



View to Ships Landing Point and Taro Ground from Palwa Valley

Pitcairn News

Volume 5 No 12

December 2011

KARI AND JULIE ORN PITCAIRN TULL

What a busy month December has been. Plenty of news to tull. As usual there is no Back Page in our December edition, this being the month for celebration we have kept to just daily happenings. All of ucklun would like to wish yorley all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and hope you all had a very Merry Christmas.



NORWEIGAN TOURIST CHARTER VISIT

A group of 11 Norwegians under the umbrella of OrkideEkspressen (OrchidExpress) arrived here on November 24th and left on the 3rd December, and were kept busy and entertained with sightseeing, activities,



public dinners and fish fries. Traditional stone oven demo by Nola, beehive expedition with Mike L., painting hattie leaves with Betty, watching tapa pounding by Meralda, walking guided tour by Brian, plus dinners at the two cafes and several public events. One day they took part in a fishing expedition in the longboats, and were not too shy to compare their catch with the locals!



Above -Sightseeing with cameras & farewell to the Orkide group in longboat ready to join Claymore II
Left - Narrow entrance to harbor returning between two swells



Left - Small shark caught in the harbor did not deter kids from swimming.

Three preschoolers happy playing in their small tubs instead.

Big and small fish



Old Pitcairn friends and former resident doctors Stein and Diana Hoff with their children and grandchildren send their holiday greetings from Norway, as does Rannveig, who was here for several months in 2001, and former teacher Pip with husband Ged in New Zealand. The Hoff's are hoping to return for a visit in 2012/2013. Also Joe Adams from Norfolk Island, and Sue and Mark Elmoos from Australia.

2 December 2011 - The ashes of **Maurice Allwood**, a longtime English friend of Pitcairn, was scattered in Bounty Bay in a ceremony followed by a fish fry at The Landing.

JULIE TULL – FROM HER DIARY ORN PITCAIRN

8 December 2011 – ARRIVED ON PITCAIRN

Today nine of ucklun arrived on the Claymore II after travelling from Auckland, New Zealand via Tahiti, Mangareva in the Gambier Islands of French Polynesia and travelling on one of the most expensive journey by ship over 36 hours from Mangareva to Pitcairn. Passing as ships in the night, at the airport in Mangareva were the group of Norwegians and Kevin Lynch, our next Deputy Governor whom had just spent three months on Pitcairn getting all clued up about us and ours. After being seasick for most of the ship journey it was great to be on terra firma and home again for a two months holiday.



Darralyn & Turi and Olive & Steve waiting on deck for the longboat to arrive

12 December 2011 – PITCAIRN ELECTIONS

For followers of Dem Tull you will know that in past years our annual elections have been quite controversial and even last year there was illegal last minute electioneering right up until voting at the ballot box. Despite complaints by some nothing was done, as appears usual. But this year it was 'good as gold', everything was A-Okay. Might have had something to do with Pedo (policeman) announcing immediately prior to voting that illegal electioneering would not be tolerated. Simon was re-elected as Deputy Mayor for a two year term. Also for a two year term the following were elected as Councillors: Jay Warren, Brenda Christian, Michelle Christian, Jacqui Christian and Kerry Young. This is the first time the Governor's office has not appointed a councilor as its representative so there were five elected positions and the appointed position is no more.

With the office of Mayor being three years, and Councillors now being elected for two years instead of one, for the first time in a long time it appears that next year there may not be a need for elections – history in the making.



Bill Lambie – Policeman
& Carol Schumann – Gov Rep



Eligible voters getting ready to vote

Sunday 11 December and Monday 12 December 2011 – COURT HEARING

IS JUSTICE DELAYED, JUSTICE DENIED AS IS COMMONLY TERMED?

As we tell in Dem Tull in previous editions the next attempt at a trial began on Sunday 11 December 2011 and was scheduled to run over a few days but it didn't. The video link didn't work satisfactorily apparently they had the wrong equipment at the New Zealand end. You would think they would have got it right by now, with all the experience of the past decade, but then Pitcairn court procedure have caused many a headache, especially for the defence, over that period. Before finally admitting defeat the video link connection was disconnected at least 25 – 30 times over the two days of perseverance once for at least half an hour. Adjournments were given to try and fix the problem without success.

