

ANTARCTIC



The Journal of the New Zealand Antarctic Society

Vol 25, No. 1 & 2, 2007 Special Double Issue



**NEW ZEALAND CELEBRATES
50 YEARS ON THE ICE**

CELEBRATE!

The year 2007 gives the New Zealand Antarctic Society so many reasons to celebrate. First, it is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Scott Base on Ross Island, Antarctica. Second, March 1 2007 saw the official launch of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007 – 2009. IPY provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of scientific investigation in the polar regions and is an excellent way to educate young people on the importance of Antarctica. Finally, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of IGY a successful global science campaign that is often credited with the agreement to the Antarctic Treaty 1959.

These three alone are reasons to celebrate indeed.

But there are other, perhaps smaller, reasons to celebrate too. For example, this special double issue of the journal marks the 200th issue of Antarctic, the New Zealand Antarctic Society publication that is the face of your society and well recognised in the Antarctic community. It gives me a great sense of pride to be the current editor of your publication and I often marvel at the excellence of Antarctic-related activity that I come across both here in New Zealand and globally. The 200th issue is an opportunity to thank all those who have been involved with this publication - they provide input and support in many different ways.

So, the call is to celebrate this year, whether it be at the Antarctica New Zealand 50th Anniversary Conference in Wellington in July, or at the 50th Scott Base reunion event to be held in Christchurch as part of the September Christchurch Antarctic Festival. But,

we must also prepare for another reason to celebrate. That is, for the 75th anniversary of the New Zealand Antarctic Society in 2008.

The 75th anniversary should indeed be a time to reflect on our achievements as a society, from our early beginnings in 1933, through to the period of modern exploration of the Antarctic when the society played a key role in encouraging New Zealand to become engaged with the Ross Dependency. The 2008 celebrations should also be a time to look to the future, to begin to discuss the future of your society and the role it will play in Antarctic affairs over the next 50 years. What will Antarctica be like in the future? How important will it be to all of us in 2050? Should New Zealand continue to play a key role in the Antarctic's future and what should that future hold?

If we care, as a society, about the answers to these questions we should not only reminisce about the great and good things that we have achieved. We should also be discussing, as a society, the role we wish to play in an Antarctic future – this will require new members, a strong commitment from the membership as a whole and encouragement of robust debate on and involvement with Antarctic policy.

Celebrate!

***Michelle Rogan-Finnemore
Editor, Antarctic***



ANTARCTIC

COVER



Scott Base today.

Photo by Erik Barnes.

Antarctica NZ Pictorial Collection K4010506.

Back Cover Photo: Beginning the construction of Scott Base showing F, D, and C Huts and the start of the covered way.
Antarctica NZ Pictorial Collection TAE848.

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British Government boosts Huts Restoration

The British Government had been criticised for not giving any money toward the restoration of the Antarctic huts used by its early polar explorers Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton in the Ross Sea Region. Now, the British Government has announced it will provide money to restore the huts used by these explorers 100 years ago.

The restoration project has been a labour of love for the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust which has been painstakingly restoring Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds. It needs about NZ\$9 million to do the same at Scott's building at Cape Evans.

The British Government will give £250,000 (\$NZ703,234) to the project and will kick-start a British fund-raising campaign to restore Scott's Hut.

British Culture Minister David Lammy made the pledge, saying the British explorers of the Antarctic in the early years of the 20th Century had a place in Britain's national heritage that was unique.

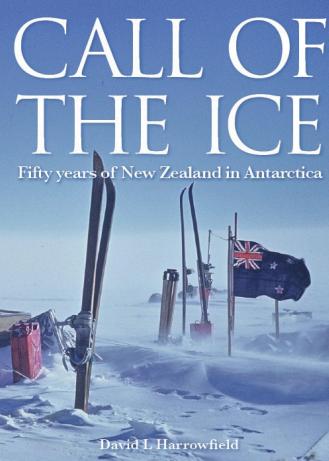
New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust chairman Paul East said that the trust and its British sister trust, to which the funding would be passed, were particularly thankful for the efforts of many high profile supporters



after earlier indications that direct British Government funding was unlikely. Mr East thanked the New Zealand Government and Prime Minister Helen Clark who has been pressing the case with her British counterpart. He noted the new funding would allow work to start on Scott's hut next Antarctic summer. "The building is in a critical state and it is essential we get underway as soon as possible," he said.



*External view of Shackleton's Hut.
Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection
K2420506.*



CALL OF THE ICE: FIFTY YEARS OF NEW ZEALAND IN ANTARCTICA

David Bateman Ltd Publishers, has announced the publication date for David Harrowfield's new book, entitled *Call of the Ice: Fifty Years of New Zealand in Antarctica*. The volume will be published in August 2007, in time for the New Zealand Antarctic Society celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of Scott Base. With over 150

colour and b & w photographs scattered throughout, and with information based on meticulous research, this book will be a popular addition to any library.

The publishers have promised the NZAS a copy to review, so look for it in a later edition of the *Antarctic journal*.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY



The new director for the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is Professor Nick Owens, who takes up the new post in August 2007, when the current director, Professor Chris Rapley, retires.

Nick has a distinguished research career in marine biogeochemistry, including fundamental studies of the Southern Ocean. He is also a very experienced leader both in the university environment and of a world-class research institute, the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML). Nick will build on the work of Chris Rapley in developing the excellence of the British Antarctic Survey.

Nick Owens, a marine scientist by training and career, became director of PML in 2000. Nick created a strong centre, driving PML forward to become the dynamic, independent organisation that it is today. He started off his professional life as a marine biology graduate at Liverpool, via the Port Erin Laboratory, and followed this up with PhD studies at the University of Dundee. Following his PhD, Nick was fortunate in obtaining a job as a researcher in Plymouth at the then named Institute for Marine Environmental Research which became PML in 1988.

Nick Owens said, "I am delighted and honoured to be taking on the task of leading the British Antarctic Survey, one of the world's leading research organisations in polar science. There are many exciting opportunities opening up, particularly in understanding the role of the polar regions in the Earth system. I look forward to leading the British Antarctic Survey over the coming years in developing these new research areas."

Expedition to Greenland on Offer for NZ Students and Teachers

The prize for this year's Freemasons BIG Science Adventures secondary school DVD competition will be four places on a guided expedition to Greenland in August 2007. To enter, teams of three students (Years 11-13) and a teacher are tasked with producing a five minute programme on a local climate or energy story.

The best six teams will be chosen to go on a week-long film school in July at the University of Otago natural history filmmaking unit.

They will receive special tuition and complete a short video based on a one-day excursion to various places in the Otago area. This will help judges decide the ultimate winners. Each team will be supported by a film mentor – a new graduate of the University natural history filmmaking course.

The team that goes to Greenland will make a ten minute documentary of their trip, focussing on climate and energy. They will go to remote and beautiful Eastern Greenland, where the Inuit people still live a very traditional lifestyle, now under serious threat from climate change.

Grand Master of the Freemasons, Mr Barry McLaggan, says, "There's no learning to equal actual experience. Also, to explain something to other people – in this case on video

– you have to understand it very well yourself. Going to Greenland, especially the east coast, will be a very BIG adventure for our young people – it's certainly not a tourist resort. They will learn about the struggle of various peoples to survive there. The Vikings settled in Greenland but ultimately died out because, it seems, they could not fully adapt to the severe climate. There's an important lesson in that as climate change starts to affect our own farming community."

The winners of the 2006 competition, the team from Wellington High, have just returned from a trip to the Antarctic, their prize for producing a stand-out documentary on the work of astronomers at the Mt John Observatory.

The three DVD competitions sponsored by Freemasons New Zealand, beginning with the Transit of Venus in 2004, have been greatly stimulating for students and teachers, and produced an impressive body of creative work. They have attracted students with a wide variety of talents, who have formed teams with complementary skills.

Entries from previous years may be viewed at www.hotscience.co.nz. Further details are at www.rsnz.org.

New Zealand Prime Minister Opens New Arrival Heights Research Facility

In conjunction with the Scott Base 50th anniversary celebrations, Prime Minister Helen Clark officially opened the new Arrival Heights Research Facility on 20 January 2007 by unveiling a commemorative plaque. The opening was attended by 25 invited visitors and media personnel who were hosted on a tour of the facility on Ross Island overlooking McMurdo Station and Scott Base. The Arrival Heights Facility is located in Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) 122, which was granted protected status to prevent disturbance to the area which is electromagnetically quiet and atmospherically clean. The Arrival Heights Facility contains sensitive scientific instru-

ments that work optimally under these pristine conditions.

New Zealand has conducted science at Arrival Heights since the 1959/60 season, when an Auroral Radar Station was installed to look at solar winds and their effect on the earth. In February 1960, 15 tonnes of radar, aerial and building materials were moved to the site. Within two days the buildings were completed, one aerial completed and foundations drilled for a second. A telephone line and power supply, connected to generators at McMurdo were also established.

The original radar recorded auroral phenomena 800-1600 kms to the North. This formed part of a North/

South multi-site auroral recording chain extending from the South Pole station to Christchurch, New Zealand. This research aimed to explain the nature of aurora and its effect on radio communications.

Research broadened in 1963 once it was recognised that projects could be carried out without electrical, mechanical and light interference from nearby bases. By December that year a new Radar Hut and stores facility was established. In 1974 the programme expanded further with equipment for studying the exosphere. New facilities in 1984 included upper atmosphere recording equipment and an emergency accommodation hut.

New Arrival Heights Research Facility.



In January 1991, Telecom commissioned a new satellite earth station near Arrival Heights. A 15-metre Radome, containing the equipment, was built at First Crater. The opening of this new facility had a major effect on communication to and from Scott Base.

Currently science teams at Arrival Heights examine natural phenomena occurring in the earth's atmosphere. Most of the instruments at Arrival Heights measure the ozone hole and the chemicals that are part of the destruction process. The research conducted by NZ's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA), contributes to one of five primary stations around the world, which make up the Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change (NDACC).

The NDACC is a set of more than 70 high-quality, remote-sensing research stations for observing and understanding the physical and chemical state of the stratosphere and upper troposphere and for assessing the impact of stratosphere changes on the underlying troposphere and on global climate. While the NDACC remains committed to monitoring changes in the stratosphere with an emphasis on the long-term evolution of the ozone layer, its priorities have broadened considerably to encompass issues such as the detection of trends in overall atmospheric composition and understanding their impacts on the stratosphere and troposphere, and establishing links between climate change and atmospheric composition.

The oldest instrument at Arrival Heights is the Dobson Spectrophotometer, which was built in the 1930s. It measures the total amount of ozone above Arrival Heights. The instrument looks at the difference in intensity between two different UV frequencies (one where ozone is known to absorb UV radiation and one where ozone does not absorb) and calculates the total amount of ozone needed to create that difference in the atmosphere. This very old instrument is an important calibration point for ozone monitoring satellites.

Meteorological measurements are conducted automatically and regularly



Summer Science Technician Penny Clendon tests Dobson Spectrophotometer.

at the Arrival Heights Facility, with the results sent back to New Zealand through the internet for analysis and archiving. Measurements of solar winds and the aurora australis are made using a micro-pulsation instrument and an all-sky camera by researchers from the University of Newcastle, Australia, to capture the southern lights events when they occur during the winter. The data received is part of the SuperDARN consortium of stations measuring solar plasma motion and its effects on the earth. Along with this international consortium, the data is part of the SCOSTEP-Climate and Weather of the Sun-Earth System (CAWSES) used to monitor and predict space weather for satellite protection.

The University of Canterbury monitors the middle atmosphere with a radar system generated at Scott Base and detected at Arrival Heights. The information gained from the radar instruments is used to monitor wind velocities in the



Plaque on the new research facility. All photos by Graham White.

mesosphere which are a sensitive indicator of climate change. The monitoring site at Arrival Heights is the longest running, continuous site in world, providing information for the past 25 years.

TWO KIWIS TRUDGE TO THE POLE

Two young New Zealand adventurers Kevin Biggar and Jamie Fitzgerald got a warm reception at one of the coldest places on Earth after an epic 52 days trudge to the South Pole.

Biggar told *The Press* newspaper in Christchurch that the duo had been unsure what to expect when they dropped in at the US Amundsen-

11am on 2 January 2007, they unfurled the New Zealand flag and enjoyed a cup of tea and a cookie offered by staff at the South Pole research base.

Biggar and Fitzgerald towed sleds from the coast to the Pole and had hoped to retrace their steps but a hamstring injury to Fitzgerald in the last 600 kms of their 1,111 kms march

jubilant, they boarded a private plane ...and covered 1,067 kms in a few hours, reported Henzell. "Biggar and Fitzgerald had barely a day at the Pole before managing to catch a flight to Patriot Hills ice runway, a staging post on the way to South America, but in that time they had already had the typical Kiwi experience of arriving at a far-flung outpost to find other New Zealanders already there."

(Several Kiwis are working at the United States Antarctic Programme's South Pole base, with some tradespeople having spent repeat winters completing a new base building).

Bigger and Fitzgerald were met at the Pole by National Geographic cameraman, Mike Single, another kiwi.

Biggar, a 37-year old Aucklander, and his 26-year old fellow trekker Fitzgerald, of Tauranga, overcame poor weather, soft snow, ice ridges and injuries on their way to the Pole, tugging 160 kg sleds behind them and unsupported by air supply drops.

Biggar and Fitzgerald were one of four teams trekking to the Pole over the summer but the only ones travelling unassisted and dragging heavy sleds, yet had made the best time.

"In the best of conditions it would be outstanding and yet they've had soft snow, they're dragging 160 kg sleds, that's heavier than ever before and as opposed to the other teams...none of them are dragging, they're all getting resupplied and Kevin and Jamie have been going the fastest."

Biggar was already famous for his trans-Atlantic rowing endeavours with rowing partner Rob Hamill. That combination won a trans-Atlantic rowing race in 2003 and Biggar began turning to the objective of making a ski trip to the Pole, without an



Biggar and Fitzgerald in the front of the ceremonial marker at the South Pole outside the old aluminium dome. Photo by

Scott South Pole station.

"The Americans are being incredibly hospitable," said Biggar, speaking to the newspaper's John Henzell from the Pole in January.

"The Antarctic Treaty is a bit strict about how Treaty nations treat private expeditions, so they're running a tight line but they've been amazingly hospitable."

The pair were able to celebrate reaching the South Pole on foot unassisted and the second fastest unassisted expedition in history. Reaching the famed barbershop striped pole at

had persuaded them to halt their expedition at the Pole.

The combination of injuries and unfavourable winds made the decision to fly back a logical one. On medical advice they cancelled the return ski run and waited for an inbound aircraft.

