

Historic Public Houses

The British Hotel was chosen for Scott's farewell dinner for the *Discovery* Expedition in 1901 and the Mitre for the *Terra Nova* expedition in 1912. Both epitomised the elegance of their day but the Lyttelton Times records a reported fracas between the modern Mrs Scott and traditional Mrs Evans in the presence of Mrs Wilson. Since the heroic era Lyttelton remains a watering hole for visiting Antarcticans.



Lyttelton Historical Museum

Currently awaiting rebuild, the museum will again feature all aspects of Lyttelton's colonial history. The old building had two floors and four galleries displaying an eclectic collection of model ships, whaling and maritime objects, Antarctic relics and numerous photos of people, buildings and places – even a sled dog.



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Seafarers' Centre

The original Seafarers' Centre near the railway station offered a welcome space for visiting seafarers, including those voyaging in Antarctic waters. Destroyed by fire it was replaced on Norwich Quay but was again destroyed by the 2011 earthquake. Lyttelton continues to offer hospitality in the town, including free wifi from the Library, and a new centre will be built as soon as possible.

Antarctic Sled Dog statue

A bronze sled dog statue to be installed on London Street celebrates nearly 250 years of Lyttelton's association with the Antarctic.



The statue encourages everyone to pet and love the dog. It reminds us of the courage, tenacity and comradeship shared by Antarcticans in the heroic and IGY eras and our many seafarers who voyage in Antarctic waters.

Timeball Station

Before radio, navigators needed accurate time to determine longitude: heading east or west. A few seconds error could place a ship on rocks even in charted waters. With the invention of chronometers, Timeball stations were established. Lyttelton's station was built in 1876 using an astronomical clock from the makers of London's Big Ben. Every day at 1pm a 100kg ball was dropped above a tower so navigators could adjust their chronometers and determine error rates. By 1918 when times were broadcast by radio, the ball was dropped only twice weekly. The service ceased in 1934. The Station had to be demolished after the 2011 earthquake, but may be rebuilt. For more info, visit www.timeball.co.nz



Quail Island

Lying in the flooded crater of Lyttelton's

extinct volcano, this 81 hectare island offers beautiful scenery, great walks, wildlife, ships' graveyard and glimpses into the past through the Information Centre and track panels. During the peak of Antarctic exploration, 1901–1929, the island was a quarantine and training area for the sled dogs and ponies of Scott and Shackleton's expeditions. It also housed New Zealand's only leprosy quarantine colony. Prisoners from Lyttelton Gaol did much of the heavy work, building stone terrace walls and tracks, and planting trees. Sadly only a replica of a sled dog kennel survives.

Lyttelton Sea Scouts

Sea Scouts, based in Lyttelton and Governor's Bay, are active in outdoor training, development and competition, on and off water. Their original wooden lifeboat from *RMS Niagara* was given to the Troop in 1940 after the *Niagara*



© NZ Historic Places Trust

was sunk by a mine north of New Zealand, carrying a large quantity of gold which was salvaged in secret for the Bank of England. Longboat *Terra Nova* (90), a wooden, gaff rigged cutter, was launched around 1948. She was damaged beyond repair in 1966 and replaced with a *Dunedin* mould cutter (123), launched in 1969. Easter Regatta 2007 was her last outing under sail. She is now used for rowing.



Lyttelton Pharmacy and Post Office
Offers Antarctic (Ross Dependency) stamps and postal services.

Further information:

Christchurch

Christchurch i-SITE Visitor Centre

Find Christchurch Antarctic Links, visit www.christchurch.org.nz/antarctic or i-SITE on Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch. Tel. 03-379 9629

Akaroa

Akaroa i-SITE Visitor Centre

Find Frank Worsley, visit www.akaroa.com or i-SITE at 120 Rue Jolie, Akaroa 7520. Tel. 03-304 8600

New Zealand Antarctic ports

Find Antarctic links at NZ's other Antarctic ports: Bluff, Port Chalmers (Dunedin), Oamaru and Wellington



Disclaimer: Information correct when printed: May 2014.

www.antarctic.org.nz



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Antarctic Port

LYTTELTON HARBOUR

W H A K A R A U P O



Welcome!

Seafaring in Lyttelton spans 500 years since Maori first arrived.

Captain James Cook voyaged to Antarctica in 1770 after naming Banks' 'Island' (Peninsula) for his biologist Sir Joseph Banks. Whaler Benjamin Morell, in *Antarctic*, is the first recorded Antarctic to visit Lyttelton in 1830. Several whaling ships followed and by the 1840's many had stayed.

