

THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

# ANTARCTIC

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Connections  
between Wales  
and Antarctica



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# Contents

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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. Baden Norris (Canterbury), 2003
6. Bill Cranfield (Canterbury), 2003
7. Randal Heke (Wellington), 2003
8. Bill Hopper (Wellington), 2004
9. Malcolm Laird (Canterbury), 2006
10. Arnold Heine (Wellington), 2006
11. Margaret Bradshaw (Canterbury), 2006
12. Ray Dibble (Wellington), 2008
13. Norman Hardie (Canterbury), 2008
14. Vacant
15. Vacant

Models of the Fram, the Kainan Maru,  
Terra Nova at Shirase Museum.



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Cover photo:

The Scott Memorial Clock Tower and plaque in Roath Park, Cardiff. Photograph courtesy Tom Sharpe.

# Antarctic Round Up

## General

### Assistant Editor Janet Bray

Assistant Editor Janet Bray has decided to step back from this position for the Antarctic Society. Janet has helped edit *Antarctic* for many years, helping both the current editor and immediate past editor Michelle Finemore to make sure that articles submitted have correct spelling, grammar and are consistent in tone. She handles difficult editing jobs with professionalism and vigour and has helped budding authors pull together their ideas and stories into a publishable format. Janet also assisted in the time consuming tender and review process for design and printing of the publication. This help has been invaluable to the editors of *Antarctic*. Janet has offered to continue to help with occasional editing for the publication which is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Janet for all your efforts for *Antarctic*.

### Lyttelton Antarctic Brochure

Design of an Antarctic brochure for Lyttelton is underway with funding via the Lyttelton Information Centre. The brochure will complement other Antarctic brochures in Akaroa and Christchurch. Contact Sue Stubenvoll on 021 171 5921 for more information or to offer further stories or photographs of places with Antarctic connections in the Harbour Basin.

### Lou Sanson leaves Antarctica New Zealand

After many years at the helm of Antarctica New Zealand Lou has returned to the Department of Conservation, to the new role of Deputy Director General (Partnerships), based in Wellington. Lou has been a tremendous supporter of the Society, attending and hosting events and supporting projects and the publication. Lou considered that he has achieved much of what he set out to do at Antarctica New Zealand and that his job as CEO has been hugely satisfying and rewarding, largely as a result of working with such a dedicated group of staff, related New Zealand Government agencies, Christchurch City Council and international partners. Lou's legacy will remain and while he will be missed but

he is keen to retain his Antarctic links and connections. The newly appointed CEO, Peter Beggs will formally take up the reins in mid-January 2014.

### Lyttelton's connections with Antarctica to be celebrated

The Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board with Christchurch City Council have suggested four potential sites for a slightly larger than life-size bronze statue of a sled dog on public land in Lyttelton, overlooking Quail Island in the Harbour. The installation celebrates all seafarers, past and present, who travel to the Southern Ocean and Antarctica via Lyttelton. For additional information on this project, including associated initiatives and fundraising efforts, contact the Sled Dog Committee via Sue Stubenvoll on 021 171 5921.

## August

### Antarcticans and the First World War

NZAS members joined the Canterbury Historical Society at the University of Canterbury on 13 August for an interesting talk titled *Antarcticans and the First World War* given by researcher Kat Moody. It was good to join groups together and meet new people with an interest in Antarctic history at the nibbles and drinks after the talk.

### Antarctica: A Year on Ice

Anthony Powell's documentary *Antarctica: A Year on Ice* screened in the 2013 Film Festival and was well attended throughout the country.

### Antarctic themed Quiz Night

Prior to the Canterbury earthquakes, Society members used to meet in the historic Warner's Hotel in Cathedral Square. This hotel had an intimate connection with Antarctica, hosting dinners for early Antarctic expedition members. Fortunately the Antarctic memorabilia and photographs exhibited in the hotel were saved when the hotel was demolished due to earthquake damage. A new bar and restaurant was built in a new location and was the venue for an Antarctic Quiz Night; the teams surrounded by the original photographs.

## September

### This is your Life: Baden Norris and Sally Burrage

On 13 September Canterbury Museum held an event to celebrate Baden being awarded with the New Zealand Antarctic Medal. Baden worked for many years at Canterbury Museum with Canterbury historian Sally Burrage. Both Baden's and Sally's work at the Museum over the years was celebrated with books detailing some of their achievements.

### Celebrating Mawson

The Spirit of Mawson: The Australasian Antarctic Expedition 2013/2014 is currently underway and involves both New Zealand and Australian expedition members. The expedition has a full science programme planned, both in the sub Antarctic Islands and the Antarctic continent. Recognising Mawson's love of the New Zealand landscape (as described in his book *The Home of the Blizzard*) the expedition intends to plant a grove of 800 Kauri trees on the Kauri Museum land Matakoho, Northland, New Zealand. These trees will offset more than the total carbon used to fuel the AAE. For more information see [www.spiritofmawson.com](http://www.spiritofmawson.com) 🌲

### Errata

In the previous issue the date given for Baden's award was incorrect. Baden received his QSO Community Services on the Queen's Birthday Honours List 1977, for services to wildlife conservation and local history and the Rhodes Medal in 2006. I apologise for this error in editing.

