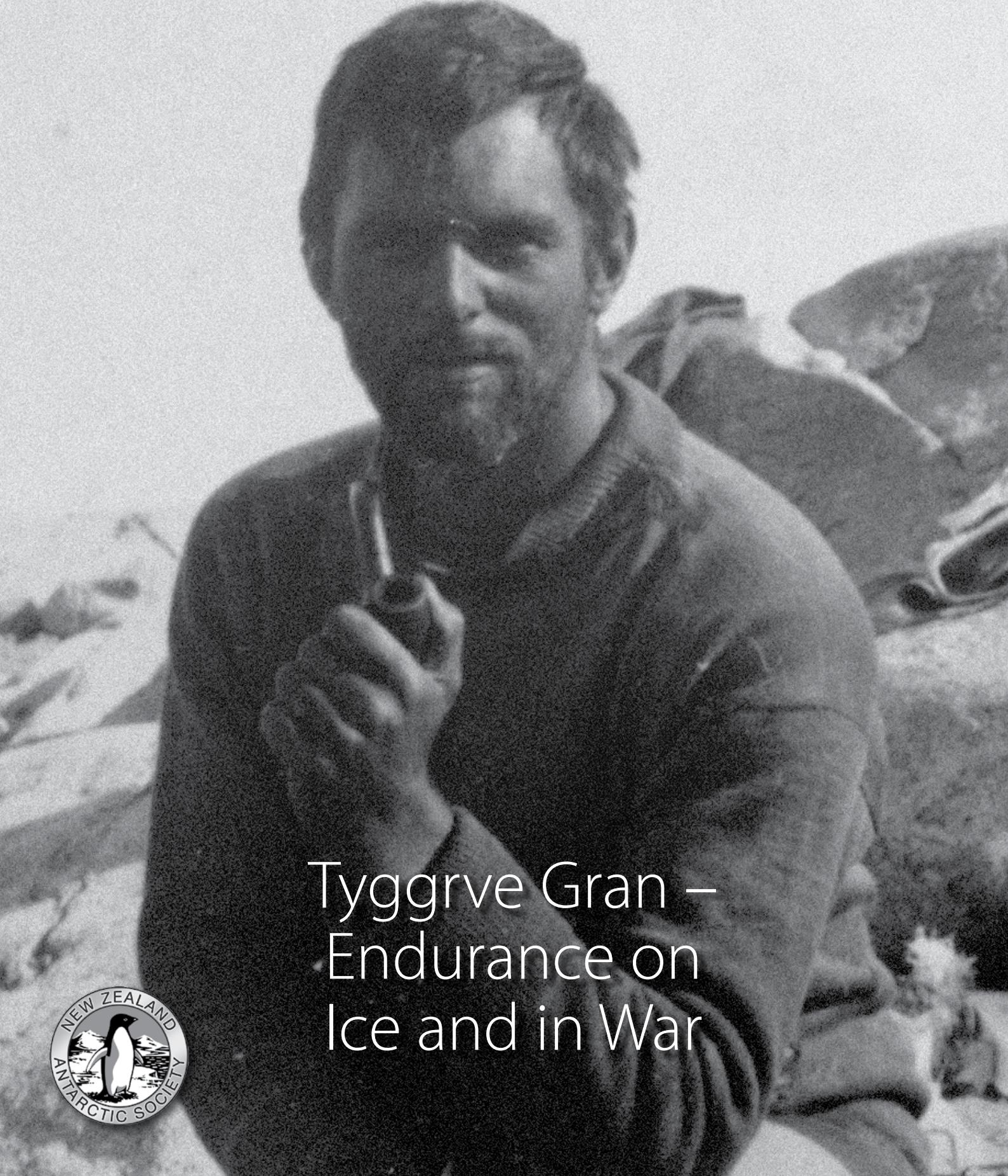


THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

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Tyggrve Gran –
Endurance on
Ice and in War





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NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY LIFE MEMBERS

The Society recognises with life membership, those people who excel in furthering the aims and objectives of the Society or who have given outstanding service in Antarctica. They are elected by vote at the Annual General Meeting and are restricted to 15 life members at any time.

Current Life Members by the year elected:

1. Bernard Stonehouse (UK), 1966
2. John Claydon (Canterbury), 1980
3. Jim Lowery (Wellington), 1982
4. Robin Ormerod (Wellington), 1996
5. Eric Gibbs (Wellington), 1997
6. Baden Norris (Canterbury), 2003
7. Bill Cranfield (Canterbury), 2003
8. Randal Heke (Wellington), 2003
9. Bill Hopper (Wellington), 2004
10. Malcolm Laird (Canterbury), 2006
11. Arnold Heine (Wellington), 2006
12. Margaret Bradshaw (Canterbury), 2006
13. Ray Dibble (Wellington), 2008
14. Norman Hardie (Canterbury), 2008
15. Vacant

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Cover photo:

Tyggrve Gran, December 1911. Photograph by Frank Debenham.
Image courtesy Canterbury Museum:2003.84.10

Antarctic Round Up

General

Antarctic Youth Ambassador

Since 1957 youth have visited Antarctica with the New Zealand Antarctic Programme. The Antarctic Youth Ambassador scheme aims to engage young New Zealanders in Antarctic environmental issues. Application forms and background information can be found on the Sir Peter Blake Trust website. Applications close on 30 May 2013. For more information see: <http://www.sirpeterblaketrust.org/blake-leaders/antarctic-youth-ambassadors/>

Four Generations of Antarctican's



Four generations of Antarctican's. Image courtesy Grant Hunter.

Anne Hunter sent in this photograph showing four generations in her family who have connections to Antarctica. They are posed with Herbert Ponting's *Frozen* exhibition hosted by Canterbury Museum in association with IceFest, September - October 2012. Second to left at the back of Ponting's photograph is William (Bill) McDonald, Able Seaman, *Terra Nova* expedition 1911-12 and 1912-13. His son Alan McDonald, seated, did not travel to Antarctica but 'talked' many aircraft southward during his 40 years working in communications with the Civil Aviation Authority at Christchurch International Airport. Alan's daughter Anne (Hunter) travelled by ship to Antarctica in 2001, and visited again in the 2006-07 season when studying for the University of Canterbury's Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies. Her son Richie (Bill's

great-grandson) travelled to Scott Base on one of the first C-17 Globemaster flight last spring to take up a role as Field Training Instructor for the summer season with Antarctica New Zealand.

January

2013 Shackleton Epic

A team of six led by Tim Jarvis have successfully re-enacted Shackleton's journey in the *James Caird* including traversing South Georgia Island to reach Stromness. The men used reproduction equipment and clothing to that of the expedition 100 years before and used a replica lifeboat for the journey, navigating with sextants. More information can be found at <http://www.timjarvis.org/shackletonepic/>



Tim Jarvis, Leader of the Shackleton Epic team.

