-2016 resulted in the removal of more than 1,200 objects from site temporarily to New Zealand for conservation. This is a significant site being the very first building on the Antarctic continent.

Since May, our dedicated team of conservators managed by Artefact Programme Manager Lizzie Meek, have been working in Canterbury Museum's conservation laboratory. The team of four, Susan Bassett, lead conservator, and conservators Stefanie White, Josefin Bergmark-Jiménez and Ciarán Lavelle, together have conserved more than 900 artefacts.

Work has included a mixture of treatments. Paper wrappers and labels belonging to tins of Bovril Emergency Food, Moir's Seville Orange Marmalade and Symington's Pea Soup have been treated as have the tins and their contents. Other objects range from a pair of heavily deteriorated woollen long johns with tin-plated buttons to a makeshift first aid kit and photographic objects attributed to Burroughs Wellcome & Co.



Lizzie Meek, Artefact Programme Manager, inspects an edition of *The Press* newspaper discovered at Cape Adare. © Fairfax