Sharp eyed *Antarctic* readers may have also spotted Clive Evan's name change in the ham radio article in the last issue. Please note that this article was reprinted with permission from the author and the Christchurch Amateur Radio Club and as such the names were printed as per the original article in NZART magazine *BreakIn*. Clive and Barbara Evans helped the author Kelvin Barnsdale with his radio set up. 🌲

# The Shirase Antarctic Expedition Memorial Museum

by Tadashi Kitamura

Director, Shirase Antarctic Expedition Memorial Museum

The Shirase Antarctic Expedition Memorial Museum was established in 1990 by the locals of Konoura-machi (now called Nikaho-city) in Akita prefecture, the hometown of Nobu Shirase who led the first Japanese Antarctic Expedition. It showcases comprehensive records and collections of polar expeditions and polar region.

The museum was designed by iconic Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa (died 2007). The central structure with its conical shape represents an iceberg. This is surrounded by a circular building which represents the teamwork of the Antarctic Expedition.

## Nobu Shirase and his Antarctic expedition

Nobu Shirase was born on 13 June 1861, the eldest son and heir of Jorenji, Shin-Buddhist Temple. Rather than becoming monk, he chose to pursue his dream of joining expeditions and took a military path, joining the Cavalry Department of the Japanese Army School for non-commissioned officers in Hibiya, Tokyo. In 1893 he joined an expedition to the Kurile Islands which was led by Lieutenant Shigetada Gunji to prepare for future exploration trips however the training opportunity turned out to be a tragedy. The winter was so harsh that many explorers lost their lives, and Shirase himself was rescued on 21 August 1895.

A newspaper article grabbed Shirase's attention on the 6 April 1909 – he learned that Robert Peary, an American explorer, had reached the North Pole. It encouraged Shirase to set a goal to lead an expedition to the South Pole.

The *Kainan-Marui* (204 ton, 18 hp, two - masted wooden schooner) left Port Shibaura, Tokyo on 29 November 1910. Shirase and his team went onboard after a huge celebration the night before.

On 14 March 1911, icebergs forced them to turn around near Coulman Island in the Ross Sea and head towards Australia. Their vessel entered Sydney Harbour on 1 May 1911, after which the party camped in prefab huts and tents at Parsley Bay, in Vaucluse, New South Wales until the summer.

The focus of the expedition shifted during this time from reaching the South Pole to scientific research. The expedition left Sydney on 19 November 1911 and arrived at the Bay of Whales on 16 January 1912. At the same time as this voyage was happening, Amundsen from Norway travelled towards and reached the South Pole on 14 December 1911 followed by Scott on 17 January 1912. Scott's party did not survive the return journey.

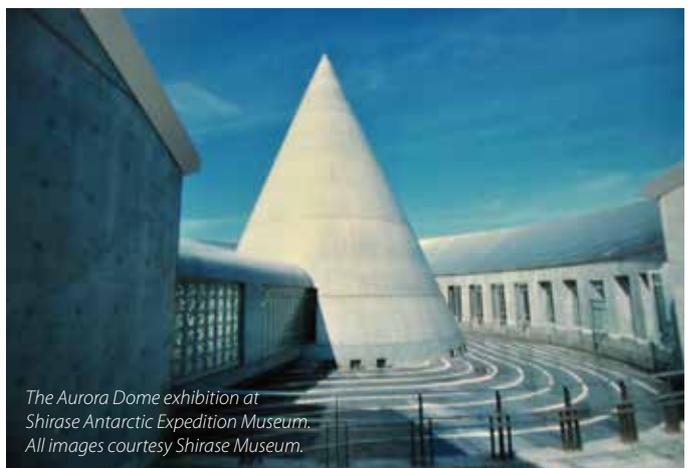
The Dash Party of five, including Shirase, departed on 20 January 1912. They headed towards the Pole on dog sledges and covered a distance of 287.7 km. The patrol ended on

the ninth day at 80° 05' S, 156° 37' W. They named the area 'Yamato Snow Field' then made their way back to base.

In the meantime, Captain Naokichi Nomura took *Kainan-Marui* eastward to 76° 06' S, 151° 20' W, breaking the Scott's previous record of 152° W.

This first Japanese expedition completed its 19 - month journey when they reached Shibaura, Tokyo on 20 June 1912. Despite limited funding and equipment, the Shirase party completed a successful expedition without losing a single life. The achievement thrilled the Japanese people and there was world recognition of the great courage of the smaller - build Japanese men.

Back home, Shirase found himself responsible for a huge amount of debt from the expedition. He spent the rest of his life travelling around the country giving speeches. He passed away in Koromo-cho (currently Toyoda-city), Aichi prefecture in 1946. Over a hundred years have passed since Shirase's first polar expedition, and these days the Antarctic attracts more and more scientists from all over the world. Japan is one of the countries involved in current research and it owes so much to the achievement of the first Japanese Antarctic Expedition.



The Aurora Dome exhibition at Shirase Antarctic Expedition Museum. All images courtesy Shirase Museum.

## Museum overview

The museum consists of four exhibition zones; *Shirase Antarctic Expedition*, *Antarctica*, *Aurora Dome* and *Snowcat*.