Part of defence's challenge is the fact that NZ Crown Prosecutor Simon Moore (later Pitcairn Public Prosecutor) took part in nominating the Pitcairn judiciary in 2000, including the Public Defender. Tony Ellis, defence lawyer, also questions the laws that were constructed to prepare for the 2004 trials, failing to observe international protocol. "The Crown thinks it's sitting on four aces and a king", Ellis said, but claims they are playing a different game now.

The defence lawyer argued, to no avail, for the trial to be held on Pitcairn. If this request had been granted, maybe we wouldn't have had the vidlink problems. Was cost a factor? If so, should this be a consideration, given the judiciary is supposed to be independent of government and treasury. This appears to be a major case and cost was not a factor previously. In a minor court case here in August 2005, which only resulted in a fine of \$60, and cost the British Government well over \$40,000.00, the Governor's office was quoted as saying the cost of justice was worth it. A magistrate as well as defence and prosecution counsel were sent here from New Zealand. Another case over land boundaries brought Chief Justice Charles Blackie up here in June 2006 to preside over two hearings in Pitcairn Supreme Court in our public hall. So why deny the current defendant the same rights, when by all accounts his case is a major one?

During this last attempt at a trial the defendant was forced to talk to his lawyers back, and not to his face. He has never met his lawyer in person only by videolink. Most unsatisfactory all round and frustrating for the defendant. The lawyer was facing the judge and had to talk to his client by facing a TV screen but due to the positioning of the electronic equipment the defendant was unable to talk to his lawyer face to face when being asked questions during the adjourned trial. Only the judge was facing us on the video link.

The trial was adjourned to 6 February 2012.

NOTE: The defendant was arrested in May 2010 for allegedly having pornography on his computer and the first hearing took place in December 2010.



Tuesday 13 December 2011 – Cruise Ship Columbus

The latest in the cruise ship this season arrived in what we believed was good weather. The passengers had hoped to come ashore but the sea was quite choppy alongside ship and



despite trying out different options for transferring passengers from ship to shore it was deemed too dangerous, so trading was done on board ship and the passengers missed out on coming ashore. Most of the cruise ship companies support Pitcairn by allowing us to place orders with them for groceries and this was no exception. A whole lot of supplies arrived and Olive and her team spent many hours at the Landing sorting out what belonged to whom.

Wednesday 14 December 2011 – THE END OF THE DROUGHT

When you live with drought on a small isolated island it is scary when your water tanks are getting really low, the natural springs have dried up and there is no other source of obtaining fresh water. The last week of November on the last supply ship a desalination plant was shipped to Pitcairn to convert from salt to fresh water for times of emergency. Then on 14 December the rain came and rained for days. We heard some folks were up in the middle of the night switching down pipes from one tank to another to make sure no water overflows to waste. During power time, water pumps were working full out pumping from full tanks to empty ones ensuring water catchment is more efficient. Even though a discount on freight for water tanks has been approved it is nevertheless still expensive so many have purchased water bladders capable of holding 12,000 – 40,000 litres of water which appears more cost effective overall.

And the gardeners sprang into action and planted vegetables and flowers as the gardens were all in a sorry state. This is watermelon season and watermelon is scarce. A friend who saved waste water to nurture his sweet corn patch was rewarded with only size 2 inch (5 cm) sweet corn and he commented that with all his tender loving care he expected to be rewarded with 2ft ones (0.61m) but the droughts tentacles still extended its damage to the sweet corn despite the nurturing. Some cucumbers turned out like miniature pretzels, deformed and tiny because of the draught. Since 14 December it has continued to rain from time to time with good heavy downpours.

Thursday 15 December 2011 – CHILDRENS SCHOOL CONCERT



The children did it again with their annual end of year school concert. They wowed us all. An almost full compliment of ucklun attended even though the start time was 1.30 pm on a Thursday afternoon and times were busy with cruise ships and Christmas and New Year holidays just around the corner.

