

Pitcairn News

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Sunset – looking across Taro Ground towards Palwa Valley in the West.

Kari orn Pitcairn tull: Supplies arrived from New Zealand on Claymore2 on 26th May, and then she did two rotations between Pitcairn and Mangareva with passengers until she left for Mangareva and then on to New Zealand on 11th June. She will be back again with supplies in September. The General Store had shelves full of exciting stuff for a while, but for us hoarding Pitcairners some items did not last long on the shelves. We celebrated the Queens Birthday on the Monday with a sports day, which was cut short when the rain chased everyone home early. We thank Terry, Brian, Melva, Meralda, Mike, Heather and Desmond for pictures this issue.

TROLLING FOR FISH (In Pitkern we tull GWEN TOW FER FISH)

We usually use the larger long boats for supply ship days, which means the two smaller ones are hardly used. However they need to be regularly maintained and tested to ensure they are still running and in good condition. When doing so they might as well make use of the test runs by *towing* for fish and hopefully the cuta (wahoo), yellow tail and other bigger fish will oblige and grab the pretty hook trailing behind the moving boats. Well on 24 June 2011 we were in luck. Dem tull 13 big fish were caught on that day. Yummy fish balls for dinner that night in most homes. The story is told in pictures raided from Melvas Facebook page. She tull we can use them now that we have lost Toge. Thanks Melic.



MERALDAS STAR CONTINUES TO SHINE



Last month we tell about Meralda being the first Pitcairn winner from the Commonwealth Connections International Arts Residencies (CCIAR). She engaged with tapa makers from across the Pacific at the Wellington Museum "Te Papa" on Thursday, 9 June 2011 at the Pacific & Maori Textile Symposium.

Meralda was the first speaker at the event and she presented power point presentations not only of her tapa cloth making but also of her mum Mavis weaving from the thatch from the pandanus palm. She is turning into a real

public speaker and should be proud of her ability to stand on a stage before a large audience knowing television cameras and other media were present. She was featured on the weekly Television New Zealand show "Tagata Pacifica" and is on a YouTube clip on the Internet. Her grant from the CCIAR also included attending an exhibition on Norfolk Island, which commenced on 28 June 2011. She is back in New Zealand gallivanting to Whakatane, Rotorua and Wellington all in connection with her artwork and where she will meet up with other artists and she is particularly excited to meet up with Maori artists in Rotorua she met during the symposium.

PITCAIRN ISLAND EXPO AT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION'S RESIDENCE – HOMEWOOD, IN WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

Heather tull: On Friday 10th June the British High Commissions showcased Pitcairn Island's Art & Culture, Trade and Tourism

The first ever event coincided with Te Papa's Maori & Pacific Textile Symposium where Meralda, was the keynote speaker.

The Homewood event included two of Meralda's beautiful tapa works featuring scenes of the historic HMAV Bounty. At Te Papa and Homewood Meralda told her story of how she became interested in tapa making and explain the process involved in producing her works.

Heather assisted FCO staff in setting up the expo and also represented Tourism at the event. She reported that the response was excellent and she has been fielding contacts and enquiries ever since.

Over 160 people were invited to attend and more than 70 made it - representing a cross-section of people from the business sector, travel industry, delicatessens and food outlets, art galleries, stamp societies and media. It went so well a further event is proposed for Auckland, via the Pitcairn Islands office.

The Pitcairn Philatelic Bureau was present with a colourful display of current and archived issues, impressive coin collections and gift items and traditional Pitcairn food, prepared by Pitcairners, resident in New Zealand, was also showcased.

And of course Pitcairn Island Honey was centre stage. Other handicrafts and Pitcairn products on display and for sale on the night included wood carvings, HMAV Bounty and longboats models, dolphins, turtles, sharks, platters and bowls, basket weaving, jewelry and cookbooks.