The *Shirase Antarctic Expedition* zone is themed on the



The newest exhibition area in the Museum



Shirase room with the model stern of Kainan Maru.

life of Nobu Shirase and his Antarctic expedition. There are a number of valuable items on display, such as the original sleeping bags and cold weather gear used, the Captain's watercolour pictures and a 1:1 stern model of the expedition vessel, the *Kainan-Marui*. There are also three large screens showing the dead-heat race to the South Pole by the Amundsen and Scott parties and the travels of the Shirase party.

The *Antarctica* expedition zone is an informative exhibition on Antarctica and current research activities. Visitors can see various materials including rare photographs and videos provided by the National Institute of Polar Research, Japan.

A special feature of the museum is the *Aurora Dome*, provided by the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. It utilises the conical structure as a screen, showing various aurora videos filmed at Showa Station and from space. This is the first exhibition of its kind in Japan.

A KD-605 snowmobile is on display in the *Snowcat* exhibition zone. Masayoshi Murayama (died 2006), the leader of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE) used this vehicle on the research expedition from 1968 to 1969. There are 1:100 scale models of the Japanese Antarctic research vessels; *Kainan-Marui* (the one Shirase used in his expedition) and four following icebreakers, *Soya*, *Fuji*, *Shirase (first)* and *Shirase (second)*.

Canterbury Museum in Christchurch has kindly provided material on Scott's party for the *Antarctica* exhibition zone. In return, the Shirase Antarctic Expedition Memorial Museum sent a model vessel of *Kainan-Marui* and a bronze bust of Nobu Shirase. Both facilities have become sister museums since the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shirase Antarctic Expedition and have been working together exchanging materials, information and hosting visits by junior students.

## Japanese Antarctic Expedition Centennial

In 2012, a project team was set up to celebrate the centennial of the first Japanese Antarctic expedition led by Shirase. Norihisa Satake, the governor of Akita prefecture, was assigned as the honorary chairman. The mission of the project team was to run commemorative events in various parts of Japan to let people know about the Antarctic expedition and the achievements made.

An International Conference held as part of the centennial was particularly successful in terms of wider recognition, as scientists attended from Belgium, United Kingdom, Norway, Korea and other nations. Significantly, as part of the Centennial the English version of Shirase's official record "*A Record of Antarctica*" - *The Japanese South Polar Expedition 1910-1912*, was published. This record was translated by Hilary Shibata and her daughter Lara Dagnell and is an excellent addition to any Antarctic library.

## Prospects

As a result of the Centennial which drew attention to the Shirase exploration party, a number of new objects and new information were discovered and brought into the Museum. The Museum is currently verifying various pieces of information on the Japanese Antarctic Expedition while building up digital archives of its own rich resources with the intention of becoming an information hub on Antarctic expeditions. They hope that developing this hub will promote further interaction between Antarctic related organisations both in Japan and the world. For more information see <http://hyper.city.nikaho.akita.jp/shirase/> or email: [shirase@city.nikaho.lg.jp](mailto:shirase@city.nikaho.lg.jp)

*Editor's note: thanks to BTM, New Zealand who translated the original article.*

# Two huts from the Antarctic

by David L. Harrowfield

In Oamaru on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand are two huts from Antarctica each with their own distinctive history. The huts were surplus to requirements at Scott Base and were donated by Antarctica New Zealand.

Given the town's century of association beginning with the arrival in February 1913 of *SS Terra Nova* of Scott's last expedition, the huts, by way of their modern day Antarctic association, provide a recent link to the past. They will be used as part of an education programme for Oamaru residents and visitors, including a self-guided tour of Antarctic related sites.

The Waitaki District Council along with Tourism Waitaki, de Geest Construction, Network Waitaki, other organisations including the Lions Club of Oamaru, Kennard Construction, Oamaru Beautifying Society, Perpetual Charitable Trusts and Department of Corrections, have been very generous with their support. Porter Hire and Antarctica New Zealand ensured the huts arrived safely in Oamaru.

As well as being a base from which the public can be informed about the association with Scott's expedition along with New Zealand's past and present activities in Antarctica, there is an opportunity to promote Antarctic links outside Oamaru such as Canterbury Museum in Christchurch and the ports of Lyttelton and Port Chalmers.

Some questions concerning the history of the two huts remain to be answered. Perhaps readers of *Antarctic* may be able to assist.

The first hut was an accommodation hut associated with the CIROS drilling programme in the mid 1980's and was also used for supplementary accommodation at Scott Base. Prior to CIROS the hut affectionately named "the swamp"

was in the hanger and following the drilling programme, was later positioned at three locations around Scott Base. The circumstances whereby the hut arrived at Scott Base are clouded in mystery. It seems however that it probably arrived in the spring of 1968. Should any "Antarcticans" have further information on the origin of "the swamp" including amusing anecdotes, this will be appreciated and supplement details already obtained.

Hut number two is the former Scott Base shuttle shelter also referred to as the "bus stop". Many readers will recall the 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> hut on a set of runners and with its two-tone green colour scheme. The hut clad with plywood, was on the roadside at the Scott Base turn off, from the road leading to/from McMurdo Station. It had two benches as seating, was a useful facility to keep out of the wind and three windows strategically placed, provided views to the ice road and of the main road to McMurdo Station. Occasionally people heading home were collected here and taken to Williams Field or Pegasus.