The seven school children from two families performed a medley of songs including some Pitkern ones, gave a slide show and performed in four plays. A

highlight for me was the play "Pitkern Cook Up" with the whole dialogue performed in the Pitkern language much to the delight of ucklun especially when this generation of children seem to speak English more often than Pitkern. Es true when in har play Pitkern Cook Up, hem lekkle sulluns slingen hem raw unpealed vegetables in hem pot da fus sing I sink bout was I gleard I nor gwen eat har unpealed tala cos we know how itchy some side of ucklun el get. (*When, in the play Pitkern Cook Up, the children was putting the raw unpealed*



vegetables into the pots for cooking, the first thought that came to mind was I

was pleased I wasn't going to eat the unpealed Taro because it causes some to become very itchy).



In reminiscing later we went back to the era when we were not allowed to speak Pitkern at school even on the playground at playtime and if we

did we were punished for it. We had to speak English.

The last item on the program was the song we have claimed as ours "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" which the children requested to be sung. We sang our hearts out and as always, sound really, really goooood.

Following the end of year presentation of the certificates "the cup of tea" mentioned on the program turned out to be another one of our usual feast of finger food with all bringing a plate or two full of food. A rare sight was a watermelon patch right in front of the school steps which was nurtured by the children during the drought. Congratulations children for an entertaining concert and 'sweet as' watermelon.



In the photo above in the front row seat is Mavis, Irma, Nola and Royal.

Friday, 16 December 2011 – DARRALYN AND REYNOLDS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Darralyn's and Reynold's birthdays are a couple of days apart so they decided to have a joint celebration with a public dinner at the village square. Man, there was lots of food as usual.



Darralyn slicing up the cakes

Sunday 18 and Wednesday 21 December 2011 – COUNCIL MEETING – OLD AND NEW

The usual Wednesday council meeting was postponed from 14 December to the 18th and as this was the first time since the elections there was a half hour meeting with the new council members to appraise them of what was going to be in store for them for the next two years followed by a normal council meeting which flowed into another day as Budget discussions caused time to overrun. The new council does not come into force until 1 January. The first council meeting in the New Year will be held with the Governor in attendance by video link.

Monday 19 December 2011 – COMMUNITY PUBLIC DINNER AND CAROL SINGING IN THE SQUARE



Another public dinner with lots of food. We sure need our New Years resolution to watch the calories. This time it was the Entertainment Committees Christmas dinner following by Christmas Carols. Song sheets used since the early nineteen nineties were handed out and we sang songs requested by candlelight.



Friday 23 December 2011 – DINNER AT CHRISTIANS CAFÉ

Dinner at the café tonight was a buffet instead of the usual al a carte set menu. A side table with Pitcairn weckle orn was too sweet. I nort, but the others made short work of the large dish of raw fish. Dem tulle es sweet un but I nor sink so.



Saturday 24 December 2011 – SPECIAL XMAS CHURCH SERVICE

This was a special church service conducted by the children where they performed a special Christmas Nativity play and sang songs. Most of the community attended to support the children and again we sounded goood, singing our good old songs including in the Sweet Bye and Bye. It was good to see a full church and proves how much support and time the community has always given to our children.



**Saturday 24 December 2011 –
CHRISTMAS EVE - GOING ROUND IN
A BASKET**

Christmas Eve is the night all the children are supposed to go to bed early. They hang up baskets for Santa to put presents into. Usually on their verandas and when we all think the kids are asleep, the many santas go around and put small presents (usually lollies) into their baskets for them to wake up to on Christmas morning. When told to go to bed so that the reindeers can bring Santa Clause, a child commented that Santa doesn't come on a sleigh with reindeers he comes by 4 WD bikes. Guess who has peeked out the window when he should have been asleep? It is also the night we are permitted to ring the public bells randomly for no reason at all except for fun and to make as much noise as possible. It was an accepted tradition for some harmless mischief to take place on this night. We were reminiscing on some of the antics some got up to in years gone by. Once when passing Toge's house on the main road his white picket fence was uplifted and moved to Lens. A school teacher's bed was moved to the school house and someones bicycle was hoisted up onto the flag pole. Those were the days.

