

THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

ANTARCTIC

LAGACE
LEGACY
EDITION



Heroes of
the Antarctic
The Society's
Oral Histories





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Professor Peter Barrett PM, NZAM, 2008

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PM: Polar Medal

NZAM: New Zealand Antarctic Medal

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From the Editor

Two of the lasting legacies of the Society are its publications – *Antarctic* magazine, and several books – and its oral histories. Council have been concerned about costs, and funding, and are looking at ways to reduce all expenses for the Society, including *Antarctic* magazine. The March issue was held back to affray costs.

I am pleased to present a combined March and June issue of *Antarctic*, commencing with many heroes of the Antarctic – in several different guises. Heroes are not always in the headlines, and some you will know of, and perhaps some will be new to you ...

- The Albert Medal was an award for bravery, now upgraded to the George Cross. We look at nine Antarcticans who have received this medal. During the course of preparation of this issue, I have been privileged to hold the medal miniatures pictured on our cover. This group of medals, including the Albert Medal and the Polar Medal, were awarded to Kevin Walton. His story, and that of Richard Butson are told in a little more detail.
- The New Zealand Antarctic Medal is a New Zealand honour recognising contribution to New Zealand's Antarctic presence. It is awarded irregularly, and to date there are only 15 recipients. The two awards made at New Year's 2019 are also recorded here.
- For some time, the Society has been recording oral histories of significant Antarcticans – mostly men, and mostly those who have been to Antarctica, but also women: both Antarcticans and they who have stayed behind, keeping homes and families together while their husbands were in Antarctica. To date, the Society has recorded 51 oral histories – all of which are lodged with either the Alexander Turnbull Library or the Canterbury Museum, and all but a few of which are available now to researchers for further use. Also included is an update on the Society's current oral history programme, a further 14 recordings of those who assisted at the Mount Erebus crash site and recovery in 1979.
- Of course, we all know of others who would also qualify as Antarctic heroes, and the Society recognises outstanding service in Antarctica, or furthering the aims and objects of the Society, by awarding Life Membership – limited to 15 persons at any one time. Nominations for Life Membership should be sent to either the President of the Society, Linda Kestle, president@antarcticsociety.org.nz, or the Secretary, Gigi Green, secretary@antarcticsociety.org.nz.

Since the last issue, there have been a number of happenings in and around Antarctica, and our *Antarctic Snippets* piece reflects some of these. My thanks to Life Member Bob Park for the steady supply of newspaper clippings for several years – the source of many *Antarctic Snippets* items.

The first recorded Antarctic death, on 5 June 1898, was that of Émile Danco (Belgian Antarctic Expedition, 1897–99), who was buried at sea. Nicolai Hanson, a scientist with Borchgrevink's *Southern Cross* Expedition 1898–1900, died on 14 October 1899 and, at his request, was buried at Cape Adare. The third Antarctic-related death is that of Charles Bonner, a seaman with Scott's *Discovery* expedition, who died on 21 December 1901 as the ship was leaving Lyttelton Harbour. In *Death on the Mainmast*, Bill Conroy recounts the circumstances of Bonner's death, and the ensuing events.

Each year, the Enderby Island Trust offers scholarships that allow recipients to experience the Southern and Pacific oceans in the same spirit of exploration and discovery as the vessels of Enderby & Co. The scholarships are open to applicants aged 18–30 years who would otherwise be unable to travel to the Southern and Pacific oceans (see the Heritage Expeditions website for applications details). Matt Harrison was a recipient of the scholarship and he recounts his experience in *Touching the Untouched*, which is reprinted here with permission from *Tui Motu*. Our own Society volunteer, Kevin O'Malley, also reports on his *Time on Ice* during the last summer.

With some lighter notes, George Jones provides three short stories – *The Woman from Kharkov, and a Fraction of a Second ... All Steamed Up*, and *BANG !*, and reminds us of *The Invasion of McMurdo*

From the Society's Council come four notes: *Renewing your Membership*, *Antarctic Support for the Voice of Youth*, *Is This the Last Printed issue of Antarctic?*, and *New Zealand Gazetteer of Antarctic-related Statues and Memorials*. Sadly for me, this will be the last magazine prepared by the current editorial team, and my resignation is included together with a roll call of previous Editors – *Antarctic Magazine*.

Fred Davey contributes two articles – *The Second International Polar Year: 1 August 1932 to 31 August 1933*, and *The Antarctic Treaty: A brief personal perspective*, which followed after the third International Polar Year and the International Geophysical Year, being finally agreed 1 December 1959.

In New Zealand, June brings with it the shortest day; a day when Antarcticans the world over celebrate with a midwinter dinner. We look back at reports of some earlier midwinters, in *Midwinter in the Antarctic*, and we include *A Toast to "Past Parties"*.

Following the highly successful conference on the End of the Heroic Era, planning is underway for a conference marking the 250th anniversary of James Cook's first visit to New Zealand. Please see the back cover for notice of *Terra Australis – Whenua-ki-te-Tonga*. While this is not sponsored or supported by the Society, it will be of interest to many members.

Lester Chaplow

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to wish you all belated and sincere wishes for a positive and progressive year.

The Council met on 23 February in Auckland, and again on 18 May in Wellington, where operational governance business occurred in the morning and focussed workshops were run in the afternoon. Currently, membership maintenance and diversification, and a new operational Strategic Plan, are our main foci, along with streamlining and centralising our financial processes. Branches will be contacted during June for feedback with an aim to get agreement to implement the new Strategic Plan at the next AGM.

Expect to continue to be contacted/surveyed for your valued feedback, please, on a series of important topics ranging from added-value ideas to future-proofing the Society – all aspects of our 2019 Communications subcommittee report. If you are an Auckland member you might also like to get along to the excellent “Antarctic Meet-up Sessions” that our NZAS NI-VP Nicholas O’Flaherty runs with Stuart Grayson at Auckland University, in conjunction with the Society.

The Mount Erebus Disaster Oral History Project is well underway. Several of the interviews have been conducted, with others in progress, and completion is due this year. Our thanks go to Jacqui Foley and Pip Oldham as our oral historians on this project. Council want to encourage personal/organisation donations and/or sponsorship funding for the Mount Erebus Disaster Oral Histories in order to recover the Lagace Bequest bridging loan made to the project to allow the project to commence.

In November 2018, Kevin O’Malley spent almost four weeks at Scott Base as the NZAS volunteer, and was kept very busy there, as well as being an ambassador for the Society. We look forward to reading his article in this issue, and hearing his stories in person.

Linda Kestle, President

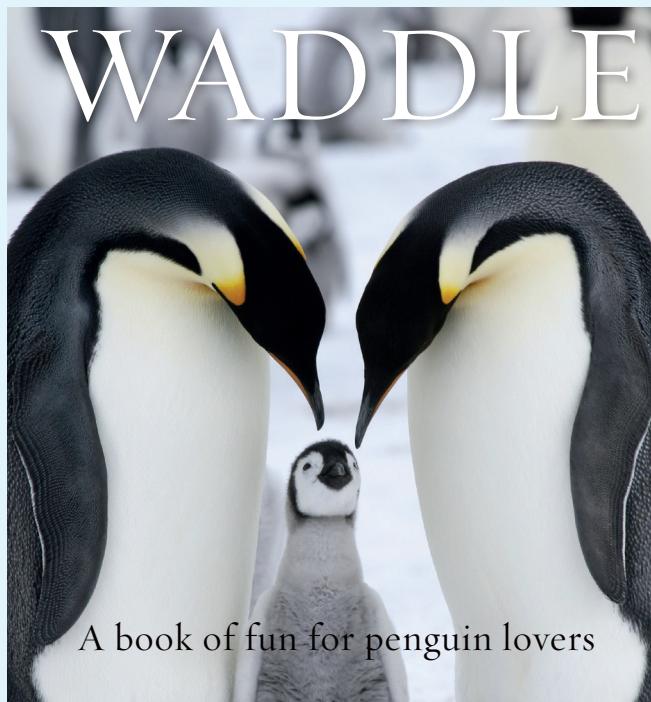
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The Albert Medal: Heroic Antarcticans

By Lester Chaplow

The Albert Medal came into being by Royal Warrant, on 7 March 1866, initially as a single-class medal to reward “daring and heroic actions performed by mariners and others in danger of perishing, by reason of wrecks and other perils of the sea”. In 1867, two classes of medal were promulgated – First Class (in gold) and Second Class (in bronze). The Royal Warrant was further extended in 1877 to include awards for bravery “performed on land ... in preventing loss of life from accidents in mines, on railways, and at fires, and other perils on shore”. There were now four classes: Sea: First and Second Classes, and Land: First and Second Classes. Various changes to award criteria were made through the years, including minor name changes and geographic limitations as to where the bravery occurred, but the final naming remains as the Albert Medal (in bronze) and the Albert Medal in Gold.

In 1969, an annual annuity of £100 was introduced for all recipients, and in 1971 the Warrant for the Albert Medals was revoked, and living holders of the Albert Medal at that date (47) were deemed to have received the George Cross. Not all recipients of the Albert Medal accepted the change to the George Cross, and, of those eligible, some retained their Albert Medal (including Kevin Walton, below).

Of the 572 Albert Medals awarded, only nine were awarded to people who had served in the Antarctic, including Graham Land. Of those, eight medals were awarded for actions performed in the Antarctic, and one for heroism during the Great War.

The actions of six of the men are reasonably well known through the Antarctic accounts of Scott (1910–12), and Shackleton (1914–16). However, Atkinson’s, Butson’s, and Walton’s actions may not be as well known. The actions of Butson and Walton are further described in the accompanying articles. (Three of the Albert Medals are held at Scott Polar Research Institute.)

By date of action, and alphabetically, the nine men and their citations are listed here:

Crean, Thomas. Second Class, Land.

Lashley, William. Second Class, Land.

9–19 February 1912. On Scott’s last expedition, they were dragging Lt Evans (who had contracted scurvy) on a sledge back to base, travelling the last part alone to summon further help.

Whitehall, July 28, 1913.

The KING was pleased, on Saturday, the 26th instant, at Buckingham Palace, to present to Chief Stoker William Lashley, R.N., and Petty Officer (First Class) Thomas Crean, R.N., Albert Medals of the Second Class, which had been conferred upon them by His Majesty in recognition of their gallantry in saving life as detailed below:

At the end of a journey of 1,500 miles on foot the final supporting party to the late Captain Scott’s expedition towards the South Pole, consisting of Lieutenant Edward Ratcliffe Garth Russell Evans, R.N. (now Commander Evans, C.B.), Chief Stoker William Lashley, R.N., and Petty Officer (First Class) Thomas Crean, R.N., were 238 miles from the base when Lieutenant Evans was found to be suffering from scurvy. His condition rapidly became worse. When 151 miles from the base he was unable to stand without support on his ski sticks, and after struggling onward on skis in great pain for four days, during which Lashley and Crean dragged their sledge fifty-three miles, he collapsed, and was unable to proceed further.

At this point Lieutenant Evans requested his two companions to leave him, urging that eighty-three miles lay between the party and the nearest refuge hut, and that unless they left him three lives would be lost instead of one. This, however, they refused to do, and insisted on carrying him forward on the sledge.

Favoured by a southerly wind, Lashley and Crean dragged Lieutenant Evans on the sledge for four days, pulling for

Photo above: The Albert Medal.



thirteen hours a day, until, on the evening of February 17, 1912, a point was reached thirty-four miles from a refuge hut, where it was thought possible that assistance might be obtained. During the following twelve hours, however, snow fell incessantly, and in the morning it was found impossible to proceed further with the sledge.

As the party now had only sufficient food for three more meals, and both Lashley and Crean were becoming weaker daily, it was decided that they should separate, and that Crean should endeavour to walk to the refuge hut, while Lashley stayed to nurse Lieutenant Evans.

After a march of eighteen hours in soft snow Crean made his way to the hut, arriving completely exhausted. Fortunately Surgeon Edward L. Atkinson, R.N., was at the hut with two dog teams and the dog attendant. His party, on February 20, effected the rescue of Lieutenant Evans and Lashley.

But for the gallant conduct throughout of his two companions Lieutenant Evans would have undoubtedly lost his life.

London Gazette (L.G.), 29 July 1913, pp. 5409–10.

Hayward, Victor George. Bronze, Land.

Joyce, Ernest Edward Mills. Bronze, Land.

Richards, Richard Walter. Bronze, Land.

Wild, Henry Ernest. Bronze, Land.

9 October 1915 to 20 March 1916,
Shackleton's Ross Sea Party.

Whitehall, July 4, 1923.

The KING has been pleased to award the Albert Medal in recognition of the gallant conduct of Mr. Ernest Edward Mills Joyce, ex-Petty Officer, R.N., Mr. William [sic] Walter Richards. Mr. Victor George Hayward (deceased) and Petty Officer Harry Ernest Wild, R.N. (deceased) in saving and endeavouring to save life while serving as members of the Ross Sea Party of the Shackleton Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914–17.

The Expedition had for its object the crossing of the Antarctic Continent from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea, via the South Pole, a distance of about seventeen hundred miles. Sufficient supplies for the journey could not be carried, and it was therefore necessary to establish a chain of depots on the Ross Sea side as far southwards as possible. With this end in view the ship "Aurora" was sent to McMurdo Sound at the southern extremity of the Ross Sea and, as it was intended that the vessel should winter there, a portion only of the stores and equipment was disembarked. McMurdo Sound was reached in January, 1915, but during a blizzard in May, the "Aurora" was blown out to sea and was unable to return, and the nine members of the Expedition who were on shore were left stranded. They recognised that failure to establish the depots would undoubtedly result in the loss of the main body and resolved, in spite of their grave shortage of equipment to carry out the allotted programme.

For this purpose a party under the command of Sub-Lieutenant A. L. Mackintosh, B.N.R., and consisting of the Reverend A. P. Spencer-Smith, Messrs. Joyce, Richards, Hayward and Wild and three other members who assisted for a part of the outward journey left Hut Point, Ross Island, on October 9th. They took with them two sledges and four dogs, and 162 days elapsed before the surviving members of the party were back at Hut Point, the total distance covered being approximately 950 miles.

Mr. Spencer-Smith had to be dragged on a sledge for 42 days, mainly by hand labour, the distance covered being over 350 miles. When more than 100 miles remained to be covered the collapse of Lieutenant Mackintosh imposed an additional burden on the active members of the party who were all suffering from scurvy and snow blindness and were so enfeebled by their labours that at times they were unable to cover more than 2 or 3 miles in 15 hours.

Mr. Spencer-Smith died when only 19 miles remained to be covered, but Lieutenant Mackintosh was brought in safely to the base.

L.G., 4 July 1923, p. 4686.

Atkinson, Edward Leicester. Bronze, Sea.

16 September 1918. Explosion aboard HMS *Glatton*.

Admiralty, May 20, 1919.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Albert Medal for gallantry in saving life at sea to –

Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Edward Leicester Atkinson, D.S.O., R.N.

The account of the services, in respect of which this decoration has been conferred, is as follows:

On the 16th September, 1918, a serious explosion occurred amidships on board H.M.S. "Glatton" whilst lying in Dover Harbour. This was followed immediately by an outbreak of fire, the oil fuel burning furiously and spreading fore and aft. Efforts were made to extinguish the fire by means of salvage tugs. The foremost magazines were flooded, but it was found impossible to get to the after magazine flooding positions. The explosion and fire cut off the after part of the ship, killing, or seriously injuring all the Officers who were on board with one exception. The ship might have blown up at any moment.

