



The

# POLE OF POSSIBILITY

A unique, inspirational Antarctic project

# A WORLD FIRST; A NEW POLE

## An iconic new pole to create purposeful change

In January 2023 a small diverse team led by Paralympian and QUEST 79 founder Karen Darke, will journey into the wilderness of Antarctica to create a new Pole. The mission is to create an inspirational legacy, a point on the planet that represents possibility - individual and collaborative - to solve big challenges across the spectrum: from personal trauma to the climate crisis.

The POLE OF POSSIBILITY will be at the intersection of 79, 79 degrees latitude and longitude, representing the 'gold' - the gifts and opportunity - of exploration, of caretaking our natural environment, of embracing differences and working resiliently towards a common goal, and of our innate ability to overcome. The team will ski across remote and un-travelled ice in the most hostile environment on the planet. They will be unsupported and towing pulks, testing innovative technology in extreme conditions. The diversity of the team will stretch and challenge them.

*\* **Why 79?** 79 is the atomic number of gold - representing INNER GOLD - our ability to overcome.*





# Education

In partnership with THE POLAR ACADEMY, the project aims to inspire young people around the world to believe in themselves, and to demonstrate that being bold and brave, with purpose and principles, that personal change can lead to local and global change: a call to action about the power we each have to do more than we believe possible.

Working with educational organisations, the team will explore critical aspects of innovation, technology and experimentation, important aspects for approaching collaborative, creative solutions to climate crisis. They will also investigate and contribute to research in Antarctica regarding climate change.

# Challenge to Change :

The team are collaborating with the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) 'Challenge to Change' project. Whilst shocking, life-changing events such as paralysis destabilise individuals and families, they also bring opportunity for deeper connection, innovative problem-solving, new perspectives, collaboration and expanded possibility.

Building on recent exploratory work in Greenland by Team Umiaq into the climate crisis, the team will further test transition technology and examine the processes and resilience skills connected to individual or localised trauma to explore critical skills that could be applied to the climate emergency we all face.



**Sarisher Mann on LinkedIn: Why the climate crisis needs us all to be explorers**

My reflections on our incredible #TeamUmiaq Arctic #climateaction GROUNDTRUTH Global expedition which sailed from Iceland to Greenland over August,...