25 December 2011 – CHRISTMAS DAY



For aons now Pitcairn has, every year, held a communal present giving in the village square. Traditionally, Jesmae trees have been cut and planted in holes specially made in the concrete or tied against poles in the

square and everyone would hang their presents on those trees making Christmas present giving a communal event instead of a family event. With this tradition most folks have given presents to most folks on the island including the outsiders and visitors and not just to family. This tradition is getting expensive, no doubt about it. In recent times we often hear, we can't do it this time. But guess what? most still gave this

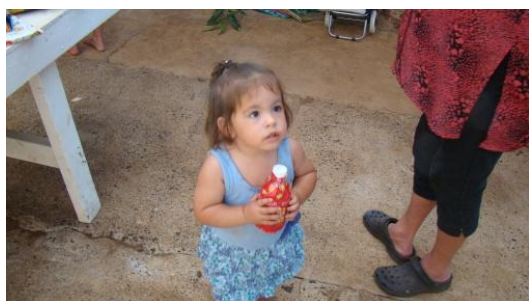


year. In fact from the amount of presents given, I wouldn't be surprised of all gave, again. The trees this year was rose apple as the Jesmae trees is getting low in number and a number of tables were set up as well and both were laden with presents. Many of the presents were from "Santa" so there musn't have been any Santa's left in the South Pole on Pitcairn's Christmas Day. The community's generosity was immense. I am sure everyone would like to wish all of those Santas a very big thank you.



When it was time to give out the presents any unsuspecting visitor would be forgiven if they thought there was an unruly commotion taking place. Half a dozen loud mouthed men were tasked with

giving out the presents. At the top of their voices, yelling out names randomly and together made the day so much more exciting even when Julie can get confused with Shirley and for example hearing Mavis, Irma, Royal, Nola's names called out at the same time and not really knowing who was calling out their names and who to collect their presents from. Little Isabella (left) our youngest resident toddler soon sussed out where her presents were coming from. She was observed going from one shouting man to the other and unconcerned about the commotion, patiently held up her hands waiting for her next present. I am sure she, along with everyone else was spoiled with presents on this Pitcairn Christmas Day, I know I was. Merry Christmas to all.



25 December 2011 – CHRISTMAS DAY CONTINUED.

Another feast of food. Following the present giving in the square family groups gathered together to celebrate in the usual way with food.

26 December 2011 – Going back to yesterday's host to eat the leftovers.

The week following Christmas Day – CAMPING

Up Har Beans, Up In a Tee, Up Palwa Valley, Down Tedside – sites commonly used for camping. Many folks deserted Adamstown for the hills and coast to spend a week relaxing from the busy week just gone. Tiny camping shacks have been extended, tents pitched and some of the comforts of home carted to the campsites. Up in a Tee almost look like a village in itself with almost all of the comforts of home, except there is no phone or internet connections in any of the campsites. Good to get away from pesky mosquitos in town and head for the breeze in the hills. One downside though were those annoying fruit flies and black bugs which tend to be prevalent these days.

Thursday 29 December 2011 – NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

In a fairly lengthy email addressed to our Mayor a copy of which was put on the public notice board the Governor hoped we all had a Happy Christmas and said *“this is both a time of celebration and reflection”*. The next two years are going to be critical for the island when we need to see *“Pitcairn’s 5 Year Strategic Plan being translated into execution and delivery”*. She went on to list a number of things we need to achieve and implement and promise better communication going forward.

We quote: *“Trust is harder to achieve. I have no doubt it sometimes suits to blame HMG for a range of issues but we really must move beyond this if we are to achieve a sense of partnership towards delivery. There is a level of responsibility too that Pitcairners must take for their own destiny.”* She has achieved budgetary aid for Pitcairn that provides for essential services, connectivity and reasonable employment on the island.

We quote: *“We should be less adversarial, more collegiate. We should be pulling in the same direction to common purpose. It frustrates me therefore when the preference occasionally is for members of Pitcairn’s community to chose instead to criticize HMG or say that we are not doing enough or worse, fail to respect or recognize the resources we are provided. There is no doubt more can always be done but we must also be realistic about the resources we have. We have to work within our means whilst we also endeavour to make the most of what we have got. And that includes each other.”*

We comment: One of our gripes is that the majority of the budgetary aid is spent on paying for and supporting the small number of outsiders sent here in various roles i.e. police, doctor, social worker, etc. No one disputes the need for those positions but some believe some benefits way exceed benefits paid elsewhere. Sure we accept that we are isolated but working 40 hour weeks is definitely not required here, except for the school teacher. She went on to say that she encourages a new spirit of joint endeavour going forward but advises that there will be times when the Governor will have to take a decision where some may feel an alternative one should have been taken but that she is mindful that each decision is mindful of her obligations for the whole community as well as to HMG.