The author would be interested to know the name of the artist who carefully painted the attached sign. This features Mt. Erebus, the New Zealand Ensign with Scott Base superimposed and below, the words Shuttle Shelter. The earliest surviving graffiti is dated 1996 although the hut is considered much earlier.

The author would like to hear from any person who was associated with construction of the "bus stop", recalls when the hut was placed and perhaps details of previous use (if any) such as for science projects. Please contact [d.harrowfield@xtra.co.nz](mailto:d.harrowfield@xtra.co.nz) or post a letter to 23 Leven Street, South Hill, Oamaru, 9400. 📧



The Swamp Hut (left) and Bus Stop Hut (right). Photograph courtesy David Harrowfield



Artefacts being conserved in the conservation lab at Scott Base. All images courtesy AHT.



Scheduling carpentry work at Discovery Hut AHT

# Conserving Scott's Discovery Hut

by Paula Granger

This Antarctic summer season the Antarctic Heritage Trust (New Zealand) has commenced conserving Captain Scott's first expedition base at Hut Point, Ross Island as part of its Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

The Trust has already secured Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1908 expedition base and its collection of more than 6000 objects and is on track to complete the seven-year conservation programme at Captain Robert Falcon Scott's 1911 expedition base at Cape Evans.

Scott's 1902 expedition base, established for the National Antarctic Expedition (*Discovery*) 1901-1904, was a joint initiative between The Royal Geographical Society and The Royal Society. It marked Scott's first expedition to the Antarctic. The expedition included a major programme of science, and on the expedition's return home, eleven volumes of scientific results were published.

The expedition also mapped hundreds of kilometres of uncharted territory and three of the most famous men in Antarctic exploration – Scott, Shackleton and Wilson - achieved the furthest south sledging journey of 82° 16' S in the summer of 1902 - 03. The expedition was seen as a landmark in British Antarctic exploration and resulted in Scott returning to Britain as a national hero.

The base was subsequently used by three other heroic-era expeditions - Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition (1907-1909), Scott's British Antarctic Expedition (1910-1913) and the Ross Sea Party of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917) – all of which left their mark on the hut and its contents.

Discovery Hut has Antarctic Specially Protected Area status, the highest protection under the Antarctic Treaty System.

In order to undertake a programme of work to conserve Discovery Hut, the Antarctic Heritage Trust has prepared both a comprehensive Conservation Plan and Implementation Plan for both the site and the more than 350 associated artefacts that make up the collection.

The key conservation activities that will be undertaken by Trust conservators during the project include:

- Stabilisation, weather proofing and repair of the building;
- Conservation of the artefact collection associated with the hut (the majority of the conservation work will take place at Scott Base during the winter of 2014);
- Removal of contemporary building materials introduced during the modern period and their replacement with historically correct material.

Conserving the building and collection is anticipated to take two years, subject to securing funding, with work to be completed in February 2015.

The Antarctic Heritage Trust is seeking support for the Discovery Hut conservation project. If you would like to make a donation to this project, please contact the Trust at [info@nzaht.org](mailto:info@nzaht.org) or donate online through [www.nzaht.org/support](http://www.nzaht.org/support)

If you would like to follow the conservators progress, while they conserve the building and artefact collection see: [www.facebook.com/antarctic.heritage.trust](http://www.facebook.com/antarctic.heritage.trust) 



F.C. Bowring (front left) and Daniel Radcliffe (front right) with Teddy Evans (in top hat) on board the *Terra Nova* in Cardiff 17 June 1913. Photo courtesy National Museum of Wales.

## Wales and Antarctica

by Tom Sharpe, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Unlike Scotland, Wales never had a National Antarctic Expedition of her own. However, in the summer of 1909, a young Royal Navy lieutenant was indeed planning an all-Welsh expedition to the South Pole from a base in King Edward VII Land. Lieutenant Teddy Evans had been south once before, as an officer on the *Morning*, one of two relief ships sent to help free Scott's ship *Discovery* from the ice of McMurdo Sound in 1903. Seeking support from the land of his paternal grandfather's birth, Evans was in touch with several leading Cardiff businessmen.

His plans did not progress far; once he had learnt that Scott was intending to return to Antarctica, and with an invitation to join Scott as second-in-command (which no doubt influenced his decision), Evans abandoned his Welsh expedition plans. He continued to develop his Welsh business and sponsorship contacts, now on behalf of Scott's expedition, and by the time the *Terra Nova* sailed for New Zealand and Antarctica a year later it was Evans' Welsh backers that made the expedition viable. As well as several thousands pounds in cash, Evans secured free dock and office facilities in Cardiff, free coal and oil, and pots and pans of Welsh tinplate. His Welsh connections had also secured a Government grant of £20,000 to the expedition, through the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George.

There was great civic pride in Cardiff's association with Scott's expedition, especially when Scott named Cardiff the

home port of the *Terra Nova* in recognition of the support received from Wales. The city's businessmen held a grand dinner in the Royal Hotel in Cardiff on 13 June 1910 for the expedition's scientists and ship's officers (and another for the crew at a nearby, cheaper, venue) and the Lord Mayor hosted a reception for 800 at the City Hall the following evening. Huge crowds gathered to watch the *Terra Nova* leave Cardiff Docks on 15 June 1910 in what Edward Wilson, Scott's scientific chief, described as a '*hideous din with sirens and hooters, of which Cardiff seems to possess an indefinite number*'.

