



Meet a ship's cat—name unknown—who lived on the barque Phylis. He's sneaking up on a seabird. Ship's cats were important crew members, keeping food safe and ships rodent-free. They were also beloved pets. Sailors were often so attached to their cats that they would stop their ship in

the open ocean and rescue them if they fell overboard—not an easy thing to do for a sailing ship.

Colourised black and white photograph
Harringtons: Printer
NZMM 2012.0.11634

Antarctic Architects

Weekdays 14-25 April 2025
10am-2:30pm | \$5 per child
Bookings recommended

Calling all budding LEGO® architects! Head to the New Zealand Maritime Museum these school holidays and become an **Antarctic Architect!**

Drop in for a LEGO® building session and design a hut strong enough to withstand Antarctica's freezing conditions! When you're done, explore the South Pole's icy landscapes and wildlife with a fun scavenger hunt through our Antarctic exhibition, *Into Ocean and Ice*.



THE mini MĀUI CLUB

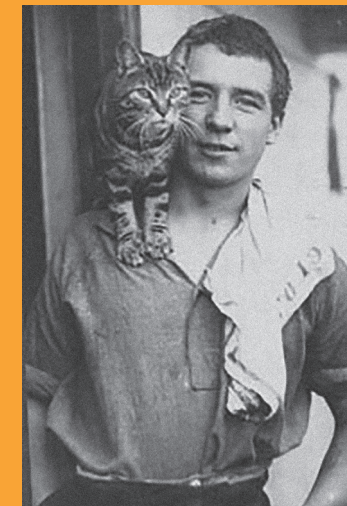
April 2025

#18: Animal explorers

We are all about furry friends inspired by our exhibition *Into Ocean & Ice!*



Who was Mrs Chippy?



Assistant cook Perce Blackborow & Mrs Chippy onboard *Endurance*. Photograph by Frank Hurley, 1915

In 1914, a courageous tabby cat named Mrs Chippy set sail on one of the most daring Antarctic expeditions in history—Ernest Shackleton's thwarted attempt to cross Antarctica via the South Pole.

Despite the name, Mrs Chippy was actually a male cat, belonging to Harry McNish, the ship's carpenter aboard *Endurance*. McNish's nickname was "chippy" which

is what carpenters are sometimes called. The crew called the cat Mrs Chippy as a joke, since he followed McNish everywhere, much like a devoted wife.

Mrs Chippy quickly became a valued member of the *Endurance* crew. He was an excellent climber, balancing easily on narrow railings and high shelves, and he kept the ship free of rats. The sailors enjoyed his company, and he often curled up beside them for warmth during the long voyage south.

However, the expedition took a dramatic turn when *Endurance* became trapped in the Antarctic ice. Over several months, the ship was slowly crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to abandon it. Sadly, Mrs Chippy and some of the sled dogs could not be taken on the journey across the ice, and Shackleton made the difficult decision to put them down.

McNish was devastated by the loss of his cat. Today, Mrs Chippy is remembered as a symbol of companionship and adventure. A bronze statue of him now rests on McNish's grave in Karori, Wellington, ensuring that the loyal ship's cat will never be forgotten.

This Easter Weekend, join our live storyteller as he brings to life the incredible tale of Mrs Chippy—the clever and courageous ship's cat of *Endurance*! Check out **What's On** for details!



Kupu huna

Find the Antarctic wildlife hidden here:

- 1 Emperor Penguin
- 2 Adélie Penguin
- 3 Chinstrap Penguin
- 4 Gentoo Penguin
- 5 Weddell Seal
- 6 Leopard Seal
- 7 Crabeater Seal
- 8 Elephant Seal
- 9 Ross Seal
- 10 Orca
- 11 Minke Whale
- 12 Blue Whale
- 13 Humpback Whale
- 14 Krill
- 15 Antarctic Toothfish
- 16 Skua
- 17 Snow Petrel
- 18 Albatross



W E D D E L L S E A L U Q E F N Q J A D
D F M A C H P N S Z B R Q Y C U U G Y O
O F M N E P A J H L G O Z I C L A K C S
T G V T C O O D U S K S D Y H Q I C E E
R O E A A A G S M H D S G T I O R R R L
P Z U R D G V E P F P S L N N A D A H E
X L L C É D P T B Y Y E D G S V N B Y P
B F E T L I J U A C M A W E T W K E A H
L L O I I H N S C E I L I N R N K A K A
U O P C E H C F K U N M S T A R X T I N
E X A T P A X S W J K S S O P N L E H T
W I R O E G Q K H F E K N O P X V R G S
H T D O N E I R A B W U O P E A B S K E
A B S T G V E I L W H A W E N A R E R A
L A E H U X N L E G A R P N G B O A B L
E D A F I M I L A C L B E G U O K L X X
I O L I N A O S C E E H T U I O T Q R T
A R Q S F E N L W Z G L R I N M T S Z M
J C M H E M P E R O R P E N G U I N S Z
T A L K V F P S X I A A L B A T R O S S

Which penguin?

Can you spot which penguin's reflection is in the water?



Answer: 10

Explorer's Shield Competition

Enter
by emailing us at
info@maritimemuseum.co.nz
or tag us on Insta
or Facebook:
[@nzmaritimemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/nzmaritimemuseum)



Coat of Arms, South Polar Times, Apr 1903. By Edward Wilson

Long ago, adventurers and explorers often had coats of arms—special symbols that showed who they were and what they stood for.

This intricate one was designed for the South Polar Times, a magazine created by the crew of the two Antarctic voyages led by Captain Robert Falcon Scott in the early 20th century.

The competition:

Design a Coat of Arms that tells the story of YOU as an explorer! What kind of adventurer are you? A deep-sea diver? A jungle trekker? A time traveller?

Best entry wins a
snuggly blue whale
softie!



The winner of the December Caption Competition is **Noah**, aged 10 who suggested:

"When you're in the cave and someone asks, 'Where are the snacks?' and you freeze like an ice block."

What's a "dogloo?"

When the *Endurance* became trapped in the ice of the Weddell Sea, Shackleton instructed Worsley and his crew to build "dogloos" on the ice near their ship.

They used big blocks of ice with thin sheets for roofs. To keep them strong, they added wooden boards or frozen sealskins on top, then piled on snow and splashed water over everything—when the water froze, it made the walls even harder.

The dogs had cozy shelters—but most still liked sleeping outside unless it was really stormy!



Samson half out of his dogloo