At the time of the explosion Surgeon Lieut. – Commander Atkinson was at work in his cabin. The first explosion rendered him unconscious. Recovering shortly, he found the flat outside his cabin filled with dense smoke and fumes. He made his way to the quarter deck by means of the ladder in the Warrant Officers flat, the only one still intact. During this time he brought two unconscious men on to the upper deck, he himself being uninjured.

He returned to the flat, and was bringing a third man up, when a smaller explosion occurred whilst he was on the ladder. This explosion blinded him, and, at the same time, a piece of metal was driven into his left leg in such a manner that he was unable to move until he had himself extracted it. Placing the third man on the upper deck, he proceeded forward through the shelter deck. By feel, being totally unable to see, he here found two more unconscious men, both of whom he brought out.

He was found later on the upper deck in an almost unconscious condition, so wounded and burnt that his life was despaired of for some time.

L. G., 20 May 1919, p. 6248.

Walton, Eric William Kevin. Bronze, Land.

24 August 1946. He was lowered on a rope down a crevasse near Marguerite Bay, Graham Land and over a period, totalling three hours, freed a trapped comrade.

Whitehall, May 28, 1948.

The KING has been pleased to award the Albert Medal to Temporary Lieutenant (E) Eric William Kevin Walton, D.S.C., R.N., a member of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, in recognition of his gallantry in the following circumstances:

At about 12 noon on 24th August, 1946, while on a sledging journey, a member of the Survey fell through a badly-bridged crevasse and disappeared. Major Tonkin had fallen some 40 feet and was jammed in a narrow part of the crevasse. Ropes were lowered to him and he managed to get loops round his forearms, but no higher, and it was found impossible to pull him out as he was jammed in the ice. Lieutenant Walton volunteered to be lowered in the crevasse to free Major Tonkin by chipping. As an ice axe could not be used in the constricted space of the crevasse, the spike was sawn off and used as a hand tool. Lieutenant Walton was lowered down a wider part of the crevasse and worked his way along until he reached and succeeded in freeing Major Tonkin, who was eventually pulled to the surface, after having been three hours down the crevasse. During that time Lieutenant Walton was lowered down to him on five separate occasions, remaining down for considerable periods on each occasion. His persistence was most commendable, and it was due solely to his efforts that Major Tonkin was finally rescued.

L. G., 28 May 1948, p. 3423.

Butson, Arthur Richard Cecil. Bronze, Land.

26–27 July 1947. He spent an hour over one hundred feed down a crevasse in North East Glacier, Graham Land, to rescue a trapped member of the Ronne Antarctic Expedition.

Whitehall, September 16, 1948.

The KING has been pleased to award the Albert Medal to Dr. Arthur Richard Cecil Butson, a member of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, in recognition of his gallantry in the following circumstances –

On the evening of 26th July, 1947, an American member of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition fell into a crevasse some 6 miles from Base. Two teams were sent to the rescue but the hazards of crossing a heavily crevassed glacier were much increased by darkness and it was not until 4 o'clock on the morning of 27th July that the crevasse into which the American had fallen was located. Butson immediately volunteered to be lowered into the crevasse where he found the American tightly wedged 106 feet down and suffering from shock and exhaustion. For nearly an hour he had to chip the ice away in an extremely confined space in order to free the American who was brought to the surface and placed inside a tent. Butson then rendered the necessary medical aid and at dawn a return to Base was made carrying the American on one of the sledges.

L. G., 28 September 1948, p. 5197.

All of these men were no ordinary men, and the actions recorded here were not unique in their lives, but actions which framed their very being, and affected the lives of those around them for the better.

New Zealand Cross

The New Zealand Cross (NZC) is now New Zealand's highest award for bravery not in the face of the enemy. It was instituted by Royal Warrant on 20 September 1999. This medal replaced the award of the George Cross in respect of acts of bravery in, or meriting recognition by, New Zealand. The design of this medal was based on the original New Zealand Cross (1869).

The New Zealand Bravery Awards consist of four levels: The New Zealand Cross, The New Zealand Bravery Star, The New Zealand Bravery Decoration, and The New Zealand Bravery Medal. ↗

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Butson's Own Account of the Crevasse Rescue

Pete Peterson, 23, a surveyor with Finne Ronne's expedition, had fallen down a crevasse about 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 26 July 1947 about eight miles from the base, and although his climbing companion Robert Dodson had, clearly and crucially, marked the crevasse, the rescuers first needed to find him. Butson, the Medical Officer at Base E on Stonington Island recorded the rescue in his diary. Ed.

[W]e spotted Pete wedged and rather crumpled a long way down. We found out later that he was 106 feet down. Kevin [Walton] rigged up a block tied to the sledge, which was put over the hole in the snow bridge of the crevasse. I was most qualified to go down, so I laid on a bowline on a bight for my thighs, middleman knot round my waist, and a rope sling for my feet. We found the hole at 5.00 a.m. and by about 5.20 a.m. I went down. The crevasse widened to about eight feet across at ten feet down. At sixty feet down there was a bit of a snow ledge projecting from either side, which might have broken a fall, and the last fifty feet narrowed gradually. When I was half way down I heard Pete shout, and I passed up the good news that he was alive. None of us had dreamt that he would have been alive, as apart from injuries, he had been down there ten hours by now. When I got down to him I found him seemingly impossibly wedged, with his back bent almost double, as he was wedged across the crevasse. His shoulders were drawn forwards, head bent down with his haversack, which had fallen over his head, and the strap of which appeared to be throttling him. His arms were at grotesque angles. He was complaining of much pain, but did not seem frightened, and was helpful, although he needed a good deal of soothing. I found it most difficult to work down there, as I had to wedge myself in beside him to get to him at all. I managed to cut his haversack off with difficulty. After a good deal of trial and error and some shrieking, I got his back straightened, his left arm round behind him, followed by his left shoulder, so that his narrow diameter was across the crevasse. I managed to get a sling under his arms, and got him hauled up a bit. Then I got another sling under his right thigh and attached both to the main rope. He was pulled up a bit, and then his left foot would not come free – the foot was twisted inwards and stuck. I could not possibly get near his feet so I told those on top to pull like hell. After a certain amount of shrieking, his foot came unstuck and he shot upwards. Near the top of the crevasse it appeared that he turned upside down and was about to fall on top of me, but he was so small up there that he was hard to see clearly. He had shown



Photo:
Dr A. R. C. Butson
(from *Young Men in the Antarctic*).

amazing courage and kept his head throughout. ... The temperature down there was beautifully warm, being a few degrees below freezing and I had been able to work with bare hands. Pete had lost his gloves, yet did not suffer any frostbite of the hands or feet, although his footgear was frozen to the inner sock (Butson, 2010).

In his published diary, Butson adds:

When I got down to Peterson my boots just touched him. I had to take off some of my outer clothing in order to get nearer to him. All the time while I was trying to free him there were loud cracks and booming noises and I could feel the glacier movement on my chest. The alpine rope to which I was attached was 120 feet long so it was fortunate that Peterson was only 106 feet down and I was able to untie myself and attach him to it. It was difficult for those on top to hear my instructions from below resulting in uncontrolled pulling from above, fortunately without doing any serious harm. ☺

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My Father's Medals

By Myra Walton



Growing up, we children, my brother and two sisters, knew that our father, full name Eric William Kevin Walton (Kevin), had been heavily involved in World War II, but he rarely spoke about this.

In 1945 at the end of the war, our father was offered the opportunity of a lifetime, that of joining an Antarctic expedition (post Operation Tabarin) as a member of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS) for two and a half years. He leapt at the chance and was flown back from Colombo to London, where he had ten days to turn around preparations before his departure. He was also able to catch up with family and friends, but, in his excitement, he forgot one important item, that of a marriage proposal to our mother. He duly sent this by telegram from Tenerife, knowing that she would have to wait for over two years for his return. A romantic at heart!

Last October, on the cusp of retirement, I headed to the UK for a family reunion. One of the highlights was to visit the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), where my father's medals are on permanent loan from the family. Our father died in April 2010, and a year later his original medals were officially presented to the Polar Museum at SPRI by our mother at a Husky Memorial lecture, in tribute to Dad's love of huskies. Sadly, I was unable to attend the event, so it was to my great delight that the museum staff kindly allowed us to view his medals, which were being impeccably stored in the museum archives. We were also able to view two other Albert Medals, that of Dick Butson in the museum archives and Ernest Joyce's, which was on display in the museum itself.

Dad was involved with two crevasse rescues, one for John Tonkin (Stonington Island) on 24 August 1946 – for which he received the Albert Medal – and the other

for Alec Trendall, a geologist, on New Year's day 1952, for which he received a Queen's Commendation. Alec had fallen down a *bergshund* crevasse (200 feet) and received a very complex knee/leg injury, but he persevered with his recovery, returning to South Georgia in 1954.

It is worth noting that, after 72 years, we are still in touch with John Tonkin's family, now living in Melbourne, such was the strength of our connection.

Growing up, stories of Antarctica and husky dogs were part of everyday life and family conversation. Dad's energy was unstoppable and sometimes impossible, but we always respected his enthusiasm, which paved the way for the future generations. Our brother has been south at least 15 times and other family members have also followed.

Dad has been described as a man of great charm and modesty; he was always ready to pay tribute to the courage of fellow members of the Victorian and George Cross Association, whose exploits had required the taking of tremendous risks. As a mountaineer, he claimed to have been trained never to take chances, but also to never rule out a determined spirit that was shown in rescuing two colleagues. ¶

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<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/military-obituaries/naval-obituaries/5166438/Lieutenant-Kevin-Walton-GC.html>.
Antarctic, June 2009. 27(2): 34.

Photo above left: Kevin Walton. Photo provided by BAS. AD6/19/3/E1

Cover photo and above: Miniatures of medals awarded to Kevin Walton (1918–2009). Kevin Walton's medals include: Albert Medal, Distinguished Service Cross, 1939–45 Star, Atlantic Star, Africa Star, Burma Star, Silver and Gold Jubilee medals, Malta George Cross Fiftieth Anniversary Medal, Forty Years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941–1945 Jubilee Medal (USSR). Walton also received a Clasp (Antarctic 1946–7) for his Polar Medal, and a Queen's Commendation for a crevasse rescue on South Georgia in 1952.
Photo courtesy of Myra Walton.

The New Zealand Antarctic Medal

The New Year's Honours List, 2019, included two awards of the New Zealand Antarctic Medal (NZAM):

Professor Patricia Jean Langhorne, of Dunedin. For services to Antarctic science.

The late Mr Andrew Leachman, of Nelson. For services to New Zealand's Antarctic maritime capabilities and scientific research. (*Posthumous. Deceased 16 September 2017.*)

The Citations for the New Zealand Antarctic Medal

LANGHORNE, Professor Patricia Jean (Pat)

For services to Antarctic science

Professor Pat Langhorne is New Zealand's foremost sea-ice scientist with a specific focus on ice physics and has been travelling to Antarctica on research visits for more than 30 years, primarily through the New Zealand Antarctic Programme in the Ross Dependency.

Professor Langhorne was a key researcher on an experiment examining the strength of sea ice as part of the Sea Ice and Southern Ocean Processes Programme in 1985, the research results of which scientifically supported the use of sea ice runways for large aircraft, a vital aspect of New Zealand Antarctic operations. In the 2000s she twice convinced Antarctica New Zealand to allow scientific teams to "winter over" at Scott Base and her three-person teams undertook research on sea ice formation *in situ* during the entire winter seasons. In 2015 she took up leadership of the sea ice observation component of one of New Zealand's National Science Challenges, the Deep South, seeking to determine high latitude climate impacts on New Zealand. She has had a long and successful record of bringing together international scientific teams to work in the Ross Sea region and has supervised PhD and Masters students who have gone on to contribute to Arctic and Antarctic science. She has published extensively on the mechanical properties of sea ice under cyclic loading and its break-up by ocean waves, on the accretion and properties of frazil ice beneath the McMurdo fast ice, and other aspects of sea ice and ice shelves. Professor Langhorne chaired International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research from 2008 to 2014, during which time she was chief editor of the Cold Regions Science and Marine Technology volume of UNESCO's Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems.

LEACHMAN, Mr Andrew

(*Posthumous. Deceased 16 September 2017.*)

For services to New Zealand's Antarctic maritime capabilities and scientific research

Mr Andrew Leachman was a Master Mariner with more than 55 years of seagoing experience and has been regarded as one of New Zealand's most experienced and respected Antarctic navigators.

Mr Leachman was one of two Masters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Fisheries Research Division) vessel *James Cook* from 1973 until 1991 and then Master of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) vessel *Tangaroa* from 1995 until 2010. His time in command of these two vessels saw him operate extensively around New Zealand and in the Antarctic waters of the Southern Ocean in support of significant national and international marine research programmes. He had input into the design of *Tangaroa* and from 2000 to 2010 he commanded the vessel on all eight of NIWA's Antarctic and Southern Ocean marine research expeditions, which facilitated the completion of extensive and ground-breaking biodiversity and habitat research and hydrographic and seismic surveys. He developed an in-depth knowledge of operating an ice-strengthened vessel in the challenging conditions of the ice-covered Antarctic waters of the Southern Ocean. During these voyages he trained and mentored his crew to ensure NIWA would retain its Antarctic patrol and research capability after his retirement. He joined the New Zealand Defence Force as an ice navigation consultant in 2011. He applied his knowledge to help the Royal New Zealand Navy establish and sustain its new Antarctic maritime patrol and response capability. Mr Leachman coached and mentored Offshore Patrol Vessel command teams through seven successive Southern Ocean patrols, helping to bridge a Southern Ocean knowledge gap within the Navy. The RNZN as a result is now safely and successfully providing New Zealand with a physical maritime presence in the Ross Sea and an improved ability to meet its strategically important international Antarctic resource protection and maritime security responsibilities.

Source: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/honours/lists/ny2019-nzam>. Accessed 05/02/2019.

Previous recipients (alphabetically) of the New Zealand Antarctic Medal

Professor Peter John Barrett, NZAM	31 December 2009	Dr Clive Howard-Williams, NZAM	30 December 2006
Professor John Dudley Bradshaw, NZAM	30 December 2006	Professor Timothy Raymond Naish, NZAM	31 December 2009
Dr Frederick John Davey, NZAM	4 June 2007	Mr Baden Nolan Norris, QSO, NZAM	3 June 2013
Professor Thomas George Alan Green, NZAM	3 June 2013	Mr Alexander Richard Pyne, NZAM	31 December 2009
Dr David Lawrence Harrowfield, NZAM	31 December 2009	Mr Lewis Vernon Sanson, NZAM	31 December 2014
Dr Timothy George Haskell, NZAM	31 December 2007	NZAM (Honorary):	
Mr Randal Murray Heke, NZAM	5 June 2017	Dr Karl Erb, NZAM	30 December 2006

Source: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/honours-lists-and-recipients/honours-lists/new-zealand-antarctic-medal>. Accessed 05/02/2019.

On the Record: The people who helped shape our understanding of Antarctica

In 1956, for the first time, seventeen New Zealanders wintered-over in Antarctica as part of New Zealand's contribution to the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE) 1955–8 and the International Geophysical Year (IGY) 1957–8. Among them were Sir Edmund Hillary, Leader of the TAE Ross Sea Party, and Dr Trevor Hatherton, Chief Scientist of the New Zealand IGY Antarctic Expedition.