And it was to Cardiff that the *Terra Nova* returned three years later, under the command of Evans, following Scott's death on the return journey from the Pole. The ship was met by the widows of Scott and Wilson, and Scott's young son, Peter. Tens of thousands of spectators came to see the ship arrive back in Cardiff Docks. Daniel Radcliffe, a leading Cardiff shipowner



Plaque to Edgar Evans, St Mary's Church, Rhossili. Photograph courtesy Tom Sharpe.

who had been the expedition's most enthusiastic supporter and sponsor, oversaw the unloading of the expedition's equipment, stores and cargo of scientific specimens, and the *Terra Nova* was readied for her return to the Newfoundland sealing company of Bowring's.

The figurehead of the ship was presented to the City of Cardiff in 1913 by Frederick Charles Bowring, the company chairman, as a memorial to Scott's Polar Party, and placed in a Cardiff park. Recognising that the wooden figurehead would not be permanent, Bowring himself funded the erection of a memorial clock tower in the same park in 1915. The clock tower, in the form of a lighthouse capped by a model of the *Terra Nova* and displaying a bronze memorial plaque, still stands in Roath Park Lake, to the north of Cardiff's city centre. In 1932, after nineteen years in the damp climate of Cardiff, the figurehead was removed from the park and given by the city to the National Museum of Wales. It formed the centrepiece of two recent Scott centenary exhibitions at the National Museum in 2010 and 2012.

Another, civic, memorial was unveiled in 1916 in Cardiff City Hall, although fund raising proved difficult. This elaborate bronze tablet, by the sculptor W. W. Wagstaffe, depicts a bust of Scott surmounted by the *Terra Nova* and surrounded by various Antarctic imagery such as seals, penguins, skis, a dog sled and the burial cairn erected over tent containing the bodies of Scott, Wilson and Bowers. The sculptor also intended to include an image of the alpine flower, edelweiss, until Scott's widow pointed out that it's not really an Antarctic plant.

Daniel Radcliffe was keen to have a memorial which reflected the strong links between Cardiff's docks community and the expedition, and monies from the memorial fund were used in 1916 to endow a bed in the Royal Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital in Cardiff Docks. The '*Terra Nova* Bed' displayed a large brass plaque in memory of Scott and his companions. During the First World War, two further beds were endowed to commemorate Lieutenants Henry Rennick and Harry Pennell



Scott Memorial plaque, Cardiff City Hall. Photograph courtesy Tom Sharpe.



Crown Patent Fuel. Photograph courtesy National Museum of Wales.

of Scott's expedition who lost their lives at sea during the war, and Teddy Evans, who was still very much alive and having quite a successful war. Following the closure of the hospital, the plaques are now in the collections of the National Museum.

More recent memorials in the city to Scott's expedition include a plaque to commemorate the farewell dinner held at the Royal Hotel, and a statue commissioned by the Cardiff-based Captain Scott Society. The Scott Antarctic Memorial, by a local sculptor, Jonathan Williams, was unveiled in Cardiff Bay, the recently-regenerated docks area, in 2003. It stands close to the dock gates through which the *Terra Nova* sailed in 1910. Nearby is The Terra Nova pub and not far away, a road called Terra Nova Way. Another pub, The Discovery, named after Scott's first expedition ship, is situated near Roath Park.

In 2010, to mark the centenary of the expedition's departure from Cardiff, the city's Parks Department exhibited a



The Terra Nova figurehead in Roath Park before removal to the Museum. Photograph courtesy Tom Sharpe.

*Terra Nova* garden at London's Chelsea Flower Show. In 2012 this was reconstructed in Roath Park, near the clock tower memorial.

Teddy was not the only Evans on Scott's expedition; his unrelated namesake, Petty Officer Edgar Evans accompanied Scott to the Pole and was the first to die on the return journey. He was born in the village of Middleton near Rhossili, to the west of Swansea and had been with Scott on the *Discovery* Expedition. A memorial plaque was erected in 1914 by his widow in their local church, St Mary's in Rhossili. A marble bust of Evans in sledging harness by Philip Chatfield was commissioned by the Captain Scott Society and presented to the city of Swansea in 1994 and is now in the collections of Swansea Museum.

Wales was also represented on Shackleton's expeditions. One of the geologists on the *Nimrod* Expedition of 1907-09 was Tannatt William Edgeworth David, Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney. Although the Aussies claim him as their own (and he was, admittedly, one of their most famous scientists), he was born in St Fagan's, a village on the edge of Cardiff, in 1858. Educated at Oxford University, David's first publications were on glacial deposits around Cardiff. In March 1908, aged 50, he led the first ascent of Mount Erebus, and with Douglas Mawson and Alistair Mackay, David was the first to reach the vicinity of the South Magnetic Pole in January 1909. When Scott reached Australia on the *Terra Nova* Expedition, he sought David's help in appointing geologists, and on his advice Frank Debenham, Raymond

Priestley (who had also been on the *Nimrod* Expedition) and Griffith Taylor joined the expedition.

