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*Cover photo: Aurora australis with South Pole Station
in the foreground. C. Allen*



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International Team to Conserve Iconic Antarctic Artefacts

Funding is now in place for a two year project that will see the conservation of many items from the heroic era of exploration of Antarctica.

Professional conservators from Canada and Britain started work this week in a laboratory at Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand, to catalogue and conserve part of the iconic collection of artefacts from the Scott and Shackleton expeditions.

The work is made possible as a result of a partnership between Antarctic Heritage Trust and Canterbury Museum with funding from the Canterbury Community Trust.

Conservators Melinda Bell, of Calgary, Canada, and Antonia Craster of Edinburgh, Scotland, have moved to New Zealand to spend the next six months working on the reserve collection at Canterbury Museum. They will then travel to Antarctica to winter-over at Scott Base in 2009 with another two conservators to work on the Antarctic Heritage Trust's Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

“It is fitting that this work can be undertaken at Canterbury Museum given its world class Antarctic collection was started by Scott and Shackleton, when they used Christchurch as a point of departure for the Antarctic a century ago,” said Barry Dent, Chair of the Canterbury Community Trust.

The two year project will see the conservation of reindeer sleeping bags, tents and numerous iconic objects from the early Antarctic expeditions. “This forms part of the wider project we have embarked on to safeguard this legacy for current and future generations,” said Antarctic Heritage Trust Director, Nigel Watson.

The project has been described by those in the profession as “the most exciting heritage project in the world”. The work can be followed online at www.nhm.ac.uk/antarctica-blog/ 



Conservators Antonia Craster and Melinda Bell examine artefacts from Scott and Shackleton's expeditions.



Scott's Hut, Cape Evans, Ross Island, Antarctica. New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust.



Night Ice Flight Hailed as Historic

The first landing of a plane in Antarctica by a pilot using night-vision goggles is being hailed as an historic event which could revolutionise research on the continent.



Just before midnight on Thursday, 11 September 2008, a US Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft flying from Christchurch, New Zealand, touched down in the pitch black of darkness at the US McMurdo Station on Ross Island, Antarctica.

That the plane was able to land safely in the dark has opened up the possibility of making regular trips during the continent's near half year of night.

Previously, air traffic into McMurdo stopped from mid-February to late

August, meaning those who went on the last flight had to stay while no one else could go out. Any medical emergency flights that had to go in were often risky and were not possible during the height of winter darkness.

Antarctica New Zealand Chief Executive Lou Sanson said more frequent flights made a greater level of research possible throughout the year, as well as having implications for any winter rescue missions. "This was an historic event, it will certainly bring a measure of reassurance to those at

McMurdo and (New Zealand's) Scott Base over the winter," he said.

Professor of Antarctic studies, Bryan Storey said the middle of winter and early spring could now be studied by scientists flown in especially at those times. The behaviour of sea ice and atmospheric phenomena could all fall into this category. "You can take people out and bring new people in which allows for a better use of time and is definitely beneficial," said Storey, of the University of Canterbury.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim McGann, of the US Air Force, said poor visibility and stormy conditions during the historic night landing proved how feasible regular flights were. "It was just above the minimum conditions we need to fly. We know now that with the minimum we have set, we can get in," he said. He was proud of his team and the success of this mission which was extremely exciting for the crew but also very challenging.

The plane stayed less than 30 minutes on the ground at the Pegasus runway near McMurdo, before returning safely to Christchurch. ✈

China to Build Inland Antarctic Station

The Chinese delegation at the XXXIst Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held in Kiev, Ukraine, in July 2008, presented the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) with a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE) plan for a new base in Antarctica.

The Chinese Antarctic Programme will set up a new research station in Antarctica on the East Antarctic region's high plateau.

"The 25th Chinese Antarctic expedition starting in October 2008 will focus on building a new station on Dome A and further exploration of the Antarctic plateau," said Wu Jinyou, party secretary with the Polar Research Institute of China.

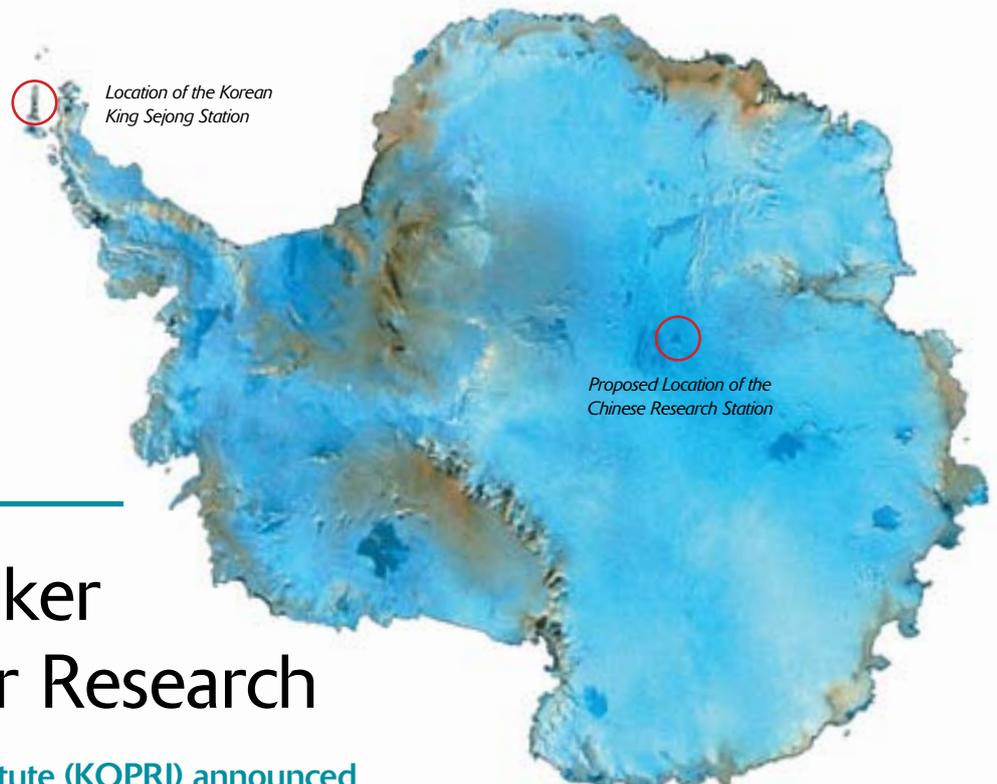
Dome A is on the high ice plateau, 1200 km (7450 mi) inland, and is thought to be one of the coldest naturally occurring places on Earth with temperatures believed to reach -90 degrees C (-130 degrees F).

Construction of a scientific research station in such conditions will be challenging, but the area is of interest to scientists from many nations.