Biggar told *The Dominion* newspaper that he lost 23 kgs and was down to a "miserable 87 kgs", while Fitzgerald thought he'd lost about 20 kgs but was afraid to weigh himself after looking in the mirror.

Thin, sunburnt and exhausted but

Continued to page 35

Scott Base: 50 Years Old and Going Strong

*Photo by M de Ruyter, Antarctica
New Zealand Pictorial Collection
K2420506.*



By **Keiran Bleach**, Antarctica New Zealand.

Scott Base celebrated its 50th anniversary in style in January, with VIP guests Sir Edmund Hillary and Prime Minister Helen Clark travelling to Antarctica to participate in a range of festivities and official functions.

Chief executive of Antarctica New Zealand Lou Sanson declared the four days of celebrations a huge success, saying it was an honour and privilege to have an iconic New Zealand legend and the country's Prime Minister at the base together to share in such a historic occasion.

"To see the excitement at Sir Ed's return to Scott Base, 50 years to the day after the New Zealand flag was first raised by his 1957 TAE expedition, was a truly unique experience

shared by all our Scott Base staff," Sanson said. The Rt Hon Helen Clark, her husband, Professor Peter Davis, and Sir Edmund Hillary arrived in Antarctica on 18 January.

They were joined by a party of invited visitors such as Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae, Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force; Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch; Bill Cranfield, TAE Member and NZAS Life Member; Graham White, representing the NZ Antarctic Society; Paul

East, Antarctic Heritage Trust chairman; and Jan Cameron, founder of the Kathmandu clothing and outdoor equipment stores.

As the leader of the team that established Scott Base, Sir Edmund Hillary was given plenty of attention during the 50th celebrations, and reciprocated by providing several enthralling interviews for the 12-strong media contingent that travelled to the

Continued on next page

Ice for the event.

While Hillary recovered from the five-hour plane trip, on 19 January the Prime Minister and Antarctica New Zealand board chairman Paul Hargreaves flew to the South Pole to visit the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. There, the Prime Minister was greeted warmly and met three New Zealanders working among the predominantly American staff.

On Saturday 20 January, the official 50th birthday, Scott Base staff and dignitaries and invited American guests from McMurdo Station gathered outside, around the flagpole.

After several speeches, James Blake (son of the late Sir Peter Blake) raised the New Zealand flag as the youngest person on Scott Base that day.

Fifty years ago, at 1pm on 20 January 1957, Scott Base had been officially opened when Able Seaman Ramon Tito, the youngest at that time, had raised the New Zealand flag for the first time in Antarctica.

Wreaths were then laid to recognise all New Zealanders lost in Antarctica – Thomas Couzens, Jeremy Sykes, Garth Varcoe and Terry New-

port, as well as the 257 people on board the DC-10 that crashed on Mount Erebus in 1979.

After having a quick cuppa to renew his energy, Sir Edmund Hillary then signed Scott Base commemorative first day cover envelopes.

New Zealand Post issued just 100 of these special covers, all officially certified as mail posted from Scott Base on 20 January 2007. Sir Edmund was the original Post Master of Scott Base when it was first set up.

Sitting in the Trans-Antarctic Expedition hut — the first building that was erected at Scott Base 50 years ago — the mountain climber and explorer kept the media entertained with his down-to-earth manner and frank comments.

Birthday celebrations really ramped up at lunchtime on 20 January, with New Zealanders mingling with US invited guests before the Prime Minister cut the birthday cake in the Hillary Field Centre.

This was a fitting location as its namesake had officially opened the centre, which is a heated bulk stores facility and field operations support area, in November 2004.

Later that day, Helen Clark opened

the Arrival Heights Research Facility. The Prime Minister was given a guided tour of the laboratory and chatted to the science personnel about the work that will be carried out there.

That night, the US National Science Foundation (NSF) hosted a dinner at McMurdo Station for New Zealand dignitaries. The favour was returned the next night when, in recognition of the amicable relationship and co-operation between the US and New Zealand in Antarctica over the last 50 years, 20 US guests dined at Scott Base. As well as Lou Sanson and Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore, NSF Director, Dr. Arden Bement, addressed the audience.

Rounding off the celebrations, on Sunday 21 January, the Prime Minister's media contingent and VIP guests travelled by helicopter to visit the historic huts of Robert Falcon Scott at Cape Evans and Ernest Shackleton at Cape Royds. Helen Clark and Sir Edmund Hillary took the opportunity to express their disappointment that Britain was not helping to fund the restoration of these significant monuments. (Since then, the British Government has announced it will give \$NZ 703,234 to the project. See story this issue page 2.)

Huddled outside in the cold at Cape Royds, James Blake, Helen Clark and Sir Edmund Hillary then launched the Antarctic Youth Ambassador scheme, a partnership between Antarctica NZ and the Sir Peter Blake Trust. The Prime Minister then went to see the unique Dry Valleys.

Dignitaries and media flew back to New Zealand on Monday 22 January, after the Prime Minister squeezed in some cross-country skiing in the morning. Sir Edmund Hillary, however, had requested to stay on so he could spend a night reminiscing about the good old days in the A-frame hut on the Ross Ice Shelf. He described this night as "magic," while Lou Sanson said it was a fitting end to what had been a very sentimental trip.

"The work of our Scott Base staff and the warmth of the US co-operation made for such a special occasion," Sanson said. "We now look forward to the 50th anniversary Antarc-



NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark and geologist, Dr. Margaret Bradshaw enjoy a cup of tea together in a polar tent at the field party's camp site.



Prime Minister Helen Clark at 2007 celebrations outside of Scott Base.



*Scott Base in 1958, covered partially by snow accumulated over winter.
Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection TAE908.*

tic science conference, '50 Years On the Ice – Just the Tip Of the Iceberg,' in July, and the special 50th anniversary celebrations planned by the NZ Antarctic Society on 28-29 September in Christchurch as part of the Christchurch Antarctic Festival 2007."

NEW TEAM MEMBER AT ANTARCTICA NZ



Iain Miller is the latest addition to the Antarctica New Zealand team, taking on the newly created role of Manager Antarctic Support. He joined the organisation in early 2007 and virtually headed straight to the Ice, an experience he described as "the fulfilment of a lifetime ambition."

Iain's position will have responsibility for inter-continental logistics and the resupply system; capital projects; ship-based programmes and the highly successful ANDRILL project.

He says he is looking forward to the challenge of managing and delivering capital projects in a remote, sometimes hostile, environment. "I'm also looking forward to working with a diverse range of people from a variety of vocations and nationalities — for example scientists and the military."

As well as a BComm and a NZ Certificate in Civil Engineering, Iain has strong project management, commercial management and logistic skills. For four years Iain served on the senior management team at Holcim (NZ) Ltd, the world's second-largest cement company.

In his most recent role as project director for Christchurch-based professional services company ProDirections Ltd, Iain was involved in the redevelopment of Christchurch International Airport.

ANTARCTIC SOCIETY'S MAJOR ROLE IN PROMOTING BASE IN ANTARCTICA

By Dr. Margaret Bradshaw.

This year, as New Zealand celebrates the beginning of its involvement in Antarctica and the establishment of Scott Base, attention turns to the New Zealand Antarctic Society (NZAS) and the role the society played in encouraging a New Zealand National Antarctic Programme. While Scott Base was established 50 years ago, the seeds of New Zealand's interest in the southern continent began many years before this, and the NZAS was crucial in lobbying the New Zealand Government to support a national presence in Antarctica.

From the earliest days of Antarctic exploration, New Zealand had become acutely aware of the icy continent. Whalers and sealers had left New Zealand ports for the lucrative waters surrounding Antarctica, sometimes taking New Zealanders on as crew. Later, Scott and Shackleton had left these shores for the south, feted on their way by an interested public, and while in New Zealand had been hosted by local institutions and dignitaries.

In 1933, a group of influential citizens attended an open meeting in Wellington that had been called by Arthur Leigh Hunt, the founder and managing director of the Dominion Farmers Institute and a man who had a passion for Antarctica and who knew several of the early explorers or their New Zealand agents. In his address to the meeting, Hunt pointed out that while the Dependency of the Ross Sea area had been transferred to New Zealand by Britain in 1923, New Zealand still had no real knowledge of the land that it was responsible for. The meeting voted that the New Zealand Antarctic Society (NZAS) be formed, with a set of objectives that

included the drawing together of persons interested in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands, the dissemination of information about Antarctica, and the fostering of expeditions to this continent.

With the latter objective in mind, the NZAS called for the acquisition of the *Discovery*, or other vessel for polar work, to study marine life and to establish meteorological stations on the continent. Antarctic stalwarts Rear Admiral Byrd, Sir Douglas Mawson and Admiral Edward Evans of Scott's second expedition, were invited to become patrons. Mr Justice Ostler became the first president, and the vice-presidents included Robert Falla and Ritchie Simmers, young men who had been with Mawson on the 1929-31 BANARE Expedition. The other two vice-presidents were Reginald Ford, who had sailed with Scott's Discovery Expedition and Mrs Ferrar, the widow of geologist Hartley



*Arthur Helm conducting postal services from a tent before Scott Base was built.
Photo courtesy Trans-Antarctic Expedition.*



*Unveiling the Society's headstone to Harry McNeish at Karori Cemetery in 1959. A bronze cat ('Mrs Chippy') was added by the Society in 2004. L-R: Les Quartermain, Arthur Helm, Bob Miller, Robert Falla, Ron Balham, Ritchie Simmers.
Photo by Bruce Davis.*

ANNIVERSARY

Ferrar, who had been with Scott on the Discovery Expedition and who had settled in New Zealand, Hartley having died the previous year.

The Committees included other well-known individuals such as Dr W.B. Oliver, Director of the Dominion Museum, Dr Jim Henderson, Director of the Geological Survey, and a young English teacher, Les Quartermain, who would, much later, become information officer at New Zealand's future Antarctic Division.

The fledgling society assisted and entertained Richard Byrd before his second expedition to the Antarctic later that year, as well as on later visits. In fact, the New Zealand hospitality was such that Admiral Byrd was led to refer to this country as his "Second Home."

A Dunedin society branch was established in 1936 led by Harold Griffiths, who through his work with an oil company, had met polar giants such as Byrd, Siple, Ellsworth and Wilkins when they passed through Dunedin. During the next year the society showed concern over the depletion of whales in Antarctic waters, and urged the New Zealand Government, who was issuing whaling licences in the Ross Sea, to support the implementation of an international agreement to regulate the whaling industry.

By the 1940s the NZAS was proposing a joint New Zealand-Australia expedition to the Antarctic, but then the Second World War intervened and the society went into hibernation until 1949. During that time two New Zealanders, Robert Falla and Charles Fleming, served as coast watchers on sub-Antarctic Campbell Island.

When it was revived, the society continued to have a core of high-powered individuals, many of them with Antarctic experience that had been very hard to acquire considering the country had no official programme. The society was led by President Dr Robert Falla, now the Director of the Dominion Museum in Wellington, and the council included 73 year old Thomas Orde-Lees from Shackleton's Endurance expedition, who had also settled in

New Zealand. In 1950 a research committee was set up comprised of Robert Falla, Ritchie Simmers, Frank Simpson and Charles Fleming. They called on the Government to set up a New Zealand Antarctic Research Committee to plan field expeditions



*Bob Miller and 'Butch' in the field.
Photo courtesy Miller Collection.*

and to establish permanent stations in the Ross Dependency, if necessary with the help of other countries. "It is New Zealand's responsibility to conduct Antarctic research" said the Society's report.

Les Quartermain started to produce a regular "Antarctic News Bulletin", a cyclostyled foolscap newsletter that reported overseas Antarctic news, and the little that was linked to New Zealand. At the same time Frank Simpson, a journalist, began to organise society scientists to produce an updated and popular summary of the Antarctic continent and its history. This was published by the society in 1952 as "The Antarctic Today- A Mid-Century Survey" helped by a Government loan. Les Quartermain had written a section on Antarctic exploration, and his final paragraph reflected the strong sentiments of the society: "The time must surely have come for New Zealand to establish effective occupancy of that sector of the Antarctic which is particularly hers, and for adventurous and qualified young

New Zealanders to be given the opportunity to study their own portion of the Antarctic for themselves".

The book's foreword by President Robert Falla was even more direct: "If Government action or the lack of it is a reflection of the general attitude of the people, it is clear that too many New Zealanders have been unaware of what is going on in Antarctica and why." He referred in passing to the Government's "negative policy" towards the Ross Dependency.

The following year there were society moves to get New Zealanders involved in an Australian expedition that had been proposed for the 1953-54 season. An enthusiastic new member, Arthur Helm, joined with Robert Falla to write a strongly worded letter to the Ministry of External Affairs requesting that New Zealand be included on the Australian expedition: "The society feels that some move to validate our claim to sovereignty in the Ross Dependency is essential and urgent...The time is very near when New Zealand must herself establish a post on the shore of the Ross Dependency or else watch men of some other nation do so...". The Ministry's reply was non-committal.

An important general meeting of the society later that year discussed the possibility of society members becoming actively involved in Antarctic fieldwork, and the idea was raised of a crossing of the Antarctic continent, which many regarded as the last major challenge left to modern Antarctic explorers. The International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957 was suggested as a possible target date for such an expedition.

The society Council then sent an 8 page memorandum to the Prime Minister, Sidney Holland early in September urging the Government to "give serious consideration to the early establishment of a scientific station in the Ross Dependency....the station to be in operation in time to participate in the geophysical year which is to take place in 1957". Later that month the society learned that New Zealand geologist Bruce Stinear would be going south with the Australian expedition, but the Prime Minister's reply

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*Theron beset in Weddell Sea ice.
Photo by George Lowe.*



TAE & IGY - Where It All Began

(Part One)

By Stephen Hicks.

It may have been the joint letter of 7 September 1953 written by Dr Robert Falla and Arthur Helm, on behalf of the New Zealand Antarctic Society, urging then Prime Minister Sydney Holland to establish a New Zealand scientific station in the Ross Dependency. Or it may have been Dr Vivian Fuchs' chat with George Lowe in late 1953 at a meeting of the Royal Geographic Society, where he inquired about Sir Edmund Hillary's possible interest in a first overland crossing of Antarctica. Then again, perhaps these were strands of a greater fabric. More likely, it was the momentum of many events and conversations, cast in the setting of post-World War II 'great power' politics, which moved the New Zealand government to announce on 14 May 1955 that it would support the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition with a grant of £50,000 (approximately NZ\$1,000,000 in today's currency). And with that, New Zealand finally acknowledged its Antarctic

heritage and began its now fifty year odyssey on the southern continent.

