

UCKLUN TULL UN DEM TULL

Pitcairn News

Volume 2 No 9

September 2008



LOOKING AT BOUNTY BAY

Julie in New Zealand tull: Many Pitcairners are suffering from policy fatigue so it is a relief to welcome the cruise ship season. Focus is now driven towards making souvineers to sell, an absolute necessity as additional income is needed to supplement the small salaries paid in most positions. It appears salary reviews have taken a back seat to policy making.

CRUISE SHIP – CLIPPER ODESSEY The first cruise ship of the season



Before arrival at approximately 6.00 pm on the 17th September 2008 the Clipper Odessey invited the Mayor and five community members to come onboard to have dinner, mix with the passengers, talk about Pitcairn and spend the night onboard in spare passenger cabins. A very popular idea, sponsored by Jack Grove who is an old Pitcairn friend, has been here many times, and is the one who in 1990 for our Bicentennial celebration brought the Arcadia anchor from its wreck



at Ducie to Pitcairn, where it is now displayed at The Edge.

The following morning, after a splendid breakfast onboard, Pitcairners hurried ashore to prepare their stalls and souvenirs for the passengers and crew. There were stalls all along the main road and at The Square, where everyone was invited for a sit down lunch prepared onsite, fish and chips, salads and all the scrumptious Pitcairn dishes. Dave did a slide show and lead in a sing-a-long in the church, attended by enthusiastic tourists.



The Clipper Odessey left that evening, and will return in a year's time.

PHOTOS: Clockwise from top left: Clipper Odessey, Inside the Church, Lunch in the village square.

One of the roles of the Tourism Board is to cater for the tourists and together with immigration collect landing fees, etc. They arrange for staffing e.g. provide a paid lecturer when one is requested and usually pay someone to welcome the tourists at the landing. Stepping ashore at Bounty Bay the tourists are faced with the long trek up the hill we call the Hill of Difficulty referring to the terrible road that used to be before it was recently concreted. Some folks who stay ashore have traditionally offered a personal taxi service using their own petrol and their private four wheel bikes making multiple trips from the landing to the village square while charging \$US2.00 per person to cover costs. While many tourists prefer to walk a number are usually very happy to take advantage of the service. Some folks also take time out from trading to take small numbers on tours of the island for a small fee. On the evening preceding the Odessey visit an announcement was made on the VHF radio by the Chairman of the Tourism Board advising that all fees collected for these private services were to be handed into the Tourism Board. This announcement did not go down well as no mention was made about reimbursing private individuals for the genuine costs involved, i.e. petrol or for the individuals hourly time in providing a necessary service as there are no buses or coaches on Pitcairn and many tourists are elderly. One of Pitcairn's new policies? If so, hopefully the policymakers will sometime soon give consideration to amending the policy to include 'deductible expenses'.

IN SEPTEMBER 1992 Ben (as a two year old) and I travelled with Pitcairn's new Seventh Day Adventist Pastor **Mark Elmoos and his wife Sue, our new nurse and their three children, Fritha, Obie and Kai** on a Container ship to Pitcairn. My memories of the trip was fantastic as there were more passengers bound for Pitcairn than normal and we were given full run of the passenger lounge which was great for the seven young children travelling together. Didn't see much of Sue on the trip. Nothing she took would combat the awful bout of seasickness she suffered from during the whole seven day journey. Through the newsletter I have kept in touch with Mark and Sue and I have asked him to tulla us wusing dems family doen now (write about what their family is doing)

MARK ELMOOS TULL: After one of the best twenty-seven months of our lives we left Pitcairn very happy to get off the Island for a break. We immediately missed almost everything about Pitcairn and have wanted to get back ever since! The island is just another island. The people are what made it such a momentous event for us. The strong and independent personalities were wonderful. Even when Susie and I had the occasional clash it was a good powerful clash and then it was over.

It has saddened us that there is bitterness about the newsworthy events since we left. It also saddened us that there was some thinking (by some outsiders) that Fritha may have been involved in some culturally condoned "activities" on the island. We never ever felt that there was any danger for any of our kids in those matters.