The New Zealand Antarctic Society recognised that the experiences and stories that each member of these expeditions held formed a vital part of New Zealand's early history of Antarctic exploration. In 1996, aided by a grant from the New Zealand Lotteries Board, the Society interviewed ten surviving TAE members. Since that time, with additional support from the New Zealand Lotteries Board, Canterbury Museum, Antarctica New Zealand, and New Zealand Antarctic Society members, the Society has gone on to record additional histories, including those of six other members of the TAE, including Hillary.

The archive includes the experiences of people either working in or connected with Antarctica in the 1950s and 1960s, and provides an important historical review of the period from a New Zealand perspective.

Background

The Society's 51 oral histories document the experiences of New Zealanders working in Antarctica. The period being documented stretches from New Zealand's first involvement in the late 1950s right up to current times. The oral histories provide important information in relation to science, scientific methods, transportation, communication, and logistics, as well as interviewees' own personal experiences of living and working "down south". The oral histories also provide an historical review of New Zealand's involvement in Antarctica. The purpose of the Oral History Project is to record the memories of those whose Antarctic stories would otherwise be lost to future generations and to encourage researchers to make use of oral history in their work.

Usage

Interviews are recorded under the Code of Technical and Ethical Practice developed by New Zealand Oral History Association. The Society is committed to making sure that interviewees have trust and confidence in the interviewers, that recordings are available for research, and that the interests of interviewees are protected. The oral histories are available to bona fide researchers. We ask that researchers respect the integrity and generosity of everyone who has made their Antarctic history available.

The Interviews

The table below lists the location of each oral history. The Council is very keen to provide access for our membership to the Oral Histories undertaken over the years. To that end, we will advise links and any protocols via an announcement on the Society's website. If you wish to access a history, please check

with the institution listed about any restrictions on access to, and appropriate use of, the history. If you are unsure of what is considered appropriate use, or would like to speak to someone about the histories, please contact the New Zealand Antarctic Society: oralhistory@antarcticsociety.org.nz

R = Restriction.

R	Name	Antarctic contribution	Status	Interview Date	Oral Historian	Deposited with
	Frank Ponder	Designer, Scott Base	Deceased	11.3.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	Selwyn Bucknell	Cook TAE, Scott Base	Deceased	12.3.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
R	Guyon Warren	Field geologist TAE; Northern Party member	Deceased	13.3.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	Murray Ellis	Engineer TAE	Deceased	10.4.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	George Lowe	British TAE (NZer)	Deceased	7.5.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	John Claydon	Chief pilot TAE	Deceased	8.7.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	Bill Cranfield	Pilot TAE	Deceased	10.7.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	Ron Balham	Meteorologist/biologist TAE	Deceased	29.9.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
R	Vern Gerard	Geophysicist IGY		30.9.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	Wally Tarr	Aircraft engineer TAE	Deceased	2.10.97	Julia Bradshaw	Canterbury Museum
	Bernie Gunn	Field geologist TAE; Northern Party member	Deceased	23.9.04	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	Sir Edmund Hillary	TAE Leader NZ party	Deceased	4.10.04	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	June, Lady Hillary	Wife of Peter Mulgrew – Radio Officer, Tractor Party TAE		5.10.04	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	Dorothy Orr	Wife of Herb Orr – IGY	Deceased	3.11.04	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	Peter Macdonald	Technical Officer IGY		1.12.04	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	Randel Heke	Foreman, Scott Base build		2.12.04	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	Helen Cranfield	Wife of Bill Cranfield – pilot TAE		12.2.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
	Douglas McKenzie	Journalist / Ross Sea Committee Press Officer; Tractor Party TAE		21.3.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum

Noela Claydon	Wife of John Claydon – chief pilot TAE	Deceased	22.3.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
R Shirley Ellis	Wife of Murray Ellis – engineer TAE		23.5.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Jean Bucknell	Wife of Selwyn Bucknell – cook TAE		5.6.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Sally Warren	Wife of Guyon Warren – geologist TAE		4.6.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Jean Ayres	Wife of Harry Ayres – Darwin Party TAE		9.8.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Margaret Wright	Wife of Derek Wright – cinematographer TAE; Summer Support Party TAE; Tractor Party TAE		3.8.05	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Bill Ingram	Cape Hallett IGY		8.8.07	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Richard Brooke	British surveyor TAE; Northern Party TAE		15.8.07	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
R Neil Sandford	Technical Officer IGY Scott Base	Deceased	23.10.08	Jacqui Foley	Canterbury Museum
Baden Norris	Antarctic historian and historic hut worker	Deceased	31.8.10	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Norman Hardie	Deputy Leader, Mount Herschel Expedition, with Sir Edmund Hillary; Scott Base Leader 1983	Deceased	18.9.10	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Arnold Heine	Technical Officer IGY; Summer Support Party 1956–7; many later expeditions		16.12.10	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Art Brown	United States National Science Foundation representative, based in Christchurch		7–8.2.11	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Erick Chiang	Director, National Science Foundation, Antarctic Infrastructure & Logistics		24–26.3.11	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Bill Johns	Served on both trips of HMNZS Endeavour		11.8.11	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Malcolm Laird	Geologist, early deep field with dogs; recently Andrill	Deceased	16–17.9.11	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Bruce Alexander	Surveyor, early deep field		30.11.11	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Alec McFerran	Electrician at Scott Base early 1970s (old base)		22.2.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Peter Webb	Geologist VUWAE; long-term work in Dry Valleys & drilling programmes; key Antarctic scientist		15–17.4.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library

Larry Harrington	Field geologist NZGS, late 1950s–early 1960s	Deceased	29–30.4.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Barrie McKelvey	Geologist VUWAE; important work in Dry Valleys late 1950s & later	Deceased	1–2.5.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Euan Young	Research on penguins & skuas, mainly at Cape Bird, from 1959 onwards; ex Ross Dependency Research Committee (RDRC)		13.8.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Peter Otway	Surveyor; extensive sledging with dogs, Transantarctic Mts		16–17.9.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Frank Graveson	Dog Handler; Field Assistant; wintered 1963; in field with Northern Party Northern Victoria Land		19.9.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Graeme Claridge	Soil scientist; extensive fieldwork from 1959: Transantarctic Mts & Cape Hallett		13–14.11.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Dave Skinner	Geologist; extensive fieldwork: Transantarctic Mts 1960s–1989		15.11.13	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Peter Barrett	Geologist; extensive fieldwork Transantarctic Mts since 1960s; key research figure & Antarctic scientist; ex RDRC		3–5.2.14	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Shaun Norman	Extensive field support BAS, NZARP, and US		25.8.14	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Colin Monteath	NZARP; shipboard visits; mountaineer; prominent Antarctic author and photographer		16.1.15	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Murray Mitchell	Design engineer with Opus for Scott Base rebuild, Cape Roberts tractor train, and wind farm		7–8.5.15	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Trevor Chinn	Prominent Dry Valleys glacial scientist	Deceased	18.8.16	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
Bill Lucy	Deputy Leader, Scott Base; helped establish Vanda Station; first Leader, Vanda Station; led sledge train over sea ice; wintered-over		28.7.16	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library
R Michelle Rogan-Finnemore	Wintered-over twice (McMurdo, South Pole); worked Gateway Antarctica, UC; COMNAP Executive Secretary, 2009–		7–8.12.17	Jacqui Foley	Alexander Turnbull Library

Mount Erebus Disaster Oral History Project Updates

By Pip Oldham

Few people who were in New Zealand on 28 November 1979, or New Zealanders who were living overseas at the time, will have forgotten the nationwide shock and dismay when Air New Zealand flight TE901 was reported overdue. At the time, the crash, on the lower slopes of Mount Erebus, overlooking Lewis Bay, was the fourth worst in aviation history. By a strange coincidence the crash happened on the fiftieth anniversary of the very first Antarctic flight by Admiral Richard Byrd; dignitaries were in Antarctica to mark the occasion. People working at Scott Base had watched the earlier Qantas and Air New Zealand tourist flights as they flew over Antarctica, and they were anticipating seeing flight TE901. What happened and the aftermath were extensively documented in the news media, photographs, books, and documentaries. However, the Society, led by Margaret Bradshaw, initiated an application to the Lotteries Commission for financial assistance for a Mount Erebus Disaster oral history project. They felt that the contribution of a key group had been overlooked – Antarcticaans who were involved with *Operation Overdue*, the operation to recover the bodies from the crash site and return them to Auckland, New Zealand for identification and burial. With the fortieth anniversary of the disaster approaching in 2019 it seemed like an appropriate time to record oral histories with these people.

Once a successful application had been made to the Lotteries Commission, Jacqui Foley, who has been the Society's oral historian since 2003 and has recorded more than 40 oral histories of Antarcticaans, asked me to assist her with the Mount Erebus Disaster oral history project by recording interviews with people based in the North Island (I live in Wellington), while she recorded people in the South Island where she is based. After a period of research and preparation the first interview for the project was recorded in August 2018. More interviews are now underway.

Jacqui and I have worked closely together to collate research material (news clippings, timelines, contemporary accounts of the body recovery operation, etc.) as well as background information for the individual interviews. The recordings are three to four hours in length, sometimes longer, and follow a broadly similar structure, covering the interviewee's family background and early life, their Antarctic and outdoors experience prior to and after their involvement in Operation Overdue, their role in the body recovery operation, the personal and psychological aspects of having done the work, and the overall significance of the experience. Each interviewee's background and Erebus experience are different, so the recordings offer a unique opportunity to gather broader information about living and working in the Antarctic before, during, and after the 1970s. We hope that the material will be of wide social history interest and will fit nicely with the Society's ongoing oral history work. The spoken word adds an important dimension to the historical record, no more so than where there is already a wealth of documentary material.

All the interviews will be archived in the Oral History Collection at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, where they will be available for future research. Conditions for access and use of the interviews vary from interviewee to interviewee.

We are most grateful to the Society for the opportunity to do this important project and for giving us access to the online archive of *Antarctic* magazine, as this has been invaluable for our research.

By Jacqui Foley

As this project is around the halfway mark, it seems timely to give Society members a brief update. In terms of Antarctic history this is an important project, but in terms of New Zealand history, even more so.

Reiterating my colleague Pip Oldham's comments, many people in New Zealand had some connection with the Air New Zealand flight TE901 tragedy. They may have known people who perished or those who worked on the recovery; some had tickets for the trip but weren't able to go; others remember exactly where they were when they heard the news. The stories are many. Today the disaster is still vividly recalled, even though nearly 40 years have passed.

To have the opportunity to record first-hand accounts of those involved with the crash aftermath is a great privilege. Interviewees I have recorded to date are very glad to have the opportunity to speak, whether their involvement was on the crash site or at Scott Base. Invariably, they acknowledge teamwork: how people pulled together, working impossibly long hours to keep crash investigators and police safe on the site and to assist in the difficult task of body recovery.

They worked within an extraordinarily short time frame in the most hostile and difficult of environments. The co-operation and assistance of American friends and colleagues at McMurdo is always acknowledged – the two communities pulled together as one to deal with an unexpected tragedy of unprecedented scale. For many interviewees, this was a short period in their lives but the tragedy and their involvement in it have left an indelible mark. In terms of the project logistics, it is a pleasure working with Pip Oldham; her input and insight and our close working relationship have huge advantages.

I have no doubt the oral histories will provide a very important resource for researchers and listeners. I wish to commend the foresight of the Society in enabling this important project to happen. ♣

To date, nearly \$7,000 has been donated for this project, and we have kept open the appeal for further donations. To those who have already donated, thank you.

Platinum / Corporate Supporters

Antarctica New Zealand, NZAS Canterbury Branch

Gold Supporters

Margaret and John Bradshaw, Richard McElrea, Sue Stubenvoll

Silver Supporters

Charles Bivianio, Bill Johns, Richard Sloan

We invite others to support this project by making a donation towards the cost. As the Society is a Registered Charity (CC27118), donations are tax-deductible in New Zealand, with up to 33% refunded by IRD. In the event that we receive more funds than our current programme requires, we intend to continue with related interviews. Donations may be made on our website from the Donate tab – shown on every page on the website (please add a note in the "Other Information" box at checkout) – or by cheque directly to the Treasurer, New Zealand Antarctic Society, PO Box 404, Christchurch 8140.



Antarctic Snippets

Japan withdraws from the International Whaling Commission

Japan is facing international condemnation after confirming it will be resuming commercial whaling for the first time in more than 30 years. The country's fleet will resume commercial operations in July 2019. The government's chief spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, advised that the country's fleet would confine its hunts to Japanese territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, adding that its annual expeditions to the Southern Ocean for scientific whaling research would end. He said Japan would officially inform the IWC of its decision by the end of the year, which will mean the withdrawal comes into effect by 30 June.

New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Winton Peters is disappointed with Japan's decision to leave the IWC. "Japan is a valued supporter of the international rules-based system and we had hoped Japan would choose to stay in the commission," Peters said. "We continue to hope Japan eventually reconsiders its position and will cease all whaling in order to advance the protection of the ocean's ecosystems."

Trevor Chinn

We are saddened to hear of the passing of fellow Antarctican, glaciologist Trevor James Hill Chinn. Our thoughts and respects are with his family.

The godfather of New Zealand glaciers, Chinn, 81, was a leading glaciologist, geologist, meteorologist, and climatologist with a stunning career spanning more than 60 years. Chinn was born in 1937 in Hokitika on the West Coast before moving to Te Taho near the Whataroa River in South Westland.

In 1970, Chinn took his first of 20 trips to Antarctica, where he studied the ice and Dry Valleys of the continent. In the 70s, he flew over the Southern Alps and Ruapehu several times conducting the first New Zealand Glacial Inventory to document the country's 3,155 glaciers.

Chinn studied the behaviour of glaciers in correlation to the behaviour of the snow line. His was the longest glaciological dataset in New Zealand, and it continues today.

Chinn was made redundant from GNS in the 1990s and began working for the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). He retired at 65, but continued to work as an independent contractor for NIWA up until his death.

Chinn is survived by wife Barbara, sons Warren and Derek, and grandchildren Sylvia, Georgia, and Alexander.

Canterbury Museum pays GBP150,000 for two Antarctic diaries

Canterbury Museum has spent NZD278,000 buying two Antarctic diaries, one describing the discovery of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's "yellow and transparent" frozen body.

The museum bought the diaries, written by Scott's Norwegian skiing instructor Tryggve Gran, at an auction in London from Christie's Valuable Books and Manuscripts.

One diary, written in Norwegian, is an account of Scott's final expedition from November 1911 to February 1912.

The second, in Gran's imperfect English, covers the period until the expedition returned to Lyttelton in February 1913. It describes Gran's horror at finding the frozen bodies of Scott, Edward Wilson, and Henry "Birdie" Bowers on 12 November 1912, more than seven months after they had perished while returning from the South Pole.

"The frost had made the skin yellow & transparent & I've never seen anything worse in my life," Gran wrote.

"I will never forget it so long [as] I live – a horrible nightmare could not have shown more horror than this."

Gran had been employed by Scott to teach the other expedition members to ski. He was one of 11 people who set out to find the polar party after they had failed to return from their journey to the South Pole.

Scott's group had set out in October 1911 to become the first people to reach the South Pole.

They made it to the pole on January 17 1912, but discovered Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had beaten them by 34 days.

They were plagued by severe weather on their return journey, which slowed their progress and caused their food and fuel to run out.

The last entry in Scott's own journal, which Gran read after discovering the bodies, is dated 29 March 1912.

Canterbury Museum had earlier acquired two other diaries belonging to Gran, as well as four of his medals.