Reports say that construction is expected to be completed in 2010. Once completed, it will be China's first inland Antarctic research station (China has coastal bases at Great Wall Station founded in 1985 and Zhongshan Station built in 1989). China therefore joins six other Antarctic Treaty countries, including

the United States, Russia, Japan, France, Italy and Germany, which have already built inland research stations in Antarctica.

China will submit a final CEE for consideration at the upcoming CEP Meeting. More information on China's polar programmes can be found at <http://www.chinare.gov.cn>.



Korean Icebreaker Will Assist Polar Research

The Korean Polar Research Institute (KOPRI) announced that it will build its first icebreaker to undertake research in both polar regions.

Korea's first icebreaker, to be named *Araon* (Ara meaning 'sea' and On meaning 'all' in Korean), will explore the Arctic and Antarctic beginning in 2012. Similar in size and shape to the US vessel *Nathaniel B Palmer*, KOPRI has plans to conduct more marine-based research in both polar regions. There are also

indications from Seoul that there is an intention to build a new research station in the Antarctic by 2011.

Korea currently supports two research bases in the polar regions. In the Arctic, Dasan Station is situated on the high Arctic island of Spitsbergen, Svalbard Archipelago. In the Antarctic, Korea has King

Sejong Station which opened in 1988 on the Baron Peninsula, King George Island.

The budget for the icebreaker construction is US\$6.3 million and when completed, it will accommodate up to 85 people. More information on KOPRI can be found at <http://www.polar.re.kr>.

Treasures From Canterbury Museum:

Thirza Dalby's Butter Dish

An object that, at first glance, appears to have no connection to Antarctica, reveals its link with the history of Antarctic exploration. The story and the research into the origins of the item are presented by Natalie Cadenhead and Michael Morris from Canterbury Museum.

Recently, Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand, accepted a butter dish into the permanent collections. The dish had an interesting family history story attached, indicating that it had been owned by a Mrs Dalby who looked after members of the early Antarctic explorations when they visited dogs quarantined on Quail Island, Lyttelton Harbour.

Investigation of the early years of Quail Island did not show any record of a Mrs Dalby being associated with the expeditions of Scott and Shackleton which had used the island. A quick search of the Museum database revealed that there was a photograph album in the collection with images of Mrs Dalby and her daughters on Quail Island in the 1920s. The next step was to look at birth, marriage, death and shipping records.

Shipping records showed Thirza Dalby arriving in New Zealand in 1922 departing from Southampton, UK.

Silver plate
lidded butter dish
with glass internal support.
Canterbury Museum:
2008.46.1



W B Manning with Bear, Charles Kessler with Skookum, Quail Island, 1929. Troup Album; Canterbury Museum: 1982.37.2

Thirza and her husband Alfred initially lived in Christchurch and Alfred was employed by the Railway Department as a labourer. Their daughter, Jean, was actually born in New Zealand shortly after their arrival here. In 1924, as Thirza was in the hospital giving birth to her second daughter, Marion, Alfred was killed in an accident with a train.

The death of her husband meant that Thirza needed a job and she took a position, with her daughters, as housekeeper to the caretaker of Quail Island, John Troup. One of John Troup's tasks was to house, look after and help exercise the various animals quarantined on the Island. Some of the 100 Malamute dogs used in Richard Evelyn Byrd's "Little America" Expedition of 1928-1930 were quarantined in enclosures near the beach on Quail Island. They stayed there for a few months in 1929 and according to Marion Mead (nee Dalby) "caused considerable interest" and got many visitors.

Thirza's daughter Marion remembers two dogs in particular, Skookums the largest dog who was the leader and Wolf Dog who had a striped face and "looked like a wolf". She remembers being told by her mother and John Troup to stay away from Wolf Dog as he could be unpredictable and might bite her. Like any young child she disobeyed this and slowly got to be friends with the dog until he would let her pat him and feed him by hand. Marion remembers being scolded when she was discovered.

In 1932 when the Quail Island leper colony and quarantine station was closed, John Troup, Thirza Dalby and her daughters moved off the island and located permanently to Christchurch. 🐾

A Salute to Adventure

A new exhibit at Akaroa Museum honours Antarctic explorer Frank Worsley. Wendy Dunlop talks about the excellent exhibit and the hero himself in this article for *Antarctic*.

The statue gazes seaward down Akaroa Harbour, Banks Peninsula, New Zealand. When a swift southerly breeze blows and pelts the weather-beaten face with icy rain, it's like water off a seal's back to this polar explorer. As the skipper of a disastrous voyage in the Southern Ocean almost a hundred years ago, Frank Worsley's skill saved the entire crew in one of the most remarkable feats of seamanship the world has ever seen.

Born in Akaroa in 1872, Frank Arthur Worsley became Ernest Shackleton's navigator and his life had all the swash and buckle of a Hollywood blockbuster adventure. Yet, Worsley's exploits remain little known or overshadowed by the fame of Shackleton himself.

A new exhibition at Akaroa Museum entitled *Salute to Adventure – The Frank Worsley Story* opened on 8 August and aims to redress this anonymity and celebrate the town's most extraordinary citizen.

The beautifully presented long term exhibition was developed by renowned museum designer, Chris Currie, who has been involved in exhibition design since 1975 and became a freelance designer 12 years ago. Assisted by his partner Lyndall Hermitage, who has a teaching background, Chris believes they bring "design skills and story telling abilities together in a very successful package". They have worked on a number of projects together and say "Salute to Adventure was a most enjoyable project to be involved in as it was such an amazing story of human endurance."

Chris was invited by Lynda Wallace, Director of Akaroa Museum, to help them create an informative display that would do justice to the Frank Worsley story. A series of wall panels were created to capture the many faces of Frank Worsley: the child, the larrikin, the sailor, the skipper, the navigator, the adventurer, the author, the husband and the loyal friend. Based on the biography *Shackleton's Captain* by John Thomson, each panel features photographs, text and quotes from various periods of Worsley's life.

The chronological journey encompasses a colonial upbringing in Akaroa and Christchurch, an eventful naval career spanning more than half a century and includes three polar expeditions and two World Wars.

Against these visual backdrops are displayed miniatures of Worsley's medals including war service decorations (DSO and Bar), OBE, Order of St Stanislaus and his Antarctic medal, the frayed ensign from his World War I PQ61 vessel, his ship's whistle and a sextant similar to the one used on the *Endurance*.



Frank Worsley.

Many other items that survived the Antarctic expedition are displayed at other museums and locations around the world. The *James Caird*, the ship that made the journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia and which ultimately saved the crew's lives, was retrieved by the whalers of South Georgia and, now restored, remains on permanent display at Dulwich College, Shackleton's old school in London, England.