February

The Sculpting Scott

Mark Stocker from the Department of History and Art History at the University of Otago gave a talk at Canterbury Museum titled *The Sculpting Scott*. He discussed the art and life of Kathleen Scott (1878-1947) including her visits to New Zealand and the other talented people she associated with. These ranged from Francis Bacon to Lawrence of Arabia, to Auguste Rodin. Stocker described Kathleen as "the most famous widow in the English speaking world after the death of Queen Victoria".

Portrait of Antarctica – forty years on

This talk at Unitec in Auckland was presented by Jonathan Walton who has been involved in Antarctic events for 40 years including over eight visits to the Ice. Three generations of his family have worked in the Antarctic and as far as he knows they are the only father and son combination to have received the Polar Medal. He described the scientific work he did for months at a time, living in tents and travelling by skidoo. His illustrated talk told anecdotes of his many visits south including his most recent visit as a lecturer on board the MV *Ocean Nova*.

New Antarctic Trail for Christchurch

Members from The New Zealand Antarctic Society Canterbury Branch worked with the Christchurch City Council to create a new Antarctic heritage trail for Christchurch. This was necessary due to the number of places on the existing trail which either no longer exists or are not accessible since the earthquakes. The new trail takes in some of the lesser known Antarctic related sites such as domestic dwellings on Park Terrace, St Saviour's Anglican Church and Linwood Cemetery. The trail pamphlet is available from the Christchurch City Council.

Bond Street Explorers Club Tour – Lyttelton

A musical event with a difference was held in the Wunderbar on London Street, Lyttelton, Christchurch when an Auckland based alternative-folk music group *Bond Street Bridge* performed a multi-media song cycle titled *The Explorer's Club: Antarctica*.

The performance presented a series of vignettes - tales of courage, endurance and Edwardian pluck inspired by the diaries and letters of Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton. The spoken-word storytelling and original folk song

combination was illustrated with projected images from Auckland artist Emily Carter and photographs from the expeditions.

The event organisers expected that “*audiences can expect to be transported back to a time when the ice was unforgiving, the Pole was untouched, and if the worst came to the worst, one could always eat the dogs*”.

Scott Centenary Celebrations – Oamaru

The Scott 100 celebrations were well attended in Oamaru and commemorated the arrival of the *Terra Nova* on 10th February 1913 into Oamaru Harbour bearing the news of the *Terra Nova* expedition and the fate of the Polar Party. Over five days the harbour town hosted many events including sea and land activities, education and adventure programmes, art, literature and lectures. Jenny Coverack travelled from the UK to Oamaru to deliver two performances of her one woman play, *A Father for my Son* which is based on the life of Kathleen Scott.

March

Capital E National Arts Festival, Wellington

This substantial festival included events from inspired by both the Arctic and Antarctic. The Java Dance Company performed *Down Below Beneath*, inspired by a Morgan Foundation Project, *Our Far South*, which aimed to raise awareness of the Southern Ocean and the sub-Antarctic area.



Photo from advert for *Down Below Beneath* performance.

Antarctic Link Canterbury meeting

Antarctic Link Canterbury was formed in 2000 by founder members: Christchurch City Council, Antarctica New Zealand, Gateway Antarctica, International Antarctic Centre, Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing. Since then the organisation has flourished, supporting the Antarctic Festival, commissioning an economic impact study and welcoming new members including the United States Antarctic Programme, Council of Managers of National Antarctic Program (COMNAP), the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT), Heritage Expeditions and the New Zealand Antarctic Society.



Jan Bojo Station. Image courtesy Korean Polar Research Institute.

The March meeting included a presentation from Hong Kum Lee of the Korean Polar Research Institute (KOPRI). The presentation gave an overview of the Institute which is supported by the Korean Government. KOPRI's main functions are science, raising awareness of Antarctica, collaborating with overseas institutes and providing the Korean Government with advice on polar affairs. Their Icebreaker the *Araon* was delivered to KOPRI in 2009 and has since completed annual bipolar voyages. *Araon* has so far completed four expeditions to the Antarctic. The presentation included images of Jang Bogo Station which was under construction in the 2012 – 2013 season. Dongmin Jin has been confirmed as the first Base Manager. The Station will house 15 personnel over winter and can accommodate 50 scientists during the summer seasons.

The four key research areas which the

Korean Polar Research Institute will focus on are; polar climate change, biodiversity and adaptation of polar organisms, studies of tectonic structures and investigations into new emerging science including ice core drilling and meteorite studies.



Dongmin Jin, Base Manager for Jan Bojo Station.
Image courtesy Korean Polar Research Institute.

June

Australian/New Zealand Antarctic Conference in Hobart

Registration is now open for the *Strategic Science in Antarctica* conference to be held from 24 to 26 June 2013 at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. The inaugural conference is a collaboration between the Australian Antarctic Division and Antarctica New Zealand, and will feature a number of key note speakers, science presentations, poster displays and social functions. A series of post-conference workshops will also take place on 27 and 28 June.

The conference will provide an opportunity for Antarctic scientists, researchers, policy and support personnel from institutions across Australia and New Zealand to exchange information on existing and planned research, management and policy priorities and to identify opportunities for further collaboration.

Abstract submission is open until 8 April, and early bird registration rates are available until 10 May. A special reduced registration rate is available for full-time students. Visit the conference website for further information, to view the call for abstracts or to register: <http://conference.antarctica.gov.au/>

Experience living and working in Antarctica through the Postgraduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies

Jointly developed by the University of Canterbury and Antarctica New Zealand, this unique summer programme is the only programme in the world to take you to experience life in the Antarctic.

The programme runs for 15 weeks starting in November each year, and critically examines contemporary scientific, environmental, social and political debates focussed on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. New Zealand and international experts teach on the programme which involves lectures, presentations, workshops and student-led symposia as well as fieldtrips to Antarctic venues in Christchurch, a first-aid course and a two-day excursion to the Canterbury high country. The highlight is a visit to Antarctica, where you spend around ten days at Scott Base and a field campsite on the Ross Ice Shelf.

Participants come from a range of backgrounds, including science, arts, humanities, law, policy, commerce, engineering, social sciences and technology. They generally wish to broaden their understanding of Antarctic related matters, or are professional people who are employed or plan to work in positions or organisations where their contribution would be enhanced by the experience and skills gained from completing the programme.

To be eligible to enrol, you need an approved degree (or equivalent) and have to pass a medical (prescribed by Antarctica New Zealand) for the fieldtrip to Antarctica. Entry into the programme is competitive as student numbers are limited to 16 each year.

To successfully complete the Postgraduate Certificate in

Antarctic Studies requires a full-time commitment from the participants. Assessments include a literature review, syndicate presentation and report, field reports, a personal experience project and a major individual research project on an area of interest. Topics to research can range from current issues in the natural sciences to social science topics, historical analyses or an engagement with Antarctic literature or arts. Fieldwork in Antarctica includes a mix of analytical and interpretive field projects and environmental monitoring.

We invite you to join a diverse group of students and staff and engage in a highly innovative and personally rewarding experience.

Applications for the 2013 – 2014 summer course close on 1 August 2013.