Welsh representation on Shackleton's *Endurance* Expedition was less formal. The token Welshman was the stowaway, and later steward, 19 year-old Perce Blackborow from Newport. Unfortunate in his choice of ship, which was trapped, crushed and sunk by the Weddell Sea ice, Blackborow survived, with the rest of crew, six months on the Weddell Sea ice and in boats, and a further four months on Elephant Island before rescue, although he lost all of the toes on his left foot. After service in the Merchant Navy during the First World War, Blackborow worked in Newport's Alexandra Docks alongside his father. He died in 1949.

Another Welshman, Frederick J. Gillies, was Chief Engineer on the *Aurora* during Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, and again under John King Davis to relieve Shackleton's Ross Sea party in 1917.

Like the *Terra Nova*, and the *Discovery* before her, the *Aurora* came to Cardiff in August 1911 to take on 500 tons of Crown Patent Fuel, briquettes of compressed coal dust and bitumen manufactured in the city. Easy to stack and store, and burning well, it was the fuel of choice for Antarctic expedition ships. Embossed with a crown and PATENT CARDIFF, blocks of Patent Fuel are still present in the stores at Cape Evans.

For anyone interested in the history of Antarctic exploration, and Scott's last expedition in particular, visits to Cardiff and Swansea must be on the itinerary. ❧

# How Antarctica Affects Ocean Currents

A team of 22 Australian, New Zealand and French scientists onboard the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere's (NIWA) vessel *RV Tangaroa* sailed to the Mertz Polynya region of Antarctica to study how significant change in ocean edge glaciers affects the surrounding ocean.

In 2010, the tongue of Antarctica's Mertz Glacier was rammed by a huge iceberg, causing much of the tongue to break away. The scientists are studying the impact of this massive change to the Mertz Glacier on the surrounding environment.

This region is one of three unique places around Antarctica which control the properties of the deep ocean. The Mertz Polynya is one of the few places in the world where the densest ocean waters form. This means that breaking the glacier's ice tongue could have wider impacts on global ocean circulation. A polynya is an area of open water surrounded by sea ice. Polynyas are kept free of sea ice by the wind, which constantly blows away any ice that tries to form. The formation of sea ice creates heavier saltier water, which then sinks. In the Mertz Polynya region the seafloor is like a bowl under the ocean which traps salt. The basin then overflows down into the deep ocean similar to a dam overflowing after heavy rain.

Antarctic bottom water is the densest in the ocean, so it spreads to fill the bottom of the global ocean. This means it has a significant influence on global ocean circulation.

NIWA oceanographer and voyage leader Mike Williams considers that the Mertz Polynya is an ideal study site as it

has had a big change to a small region, with potentially global implications, yet it is a small enough area that can be studied in a single voyage.

The voyage is part of the research program of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, based in Hobart, in which NIWA is a core partner. The study is part of long-term research programme in this region and will require on-going monitoring to keep track of the rate of change.

The scientists are aiming to understand how the ice tongue breaking off has changed the polynya and hence how much dense water is formed there. In addition the team hope to be able to map the seafloor and reveal the area under the glacier tongue for the first time. To study the changes in the ocean a suite of underwater cameras, moorings and sensors are deployed.

The scientists hope the voyage and subsequent investigations will help them to understand how changes in polynyas will affect the flow in the deep ocean. Using comparisons of the latest measurements to previous observations the team hope to determine how the temperature, salinity and circulation of the Southern Ocean are changing.

*Antarctic icebergs on the Antarctic Peninsula. Image courtesy Katja Riedel, NIWA*



Previous research in this region showed that rapid changes are underway in the deep ocean, but scientists are not sure what the driver of the changes is. The measurements collected on the *Tangaroa* voyage will be used to test the hypothesis that increased melt of Antarctic ice is driving the changes in the deep ocean.

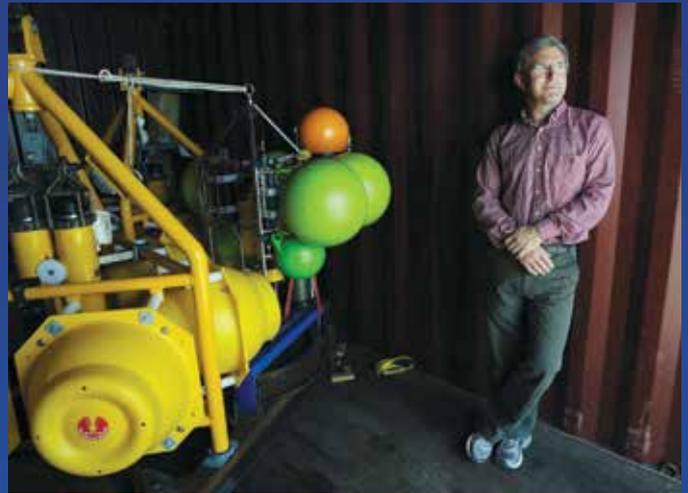
Part of the work undertaken on the voyage includes collecting sedimentary core samples from the seafloor using a long metal cylinder, which is lowered to the ocean floor and then pushed into the sediment under a heavy weight. The sediment cores show past changes in the ocean. The data from cores provides clues as to how the ocean temperature, nutrients, biological productivity, and sea ice extent have changed over thousands of years.