The newly acquired diaries were written while the expedition took place, so had been subject to less editing than the others.

Canterbury Museum director Anthony Wright said the diaries would help boost the museum's Antarctic collection.

"History doesn't get much more immediate than this. They're an extraordinary first-hand account of some of the most significant events in Antarctic history, written as those events unfolded."

Funding for the purchase came from the Adson Trust, formed in 2010 after a posthumous donation to the museum from Arthur Henry Harrison, of Blenheim. The reclusive Harrison left his entire estate, including \$10 million and several Marlborough properties, to Canterbury Museum before he died in a house fire in 2009.

A museum spokeswoman said they hoped to put the diaries on display eventually, but it was not guaranteed.

"We have 2.3 million items and less than 1 percent can be displayed at one time."

The museum plans to scan and digitise the English-language diary after the diaries arrive from London.

The digital version will be available to view on the museum's website.

First (and second) unaided solo crossing of Antarctica

A 33-year-old American man has become the first person to cross Antarctica alone and unassisted. Explorer Colin O'Brady finished in 53 days, ahead of British Army Captain Louis Rudd, 49, after an epic race across the ice.

Both men set out on 3 November to complete the journey, which killed a British ex-Army officer, Henry Worsley, two years ago, with Rudd finishing two days after O'Brady. Although O'Brady beat him in this quest, Rudd is the only person to complete two traverses of Antarctica. His first was in 2017 with a team he led, assembled from the British Armed Forces.

Kiwi wins McMurdo Marathon

Kiwi runner and survival trainer John Tyler narrowly beat American glaciologist Max Stevens to win the McMurdo Marathon in January this year. Tyler's time was 3 hours and 25 minutes, with Stevens only 4 seconds behind. The full-length marathon is held each year on the ice close to McMurdo and Scott Base stations, and is a race for the scientists and support workers at the two bases, quite distinct from the commercial Antarctic Ice Marathon held in December each year, where contestants pay USD17,900 to race at the South Pole.

Ross Sea Environment and Ecosystem Voyage 2019

From 8 January to 17 February 2019 RV *Tangaroa* undertook a six-week research voyage to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. On board 21 scientists, supported by 19 crew members, studied ocean, atmosphere, and ecosystem processes with the focus on establishing monitoring programmes for the newly created Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area (MPA).

At over 1.55 million square kilometres in size, the MPA is the world's largest and just a year old. It comprises a range of zones from fully protected to special research zones, as well as areas left open to fishing. This is the second of two linked NIWA voyages to this region, with the previous voyage in February–March 2018. Another of the key science objectives of the upcoming voyage is to recover and re-deploy seven

long-term moorings that monitor ocean currents, krill, and whale calls.

Speights beer barrel returned to Cape Royds

A beer barrel originally donated by Speights Breweries of Dunedin has been fully reconstructed and returned to Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds. Its iron hoops and staves were pulled out of Pony Lake, alongside the Cape Royds hut, by caretakers in the 1970s. The Antarctic Heritage Trust's Programme Manager – Artefacts, Lizzie Meek says the barrel pieces were left near the hut and remained there, embedded in ice, for decades.

When the Trust started major conservation work at the site in 2005, the staves and hoops were leaned against an area adjacent to the latrine and the pony stables. According to Meek, "The Trust spent four years conserving the hut, finishing in 2008. During that project, we saw some of the staves half buried in the ice and put a plan in place to excavate and conserve them."

Once in New Zealand, the barrel underwent a detailed examination by the Trust's conservators in a laboratory at Canterbury Museum. "The iron hoops were too badly corroded to be used to reconstruct the barrel but many of the staves were in suitable condition," says Meek.

AHT then connected with one of New Zealand's only practicing coopers, Jurgen Voigtlander, and worked with him to re-build the Speight's barrel. The Trust was grateful to Speight's Dunedin for supplying some staves for the reconstruction of the barrel. AHT paid for the conservation of the barrel and it was taken back to site with logistics support from Antarctica New Zealand.

One hundredth birthday for NZ IGY organiser

Dr Eddie Robertson was 100 in mid-January this year. Robertson was the chairman of the committee that ran the New Zealand International Geophysical Year (IGY) programme both in the New Zealand region and in Antarctica and, as Director of Geophysics Division of DSIR, he took over responsibility for Scott Base when the New Zealand Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE) moved out in March 1958. As such he ran Scott Base until May 1959 when a separate Antarctic Division was set up within DSIR. During the first year of IGY, Robertson and Trevor Hatherton (Chief Scientist of the Antarctic IGY expedition, also from Geophysics Division, DSIR) did the preparatory work for the second part of IGY and the running of Scott Base post-TAE. Thus, he set up and led the antecedent to Antarctic Division, DSIR and the present Antarctica New Zealand. Robertson was the first New Zealand delegate to SCAR (then the Special Committee for Antarctic Research), and the deputy chairman, later chairman, of the Ross Dependency Research Committee. He is still very active.



The Shackleton dinner

2019 marks the 110th year since The Wellington Club hosted Sir Ernest Shackleton for dinner, prior to his expedition to Antarctica. The Club has a signed copy of the original 10-course menu from the dinner in 1909, which the Club's chefs will attempt to replicate in a black-tie dinner in September.

The eight-course degustation menu reads: Te Matuku Oysters with balsamic caviar // Crème of celery soup // Freshwater trout fillet, compressed cucumber, horseradish “snow”, and sauce vierge // Duck liver pate en croute // Saddle of lamb, mint jelly, crushed potatoes and parsley butter // Punch à la Shackleton // Pheasant breast, brioche crumbed, and salad Américaine // Grape rose jelly, vanilla crème, and torched meringue.

Three men survive helicopter crash in Auckland Islands

Andrew Hefford (pilot), Lester Stevens (winch operator), and John Lambeth (St John paramedic) all survived when their helicopter crashed into the water close to Enderby Island, in the Auckland Islands group 465 kilometres south of Bluff, New Zealand. The men, wearing full immersion suits and life jackets for the flight, were able to exit the helicopter, in darkness, and swim to shore where they sheltered overnight in the bush, covering themselves with fern fronds for warmth. The men were on a medical rescue flight to retrieve an injured fisherman, who later made it safely to Bluff – still on board the fishing trawler.

Southern Lakes Helicopters owner and chief pilot, Sir Richard “Hannibal” Hayes flew a second rescue flight the following morning, and found all three alive. He describes finding the men as “one of the best feelings I have had in 30 years in the aviation industry”. He said “It was absolutely incredible to be able to see the three of them there.” Each of the men had minor injuries, and they were flown directly to Southland Hospital for treatment and observation before being discharged to family and friends.

The Transport Accident Investigation Commission has launched an investigation.

Aurora Australis sells

A copy of Shackleton’s *Aurora Australis* sold at auction in New Zealand recently for \$130,000 plus buyer’s premium – a total of \$159,900. Printed at the Sign of “the Penguins”, Winter Quarters, Cape Royds, in Winter 1908, *Aurora Australis* is the rarest of all Antarctic books, and about 80 copies were bound with venesta board (packing case) covers and brought back from Antarctica at the end of the *Nimrod* Expedition. Auctioneers Art+Object have advised that the book was bought by a New Zealand buyer.

Breaking the Ice: The First Year in Antarctica

Created by the Antarctic Heritage Trust in partnership with Canterbury Museum, *Breaking the Ice: The First Year*

in Antarctica will be the public’s only chance to see items left behind by Carsten Borchgrevink’s *Southern Cross*, and Robert Falcon Scott’s *Terra Nova* expeditions in two huts at Cape Adare.

Objects in the exhibition are predominantly from Borchgrevink’s 1898–1900 *Southern Cross* expedition and include scientific equipment, clothing and sledging supplies.

Breaking the Ice, tells the story of the British Antarctic Expedition, which sailed from London on the *Southern Cross* landing at Cape Adare in January 1899. The expedition, led by Carsten Borchgrevink, recorded a number of Antarctic firsts. The explorers were the first people to spend a winter on the Antarctic continent. They erected the first buildings, took the first steps on the Ross Ice Shelf, were the first to use dogs and the Primus stove on the continent, and recorded the first full year of climate data. Zoologist Nicolai Hanson was the first person to die and be buried in Antarctica.

The explorers built two huts at Cape Adare, using kits designed in Norway, which were also used in 1911 by the Northern Party of Robert Falcon Scott’s *Terra Nova* expedition.

Breaking the Ice, the story of the first year in Antarctica (1899–1900), opened at Canterbury Museum on 18 May and runs to 13 October 2019.

Scott statue reinstated ...

The statue of Captain Scott toppled in the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes has been reinstated, with a ceremony in Christchurch on 6 October. See our website news page for more information <https://antarcticsociety.org.nz/news/>.

... and wins at ACENZ awards

The Scott Statue Repair project was entered into the Association of Consulting Engineers of New Zealand awards, which recognises incredible achievement within and for the consulting and engineering industry. Each entry goes through an intensive judging process and the award process is considered one of the most thorough and rigorous in the country. The entire judging panel comprises 25–35 judges. Each project is assigned a specific judging team of 4–7 judges. The evaluation took several months and culminates at a final judges meeting where the full panel debate and test the meritorious aspects of each project. Each project will be given either a gold, silver, or merit award or no award.

The Scott Statue Repair project won the Gold Award of Excellence – the premier award. This award acknowledges a superior project for innovative achievement undertaken by an ACENZ member or group of members acting as either Principal Advisor or as Secondary Advisor. It also is awarded for outstanding consultancy service to the client that goes above and beyond standard service delivery. ♣

Renewing your Membership

The screenshot shows the New Zealand Antarctic Society's website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for MEMBER / SUBSCRIBER LOGIN, SHOP, and CART (0). There are also buttons for DONATE and JOIN. The main content area features a large image of a research facility in a snowy, icy landscape. Overlaid on this image is the text "My account". Below this, a "Login" form is displayed, containing fields for "Username or email address" and "Password", along with "Login" and "Remember me" buttons, and a link for "Lost your password?". The URL "Home / My account" is visible at the top of the login form.

For most members of the Society, 30 June is the annual renewal date for their subscription. Members with a membership expiry date other than 30 June will receive reminders on the anniversary of their joining.

With the Society's new website, the subscription renewal process is a little different, and can now be completed on-line. Also, a fundamental change to previous billing is that unpaid memberships will cease to receive copies of *Antarctic* magazine, and may also miss out on notification of Society events.

Two weeks before your subscription is due to expire, you will receive an e-mailed reminder that your renewal is coming due. If the Society holds an e-mail address for you, **no printed renewal reminder will be sent**.

Members who have previously paid on-line, and who have agreed to allow recurring payments, will have this done on the due date and will receive an email to record the transaction.

Those of you who have paid manually will receive on the due date a “customer renewal invoice” with a link to complete your renewal order by credit or debit card at our secure payments page. Here you can also check/update your membership details – name, address, phone number, e-mail, Antarctic interests. You can also choose the recurring payment option for the future. If you haven’t responded within a week, a reminder is sent.

For any queries please contact the membership team at membership@antarcticsociety.org.nz.

From the homepage, or indeed from anywhere on the website, you can also visit the Society’s on-line shop,

where recent back copies of *Antarctic* magazine, and other Society publications, postcards, badges, clothing, etc. are available with a members’ discount of 10% on all purchases. Membership also entitles you to full access to the Society’s on-line archive of the *Antarctic News Bulletins* and *Antarctic* magazines back to 1950.

When renewing your membership, or making a purchase from the shop, please also consider a donation to the Society. The Society is registered as a Charity in New Zealand (CC27118), and any donations you make are tax-deductible in New Zealand.

Payments may be made by credit card, or by direct payment to the Society’s bank account. The payment option is offered at checkout, on completion of your order. If choosing the direct payment option, please include your order number with your payment.

The screenshot shows the New Zealand Antarctic Society's website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for MEMBER / SUBSCRIBER LOGIN, SHOP, and CART (0). There are also buttons for DONATE and JOIN. The main content area features a large image of two penguins standing on snow. Overlaid on this image is the text "Shop" and "An online book and gift store that reveals Antarctic". Below this, a "Donation" form is displayed, showing a logo of a penguin holding a dollar sign, a "Donation \$0.00" button, and a note about donations supporting Antarctic-related events. A "Next" button is also visible.

Death on the Mainmast

By Bill Conroy

The British National Antarctic Expedition 1901–04, generally known as the *Discovery* Expedition, was planned during a time of great interest in the Antarctic region. A German expedition was leaving at about the same time as *Discovery* to explore the sector of the continent south of the Indian Ocean; a Swedish expedition was going to Graham Land; a French party was heading for the Antarctic Peninsula; and, finally, a Scottish scientist was taking a group to the Weddell Sea.

The *Discovery* Expedition was organised on a large scale and was planned to carry out scientific research and geographical exploration in the Ross Sea sector of what was then a largely untouched continent. Overall command of the expedition was given to the newly promoted Commander Robert F. Scott. Experience of Antarctic or Arctic waters was almost entirely lacking within the 50-strong shipboard party and there was very little special training in equipment or techniques before the ship set sail. Notwithstanding the paucity of Antarctic experience among the men, confidence was high.

With much fanfare the *Discovery* weighed anchor on 31 July 1901 and proceeded to Cowes, where the King and Queen came aboard on 5 August. King Edward VII, who showed a keen interest in the expedition, took the opportunity to invest Scott as a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) as his personal gift. (Scott was made a Commander of the Order (CVO) on his return from Antarctica in September 1904.) The next day, heading out into the unknown, *Discovery* passed the Needles. Sir Clements Markham noted: “Truly, they form the vanguard of England’s chivalry. No finer set of men ever left these shores, nor were men ever led by a finer Captain.”¹ Praise indeed!

Discovery arrived in Lyttelton, via Cape Town, on 29 November 1901 and a frantic three weeks followed as all hands toiled to complete the final preparations for the journey south. However, Scott and his officers had more to worry about than to solve the many problems associated with preparing the vessel for the Antarctic ice. From the first day in port the crew of *Discovery* relapsed into the drunkenness, fighting, and generally bad behaviour that had surfaced on the first leg of the journey from the United Kingdom. Scott and his officers had extreme difficulty in maintaining discipline among their mixed crew of naval and mercantile seamen.

HMS *Ringarooma* was in Lyttelton assisting *Discovery* with her refit and came to her rescue again. The worst offenders among the troublesome crew were taken into custody on the naval vessel and several were replaced with volunteers from among that ship’s crew. This action, together with the dismissal of some other troublemakers and a general tightening of discipline, restored *Discovery*’s crew to a reasonably competent, controllable working group and the shipboard work proceeded apace.²

On 21 December 1901, with all the preparations completed, *Discovery* was ready for the great adventure, and she left her berth at 2.10 p.m. With flags flying everywhere, people cheering, and bands playing, *Discovery* eased out into the harbour, heading for the open sea. “Cheers followed cheers”, Scott wrote, “until as we entered the open sea, with a last burst of cheering and a final flutter of handkerchiefs, our kind friends turned away, and slowly we steamed out between the warships that seemed to stand as sentinels to the bay”.³

The euphoria of the departure was about to be rudely dispelled.

In his book *Scott of the Antarctic* David Crane describes what happened next:

One of the young crewmen on board, named Charles Bonner, a 23 year old from East London, climbed up to the crow’s nest on the mainmast to return the cheers of the crowd and was scrambling up higher to stand on the wind vane when, just as the ship met the ocean swell, the spindle snapped and Bonner fell. A cry was heard below followed by the “hideous thud of a fall” as the poor fellow’s head hit the corner of the winch house, killing him instantly.