The exhibition makes dramatic use of an audio visual presentation featuring many of Hurley's exceptional expedition photographs and



The miniature set of Frank Worsley's medals.

recordings of a screeching gale in the Southern Ocean.

Throughout his various journeys, Frank Worsley kept accurate logs and wrote copious notes. Right from the days of his apprenticeship, he also made sketches of his surroundings. A charming series of oval plaques, featuring some of these surviving pencil sketches are on display and include a square rigged ship, icebergs, maps, birds and penguins.

At a wooden table and captain's chair, visitors can browse a newly compiled volume of previously never before seen copies of documents, letters, photographs and reports. Many were gifted to Akaroa Museum by Pat Bamford of Surrey, England, whose parents were Worsley's closest friends. Among them is a page of calculations from Worsley's battered salt-soaked expedition log-book; mathematical evidence of a legendary journey and uncanny navigational accuracy.

During the 15 day voyage from Elephant Island to South Georgia, iron in the pump affected the compass and atrocious weather caused the boat to take on water, crust with ice and constantly "jump like a flea", making accurate fixes for navigation impossible. While someone held him steady, Worsley took a quick sight from the crest of a wave while he read the chronometre in the trough. With only four sights in 15 days he had to rely on estimate and pray that his instincts were right. Diary entries betray Worsley's extreme anxiety, they read, "Intense worry, no land seen, though birds indicate there is land *somewhere*." Two days later, finally, miraculously they stumbled ashore at South Georgia.

Although the open boat journey is Frank Worsley's most remarkable feat, the rest of his life was hardly uneventful. He was decorated for bravery in two World Wars, joined Shackleton for

another Antarctic expedition, led the British Arctic Expedition in 1925, delivered private yachts all over the world and even hunted for gold and pearls in the Cocos Island.

Stocky, ebullient, spirited and extraordinarily skilled, full naval honours were accorded him on his death in 1943. Frank Worsley was survived by his second wife Jean, who accompanied him on his later voyages, but there were no children to inherit his passion for the sea or his legendary seamanship.

The boy from Akaroa roamed the world, challenged the wildest places on earth and saw more action and daring than most of us can dream. Salute to Adventure has finally brought Frank Worsley home to the Akaroa he described as "a beautiful little township scattered along the edge of the harbour and almost overhung by heavy bush" and completed the circumnavigation of his life. ♣

See the exhibition if you can.



A historic photo of the crew launching the James Caird from Elephant Island hoping to find South Georgia.



ANTARCTIC

South Pole Station Photo Journal

South Pole Winter Site Manager, Katie Hess, writes from the new Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station where she is wintering-over for 2007/08. She provided *Antarctic* with copies of these images snapped by Calee Allen who is also wintering-over as the Work Order Scheduler.

The images reveal the spectacular night sky over the south pole in the middle of winter, the clear view of the moon, the stars and the fabulous display of aurora australis. The recently completed elevated South Pole Station buildings are shown, along with the first man-made structure to ever be 'built' at the pole, the polar tent, first used by the early explorers and still in use in Antarctica today. The geodesic dome, no longer in use, is not in view.

The final image, filmed as the sun was beginning to set for the winter, shows the power of the wind and conveys the sense of isolation that you feel when looking out from the south pole station across the high ice plateau.

The editor of *Antarctic* wishes to thank Katie and Calee for sharing these images with us and wishes them all the very best for the remainder of their winter on the ice.



A Handshake Over a Medal

In this article Glenn M Stein tells of a letter he received from Alton A Lindsey. In it, Lindsey recalls his return from Antarctica in 1935 and the handshake and conversation that meant more to him than his medal.

“This morning, just 62 years ago, Byrd and his Ice Party members, including Yours Truly, sailed up the Bay to the D.C. Navy Yard.”

So wrote Alton A Lindsey to the author on 10 May 1997, three days after his 90th birthday. In the early years of the Great Depression, Lindsey was at Cornell University studying for his doctorate in biology, when he interrupted this pursuit to serve as the vertebrate zoologist on the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II (1933-1935).

While the interior of the continent was canvassed by dog sled, tractor and airplane, Lindsey studied penguins, seals and other animals on the coast.

To commemorate the successful expedition, the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition Medal was established by an Act of Congress on 2 June 1936, and 57 oxidised sterling silver medals were issued. Each medal had the recipient's name engraved on the edge. This number represents the 56 men in the Ice Party who spent six winter



The Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition Medal 1933-1935 awarded to Richard E Byrd. From Sotheby's.

months at Little America, plus one for Robert A J English, USN, the Master of the *Bear of Oakland*.

The medal hangs from a white ribbon, representing the snow and ice of Antarctica. The obverse depicts Admiral Byrd standing on ice in polar clothing. Byrd is holding a ski pole in his left hand and a sled dog is seated on his right. In the background there are large ice formations. The years 1933 and 1935 are to the right on the ice. The whole is encircled by the words **BYRD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION**.

The medal's reverse features a central rectangular tablet with the wording:

**PRESENTED TO THE OFFICERS
AND MEN OF THE SECOND
BYRD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
TO EXPRESS THE VERY HIGH
ADMIRATION IN WHICH THE
CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE HOLD THEIR HEROIC AND
UNDAUNTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FOR SCIENCE UNEQUALLED
IN THE HISTORY OF POLAR
EXPLORATION.**



Byrd (standing left), Haines (standing middle) and Lindsey (far right standing) receiving the Special Congressional Medals from Secretary of the Navy Claude A Swanson (seated) on 15 October 1937. Behind Byrd is Leahy. Photo courtesy of AA Lindsey.



The Bear of Oakland in the Ross Sea. Photo by Jack Woodson



Lindsey and Robert Young weigh a seal. Young was ex-British Royal Navy. Photo from Discovery

The images surrounding the tablet have evidently not previously been fully described in literature. To the left are two radio towers of Little America, to the right is the *Bear of Oakland* under full sail, and above what has been described as a Ford Tri-Motor airplane (without any landing skis). If true, this is the *Floyd Bennett*, salvaged from Byrd's first expedition. Below the tablet is a team of four dogs pulling a man on a sled, with ice formations in the background.

Lindsey clearly remembered the October day in 1937 when he received his medal, but he held a more important memory of an intangible reward for service in the frozen south. He wrote:

“When the enclosed 1937 photo was taken by a Navy photographer (otherwise now unknown), the Congressional medal had been pinned upon Wm Haines, Byrd Antarctic

Expedition II meteorologist, in the private office of Navy Dept Secretary Claude Swanson, a famed statesman of that time (seated, because too feeble to stand). He is only pretending to pin the medal on his friend Byrd (left, with famous Admiral Leahy behind his head), and even that was an ordeal. Everyone looks so grim and unhappy because we, especially Byrd his great friend, were affected by Swanson's condition. I am the only young man shown in this photo”.