The British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, or simply TAE as it came to be called, was born in the mind of Dr Vivian Fuchs, the British geologist and later Scientific Director of the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey (FIDS). Fuchs was a diligent scientist, but also an explorer-adventurer in his own right. More importantly he was an experienced "Antarctic" having spent seven years with FIDS and two seasons in the Antarctic. His plan, first scribbled out on Stonington Island in a blizzard-bound tent in 1949, saw first light in 1953. This occurred somewhat inadvertently, when his confidential proposal was released to the New Zealand Press by an Otago University professor to whom he had sent his plans. Fuchs received considerable support and guidance in his venture from Sir James Wordie, Shackleton's former scientific leader from the *Endurance* expedition, and

now a member of the influential UK Polar Committee. Fuchs would take up the challenge that had remained unconsummated by Filchner, Shackleton and Watkins, that is, the crossing of Antarctica.

In addition to being a meticulous planner, Fuchs saw the advantage that Sir Edmund Hillary's recent fame as conqueror of Everest could bring to the expedition. Fuchs and the London Committee also appreciated the benefit of having Commonwealth backing for the project and of the essential role that New Zealand could play by providing the crossing-party with a reception base in McMurdo Sound. He insisted that the expedition would travel only through Commonwealth claimed territory. Political positioning was not the least important of the expedition's objectives. At the time, there was only snow and ice at the South Pole, that is, there was no base there. Fuchs' initial plans allowed for a traverse of 1650 kms (1,030 miles)

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from his inland base "South Ice" to his first depot named "Depot 700".

Fortunately, having overcome earlier misgivings, Hillary was excited about the prospect of another adventure and of furthering New Zealand's aspirations in the Antarctic. In June 1955, while lecturing in South Africa, he was offered, and quickly accepted, the position as leader of the New Zealand party of the TAE. Things moved very quickly from that point on. Although the expedition was a private venture, as was the norm for Antarctic Expeditions since the turn of the century, significant government support was provided. In addition to the cash grant, the govern-

Committee in London.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force Antarctic Flight, led by Sq Ldr John Claydon, with pilot Bill Cranfield and mechanic Wally Tarr, was seconded to the expedition.

Other countries joined in to support the expedition. The governments of Australia and South Africa donated amounts of £20,000 and £18,000 respectively. Canada was invited to participate because of its polar experience, but declined due to responsibilities in its northern Arctic territory.

However, the Canadian sealer *Theron* was chartered and was deployed on the advance party's voyage in 1955-56 to the Weddell Sea. Cana-

fort was put into fund-raising for the expedition. This included numerous civic appeals, raffles, share certificates, sale of Antarctic rocks, and even the sponsorship of individual huskies by schools throughout the North and South Islands. Hillary, George Lowe, John Claydon, Trevor Hatherton and others criss-crossed the country giving lectures and raising additional funds. In addition, several businesses made contributions of goods, equipment and services in an amazing variety of ways. Donations of chocolate, fencing required to hold the dogs, wine, cigarettes and tobacco, woollen clothing, cold weather gear, boots, books, music LP's, all

Aerial view of Theron unloading at Shackleton Base in the Weddell Sea, summer 1955-56. Note the ascent path to the ice shelf and the base about 200 metres to the left of the stores on the lower 'bay ice'. Also, note the parallel snow ridges along the top of the photograph. The ice ridge in the foreground is 40-50m in height.

Photo by John Claydon.



ment established the Ross Sea Committee (RSC) consisting of a group of very capable administrators and scientists each carefully selected to represent the various interests of the expedition. Under the Chairmanship of Charles Bowden and, with Arthur Helm as Secretary, the RSC provided expert guidance to the NZ TAE and worked closely with the main TAE

dian-built aircraft bought from De Havilland Corp – both the Beaver used from Scott Base to establish the depots for the crossing party and the Otter used from Shackleton Base to support the crossing party and finally used to make the first non-stop flight by a single engine aircraft across the continent via the South Pole.

In New Zealand, a tremendous ef-

lightened the financial load faced by the expedition. Auckland raised funds to buy the Beaver aircraft, which was then named the *City of Auckland*. The town of Feilding in Manawatu donated a set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica for the men to read in their spare time. British Pe-

Continued on next page

troleum contributed all the petrol and lubricants needed by the planes and vehicles. Massey-Ferguson provided five tractors. The attention of the nation and indeed, of the world, was aroused.

Happening at the same time, the International Geophysical Year (IGY), was conceived at a 1950 gathering of scientists at the home of James Van Allen in Maryland, USA. After, as stated by astronomer Sydney Chapman who was also present, the idea was first proposed by Dr Lloyd Berkner. In 1952, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) appointed an IGY organising committee for an IGY that was to be held in 1957-58.

The approaching IGY gave a critical impetus to the New Zealand government who realised the synergy that existed between the TAE and IGY, and therefore agreed to provide full funding support for New Zealand's IGY scientific activities through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR). A team of five scientists, Vern Gerard, Herb Orr, Peter Macdonald, and Neil Sandford, under the leadership of Dr. Trevor Hatherton would make up the IGY party¹. This team was seconded to the NZ TAE party, and they joined in the southward voyage on the RNZS *Endeavour* which left Wellington Harbour on 15 December 1956 bound for McMurdo Sound.

The success of TAE depended on thorough preparation.

On 15 November 1955, the *Theron* left London on its way to the Weddell Sea. Hillary and his deputy, Bob Miller, joined the *Theron* in Montevideo. There other New Zealanders were on board, John Claydon, George Lowe and Gordon Haslop, along with Fuchs and the British party. The voyage was a valuable learning experience for all. As well as gaining an understanding of the vagaries of Weddell Sea pack-ice, eight members of Fuchs' team remained behind with minimal supplies in order to establish Shackleton, the TAE crossing party's main base. In addition, they would be able to perform limited reconnaissance for next season's ascent to the polar plateau.



*The TAE hut and New Zealand flag - Ross Island, January 1957.
Photo from Antarctica NZ Pictorial Collection TAE632.*

Meanwhile, two thousand miles away, a scouting trip of a different kind was also taking place on the Ross Sea side of Antarctica. Geologist Bernie Gunn, Lt Cdr Bill Smith of the Royal New Zealand Navy and Dr Trevor Hatherton had travelled to Antarctica as 'observers' with the US Deep Freeze mission.

Their role was to seek out the best site for a New Zealand base and the best route to/from the polar plateau. Since Scott's party had man-hauled up the Ferrar Glacier during the Discovery Expedition in 1901-1904, this was the route that Fuchs had identified as the most likely for his crossing party to use in descending from the polar plateau. This would therefore decide the path along which Hillary's party would lay the supply depots.

The Ferrar Glacier route influenced the initial identification of Butter Point as a potential site for Scott Base. Both Butter Point and the Ferrar Glacier passed first inspection by the advance reconnaissance team. However, to the New Zealand party's great disappointment upon arrival in December, both of these proved to be ill-suited to expedition needs. Butter Point had become almost inaccessible from the sea-ice due to large pools and melt-water streams flowing from the Bowers-Piedmont Glacier. Also,

there was neither a workable airfield nor a nearby supply of snow to provide the base with necessary drinking water. As for the route to the plateau, after an aerial inspection by John Claydon and then, from the ground, by a team led by Dr. George Marsh, the Ferrar Glacier turned out to be heavily crevassed and impassable for both dogs and tractors.

Hillary, Bob Miller and John Claydon undertook an urgent mission to find an alternative base location. US Admiral Dufek offered the group the use of his helicopter to undertake a reconnaissance mission to search for an alternative site. He also suggested that Pram Point on Ross Island might make a suitable location. On 8 January, Hillary and Miller flew over the proposed site at Pram Point with Capt. Ketchum USN.

They were favourably impressed. The site would also be suitable for IGY purposes. Hillary made the decision – the base would be built at Pram Point. The stores on the *Endeavour* were unloaded and hauled over to the new site, now named Scott Base.

The next day, Lt Dick Bowers USN, with his bulldozers, helped to level the Scott Base building site.

One half of the crisis had been re-

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'We Chose the Right Site'

Address by **Randal Heke** to the New Zealand Antarctic Society
Wellington Branch - 23 March 2007

Randal Heke, a life member of the New Zealand Antarctic Society and leader of the construction team that built Scott Base in 1957, was invited by the Wellington Branch of the society to deliver this year's *Sir Holmes Miller Memorial Lecture* at their AGM. Randal calls the building of Scott Base "A milestone in New Zealand's Antarctic history..." and this year's 50th anniversary "...a time for celebration and acknowledgement of what this country has achieved in the past 50 years."

The Sir Holmes Miller Memorial Lecture is in memory of Bob Miller, who was Deputy Leader of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition.



Randal Heke who delivered the 2007 Sir Holmes Miller Memorial Lecture.

Madam President,

I would extend a special welcome to Roger Miller and his wife to this meeting tonight.

It was through the efforts of the New Zealand Antarctic Society and

particularly Dr. Robert Falla, Ritchie Simmers and Leslie Quartermain that persuaded a reluctant Government to recognise and take responsibility for the Ross Dependency in the early 1950's.

With the International Geophysical Year (IGY) proposed to start scientific observations through many stations throughout the world in 1958 and the advent of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition lead by Dr. Vivian Fuchs and our own Sir Edmund Hillary, the Government agreed to provide financial assistance in a number of ways. One of its main contributions was to provide a base for these operations in the Ross Dependency and the Ministry of Works and Development were assigned to the task of providing the plans and construction of a suitable base.

A polar base of the type required had not been designed or constructed before in New Zealand and it was a real challenge for the Ministry's architects and engineers to design and provide buildings to withstand extreme cold and blizzard conditions, besides all the interior heating etc., for acceptable living and sleeping conditions.

How would fresh water be produced, what electric power would be required and keeping the warmth inside the huts and the cold out. The huts were in fact large refrigerators, and services to maintain all the normal facilities tested our building service engineers. Regular meetings were held in the old Government Buildings in Wellington when Bob Miller and occasionally Ed Hillary would attend to discuss details and receive reports on progress etc.

Four of the huts came from Australia, and similar buildings had been erected at Mawson Base, and the type

of materials and form of construction had been tested and proved successful under polar conditions.

The construction team consisted of three Army Engineers and three Petty Officers from the Navy and I was appointed leader of the team, I guess because of my overseas experience in the Pacific Islands and was capable of making decisions.

We erected the base at Rongotai Airport as a trial for when we arrived on the ice and all fittings installed and documented and this exercise proved invaluable when the actual erection of the base took place. We had an open day at Rongotai and there was great interest shown by the general public as the media had covered the forthcoming Antarctic Expedition in the newspapers.

All the components were packed and crated and loaded onto the American Transport ship the *John R Towlé* and the main hut A loaded on the New Zealand Naval Ship the *Endeavour*, on which, 22 of the expedition members travelled South. The *Endeavour* sailed from Wellington on 15 December 1956 and the first stop over was at Lyttelton, where we met the Duke of Edinburgh and later had dinner on board the *Britannia*. We then sailed to Dunedin where we received a mayoral reception and later travelled to the port of Bluff before our final departure for Antarctica.

Our departure and the farewell functions left me very apprehensive as we were heading into the unknown and not fully aware of the future that lay ahead.

The seas gradually got worse as we travelled past Campbell Island and headed south and the *Endeavour*, being a light ship of 900 tonnes, was

Continued on next page

verely buffered about in the rough seas.

We were accompanied by the frigates *Hawea* and *Pukaki* and once we reached the first signs of the pack ice near the Antarctic Circle it was time for the frigates to return to New Zealand. With sirens blowing we saw the departure of our escorts and then they were lost in the mist and we were on our own.

Travelling through the pack ice, which was slowly moving north, was an unforgettable experience. We saw our first seals and occasional Adelie penguins and frequently got trapped in the ice floes and it took several days before the *Endeavour* pushed her way into the clear Ross Sea.

Conditions on board the *Endeavour* were very cramped and to pass away the time we played cards, read books, and slept, and sometimes Bob Miller and Trevor Hatherton gave talks of what lay ahead both for the expedition members and those of the IGY team.

In the Ross Sea we encountered a strong Antarctic storm and it was extremely cold and it was most difficult looking after the dogs and cargo on the ships deck. We were sailing towards Butter Point where it was intended to build the base, and supposedly to have reasonable access up the Ferrar Glacier onto the Polar Plateau. The location of the site itself was recommended by a three-man team the previous year but on landing at the designated area it was found unsuitable and another site was eagerly sought.

Admiral Dufek suggested to Ed Hillary he might like to consider a site on Ross Island relatively close to the American base in McMurdo Sound and after an inspection of Pram Point a decision was made, "Let's build Scott Base here."

The Americans kindly offered to level the site and a bulldozer was used to remove rocks and debris to provide a platform for the buildings.

Bob Miller, myself and the construction team moved to Ross Island and erected eight alpine tents for the team to sleep in while the base buildings were erected.

The ground was extremely hard,

(known as permafrost - rock which had frozen solid) and to excavate holes for the generator foundations was extremely difficult and time consuming. Bob and I shared the same tent, and at the end of the day discussed progress, wrote up our diaries, and had little sleep before starting work again early next morning. Bob Miller was in charge of operations around the base and co-ordinated all the activities and directed materials and equipment as it arrived from the transport ships 16 kilometres away.

Ed Hillary was busy organising his transcrossing equipment and supply depots while other members were fully occupied in establishing their scientific instruments or involved in setting up radio communication with New Zealand.

Hut A was the first building to be erected and with relatively good weather we made good progress in laying the foundations and erecting the floor and wall panels. The buildings were clad with aluminium sheeting on the outside with onezate bitumen coated insulation and fire-proof interior lining.

The base was officially commissioned on 20th January 1957 in the presence of distinguished visitors from the nearby American base.

Water for the base was obtained by melting ice carried by tractor from the Ross Ice Shelf and the hot exhaust pipes from the generators melted the ice placed in large steel tanks. A unique feature of Scott Base was the covered ways between huts and this allowed movement between the buildings without donning heavy Antarctic woollen clothing.

The location of Scott Base provided the ideal site for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition to cross the Ross Ice Shelf to the Skelton Glacier and onto the Polar Plateau. Close by was a flat area which the expeditions two aircraft could satisfactory use as a landing and take off strip.

The IGY team were well established in their laboratory to carry out scientific observations from the site and there was the benefit of having friendly American neighbours 3 kilometres away.

There were other advantages to

being established on Ross Island, good access onto the Ross Ice Shelf, a suitable area on the ice shelf for harnessing the dog teams and a wonderful view of Mt Erebus and across to the Antarctic Society Mountains.

But the success in building Scott Base without any major problems lay in teamwork, commitment to complete the project before we returned to New Zealand, thorough preparation and planning, and an awareness of the conditions likely to be faced. Yes we chose the right site!