# INVITING CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

## ...to co-create the Pole of Possibility

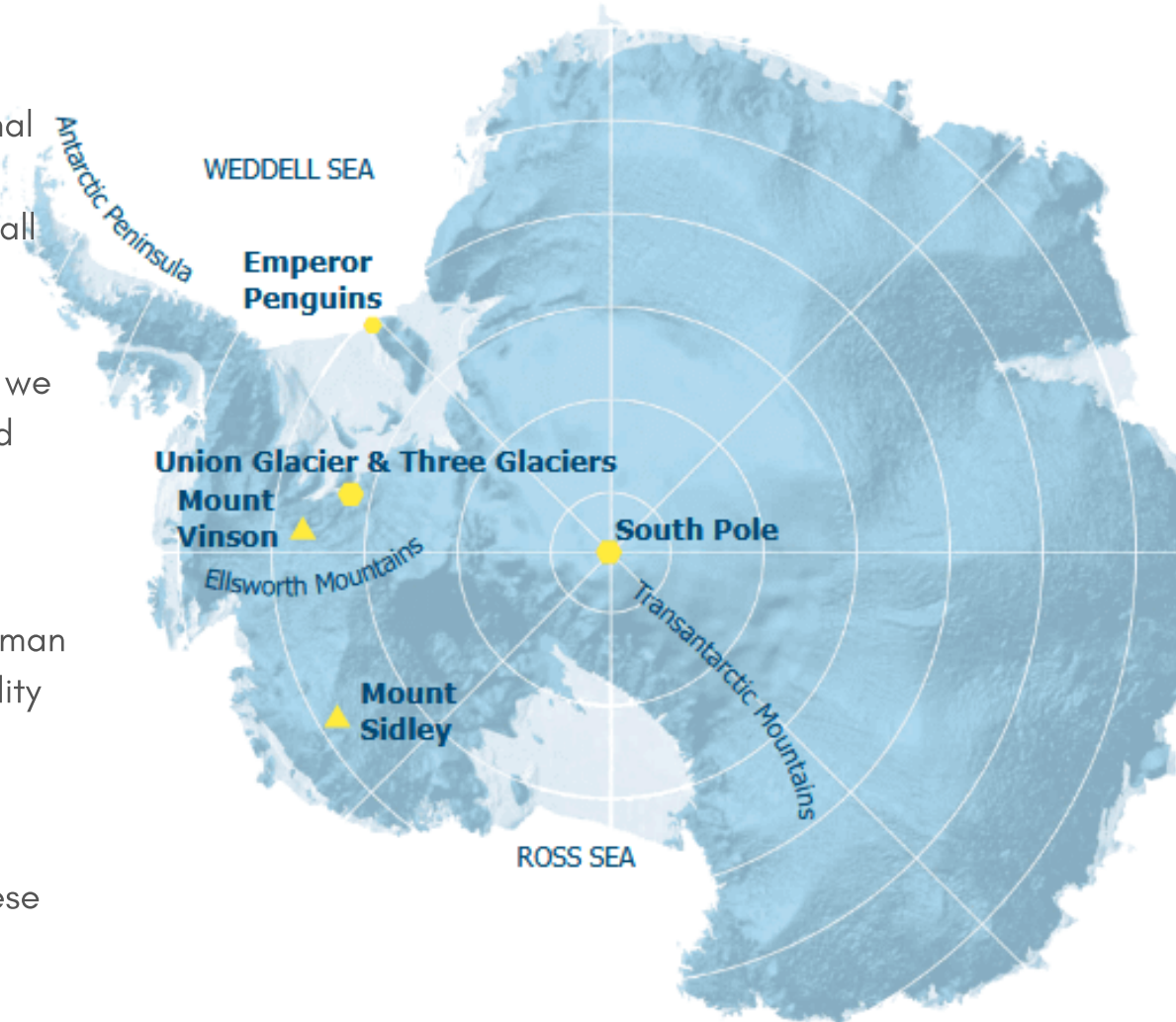
The project champions ICE:

**INNER GOLD** - the possibility for personal change and the resilience, strengths, creative and 'overcoming' qualities we all have inside us;

**CONNECTION** - the ripple effect when we share individual perspectives, ideas and abilities to co-create solutions to big challenges;

**ENVIRONMENT:** the role of nature in human & planetary wellbeing & our responsibility to enjoy, appreciate & protect it.

We would love to talk to you about the project and how we can partner on these important messages.



**I** N N E R G O L D + **C** O N N E C T I O N + **E** N V I R O N M E N T



Karen Darke

Karen's life is committed to exploring that is possible when the right mindsets and good people come together. An adventurer, athlete, speaker and author, a life-changing accident led Karen to becoming paralysed from the chest-down. She found new ways to access the wilderness and has since hand-cycled widely, sit-skied across the Greenland icecap and climbed El Capitan. A decade of Paralympic handcycling took Karen to a gold medal in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. It was the 79th medal for Britain, and led to *Quest 79*. The project has Karen cycling 7 continents in 9 iconic rides, raising £79K for Spinal Injuries and encouraging people to step out of their comfort zones, discovering passion, purpose or ability: their 'inner gold'. The Pole of Possibility will be the last of these Quests at 79 degrees latitude & longitude. More at [www.karendarke.com](http://www.karendarke.com)



Iona Somerville

Iona's journey started when she was just 14 years old and was selected by The Polar Academy in Scotland, to train and to take part in an Arctic Expedition to Greenland, completed in April 2016. Iona and the rest of the team have since gone on to inspire their peers, talking to thousands of other young people about their experience: demonstrating what is possible when a goal is set and a team come together, despite previous lack of self-worth or belief. The expedition gave Iona the resilience to subsequently overcome her 'frontline' trauma of the Manchester Arena bombing. Iona is a determined and resilient young role model, & she would love to go on to inspire others with her personal story of developing confidence and overcoming trauma. More at [www.thepolaracademy.org](http://www.thepolaracademy.org)





## Contact

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## Patron

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