For more information:

- View the Gateway Antarctica website
<http://www.anta.canterbury.ac.nz/courses/gcas/>
- Contact the Programme Coordinator
(daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz) or
Administrator (vicki.christoffersen@canterbury.ac.nz).



Christchurch-bound: Boarding a US Air Force Hercules (28 December 2012). Image courtesy Daniela Liggett.

Heroic Era Antarctic Explorers in World War I by Kat Moody

By Kat Moody

Until fairly recently I worked as a Collections Technician at Canterbury Museum, often working closely with the Heroic Era Antarctic collections. Coming from a background in military museums I kept wondering what these Heroic Era explorers had done during the World War I. Many of them had backgrounds in the forces, usually the Navy, and were of the right age to serve in the war. There didn't appear to be much published specifically on this topic – could more be said than simple biography? What follows in this article is an overview of my initial research; an attempt to find themes around this topic which could potentially be taken further.

I undertook my research around the theme of endurance, something explorers know all about, as well as anyone involved in a war. A recent supplement article which appeared in *The Press* newspaper highlighted the connection between Antarctica, Christchurch and endurance. This connection was again emphasised during the IceFest festival held biannually in Christchurch. Canterbury connections in the Heroic Era included Lyttelton as the last port of call for of expeditions on their way south, including Ernest Shackleton's *Nimrod* Expedition in 1907 and Robert Falcon Scott's *Terra Nova* Expedition in 1910.

My initial research looked at the war experience of some members of two famous expeditions; the *Terra Nova* expedition and Shackleton's 1914-1916 Imperial TransAntarctic Expedition.

The story of what happened on the *Terra Nova* expedition is well known. In short this was an expedition that intended to combine science with an attempt to reach the South Pole, but became a race to the pole when Norwegian Roald Amundsen announced he was also making for 90 degrees south. Norway had only become independent of Sweden in 1905, and although it was neutral during the war was yet another new nation state making a name for itself in the first few decades of the twentieth century. Therefore, when Amundsen's party became the first to reach the South Pole on 14 December 1911, he helped to define the emerging nation.

A little over a month after Amundsen, on 17 January 1912, Scott, Edward 'Uncle Bill' Wilson, Lawrence 'Titus' Oates, Henry 'Birdie' Bowers and Edgar 'Taff' Evans reached the Pole only to discover they had been beaten. They perished on the return journey, first Evans, then Oates – who went outside to walk to his death in a blizzard. Scott, Bowers and Wilson died in their tent, only a few miles from a food depot that could have saved them.

Also on the *Terra Nova* expedition, was the Norwegian ski expert, Tryggve Gran. In the diary he kept, he notes the growing tensions in Europe:

26/4/12 Among other things we discussed the possibility of war between Germany and England. One thing I now understand clearly: the seamen of England are deeply suspicious of the Fatherland.

On 13/1/1913 the return of the *Terra Nova* to the Ice brought news that "the Serbs, Bulgars and Montenegrins have thrashed the Turks". This was the First Balkan War which was the last fracturing of the Ottoman Empire before the world war broke out.

Captain Oates, a member of the landed gentry and a cavalry officer who had been injured in the Boer War, bought his way onto the expedition, as did Apsley Cherry-Garrard whose family had come into money when he was a boy. One of the youngest



Ernest Shackleton during the Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition. Image courtesy Canterbury Museum: 1974.117.23.



Jens Tryggve Herman Gran MC (January 20, 1889 - January 8, 1980), Norwegian aviator, explorer and author, member of Robert Falcon Scott's Antarctic expedition of 1910-1913, the Terra Nova Expedition. Image reference:SPRI -P2005/5/1171.

members of the expedition, he was given the role of assistant zoologist. Deeply traumatised by his perceived failure to rescue the Polar Party when sent out to look for them in March 1912, and by his experiences on the winter journey to collect emperor penguin eggs - both of which he later covered in his classic 1922 memoir *The Worst Journey in the World* - he presents an intense and earnest character. In a later letter to *The Times* 10/10/1919 he brings attention to one of the new forms of technology that was used on the expedition and which was later introduced to the war:

Sir – it is only right to point out that an early and practical forerunner of the tanks was used by Scott in the Antarctic... We had 3 [tracked motor-sledges]; one of them sank into the sea, but the two survivors, after doing excellent work on sea-ice, were driven on the polar journey by Day and Lashly under blighting conditions and with considerable success. Fetch one of these two derelicts off the barrier, and case it in armour and you would have something very like the modern tank, which is largely an imitation of our old friends. With Churchill at the Admiralty and Scott alive tanks would have been in action long before September 1915[sic].

Cherry, as he was known, rather exaggerates their success, but certainly the tracked Wolseley motor-sledges were a signpost on the journey toward tanks and to modern snowmobiles and the like. His involvement with Antarctic exploration and experience of motor-sledges led to him being granted a temporary commission in the RNVR and serving with 5 Squadron RNAS (Armoured Car Division). The squadron had some success on the Western Front in the first half of 1915, but as his biographer Sara Wheeler describes “once the battle lines had been established and the trenches dug, opportunities for vehicles that had to stick to roads were severely limited.” Some armoured cars were sent to Gallipoli and Egypt, but 5 Squadron was sent back to Britain to await instruction and was eventually disbanded. Cherry was not to see further active service due to ulcerative colitis which he had contracted in Antarctica.



Apsley Cherry-Garrard portrait by Herbert Ponting. Image courtesy Canterbury Museum:19XX.2.5092.

The legacy of Scott's expedition during the Great War has been well covered in at least two books: *Antarctic Destinies* by Stephanie Barczewski and *The Last Great Quest* by Max Jones. Ranulph Fiennes, in his biography of Scott, *Race to the Pole*, notes that “through two world wars, the Scott story was used as a heroic example of how to live and how to face death when fighting for your country.” It is also reported that the widowed Kathleen Scott received many letters from servicemen telling her that “they could never have faced the dangers and hardships of the war had they not learned to do so from her dead husband’s teaching.” It would be interesting to know if the tone of these letters changed over the duration of the war, but the story of perceived heroic sacrifice and endurance in the face of a hopeless situation proved a comfort to some.

Herbert Ponting, the expedition

photographer also took film of the expedition which went on to be shown to over 100,000 officers and men during the war. In response, the Senior Chaplain to the Forces Reverend F I Anderson sent Ponting a letter of appreciation:

I cannot tell you what a tremendous delight your films are to thousands of our troops. The splendid story of Captain Scott is just the thing to cheer and encourage out here... The thrilling story of Oates’ self-sacrifice, to try and give his friends a chance of getting through, is one that appeals so at the present time. The intensity of its appeal is realised by the subdued hush and quiet that pervades the mass audience of the troops while it is being told. We all feel we have inherited from Oates and his comrades a legacy and heritage of inestimable value in seeing though our present work.



Edward Evans at Glacier Tongue, January 1911. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.
Image courtesy Canterbury Museum: 19XX.2.5074.



Robert Falcon Scott during the Terra Nova expedition.
Image courtesy Canterbury Museum.