While we are here tonight to remember the exploits of Bob Miller in the Antarctic, his contribution on the Ross Sea Committee, and to this Society, I should also like us to remember his fellow expedition comrades who have died over the past 50 years.

These 10 or 11 men - I am not sure of the exact number - made a huge contribution in the field of science and discovery and they will be long remembered for what we know of Antarctica today.

They were all members of the first wintering-over party by a team of New Zealanders, an historic event, and the celebration of midwinter at Scott Base has continued for the past 50 years.

But let this country also reflect on what has been achieved in those 50 years in science and exploration and may it continue with our involvement in the restoration of the historic huts, the drilling project and many other activities.

I am proud to have been involved in the building of the first Scott Base and just as thrilled to have been made a life member of this Society. So let this occasion be also one of remembrance for those men who were part of that first New Zealand Expedition to the Antarctic.

I have much pleasure in formally opening the 50 years celebration of Scott Base and would thank the President and her Committee, and Malcolm Mcfarlane and many others for organising the activities for the months ahead.

"Let the Celebrations Begin."



Celebrations at Scott Base

By **Graham White.**

Graham White, NZAS North Island Vice President was the New Zealand Antarctic Society's official representative at the Scott Base 50th anniversary celebrations in Antarctica in January. This "Over My Shoulder" article is his report on the event.

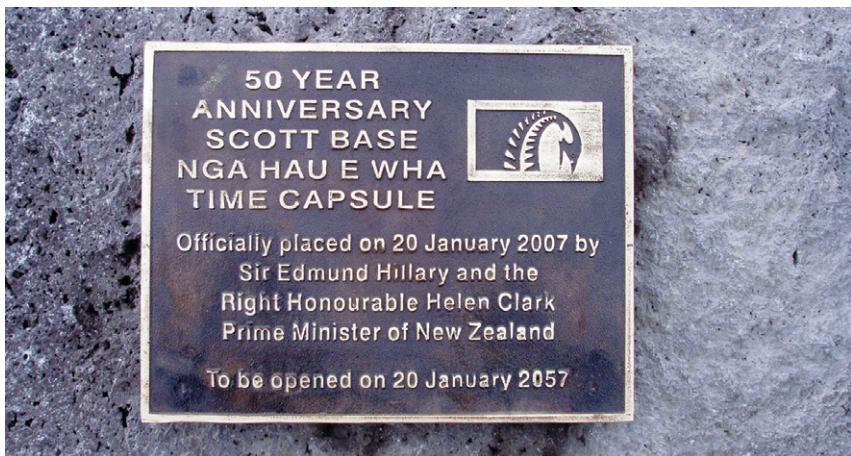
This special day in New Zealand's Antarctic history was formally commemorated on 20 January 2007, the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Scott Base. The significance of the event was enhanced by the presence of distinguished visitors Sir Edmund Hillary and the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand. Other dignitaries included Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae, Chief of New Zealand's Defence Force, Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch and Bill Cranfield, TAE member and Life Member of the NZAS.

The morning ceremony was held in overcast conditions with relatively mild temperatures hovering just below zero degrees with enough wind chill to ensure the non-acclimatised were suitably attired in their selection of extreme cold weather clothing. In keeping with tradition, James Blake, the son of the late Sir Peter Blake, was bestowed the honour of raising the New Zealand flag as the youngest person on Scott Base. For the occasion an ice lectern was constructed by the



*Wreaths laid in memory of those New Zealander's who have died in Antarctica.
Photo by Graham White.*

Continued on next page



(Above): Mike Mahon, Ed Hillary, Bill Cranfield and Dave Bresnahan (NSF).
 (Top): Plaque marking location of time capsule.
 (Middle): Lou Sanson, Bill Cranfield and Garry Moore arriving in Antarctica.
 All photos by Graham White.

base engineering team, uniquely encapsulating crossed ice axes and a climbing rope.

Addresses (titles in brackets) were given by Paul Hargreaves, Chairman Antarctica NZ Board, ("50 years of New Zealand Antarctic Science"), Sir Edmund Hillary ("Choosing Scott Base/TAE Remembered"), Lt. General Jerry Mateparae ("50 years Defence Support of the New Zealand Antarctic Programme"), and the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, ("50th Anniversary of Scott Base").

Two wreaths were then laid to remember New Zealanders whose lives were lost in Antarctica: Passengers and crew of Air NZ Flight TE901, Thomas Couzens, Jeremy Sykes, Garth Varcoe and Terry Newport. Following the wreath-laying, NZ Defence Force personnel launched flares in memory of those lost. The ceremony was concluded by the Prime Minister unveiling a plaque denoting the Nga Hau E Wha Time Capsule with articles contributed by schools representing the north, south, east and west of New Zealand. The capsule is to be opened in fifty years time.

50 Years of United Stated/ New Zealand Cooperation

Later in the morning, 50 years of United States/New Zealand cooperation was celebrated at the Scott Base flagpole, with 80 invited guests from the US Antarctic Programme. Addresses were given by Sir Ed, Claudia McMurry, US Assistant Secretary of State, Dr Arden Bement, Director US National Science Foundation, and the New Zealand Prime Minister. Sir Ed spoke with the highest regard of Rear Admiral Dufek for the help and friendship afforded to him and his team in those early years. To the amusement of all he also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity (authorised or unauthorised) for his team to scavenge the McMurdo Station rubbish dump for items the Kiwi's decided could be put to better use. Following the formal part of the ceremony, guests and base residents adjourned to the newly completed Hillary Field Store for lunch and the cutting of the Scott Base birthday cake by the Prime Minister and Sir Ed.

In the evening, US Ambassador to New Zealand, William McCormick, hosted a dinner for invited New Zealand guests at McMurdo Station.

Scott Base 50th Anniversary Dinner

The formal 50th Anniversary Dinner was

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solved, but the issue of the route to the plateau remained. Fortunately, the expedition's luck now began to turn. Bernie Gunn, on New Years Day 1956, had taken an extended reconnaissance flight with Captain Henry Jorda of the US Navy and had viewed all of the

could be established by the expedition aircraft.

It had been an intensive six weeks and much had been accomplished on both sides of the continent.

Scott Base was commissioned on January 20th, 1957. Preparations were made during the following months for both the laying of the



AA sign outside of Scott Base in 1957. Photo from Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection TAE993.

glaciers in the region. Most seemed very rough if not impassable. One glacier however, the Skelton, looked good to Gunn. Hillary now recalled Gunn's report and requested that the Skelton be investigated. On 18 January, Hillary and Claydon flew over the Skelton Glacier and liked what they saw. This could only be confirmed by ground travel and the dog teams were dispatched on 19 January to verify what had been seen from the air.

For the next two weeks it was difficult going, but on 9 February, with the dog teams resting on the polar plateau at the top of the Skelton Glacier, the Beaver and Auster aircraft both landed nearby. This also proved the capability of aircraft at an altitude of 8000 ft (approx. 2400m).

Hillary received the report that he was eager to hear, the Skelton Glacier route was passable by both dogs and tractors, and the depots

TAE depots and the scientific experiments of the IGY. This occupied the men until the return of sunlight following the austral winter. The time for the major push was fast approaching after two years of tremendous effort.

¹ It should be noted that geology was not included under the IGY banner.

Note: The next instalment of this article will appear in the next issue of the *Antarctic journal*. Its focus will be the next stage of the expedition.

ANNIVERSARY EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

The New Zealand Antarctic Society, in association with Christchurch International Airport Limited as principal sponsor, Antarctica New Zealand, the Christchurch City Council, the International Antarctic Centre and the Air Force Museum, will celebrate 50 years of New Zealand's involvement in Antarctica during a commemorative weekend of events in September 2007.

The Anniversary will be the highlight of the Christchurch Antarctic Festival organised by The Christchurch City Council and Antarctic Link Canterbury.

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Informal Reception Friday 28 September at the Antarctic Attraction. Displays of iconic Antarctic items and complimentary admission to this famous attraction.
- Anniversary exhibitions at several locations.
- Historic film.
- Screenings at Christchurch Art Gallery.
- Presentations by Antarctic Arts Fellows.
- Themed rides on Christchurch Tramway.
- Commemorative Plaque unveiling.
- Anniversary Dinner at Air Force Museum.
- Commemorative Church Service 30 September at ChristChurch Cathedral.

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IN TOUCH WITH THE ICE

ChristChurch Cathedral's Antarctic Connections

By The Very Reverend Peter Beck, Dean of Christchurch.

ChristChurch Cathedral's connections to Antarctica stretch back to 1901 and Scott's first expedition to the ice.

These links were chronicled in an article by a former Dean, Michael Underhill, appearing in *The Christchurch Press* on October 12, 1974. The article read:

I was speaking to an old Cathedral choirboy. Really quite an old, old boy...He was in the choir in 1910! I asked him: 'What was the most exciting service you remember?' He replied, 'It was for the return of Scott's last expedition,' he said. 'It was February 1913.'

I turned up the Cathedral register of services to see how this service had been recorded.

The record read: **A service at 5.15pm. The Dean and the Bishop present.** Nothing more, save – yes, some words in small print in the right hand margin: **"Mem. To the Antarctic victims."** I searched in the public library thorough the columns of old newspapers to see if there was a report of the service. There was indeed – a long and most interesting account of this famous occasion.

The Press article reveals that this set Michael searching for other Christchurch links with the polar exploration, especially ChristChurch Cathedral links.

Robert Falcon Scott sailed from Lyttelton in December, 1901 in the *Discovery*. Our Bishop Julius took a service on the mess deck before *Discovery* sailed. In a letter to his wife, Dr. Edward Wilson said that the Bishop gave "a very happy address". The expedition returned in triumph on Good Friday, April 1, 1904. Bishop Julius was there the next day at Lyttelton to take a service. Shackleton, who had gone south with Scott in 1901, led his own expedition in the *Nimrod* in 1907. As they sailed out of Lyttelton Harbour it was estimated that a crowd of 30,000 watched them go. And on their return in March 1909, there was a service in the Cathedral, but once again, the register of services was disappointing. All it said was: "*Thanksgiving for the return of the*



Dean Peter Beck, Hon Phil Goff, Lou Sanson and Paul Hargreaves at the Antarctic service remembering 25 years since the *Erebus* tragedy.
Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection K310 04/05.



Brass plaque on western face of ChristChurch Cathedral.

Nimrod." But the newspapers gave a full account, and practically every word that Bishop Julius said in his sermon was recorded there.

Scott's *Terra Nova* left Lyttelton in November 1910, and returned in February 1913. The ship brought the tragic news of the deaths of the South Pole party. The shock was immense. A memorial service was held in ChristChurch Cathedral, never to be forgotten by our little Cathedral choirboy, Jack Mason. All the ship's crew were there in uniform.

In December 1955, Rear-Admiral George Dufek came to a service in the Cathedral where a bronze plaque, depicting the Antarctic Continent and New Zealand, and inscribed with the words "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield", was given by the Americans as a memorial to the early explorers and was duly dedicated. The two American flags used that day still hang today in the north transept of the Cathedral.

A year later, in December 1956, Sir Edmund Hillary also came to a service in the Cathedral, attended by the New Zealand Prime Minister. At this service a New Zealand ensign was blessed by Bishop Warren. The flag was taken south, flown at the New Zealand base, and brought back to hang in the Cathedral.

The Antarctic Season Opening Service, is now an annual event, and an important part of the Cathedral's regular schedule of services. This takes place the Sunday immediately before the first mainbody flight south each year, and is where the Erebus Chalice is handed over for its trip South to the Chapel of the Snows at McMurdo Base, Ross Island, Antarctica.

The Cathedral is also a member of Antarctic Link Canterbury, actively participating in Christchurch Antarctic Festivals.

On a personal note, I have been privileged to twice travel to the ice, first in 2003 and then again in



Brass plaque inside ChristChurch Cathedral presented in 1955 by US Rear Admiral George Dufek.

2004 with Sir Edmund Hillary, to conduct the 25th Anniversary Service commemorating the Erebus tragedy.

ChristChurch Cathedral has an abiding interest in the preservation of important heritage sites. While restoration plans related to Scott's Hut, through the work of the Antarctic Heritage Trust are actively pursued on the ice, in Christchurch, the Cathedral is itself undergoing extensive repair and restoration, to preserve what to many is the city's premier heritage site. In addition, it is seeking to fully endow the Cathedral Choir, securing its position as one of only two such choirs in the southern hemisphere.

I warmly invite you to visit this iconic building. Discover for yourself our many links with the people of that bygone heroic age who journeyed south from here. Scott wrote of his last expedition "I do not regret this journey", and you will not regret a journey to the ChristChurch Cathedral to spend a moment in quietness in the heart of the city to remember those who went before.

For further information contact
devmanager@christchurchcathedral.co.nz
or see
www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz

WEB BLOG FOR CONSERVATORS

Check out the Natural History Museum, London, web blog which follows the lives of Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT) conservators working on the artefact collection associated with Sir Ernest Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/antarctica-blog/>. This is a fascinating site loaded with information and ways to support the work of AHT.

Also, have a look at www.norwaysforgottenexplorer.org for information on Cape Adare.

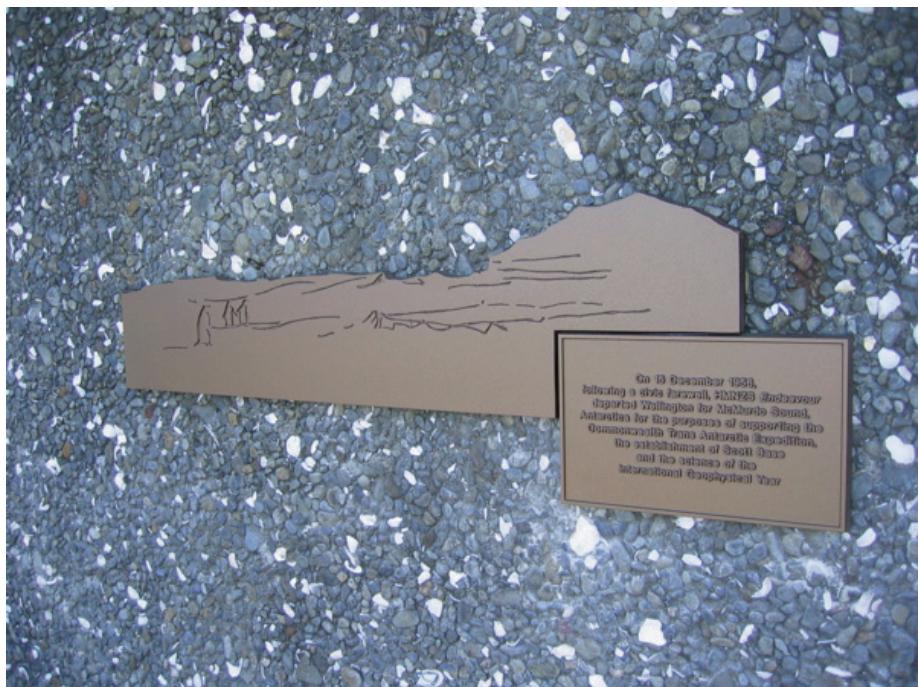
HOW SCOTT BASE WENT GREEN

Ever wondered about "Scott Base Green"? For 40 years the Scott Base buildings have been the colour green. "Chelsea Cucumber" green to be precise. That is the name of Resene paint colour 6-071, the current colour of Scott Base.

