

Newsletter Five – August 2020

Welcome from the Chair

Like every other organization, business and family in Aotearoa we have been impacted by Covid-19 this year. Just as we gained traction last year with our [Visiting Programme](#) for Student Leaders and Seniors, we were faced with closing Hillary House to everybody and cancelling our forward bookings. As we go to publication we are in Covid-19 lockdown again, with a daunting task ahead to reignite and rebuild our work. Our forward plans will be the regeneration of our Visiting Programme and in due course we will begin again to contact schools and retirement villages to book their visits from early 2021.

Over 350 student leaders and seniors visited Hillary House last year and we acknowledge the work done by our Hillary Helpers, Bernadette and Christine, in achieving this. We would also like to thank our sponsors Karcher NZ and YourWeb who, like Sir Ed, have hung in to support us at this very difficult time. As a result of our wonderful fundraising day at Gibbs Farm in November last year, we intend to double the number of visits from interested groups in 2021.

Changes continue at the House and we farewelled two of our trustees earlier this year. We most sincerely thank Gerschen van Niekerk, who served five years on our trust and was a senior lead teacher at SEHC and Connie Miller, who brought her marketing expertise to the role and has now moved to the United Kingdom. We have welcomed Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi, who brings her local community knowledge and a background in arts development with schools. In her current role at Auckland Art Gallery, Iokapeta has worked with Sarah Hillary.

In the meantime, our stories reflect the aims of our Visiting Programme and our strategic aims to work closely and to support other organisations such as the Antarctic Heritage Trust, who foster Sir Ed's legacy.

Bairds Mainfreight gives back to Hillary House

Huge thanks go to [Bairds Mainfreight Primary School](#) leaders and their teachers who late last year fundraised for Hillary House after their [Student Leader Visiting Programme](#) workshop last year. These marvellous young people were so inspired by what they learned about Sir Ed and his values at Hillary House, that they returned to school and planned a school-wide fundraiser for the House.

Having identified their cause, the student leaders set a goal and went about organising events such as fashion parades and food stalls. They learned to work as a team, capitalizing on their combined skills and supporting each other throughout the project. Their fundraising efforts, to our surprise, were to support the work of Hillary House, which they viewed as such a valuable place for future leaders to visit in New Zealand.



Trust Chair, Robin Houliker, with 2020 Inspiring Explorers A'aifou Poteman (left) and Jaylee Savage (right)



We're not in Antarctica, but we have got ice-blocks

Our highlight was the follow-up invitation to the school on 2 December, where our trust received a cheque for \$1,409.00 – totally unexpected, a very generous gesture from a school of limited resources and a wonderful way to finish our Hillary House year. We look forward to welcoming their new student leaders in 2021, and acknowledge the support of Otago Papatoetoe Local Board with facilitation of our workshops.



Holy Cross Catholic School leaders with Lana and Mele

Sir Ed motivates Holy Cross school visit

Lana Kiddie-Vai and Mele Fetu'u, the SEHC students who were selected for the 2019 **Antarctic Heritage Trust Inspiring Explorers Expedition**, shared their Antarctic experiences with young school leaders when they visited the House late last year. Senior teachers at **Holy Cross Catholic School, Papatoetoe** saw the experience as so valuable they brought their entire Year 7 cohort to visit the House that Ed built.

Motivated by the workshop visit, students' follow-up comments on what leadership looks like included considering leadership in the school and in the community. When students reflected upon leadership at school they identified important values such as 'being a good sibling', 'showing that you care', 'encouraging those who feel insecure about themselves' and 'respecting others, so they respect you.'

While these values also apply in the community, students could see that a greater commitment to giving of their time would be fundamental to achieving their goals. Students are always impressed with how Sir Ed returned to support the communities in Nepal through such a long period of his life. These opportunities to learn about Sir Ed's life and reflect upon his values are an important part of our [Student Leader Visiting Programme](#).



