



**Uklun tull un Dem tull**

# Pitcairn News

**June 2007**

PHOTO: Down St Pauls Stone

**Julie in New Zealand tull** - June has arrived which means we are now midway through 2007. Doesn't time fly? Soon the Southern Hemisphere will have its shortest day and then days will start getting longer which means more sunshine. I thought it was about time to update our friends and supporters with some current news about Pitcairn, on Island and off. Time permitting, I will try and send out a regular news letter to let you all know how we are coping and progressing forward. I am sending this to friends and supporters in the form of a newsletter to make it less boring than an ordinary email. It is a private letter and is not intended to detract from Miscellany where any profits go for the benefit of the Pitcairn school and which have fabulous photos

## *An email from good friends tull*

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2007 11:22 a.m.

**To:** Julie

**Subject:** Any action?

Good morning Julie, The last we heard from Kari was just before she left NZ ..... "We are wondering if anything is happening and if we can help in any way. Saw the documentary a while ago. Not quite as one sided as most. It was the scenery we enjoyed the most and the memories it brought back. .... Regards

## **HAIR TODAY GONE TOMORROW"**

### ***Everybody tull***

Michele and Olive at Big Fence opened up a beauty parlour on 23d May and most of the women and some of the outside men attended the grand opening. Hair cuts, colouring, manicure and pedicure - a treat for the women especially, who in times past used to cut each other's hair, but now gladly pay for the cut and the "luxuries" thrown in with it - having someone wash your hair and massage the scalp, plus having a foot spa is worth it!

## **BRAVEHART VISITS**

### ***Pitcairn news tull***

The two visits from the British charter boat in May brought changeover crew for another three months - seven correction officers and two social workers one of the latter left for NZ soon after. Mystery still surrounds the reasons for leaving early. Diane Jefferson again accompanied the two social workers and returned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Braveheart visit. Also Commissioner Jacques and a psychologist for the remand center arrived for an extended visit. Also two representatives from DFID (Department for International Development) spent ten days here to assess the need for ongoing social workers' presence to protect the children and help the community move forward. They had talks and discussions with everyone who had an opinion on the subject, and made notes while most of the locals expressed their feelings and views.

## BOOKS BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS – Book reviews from Google tull

1. "Kathy Marks is .....*Her non-fiction book ..... is a riveting account of the child sex abuse trials on Pitcairn Island. In late 2004 Marks was one of only four reporters who remained on the island for the duration of the six-week case..... For the first time her book tells the extraordinary untold story of the case, laying bare the inner workings of this closed, secretive community and the events that have exposed it to the world.....*"
2. "Diana Southami's book .....a review by Dea Birkett "*Pitcairn has always been a place of fabulous inventions. It is a mark of her skill in this tricky literary territory that her fabrications don't worry us.*"

I have deliberately not mentioned the names of their books because it would be free advertising for them, although it isn't hard to find if you search the internet. I personally have no intention of putting money into their pockets by buying them. I will wait until they are in the library and will read them for free.

The heading on one of the Diana Southami's sites said "*NO WONDER PITCAIRN ISLAND IS THE PITS*". This gets my blood boiling and makes me even more determined not to pay to read them.

### NEW ROOF ON RE-OCCUPIED HOME

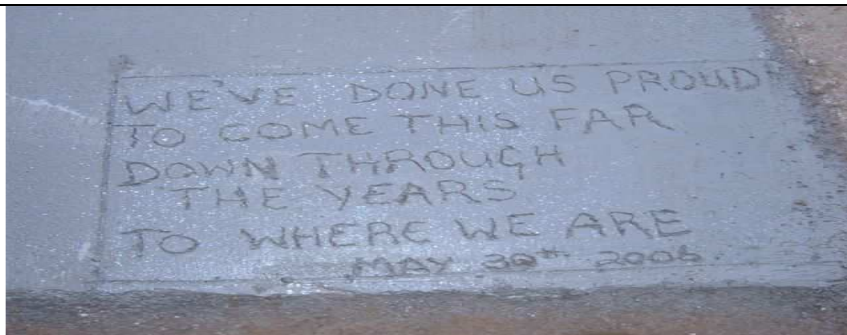
Kari's home that was in danger of heading for the house graveyard on Pitcairn has been rescued and rehabited again.