Amongst the objectives of the voyage there were a number relating to climate change. The voyage monitored the surface ocean CO<sub>2</sub> and the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on the transit across the Southern Ocean and collected samples in the water column. These samples measure how much CO<sub>2</sub> is being stored in the deeper waters. Scientists will investigate how much carbon is going into the deep ocean, and provide evidence for ocean acidification. Ocean acidification is the result of increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the water, which reduces the pH and affects the ability of some organisms to form their carbonate skeletons.

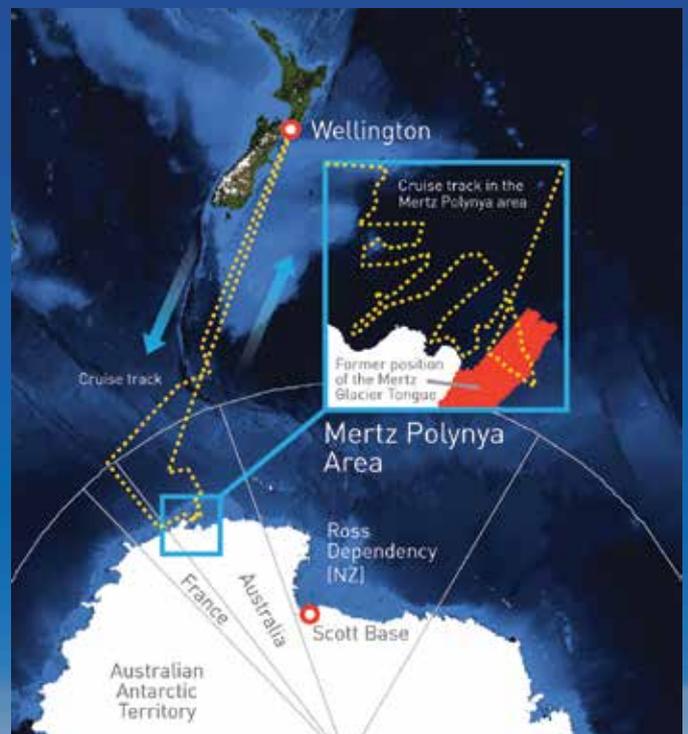
According to NIWA scientist Helen Bostock models have suggested that by as early as 2030, the surface of the Southern Ocean will be under-saturated with respect to some minerals that organisms use for their shells. This could have a significant impact on the types of organisms that live in the Southern Ocean.

Scientists will be sampling for plankton using a continuous plankton recorder and plankton nets. The purpose of these surveys is to map the patterns over time, and then to use the sensitivity of plankton to environmental change as early warning indicators of the health of the Southern Ocean.

These observations and samples will augment on-going Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean research programmes. This research is funded by the Australian Antarctic Climate and Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre, the French Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat (Locean), and NIWA through its government-funded core research. †



Steve Rintoul Photo credit: CSIRO.



Map of NIWA's RV Tangaroa path to the Mertz Polynya area, Antarctica. Credit: NIWA.



# Tribute - Eric Reginald Gibbs

(26 July 1921 – 11 July 2013)

Eric Gibbs was president of the New Zealand Antarctic Society between 1966 and 1968. His interest in the Antarctic originally stemmed from his school boy hobby of stamp collecting. When Admiral Richard E. Byrd was going south on his second (1933-35) expedition, Eric wrote to the Admiral with a request to return an envelope from Little America. This was duly done and became part of his philatelic collection. Between 1939 and 1941 during the United States Antarctic Service Expedition, he wrote to Captain Lystad of the U.S.S. *North Star*, who also sent him envelopes from the Antarctic. From this beginning grew his extensive collection of Antarctic postal memorabilia. As his collection of Antarctic philatelic history grew so did his interest in the Antarctic.

He joined the New Zealand Antarctic Society, and when in 1960 a party was being selected to restore the historic huts of Ernest Shackleton at Cape Royds and Robert Scott at Cape Evans, he was chosen as a member. In 1963 a further party was formed to restore Scott's 1901 - 1903 expedition hut at Hut Point, and Eric was chosen as leader, working with Baden Norris, Grant Hurrell and Rodney Smith. Grant gave Eric the nickname "Big Daddy" as he was the biggest member of the team. The next season he with Rodney paid a flying visit to McMurdo Sound to complete the project – returning artefacts to their correct places in the hut and doing repairs on the hut.

Baden remembers Eric well as a philatelic cachet (envelope with design or inscription commemorating a postal event) collector; spending time at night addressing many envelopes to himself to be returned to him from various stations and expeditions. Randal Heke remembers Eric as a quiet unassuming man with a love of stamp collecting and commented that "[h]e was enthusiastic in requesting members of the first expedition to post him first day stamp covers with Scott Base postage stamps and it was in this way that many of us first met" him.

Eric was also a member of the New Zealand Rolls-Royce & Bentley Club Inc. He owned a 1934 Bentley Park Ward Drop-head Coupé for many years and according to the clubs magazine (Issue 12-2, 2012) used to take parts of the car to Antarctica to work on while he was stationed there. Eric became a farmer and lived in Taihape, in the central North Island.

Eric passed away peacefully in Wanganui on Thursday July 11 2013. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Dorothy, two of their three children, their grandchildren, great grandchildren and his first great great grandchild.