A Biblical quotation that is sometimes associated with Captain Oates is: '*Greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends.*' This was also used as a memorial inscription on many Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones, and represents a common theme of sacrifice.

Oates's influence was also felt much closer to home. In Norwegian Tryggve Gran's memoir he records:

For days a dreadful storm had raged over the desert of ice and our tent sank deeper and deeper into the snowdrifts. Captain Oates, Lieutenant Bowers and I had been passing the time discussing politics. For the sake of argument I drew attention to Germany's growing strength – in her army and navy. [On went the discussion and Bowers said] 'You know, Titus – for so he called Oates – if there is a war and you a general – both Trigger and I will join up with the Inniskilling Dragoons.' 'Nonsense' replied Oates, 'all foreigners are anti-British and your Norwegian

ski expert is pro-German as well.' Bowers lapped up his soup, which exuded an appetising smell up under the roof of the tent. 'I bet you my portion of soup, Oates, that if war comes Gran will volunteer with us against the Germans.' 'Will you?' asked Oates. 'Of course' I answered and shook him by the hand.

After the expedition returned, the adventurous Gran had learnt to fly and on 30 July 1914 became the first person to fly across the North Sea flying in a Blériot monoplane. Not surprisingly this feat was overshadowed by the countdown to war. Gran remembered his promise to Oates and applied to join the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) but at that stage was turned down on account of his nationality. Instead he joined the newly founded Norwegian Flying Corps. Strings were pulled and after a period observing the RFC on behalf of the Norwegians, Gran was eventually accepted into the RFC in October 1916 using the name Teddy Grant. Initially, he spent time with Home Defence squadron's night flying against Zeppelin incursions.

It was probably during this time that he came to the attention of Cecil Lewis, author of the classic RFC memoir *Sagittarius Rising* who records that "*a good-looking Norwegian, who somehow or other had joined the RFC was the host in one of the many parties we used to hold in town on our off-night.*" But whilst Gran was a good party host he was not free of suspicion: "*That Norwegian [remarked Lewis's friend one day] he's a spy. He'll go. You'll see.*" Gran moved on from home defence and served overseas with 101 Squadron, a night bomber unit equipped with FE2Bs. Gran, however, was issued with a Sopwith Pup B2188 and was assigned special duties, although still taking part in some bombing raids. This is all rather murky, but the Pup appears to have had some kind of side car fixture on the fuselage which may have used to drop spies off behind enemy lines. In early 1918 he was awarded the MC for "*for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He bombed enemy aeroplanes with great success, and engaged enemy searchlights, transport and other targets with machine gun fire. He invariably showed the greatest determination and resource.*" He also served with the

Allied Intervention Force in Russia and stayed in the RAF after the war, but following a serious motorbike accident in 1921 he resigned his commission.

Gran's war service is probably the most striking of all those on the *Terra Nova* expedition. Many were serving naval men and effectively went back to their day jobs. Harry Pennell, the Captain of the *Terra Nova*, went down with the ship he was commanding, *HMS Queen Mary*, at the Battle of Jutland. Edward 'Teddy' Evans, Scott's second in command and who nearly died of scurvy in Antarctica was awarded the DSO for his command of the destroyer *HMS Broke*. Together with another ship, *HMS Broke* engaged six German destroyers about to attack Dover. Max Jones records what happened next: "After some bloody hand to hand fighting, three of the German destroyers were sunk, three retreated and more than 100 prisoners were taken. Remember the *Lusitania*! Evans was reported to have shouted to the Germans clamouring to be rescued from the sea."

Edward L Atkinson, the naval surgeon who assumed command of the *Terra Nova* expedition after Scott's death and Teddy Evans' evacuation to New Zealand had an eventful war. He served with the Royal Naval Division at Gallipoli, fought on the Somme and spent time in north Russia. While serving on *HMS Glatton* in Dover Harbour in 1918 he was badly injured when the ship was torpedoed. He treated and rescued others before he himself escaped and was awarded the Albert Medal. Cherry-Garrard however wondered if the time he became lost in a blizzard was his worst experience. Atkinson went out to read one of the thermometers and lost his bearings, as Cherry records:

The snow was a blanket raging all around him, and it was quite dark. He walked on and found nothing... Hour after hour he staggered about: he got his hand badly frost-bitten; he found pressure [ridges]; he fell over... he was crawling in it, on his hands and knees. Stumbling, tumbling, tripping, buffeted by the endless lash of the wind, sprawling through miles of punishing snow, he seems to have kept his brain working.

Eventually, after many hours, he found his way back to the hut. Whether Atkinson agreed with Cherry's speculation is unknown, but it demonstrates that in the Antarctic nature is the enemy.

This theme of Antarctic warfare is something that was picked up by Sir Ernest Shackleton, who dedicated, *South*, his account of the *Endurance* expedition to "my comrades, who fell in the white warfare of the south and on the red fields of France and Flanders." Shackleton's intent on this expedition was to make the first crossing the Antarctic continent. The main body of the party would go south via South America, start their crossing from the Weddell Sea area and make towards the Ross Sea where another small party of men (sailing south on the *Aurora*) would be waiting, having laid supply depots for the main party. The *Endurance* became trapped in pack ice, sank and the entire party was eventually rescued after an incredible open sea voyage in the 23 foot long whaler *James Caird* to South Georgia to raise the alarm. While everyone in the *Endurance* party was rescued, there were casualties in the Ross Sea Party. They became stranded when the *Aurora* blew out to sea in a blizzard. One man died of scurvy and two were lost in a blizzard. They are the men who Shackleton describes as having fallen in the white warfare of the south.



The crew of the *Aurora*. Image courtesy Canterbury Museum: 1998.65.1.

The *Endurance* sailed from the East India dock in London on 1 August 1914. The same day Germany and Russia declared war on each other and the First World War had begun. Shackleton sent a telegram to the Admiralty offering the services of the ship and men to the war effort. Winston Churchill, however, told them to proceed, presumably trying to put on a show of confidence. Shackleton

later recorded:

According to many the war would be over within six months. And so we left, not without regret that we could not take our place there, but secure in the knowledge that we were taking part in a strenuous campaign for the credit of our country.

The war was never far from the thoughts of the expedition, who passed some of their time speculating on what may have happened:

*We hoped that the Germans had already been driven from France and that the Russian Armies had put a seal on the Allies' success. The war was a constant subject of discussion aboard the *Endurance*, and many campaigns were fought on the map during the long months of drifting.*

After their epic open boat journey and trek over the mountainous interior of South Georgia, Shackleton, Tom Crean and Frank Worsley walked into the whaling station on 20 May 1916 asking to see the man in charge. It wasn't long before the war was mentioned:

Tell me, when was the war over? [Shackleton] asked. The war is not over, he answered. Millions are being killed. Europe is mad. The world is mad.