THE LANDING – DEVELOPMENT OF THE JETTY



A sketch from 1825 of the landing place under the looming Ship Landing Point, with the whaleboat on its way out and people watching from the beach, and also another boat is visible, pulled up out of the water. The circumstances are not much different today, except that we got a jetty, the numerous rocks in the harbor have been removed, and the longboats are not manned by rowers any more, - but they rowed (and sailed) till the 1950s when the first engine arrived. In 1846 John States, a crewmember on the whaler "William Wirt" wrote: *"...the two boats hove up close in with the surf, waiting for a smooth time to attempt the*

landing. The command of the boats was resigned to the natives, and the crews were to obey their orders. Watching for a smooth time, our boat was pulled in as fast as possible toward the shore, just as we were close to the rocky passage, a heavy roller coming in, away we went on its crest for a few seconds, the pilot keeping her steady before it until we came to that place where it was necessary for him to bring the boat broadside to the sea, which, with the help of the oars, he accomplished, and the boat shot up on the beach with great velocity, and was soon hauled up out of harm's way." And that was how everyone landed for about 150 years. In 1921 two men died, Fisher Young and Alphonzo "Nunk" Christian, when their boat was lifted by a huge wave and then crushed against the rocks, having been launched to welcome and bring ashore High Commissioner Sir Cedric Rodwell from the "Ionic" for an afternoon's visit.

Until the 1960s the harbor in Bounty Bay looked like this, no jetty yet and with the big stones "Duddy", "Mummy" and "Flattie", which today's middleaged brigade remember jumping and playing on, catching crabs and catfish. The thatched boathouses sheltered the locally made whaleboats and fishing canoes, all made from local timber.



Just a little bit of jetty has been built, but the outer stones are still visible. The Flying Fox can be seen running cargo of boxes up to the Edge.



The jetty during the 50s and 60s, with the road, the Hill of Difficulty running up between the boathouses, and a small jetty area for storage plus a crane have appeared. The island men created the small jetty for safer and more protected landing for the boats.



A team of Royal Engineers spent months here in 1976 and worked with our men dredging the harbor and concreting the new jetty, called "Huri", the Pitcairn name for Hugh Cowan in charge of the Royal Engineers. The road to Adamstown now went up to the left of the big boathouse, and there was a larger parking area by the jetty, for by now nobody went anywhere on foot – the motorbikes had arrived. The beach had disappeared, the harbor was surrounded by rocks, and the thatch roof on the boathouses were replaced by corrugated iron.



In 1985 a "nose" was added on the tip of the jetty, hoping to put a stop to the swirl in the harbor, supervised by Basil Williams sent from UK. Typically the tip of the jetty was named "Basil". The last picture is from 2009, when the men undertook to widen the jetty and extend the parking/storing area. They dug out rocks and made huge concrete blocks - each 2.5 tons - which are seen stored on the jetty before being put outside the jetty wall to reclaim land from the relentlessly pounding ocean.



NOSTALGIC CORNER - this picture is from sometime in the 1960s or very early 1970s when Dennis invited his pet goat Kiddy for a run in his fishing canoe, and very cunningly put him ashore in Tedside to fend for himself. Glenn and Terry assisted in getting Kiddy onboard down the Landing. But when Dennis arrived home after the goat-riding operation, guess who met him at the door with an affectionate “baaah!”? Kiddy must have run like the clappers as soon as Dennis deposited him down Tedside - you can’t fool a goat, Dennis!



Envy Corner – Glen (recent photo) with a turtle he carved. Look good too. Glen is standing in the middle of the photo above in nostalgic corner

MORE BIG SWELLS

Picture of huge swells coming in to our northern coast, with sea spray hitting our photographer, Mike, up on the hill. The swells hitting Adams’ Rock and “Old Man” at the eastern side of Bounty Bay.



STORMY WEATHER

There were some heavy winds during the month of June, doors blown off hinges Up Har Beans, and the top of one of Taro Ground’s radio mast toppled. The antennas have not been in use since the radio station closed down, and they might have to be taken down for safety reasons.