The letter continued: “The expedition ended with President FD Roosevelt meeting *The Bear*, May 10, 1935 on arrival, waiting on the dock at Washington Navy Yard. I did, and still do, appreciate that handshake and conversation more than the Congressional medal”.

The expedition formally ended six days later on 16 May 1935, when the two main expedition vessels,

the *Bear of Oakland* and *Jacob Ruppert*, sailed into Boston, where the participants were received at an official ‘welcome home to Boston ceremony’ hosted by the mayor.

The passing decades had not lessened memories of former comrades on the ice. Lindsey wrote down the names of the seven ‘surviving Ice Party lads’ he knew of in his letter. They were:

Erwin H Bramhall (Physicist), Stevenson Corey (Supply Officer and Dog Driver), Joseph Hill Junior (Tractor Driver), Guy Hutcheson (Radio Engineer), William S McCormick (Autogyro Pilot), Olin D Stancliff (Dog Driver) and Alton A Lindsey (Vertebrate Biologist) himself. ¶

Glenn M Stein writes frequently for *Antarctic* and would like to acknowledge Alton A Lindsey, Frank Draskovic and Hal Vogel for contributions to this article. References for this article available upon request to the author.

75 Years of the New Zealand Antarctic Society

On 2 November 1933, a group spurred on by Arthur Leigh Hunt, a friend of Byrd, Mawson and Kinsey, held a meeting to discuss the future of Antarctica. This was the inaugural meeting of the New Zealand Antarctic Society. Surely, they would be delighted to hear, that the Society is in good health 75 years later.

In his account of the Society's first 50 years, Neville Peat paints the New Zealand Antarctic Society as the brainchild of Arthur Leigh Hunt. Hunt was personally connected to Antarctica through friendships with Antarctic explorers such as Byrd and Mawson, and became a strong advocate for New Zealand involvement on the continent. But Hunt himself never went to the ice. Many of the men at the founding and early meetings, such as Robert Falla and Les Quartermain, were to become important figures in the New Zealand Antarctic Programme, and their Society involvement was a key starting point.

Over the years, it is clear that the Society has waxed and waned with some periods of near dormancy and others of burgeoning activity. But throughout all these years, there have been some common themes.

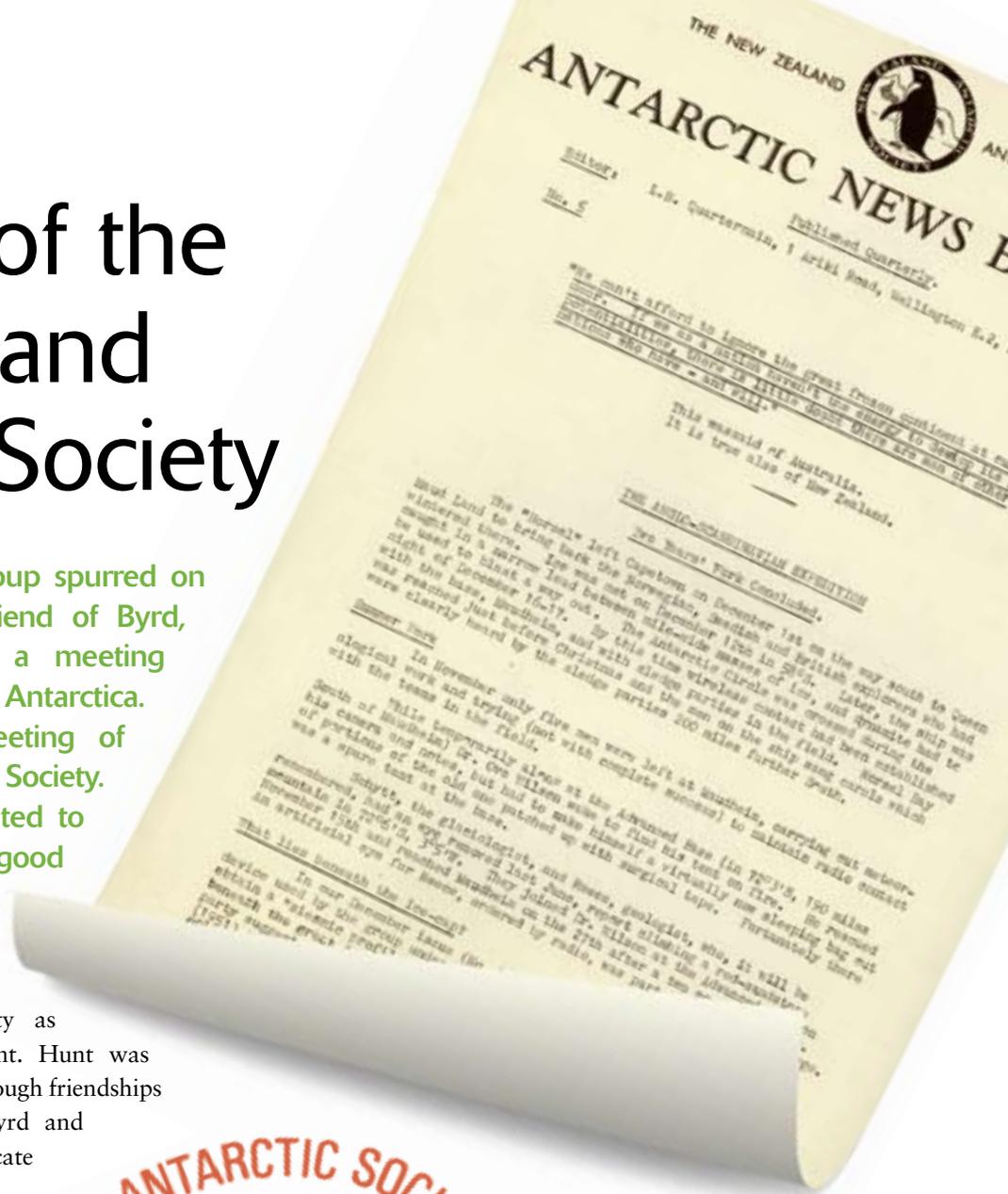
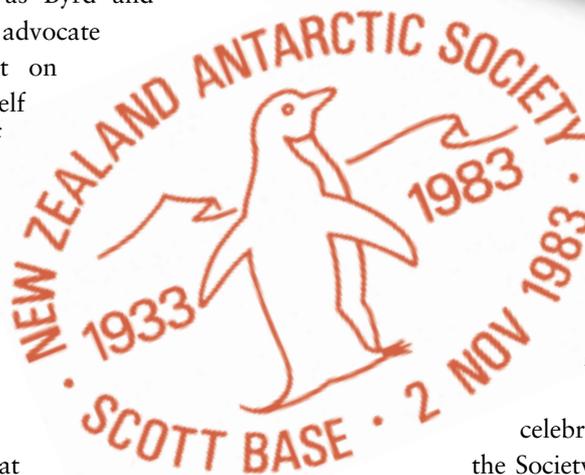
The Society has always seen itself as taking a role in influencing politics. In this sense, it is perhaps no surprise that it had its foundation in Wellington, or that Prime Minister Keith Holyoake was a co-patron of the Society in the early 1970s. The Society took an extremely active role in stirring up public and political support for New Zealand involvement in the Trans-Antarctic Expedition and

the science of the International Geophysical Year in the 1950s.