The original huts were a mixture of red, orange and yellow. In 1967, the Superintendent of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) Antarctic Division, Bob Thomson, decided there should be a uniform colour for the base. He chose green after seeing how effective white-washed cottages looked against the green pastures of Ireland. He reversed the colour scheme-with green buildings against a white Antarctic landscape. The green became known as "RBT Green" after Robert Baden Thomson's initials.

More than just the colour of Scott Base has changed in 50 years. Makes you wonder what the base will be like in the year 2057, doesn't it?

Wellington Commemorates Departure 50 years ago of HMNZS *Endeavour*



Top: Endeavour plaque designed by Colin Wynn, RNZN artist. Photo by Malcolm Macfarlane.

Bottom: Unveiling of Endeavour plaque by Randal Heke (left) and Bill Smith (right). Photo by Malcolm Macfarlane.

The first half of a two-piece plaque commemorating Wellington's association with the Antarctic supply ship *Endeavour* was unveiled on 15 December 2006.

Invited guests joined the New Zealand Antarctic Society (NZAS) at Wellington's waterfront on a sunny but windy afternoon, exactly 50 years since the departure of the ship HMNZS *Endeavour* from Wellington. The Central Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force played for twenty minutes until the commencement of the ceremony. Throughout the ceremony, an Honour Guard was provided by the HMNZS *Olphert*.

Mariska Wouters, chair of the Wellington Branch of the Antarctic Society welcomed everyone present, including Ian Pike, CE Wellington Waterfront Ltd, Graham Fortune and Kerry Macdonald from the Board of Antarctica New Zealand, and Trevor

Hughes, Head Antarctic Policy Unit, NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Speakers included Commander David Wright, Director of the Navy Museum in Devonport, David Keegan, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America, Commander William (Bill) Smith, DSO, OBE, RNZN (Rtd) who was ship's officer on the *Endeavour* in 1956, and Randal Heke, leader of the Scott Base construction team 1957-58.

Randal Heke and Bill Smith unveiled the plaque, designed by Colin Wynn, RNZN artist in recognition of those who sailed on *HMNZS Endeavour*.

The half unveiled recognises the departure of the *Endeavour* in 1956. In March 2008 a second commemoration will take place to unveil the second half of the plaque. This will remember the 50th anniversary of the return of the *Endeavour* on 17 March 1958 with the successful Trans-Antarctic Expedition members.

Support for the plaque and event was gratefully received from the Royal New Zealand Navy, Royal New Zealand Air Force, Wellington Waterfront Limited, Navy Museum Devonport, and Antarctica New Zealand.



NAVY CELEBRATIONS IN LYTTELTON HARBOUR

A balmy night and calm sea at Port Lyttelton during Summer 2007 provided the perfect backdrop for a function to celebrate the Royal New Zealand Navy's involvement in New Zealand's 50-year association with Antarctica.

Navy personnel, Antarctica New Zealand staff and invited guests boarded the *HMNZS Endeavour*, which was docked at Lyttelton.

The ship was a replica of the vessel that travelled south to the Ice in late 1956, carrying men, huskies, stores and transport such as sno-cats, the famed Ferguson tractors and Auster and Otter aircraft to assist the New Zealand Ross Sea Party of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE), led by Sir Edmund Hillary.

Several people spoke at the function, held in early March, including Antarctica New Zealand chief executive Lou Sanson.

He praised the heroic deeds of all defence personnel, noting that when they travelled to Antarctica, "they were not sure if they would come back."

Sanson added that he had spoken to Sir Edmund Hillary just hours before the function, and he too wanted to acknowledge the *Endeavour* and the significant contribution of the

Navy over the last 50 years of Antarctic history.

Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae (who travelled to the Ice with Hillary for the official 50th anniversary celebrations at Scott Base in January) commended the "exceptional support" the Navy had provided. He also acknowledged Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Ledson, who was present at the function.

Continued to next page

CAPITAL TIES FOR HMNZS ENDEAVOUR

The Royal New Zealand Navy supply ship *HMNZS Endeavour* has a special association with Wellington in its support of New Zealand's Antarctic Research Programme.

HMNZS Endeavour was purchased in 1955 and refitted for the work ahead. Wooden hulled, she was built in the United States in 1944 as a net layer and served in the United Kingdom's Home Fleet as *HMS Pretext*. In 1947 she was bought by the Falkland Islands Government and renamed *John Biscoe*. She was subsequently refitted for polar conditions and for three years serviced stations and parties of the Falkland Island Dependencies.

Endeavour was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy on 15 August 1956. Lady Webb, wife of the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, renamed the ship while the Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr. W L S Fleming, himself an Antarctic veteran, conducted the commissioning service. *Endeavour* was commanded by Captain H Kirkwood, OBE, DSC, RN. The Admiralty had agreed to release Captain Kirkwood, who had previously commanded the ship in the Antarctic for several years, to the Royal New Zealand Navy.

The *Endeavour* loaded stores and 12 Greenland huskies before sailing for New Zealand on 22 August 1956. Prior to departing Wellington, the *Endeavour* took on a large quantity of stores including the prefabricated huts that were to become New Zealand's Scott Base.

After an official farewell in the Wellington Town Hall hosted by the Governor-General, at 1.30pm on 15 December 1956, *HMNZS Endeavour* departed Queen's Wharf in Wellington, destined for McMurdo Sound, Antarctica.

Endeavour's last voyage in support of the Antarctic programme was made during the 1960-61 season. A second Antarctic supply vessel was acquired in 1962, also named *HMNZS Endeavour*. This ship continued in service until 1970. The RNZN's current support ship built in 1987 is the third RNZN ship to carry the name *Endeavour*.

ANTARCTICA: 50 YEARS ON THE ICE - JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG



Antarctica New Zealand and the Royal Society of New Zealand are proud to be hosting a conference celebrating 50 years of New Zealand's involvement in the Antarctic. The conference will be held from the 2 - 6 July 2007 at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand. Early-bird online registration has commenced.

The conference aims to present the successes of the past (International Geophysical Year to present day) and enthuse New Zealand about its future in Antarctica. The conference will be a combination

of invited talks from international and local scientists, artists and media, screening of films, panel discussions and poster sessions.

Invited speakers include: Dr Diana Wall (US biologist), Dr Laura DeSantis (Italian oceanographer), Dr Clive Howard-Williams (NZ biologist), Dr Susan Solomon (US atmospheric scientist), Prof Peter Barrett (NZ geologist), Prof Bill Manhire (NZ poet), Prof Klaus Dodds (UK political scientist).

More information can be found at www.antarcticanz.govt.nz.

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Members of the Endeavour crew lower the ensign at sunset each day.

Retired Wing Commander John Claydon, who was the Officer Commanding and senior pilot of the Royal New Zealand Air Force contingent involved in the TAE completed the line-up of speakers.

He had the audience in fits of laughter telling the story of how the plane on board the *Endeavour* was damaged in 1956 as it left Lyttelton Port.

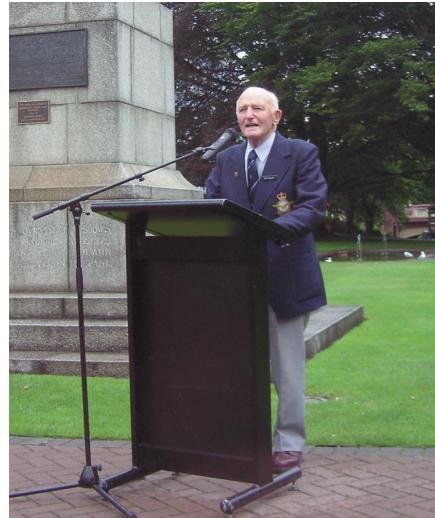
Others who made an appearance on board the *HMNZS Endeavour* included Sir Tipene O'Regan, Christchurch MPs Hon Ruth Dyson and Hon Lianne Dalziel, and TAE pilot, Bill Cranfield.

Members of the TAE & IGY Remembered by Reunion

The eighteen man Ross Sea party of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE), led by Sir Edmund Hillary, built their Base on Ross Island in McMurdo Sound. It was named Scott Base to complement the British crossing party's Shackleton Base in the Weddell Sea. On completion of the first hut, the Mess Hut, the New Zealand Ensign was raised on 20 January 1957, ceremoniously establishing the now permanent New Zealand occupation of the Ross Dependency in Antarctica. A five man International Geophysical Year (IGY) team was attached to the expedition and while they conducted their important scientific programme separately, they shared in all routine activities of the Antarctic base.

While some surviving members of this team were lucky enough to be taken back to Scott Base to celebrate the 50th anniversary, others celebrated in New Zealand. To celebrate the achievements of the TAE and IGY members, survivors of the NZ party, members of the British crossing party, together with their wives, widows and other family and friends gathered in Christchurch on 19-21 January 2007. During this weekend of events, wreaths were laid at Scott's Memorial Statue in memory of those members of TAE and IGY that have passed away. The Very Revd Peter Beck, Dean of ChristChurch Cathedral, provided a blessing for those men, and Wing Cmdr (ret.) John Claydon, TAE member, told of the achievements of the expedition, mentioning by name each and every man of the expedition that had since passed away.

The highlight of the weekend was a private reunion dinner for TAE / IGY surviving members and members of their families held at the Chateau Blanc Hotel in Christchurch.



Above: John Claydon (TAE member and reunion event organiser) thanks Peter Beck (Dean of ChristChurch Cathedral) for his blessing at the wreath-laying ceremony.

Top left: John Claydon saying a few words at the Scott Statue, Christchurch.

Middle left: Wreaths at the base of the Scott Statue, laid by Roger Miller (son of Bob Miller) and Graeme Ayres (son of Harry Ayres).

Bottom left: Dr. Vern Gerard (IGY geophysicist) at the wreath-laying ceremony.

Below: (Left to right): John Claydon, Peter Beck, Dr. Ed Robertson (Head, New Zealand's IGY Programme Ross Sea Committee), and George Lowe (Member of the UK party of the TAE).



SUCCESSFUL FIELD SEASON FOR METEORITE TEAM

By Ralph Harvey, Principal Investigator Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) Programme.

The most recent ANSMET field season is now completed, and while it was a tough season physically, the results should please anyone who's a customer of the Antarctic meteorites programme.

ANSMET deployed two teams: an 8-person team to conduct systematic searching on icefields around the Mt. Block/Mauger Nunataks and Larkman Nunataks region, and a 4-person team to conduct reconnaissance of several widely spaced icefields in the Graves Nunataks region. Both teams faced a lot of nasty (but typical, and expected) weather; roughly 50% of the days were too windy to work effectively. In spite of this, a lot of meteorite specimens were recovered.

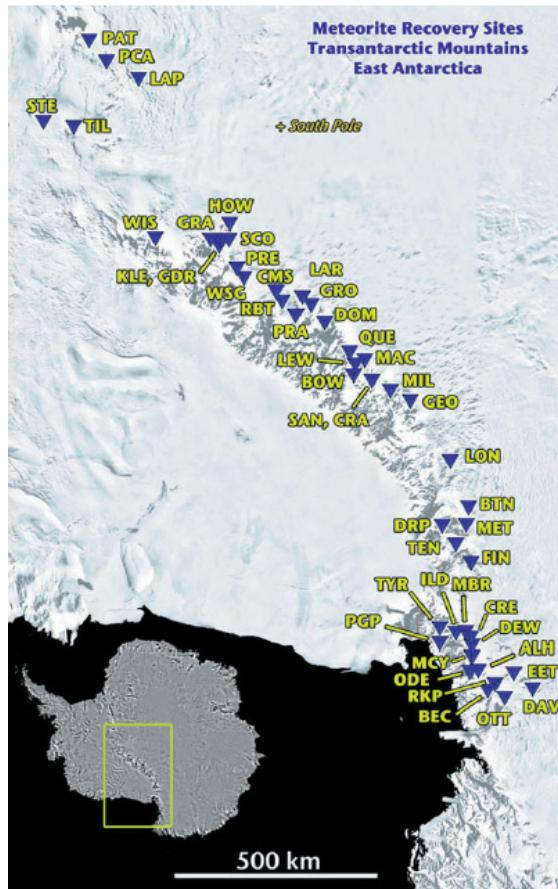
The systematic search team brought back 680 specimens, most of them from the Larkman Nunataks icefields, where the team foot-searched a very productive moraine on days too windy for snowmobile searching.

The reconnaissance team felt the effects of the weather more severely; not only did high winds hamper their searching efforts, but it also limited their ability to move from one site to another via Twin Otter.

In spite of this, the reconnaissance team brought back 176 meteorites from 4 sites, bringing the overall total for the 2006/07 season collection to 856. And the word on the street is that the proportion of finds that are unusual, either in terms of size or classification, is higher than the team had seen lately.

Budget constraints at NASA mean that there will be

Continued to page 32



Location map and list of sites where meteorites have been found.

Antarctic Meteorite Locations

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| ALH | Allan Hills | FIN | Finger Ridge | MAC | MacAlpine Hills | QUE | Queen Alexandra Range |
| BEC | Beckett Nunatak | GDR | Gardner Ridge | MBR | Mount Baldr | RBT | Roberts Massif |
| BOW | Bowden Neve | GEO | Geologists Range | MCY | MacKay Glacier | RKP | Reckling Peak |
| BTN | Bates Nunataks | GRA | Graves Nunataks | MET | Meteorite Hills | SAN | Sandford Cliffs |
| CMS | Cumulus Hills | GRO | Grosvenor Mountains | MIL | Miller Range | SCO | Scott Glacier |
| CRA | Mt. Cranfield Ice Field | HOW | Mt. Howe | ODE | Odell Glacier | STE | Stewart Hills |
| CRE | Mt. Crean | ILD | Inland Forts | OTT | Outpost Nunatak | TEN | Tentacle Ridge |
| DAV | David Glacier | KLE | Klein Ice Field | PAT | Patuxent Range | TIL | Thiel Mountains |
| DEW | Mt. DeWitt | LAP | LaPaz Ice Field | PCA | Pecora Escarpment | TYR | Taylor Glacier |
| DOM | Dominion Range | LAR | Larkman Nunatak | PGP | Purgatory Peak | WIS | Wisconsin Range |
| DRP | Derrick Peak | LEW | Lewis Cliff | PRA | Mt. Pratt | WSG | Mt. Wisting |
| EET | Elephant Moraine | LON | Lonewolf Nunataks | PRE | Mt. Prestrud | | |



SOIL MAPPING IN THE WRIGHT VALLEY

A team from Landcare Research has been mapping soils in the Wright Valley, Dry Valley region, for the last three seasons.