Later that night Scott wrote: “He (Bonner) appears to have been sober when he went up but it afterwards transpired that a bottle of whisky was handed to him by another seaman named Robert Sinclair whilst he was at the mainmast head ... his remains were placed on the poop ... a dreadful example of the effects of our revelry”.⁴

Seaman Robert Sinclair had been an employee of the Union Castle Line and was recruited in Cape Town when *Discovery* called there on the voyage out to New Zealand. Bonner’s death had a significant effect on Sinclair, who seemingly held himself responsible for his shipmate’s death.

Discovery continued her voyage south and, after a slow trip battling strong headwinds, she arrived off the Otago Heads on Monday, 23 December 1901 and moved into a berth at Port Chalmers at 4 p.m. that day. The large crowd gathered on the wharf were told that the public could not board the ship because of the inquest being conducted by the local coroner, C. C. Graham SM.

The Evening Star takes up the story:

At a quarter to six the funeral with naval honours left the Bowen pier. The Ringarooma bluejackets, with arms reversed, led the way; then came a gun-carriage with the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, eight of the deceased's comrades acting as pall-bearers; the captain, officers, and crew of the Discovery followed; then came more bluejackets from the warship; and the public, among whom were Mr G. L. Denniston (Mayor of Dunedin), Mr John Mill (Mayor of Port Chalmers), and Mr E. G. Allen (MHR). A beautiful floral wreath, sent by the crew of HMS Ringarooma, was placed on the coffin. The body was interred in the new cemetery, the Rev. Mr Kewley officiating at the grave.



The grave of Seaman Bonner. The inscription reads "In memory of Charles Bonner of the Antarctic exploring vessel Discovery, who died 21 Dec 1901. Aged 23." <http://www.cemeteries.org.nz/stories/bonnercharles.pdf>. Accessed 19 May 2019.

Quite a gloom has been cast over the vessel by the said death of young Bonner. He was one of the jolliest and brightest of the sailors, and was beloved by them, as well as being greatly esteemed by those in authority. One of the latter told our representative that the deceased had been the best seaman on board, and everybody, from the captain downwards, deplored his untimely end. His messmates particularly are much cut up over the affair, and their sorrow was plainly evident when the body was conveyed to its last resting-place. He was a native of London, and his only surviving relatives are two brothers.⁵

The funeral over, Scott addressed some of the matters arising from Bonner's death. The crewman's few possessions had to be sent home, and the man who had passed the whisky to the deceased to be considered. Fortunately, the latter problem soon sorted itself out.

On the day of the funeral Sinclair had stolen a pair of trousers belonging to the cook's mate and deserted, "much depressed" at his role in Bonner's fall and doubting whether he would ever live it down on the ship. "On the whole" Scott added in his journal "I am inclined to doubt it also and think he took the wisest course and the best for all concerned".⁶

Before the *Discovery* left Port Chalmers Scott handed the sum of 30 pounds to the Mayor of Port Chalmers (John Mill) to be devoted to the erection of a suitable memorial stone over the grave of Charles Bonner. "Commander Scott instructed that room should be left on the monument for the names of any of the *Discovery*'s little band who may be so unfortunate as to perish in the perilous mission upon which they have embarked."⁷

A monument was erected and it stands guard over the remains of Able Seaman Bonner, who sleeps alone far from his homeland. None of his shipmates was destined to share his burial place. The only other *Discovery* casualty was AB George Vince, who died on 11 March 1902 when he slipped and fell over an ice cliff at Ross Island. His body was never recovered. Vince is commemorated by a wooden cross erected by the men of the *Discovery* Expedition that is maintained to this day by the New Zealand and US bases in McMurdo Sound. ♣

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- 1 Huxley, E. (1977). *Scott of the Antarctic*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, p.47.
 - 2 Crane, D (2005) *Scott of the Antarctic: A life of courage and tragedy in the extreme south*. London: Harper Collins Publishers, p. 134–135.
 - 3 Scott, R. F. (1905). *The Voyage of the Discovery*. London: Thomas Nelson, p.110.
 - 4 Crane, D. (2005). *Scott of the Antarctic*, pp.136-7.
 - 5 *The Evening Star*, [Dunedin] 24 December 1901, The *Discovery* at Port Chalmers.
 - 6 Crane, Scott of the Antarctic, p. 138.
 - 7 *The Evening Star* [Dunedin] 31/12/1901.

Touching the Untouched

By Matt Harrison

Matt Harrison shares how being in nature opens him to wonder and meaning for his life.



While we all have varying degrees of spiritual awareness, I believe that it is a challenge to make it a priority in our daily lives.

Spirituality is something I have always had some awareness of but haven't always considered deeply. Despite the fact that it seems elusive, it has a feeling of connection which is intangible but undeniable.

For me, this feeling of spiritual connection is most profound during moments of solitude in the natural environment. Sitting on a surfboard waiting for a wave, hearing the call of the ruru as the stars shine brightly, watching the sun burn low as it sets in the west over the Tasman Sea. On such occasions a sense of spirit is ignited within my soul.

This feeling is only surpassed when it is shared with someone – someone with a kindred spirit. At such times this feeling is amplified as my heart and soul feel full and my spirit burns infinitely bright.

At times it feels that the spirit of the universe conspires to give a sign of clarity, of reassurance or direction. I have always had faith in these signs in my journey through

life. They have enabled me to meet good people, make good friends and arrive at awe-inspiring places.

A New Path

Several years ago I made a conscious decision to change my life to pursue a career as a high school geography teacher.

My hope was to lead a more fulfilling life and to create a learning environment in which students could continually seek understanding of the many mysteries of Earth. Equipped with new lenses with which to see the world, they too will become storytellers.

As young storytellers they give voices to the all too often voiceless and become advocates for well-considered decisions in this fast-paced world.

With so much information so readily available, many people still see the world with their eyes wide shut. Therefore, I feel a profound sense of accomplishment even when I have merely promoted an awareness of these mysteries among students. In essence evoking such an awareness is surely a spiritual awakening.

Making this decision led to an extraordinary opportunity. Last summer I was chosen by the Enderby Trust to travel with Heritage Expeditions aboard the *Spirit of Enderby* through the sub-Antarctic and ultimately to Antarctica.

It still surprises me to think that I was one of the fortunate few who had the privilege of visiting the frozen continent and telling stories of the southern sea and ice.

The Journey

We set off from Bluff, sailing through the roaring forties, the furious fifties and the screaming sixties, stopping along the way at some of the majestic sub-Antarctic Islands. An abundance of rich green flora and the enchanting sound of bird calls thrive in splendid isolation. An overwhelming sense of life, vitality and spirit emanates here.

Finally we push through the Antarctic Circle into the silent seventies where icebergs solemnly drift, set on their course of dissolution to join the ocean from which they had come. On one such iceberg an emperor penguin rides north with the currents until his

vessel is gone and he continues his pilgrimage to sea, only to return the following winter.

The approach to the frozen continent is in stark contrast to the islands we have visited. It exists on the horizon as an epic expanse both barren and desolate.

Now the sun does not set. It simply circles the horizon, casting seemingly eternal reflections off the crystal clear, calm water. It is beautiful yet dangerous, the mind is not equipped for this ... Fortunately we have the luxury of curtains so our routine is maintained, allowing introspective reflection at dusk on the events of the day.

It is difficult to imagine what this would be like through winter when the sun doesn't rise above the horizon and there is only darkness. I have no doubt that this would result in other challenges to mind, body and soul.

Landing

Stepping onto the land, however, all such thoughts are forgotten. There is an energy here – such an ancient and inhospitable environment yet so pristine and pure, so invigorating.

I climb a hill, relatively small in the context of the surroundings, and crouch at its peak, hands on hips, as I struggle for breath and lean into the face of the katabatic winds. I slowly rise and look out over the Ross Ice Shelf. Words escape me. By whose design does such beauty exist? I'm alone and yet I'm not. I take people with me both living and dead; their spirits stand with me – and it's brilliant.

Returning

As we sail back the sun finally begins to set. Southern royal albatross soar effortlessly above the ship escorting our return passage.

These birds are surely kaitiaki (guardians) of this place. To behold them in their domain is humbling. As I stare into the sky following their movements a feeling of melancholy settles upon me. They have travelled far and wide, they have spoken to the wind and they know they are losing, that there are too many threats to their way of life.

I return to Bluff confused. I have had the trip of a life time, I have had a life-changing experience, but what does this mean? How do I act on this? How do I make my life-changing experience, life changing for others?

I don't really like to admit it, but a part of me begins to hold this experience close, not wanting to share it with just anyone. Perhaps to be drawn to the solitude of such vast and uninhabited landscapes is a character trait that rarely coexists with the trait of being the unrelenting town crier.

I wonder whether it is in the best interest of Antarctica to be left out of sight and therefore out of mind of the masses. Promoting it in our capitalist world increases the risk of it being exploited under the guise

of development. As one of the few remaining untouched landscapes this would be devastating.

Unfortunately, Antarctica is well known to those who are in the best position to take advantage of its resources. Therefore, shining the light on what is currently occurring, or could occur, may be the best defence against exploitation. People must be informed so they will no longer be ignorant or deny the impact of human interference.

Knowing

I have been touched by the spirit, wonder and mystery of the southern ocean and Antarctica. I must share my story to enable connection and evoke consciousness in others so that they will choose to become kaitiaki of this sacred place.

Matt Harrison, 31, is a geography and social studies teacher at Orewa College. "The outdoors is my place of worship and I love getting out to surf or into the bush."

Article previously published in *Tui Motu InterIslands Magazine*, Issue 226 May 2018: pp 20–21. ↗



Photos courtesy of Matt Harrison.

Time on Ice

By Kevin O'Malley

Bang! We had touched down ...

All the books, photos, and maps I'd gazed at over the years as an armchair explorer did little to prepare me for the glaring white light that beamed into the US Air Force C-17 Globemaster as it lowered its door, allowing us to disembark from the dimly lit inside of the plane to the absolute wonder that lay before me – my first view of Antarctica.

I could not believe that I was here! Finally! I was here, standing on the Ice!

Back home the work I spent my days doing would be carrying on as usual – driveways being laid, foundations being poured – but I was as far removed from my normal life as a concrete contractor as I could have ever imagined. This was not a dream; this was really happening.

All rugged up in our issued ECWs (Extreme Cold Weather gear) we were directed to a US Antarctic Program van, which would be taking us to Scott Base, my home for the next 3–4 weeks.

As the New Zealand Antarctic Society's volunteer for the 2018–19 season I was told I would be helping with the installation of two temporary water tanks. I would also be upgrading some sections of water pipe and tending to other tasks if time permitted.

Arriving at Scott Base we were shown where we would sleep, eat, wash, read, work out, email, drink, climb, walk, and, perhaps most surprising, dress up if the mood so took us. Like Doctor Who's TARDIS, this place was definitely a lot bigger on the inside.

The base was a hive of activity, but I could always find a place to relax and take in the wonder of being at Scott Base. The library became somewhat of a sanctuary for reflection on the day's events; it did not feel cramped at all.

Being in such an unpredictable environment meant we were at the mercy of the elements, with planes being unable to land for the first week I was there. Due to this, Emile, the plumber who I would be working with, was late to arrive. Not that it was an issue, as there were plenty of odd jobs to keep me occupied.

It astounded me that outside jobs that would take the minimum effort back in New Zealand became a painstaking work of precision due to environment factors. Here, working with familiar radiata pine felt like



The team installing the water tanks. (L-R) Luke (electrician), Kevin (volunteer), Amy (engineer), Emile (plumber). Photo courtesy of Kevin O'Malley.

banging a nail into 400-year-old hardwood. The care and diligence taken to maintain the pristine environment are to be applauded, with even the tiniest amount of sawdust having to be captured and disposed of.

The days were punctuated by mealtimes and the food was on another level. I was not prepared for the daily feasts created by the chefs, including the most incredible sweet and sour pork I think I've ever had the pleasure of tasting.

Scott Base was full of life at mealtimes, with a host of different people sharing stories from their day. I could talk to a biologist at one meal and a pilot the next, with each person having a unique tale to tell. I was enthralled by the Antarctic Heritage Trust who are doing an amazing job restoring the historic huts. They were so accommodating and always happy to share their knowledge and experiences – despite me asking a million questions and probably driving them nuts!

Eventually the weather improved, and Emile and the water tanks arrived. I was a bit nervous as to who I would be working with, but my fears were completely unfounded. Emile and I got on so well, it was an absolute pleasure to work with him. We worked hard, with a lot of laughs thrown in, and despite starting work a week late we managed to finish the job with a day to spare, to the delight of our supervisors.

Although work was the main priority there was still plenty of time to explore and see the sights, partly thanks to the never-ending daylight that was surprisingly easy to adjust to. Within a short walking distance I could be up Observation Hill or Crater Hill, or over at McMurdo Station, which was almost like a set in an

American movie; it was a world away from the humble and cosy Scott Base.

There were cross-country skiing and bikes with massive fat tyres. Emile, somewhat of a seasoned veteran, gave me a crash course on kite flying Antarctica style – where I seemed to spend more time lying on the ice than I did flying on it. All these activities could be done solo or with others, but there was a real sense of freedom in being able to grab yourself a radio, let the communications team know where you were going, and step out the door.

One of my favourite places I found myself returning to time and time again was right in front of the base, where, I believe, the sea ice hits the ice shelf, pushing up these incredible icy peaks, some around three metres tall, and varying in size, shape, and colour. These beautiful carvings instinctively created by the icy hands of nature were the Pressure Ridges. It was here that I was greeted daily by the sight of seals lounging and tending to their newly born pups.

Along with having the privilege of all these beautiful sights within walking distance, we had the Famil Trips on Sundays that the field trainers organised. One of these was abseiling down a 20 metre-deep crevasse and ice climbing back out – an unforgettable experience. But the real highlight for me was a day trip to Cape Royds and Shackleton's Hut. This experience blew me away completely and the detail gone into restoring this absolute gem was staggering. It is exactly how it was left all those years ago, even down to the discarded tins outside the hut and the small bits of broken timber crates. One got a sense that the hut itself was frozen in time, patiently waiting for the return of the famous explorer I had read so much about.



Seal and pup. Photo courtesy of Kevin O'Malley.

And as if that experience wasn't enough, this barren rocky outcrop was also home to the southernmost Adélie penguin colony. It was hard to tear the eyes away from this amusing bunch as they bumbled about their daily business; I could have stayed watching them for hours.

Finally, it was inevitable: the day came when the call came over the radio to say the C-17 I was booked on to go home had departed Christchurch. We had all been debriefed the day prior, so we had some time for a quick walk around the Pressure Ridges again, taking in the sights and sounds of Antarctica for one last time. Mts Erebus, Terror, Terra Nova, and Discovery were all sitting there silently, a sight that will be forever etched in my mind.

A 40-minute ride out to the airstrip and the plane came into view. After it was unloaded by two forklifts, then loaded up again, we took our final walk on the sea ice to the waiting monster of a plane. It was a real bittersweet moment, feeling gratitude for the experience of a lifetime, tinged with the sadness of not knowing whether I would ever take in this view again.

Back in Christchurch the humidity of the showery spring day hit us as we disembarked from the plane before heading to Antarctica New Zealand, where we were de-kitted, while saying our final goodbyes and swapping numbers. Within no time I was back in the hotel where had I sat in anticipation almost four weeks prior, wondering what was in store for me down on the Ice. Now I know it is an experience I will never forget.