When they arrived back on Pitcairn in March they didn't know if their house was wetter inside or outside. This is an email I received from Kari in May after their roofing iron arrived on the May supply ship

"Dave, Dennis and the other "free" men came up two afternoons and changed the roofing on the "sea" side of the house, where it was leaking badly and had even damaged the floor inside. So now we can sleep without umbrellas! Our house is really taking shape, and it is HOME again." Kari



### LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL FRANGIPANI TREE TO THE SIDE OF THEIR HOUSE



Photograph of a verse handwritten into the new concrete road below the Village Square. 30 May 2006.

*"We've done us proud to come this far down through the years to where we are  
May 30<sup>th</sup> 2006"*

Photo by Terry Young

**FRENCH VISIT – Pitcairn News tull**

The French navy sent "Larousse" on a mission to Pitcairn to deliver drums of fuel and spare parts for our engineering department, as well as paying a courtesy visit, which the French do as good neighbours, since the Gambier Islands are only two days' sailing away.

They arrived 30th May in atrocious weather - and there has been a lot of that lately - and had to anchor off the south coast of the island, where it was almost as rough as in front of Adamstown on the northern coast. Only one longboat with a skeleton crew of experienced islanders went out to take visitors ashore and unload the cargo. The longboat trainees, who lately have complained about being excluded and not given a chance to learn crewing the longboats, had one look at the sea conditions and must have found other jobs elsewhere. Mind you I would have too.

The mayor was so concerned about the weather conditions and the safety of everyone that he suggested to the Larousse captain that the proposed BBQ which the French had planned for everyone at the Square, might have to be cancelled so the visiting French crew members be brought back on board before conditions deteriorated further. So Larousse left a day early, while Pitcairn faced another week of rainy and stormy weather.

The Larousse also brought a big load of cut wood from the mayor of Mangareva as a gift to the people of Pitcairn. After Larousse's departure, there was a shareout of the precious miro wood, one share for each member of the local community, including the men in the remand. A very popular gift, as Pitcairners use the miro for their famous carvings.

**BROWN'S BAKERY – Mum tull**

Every second Friday most of the population, locals and outsiders, gather down The Square around the big table, where busy bakers have spread out the morning's results from hectic baking activities - bread loaves and bread rolls, pizzas (vegetarian and meat), cakes and muffins and pies (sweet ones and chicken and meat and vegetarian ones), bread sticks and guava/apple roly polys - the table is getting fuller every Friday. The event was initiated by Dave, who got the Council's permission, and now it has turned into a major gathering. People go down there not only to sell, but to buy today's dinner, and sometimes their lunch and dinner for the next couple of days as well. Some people go home with 23 chicken pies to munch on the coming week. Another treat for the local people, to actually BUY their dinner instead of cooking it themselves. As you all know there is no restaurant or bakery (except for Brown's Bakery) or even cafe on Pitcairn, so this is the nearest thing to "eating out".

Mum tull last Friday she didn't feel like baking bread that day so she ordered her bread un buns from Dave, Dennis just loves Paulines mince and chicken pies and Darralyn and Charlenes pizza's. When mum rang me she was munching on Mavis rolls (bread sticks) and was going to freeze some breadfruit she bought from Carol for when we visit Pitcairn early next year. Sweet stuff.



**WHAT IS THE FASHIONABLE PHRASE ON PITCAIRN TODAY? Answer: *Healing and moving forward***" this is according to the many Public Servants associated with Pitcairn, media, Social workers, etc.

Are we moving forward? I believe so, albeit two steps forward and one step backward. From what I hear there are good things happening on Pitcairn and the majority is marching onwards and upwards. Understandably a minority marches out of step with the majority. With the frailty of the human soul, positive ness easily turns to negative ness. Knock backs happen often but we seem to be picking ourselves up and moving forward more frequently. It is hard but we are strong. .