A willing Karcher volunteer helps us clean Hillary House

Karcher cleans up impressively

In 2016, **Karcher New Zealand** adopted Hillary House as a Place of National Significance within Karcher's international cultural sponsorship programme. Twice a year employees from around the country volunteer to spend the day cleaning every nook and cranny of Hillary House with their equipment and products.

Kere McBratney, Country Manager, says Karcher is proud to be able to support Hillary House through its cultural sponsorship programme. "We provide our local cleaning expertise to help maintain a treasured piece of Kiwi history, allowing your Trust to focus its energy on providing an inspirational location for developing leaders to further their development.

As a family owned business, Karcher takes corporate social responsibility seriously. Being the worldwide leader in cleaning technology allows Karcher to share expertise and resources to aid in the preservation and protection of many well-known, historically significant monuments and building worldwide."

The Hillary House trustees, who are also all volunteers, are indebted to Karcher for their help in maintaining a high standing of cleaning in Sir Ed's home. We hope our followers and supporters will check out Karcher's amazing range of home and business maintenance products – they deserve our support.



Jaylee and A'aifou

Inspiring Explorers Expedition 2020

What an amazing experience for our trustee Shauna Eldridge who, along with Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate students, Jaylee Savage and A'aifou Potemani, was selected for the **2020 Antarctic Heritage Trust Inspiring Explorers Expedition**. Shauna is Deputy Principal at SEHC and her selection was the trip of a lifetime. We are delighted to cover some highlights from her favourite parts of the expedition, as covered in her linking report (link to pdf file HH Shauna Antarctica Report 21Mar20).

“It was absolutely amazing to see the growth in personal development and confidence, as well as the leadership capacity of my students, Jaylee Savage and A'aifou Potemani. I was so proud of them throughout the expedition, and particularly when they taught the team a haka on the ship and led its performance in front of the rest of the guests. Watching A'aifou perform karaoke in front of a large audience and receive two standing ovations was also fantastic.

Another favourite part of the trip was the amazing opportunity Antarctic Heritage Trust provided for us to kayak, both throughout the expedition, and during the six sessions they arranged for us at the Vector Wero Whitewater Park before we left. This gave our students their first experience of the expedition, of pushing their boundaries, overcoming fear, and extending themselves in a way they hadn't before. Once in Antarctica, the opportunity to kayak definitely enhanced our experience, as it brought us so much closer to the wonders of the continent, from the icebergs, to the whales, seals and penguins. Seeing Jaylee's confidence and excitement as she moved from our double kayak to a single one, and watching both students take the polar plunge, were other highlights for me. We all had such an incredible, growthful experience on the expedition. It was something you can't buy for love or money.”



Nigel Watson, CEO of AHT (left) with SEHC leadership team, student leaders and the PM

Sir Ed's Antarctica now a virtual reality

On Friday 31 July Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, launched the Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT) unique virtual reality experience of Sir Edmund Hillary's Antarctic hut at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate (SEHC).

Developed in partnership with Auckland University of Technology over two years, the free virtual reality experience allows users to explore Sir Edmund Hillary's hut in Antarctica. The experience provides insight into how Sir Ed's team of 23 lived and worked in the world's most extreme environment more than 60 years ago. The **Antarctic Heritage Trust** conserved the building in time for the 60th anniversary of Scott Base in 2017.

Using the app, users can tour the five rooms of the building, viewing hundreds of artefacts from the early years of New Zealand's Antarctic programme and learn more about New Zealand's first presence in Antarctica. The virtual reality experience is free and can be downloaded from the app store. Visit the Trust's website for more information:

<https://nzah.org/share/virtual-reality/>



When we see wonderful developing leadership in our student visitors it makes the reason for Hillary House come alive. Despite a difficult year to date, our stories reflect the emerging confidence in our youth and this was reiterated by Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, at the launch of the AHT virtual reality experience.

We were delighted that she was able to spend a short time at Hillary House prior to the launch function, and we look forward to welcoming her to the House more formally next year. We know she is very impressed by the journey of the House and the work that has been done to preserve the legacy of Sir Ed in his home as a beacon of motivation for young people.

Nga mihi

Robin

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