The Society's publication *Antarctic* has been published consistently since the 1950s, with issue number 200 being a milestone reached in 2007.

The Society has consistently celebrated Antarctic anniversaries. In 1937, the Society commemorated the 25th anniversary of Scott's death. In 1983, the Society celebrated its own 50th anniversary. Last year, the Society hosted celebrations to marking 50 years of Scott Base. This year, we celebrate the Society's 75th anniversary, making the Society one of the oldest polar societies still in existence today.

A weekend of Antarctic events is planned to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Society. Events will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 31 October to 2 November 2008. Events include a Heritage Trail (where you will see the building where that first meeting of the Society took place), a celebration dinner, commemorative church service,



Antarctic films and Te Papa Museum and Turnbull Library behind the scenes tours. Society members and interested others are invited to register to participate in the celebration weekend by completing the registration form enclosed with this magazine, or by emailing celebrations75@antarctic.org.nz for more details.

Continuing to 'Look South':

Some stats on the 75 years of the New Zealand Antarctic Society

The first NZAS National Officers
1933–1937

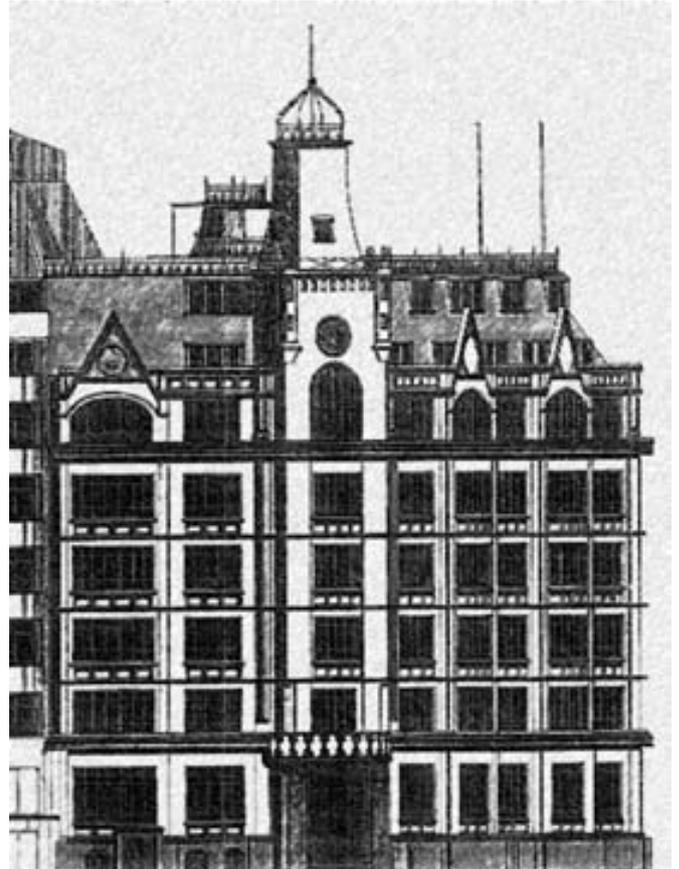
President, Mr. Justice Ostler

Vice-Presidents, RG Simmers, RA Falla, CR Ford, HT Ferrar

Council Chair, Arthur Leigh Hunt

Secretary, CE Collins (succeeded in 1937 by DR Porter)

The NZAS established (at the invitation of the Antarctic Division of DSIR) what became known as Hut Restoration Teams in 1960. This group of volunteer hut caretakers was chosen annually from Society members with the objective of caring for the historic huts of Scott and Shackleton.



Dominion Farmers' Institute Building, Featherston Street, Wellington, where the first meeting of the New Zealand Antarctic Society took place on 2 November 1933.

Many NZAS members participated including: L Quartermain, M Prebble, ER Gibbs, GC Wilson, R Smith, G Hurrell, BN Norris, NT Greenhall, PJ Skellerup, M Orchard, CA Satherthwaite, SWM Smith, RG McElrae, HW Burson, PL Wilson, VJ Wilson, KJ Smith, GD Sylvester, AW Burton, J Sutton-Pratt, D Harrowfield, CC Buckley, C Patterson, JCA Oliver and in 1982 (which was the last year the Society formally supported a restoration team on the ice) GJ Dougherty. The NZAS President is automatically appointed as a board member of the Antarctic Heritage Trust in recognition of the continuing eye the Antarctic Society keeps on the conservation of the historic huts and in recognition of the years of service society members gave to conserve these important structures in Antarctica.

The NZAS established the Conservation Trophy in 1972. The Trophy is awarded by the Council of the New Zealand Antarctic Society, to any person or organisation contributing significantly to any aspect of Antarctic or sub-Antarctic conservation. Conservation Trophy recipients include: JN Foster, LB Quartermain, BN Norris, ER Gibbs, PM Sagar, Project Jonah, AJ Black, B Stonehouse, G Knox, RM Conley, GJ Wilson, MW Cawthorn, LG Greenfield, D Harrowfield, L Goldsworthy, S Miller, TVNZ Natural History Unit, Antarctic Heritage Trust and C Cochran (current). 



Antarctic Observations Record Increase in Sea Ice

An article in *New Scientist* records an increase in Antarctic sea ice.

According to a recent report in *New Scientist*, sea ice in Antarctica has been increasing since the late 1970s. This is contrary to events in the Arctic region, where sea ice records of September 2007 show a record low.