The next court hearing is set down for 20 June 2007 in the Pitcairn Appeal Court so we are bracing ourselves for more media frenzy and bad publicity. Adrian Cooke, QC arrives from Norfolk Island on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June to continue the fight.

The Therapist who arrived on the Braveheart in May and left on the French ship last week circulated a newsletter to the islanders. What annoys me the most and lead us to think there is little hope is when it appears we are condemned in advance. It's hard not to be angry when the backward steps are sometimes caused by the people sent to help us. I have a copy of the newsletter which I will attach to my email for those interested. I will leave it up to you to judge for yourself.

**MAIL STATISTICS –**

Mail out – Nov 2006 = 27  
Mail out – May 2007 = 256  
Mail in - May 2007 = 252

Amazing. Letters mailed to and from Bobs valley three times per week is increasing the Post Office's revenue.

**THE 'SPRUCING UP' OF PITCAIRN – I TULL**

The uniqueness of these group emails between our families, friends and many supporters came together because of the Investigation and subsequent court trials. Prior to that, contact with each other was spasmodic and far and few between. It is comforting to all of us to get so many emails of continuing support and interest in 'how we are doing'.

I therefore feel it is appropriate to briefly comment on how our men are doing. Sometimes good things come out of bad. Pitcairn is being spruced up by them. The Bobs Valley five have built new steps going down to St Pauls Pool, have knocked down and rebuilt the canoe shed at the landing and fixed the awful dirt road going down to Tedside. The two doing community service works two days a week cleaning up the place even cleaning the Church windows in the pouring rain.

**THE FINAL WORD GOES TO MY MUM, IRMA CHRISTIAN**  
*An 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday tribute*

Brain tumor or old age? In 1997 hours away from certain death, during a marathon eight hours of surgery, NZ surgeons removed a golf ball sized non malignant tumor from the centre of mum's brain.

With normal telephones now on Pitcairn Mum and I ring each other often. Sometimes during our gossip sessions she would worry about repeating herself and tull "must be because of the brain tumor". No mum I tull, "must be old age".

On Sunday 3 June 2007 mum celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A huge milestone. When mum was in hospital the specialists were worried at how frail she looked as she weighed only 45 kilos, her normal weight. They eventually agreed she wasn't frail when I had to sign a permission slip allowing them to strap mum in her bed as during her delusional moments it took four men to hold mum down in bed and she also kept on pulling out the wires connecting her to the machines.

10 years on is she frail? Well like the other typical Pitcairn women in her age group she still drives the 4 wheeler farm bikes, still visits cruise ships, works like a trouper, still speaks her mind and rules the family. I'm always asking Dennis – how's mum? He often replies – don't ask. Mum you are so capable both physically and mentally; we sometimes forget you are 80 years old. We can't fool you, no way. We thought we could send emails without you knowing. I know you were dismayed with some of my emails so we tried to hide them from you. But you soon got on the phone to me and tulla me – you know there are some missing. We could never pull the wool over your eyes. Your faith in the Lord is so strong mum, I believe he has stood by you and is walking with you every day.

Also celebrating her birthday on the same day as mum was Pauline Young. Pauline didn't want a party but her mum who is similar vintage as my mum thought otherwise. She wanted to have a surprise party for Pauline who hasn't had a birthday on Pitcairn for 40 odd years. So Vula and Timmy got on the 4 wheel farm bike and rode around the island inviting everyone to the party.

So there were two special parties on Pitcairn on the same day. The Pitcairn families divided themselves between the two groups and celebrated in the only way we know how – with lots of food. To prove we don't just eat and run so as to beat the power going off at 10 pm, Dennis said a small group was debating the pros and cons of Evolution versus Creation they forgot the time and the electricity went to sleep before them. Not sure who won?

If anyone wants to 'tull' in the next Pitcairn News letter then tulla me on [julie@customcredit.co.nz](mailto:julie@customcredit.co.nz)

Harts all fer now.  
Hooray