Thank you, the New Zealand Antarctic Society. Thank you, Antarctica New Zealand. And thank you, Antarctica. ♫



Kevin on the Pressure Ridges. Photo courtesy of Kevin O'Malley.



The Woman from Kharkov, and a Fraction of a Second ...

By George Jones OAE 1964–5

When glaciologist Igor Zotikov was at Vostok Station in 1958–9 he was involved in an accident. A fraction of a second's difference in timing was the difference between life and death.

The vehicle of choice at the Russian Antarctic bases was a very large vehicle called the “Kharkovchanka” (“Kharkov woman”, named after the city of Kharkov, Ukraine, where it was manufactured). Essentially a house on tracks, it had several rooms to handle the living and working conditions of a team of people. It could travel at high speed on flat snow, and on one expedition this is what it was doing.

Igor and a colleague were travelling in a very small truck, essentially a small cab in front of a short deck. At one point, one of the men in the Kharkovchanka went through to the driving room and told the driver he had heard a noise, and suggested that something might have fallen off. So the driver retraced his tracks. What they found was Igor outside his vehicle, wandering around dazed, and a partly conscious colleague still in the truck. The tracks of the big vehicle on the snow showed that it had driven right over the deck of the truck, just missing the cab.

A difference of timing of a small fraction of a second would have meant that the truck would have driven over the cab of the truck. So all survived to tell the tale.



All Steamed Up

By George Jones, OAE 1964–5

In the 1950s psychologist William M. Smith of George Washington University was researching the mental state of wintering-over parties, using psychological testing, with the aim of improving the selection criteria for polar personnel. So he and his small team were very interested in monotony, boredom, interpersonal relationships, and the many other aspects of harsh-environment remote-station living. He studied in depth the wintering-over team at Little America Station in Antarctica, with interviews before and after. Wintering-over personnel are starved of communication with their family and friends, so they look forward to the first flight in the spring to receive mail and to talk to their new colleagues just arrived. In 1958 at Little America they were not happy with the prospect of a nosy academic asking them personal questions when they had much higher priorities.

At the time, Captain Eugene “Pat” Maher was wintering-over commanding officer at Little America. He and his chief scientist Bert Crary planned a surprise welcome for the visiting psychologist flying in on that first spring flight. To execute their plan they needed the help of communications officer Frank Stokes, who wished to be part of the welcome.

Over the winter they had built a sauna, and the personnel had found that they enjoyed a nude dash to base after being steamed up there. The base was largely under snow by then, so there were unheated covered ways between buildings.

The plan was that there would be a lookout on the surface when the plane was due, in radio communication with Frank. Pat, Bert, and Frank were enjoying the sauna, waiting for the signal. At the right moment the three ran out of the sauna to officially greet the “shrink” from the plane, wearing only their still-steaming (hopefully) birthday suits.

Photo on left: Kharkovchanka 22, with Mirny written in Russian. Photo courtesy of George Jones.

William Smith's subsequent writings never mentioned the incident.

The station was closed a few months later.

BANG !

By George Jones OAE 1964–5

After setting up the Mirny base on the coast in the mid-1950s, the Russians took a caravan of vehicles inland to set up Vostok at the Pole of Inaccessibility. To travel efficiently along the route they were fully equipped, which included carrying explosives for filling in crevasses. When they arrived at Vostok they had some explosives still unused, and these were looked after by the explosives expert team.

The proper and safe decision was to destroy the unused explosives by exploding them. It also tied in with the general feeling of the expedition members that they would like to see a fitting celebration of their long trip.

So the unused explosives were gathered together and exploded. The experts knew a lot about their explosives, especially in ice and snow. They had of course the very recent experience of using these particular explosives along their caravan route. So when this explosion happened, they were very surprised to be thrown about dramatically and violently.

More than a decade later Lake Vostok was discovered, a very large liquid-water lake below the ice (see *Antarctic 36(1): 19, Hidden Lakes Below the Antarctic Ice Sheet*). By chance, Vostok Station was above this lake. So when the explosion had been set off in the mid-50s, the conditions over three kilometres below had not been as expected, and it is no wonder that the explosion had produced surprising results.

The Invasion of McMurdo

By George Jones OAE 1964–5

In 2004 by chance I located Commander Jehu (Dusty) Blades, who had been the Commanding Officer of all US bases in Antarctica in the year 1964–5, based at McMurdo. He had contracted Alzheimer's disease and was in a secure wing of a geriatric facility in Boulder, Colorado. He did not recognise me at all, but his eyes lit up when I mentioned the 4 July 1965 invasion of McMurdo, telling me what he could remember of the time.

Four years before, during an oral history interview,¹ he had talked about Scott Base Leader Adrian Hayter and had said:

... the two of us became good friends and enjoyed a number of experiences together, one of which was a rousing 4th of July celebration put on by McMurdo during which time we were attacked by a red-coated unit hauling a cannon over the pass between Scott Base and McMurdo with the avowed intention of retaking this pocket of rebels for the King or Queen, as the case may have been.

The newsletters sent to the Scott Base wintering-over party's families and friends included the following, written by radioman, Ted Gawn.² The General was Major Adrian Hayter, ex of the Gurkhas. The cannon was made from the wheels of the welding cylinders' barrow.³

A mock invasion of the American base some two miles away was carried out to mark 4 July. 1776 style uniforms and side-arms were manufactured by Lowe, Calvert and Dorrington and a realistic cannon by Hough. Everyone enjoyed the "battle" which resulted in McMurdo main street ...

In the dark of yesterday afternoon, while McMurdo lay silently under its mantle of snow, the rat-tat-tat of a kettle drum was heard and a small British Force appeared from nowhere to march down the main street, initially unopposed. They were dressed as General Cornwallis' troops of 1776 in red coats and white breeches, armed with muskets and dragging a cannon on wheels. That cannon, when fed with signal flares and supported by smoke bombs, was the decision of history.

The alarm was given just before the British troops reached the Mess Hall, when a powerful American Force quickly established a road block and a patrol carried out an encircling movement to cut the British line of communication. But the British kept advancing, undeterred by the hail of snow bombs breaking in their ranks, until in no time at all they were overpowered, trussed up hand and foot, and placed in stocks, the newness of which indicated a fore-knowledge of their need.

Just when all seemed lost a courageous British gunner managed to light a red signal flare in his cannon, with which he

then charged through the enemy ranks, throwing them into great confusion, allowing General Cornwallis to regain his dignity and read the terms of surrender. Briefly, they demanded the hand-over of all American Forces, including female camp followers, for safe custody, together with all military stores and munitions, plus the payment of £500 in compensation for several shiploads of good tea, willfully destroyed by immersion in sea water. A further clause, in compliance with the system which claims all men are equal, decreed that all American Officers be stripped of their rank. This application of psychological warfare momentarily brought victory close.

The British demands were rejected, whereupon a request was politely made for transport back to Scott Base. The reply to this was withheld and instead the British General and his troops were offered an honourable parole, their arms were returned, and they were escorted to the Wardroom where the discussion of the battle was to take as long as the battle itself.

Both sides agreed that it was a most memorable 4th of July. ♫

1 https://kb.osu.edu/bitstream/handle/1811/6048/Blades_Jehu_transcript.pdf?sequence=1.

2 *News from the South*, Series 6, No. 6 (Antarctic Division, DSIR), August 1965, and *Antarctic* 4(3): 118, September 1965.

3 Hayter, A. (1968). *The Year of the Quiet Sun*. London: Hodder and Stoughton Limited.



Photos: Kharkovanka 23.
Photos courtesy of George Jones.



Antarctic Support for the Voice of Youth

As you may be aware, on Friday 15 March 2019, children in over 40 countries around the world (including New Zealand) were on strike from school in order to raise awareness of the actions that need to be taken to mitigate the effects of climate change.

To show their support for the intent of the organisers and participants of the School Strike for Climate NZ, the Patron and Council of the New Zealand Antarctic Society issued the following statement:

Antarctic support for the voice of youth

The Patron and Council of the New Zealand Antarctic Society here express their support for the intent of the organisers and participants of the School Strike for Climate NZ on Friday, 15 March, 2019. We see them as providing much needed encouragement for our political, business, religious and community leaders to commit themselves to working together and legislating for an ambitious and effective emissions reduction regime that ensures NZ emissions do not exceed carbon neutrality by 2050.

We do this because it's relevant to the second of the five objectives of our Society, "to seek the protection and proper management of the Antarctic environment". In recent years we have become aware through reports from the climate science community that the ice sheet has begun to melt as a consequence of greenhouse gas emissions. The best scientific advice to date indicates measures negotiated thus far through the United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention process are not yet adequate for meeting the Paris agreement target, carbon emissions neutrality by 2050, which would also preserve the ice sheet. We must do our share and are grateful to our young people for reminding us we must do better.

The students' School Strike throughout the country was winding down, when news came of a gunman firing on two Christchurch mosques, and killing 51 people. Our immediate thoughts are with the injured, their families and the families of those who died. None the less, the reasons behind the students' strike for Climate Change are important and on-going. 

Is This the Last Printed Issue of *Antarctic*?

For some time, Council have been concerned about the operating costs of the Society; the main increases being to the operation of the website, and of Council itself – now with four meetings a year instead of two. Although it is the Society's largest expense, costs for *Antarctic* magazine have remained fairly static over several years (the increase in page numbers from 16 to 24 was offset by a grant from the Lagace Legacy). Coupled with the current lowering of membership income, partly brought about by the new website, the Society has increasingly had to be propped up from its reserves.

Council have been exploring several options, among them an online-only delivery of *Antarctic* magazine – a move that the current Editor is vehemently resisting. Online delivery would mean that members would either receive the magazine by e-mail, or would have to log in to the website to read it. Print copies would probably no longer be available. While electronic delivery would result in savings on printing and postage, your Editor fears that another result would be a further decline in membership; a vicious spiral possibly leading to the eventual demise of the Society. Other options for the future of *Antarctic* magazine, in any format, include changes to size, frequency, and content.

An alternate approach is to raise membership fees in order to fund the Society's continued operation. Other than minor increases to Individuals and Families in 2016–17, membership fees have not substantially increased for many years, and a minimum of an adjustment for inflation might be expected by members at the Annual General Meeting this year.

While no decision on either the future of *Antarctic*, or on membership fees, has yet been advised, I would encourage you to make your views known by writing to either the President of the Society, Linda Kestle, president@antarcticsociety.org.nz, or to the Secretary, Gigi Green, secretary@antarcticsociety.org.nz.

Lester Chaplow
Editor, *Antarctic*



Robert Scott Memorial Boulder
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/robert-scott-memorial-boulder>. Accessed 05/02/2019.

New Zealand Gazetteer of Antarctic-related Statues and Memorials

We are all aware of “things Antarctic” within our communities. In many cases these go back over 100 years as memorials to expeditions of the Heroic Era. As a society we are pan-Antarctic, and as such we should as a minimum be aware of these items, and possibly either care for them ourselves or lobby local councils to do so.

At their October 2018 meeting the Society’s Council accepted a proposal for the establishment of a National Register of these various memorials.

As a starting point, a non-exhaustive list includes the following:

Auckland:

- Cemetery and headstone for unidentified victims of Erebus disaster, 1979, Waikumete Cemetery
- Erebus memorial and garden to crew (at Auckland Airport)
- Erebus Memorial Window, St Stephen’s Anglican Church, Whangaparaoa
- St Mathew in the City Memorial
- Various street names

Wellington:

- Byrd Memorial
- Mrs Chippy
- Graves of several Antarcticans

There are quite a number of places here, including places of specific interest to the Society’s beginnings.

Christchurch:

- Hector, the Lyttelton husky
- The Magnetic Observatory
- Kinsey’s Cottage
- Quail Island
- Robert Falcon Scott Statue

Again, a large number of places here.

Dunedin:

- Scott memorial above the port
- Grave of Seaman Bonner
- Hilda Evans Memorial Window, St Hilda’s Collegiate School chapel
- Various street names

Rest of South Island:

- Grave of Stoker Petty Officer Brissenden, French Pass
- Robert Scott Memorial Boulder, Queenstown

Stewart Island:

- Winter base for Norwegian whaling fleet, and home for Borchgrevink’s dogs

Your contribution to this list is invited. Please e-mail to editor@antarcticsociety.org.nz with details of the memorial or structure and its location, and possibly a photograph, together with any other details you may be able to add. ¶

Resignations

It is with no small regret that I must advise that this to be my final issue as Editor of *Antarctic* magazine. I have enjoyed bringing you these last 18 issues, and it has been a most rewarding time for me.

Eighteen issues represent nearly five years, a contribution that pales beside those from some previous Editors, one of whom produced 50 issues of *Antarctic* magazine. Their contribution is recorded below.

One of the privileges of being Editor is to work with the many contributors in order to bring you their stories. Many articles begin with an email along the lines of “Are you interested in ... ?”, or “Attached is an article I wrote after reading ... in the last issue.” A few articles arrive fully formed and almost ready for publication, while most require further checking and editing. Yet other articles

are invited, or written by the Editor, and all are formatted to the magazine’s style as per the style guide developed over the last several years.

For style, editing, and fact-checking I, and the Society, are indebted to Janet Bray. Janet was first involved with *Antarctic* in 2008, with issue 203, and was Guest Editor for a brief spell after the passing of Natalie Cadenhead. Janet will also be stepping down as Assistant Editor. Council is considering other options for *Antarctic* magazine, including size, frequency, content, and delivery, and a new Editorial team will have a clean slate from which to start.

It will be an exciting time for a new Editor, with issue 250 looming. If you think this role might be for you, please contact either the President of the Society, Linda Kestle, president@antarcticsociety.org.nz, or the Secretary, Gigi Green, secretary@antarcticsociety.org.nz.

Lester Chaplow

NZAS Editors, *Antarctic* magazine

From	To	Editor	First Issue	Last Issue	Issues
March 1956	June 1968	L. B. Quartermain	1	50	50
Sept 1968	Sept 1969	A. S. Helm	51	55	5
Dec 1969	March 1970	No Editor	56	57	2
June 1970	Sept 1973	H. F. Griffiths	58	71	14
Dec 1973	Sept 1984	J. M. Caffin	72	115	44
Dec 1984	Sept 1985	No Editor Named	116	119	4
Dec 1985	June 1995	Robin Ormerod	120	153	34
Sept 1995	Sept 1996	Greg Williamson	154	158	5
Dec 1996	March 1998	Shelley Grell	159	163	5
June 1998	Sep 2004	No Editor Named (Margaret Bradshaw)	164	190	27
Dec 2004	June 2009	Michelle Rogan-Finnemore	191	208	18
Sept 2009	June 2014	Natalie Cadenhead	209	228	20
Sept 2015	Dec 2015	Janet Bray	229	230	2
March 2016	June 2019	Lester Chaplow	231	248	18

The Second International Polar Year: 1 August 1932 to 31 August 1933

By Fred Davey

Introduction

The contribution of New Zealand to the Second International Polar Year (2IPY) has received minimal acknowledgement or credit in New Zealand. Quartermain (1) goes so far as to suggest that it achieved little, apparently quoting Skey and Kidson in saying that there was “no record of any use being made of” the magnetic data recorded, and that “New Zealand was able to contribute little to the Polar Year scheme”. However, although it was a difficult time for New Zealand, occurring during the financial stresses of the Great Depression and during recovery from the Great War, a quick look at the *Bibliography for the Second International Polar Year 1932–3* (2) shows a number of reports attributed to New Zealand scientists and several reports and research papers by international researchers that use the data recorded by the New Zealand 2IPY programme.