“Equally I look to Council to exercise its role responsibly for the benefit of the community within governance requirements and standards – not least fiscal discipline – as a representative body of the community. This will require mutual respect and the conduct of Council should be a model for the community as a whole.”

She then wished us all the very best for the New Year.

Saturday 31 December 2011 NEW YEARS EVE

This is another night where we are free to ring the public bell at will and some did right up until mid night. A large group of ucklun went to a party at Andrew's place and was there to sing Auld Lang Syne at midnight, as was another group who was in the village square at the stroke of midnight. Melva and I sang up Har Beans, our camping ground, while also listening to the group at Andrews place and some were not shy to say they did not see midnight as they were fast asleep.

Welcome 2012.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last month we asked our readers to let us know the name of flower number one. The answer is CANNA lily. We received replies for USA, Norfolk Island, New Zealand and here on Pitcairn and they all said CANNA lily. Thank to all who responded. A sample:

Hi Kari, 1. It looks like a canna to me. Does it have leaves like a banana plant? Does it have thick tuberous roots that grow close to the surface and can easily be divided into another plant. The canna also produces a long spikey flower stem and has colors from orange, red to the pink ,raspberry color shades . The plant can grow up to 6 feet tall unless it's a dwarf variety.If it has these characteristics it just may be the Canna. You can probably google canna and get some photos to compare with yours. Have a great new year!!!! Love, Sue

Hi Julie Just discovered it. Fascinating newsletter about a fascinating place. I see you folks have a new Constitution and you are developing eco-tourism. I hope things work out, and that the Pitcariners enjoy peace, happiness, and prosperity. Please put me down for a subscription to the e-mail newsletter. David

Hi Julie I found your website today. My father lived on Pitcairn as a child for a few months, my Grandfather Arnold Hare pack the whole family up in about 1929 and took the whole family there (wife, six children and a dog). My Dad is 89 and the youngest and only one still alive of his family. He still has all his facilities and is a pretty interesting man.and believe it was my Grandfather Arnold Hare and his wife Helen who visited in 1928 or 1929 and brought the motor's for the boats, I also believe they introduced Grapefruit and Bees to the island and also took a piano there. They lost their dog over board on the first night which was a howling night but later found it on the island the next day alive. My Dad has a treasure trove of pictures from Pitcairn too, and I have always been extremely interested in his time there. Kind regards Susan

See next page for the flyer for Pitcairn's Bounty Day Celebration in Wellington, New Zealand

Harts et. Ef any yorley wunta tull, tulla Kari or Julie orn uptibi@hotmail.com and julie@customcredit.co.nz

Hooray

Back issues of Dem Tull can be found on:

www.demtullpitcairn.com



Bounty Day 2012

A Pitcairn gathering - come and celebrate a special day



Photo: Website Terry Young

Meet Old Friends * Make New Ones
Enjoy Pot Luck Weckle * Sports, Music & Dance

When: Sunday, 22 January 2012
Where: Darts Club Hall, Kenepuru Drive, Porirua, Wellington
Time: 1 pm – late!
Entry: Adults \$10 – children under 12 free

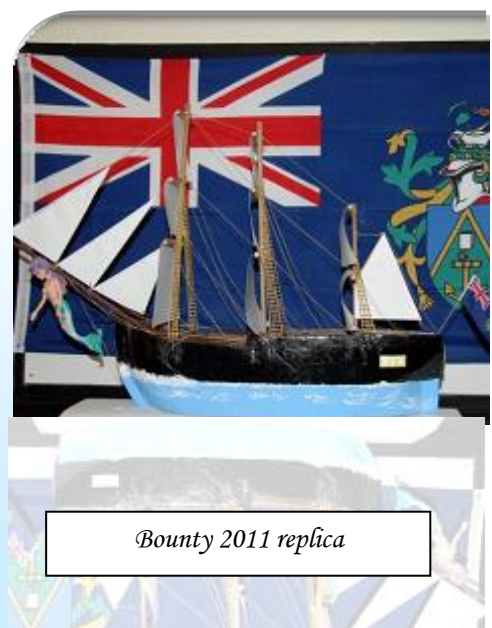
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NB: No bar service, BYO



Bounty 2011 replica