FRUITS AND WILD BEANS: Oranges and other citrus fruits are in season, and even large melons – a typical summer product – were harvested, the season lasted long because of the long-lasting drought and heat. And they were still sweet, not tai-tai (bland) at all. Wild beans are in season, and what a bumper crop it has proved to be!!!! We are feasting on beans, picking and picking, cooking and eating and freezing, - men, women and children out in the bush for hours every day, though some of us have freezers full of wild beans from 2006. But who can resist those lovely beans hanging there in such abundance? Our wild beans are a very traditional dish, and when cooked in coconut milk, it is very, very, VERY powerful.



HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR

DfiD sent two professionals to review what we call the “child ban” (restrictions for children to visit the island, commented on in previous issues), observed and consulted with islanders. Their report will be released later this year. Lindi and Stephanie, the two Human Rights ladies, who conducted a week long Human Rights seminar for us in September 2009, prior to the creation of our Constitution (March 2010), returned for another seminar which was well attended and raised a lot of interest and discussions. The seven day seminar was attended by around 15 or so islanders every day, others attended sporadically. All the Division Managers and Council members attended, except two.

Several of our laws and ordinances appeared to be contrary to our Constitution as well as against Human Rights, so our newly formed National Action Plan (for Human Rights) group has quite a job ahead aligning legislation to Human Rights. One seminar member suggested that it might be easier if we just skip our Pitcairn laws and go by English laws altogether, but that raised indignant protests from the islanders as well as from Lindi and Stephanie. Pitcairn is not an extension of London, Kent and Yorkshire, and Pitcairners should not give up the right to have their own laws.

SUPPLIES ARRIVING DOWN LANDING



“Moss”, one of the longboats, broke down while bringing empty containers out to “Claymore2”, and had to ride tandem with the other longboat “Tub” back to the harbor. The Landing crew and the boat crews are now according to health and safety policies required to wear safety boots, helmets and vests, and nobody else is allowed down to the Landing area during working on cargo. In the pre-container days women and children as well spent the day down Landing helping to unload boxes and cartons of cargo and bringing it all up to Adamstown.



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THE DISCOVERERS OF PITCAIRN ISLAND



Carteret



Quiros



Down Rope

There is a question that I have often heard asked, and that is: “who were the first to discover Pitcairn” or something to that effect. It has raised a few debates and a heated argument or two (I can vouch for it since I witnessed one), and the theories range from the believable to the outright stupid (when I say stupid, I mean that is just my opinion on that particular theory). I admit I have been fairly testy in this article, but I’ve been in a testy mood all month, so please forgive me (or not, I’m happy either way). Anyway, without further ado, let us continue, shall we.....

Quite often emphasis is made on the first Europeans to see Pitcairn. Yeah, who gives a crap about those natives, bla, bla, bla (save the hate mail and accusations of racism, I was being sarcastic). One theory I heard recently was one where someone said the first inhabitants of Pitcairn were Egyptians. Yes, you heard me (or read me if you want to get technical), E-freaking-gyptians! What basis was there in this theory? Well, apparently the writings down Rope are hieroglyphs. I would just ignore this, but I must confess that I took Egyptian history and grammar in university and I can easily say “those are not Egyptian hieroglyphs!” So I urge any readers to discount the idea that good old King Tut, Ramses, Akhenaton, Amenemhet or any other pharaoh had a holiday house on Pitcairn. Anyway, enough of that, let’s continue (but there is another stupid theory later on. You have been warned!)