The news of the war took time for them to take in:

*The reader may not realise quite how difficult it was for us to envisage nearly two years of the most stupendous war of history. The locking of the armies in trenches, the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the murder of Nurse Cavell, the use of poison-gas and liquid fire, the submarine warfare, the Gallipoli campaign, the hundred other incidents of the war, almost stunned us at first, and then our minds began to compass the train of events and develop a perspective. No other civilised men could have been as blankly ignorant of world-shaking happenings as we were when we reached Stromness Whaling Station. The members of the *Endurance**



Tyggrve Gran during the *Terra Nova* expedition, December 1911. Photograph by Frank Debenham. Image courtesy Canterbury Museum: 2003.84.10.

expedition eventually made it back to Britain in September 1916 and the survivors of the Ross Sea Party in early 1917. There was brief press coverage of their return but there were so many other earth-shattering events going on at the same time that they were quickly overshadowed. The mood had changed since 1914 and it was felt, as Stephanie Barczewski puts it that: "Shackleton had had no business going off on frivolous expedition to a useless frozen wasteland at a time of national crisis."

This reaction may explain in part why Shackleton appears so keen in *South* to allude to the expedition in terms of warfare and to justify it:

There are chapters in this book of high adventure, strenuous days, lonely nights, unique experiences, and, above all, records of unflinching determination, supreme loyalty, and generous self-sacrifice on the part of my men which, even in these days that have witnessed the sacrifices of nations and regardlessness of self on the part of individuals, [which] still will be of interest to readers who now gladly turn from the red horror of war and strain of the last five years to read, perhaps with more understanding minds, the tale of the white warfare of the south. The struggles, the disappointments, and the endurance of this small party of

Britishers, hidden away for nearly two years in the fastnesses of the polar ice, striving to carry out the ordained task and ignorant of the crises through which the world was passing, make a story which is unique in the history of Antarctic exploration.

There was little choice but for the expedition members to join the war effort. Again there were those who went back to their day job in the navy. Tom Crean, who had also been on both of Scott's expeditions, was a career navy man. Following many heroic Antarctic exploits, he had a quiet war, mainly patrolling the waters of South-West Ireland. Alf Cheetham, one of the oldest explorers, who served on both of Scott's expeditions and two of Shackleton's, served with the Mercantile Marine and went down with his ship aged 51 when it was torpedoed by a U-boat.

Shackleton, who had a heart condition, repeatedly tried to be posted to the front, but ended up boosting British propaganda in South America and also had a brief stint in North Russia. His final thoughts on the *Endurance* expedition further blur the line between the expedition and the war:

Taking the expedition as a unit, out of fifty-six men three died in the Antarctic, three were killed in action and five have been wounded,

so that our casualties have been quite high.

He died in South Georgia in 1922, whilst leading another Antarctic expedition.

Several themes have emerged thus far in my initial research into Heroic Era Antarctic expeditions and the First World War. It is evident that pre-war tensions made their way to the ice and that promises made there were honoured. There are hints of parallels in the language of memorialisation in the aftermath of the *Terra Nova* expedition and during and after the First World War. It is also apparent that wartime technology had antecedents on Antarctic Expeditions, and that an expedition, against the backdrop of war, can change from being a source of national pride to something that requires justification. The initial research clearly demonstrates that there is more to research and analyse on this topic and that the Antarctic explorers activities during the war years deserves more space than a few pages or a short chapter at the end of a biography.

A version of this paper was given at a conference with the theme of Endurance in 2012. Research into this topic is continuing. ¶

Edward Atkinson's skis returned to The Antarctic Heritage Trust

Exactly a centenary after the return of SS *Terra Nova* to Lyttelton, New Zealand from the Antarctic, a set of skis belonging to Edward Atkinson has been returned to New Zealand's Antarctic Heritage Trust. It was Atkinson who assumed leadership of Captain Scott's last expedition and who was the leader of the party that found the tent containing the bodies of Captain Scott, Edward Wilson and Henry Bowers.

On 12 February 1913 the SS *Terra Nova* entered Lyttelton harbour with its flag at half-mast to a country and the world in mourning. Two days earlier, the ship had moored off Oamaru Harbour where Atkinson and the ship's Captain came ashore during the night and wired the news of Scott and the Polar Party's death to the expedition's agent.

The wooden skis, clearly etched with Atkinson's initials, were retrieved from a pile of abandoned equipment at Scott's Cape Evans hut in 1948 by a navy helicopter pilot Lloyd Tracy aboard USS *Edisto*, part of US Operation

Windmill. Mr Tracy's son, Dick Tracy said *"it is with great joy that after many years these will be returned to Cape Evans from where dad recovered them".*

Atkinson (usually called Atch) was appointed as parasitologist and bacteriologist to the British Antarctic Expedition. As well as his scientific work he was a member of the support party to the Polar Party as they marched south. As the only remaining naval officer, Atkinson assumed command when he returned to Cape Evans, with one of his main challenges being to maintain morale, especially when the Polar Party became overdue to return. On 12 November 1912 Atkinson discovered the tent containing the bodies of Scott, Wilson and Bowers and he read parts of Scott's diary to the search party – telling of the journey and last days of the Polar Party.

The skis will be returned to Antarctica by the Antarctic Heritage Trust. Trust Executive Director, Nigel Watson said *"the provenance of the skis is beyond doubt. These are a most poignant link to Captain Scott's last expedition. It seems like fate that these have been returned to Christchurch, exactly 100 years to the day after Atkinson himself returned here from the Antarctic with details of the loss of the polar party."* ¶



*Antarctic Heritage Trust Executive Director Nigel Watson with one of Dr Atkinson's skis.
Image courtesy Antarctic Heritage Trust, nzahtr.org.*

Lieutenant Lloyd Tracy and the USS Edisto on manoeuvres in Antarctica, 1948. Image courtesy Antarctic Heritage Trust, nzahtr.org.

Bromine Explosion Events and Ozone Depletion



by Tim Hay

In 2009 Tim Hay (University of Canterbury) was the recipient of the inaugural Christchurch City Council Antarctic Scholarship administered by Gateway Antarctica. Tim's proposal was to investigate bromine explosion events and their relationship to ozone depletion in the coastal Antarctic boundary layer.

Continuing with this work Tim's PhD supervisor Karin Kreher from NIWA at Lauder in Central Otago submitted a plan for the 2012/13 summer season at Scott Base. They proposed to take measurements of halogen oxides (BrO and IO) in the Antarctic marine boundary layer using several complementary measurement techniques. They determined it useful to take some measurements as close as possible to first year sea ice and/or open and refreezing water. To that end Tim Hay and his collaborator Denis Poehler from the Institute of Environmental Physics at the University of Heidelberg deployed to Scott Base during Winfly, the first of the winter flights last August. Denis left in mid-October after another two of his colleagues Udo Friess and Johannes Zielcke, also from the Institute of Environmental Physics, arrived at Scott Base to continue the study.

Enhanced concentrations of Reactive Halogen Species (RHS), including bromine monoxide (BrO) and iodine monoxide (IO) radicals, in the polar Marine Boundary Layer (MBL) are responsible for very efficient photocatalytic (the alteration of the rate of a chemical reaction by light) ozone destruction, as well as oxidation of gaseous elemental mercury and dimethyl

sulphide, but many key processes involving RHS remain poorly understood. Although enhanced BrO concentrations in the polar MBL are naturally occurring phenomena, areas covered by elevated BrO columns, as measured by the Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME) satellite instrument, have been expanding, possibly due to anthropogenic influences (human impact on the environment) on climate and bromine source gases.