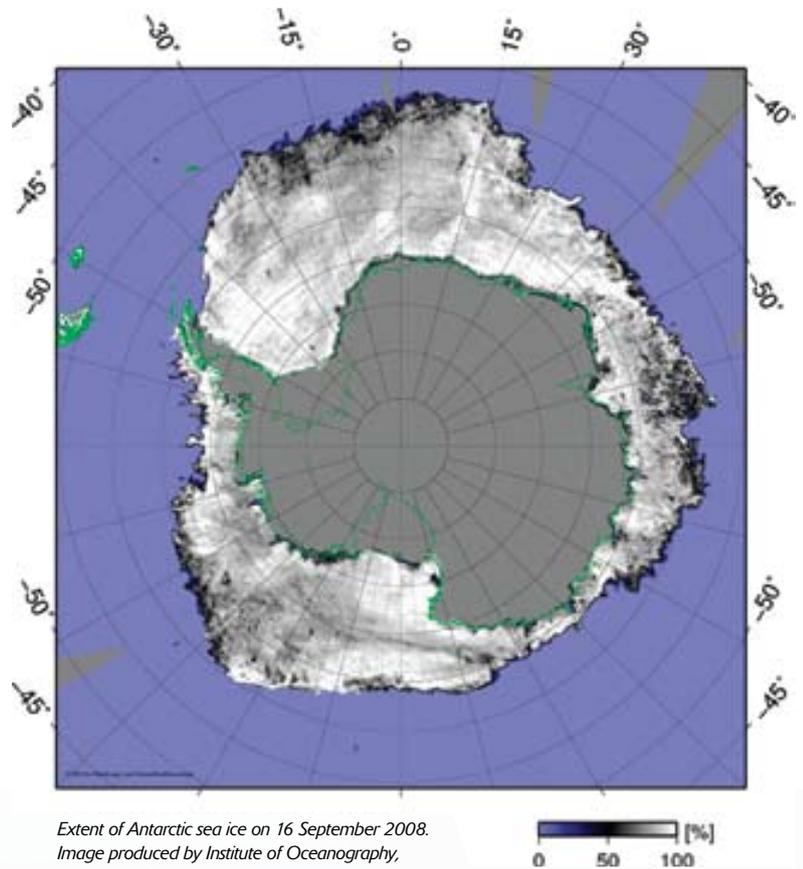
For the Antarctic, winter sea ice is currently being observed at 19 million km² (7.3 million mi²). This is just short of record highs recorded in the early 1970s.

Some climate change sceptics point to the differing trends at the poles as a sign that worries about climate change are exaggerated, but experts say they can explain the development.

The British Antarctic Survey believes that what is happening is not unexpected from the climate models. Arctic ice floats on an ocean and is warmed by shifting currents and winds from the south. In contrast, Antarctica is an isolated continent that creates its own deep freeze. Some computer models indicate a reduction in the amount of heat coming up from the ocean around Antarctica as one possible explanation for growing ice. Another theory is that warmer air absorbs more moisture and means more snow and rainfall.

That could mean more fresh water at the sea surface around Antarctica, with fresh water freezing at a higher temperature than salt water.

Also, it should be noted that the reports are looking at the overall sea ice coverage, and for the Antarctic this is increasing. There are, however, regional differences within the Antarctic region. For example, we see sea ice decreasing in the Bellingshausen Sea region, while in the Ross Sea region we note increases. ↱



More information on sea ice coverage
can be found at www.seaice.de

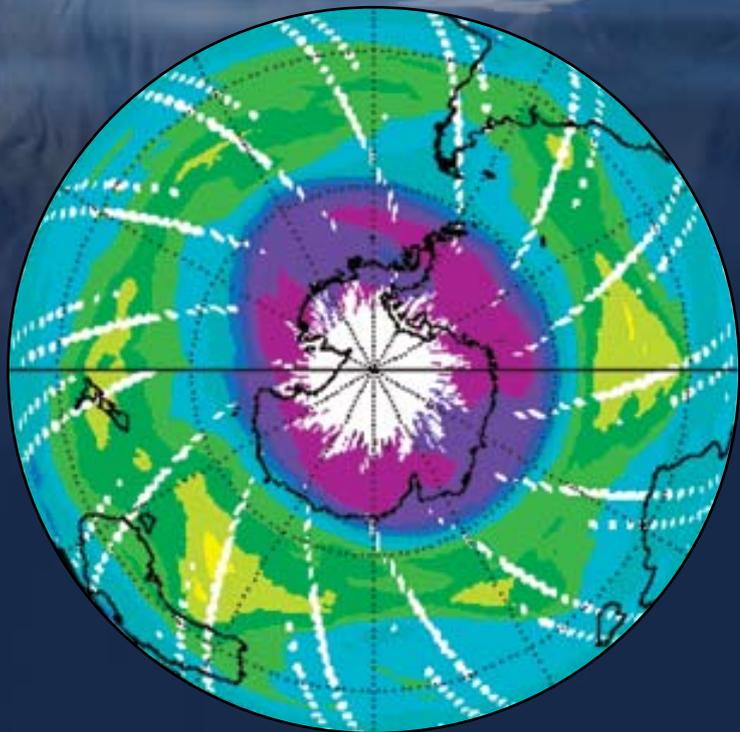
Ozone Hole Already Larger Than Last Year

The hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica has already surpassed its 2007 size this year, and is set to keep growing for another few weeks.

The Antarctic ozone hole appears every year and normally stretches to about the size of North America, reaching its maximum size in late September or early October. But reports from Antarctica indicate that the 2008 ozone hole has grown rapidly and has now passed the maximum size attained in 2007. And, it is still growing, making it too early to determine how large this year's ozone hole will ultimately be.

The ozone hole covered 27 million km² (10.4 million mi²) as of 13 September 2008, an 8 percent increase over last year's maximum. While the peak in 2007, was recorded as 25 million km².

The depletion this year is likely a temporary reversal in a long-term improvement of the ozone layer, said David Parsons, the meteorological organization's chief for world weather research. He noted that "there can be strong annual variations, due to changes in weather, colder temperatures in the stratosphere and increased water vapour" that can undercut the ozone layer. What was important was the long-term trend. 



Total Ozone detected over Antarctica on 13 September 2008 from the Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) NASA/GSFC website (<http://jwocky.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). The dark colours above Antarctica represent the areas where ozone levels are lowest.

George A Knox

Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences

1920 - 2008

George was initially a school teacher and was appointed an Assistant Lecturer to Canterbury University College in 1949 where he rose through the ranks to become Professor. George was Head of the Department of Zoology from 1959-1978 and became Emeritus Professor in 1984.

George first went to Antarctica in 1960 with Bernard Stonehouse. This led to the establishment of the University of Canterbury Antarctic Research Unit which carried out

continuous research in the Antarctic until 1983. But even when the biological sciences research unit undertook less Antarctic research, George continued his advocacy for Antarctic research at Canterbury, he continued to stay involved in the development of a permanent Antarctic research centre at the University of Canterbury which was established in 1999.