The First International Polar Year in 1882–3 (3) was considered to have been very successful, both for the international collaboration that occurred in accordance with a prearranged joint programme of observations and for the new knowledge gained about the Earth and its physical environment. In view of the large advances in techniques and in theory in the following decades, many scientists considered the time was right for a second International Polar Year to take place 50 years later in 1932–3.

The proposal for a Second International Polar Year was first tabled by Dr J. Georgi at a meeting in the Deutsche Seewarte in Hamburg on 23 November 1927, and later in the same year Vice-admiral H. Dominik, President of the Deutsche Seewarte submitted the proposal to the International Meteorological Committee of the International Meteorological Organization. A sub-commission prepared a formal proposal that was submitted to the International Meteorological Conference of Directors in September 1929, who adopted resolutions “that magnetic, auroral and meteorological measurements at a network of stations in the Arctic and Antarctic [should be undertaken] for one whole year ... during 1932–33, which is the Jubilee Year [the 50th anniversary] of the First International

Polar Year in 1882–83”. They also resolved that the observations should be undertaken by “international co-operation” (2). The conference considered the results of the research would have practical application to problems connected with terrestrial magnetism, marine and air navigation, wireless telegraphy, and weather forecasting. The development of instrumentation and analysis techniques was to be encouraged.

The Conference of Directors set up a new international commission – the Commission for the Polar Year 1932–3 – of seven members, with Dr D. la Cour, Director of the Danish Meteorological Institute, as president (2), which set to work immediately. Nations belonging to the International Meteorological Organization were invited to form national committees to progress the work. This membership of the Commission was expanded to fifteen national representatives the next year and included Edward Kidson, Director of the New Zealand Meteorological Service (Figure 1), who had been elected to the International Meteorological Committee in 1931 (4). Two additional members were added to the Commission in 1933. The Magnetic and Meteorological Associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics were invited to support the programme, as was the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (Hydrographic Committee). The Commission for the Polar Year held its first meeting in August 1930 (2).



Figure 1. Dr Edward Kidson, Director, New Zealand Meteorological Service. Reproduced with permission of Alexander Turnbull Library, Reference: PAColl-6303-39.

The 2IPY was planned for 1 August 1932 to 31 August 1933 and corresponded to the fiftieth anniversary of the First International Polar Year. It was also a quiet solar year (minimum sunspot activity). The global nature of the project was emphasised because information at lower latitudes was needed to fully understand the polar regions (2). La Cour undertook to organise the project for the International Meteorological Conference of Directors. However, the Great Depression meant few countries were initially prepared to support the proposal financially. Postponement was suggested by some due to this worldwide financial crisis, but in October 1931 the International Meteorological Organization decided to go ahead after strong encouragement by la Cour (2). The Commission set out the preferred plans for the instruments to be used and the observation programme. Forty-four countries, including New Zealand, agreed to participate by the start of the 2IPY, with 22 countries organising special expeditions to record data in remote locations and obtain a better global coverage (2).

New Zealand participation

The importance to the international community of New Zealand contributing to the 2IPY lay in its location in the Southern Hemisphere. Only 12 observatories existed in mid to high southern latitudes, with the nearest to New Zealand being Ushuaia in Argentina 7,700 kilometres east, Melbourne 2,500 kilometres to the west, and Apia 3,300 kilometres to the north; Antarctica and the South Magnetic Pole lay only 3,000 kilometres to the south. Observations from New Zealand were therefore very important to fill in a large gap in global coverage.

In 1930, the New Zealand Institute (forerunner of the Royal Society of New Zealand), under Dr Coleridge Farr as president, agreed to organise New Zealand's contribution to the 2IPY, and to do this it set up a Polar Year Committee. The proposed members included the governor general Lord Bledisloe (as president), Dr E. Kidson as convenor/secretary, Dr C. Coleridge Farr, Dr E. Marsden (DSIR), G. Shirtcliffe, Esq., W. R. B. Oliver, Esq., Professor P. W. Burbridge, H. E. Walsh, Esq., Sir Joseph Kinsey, Senior Naval Officer, Hon. G. M. Thomson, A. E. Hefford, Esq., Professor W. N. Benson, Professor D. M. Y. Sommerville, and Professor D. C. H. Florance. The Right Hon. G. W. Forbes, who was nominated as Minister of Scientific and Industrial Research, withdrew noting there could be conflicts arising from his position also as prime minister (5). The committee co-opted Messrs H. E. Vaile and R. E. Ford,

and Dr H. T. Ferrar (6). The Polar Year Committee held its first meeting on 10 July 1930.

The Committee considered various schemes for the participation of New Zealand in the 2IPY, including co-operative schemes for expeditions; Sir George Simpson (who had been on Scott's 1911–12 expedition) suggested a Great Britain–New Zealand summer station (1932–3, 1933–4) at Cape Adare (6) using RRS *Discovery* or a whaler (1), but the funds expected from New Zealand were too large, and a proposal for a joint expedition with Australia to Macquarie Island had no support from Australia (6). A proposal for a New Zealand-only expedition to Macquarie Island and/or the Auckland Islands was also unsuccessful as efforts to raise funds in New Zealand for an expedition proved unavailing, owing to the continually increasing severity of the financial depression (6). In his report to the New Zealand Institute for the year ending 31 March 1932, Kidson noted:

At its last meeting the Committee decided to discontinue active existence. The organisation will, however, be retained in case any opportunity should arise of furthering the objects of the Polar Year Scheme. It is hoped that special magnetic observations in accordance with a general scheme will be possible at the Magnetic Observatory at Amberley. Professors of Physics and workers in wireless telegraphy are asked to consider the possibilities of assisting by organising researches in Atmospheric Electricity, Cosmic Rays, the Aurora, Wireless Phenomena, or other lines. (6)

New Zealand contributions to the 2IPY were to be on an ad hoc basis as the existing meteorological and geophysics community was able.

The change came when, in February 1932, the Commission for the Polar Year received a grant of US\$40,000 from The Rockefeller Foundation, New York: \$30,000 was for magnetic instruments and \$10,000 for radiosondes. The sub-commission allocating the funds noted the need for a network of well distributed stations and the lack of stations in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly at high latitude (2). In April 1932, la Cour, as President of the Commission for the Polar Year 1932–3, offered the New Zealand Polar Year Committee a set of quick run magnetographs (Figure 2) for use on Macquarie Island or elsewhere (7). This offer was accepted with the intent to install them at the Geomagnetic Observatory at Amberley, as there were no funds for supporting the operation elsewhere. Recording at 12 times the standard rate, these newly designed instruments would give an accurate time

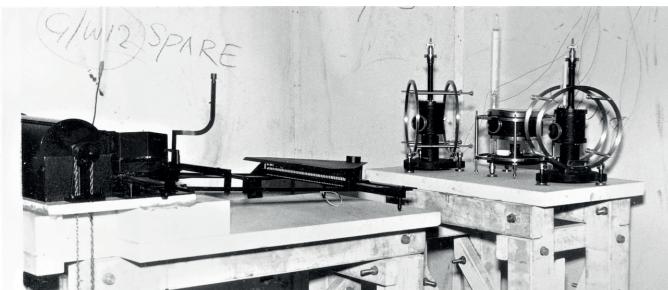


Figure 2. La Cour magnetographs.

record (within 2 seconds) of rapid changes in the Earth's magnetic field for comparison with those made in other parts of the world, and the Commission was keen to get data from as close to the South Magnetic Pole as possible. These rapid changes, or magnetic storms, were considered to be caused by fluctuating electric currents in the atmosphere, of external origin, possibly solar flares, and to be also related in some way to the recently discovered ionosphere.

It was estimated that £200 would be required for the installation of the instruments and the tabulation and publication of the data. An appeal to public and incorporated societies raised funds of just over £165 (the Magnetograph Fund) (7), with the principal contributors being the governor general Lord Bledisloe, G Shirtcliffe, and member bodies of the New Zealand Institute (8). Helm and Miller (9) state the total cost for installing and running the la Cour magnetographs was estimated to be £360, of which government grants would only cover £200, requiring public subscriptions to raise the remainder. They note that the total obtained after three months was £50, but Marsden "boldly" gave the order to proceed and eventually the required funds were contributed. However, Marsden, as Secretary for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), would have been in the position to underwrite any additional expenses for geomagnetic studies as the Geomagnetic Observatory was part of the DSIR. Mr H. F. Skey (Director of the Geomagnetic Observatory; Figure 3), was put in charge and he successfully operated within the available budget. At the conclusion of the 2IPY, Skey expressed his appreciation to the New Zealand Polar Year Committee, and for the generosity of contributors to the Magnetograph Fund (8).

In addition to the geomagnetic measurements, the New Zealand Polar Year Committee arranged that determination of the height of the Heaviside layer "should be carried out, the instrument being installed at Victoria College, Wellington, under the direction of Prof Florance and Dr Barnett". In addition, special meteorological observations were planned to be carried

out at the Meteorological Office and the Christchurch Magnetic Observatory, with the New Zealand Astronomical Society recording auroras (7).

An essential part of the observatory programmes were the "international days" or "term days" (10), when all the global observatories made a standard series of observations at the exact same time – essential for understanding temporal- and spatial-varying phenomena. These had three levels: I – on one day every month; II – on one day every month but two weeks distant from the day of Level 1; and III – on one day every week. All observations were to be tabulated and submitted to the international Commission for the Polar Year, where they would be accessible to the international scientific community.

Scientific results

The *Bibliography for the Second International Polar Year 1932–33* (2) notes 13 data reports and scientific papers submitted by New Zealand to the international Commission for the Polar Year in the research areas of meteorology, solar radiation, aerology, geomagnetism, atmospheric electricity, and auroras. Copies were held in the Polar Year Archives at the Danish Meteorological Institute in Charlottenlund, Denmark.

Meteorology

At the New Zealand Meteorological Service's office in Wellington and the Magnetic Observatory in Christchurch, meteorological observations included the usual recordings three times daily, with additional observations, including on clouds, made on term days. Pilot balloon observations were made at both Wellington and Christchurch on all suitable mornings and at midday on term days during the 2IPY. When the curtailed Lincoln Ellsworth Antarctic Expedition returned to New Zealand just after the 2IPY finished, unused radiosondes were



Figure 3. Mr Henry F. Skey, Director, Christchurch Magnetic Observatory. From Baird (24). Reproduced with permission of American Geophysical Union.

deployed at Wellington for additional atmospheric data (11). Observations of the variations of electric potential gradient in the atmosphere were made using a Benndorf electrograph that operated continuously during the 2IPY (12). Measurements of barometric pressure were made throughout the 2IPY period (9).

Research outputs included a significant paper by Palmer (13) on identifying and quantifying the formation and eastward drift of anticyclones in the Southern Hemisphere mid-latitudes (Australia and New Zealand), which used 2IPY data from both Australia and New Zealand and from Norwegian whaling vessels

Magnetism

The set of la Cour quick-speed magnetographs was received on August 1932, and installed on arrival in a basement room constructed during July–August 1932 at Amberley. The instruments were recording from the middle of September 1932 (9). Absolute geomagnetic measurements were made at 10-day intervals, with additional continuous three-component magnetic variometer (Eschenhagen) measurements also at Amberley. Measurement of all records for the 2IPY (1932–3) were tabulated and forwarded to la Cour. Many valuable records of magnetic disturbances were secured. Early in the 2IPY, la Cour was able to report a verification of the worldwide simultaneous nature of some of the phenomena of magnetic storms, about which considerable doubt had formerly existed, as well as other important characteristics of the storms (12).

Ionosphere

Although Fleming states that “work was undertaken on Heaviside layer at Victoria University College” (14) and the 1933 report of the New Zealand Polar Year Committee (6) notes “it has been possible to arrange that determinations of the height of the Heaviside layer should be carried out”, no record has been found of any measurements being made. Fraser (15, 16) and White (17) in their histories of ionospheric research in New Zealand do not record any ionospheric studies at this time, the earliest being at Auckland University College in 1927 where George Munro used university equipment to measure an ionosphere height of 91 kilometres (16), but then there is a time gap in New Zealand measurements until those at Victoria College (now Victoria University of Wellington) by Peddie in 1935 (15). There is no record at Victoria College of any ionospheric work at this time (18). However, following the 2IPY, New Zealand scientists became very active in ionospheric studies (16, 17).

Auroras

The New Zealand Astronomical Society’s Solar Committee carried out a programme of observations of solar and auroral phenomena. This work resulted in a catalogue of aurora australis displays for 1931–8 (19).

All the observations were tabulated and submitted to the Commission for the Polar Year in Denmark, where they would be accessible to the international scientific community. In April 1934, the New Zealand Polar Year Committee reported “excellent progress” with the magnetographs, and that “extra meteorological observations have been completed at Wellington and Christchurch”. However, no comment was made about ionospheric measurements (8). A final report was to be tabled in 1937 (14) but no record of the latter has been found. Of the Magnetograph Fund, £48 remained at the end of the 2IPY, and at the time of the final meeting of the New Zealand Polar Year Committee on 8 April 1935 the funds had reduced to 5s. 9d., so the committee disbanded (8).

Post Second International Polar Year

After the 2IPY finished, the International Meteorological Organization agreed that the Commission would continue after the year to ensure the observations made would be available to scientists and others, and that it would act as a central bureau for observed data and associated publications (2). They also agreed that all 2IPY magnetic instruments would stay with the institutes using them. Skey continued using the la Cour magnetographs at Amberley until 1956 when they were transferred to the Apia Observatory. When World War II broke out in 1939, the International Commission for the Polar Year was still working through the collation and analysis of the observational data. La Cour died in 1942, but the work of archiving and analysing the data continued until the International Meteorological Organization Conference of Directors decided to dissolve all their commissions in March 1946. However, they set up a temporary commission – the Temporary Commission on the Liquidation of the Second International Polar Year, 1932–3 – to complete the task, which included the preparation of a bibliography of the observations made during the 2IPY, many of which were in archives at the Danish Meteorological Institute in Charlottenlund. The 2IPY archives were retained at the Danish Meteorological Institute (2).

The role of Kidson is interesting – as Director of the New Zealand Meteorological Service he was a member

of the International Meteorological Organization and he was the convenor/secretary of the New Zealand Polar Year Committee and reported regularly to the New Zealand Institute with a summary of activities. However, no mention of this is covered in either his biography (20) or in the book of his career prepared by his wife shortly after his death in 1939 (4). This suggests that the 2IPY had little impact on his personal work or that of the New Zealand Meteorological Service, probably for several reasons: there were no additional funds for additional measurements; he had been developing the New Zealand Meteorological Service from five staff in 1927 to 40 in 1939 (4); shortly after the 2IPY there was an unusually hot summer (exceeded only in 2018; Brett Mullan (NIWA) noted that the summer 1934/35 was so unusual it prompted New Zealand Meteorological Service Director Kidson to report on it in a special Meteorological Office Note (21)); and a major fast-moving cyclone (the Great Storm of 1936) passed rapidly across the North Island, causing major damage (22). Furthermore, Kidson had a major personal interest in Antarctic meteorology, having completed an analysis of Shackleton's observations from the 1910 expedition and he was in the throes of analysing the meteorological observations from Mawson's 1912 expedition (4).

