

2.4 Chronology

Important dates in the history of Borchgrevink's huts are listed below. Reference is also made to Scott's Northern Party Hut.

1899

Construction of two huts begun 20 February. Party moved in 1 March, the day the *Southern Cross* left. Space between huts is enclosed.

On east side the roof line of each hut is extended to ground for storage of coal and equipment. Canvas and seal skins attached to roof. Last bags of coal moved to huts 15 March. Met screen erected about 200m west of huts. Emergency stores depot placed at base of cliff.

On 20 March whaleboat blown out to sea and wrecked. Parts salvaged and used for firewood. The bow of the whaleboat erected and guyed near the Stores Hut, possibly for a latrine shelter.

Storms 7 April and 18 May result in snow accumulation against west walls. Entry tunnel made to huts.

Roof mounted anemometer broken off in storm 18 May.

Heavy snowfall 18 July and further accumulation west side of huts. A sauna with small iron stove, installed in here by the two Lapps.

On night of 24 July Colbeck's candle sets fire to hut lining beside bunk. Survival bag made for each man.

August–September a rock hut 'Midwinter Camp' built on Duke of York Island.

Near deaths by carbon monoxide poisoning from stove during night of 31 August

Nicolai Hanson dies in hut 14 October. Interned top of Cape Adare 20 October.

1900

On 28 January *Southern Cross* returns for party. Start made to dismantle Stores Hut and roof removed.

On 2 February expedition departs. Stores and message left and cross erected on boulder at Hanson's grave.

1911

Scott's Northern (previously Eastern) Party landed from *Terra Nova* 18 February. While own hut constructed, unroofed Stores Hut covered with canvas,

interior partitioned with cases and sleeping platforms built along east and south walls. Latrine constructed against west wall. Living Hut used during the year for photography, recreation etc.

Anemometer erected on wall of Stores Hut. Depot established on Cape Adare.

1924

Huts observed from Norwegian whaling chaser *Star 1*. Appeared "intact".

1961

New Zealand science party clears Living Hut of ice. Repairs by navy men from *USS Eastwind*. Roof at flue opening, entrance and north and west windows sealed; 1911 depot and grave visited.

West wall 1911 hut collapsed and north and south walls splayed outwards.

1965

Artefacts collected by New Zealand science party 25–26 January.



Borchgrevink (standing) with dogs and sledges in 1899.

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1973

New Zealand party moves table, chairs and some clothing from derelict 1911 hut into Living Hut; attaches 1911 hut door and flag poles as props to west walls; hemp rope tied over roof to hooks on walls; stove in Living Hut ice-filled; some excavation of ground along east wall of Stores Hut and partial excavation on floor within Stores Hut; partial listing of artefacts and selection returned to New Zealand; climate observations.

East wall of 1911 hut separated from porch and north wall demolished. By 1978 east wall collapsed and 50% of south wall gone.

1982

Canterbury Museum (Christchurch) expedition party undertakes maintenance; measured drawings of huts; artefacts documented and surveyed plan of artefacts about site; visits to depot and grave

on Cape Adare and brass plate attached to cross; 1899 depot located; climate observations; fungi samples collected.

1984

Interior of Living Hut sprayed with thymol to kill mould.

1990

First AHT party. Attached butylclad and plywood sheathing over cladding of Living Hut roof; panel placed over north wall window; new cables over roof; other maintenance; interior of Living Hut sprayed with thymol; archaeological excavation of Stores Hut interior; Living Hut interior tidied; artefacts listed, some cleaned, archival tissue used, selection returned to New Zealand and surveyed site plan of artefacts about site; whaleboat bow placed in Stores Hut; Stores Hut trusses cached near west wall; climate observations.

Porch only remains of 1911 hut.

1999

West side of Living Hut roof observed abraded; fungi and wood samples collected.

2003

AHT party. Repairs to roof covering and outer door; panel fitted over door; cables tightened; check made of covered north wall window; Stores Hut floor partially lifted, ice beneath floor confirmed, where possible the ice excavated and some boards replaced; interior tidied; guano accumulation observed around huts; architectural record made including survey of 1911 hut remains; condition reports completed for artefacts within Living and Stores huts; fungi and wood samples collected.



- 2 *First on the Antarctic Continent*, CE Borchgrevink FRGS, 1901, George Newnes Ltd, London).
- 3 *That First Antarctic Winter*, Janet Crawford, South Latitude Research Limited, Christchurch, New Zealand (1998).
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 *Diary of the Discovery Expedition to the Antarctic Regions 1901–1904*, Blandford Press, London (1966), p 93.
- 6 W Colbeck, MS 212.3 CM.
- 7 *To the South Polar Regions*, L Bernacchi FRGS, Hurst & Blackett Ltd, London (1901), p 90.
- 8 *First on the Antarctic Continent*, CE Borchgrevink FRGS, 1901, George Newnes Ltd, London).
- 9 *To the South Polar Regions*, L Bernacchi FRGS, Hurst & Blackett Ltd, London (1901), p 90.