Let’s get right down to it. From all evidences the Polynesians were the first people to sight/set foot on Pitcairn. There is an abundance of relics, ranging from stone tools, carvings, idols, etc. to make that perfectly legit. Pitcairn had a number of names attributed to it during the years before it became Pitcairn, such as Heiragi, Hiti-au-revareva, and the somewhat contentious Matakiterangi. There seems to be at least two schools of thought regarding which island Matakiterangi refers to: Pitcairn and Easter Island. Which one is it? Honestly, I don’t know, nor do I think myself qualified as an expert on this matter. But what the hey, it’s never stopped me before! I’ve heard decent arguments back and forth as to the correct identification. Geez, can’t we just all get along and share the name? Okay, that was childish of me. Anyway, there are also stories/legends about Pitcairn (forgive me, I’m just going to use that name, since that’s one everyone knows). One of note is the story of Tuihiti and Hauvana’a, a couple who settled on Pitcairn despite certain circumstances. I’m not going to relate the whole story here, since I am starting to

drift off topic (yeah, it's one of those days). Bottom line: there is abundant material that indicates that the Polynesians settled on Pitcairn long before it was settled by a bunch of pirates/mutineers. Time for the other stupid theory I spoke about. Someone had stated that the Polynesians probably never landed on Pitcairn prior to the *Bounty*. And the stone tools, etc? Well, in this persons reasoning, the iron tools which came off the *Bounty* had rusted away (so much for the axes, the vise, anvil and various other tools I have seen) so the Pitcairn people made stone tools to work with. I presume then that the statues as well as the writings Down Rope were just the work of bored mutineer-descended Pitcairners?



Oh well, people have a right to their own opinion, and I have the right to say how ridiculous they are.

Now we get to the Europeans. Carteret? No, not yet. I have another bit of contentious information. Much like the accuracy of Matakiterangi, I really have no opinion for or against this, but it is worthwhile sticking it in this article. Anyway, a bit of background here. Pedro Fernández de Quirós (hope I got the name right) was a Portugese navigator and explorer who sailed on a Spanish voyage of exploration into the Pacific. I'm not going to get into too much detail about him and his adventures, but they make for a fascinating read. Anyway, with his three ships *San Pedro y San Pablo*, *San Pedro*, and *Los Tres Reyes* he entered the Pacific. In January 1606 he came across two islands within a short amount of time, which he named "La Encarnacion" and "San Juan Bautista." Here is the contention, since I have heard two theories: La Encarnacion and San Juan Bautista are Ducie Island and Henderson Islands respectively, or they may be Henderson Island and Pitcairn Island respectively. Which is it? Don't know, personally. I have to go and read my copy of Quirós's account again, but that may be a while since I have it in storage. Personally I found the rest of the account more interesting than these two discoveries. Regardless this is a bit of food for thought, but there is one more concrete statement one can make of this: Pedro Fernández de Quirós appears to be the first recorded European to sight what is today known as the Pitcairn Islands, whether or not Pitcairn itself was one of them.

Then we come to the much yapped about Captain Philip Carteret when he came across Pitcairn. Carteret was captain of the H.M.S. *Swallow* which had become separated from its mother ship (can't believe I just used that word. No! I am not a sci-fi geek; I only look like Jabba the Hut with a beard!) and was plodding its way into the Pacific. On July 2nd 1767, during some fairly bad weather with high waves (to quote Carteret's account given in Hawkesworths collection: "long, rolling billows from the southward, larger and higher than any I had seen before") a "young gentleman" called Robert Pitcairn sighted an island to the northish from them. The following day they came nearer and Carteret reported that the island appeared uninhabited, and had vegetation and also a waterfall (it had recently been subject to heavy rain, obviously). Although tempted to go ashore, they decided against it, due to the large waves breaking on the shore. As an aside here, I recently heard someone mention that Carteret and co. landed on this island. My advice is "read the story before you go shooting your mouth off!" Sorry, some people have a tendency to get on my nerves (and I on theirs). Anyway, to make up for not going ashore Carteret decided to get some soundings on the west side of the island, and then carried on his journey. Carteret noted down the islands position, but there was one catch: he noted it down 188.4 nautical miles (give or take a few inches) west of where it really was (note to self: don't go on a road trip with anyone related to Carteret). Oh yeah, and he called it Pitcairn's Island after the young guy who first sighted it. So unlike Heiragi, Hiti-au-revareva, and dare I say Matakiterangi and San Juan Bautista, this name stuck, at least for the time being (actually, I have a few suggestions, but believe me, you don't want to hear them unless you've got a twisted sense of humour).