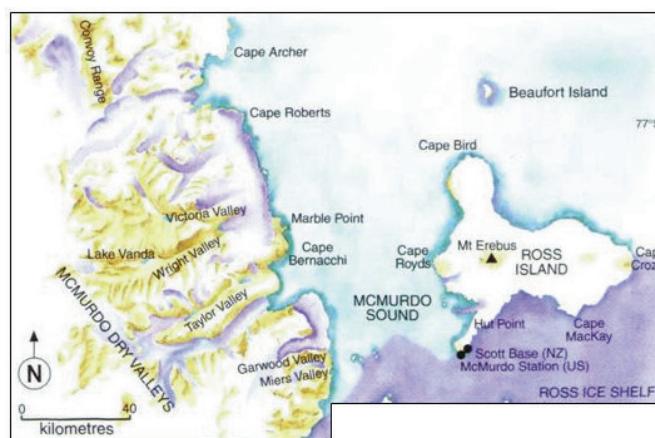
The research aims are to provide a spatial framework for environmental reporting and protection as well as a spatial database of soil properties relevant to other researchers.

During the 2006–2007 field season, the team – Antarctica New Zealand event K123A – investigated landforms and soils of the western Wright Valley, including the North and South Forks, the Dais, and the Labyrinth (ca. $160^{\circ} 40'$ – $161^{\circ} 30'$ E).

The team consisted of Dr. Jackie Aislaby (Principal Investigator), Mr. Malcolm McLeod (Event Leader), Dr. Megan Balks (Waikato University) and Prof. James Bockheim (University of Wisconsin, USA). The primary goals of this season's research were three-fold: to collect and archive soils data, to prepare a soils map of the Wright Valley, and finally, to assess possible human impacts to soils. The

deposits of four major glaciations that range in age from the mid-Holocene to the Pliocene and other landforms were investigated. In western Wright Valley, soil map units are closely linked to geomorphic/landscape sur-

face. Various soils were found and categorized into soil map units. These units will be incorporated onto a GIS-based soil map at a scale of 1:50,000, a scale that is useful to assess impacts from human activities.



Map showing location of Wright Valley and inset of aerial photograph covering the area.

James Blake launches Antarctic Youth Ambassador Programme



James Blake inside tent at the field site.



Sir Edmund Hillary and James Blake.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and James Blake, son of the late New Zealand adventurer and yachtsman Sir Peter Blake, announced a new initiative to help young New Zealanders fulfil their environmental passions in Antarctica.

The Antarctic Youth Ambassador Programme, a partnership between Antarctica New Zealand and the Sir Peter Blake Trust, was launched at Cape Royds in Antarctica as part of the 50th anniversary of Scott Base in January. Sir Edmund Hillary, Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore, Antarctic scientists and media attended the event.

The programme hopes to engage young New Zealanders in Antarctic environmental issues such as climate change, environmental impact assessment and protection of unique areas and endangered or threatened species.

The Prime Minister said the programme is a great tribute to avid environmentalist Sir Peter Blake. "It is fitting that in Sir Peter's honour, the programme will provide opportunities for young New Zealanders to further his Antarctic passion and love of the natural environment, and to contribute to managing and preserving this amazing continent."

Sir Peter's son James, who worked in Antarctica during the 2006/07 season on a New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust project to conserve and restore the huts of the first explorers in Antarctica, says the programme is something his father would be very proud of.

"Dad developed a real passion for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean as a result of his many world sailing expeditions.

He fulfilled a long-held dream when he visited the Antarctic Peninsula onboard *Seamaster* in 2001. I



Sir Edmund Hillary interviewed by media at Youth Ambassador Programme launch.

know he would be very excited about this programme. It's a wonderful opportunity".

In many ways the relationship between the Sir Peter Blake Trust and Antarctica New Zealand is a very natural one.

Sir Peter was a great expeditioner who had an immense passion for Antarctica. In 2001, Sir Peter led an expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula. At that time Sir Peter had been appointed as a special envoy of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and took on a role as an ambassador for the Antarctic environment.

Sir Peter also strongly identified with and admired the early Antarctic explorers such as Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton, and had great

respect for Sir Edmund Hillary.

Each year, the Antarctic Youth Ambassador Programme will see one New Zealander, aged 18 – 25 years, work on Antarctica New Zealand's environmental initiatives and act as an ambassador to help others based on their experiences.

The Youth Ambassador will be placed with Antarctica New Zealand during the summer months and work as part of the environmental team. This may include work based at the International Antarctic Centre in Christchurch, at Scott Base in Antarctica or in other Antarctic locations for which Antarctica New Zealand has responsibility. The Antarctic Youth Ambassador Programme is open to all New Zealand residents aged 18–25 years at time of application.



More information can be downloaded online at <http://www.sirpeterblaketrust.org> or <http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz>.

TAKE-OFF

THE HELICOPTERS (NZ) STORY

Written by Gavin McLean

with Pat Lewis.

Review by Wolfgang Rack.

Hazard Press

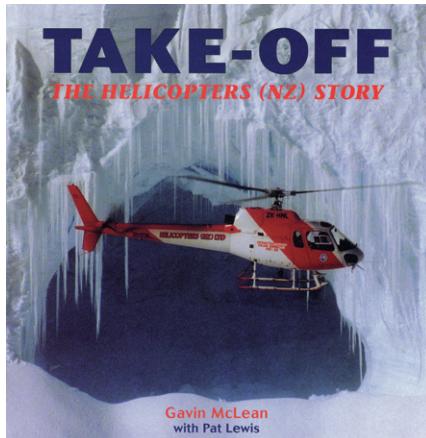
ISBN 1-877393-31-2 (2007)

RRP \$NZ 69.99.

Take-Off is the story of Helicopter (NZ) Ltd (HNZ), commissioned by the company itself, to mark the company's 50-year anniversary. What one might expect is a self-praising uniliterary story, reams of charts and numbers, nice photos for the helicopter enthusiasts and those closely related to the company (and they know the stories and photos anyway). Everything put together by a deserving and retired employee. Partly true, perhaps. But interestingly, HNZ chose a different path, engaged an experienced book writer and historian (Gavin McLean), assisted by an aviation enthusiast (Pat Lewis), which was exactly the right thing to do in order to publish this fascinating story for a wider public audience.

Gavin McLean, senior historian at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage in Wellington, together with Pat Lewis, based their book on many interviews, as archive material was short. The outcome of their accurate and scientific investigation is the exciting and very personal story of HNZ. The book is well structured in seven chapters and several Appendices, and the reader can easily pick out a special area of interest. The sources of information are well referenced.

Starting with one helicopter in 1957, HNZ developed not as smoothly as one might think. Through many ups and downs HNZ offered its service to farmers, offshore explorers, tourist companies, and polar exploration. The highlight for many NZAS readers will be Chapter 6 "On Ice in Antarctica", with stories on how HNZ got involved in and



developed polar exploration. These stories are informative, often amazing, and sometimes funny. In many anecdotes the authors describe how HNZ became a valuable partner in the Antarctic programmes of the US, Australia, Germany, Italy, and New Zealand. In this way it is not only a history of HNZ itself, but also a history on early polar exploration. For example, HNZ was very much involved in the early Italian Antarctic Programme and the establishment of the Italian Base Terra Nova, now named Mario Zucchelli Station. Interestingly, the Antarctic Programme of New Zealand was the last programme which made use of the service of HNZ. One amazing story is a Twin Otter flight from Auckland to Antarctica for the 90 Degrees South Expedition in 1986, with a refuel stop on a flat topped iceberg.

In a time when accurate positioning using Global Positioning Systems was not possible, an HNZ helicopter pilot navigated the aircraft through clouds to the icy runway in the open ocean, before it could continue its flight to Antarctica. In this story and several others, it becomes clear how the modern communication that we take for granted today, makes polar research much more easier.

OK, honesty time...perhaps the book will not win a prize for literature, but, that's not what it was writ-

ten for. It is a highly enjoyable read. So, pick out your favourite chapter or two, enjoy the numerous photographs, start reading, and become part of an amazing Kiwi success story.

Wolfgang Rack is a senior lecturer at Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury, who specialises in Polar Remote Sensing and has worked in both the Arctic and Antarctic.

SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC

637 pages

ISBN 0007150717

Harper Perennial

RRP \$NZ 26.99.

Reviewing this book by David Crane for *The Christchurch Press*. Ron Hay says, "For 50 years after his death, Robert Falcon Scott was seen as the quintessential embodiment of heroism and chivalry, an inspiring example of self-sacrifice and courage and devotion to duty. In recent decades a more cynical generation has set about debunking the legend...Scott is now dismissed as a bungling incompetent who could not hold a candle to Amundsen or Shackleton..." The review goes on to note that David Crane sets out to negotiate a middle path between these two views and what emerges is "a portrait of a complex, admirable man ever so much more interesting, human and nuanced than either the original or modern myth."

Sidney Nolan Exhibition Catalogue a Gem

Sidney Nolan's "Antarctic Journey"

If you missed painter Sidney Nolan's exhibition "Antarctic Journey" at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (MPRG) in Victoria Australia, then you might be interested in the exhibition catalogue. The MPRG catalogue is a fully illustrated collection of Nolan's works which includes an essay from Rodney James, the curator and is a beautiful reflection of Sir Sidney Nolan's Antarctica series of paintings and drawings. Nolan and writer Alan Moorehead visited Antarctica for two weeks in January 1964 as guests of the United States Navy. The artist recorded his impressions from the air and on the ground with watercolor sketches and photographs. Once returned to England, Nolan produced a major body of work from his experiences and impressions.

Nolan's artistic journey and inspired works captured the imagination of the public and international

media when the works were exhibited in London, New York and Australia in 1965. The works reveal the mood of the experience and the awe and wonder the artist felt when faced with this remote landscape.

You can order the catalogue through the MPRG website. Price is \$AU25 plus postage.

See <http://mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au/shop/index.html> for full details or to order.

Gripping story...

"*Broken Journey*" tells the story of helicopter pilot Jennifer Murray's near fatal attempt to fly around the world via the North and South Poles. Murray and her co-pilot, Colin Bodill, took off in their Bell 407 helicopter in October 2003 to set a new aviation world record. But their dreams – and so nearly their lives – were shattered on 20th December 2003 when they crashed in whiteout conditions just

two days after reaching the South Pole. Both pilots sustained serious injuries and their crash was reported by media around the globe. This book tells the story of their journey, the two years of preparation, the highs and lows of the expedition, their crash and how they fought for their lives and came within twenty minutes of freezing to death. Murray tells a gripping story of a journey that turns into a nightmare, and does so with candid honesty and humour.

Deep Freeze: The US, the IGY and the Origins of Antarctica's Age of Science

This recently published book by Dian Olson Belanger will be reviewed in an upcoming issue of the journal, but a good source has told NZ Antarctic Society members that it is an excellent read.

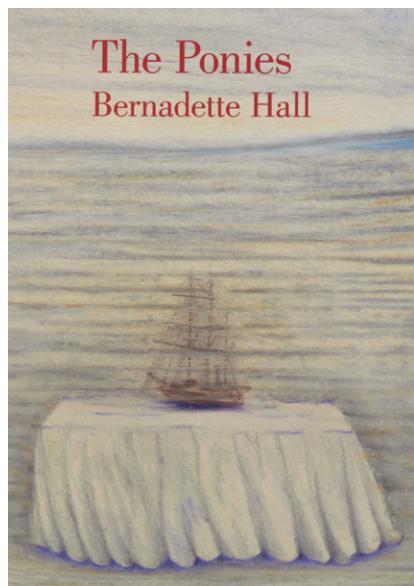
THE PONIES

Written By Bernadette Hall.

Review by Jeffrey Paparoa Holman.

Victoria University Press,
Wellington ISBN 0-86473-552-9
& 9780-86473-5522 \$NZ 25.00.

In December 2004, together with the artist Kathryn Madill, Christchurch poet Bernadette Hall spent two weeks in Antarctica on an Antarctica New Zealand fellowship. Following in the trail of an earlier poet-fellow, Bill Manhire, Hall flew south with her sharp visual and verbal senses, keen to experience the



white cold, the isolation and unique history of the great southern continent.

Hall is a writer of long experience and great gifts – a worthy recipient of this opportunity, and what she brings back from her journey in this book proves again her merited place in the front rank of our most creative writers. The book divides into three sections: the Antarctic poems, a series of elegies for her lost niece, Shelley Mather, killed in the London Tube bombings of July 2005, then a series of retrospective confessional poems that mostly look back on her inner journeys. While the entire book de-

Continued on next page

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serves the reader's close attention, this review will confine itself in this context to the poems from the ice.

With the award of Victoria University's Writing Fellowship in 2006, Hall had a unique opportunity to write unhindered for a whole year, and bring into focus her time in Antarctica. For those of us who have never been there – and may never go – this is a chance to visit once more in the imagination a place that for most of us, exists there alone. Despite the fact that Christchurch has a unique connection to the ice, from Scott to Deep Freeze up until today, a trip to Quail Island or the Antarctic Centre is a close as we are going to get.

The poet, forced to see the world with eyes renewed by the sheer power of Antarctica's alien landforms, has wrung from these two precious weeks another language, reforging an already sophisticated poetic. Hall is known for her indirect, allusive and spiky work – mini-myths suggestive of a deeper knowledge behind the everyday, giving away little that is personal in the attempt to bring depth from the verbal. She has never been a compul-

sive confessional poet, preferring to let language itself be the revelation. Here, two obvious subjects make a perfect match for the modest but deadly approach she has honed: the rawness of place, and the vulnerability of humanity.

In "The White Boudoir", a telephone call home from Scott Base to her husband provides a foil to the poet's "iced excitement"; his world is full of "solid, sunny, meaty sounds" and a "raging remorseless green". But Hall, like Scott (whose literary presence she evokes as a familiar spirit) is alone with the Antarctic "ice maiden", and the ghosts of explorers-as-romantics, full of desire to wake this sleeping beauty with a kiss that will be spurned in another deadly blizzard. These lines are sibilant with the hiss and burr of human breath, insistent alliteration and a cool irony: the poet herself is an ice maiden, a newby fresh to the mythic landscape of snow and story.