Lyttelton became a haven for Antarctic exploration in the heroic era, which continued through International Geophysical Year (IGY) in the 1950s. Modern visitors are low key. Keep an eye out for *Italica* (Italy), *Nathaniel B Palmer* (US), *Araon* (Korea), *Spirit of Enderby* (NZ), *Sir Hubert Wilkes* (Aus), fishing vessels such as *OceanBreeze* and private expeditions such as *Apostol Andrey* (USSR), *Gambo* (UK) and *Greenpeace*. Welcome to our port and harbour.



Examining the lamp at Scott's *Terra Nova* hut in 1963. From left: Mortimer McCarthy, William McDonald and Bill Burton.



St Saviours in Trinity

The church has three foundation stones. Consecrated as a seafarers' church in 1885, St Saviour's West Lyttelton was designed in sections by Cyril Mountfort. Robert Falcon Scott, his crews from *Discovery* and *Terra Nova*, and generations of seafarers worshipped here. After years of falling rolls, the church was moved, in sections, over Evans Pass to Cathedral Grammar School, Christchurch, in 1976. Its altar is in Scott Base's Chapel of the Snows, Antarctica.



Holy Trinity Church, 1852, rebuilt in 1860, was the oldest stone church in Canterbury, one of three Lyttelton churches destroyed by earthquakes in 2011. St Saviours came home to Lyttelton in 2013 and was re-erected on the Trinity site.



© Tug Lyttelton Preservation Society & Canterbury Museum

Tug Lyttelton

Ordered from Scotland in 1906 *Canterbury* arrived in Lyttelton in September 1907, after a 14 week voyage via Suez. She escorted and towed Shackleton's *Nimrod* to Lyttelton Heads on

1st January 1908. Renamed *Lyttelton*, she was seconded to the NZ Navy during the war but continued to assist Antarctic vessels until decommissioned in 1970. In 1973 she was completely overhauled with 2749 man hours of voluntary effort in dry dock and is now a much loved passenger vessel.

Torpedo Boat Museum

The Thornycroft torpedo boat was bought from Chiswick, UK in 1883 under fear of Russian invasion. The museum houses the partly reconstructed bow and stern, features a scale model of the vessel, an example of the steam engine that once powered it in full working order and, on request, can show a film of the political context, recovery and restoration, with historic footage and photos, including film of Shackleton's *Nimrod* leaving Lyttelton harbour.



Antarcticans in Lyttelton

Baden Norris was raised in Lyttelton, first visited Antarctica in 1964, founded Lyttelton Historical Museum in 1965, is Emeritus Curator of Antarctic History, Canterbury Museum and was awarded the NZ Antarctic Medal in 2013 for a lifetime of service to Antarctic history. Harry McNeish famously told Baden 'Shackleton shot my cat'. The scenic Baden Norris Reserve follows the coast east from the town, giving views of port and harbour.



Many Lyttelton men joined heroic era expeditions including Mortimer McCarthy (*Terra Nova*), J Scotty Paton (*Terra Nova*, *Morning* and *Nimrod*), Charles Williams (*Terra Nova*), while several others settled in Lyttelton: W M McDonald, J R Denistoun, Thomas Clissold, William Burton, Dimitri Gerof. Shackleton attributes the success of 'Heart of the Antarctic' to Saunders from the Lyttelton Times.



Other Lytteltonians served in Antarctica during IGY, Admiral Byrd saw Canterbury as 'my second home' and Lyttelton continues to enjoy a warm relationship with all Antarcticans. Gillian Wratt, first CEO of Antarctica NZ, lived in Lyttelton. Medal holders John & Margaret Bradshaw live across the harbour.

Lyttelton Graving Dock and Wharfs

The graving dock, a remarkable feat of Victorian marine engineering, took 600 man years to build, being conceived in 1875 and completed in 1882. Heroic era ships *Terra Nova*, *Discovery*, *Nimrod*, *Morning* and Mawson's *Aurora* all used Lyttelton's facilities and services to prepare for their hazardous journeys south. From 1954-57 IGY vessels such as *USS Glacier*, *Wyandot*, *Greenville*, *Victory* and icebreaker *EastWind*



shipped materials, men and small planes to Antarctica to build Hallet Station, Scott Base, McMurdo and to support

scientific research and the first 'winter-over'. Lytteltonians still remember accidents that removed the wing of a small polar plane and a helicopter crashing into the harbour. No one was hurt.



"... the attitude of the New Zealand government stands out in sharp contrast to the dismal apathy and indifference which Lieutenant Shackleton had to contend against at home".

— Captain England

Wildlife Visitors

Often seen off Lyttelton Heads, sometimes in harbour and, rarely, on land, Lyttelton is a haven for Antarctic migrants. Take a voyage in a modern or historic vessel for the best views. Recent visitors include cetaceans (blue, orca, humpback, southern right and pilot whales), mammals (leopard seal, NZ fur seal), fish (black cod, an Antarctic overstay from the Ice Age), and a wealth of birds (petrels, albatrosses, skuas, cape pigeons and mollymawks).



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