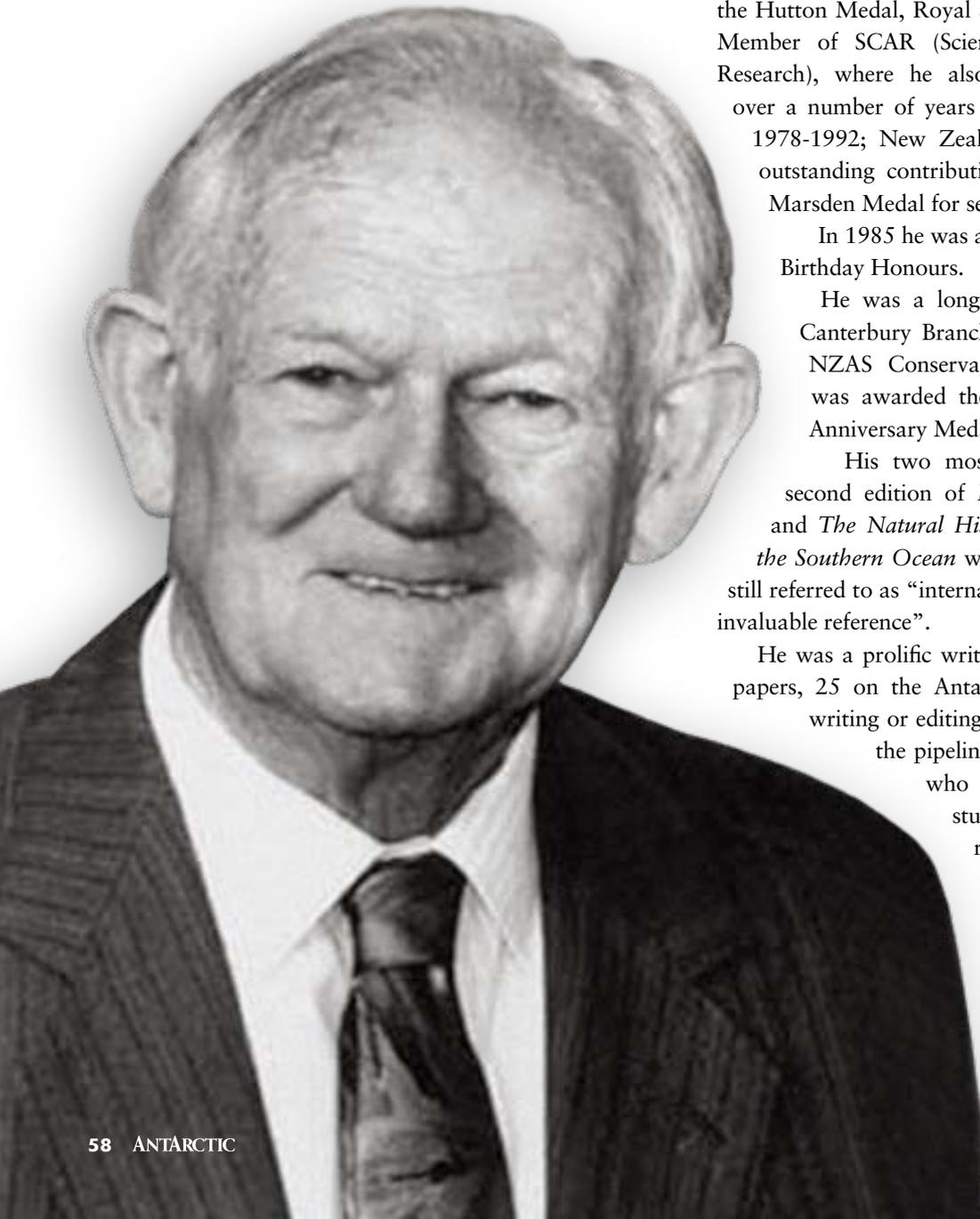
Some notable achievements in his career were: Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (1963); Recipient of the Hutton Medal, Royal Society of NZ (1979); Honorary Member of SCAR (Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research), where he also held many important offices over a number of years including SCAR President from 1978-1992; New Zealand Marine Society Award for outstanding contribution to Marine Science, and the Marsden Medal for service to science.

In 1985 he was awarded an M.B.E. in the Queens Birthday Honours.

He was a long serving member of the NZAS Canterbury Branch. In 1980 he was awarded the NZAS Conservation Trophy. In July 2007 he was awarded the Antarctica New Zealand 50th Anniversary Medal.

His two most recent publications were the second edition of *Biology of the Southern Ocean* and *The Natural History of Canterbury*. *Biology of the Southern Ocean* was first published in 1993 and is still referred to as “international research at its best and an invaluable reference”.

He was a prolific writer, publishing over 100 scientific papers, 25 on the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, and writing or editing eight books, with several still in the pipeline. He will be missed by all those who worked with him and all those students who learned from his great reservoir of knowledge. 🕊



Dear Editor,

I am a long-term member of the Antarctic Society and I have been living in Adelaide for more than 20 years. In the 1982-1983 summer season, I went down to Antarctica, perhaps as the last Antarctic Society 'hut keeper', and I made a photographic record of the historic huts to assist Jack Fry of the National Museum with the development of a strategy for the preservation and management of the historic sites.

Mawson was employed by the University of Adelaide from 1905 to his retirement at the age of 70 in 1952. His extensive collection of Antarctic memorabilia was gifted to the University of Adelaide and is now held as the Mawson Collection by the South Australian Museum (I understand that Mawson had a reputation for never throwing anything out so the Mawson collection is quite large.) Last year, I discovered that there is also a society, The Friends of Mawson Inc.

If your members wish to make contact, I suggest pharaoh.mark@saugov.sa.gov.au, who is the curator of the collection and an official of The Friends of Mawson Society.

Also, see <http://www.douglasmawson.com.au/>

Gavin Dougherty

Dear Editor,

Glenn Stein's fascinating article on "Photography Comes to the Polar Regions...Almost" (*Antarctic*, vol 26, no 1, 2008) raised another unanswered question of photography in Antarctica. The subject of 'moving' pictures, specifically the film that Shackleton's men made while his British Antarctic Expedition (BAE) were resident at Cape Royds in 1908.

As far as this correspondent knows, it was the first film shot in Antarctica. According to Shackleton's *Heart of the Antarctic*, "We took a cinematograph machine in order that we might place on record the curious movements and habits of seals and penguins, and give the people at home a graphic idea of what it means to haul sledges over the ice and snow." Beau Riffenburg in his *Nimrod* records that Eric Marshall was the cinematographer who claimed to have exposed 4000 ft of film.