In order to gain more understanding of conditions triggering the release of RHS we conducted a three month measurement campaign in McMurdo Sound. We used four different instruments based on the Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS) technique to measure BrO and IO and other trace gases, along with measurements of ozone, meteorology and mercury in snow samples. One instrument, the Long-Path DOAS, set up at Scott Base, has a telescope that sends out a light beam that is reflected from two different reflectors out on the sea ice. The concentrations of trace gases in the path of the light beam are measured. We also had two Multi-Axis DOAS instruments, which have a small telescope that scans the sky to measure the trace gas absorptions in



Event K804 working in Antarctica. Images courtesy Peter McCarthy and Tim Hay.

various directions and from that obtain a vertical concentration profile. One of these was running continuously out on the sea ice and was powered by solar panels and a wind generator. The other instrument was a Cavity-Enhanced DOAS, which reflects a light beam between two mirrors thousands of times. This can measure IO and NO₂ right at the instrument location.

The team observed BrO on several days, often for just a few hours at a time, while IO was observed at very low levels by the MAX-DOAS, but not at all above the detection limits of the other instruments. There were several partial ozone depletion events observed by the LP-DOAS, but these did not correlate well with peaks in BrO. They might be due to either NO₂ pollution from the two bases, vehicles and aircraft or from transport of air already depleted in ozone from other regions. It is still too soon to draw any conclusions as all the measurements need to be interpreted along with the meteorological data and modelled back-trajectories showing air-mass sources.

There are several challenges with working in Antarctica and one was to design an instrument system that can operate autonomously off batteries out on the sea ice. The instruments and batteries were housed in insulated boxes that had to be well sealed to prevent fine spindrift from getting in. After storms and blowing snow it was still necessary to get out there to check the instruments and clean the snow off the telescope window and the solar panels. Even a tiny speck of dust or snow on the mirrors of the Cavity-Enhanced DOAS can totally reduce its sensitivity, so after a storm it takes several hours of cleaning in the back of a Hagglunds or a return to Scott Base. We also had to be careful of static shocks and make sure that the instruments and ourselves were properly grounded.



Caro Maclaurin was our Antarctica New Zealand field support person and she provided much needed support with logistics and safety. Over the season she drove us out numerous times in one of the Hagglunds to our site on the sea ice. Early in the season we had to stop at several cracks that we drilled to ensure the ice was thick enough to cross on our way out to Cape Evans. Weather was the major factor that prevented our travel but we also had instruments set up at Scott Base and there was maintenance and lots of data to interpret.

The analysis of mercury in our snow samples has just been completed. Using the data from the different instruments, meteorology, modelled airmass sources, and mercury levels in the snow we should gain a better understanding of the importance of BrO and IO in the tropospheric chemistry of coastal Antarctica. Looking at trends or differences between years we can then decide how to design and pursue future measurements as effectively as possible. ¶



The base of the Robert Falcon Scott statue toppled in the Christchurch earthquake on 22 February 2011. The statue has been removed and cleaned and the Christchurch City Council with expert advisors is currently working on plans to conserve, strengthen and eventually reinstate the statue. Image courtesy Nic Jackson.

A Father For My Son

by Jenny Coverack

Reviewed by Hanne Nielsen

Audience members at Jenny Coverack's Christchurch performance of *A Father For My Son* on 16 February 2013 were treated to an intimate evening alive with history and the voice of a remarkable woman. Based on Louisa Young's biography *A Great Task of Happiness*, Jenny's one woman show brings Kathleen Scott to life, presenting a collage of quotes and anecdotes from her diaries in order to paint a portrait of a sculptor, mother, activist and free spirit. While the first half details Kathleen's life up until her marriage to Captain Scott, ending with news of his death, the second half assures the audience that her life most certainly did not end there. Behind every great man there is a great woman, and this play left us in no doubt that Kathleen was far more than the wife of an Antarctic hero.

Jenny Coverack trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has performed *A Father for My Son* approximately 35 times, including on board the polar class ice breaker - cum-cruise ship the *Kapitan Khlebnikov* in the Ross Sea region, close to Scott's Hut on Cape Evans where Scott departed on his final journey. She travelled to New Zealand to take part in the Oamaru Scott 100 Centenary celebrations, remarking that "it seems very appropriate that it's to come to New Zealand where Kathleen saw the *Terra Nova* depart and to where she was travelling when she heard the sad news of the death of Scott and his companions."

Jenny approached the Antarctic Society wanting to stage



a Christchurch performance in order to raise funds for the restoration of the city's Scott statue. Sculpted by Kathleen, the landmark was damaged in the earthquakes and is currently on display in several pieces in Canterbury Museum. For Jenny, who travelled over from the UK to perform her play, the statue "seems to form a polar link between the UK, New Zealand and the Antarctic." One venue, two sculpted heads and several phone calls later, the Canterbury branch of the Antarctic Society were proud to present the fundraising evening.

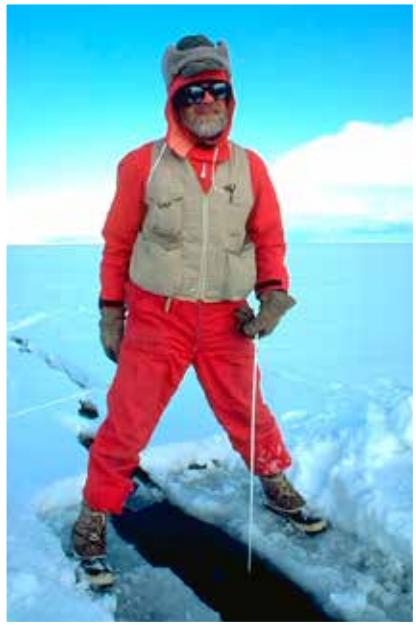
We were also lucky to have Kathleen's granddaughter Zoe Young in the audience. Having seen her gran played by five different women over the course of the last week, Zoe felt she was getting a real sense of what her grandmother must have been like and was thrilled to see so much interest in Kathleen on this side of the world. Zoe was also promoting her sister's biography, which was republished to mark 100 years since Scott's death and on which the play was based,

Thanks to Jill and John Rogers, Stephen Dodge and Colin Hillman for helping on the night and to all of those who turned out for a moving performance to support a true Antarctic cause. A donation of \$250 will be made towards the repair and upkeep of Kathleen's marble sculpture of her husband which will be conserved, strengthened and repaired by the Christchurch City Council.

A Father For My Son was performed at St Bede's College, Christchurch on 16 February 2013. ¶

Tribute: John Macdonald (1941-2012)

Tribute by Clive W Evans and John C Montgomery from the University of Auckland



John (Mac) Macdonald. Image courtesy Clive Evans and John Montgomery.

John (known affectionately to most of us as Mac) died on Friday 14 December 2012 after a short illness.