In poem after poem, Hall displays her verbal skills and powers of observation; she's read the literature too, and these works are full of rich references to earlier visitors who recorded something human in the face of an icy indifference: travel diaries, love letters,

journals of exploration. She absorbs new words and brings them to life: "Sastrugi" is a sharply observed piece that attempts to enact as much as describe the unforgiving snow ridges sculpted by the wind. And all the while, Hall reminds us that everyone in Antarctica – and the rest of earth for that matter – is a visitor needing to respect their world, resisting "this impulse to read the wilderness as *domus*". We are not home yet, she seems to whisper – but what majesty we are passing through.

This is an important addition to the growing literature on New Zealand's links to the ice, and a great book of poetry in its own right. For those who don't normally go out and buy single volumes of new writing by our poets, here is a chance to make up for lost opportunities. *The Ponies* will carry you far.

Jeffrey Paparoa Holman is a writer and researcher whose published works include *As Big As A Father* (Steele Roberts, 2002) and *The late great Blackball Bridge sonnets* (Steele Roberts, 2004). He is presently working on a new study of the ethnographer, Elsdon Best.

Continued from page 26

no Antarctic reconnaissance team for the 2007/08 field season; furthermore, there are no clear prospects for support at any time in the future.

The systematic search efforts funded by NSF are, however, solid for at least two more seasons, so there's no fear that the supply of Antarctic meteorites will dry up.

However, it's also clear that the past 5 years of reconnaissance team activity have been exceptionally valuable, bringing many important new meteorites to the community.

See <http://geology.cwru.edu/~harvey/fff/> for more information and for a copy of the meteorite newsletter *Fabulous Frozen Finds*.



The systematic searching team collecting a specimen near Mt. Block.

TREASURES FROM CANTERBURY MUSEUM - REMAINS OF THE DERRY CASTLE

By Natalie Cadenhead. Curator of Antarctic and Canterbury Social History.



Figurehead from *Derry Castle*.
Canterbury Museum 1941.30.1.

On March 20 1887, during a voyage from Geelong, Australia, to Falmouth, England, with a cargo of wheat, the iron barque *Derry Castle* with twenty-three men on board was wrecked on Enderby Island in the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands Group. Seven of the crew, with one passenger named James McGhie, were washed ashore and survived, but the captain and 14 of the officers

and crew were drowned. Five bodies, including that of Captain Goffe, were washed up on shore and these were buried with part of the ship's wheel placed above them to mark the grave.

Some food floated ashore from the wreck. This included two 1 pound tins of herrings, a pumpkin, and some wheat, which soon began to grow mouldy, and germinate on being removed from the water. This food was supplemented by shell-fish and on one occasion by a shag which was killed. Warmth was provided by two blankets which floated ashore, several bags and grass, which were spread on wickerwork beehive-shaped huts, which the survivors built. For boots they had pieces of sealskin sewn round the feet by means of a sharpened nail and some rope yarn.

The first major need was to create fire, both for warmth and to enable them to cook the grain, their staple article of food, before it became spoiled. A box of wooden matches had been found which due to their prolonged soaking were unusable even when dried. Fire was eventually started by detonating a revolver cartridge which James McGhie found in his pocket. The fire was kept going constantly and was used to roast the wheat to create a watery porridge.

After 3 months, on the 92nd day, the men discovered an old axe head, which had been left by a whaling party in the past. Using this they created a flat bottomed dinghy from wreckage of the *Derry Castle*, using



The graves on Enderby Island showing the figurehead and ship's wheel in position.
Canterbury Museum 1982.183.1.

fragments of rope to caulk the seams and make it waterproof. Two survivors, Sullivan and Rennie, traveled to Port Ross on Auckland Island, which was within sight of Enderby Island, and returned with clothing and provisions from the New Zealand government castaway depot there. All eight survivors were transported to Port Ross, using the dinghy, and stayed at the depot a further month until the 19th July 1887 when the *Awarua* put into Port Ross in search of a boat which had been left there previously. Captain L.F. Drew took the shipwrecked men to Australia, cutting short his five months' sealing cruise. The survivors of the *Derry Castle* reached Hobsons Bay, Victoria, on 21 September 1887 and stayed in the Sailor's Home in Melbourne. With the exception of McGhie, who was badly affected with rheumatism, the survivors were in good health.

Government steamer *Stella* made periodical inspections to the Auckland Islands in search of shipwrecked mariners. On her next inspection voyage she found the figurehead from the *Derry Castle* washed up on the beach. Before returning to Australia, Captain Fairchild of the *Stella* erected the figurehead on the north coast of Enderby Island to mark the grave of the captain and men who had drowned. The figurehead remained in place for some years but was eventually washed out to sea again. She was recovered from the beach in 1941 and gifted to Canterbury Museum where she is currently on display in the Transport Gallery.

NZAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

On 14 October 2006, NZ Antarctic Society members attended the AGM held at the Antarctic Attraction at the International Antarctic Visitor Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand. This AGM was effectively a combined AGM for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06, as no AGM was held in 2004-5.

Key issues discussed at the meeting included:

Scott Base 50th Anniversary and the NZAS 75th Anniversary:

The NZ Antarctic Society turns 75 in 2008. This milestone is likely to be overshadowed by the Scott Base 50th, but the Society will start planning events to celebrate as soon as possible. The Canterbury Branch will host the national Scott Base 50th anniversary celebration 28-30 September 2007 to coincide with the Antarctic Festival in Christchurch

New Zealand Antarctic Medal: This is a replacement for the previous Polar Medal. In 1995 New Zealanders became ineligible for the Po-

lar Medal (UK) as New Zealand adopted its own medal system. The NZ Antarctic Medal is a shift from service to outstanding contribution, long service is excluded. It is equivalent to the Queens' Service Medal. The Society or any individual may nominate.

Finances and Membership:

In 2004, the Society's tight financial situation led to the closing of the head office, suspension of broadsheet publications, and the suspension of capitation fees. After instigating these measures, the Society is now in a much better financial position, showing a surplus in 2006. Member-

ship fell during the 2004-05 period, but numbers are holding in 2006. Current subscription rates will be retained for 2006-07.

Appointments:

Many new appointments were made at the AGM including a new President, Norm McPherson (Canterbury Branch), and Secretary, Jud Fretter (Wellington Branch). The Society would like to thank outgoing officers, including the outgoing President Malcolm Macfarlane, for their dedication and hard work over the past few years.

OVER MY SHOULDER

Continued from page 18

held on the evening of 21 January 2007 and was attended by all at Scott Base and 20 invited US guests from McMurdo Station. Prime Minister Helen Clark welcomed everybody.

Speeches were also given by Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch and Dr. Arden Bement. Grace by Father Yvan Segny, McMurdo Chaplain, was especially poignant - being partly in Maori, including a karakia (sung prayer) quietly joined by Defence Chief Gerry Mateparae and Mayor Garry Moore. The dinner toast, on behalf of the TAE was proposed by TAE Member Bill Cranfield.

Sir Ed was presented with a suitably engraved ice axe to commemorate the occasion and received a standing ovation accompanied by the singing of 'For he's a jolly good fel-



Scott Base Birthday Cake.

low'. It is a great challenge to prepare for and successfully deliver a sumptuous banquet for nearly 90 people at Scott Base.

However, the kitchen crew led by head chef Donna Wightman certainly did that and also received a standing ovation from those present for their superlative effort. Camaraderie in the famous Scott Base bar continued af-

ter dinner to top off a wonderful occasion, well organised, delivered and truly celebrated.

Continued from page 29

The weekend's events will provide social and formal opportunities for members of the Antarctic community to join official and VIP guests, fellow former Antarctica, national and community leaders to commemorate this significant milestone in the history of Antarctica.

See <http://www.mgevents.co.nz/> for further details. REGISTER NOW! PRIZE DRAW FOR REGISTRATIONS PRIOR TO 30 JUNE 2007.

FUCHS FOUNDATION RE-LAUNCHED

The celebration of the TAE's 50th Anniversary was impetus of the re-launching of the Fuchs Foundation charity in England recently.

Sir Vivian "Bunny" Fuchs was the British Antarctic Survey's first Director and leader of the British party on the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Over its first 30 years the Fuchs Foundation has supported over 200 young men and women to have exciting and character-forming experiences on every continent.

The TAE Anniversary is marked by the Fuchs Foundation Antarctic Expedition 2007, the members of which are four young science and geography teachers, under the guidance of two experienced polar leaders, who will undertake science projects in the Ellsworth Mountains, Antarctica, 80 deg south latitude.

Their projects include human physiology in relation to the cold, study of cryoconite holes on the Union Glacier, survey and collection of

lichens and tardigrades in the area, and the environmental footprint of the expedition. The event (FFAE2007) is departing the UK early in November 2007, and will spend four to six weeks in the field.

The Fuchs Foundation has entered into a partnership with the Scott Polar Research Institute of Cambridge University, to prepare and publish on-line educational packages based on the Foundation's polar expeditions.

FFAE2007 is made possible with collaboration from Portsmouth University's Human & Allied Physiology Laboratories, Sheffield University's glaciology experts and Nottingham University's biologists for the lichen sampling, which has never been done so far south in that part of Antarctica.

The re-launching aims to raise sub-

stantial funds which will enable the Foundation to send annual scientific expeditions to the Polar Regions in lasting memory to Bunny Fuchs, who showed a generation of school children a sense of curiosity, self-reliance, self-determination and challenge.

The departure of the FFAE2007 will be marked by a lecture and supper at the Royal Geographical Society on 24th October 2007, and the completion of the TAE crossing of Antarctica by a lecture at the Scott Polar Research Institute, followed by a fund-raising dinner at St. John's College, Cambridge on 1st March 2008.

(See also Letter to the Editor in this issue of *Antarctic*).

Continued from page 6

airdrop of supplies.

They encountered extreme temperatures as low as -30deg C and Bigger wrote in an update as the pair neared the Pole "We've been on the trail now for seven weeks and (the cold) has taken its toll. I haven't been able to feel my fingertips on my hands for a few weeks and eight of my ten toes are all black. But that doesn't matter as we're just 50kms away from the Pole."

He described his blackened fingers and toes as 'niggles'.

Hamill gave the trek an epic perspective. "I'm really concerned that people don't understand what

they've done to get to the Pole – it's like 90% of the challenge and they've gone faster than anyone."

They estimated that by reaching the Pole by 4 January 2007, they could turn around and make it back to the coast in time to catch a last plane leaving Antarctica's Patriot Hill strip at the end of January. To reach the Pole they needed to average 25kms a day.

In the final few days they achieved 22.22kms (12 miles a day) rather than the general 25.93kms (14 miles) they had set as an objective.

Hamill said heading to the Pole the pair had been forced by tail winds to abandon plans to use kites to pull

them forward. They carried three types of kites to handle all wind conditions and had hoped to average 50kms a day on the return leg.

Sir Edmund Hillary, said the pair had suffered in the conditions. "But they got to the Pole and good on them."

International Polar Year Begins



The largest collaborative science program ever attempted – International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 — will focus on both the Arctic and Antarctic regions and will involve more than 200 research projects, 50,000 scientists and more than 60 countries.

IPY was officially launched in the US in February and will run until March 9, 2009, giving enough time for scientists to cover two research seasons at each pole. Scientists from around the planet will conduct a range of physical, biological and social sciences research studies that address important questions which will result in a large education component.

"The US alone has promised more than US\$350 million per year to support its IPY activities", said Paula Dobriansky, under secretary of state for democracy and global affairs, during the 26 February opening ceremony at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC, USA.

Participating nations include Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and others.

"Our planet is changing more quickly than at any time in recorded history," said US National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Arden Bement. "Frigid waters of the north and the frozen continent of the south are helping us realize and understand that change. We do not fully understand the causes of what we are observing. IPY has generated the na-

tional will to change that, and new tools – from satellites to ships to sensors – make it possible to obtain the needed observations and synthesis of knowledge."

IPY will be conducted by scientists and engineers around the world, who will perform field research. Students of all ages will be involved through formal and informal mechanisms.

Questions to be asked include the following:

- How does life persist in the world's coldest, darkest regions?
- How will changes in glaciers, ice sheets, snow cover and sea ice affect the global Earth system?
- How are traditional ways of life in the Arctic latitudes facing the challenges of a changing planet?
- What will scientists discover when 21st century technology and new scientific monitoring and observational systems examine this unique frontier?

IPY researchers will use new technology – including high-powered computers, automatic observatories, satellite-based remote sensing, autonomous vehicles – to better understand how polar regions contribute and drive global processes.

Many research projects will include educational components to help build a legacy of scientific literacy, attract students to careers in related sciences and inform the public through science-related television

programs, films, radio programs, museum exhibits and other media. This is the fourth IPY. The first such collaborative effort was held from 1882-83.

More information about the US involvement in International Polar Year is available at <http://www.usipy.gov/>.

A WARMER ARCTIC

The first detailed analysis of the record from the seabed in the Arctic near the North Geographic Pole shows that 55 million years ago the Arctic Ocean was much warmer than scientists ever imagined – a tropical year round average of 23 degrees C (74 F)!

The findings published in the journal *Nature* show that we still have a lot to learn about climate change and climate history. Previous computer modelling, developed without the benefit of seabed sampling, did not suggest that the Arctic was anywhere near as warm as that of the new report. The seabed samples represented a climate history that dates back 56 million years. Previous sediment samples from the region provided a record only back some 400,000 years.

NIWA EXPEDITION TO MEASURE WORLD'S LARGEST CURRENT

A trans-Tasman team of scientists is setting out to discover just how much water flows south of New Zealand as part of the world's largest current, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. 'It's been estimated that this current is 110–150 times larger than all the water flowing in all the rivers of the world,' says voyage leader Dr Mike Williams of the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA). 'In terms of the world's oceans, New Zealand is not some tiny backwater or the proverbial last bus stop on the planet; we are right beside the motorway.'

The Antarctic Circumpolar Current travels clockwise around Antarctica. It is a vital link in the global ocean conveyor, connecting the waters of the Atlantic, Indian and Pa-

cific oceans. 'We want to pin down as much as possible how large the flow is past New Zealand. This will help us to understand how much of it is available to flow into the Pacific as opposed to continuing to circumnavigate Antarctica. This is important for understanding, and ultimately predicting, how this current affects the climate around New Zealand and in the Southwest Pacific.'