After the BAEs return to England, the movie was shown in June 1909 at a private dinner, given to Shackleton and his men at the Savoy Hotel in London. Shortly afterwards it was exhibited to a distinguished audience at an event hosted by the Royal Geographical Society in the Albert Hall. That almost a century has elapsed since these screenings, may in itself answer the question of the BAE film's fate.

The Scott Polar Research Institute does not have a copy, but, in reply to my inquiry, indicated that they would certainly like to see it. Does any reader know if the BAEs film still exists?

David Burke

Students Required for Trip of a Lifetime!

Students on Ice is running the first dedicated cruise to Antarctica for university students, starting in February 2009. This is an IPY endorsed activity and all students will be required to take one of the courses offered onboard.

Applications are now being taken from interested students. The application process, costs and trip details can be found at <http://www.studentsonice.com/U09/index.htm>

The courses are primarily aimed at senior undergraduate students, but there is also the potential for graduate students to take these classes for credit. The courses are offered through Canadian Universities, but students from any country are encouraged to apply and credits can be transferred back to home institutions if required.

Students on Ice is an educational organisation with charitable status that has been running ship-based trips to the Arctic and Antarctic with high school students for the last nine years. This will be their first dedicated university trip which promises to be the trip of a lifetime!



Call of the Ice

Fifty years of New Zealand in Antarctica

by David L Harrowfield

Review by Graham White, NZAS North Island Vice-President

David L Harrowfield, a long-standing member of the Antarctic community, has written this publication as a contribution to the celebration of New Zealand's 50 years of official presence in Antarctica and of the establishment of Scott Base on Ross Island. The book was officially launched during the Christchurch Antarctic Festival in September 2007.

During this half century, New Zealanders have been at the cutting edge of exploration and research of Antarctica and this vast southern continent has loomed large in our collective psyche as a site of heroic exploration, legendary 'Kiwi' ingenuity and fascinating scientific discoveries.

Through meticulous research and personal interviews, David has captured many of the unique experiences of New Zealanders in Antarctica and has created a fitting tribute and celebration of their achievements and adventures. It is a testimony to the many men and women who have responded to the "call of the ice".

Woven among these often amusing anecdotal stories are good hard facts to map how New Zealand's Antarctic endeavours have progressed during this period. The book covers the historic huts, politics, scientific research and discovery, Scott Base then and now, and the future of New Zealand's involvement in Antarctica. The author's fascination with the Dry Valleys is also evident as the section devoted to this area is most comprehensive.

It has comprehensive appendices which include lists of winter-over teams, polar medal holders, key milestones in the progression of the New Zealand Antarctic Programme, a glossary of Antarctic terms and acronyms and a list of acknowledgements which reads like a who's who of the Antarctic community.

One of the book's final comments is an inspirational quotation from Bob McKerrow, who wintered at Vanda Station in 1970. It reads:

I can now see why people return to Antarctica. This wild continent tugs at your heart strings. Its beauty, its aloofness, its weird isolation is compelling. In the midst of danger and discomfort you find peace so rare. It is hard to describe the call of the Antarctic for it is a call of immobility, of silence that one can only appreciate by surviving the vicissitudes of the winter night.

This book is truly a worthy edition to the libraries of all those who have a passion for the Antarctic and, in particular, those who have worked in, or visited, the Ross Sea region.

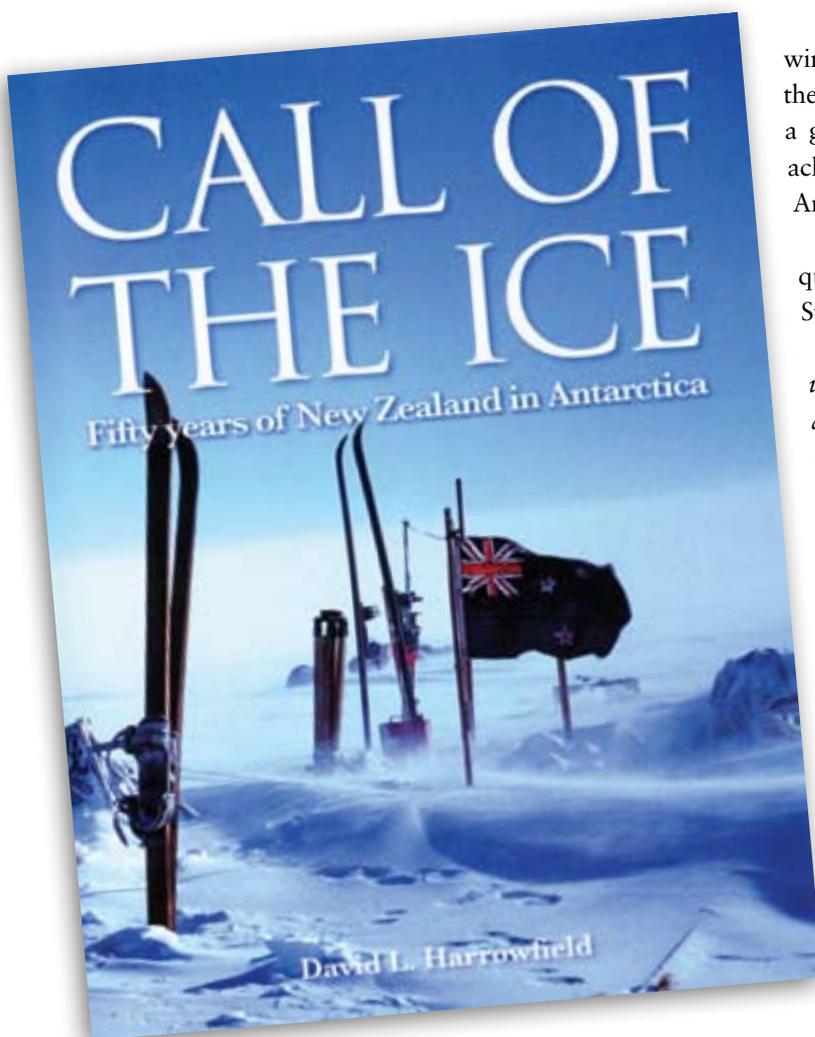
Over 150 colour and black & white photographs, plus six detailed maps created specifically for the book, add to this special record of New Zealand in Antarctica. †

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New Zealand Antarctic Society Membership

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, science, wildlife or adventure.

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

- *Antarctic*, the quarterly publication of the Society.

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, Southern Ocean and Subantarctic Islands. It has worldwide circulation.

- Attend occasional meetings and fun events which are held by the Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago Branches of the Society.

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The Beaver Aircraft and RNZAF Ensign on the 9000 ft polar plateau. As part of TAE, 47 tons of fuel and supplies were flown in for the British crossing party, for Hillary and his tractors and for three separate survey and geological dog team parties exploring in the western mountains. J Claydon