The next known visit is one you've all undoubtedly heard about. Yes, it was the Bounty, which landed in January 1790 with the first generation of the inhabitants of modern-day Norfolk and Pitcairn. From there it is pretty much established. How are these events recognised? Well, first of all, back in 1967, a set of five stamps were issued with the title "The Discovery of Pitcairn Islands." The first stamp was of a Mangarevan canoe (c. 1325), the second depicted my man Quirós and the *San Pedro y San Pablo* (1606), the third had the *San Pedro*, and *Los Tres Reyes* (1606), the fourth is the *Swallow* and Carteret (1767), and the fourth has the *Hercules* (1819). Say what? Well, I may as well add that this ship and her captain (Captain Henderson) stopped at a certain island and named it Henderson Island (gee, I wonder where they got that name from?) Anyway, as far as the events are recognised in holidays and such, Bounty Day is celebrated in January, and from what I gather they celebrated earlier this month (for the first time as far as I know) the anniversary of Carteret and his brief visit. As for the earlier ones? Nada! All I can say then is Viva Matakiterangi! I think I'll go out and watch a movie after writing this (for some reason I have a craving for sci-fi).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for such a lovely edition of Dem Tull! Very sad to hear about Terry Young; I wish to tull all dem Pitkerners that your Toge is in Heaven with God now and to always remember that. I am also impressed with the pix in this edition and it clearly shows that things are changing on the island...a paved road, a satellite dish, and a tourist board! Pitcairn may be moving on up in the world but hopefully the island's traditional character will not be completely lost as the island slowly adapts to the 21st century. Pitcairn is an unique place in the world and it would be a damned shame if its way of life would be lost. I have had a lifelong interest in Pitcairn ever since I saw that Disney travelogue short about Pitcairn in Wonderful World of Disney's "Pacificaly Speaking." I was probably around 9 or 10 at the time and I am now 34. Things and people may always come and go on the island, but the lovely marriage of Tahiti and England will always be present on the island. Hilary D. Lawrence. P.S. Julie...you have my permission to print this in the June edition!

Dear Julie, Thank you very much for May 2011 Edition. Sad to hear about Terry Young's death and difficult for us understanding about all your problems getting a person to a hospital. In Stockholm it takes minutes.

This latest issue is the best so far of Dem Tull. I have been teary eyed all morning reading the tributes to Toge especially Timmy's eulogy and Brian's letter. RIP Toge.

Gerty un me too I su run outta tissue (Unfortunately Gerty is Julies nickname)

Hello Julie & Kari - I am sorry to say that I never was acquainted with Terry Young, but even if I was I don't think I could add anything to all the fine things that were said by those who did know him. However, one of the things that did grab my attention was that he and I were both born on October 14th. In all my life I have never actually known anyone who was born the same day as I was. So for what it's worth for 52 years Terry and I shared birthdays together at different places along the way. Thanks again for your news letter. Bill McCaul

Dear Julie and Kari, Thank you. I was in tears reading about Terry though I didn't know him. I remember Kari's evacuation to Tahiti in 2006 on Saga Rose when I met you all, so I have some idea of how scary and important that can be, but can only imagine the distress of everyone when Terry's evacuation failed to get him help in time. Thank goodness for Xplore and its wonderful compassionate crew. Please pass my condolences to everyone who knew and loved him. Sandra

Hi Julie, Could you please enter condolences to the family of Toge from Susie and me into the next edition. We certainly remember Toge for his gentleness and quiet demeanour. He was certainly a family man and I remember how much he loved Anette and Timmy. Special condolences to Brian whose love for his brother was obvious while we spent our short time on the Island. **MARK ELLMOOS**