*Tribute compiled from material published in Antarctic 1968 and the New Zealand Rolls-Royce & Bentley Club magazine with additions from Baden Norris and Randal Heke.* 🇺🇦



Interior of hut showing lining and boxes embedded in the ice: Eric Gibbs in foreground



Members of Restoration Party with historic articles found in Scott's Hut: Grant Hurrell, Eric Gibbs, Baden Norris, Rodney Smith



Discovery Hut 1963/64: From left: [Unsure], Baden Norris, Eric Gibbs (team leader), Rodney Smith

Photos: © Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection – TAE

# What ship? Lieutenant Harry Pennell's Antarctic Legacy

By David Harrowfield

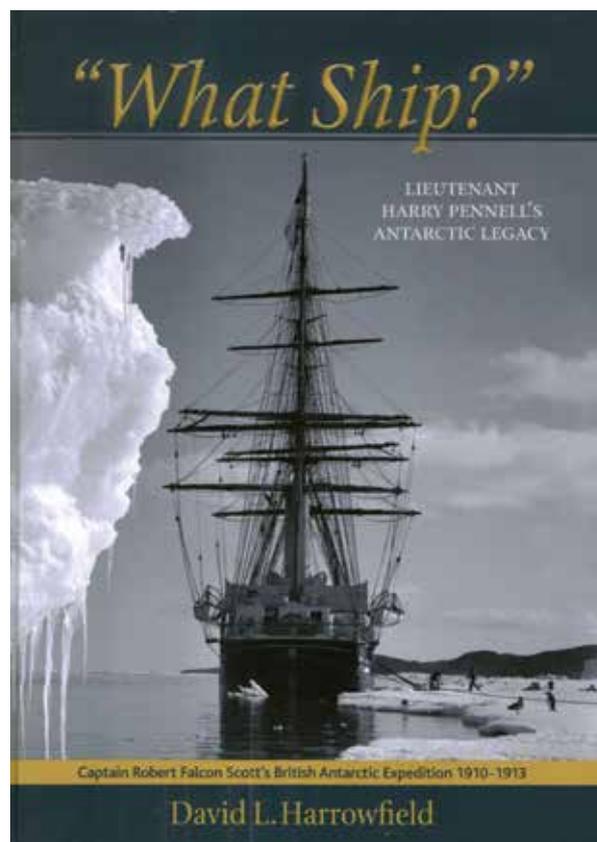
Book review by Louisa Robinson

David Harrowfield's latest book *What ship? Lieutenant Harry Pennell's Antarctic Legacy* centres around the authors home town and the connection the small southern settlement of Oamaru has with Antarctic exploration. Opening with forwards from HRH Princess Anne and Falcon Scott, it is clear from the beginning that this town, most commonly known for its limestone building materials, holds special status for Antarcticans.

A hundred years ago, as news spread around The World that Robert Falcon Scott's Polar Party had successfully made it to the South Pole, only to die on their return, Oamaru was awakening to the news that it had played a pivotal role in the story. In an effort to prevent news of the tragedy leaking prematurely, senior members of the *Terra Nova* crew stealthily entered New Zealand, via Oamaru, with a matter most urgent. The author describes this lesser known aspect of the Scott tale and like a polar Sherlock Holmes, uses documented evidence and first hand accounts, to draw the reader into his investigation as he seeks to dispel the myths and conjecture surrounding the events of that night.

The subtitle to the book *Lieutenant Harry Pennell's Antarctic Legacy* suggests that this is far from the end of the tale and indeed, as the author illustrates, the loss of the Polar Party clearly had a great affect on the residents of Oamaru. Multiple memorials to the expedition were established, in particular the annual memorial speech competition: an event of such calibre that it would later be attended by Rear Admiral Byrd, Lord Ernest Rutherford and HRH the Prince of Wales (Later King Edward VII). But through the lists of noteworthy speakers, and the topics of passionate debate, it is the letters from the Polar Party's families, and in particular their widows, to Frank Milner, Rector of Waitaki Boys High School and the instigator of the competition, which are the most heart-felt and powerful. Earnest in their appreciation that their loved ones not have died in vain, and that their names and the spirit in which they gave their lives be remembered. Importantly the author does not aim to quantify these letters or their content, but rather lets them simply and sincerely speak for themselves.

With this wealth of Antarctic connections laid out page after page it becomes no surprise to the reader that many



notable New Zealand Antarcticans stem from Oamaru. This history is clearly one of pride for a small town and clearly a work of passion for the author who has chosen to self-publish this "small commemorative book". All too often such books can have narrow appeal, and though the author does expect the reader to have some prior Antarctic knowledge, this would be a pleasant read for Scott enthusiasts, anyone interested in small town New Zealand's connection with the Antarctic or the history of Oamaru and its surrounds.

ISBN: 9780473229092

Published: David L Harrowfield

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9400, New Zealand



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## Penguins

by Tyler Wyatt

*Penguins swim speedy  
Penguins live on the cold ice  
Penguins like to swim*

## Snow

by Kenora Pula

*Shivering cold  
Not a cloud in the clear blue sky  
Orcas swim in freezing icy water  
White snow glistening everywhere around*

## Antarctica

by Darrell Suaesi

*Shivering cold.  
Dangerous blizzards.  
Biting howling winds.  
Blinding snow.  
Scott died by a howling blizzard.*

## Penguin

by Ashlee-Rose Growden

*Emperor penguins  
Like living in Antarctica  
They are black and white.*