Mac was born in Honolulu on 25 October 1941. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Stanford in 1963 and went on to achieve his PhD in 1970 at the University of Texas at Austin. He paid his first visit to the ice in 1963-64, wintering-over as a member of "Curly" Wohlschlag's team at McMurdo Station. This experience, which he shared with another Antarctic notable, Paul Dayton, was certainly a formative one. In recent correspondence with us, Paul recalls that Mac was a great winter-over companion, always calm, rational, and with a good, dry sense of humour. He went on to add that "*Mac was one of those rare genuinely decent people we all respect so much in life and miss so dearly in death*", a sentiment echoed by us all.

Mac's winter-over period with what was then the United States

Antarctic Research Programme is formally recognised through the naming of the Macdonald Nunataks in his honour: two peaks that push though the ice on the flanks of the mighty Transantarctic Range.

After post-doctoral studies at the University of California at Los Angeles, Mac was appointed to a lectureship in the then Department of Zoology at the University of Auckland, where he remained until he retired.

It wasn't too long after arriving in New Zealand before Mac was able to renew his acquaintance with Antarctica, having secured a grant from the local research committee to study neural temperature compensation in Antarctic poikilotherms. This work (actually done out of McMurdo Station) was to lead onto his first Antarctic fish paper (with Donald Ensor) published in 1975,

In an interview with Tim Higham, Mac once said of himself that one of his contributions had been to "*harass, interest and encourage*" others into Antarctic fish research. This was certainly one of his real strengths. He was the glue in the mix of a very successful University of Auckland Antarctic program, which began in the 1970s and continues to this day with Clive Evans' work. Through much of the 1980s, Rufus Wells and John Montgomery would alternate seasons on the ice working with Mac, enjoying his company, excellent planning and logistics, and keen science interests and insights. In his retirement, Mac continued his southern trips as an expert lecturer with tourist cruise ships. As he said, it's hard to let go of the Ice.

Mac was a stabilising influence among the young Turks. He had a resilient work ethic, and an enduring passion for

the Antarctic environment, which was reflected in his Antarctic lectures, enjoyed by so many. It was in sharing this passion that he felt truly at home.

Later on in Mac's career a distinct shift became apparent as he extended his collaborative work to include the Italians (especially Guido di Prisco, Marino Vacchi and Eva Pisano). Mac's embrace of this international collaboration included learning to speak fluent Italian and how to make excellent limoncello. When much later he turned his attention to Sangiovese, the outcome was nothing short of stunning. As Guido di Prisco said in a note to us "*I have a lot of memories with John, including the many wineries he took me to visit around Auckland, because among the many interests we had in common wine was not a minor one*". A bottle of Omiha Farm Sangiovese di Matakana 2010 – well drained of its contents – was seen recently adorning the shelf of the Scott Base bar. May it long remain.

Mac's work on Antarctic fish physiology is central to the legacy that he has left. In honour of this contribution he received the Polar Medal, a Royal award of which, in his Higham interview, he admits "to being 'chuffed' because he admires everyone else who has received one" (Scott and Shackleton, for a start). The Polar Medal was richly deserved, and Mac epitomises much of the strength of the international Antarctic program and science community. The tributes that have come in from the local and international science communities are a real testament to Mac's standing and contribution to that community over his life time. On behalf of that community, and in paying this tribute to Mac, we offer our condolences to his wife Linda and to his extended family. ¶

Oamaru Scott 100

– a personal view by Anne Strathie



The new centenary plaque was unveiled in the presence of descendants of Robert and Kathleen Scott, Harry Pennell and Frank Debenham. Image courtesy Ann Strathie.

In early 2011 Anne Strathie travelled from Cheltenham, Britain to New Zealand and Antarctica to research for her book *Birdie Bowers: Captain Scott's Marvel*. She returned in February 2013 for book-signings and to attend 'Oamaru Scott 100', a commemoration of Oamaru's role in the 1913 return to New Zealand of Scott's expedition.

At approximately 2 a.m. on 10 February 1913 the *Terra Nova* dropped anchor off Oamaru and Petty Officer Tom Crean rowed Lieutenant Harry Pennell and Dr Edward Atkinson ashore. Captain Scott's expedition ship then slipped away northwards.

The task entrusted to Pennell and Atkinson was the transmission of the news that Scott, Edward Wilson, Henry 'Birdie' Bowers, Lawrence Oates and Edgar Evans had reached the South Pole in mid-January 1912 but died on their return journey. It was vital that their communication reached Central News Agency in London – with whom Scott had signed an exclusivity agreement –

before it 'leaked' to newspaper reporters awaiting the *Terra Nova*'s return from Antarctica to Lyttelton.

Thanks to James Ramsey, Oamaru's helpful and discreet harbour-master, the crucial cable was dispatched and within 24 hours newspaper headlines all over the world blazed the news of Scott's party's achievements – and their deaths.

From 6 to 10 February 2013 Oamaru mounted a major commemoration of its role in Antarctic history. On Waitangi Day HMNZS *Otago* sailed into harbour and crowds enjoyed an open-air concert featuring international opera singer Ramonda Taleni Te Maiharoa, pianist Adrian Mann and other guests. The Opera House hosted performances of *The Night Visitors*, a specially-commissioned play by Dr Paul Baker, former Rector of Oamaru's Waitaki Boys High School (where Henry Bowers' sledge flag hangs in the Hall of Memories) and of English actress Jenny Coverack's one-woman play about Kathleen Scott, *A Father for My Son*.

There were also 'Polar Panels' with experts on a wide range of Antarctic-related subjects and talks by writers including myself and Zoe Young, Kathleen Scott's granddaughter. Oamaru's North Otago Museum displayed specially-loaned *Terra Nova* expedition artefacts, while the Forrester Gallery exhibited Herbert Ponting's historic photographs of Scott's expedition, Ramonda Te Maiharoa and Irene Schroder's *Postcard from Antarctica* (photography and ceramics) and Juilee Pryor's *90 Degrees South Again* (multi-panel hybrid work). Elsewhere in town, David Sutton's *South of Drake's Passage* exhibition featured photographs taken with century-old cameras, Dr Ron Newton played an 1885 Stanford organ from Lyttelton (once heard by Scott's men) and Bond Street Bridge band performed their *Explorers' Club* songs inspired by Scott and Shackleton.

Saturday's dinner in the historic 'Loan & Mercantile' building was



Bowers' sledge flag. Image courtesy Paul Baker.

catered by celebrated chef Fleur Sullivan and her team and preceded by a first-day cover launch. Between courses environmentalist and film-maker James Blake (son of yachtsman Sir Peter Blake) and other speakers put historic and current events into new contexts.

At 6 a.m. on Sunday 10 February 2013 crowds gathered at historic Sumpter Wharf, where a new centenary plaque had been unveiled the previous day in the presence of descendants of Robert and Kathleen Scott, Harry Pennell and Frank Debenham (expedition scientist, founder of Cambridge's Scott Polar Research Institute). Following a summoning Karanga, 'Pennell' and 'Atkinson' were rowed to shore where they joined a hymn-singing male voice choir, Garrison Brass Band and other enactment performers, including Jill

Roberts as Kathleen Scott.