THE BACK PAGE

VIDEOLINK

The Governor and Deputy Governor had a vidlink with Council and the public in the Public Hall just prior to the Human Rights visitors early June. We got more information about funding for the proposed alternative harbor in Tedside, - there is money for the harbor, but EU won't release it until they can see a well worked out strategic plan with financial rationale. The Governor referred to the auditor's report from the visit last September, our spending did not get a clean bill of health for last year. We were also told to show more vision for the future in our 5 year strategic plan, not just describing the present situation. The plan must be better worked through, with more substance. We have to make sure we can deliver and be accountable. The Governor's office has an advocacy role on behalf of the island, but it must be *Pitcairn's* vision, something that we all want for the future. There must be fiscal management and accountability on the island, even more so now with the tough financial environment in Europe. If HMGs recommendations remain unacted upon, strict stringency would be the consequences.

It was also stressed that an important aspect of responsibility and accountability is good conduct, and the Code of Conduct from St Helena has recently been modified for Pitcairn. Values and good behavior need to be demonstrated. The way Council conducts business should be above reproach, not letting personal feelings rule. The Human Right training is *not* a choice, but something Council members will do. The Governor said : "I expect every Council member to undertake the training, and you will learn how to represent the people." She also referred to the recent urge some people showed for a change in election legislation, which was described as "discriminate against one specific person". She said they should ask themselves what is your motivations for that change? Rather than an editing exercise, is it for the best of all islanders?

We were informed that the new Governor's Representative on the island will be Carol Schumann, and the new Deputy Governor in New Zealand will be Kevin Lynch, both to take up office later this year.

FROM COUNCIL

Geoff, the NZ policeman submitted a Search and Rescue policy including a Fire policy proposal to Council some months ago, and it was tabled again, in reference to the emergency situation last year (Dem Tull August 2010), the incident at St Pauls and lastly with Terry's evacuation. There are lessons to be learnt, and more cohesive operations could be put in place. Some are against changing the way Pitcairners have rallied around when the alarm goes, and in spite of having no policies in place in the past, it has always worked out well - so far. Others think that some structured policies would not go amiss. One Council member tore up the written proposal at the Council table in protest – and then volunteered to chair the meeting of a committee to look at the same proposal.

One of the reasons why a structured policy should be written, which reason was also submitted in the Search and Rescue policy, was due to the fact that when the extremely serious accident happened down Rope (2010) the Medical Doctor turned up at the accident site without any medical equipment or medication whatsoever. He had no painkillers, no nothing and there was a 40-minute delay in getting the medical equipment needed like drugs, splints, bandages, etc. Going down Rope is dangerous at the best of times and a warning sign has been there for some years so it is quite baffling why a doctor would turn up at an emergency, which was taken seriously by everyone else from the outset without a medical kit. So some kind of policy is needed in the hope that situations like this could be prevented.

In his monthly report the DM Works expressed his concern that some of the unloading crew at Landing refused to wear safety gear, and Council suggested that those who did not wear safety gear, should be removed from the Landing and work at unloading containers at The Edge or at the Store instead.

It was stressed by our Auckland PIO accountant and the DM Finance and Economics that though the cap of \$200,000 for loans had been exceeded by \$40,000, there would not be any problem as long as payments continued to be made on a regular basis. The last four years Pitcairners have been making good use of First Home Loans, Home Improvement Loans and Personal Loans, while in days past our houses were built of local timber – lata, miro, tapau - and dunnage from ships, - no loans were available then.

The new system put in place of checking every item coming out of the containers with the manifest, should eliminate the problem of recent disappearance or theft of private cargo items on supply ship day.

It has been Councils wish to have a Machinery hire policy as government equipment are hired out for private use and they are worried that some folks are charged rental fees and some aren't. This has come up in council most months but in particular 25 August 2010, 8/10 October 2010, 17 November 2010 and in the 15 April 2011 minutes Division Manager for Ops said there would be a policy ready for the May 2011 Council meeting. I still haven't seen a copy of a written policy.



Back issues of Dem Tull can be
found on:

www.demtullpitcairn.com

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