Although, as noted earlier, Quartermain (1) considers that New Zealand contributed very little to the 2IPY, by July 1934, la Cour (10, p. 232) quotes results from New Zealand, and further reports, regional and global, have been noted briefly above. One problem in assessing the New Zealand's contribution to the 2IPY is the nature of the project. Observatories from around the globe submitted their observations to the central bureau at the Danish Meteorological Institute (la Cour), where data were catalogued and made available to researchers internationally. This took time and the final cataloguing was not completed until 1950 (2). The frequent simultaneous measurements around the globe were vital for studying rapidly changing global processes such as weather systems and phenomena associated with the external magnetic field, such as auroras, magnetic storms, radio transmission, and the ionosphere. It is in these disciplines that the major advances were made, setting up future research directions. The data from New Zealand were very important, as they provided information from a region with very few observatories for use in global studies (e.g. 23). Therefore, although the information it provided was not studied much by New Zealand researchers, it was of importance to global research, such as on the magnetic field of the Earth, including its secular variation – essential for navigation at the time; spatial changes in large scale weather patterns and their

causes; the relationship of rapid magnetic field variations to solar activity (solar flares), and the ionosphere with its effects on radio transmission, a rapidly developing field. New Zealand did make a valuable contribution to the Second International Polar Year. ¶

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- 24 Baird, H. F., 1947. Henry Fawcett Skey, Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity, v52(2), pp 261–262, doi.org/10.1029/TE052i002p00261.

Midwinter in the Antarctic

As we approach midwinter, and the shortest day of the austral year, our thoughts commonly turn to celebration; a celebration that we are half-way through the winter. For folk wintering-over in Antarctica, that same winter brings a night of some four months' length. Here are some extracts from the records of early expeditions.

21/06/1899

Midwinter Day. Now the great sun god commences to return, bringing with it sunshine and warmth and brightness and probably a few sparks of happiness within the breasts of members of the expedition. Hey ho! It's a dreary time, these long dark nights. The inactiveness is what one feels most.

Louis Bernacchi, *That First Antarctic Winter*, p.130. (Ed. J. Crawford). Christchurch: South Latitude Research Limited, (1998).

June 22. – It is midnight and midwinter. Thirtyfive long, dayless nights have passed. An equal number of dreary, cheerless days must elapse before we again see the glowing orb, the star of the day. The sun has reached its greatest northern declination. We have thus passed the Antarctic midnight. The winter solstice is to us the meridian day, the zenith of the night as much so as twelve o'clock is the meridian hour to those who dwell in the more favoured lands, in the temperate and tropical zones, where there is a regular day and night three hundred and sixty-five times in the yearly cycle.

Frederick Cook,
Through the First Antarctic Night, p.323.
Pittsburgh: The Polar Publishing Company, (1998).

St. Hans' Eve, 1911 [Norwegian – the eve of the Feast Day of St John the Baptist, to celebrate the northern summer solstice, on 23 June. Ed.] In the hut preparations for a feast were going on, and now one could really appreciate a good house. The change from the howling wind, the driving snow, the intense cold, and the absolute darkness, was great indeed when one came in. Everything was newly washed, and the table was gaily decorated. Small Norwegian flags were everywhere, on the table and walls. The festival began at six, and all the "Vikings" came merrily in. Lindström had done his best, and that is not saying a little. I specially admired his powers and his liberality – and I think, even in the short time I have observed him, he has shown no sign of being stingy – when he appeared with the "Napoleon" cakes. Now I must tell you that these cakes were served after every man had put away a quarter of a plum-pudding. The cakes were delightful to look at – the finest puff-pastry, with layers of vanilla custard and cream. They made my mouth water.

But the size of them! – there could not be one of those mountains of cake to every man? One among them all, perhaps – if they could be expected to eat Napoleon cakes at all after the plum-pudding. But why had he brought in eight – two enormous dishes with four on each? Good heavens – one of the Vikings had just started, and was making short work of his mountain. And one after another they all walked into them, until the whole eight had disappeared.

Roald Amundsen, *The South Pole*, pp.335–6.
St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, (1976).

The United States Exploring Expedition was not in the Antarctic for mid-winter, but did celebrate occasions ...
The 4th of July was duly celebrated. *The Falmouth*, Captain M'Keever, fired a salute in honour of the day, and the *Vincennes* was dressed with national flags [1838].

Charles Wilkes, *United States Exploring Expedition*, Vol 1, p.236.
Upper Saddle River: The Gregg Press, (1970).

... June 21, the darkest day of the year.

Finn Ronne, *Antarctic Command*, p.163.
New York: Bobbs-Merrill (1961).

Friday the 22nd was wine in a glass.

Richard Byrd, *Alone*, p.221.
London: Putnam (1938).

As we moved ahead into our winter night, our biggest celebration came on June 22, or "Midnight", after which date the winter night was half over so that we could begin to look forward hopefully to eventual sunlight.

... Dinner began at four p.m. with grace said by Doc. Taylor. Then Jack and I proposed four champagne toasts ... "To the forty-eight states, our country and the President," ... "To the IGY as it begins on July first," ... "To our families, wives and sweethearts," "To Byrd, and to Scott, Amundsen and all those who made our presence here possible – to Antarctica."

Paul Siple, *90° South*, pp.274–5.
New York: Putnam (1959).

A Toast to “Past Parties”: Antarctic Midwinter Celebration

By Bob Norman

Good gentles all – it hath been put to me
 That on this specially mark'd mid-winter day
 A toast be offered to intrepid men
 Who first did tread Antarctic's frozen land.

So prithee, list ye to my little song.
 Far south, all doth remain unchanged in peace.
 In timeless, hastesless passage o'er the years
 Wheel by the seasons – nature's lights and shades.
 So far, and yet so near, the stage is set.
 How long have we stood witness to this scene?
 Why, but a century ago did man
 First etch his footprints on the southern ice,
 So all our understanding of this place,
 Of human lives, quests and discoveries
 Resideth in one small capsule of time.
 But in that instant, so much has been done.
 Heights have been scal'd, fastnesses survey'd,
 Depths have been plumb'd, and knowledge thus enrich'd
 By science, in its manifold endeavours.

Turn back the clock – one hundred years ago
 The first mid-winter party did take place.
 There on “Discovery”, anchored at Hut Point
 Did Robert Falcon Scott and all his men
 Enjoy a banquet fit for Royalty –
 At 6pm the turtle soup came round
 And then the mutton, generously serv'd;
 Plum puddings, pies and cakes made up the fare,
 Washed down by bottles of good dry champagne.
 The Ross Sea winter night did then resound
 With sounds of revelry and much good cheer.
 And in his record, Captain Scott did write :
 “If happiness to-day can surely end
 This first small part of our captivity,
 What room for doubt can there remain that we
 Shall see with triumph all our planned sojourn
 With such contentment and indeed great joy.”

So pass'd the first mid-winter way down south.
 And from that time, did bands of famous men
 Look south, sail'd there and sought the stars,
 And all the other myst'ries of our earth;
 And by example they have taught the world,
 And all who followed them, so many things.
 Not just the sciences we practise now,
 But fortitude, endurance and plain pluck,
 And commonsense – a faculty that's rare
 To find these days in halls of government!

Oh gentles all, the time is passing by
 And may I thus conclude my humble tale
 In just four stanzas in my tribute so.

In London's own St Paul's, 'tis said of Wren:
 “If ye would seek his monuments, look round!”
 We too can speak in similar refrain,
 Our artifacts do ev'rywhere abound.

And past explorers, with their open hearts,
 Have brought to others much of learning's fount.
 The whole is just the sum of many parts,
 And finally, 'tis little things that count.

So there it is. Speak well where'er ye go
 Of this society of famous men.
 Take note: howe'er the sands of time may blow,
 We'll never look upon their likes again.

So raise your glasses high and drink a toast
 To good times gone, and others yet to be –
 And to those folk who serv'd us more than most –
 Past Parties – may they shine eternally!

From 94 Not Out: Tales of an Engineer (2017).
 Paraparaumu: Slide Rule Press, pp.45–47.

The Antarctic Treaty: A brief personal perspective

By Fred Davey

At a recent celebration of Antarctic surveying by the Institute of Surveyors (Survey and Spatial New Zealand), I gave a brief personal perspective on the Antarctic Treaty. The Antarctic Treaty is arguably the, or one of the, most successful international treaties. Apart from its success in managing the peaceful use and environmental protection of the continent, its meetings have been known as a place where “off the record” informal discussions could be held on difficult diplomatic issues occurring elsewhere. The Treaty grew out of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) – an international global collaborative scientific study of the physical properties and processes of the Earth and its environment, involving all but one of the (then) 68 countries belonging to the United Nations.

The New Zealand IGY programme, led by Eddie Robertson of DSIR, comprised geophysical observatory programmes at many locations, from the equator to the Antarctic. One IGY study of interest to surveyors may be the measurement of the detailed astronomical position of a global network of observatories (including the Seismological Observatory at Wellington) that led to the finding that the Earth is not round, but pear shaped. New Zealand had a strong IGY programme in Antarctica, with a comprehensive programme of observatory and other measurements at Scott Base and Hallett Station (the latter joint with the US), led by Trevor Hatherton.

The success of the international scientific collaboration led the nations participating in the IGY in Antarctica to conclude that international collaboration was the key to the future activities in Antarctica, with an emphasis on peace and science, rather than have individual nations following often competing claimant positions. The 12 major nations (including New Zealand) agreed (1 Dec 1959) and ratified (1961) the Antarctic Treaty. There are now 53 parties to the Treaty.

It has had its up and downs or misunderstandings, but its intent has always been positive. One case where there may have been some misunderstanding of intent

may be the negotiation of the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA) in 1988. The requirement for a convention arose because there was interest from some parties (nations and private companies) for the exploration for, and presumably production of, hydrocarbons in the large sedimentary basins of the Antarctic continental shelf. Note this time followed closely after the 1970s oil shortage and concern about peak oil, and oil was being produced in the Arctic (North Slope, Alaska). I was well aware of this and had published two scientific papers on the potential for hydrocarbons on the Antarctic continental shelf.

The Treaty nations realised that there was no mechanism in place to control mineral exploration and any impacts it may have. Some control was needed, so the Convention to control and regulate activities was negotiated. Chris Beeby (New Zealand) led the negotiations. I was fortunate to be a very minor member of the New Zealand delegation. The Convention had strong legal liability and environmental clauses – the result of major discussions. I recall one legal discussion where the meaning of one word was discussed for one afternoon and no conclusion was reached – note the word had to mean the same in four languages. The Convention was “done” (agreed) in June 1988; 19 (out of 21) nations signed by November 1989. However, it was rejected by France and Australia at this stage and never came in force. It still exists within the Treaty system, but is “parked”. However, the environmental clauses negotiated formed a large part of the “Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty” that was agreed shortly after in 1991 and came into force in 1998.

The Treaty nations continued concern for the well-being of Antarctica and its environment has recently been emphasised by the agreed Marine Protected Area covering most of the Ross Sea and part of the adjacent Southern Ocean. ¶

Midwinter Dinners

June is the month of midwinter dinners. Our three Society branch dinners are as follows:

- Canterbury:** Saturday 29 June, afternoon and evening.
Canterbury@antarcticsociety.org.nz
- Wellington:** Thursday 20 June, 6.00--7.30 p.m.
Wellington@antarcticsociety.org.nz
- Auckland:** TBA.
Auckland@antarcticsociety.org.nz

Next Sunrise

Scott Base –
Monday, 19 August, 12.30 pm

South Pole –
Saturday, 21 September, 4.39 pm

Seeking Information

David Harrowfield (Oamaru) is completing a small publication outlining the fascinating past for two former Scott Base huts, presently located in Oamaru.

He would especially like to hear from anyone (who has not already assisted) who is able to provide impressions of living in, or even a humorous story concerning, the wanigan known as “The Swamp”.

If anyone has a photograph of the interior in the 1970s–1990s this will be very welcome.

Also, any memory of the small shuttle shelter known as “The Bus Stop” will be appreciated.

David can be contacted at dh.adelie@gmail.com and all correspondence will be replied to.



New Zealand Antarctic Society Membership

www.antarcticsociety.org.nz

You are invited to join; please complete the membership application form at www.antarcticsociety.org.nz/membership.

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

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

- *Antarctic*, the quarterly publication of the Society. *Antarctic* is unique in Antarctic literature as it is the only periodical which provides regular and up to date news of the activities of all nations at work in the Antarctic, Southern Ocean, and Subantarctic Islands. It has worldwide circulation.
- Attend meetings, and educational and fun events that are held by the Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury branches of the Society.

The Editor of *Antarctic* welcomes articles from any person on any subject related to the Antarctic, the Southern Ocean, or Subantarctic regions. In particular, articles recounting personal experiences of your time in the Antarctic are welcomed. Articles may be submitted at any time to the Editor at editor@antarcticsociety.org.nz. The Editor reserves the right to decline to

publish an article for any reason whatsoever. Note that all articles will be subject to editorial review before publishing. Please see our advice to contributors and guidelines for authors at www.antarcticsociety.org.nz/our-magazine, or contact the Editor.

Advertising, including inserts, is also welcome. Please contact the Editor for rates and bookings.

Overseas branch enquiries should be directed to secretary@antarcticsociety.org.nz, or to:

The National Secretary
New Zealand Antarctic Society
PO Box 404
Christchurch 8140
New Zealand

Antarctic magazine correspondence, advertising enquiries, and article submissions should be sent to editor@antarcticsociety.org.nz, or to:

The Editor
New Zealand Antarctic Society
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New Zealand

Enquiries regarding back issues of *Antarctic* should be sent to backissues@antarcticsociety.org.nz, or to the Editor at the above address.

Claims for missing issues should be sent to claims@antarcticsociety.org.nz. Such claims can be considered only if made immediately after the subscriber has received the subsequent issue.

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Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those writers who have contributed articles and assisted in the production of *Antarctic* in this issue, with a special thank you to Janet Bray.



Captain Cook Society and Friends of the RNZN Museum Trust,
in association with the National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy,
invite you to a conference to mark 250 years since the search for
Terra Australis by HMB *Endeavour* and over a 1000 years of
Polynesian discovery of Whenua-ki-te-Tonga.



Whenua-ki-te-Tonga – Terra Australis

If you have an interest in Polynesian voyaging and discovery of the Pacific and its southern lands (Whenua-ki-te-Tonga) and the European theory and search for Terra Australis, including HMB *Endeavour's* 1768–71 voyage, this event is for you! Speakers will consider the people involved, their motivations and achievements and how they can be considered today. Presentations and events will be at a variety of historic and culturally significant venues.



Dates

15–17 November 2019

Venues

National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy:
Te Waka Huia o Te Tau Moana o Aotearoa, Torpedo Bay
Te Tau Moana o Aotearoa Marae, Ngataringa Bay

HMNZS *PHILOMEL*, Home of the Navy:
Te Kainga o Te Tau Moana o Aotearoa, Devonport Navy Base

During November 1769 Lt James Cook navigated HMB Endeavour through the Hauraki rohe, anchoring in Te-Whanganui-a-Hei to observe the Whakawhiti ki te Whiro and then proceeded into the waters of Tikapa Moana, venturing up the Waihou Awa and sailing past Waiheke and other motu before progressing along the Te Tai Tokerau takutai and entering Ipiripi. Throughout his journey he met with Māori, descendants of the first kaiwhakarato of the Whenua-ki-te-Tonga. 250 years after Kuki's time in the Auckland region we gather to consider the capability and achievements of the great Polynesian kaihōpara and the intrepid European explorers who followed, centuries later, in search for Whenua-ki-te-Tonga: Terra Australis.