After the lowering of the flag to half-mast, last post and two-minute silence a pipe band and naval parade led Mayor Alex Hamilton, Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean, Philippa Foster-Back and Nigel Watson of (respectively) the United Kingdom and New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trusts, re-enactment participants and audience members towards St Luke's Church. The ecumenical service was based on the Scott centenary service held in St Paul's Cathedral, London, on 29 March 2012 and was followed by a wreath-laying at the nearby Scott memorial oak. In the afternoon a re-enactment of the cable sending at the former Post & Telegraph Office and singer-guitarist Jake Wilson's Scott-inspired song suite *All's Well* helped bring proceedings to a close.

Warm thanks are due to all

Oamaruvians and others involved in Oamaru Scott 100, not least hard-working organisers Bruce Albiston, Helen Stead and Bronwyn Judge. Their efforts brought Oamaru's Antarctic story to life in a way which showed residents and visitors, including those from the other side of the world, that the continuum of history unites us all over the miles and years. ♦

A Christchurch P.S. from Ann Strathie

I had last been in Christchurch only a few days before the 22 February 2011 earthquake and now want to express my admiration for the resilience of the people of Canterbury affected by that natural disaster. Although my return visit was tinged with sadness at seeing so many buildings gone, there was relief and pleasure at finding others undamaged (e.g. T J Mair's Old Post Office), seeing rebuilding progress (e.g. Art Centre), being able to re-visit once-closed buildings (e.g. Canterbury Museum and the YMCA), witnessing green shoots of recovery (e.g. new restaurants, the Re:Start centre), learning of painstaking heritage initiatives (e.g. for Scott's statue, the Sumner hut, Lyttelton sailors' church and the Time-Ball Station). Best wishes and thanks to all involved and good fortune for the future.



Re-enactment of Pennell and Atkinson were rowing to shore to give the news of the death of the Polar Party.
Image courtesy Ann Strathie

Tide Cracks and Sastrugi; An Antarctic Summer in 1968 - 69 by Graeme Connell

Reviewed by Barrie Waterhouse

Graeme Connell spent most of his life as a newspaper journalist, editor and publisher in New Zealand, Fiji, and Canada. His book is well written, well researched, and well presented with numerous black and white and colour photos. Graeme chronicles his early days in New Plymouth, on the West Coast of the North Island, and like many teenagers was eager for adventure in the outdoors. His unbounded energy led him to mountain climbing and skiing on Mt Taranaki and other outdoors activities which were cemented in place after listening to the news on the radio in the early 1950s of Ed Hillary and Sherpa Tensing reaching the summit of Mt Everest. His interests extended to the frozen Continent after watching the film *Scott of the Antarctic* but his adventure there was still some years away.

The urge for adventure was realized when he successfully applied for the position of Information Officer/photographer at Scott Base. The appointment was for five months in the summer period from October 1968 to mid February 1969. Having survived the mandatory field training exercises at Waipouhu, and the assessment by the shrink (psychologist) Tony Taylor on arrival at Scott Base, Graeme settled into a routine of working in the twenty four hour daylight of this new environment.

From a desk in the corner of the Post Office/Communications hut, Graeme sent off photographs, reports and newsletters for the DSIR, New Zealand Press Association, New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation, Internal and External Affairs, Tourism and Publicity, and the National Film Unit. He also sold New Zealand authored books to visitors, guests, and dignitaries, and replied to school mail and general enquiries from sources around the world. In addition to his official duties, he was also expected to do his share of the rostered base chores of fire warden,

snow gathering for making water, cleaning, snow clearing, taking part in work parties, and learning how to drive snow vehicles in order to ferry personnel to and from the airfield.

Connell was selected to join a six man tractor party to haul materials and provisions from Scott Base across the sea ice to the Dry Valleys, a distance of about 70 miles, where it was intended to set up another all weather base. The operation was expected to take three to five days there and back. Apart from the cold, noise from incessant clanking and increasing sastrugi over which the bulldozer blazed a trail, the trip over the sea ice was un-eventful. Graeme's graphic account of setting up a polar tent among the tide cracks in the Bay of Sails prior to the ascent of the Piedmont Glacier leading to the Wright Valley, and then sleeping through 12 hours until it was night again, is not unusual for members of field parties.

The 600 ft climb from the tide crack camp up the ice falls of the Wright Glacier was accomplished with some difficulty when the Caterpillar vehicle started skidding in the light snow cover and a sledge broke free when the drawbar on the Sno-Cat snapped. Fortunately the sledge came to rest before reaching the bottom and was hauled back up with a wire rope strop. With their destination still a long way off and a crevassed area to negotiate, during which the Sno-Cat broke through a snow bridge and fortunately was able to winch itself out, mechanical breakdowns became more frequent.

The team were now well beyond the original three to five days there and back plan and on day 12, Graeme, whose work was piling up at Scott Base, was airlifted out and returned to Base from where he describes the "glorious luxury of clean sheets, clean pyjamas, and a soft mattress". Graeme rapidly returned



to his official duties with day by day accounts of the base and field activities. Christmas 1968 came and went, summer and Graeme's assignment were drawing to a close and with the arrival of HMNZS Endeavour he prepared to board for his return to New Zealand and ultimately to Fiji where he had secured a job with the Fiji Times newspaper.

This book is one man's quest for adventure and he found it in Antarctica. It is a detailed record of events and people met at Scott Base but readers would probably be more interested in the actual events than in the names recorded of the people who passed through the base during the author's stay. Like-wise for those who have spent months at a time in the field, letters to and from home might be viewed in a more personal light and I suspect few field people would go to the extent of publishing their intimate details in a book of this nature.

Although well written, I found it somewhat brain testing to reconcile the written text with the account of negotiating the way off the Ross Ice Shelf and into the glaciated region of the Wright Valley and Lake Vanda. A more detailed map on a bigger scale of this part of the journey, names of glaciers not mentioned in the text deleted, and a route guide showing day to day progress, and camp sites, would have been helpful.

Published as an E – Book and Paperback by PolishedPublishingGroup.com 290 p with B&W and coloured photos.

Colour version: \$NZ35 plus mailing \$NZ6 from graeme@telus.net

B&W version: from www.amazon.com (price varies)



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Antarctic Stones

by Pablo Neruda

*There everything ends
and nothing:
there everything begins:
the rivers say farewell in the ice,
the sky has married the snow,
there are neither highways nor horses
and the only building
was raised by the stone.
No one inhabits the castle,
not even lost souls,
those whom the cold and the cold wind
have terrified: there
the solitude of the world is lonely,
and for this the stone
became music, it lifted
its delicate towers, it lifted itself
to cry or to sing
yet it was silent.
Only the wind
that whip whistling from the pole,
only the empty white
and a murmur of rainbirds
over the castle of solitude*

From *The Wide White Page; writers imagine Antarctica*, edited by Bill Manhire.