Scientists on-board NIWA's deepwater research vessel *Tangaroa* will deploy nine strings of current meters in two gaps in the Macquarie Ridge, which runs southwest of New Zealand past Macquarie Island. 'We call these gaps "choke points". The current has to squeeze through these, so we can measure the flow quite accurately,' says Dr Williams. The

strings of current meters will be deployed in water ranging from 1200 to 4500 metres deep, and will stay in place for at least a year before being retrieved for analysis. 'Currents vary through the seasons so we need to collect at least a year's worth of data,' says Dr Williams. The team will also systematically measure the temperature and salinity of this part of the ocean for the first time since the 1960s, looking for any climate-related changes, and collect water samples to measure nutrients available for marine life. This is a collaboration between the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC), the University of Tasmania, and NIWA.

Subglacial Lakes Power the Engines that Drive Ice Sheet Collapse

The SCAR Newsletter reports that a research team led by geophysicists Robin Bell and Michael Studinger from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, has recently discovered four large, subglacial lakes miles beneath the Antarctic ice sheet's surface. This brings the total number of known Antarctic subglacial lakes to about 150. The team linked the lakes to a fast flowing ice stream above and established that within this 275 km (170 mile) wide area, the lakes contribute to the creation of a major ice stream. The team, which includes scientists from NASA, the University of New Hampshire USA and the University of Washington USA published their results in the Feb. 22 issue of the journal *Nature*. Ice streams are large, fast-

flowing features within ice sheets that transport land-based ice and meltwater to the ocean. One such stream, the Recovery Glacier ice stream, annually drains the equivalent of 8% of the huge East Antarctic Ice Sheet, an area larger than the continental United States.

The associated Recovery Drainage Basin, virtually unexplored since an American-led Antarctic ice sheet research trek over 40 years ago, funnels an estimated 35 billion tonnes of ice into the Weddell Sea annually.

"It's almost as if the lakes are capturing the geothermal energy from the entire basin and releasing it to the ice stream," said lead author Robin Bell. "They power the engines that drive ice sheet collapse. The more we learn about the lakes, the more we realize

how important they are to ice sheet stability". Moreover, the work suggests that subglacial lakes could play a role in sea level rise as well as regional and global climate change. Meltwater at the base of ice streams increases the flow of ice to the oceans, which could, in turn, contribute to higher sea levels worldwide. In addition, floods have been known to originate from the interior of the ice sheet in the past, possibly from subglacial lakes. These sudden pulses of fresh water could potentially interfere with nearby ocean currents that redistribute heat and carbon dioxide around the globe, disrupting the Earth's finely tuned climate system.

Further details can be found at <http://salepo.tamu.edu>.

FIRST AWARDS OF THE NEW ZEALAND SPECIAL SERVICE MEDAL (EREBUS)

The New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus) was awarded to 22 people at a ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand on 22 March 2007.

The NZSSM (Erebus) was instituted in November 2006 to recognise the service of those New Zealanders, and citizens of the United States of America and other countries, who were involved with the extremely difficult and very hazardous and extreme circumstances associated with the recovery, crash investigation and victim identification phases of Operation Overdue.

Operation Overdue was mounted by the New Zealand Police following the crash of Air New Zealand DC-10 Flight TE901 on the north slope of Mount Erebus, Ross Island, Antarctica on 28 November 1979, with the loss of all 257 passengers and crew. The recovery and investigation phase of Operation Overdue lasted in Antarctica from 29 November 1979 to 12 December 1979. The identification phase of the operation at the mortuary of the Auckland University School of Medicine lasted from 6 December 1979 to 12 February 1980.

Service at one or more of the locations listed below qualified persons for the award: the crash site; on supply or support flights to and from the crash site; at Williams Field, McMurdo Station; or the Mortuary, Auckland University School of Medicine, Auckland. The NZSSM (Erebus) is the third NZSSM that has been created to recognise service in extreme and hazardous circum-



stances. The first NZSSM, the NZSSM (Nuclear Testing), was instituted in 2002, to recognise the service of those personnel who were part of an official New Zealand Government presence at an atmospheric nuclear test between 1956 and 1973. The second NZSSM, the NZSSM (Asian Tsunami), was instituted in 2005, to recognise New Zealanders who were involved in rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts in areas devastated by the earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the resulting tsunami of 26 December 2004. Police Minister Annette King made the presentation at a Parliamentary ceremony. A number of other people will also receive the medal at separate ceremonies around the country over coming months. Ceremonies were held in Christchurch on 30 March, Wellington on 5 April, and Auckland on 27 May.

"On the 28th of November 2006 – the 27th anniversary of the crash – Prime Minister Helen Clark, Defence Minister Phil Goff and Annette King announced the NZSSM would be awarded to personnel involved with Operation Overdue," she said. "This medal recognises the work of extraordinary individuals who undertook the recovery, investigation and identification work in the aftermath of the Erebus disaster, an unparalleled tragedy in our history."

Recipients of the NZ Special Service Medal (Erebus) at the Parliamentary Ceremony on 22 March, 2007.

New Zealand Police

Inspector Gregory James Gilpin
Inspector Stuart Barlass Leighton
Retired Superintendent Robert Stronach Mitchell
Retired Sergeant Mark Anthony Penn
Inspector Alastair Bruce Williams
Inspector Bruce Edward Blayne
Sergeant Allan Donald Cantley
Senior Constable Alan Robert Campbell
Retired Constable Catherine Ann Ahuriri
Retired Sergeant Graham Charles Webby
Retired Constable Trefor Jones
Office of Air Accident Investigations
Ronald Chippindale

New Zealand Airline Pilots Association

Captain Peter Macdonald Rhodes

Face Rescue

Dr John Ross Keys

New Zealand Antarctic Research Programme

Dr Hugh Francis Malcolm Logan

New Zealand Defence Force

Retired Warrant Officer Raymond Colin Symons
Retired Warrant Officer Dennis Anthony Nathan

New Zealand Press Association

Paul Cavanagh

New Zealand Funeral Directors Association

Peter Alexander Strong

Mortuary Technician

Edward John Russell

Forensic Dentist

Dr Maurice Craig Churton

Forensic Pathologist

Dr Timothy David Koelmeyer

South Pole Route May Be Used By Tourists

An article that recently appeared in *The Dominion Post* newspaper, says a travel website is promoting a sightseeing tour along Antarctica's South Pole route.

The route, created by the US, extends from McMurdo Base on Ross Island to the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Any use of this path by tourists angers those who believe the world's last wilderness should remain untouched.

The 10-day tour proposed for 2008, which the group is calling "Zero South", is being touted by an extreme adventure group on their website <http://www.drivearoundtheworld.com>.

It seems the group proposes using alternative fuel vehicles to make the journey across the Antarctic ice sheet.

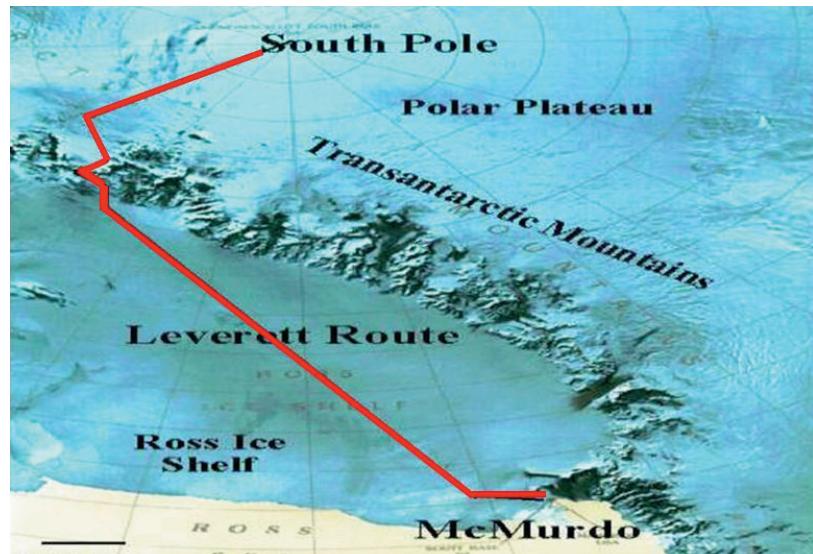
Canterbury University Senior Fellow of Antarctic studies and member of the Non-governmental Organisation – The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition

(ASOC) – Dr. Alan Hemmings said the proposed tour by the San Francisco-based group was hugely concerning, and he urged American authorities - who built the route to the pole - to place an immediate ban on tourists using it.

Dr Hemmings said there was obviously a desire by some to travel the South Pole road, "piggy-backing" the American convoys. But by allowing some to travel the route, demand would increase, he said.

The United States Antarctic Programme presented an Environmental Impact Assessment proposal to the Antarctic Treaty parties when they built the route to the pole.

The object of the route being to reduce the volume of air freighting to the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. One 100-tonne tractor convoy carries the equivalent cargo load of 11 Hercules aircraft.



30TH ANTARCTIC TREATY MEETING UNDERWAY

From 30 April to 11 May representatives from 46 states and numerous Antarctic organisations in New Delhi, India, gathered for the thirtieth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM XXX). The agenda for this meeting highlights many important topics and includes discussions on: Safety and Operations in Antarctica; The International Polar Year 2007 - 2008; Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area; Science & educational Issues; and Biological Prospecting in Antarctica.

More information can be found at www.ats.aq.

THE MAGIC OF ANTARCTIC COLOURS

The works created by David Abbey Paige, artist on the Second Byrd Expedition to Antarctica (1933 -1935), and owned by The Ohio State University, have been published as an exhibition catalogue by Reinhard A. Krause and Lars U. Scholl.

The book is 126 pages in length and not only includes high quality images of the pastels, but also photographs from the expedition, as well as overview text about BAE II and biographical information about David Paige.

The book is available for purchase from Laura Kissel, Polar Curator, University Archives, The Ohio State University, 2700 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210 or kissel.4@osu.edu.

More information on the book and the exhibition which was held in Bremerhaven on the occasion of the XXVIII SCAR Delegates Meeting in October 2004 can be found at <http://library.osu.edu/sites/archives/polar/paige/paige.htm>

Peter Fuchs writes to members of the NZAS:

As a follow on to the article in this issue relating to the re-launch of the Fuchs Foundation, any NZAS members who are in the UK during October 2007 or March 2008 will be warmly welcomed to the Fuchs Foundation events. For further information please contact me.

Peter Fuchs,
Chairman of Trustees,
Fuchs Foundation
Email: peter@fuchsfoundation.org
Web: www.fuchsfoundation.org

Continued from page 11

to their memorandum was non-committal.

A year later the situation still hadn't changed, although by this time news had erupted of a British attempt to cross the Antarctic continent, and that New Zealand had given broad approval for an Antarctic national base, but with no details. Meanwhile, the Society's membership was growing rapidly, with Auckland setting up a new branch.

A five-man delegation from the society met with Government officials including the new Minister of External Affairs, Tom Macdonald, who had visited Campbell Island in 1953, and with the Minister in charge of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ronald Algie, but not the Prime Minister who was overseas at the time. The minister was responsive and the society Council set up a committee to provide a 'watching brief' over the Government and to take action if called on for information. The committee of seven included Arthur Helm (convenor), Harold Griffith, Noel Odell, professor of Geology at Otago University, and Jim Rose, father-in-law of Sir Edmund Hillary.

The breakthrough occurred in May 1955, shortly after the fourth branch of the society was formed in Christchurch. Macdonald announced that New Zealand would contribute £50,000 towards the cost of the proposed Trans-Antarctic Expedition and set up a committee to organise a base. The Ross Sea Committee was formed. With Arthur Helm as secretary and Robert Falla as a member and convenor of a sub-committee to select the 32 members of the New Zealand expedition. The Ross Sea Committee immediately launched a public appeal for funds and arranged public meetings at all of the main centres, with many speakers being drawn from the NZAS membership.

With New Zealand's involvement now a reality, Les Quartermain, who had been editor of the society's cyclostyled newsletter since 1950, was now elected as editor of a properly printed journal called *Antarctic*. The journal covered the exciting period from exploratory expeditions by New Zealanders in early 1956, to the establishment of Scott Base in January 1957. At the same time three groups were exploring, surveying and mapping huge tracks of country using dog teams. Scientific work for the IGY was being undertaken at Scott Base. There was the first winter at Scott Base and the season afterwards, the CTAE crossing party arrived at Scott Base. Many of those

people on the first expedition became important members of the Society: Arthur Helm was Liaison/Postal Officer with the TAE summer party; Arnold Heine was part of the IGY summer party; Randal Heke oversaw the building of Scott Base; Trevor Hatherton was Chief Scientist of the over-wintering IGY party, with Peter MacDonald, while John Claydon and Bill Cranfield, who also wintered-over, flew the two TAE aircraft; Bob Miller was deputy leader of the TAE party, and with George Marsh, sledged immense distances with dogs in the central Transantarctic Mountains. Murray Ellis as the engineer was an extremely important member of the tractor team that reached the South Pole; and of course, Sir Edmund Hillary, was leader of the New Zealand TAE party, and is now the Society's Patron. But the Trans-Antarctic Expedition had still been only a private British expedition and during the following years the Antarctic society continued to lobby for a truly national Antarctic programme with the temporary Scott Base being retained as a national base.

This is now a reality.

Corrections to Issue 199 *Antarctic*:

In *Antarctic*, vol 24, no 4, 2006, the article entitled "Medals and Decorations of the French South Seas and Antarctic Expedition 1937 - 40, should read 1837 - 40; also in that article the top of the chart of recipients on page 71 should read (1837 - 40) not (1837 - 48) as printed. Apologies for these oversights by the editor

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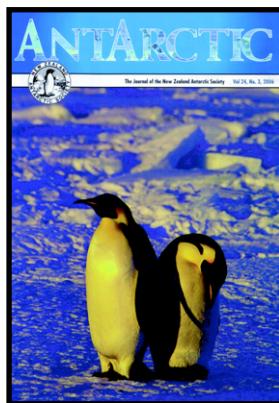
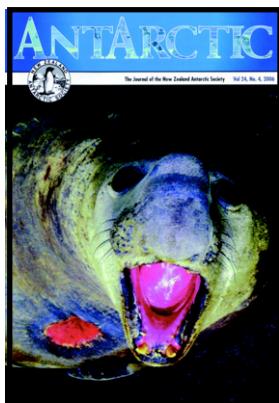
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The New Zealand Antarctic Society Inc was formed in 1933. It comprises New Zealanders and overseas friends, many of whom have been to the Antarctic and all of whom are interested in some phase of Antarctic exploration, history, development or research.

A membership to the New Zealand Antarctic Society entitles members to:

- *Antarctic* which is published quarterly April, July, October, December/January.

It is unique in Antarctic literature as it is the only periodical which provides regular and up to date news of the activities of all nations at work in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic. It has worldwide circulation.

- Occasional meetings are held by the Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago branches.

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