So our reflections are only positive. From the mission ladder being "caretaken" by Dennis to Brians loud expletive when I stood on his rotund belly out on Tub one day. We will always remember fondly the extreme hospitality and our acceptance by yorley. I remember vividly Dave feeding us up on a big beef feast up at the bar-b-que area on a camp out one weekend. I still laugh at the paint job on Dennis's mobile ham shack!

These days Susie and I live in Busselton which is in the south-west corner of Western Australia. It's quite a good place to live. I am still a pastor . . . do you believe it!? Fritha is at Karratha at the moment. She came to live there with us when we were there for a couple of years after she travelled around Europe and Asia for a few years. She is the business manager at the Karratha hospital right now but does not like the job and is looking for something different. Obie has been living in Bangkok for about four years now I think. He teaches at some school over there. He got a degree in banking and finance and never used it. So he ended up in Thailand as a volunteer English teacher for a year then did a Masters degree in education through Avondale College and seems to like the teaching thing. He is living with his girlfriend and seems happy. Kai is doing his last year at Avondale College where he is studying Physics, maths and education. He does not know what he wants to do. Susie is still doing her nursing and like it. I am still catching a few waves. I get to have a surf at least once a week. We will get back to your island one of these days! **In the photo: Left to right: Obie, Fritha, Kai, Sue and Mark.**

TIMOTHY YOUNG (our Historian) TULL: Well, here I am after some pause. Anyway, I have decided for this one issue to delve into certain Bounty relics. My reason for this is because I am currently festering in New Zealand, and being the logistical doofus that I am, I sent most of my materials to Australia, so I have nothing to proof my usual articles with, or any images to accompany them. However, my Bounty artefact database is with me so I'll write on two items from that.

Despite the fact that she was burnt to the waterline and despite being over a century and a half underwater, artefacts such as rope, string, leather and canvas have survived from the Bounty. I will show two of these items this time. When the Bounty anchor was raised in February 1957 and left on the shore, Floyd McCoy went to work chipping the growth off the anchor. Amongst this rust and encrustation were, surprisingly, large segments of canvas (top photo). Some people, mostly island children, took the pieces for themselves. Today, several examples survive in private collections, mostly with the children (or their relatives) who recovered them. The particular one shown here has a noticeable weave, and you can even see the loose strands and encrustation as well. The



second item shown here is a rope, which was recovered from the wreck site of the Bounty in 1989 by Dave Brown. Its bottom is embedded in growth, but the top part shows the original rope very clearly. It is currently in the Pitcairn Museum, in a glass case. Judging by its state of preservation, and lack of fire damage, it was probably stored in the hold when the Bounty was scuttled. It has a left-hand lay, which is consistent with the 18th century naval vessels.

Well, that's it from me this month. The next time I find myself writing a historical article and short of materials to proof my articles with, I'll send more Bounty (and other shipwrecks) relic information, because that's something that hardly, if ever, leaves my sight.

ANOTHER PITCAIRNER MARRIES (in New Zealand) – Michael Brown Pauline's son.

Pauline Brown nee Young (Brown her married name but not from the Pitcairn Browns) returned to Pitcairn in December 2006 for the first time in 40 years to look after her sick mum Vula who passed away last year. Pauline's only child Michael stayed behind in New Zealand with his partner Kirsten. Pauline returned to New Zealand in August on the Braveheart to attend Michael's wedding but recently told me she is itching to get back to Pitcairn but can't get back until the next Braveheart rotation in December.

New Zealand's 2008 winter weather was atrocious where it rained and rained and rained. Thankfully Friday 12 September 2008 dawned bright and clear with sunshine. But it was cold. It was the day of Michael and Kirsten's wedding. The ceremony was held in an outside venue at the Botanic Gardens in Manurewa, a beautiful setting, followed by the reception held in the Sub-tropical room, also in the same complex. The bride's mum made all of the bridal dresses including her own lilac dress. Kirsten had hand made all of the wedding invitations and name tags at the wedding reception including a small boxed gift for each guest of Hershey kisses. The colour theme was black and white and this followed through with the bridal party dresses and the wedding cake. The photos speak for themselves.



Kirsten, Michael and Pauline



Kirsten's parents join them



Walma and Dawn at the reception

THE FAMOUS EMILY CHRISTIAN REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN SEPTEMBER

On Sunday 14 September 2008 a public party was held at Flatland to celebrate Emily's fifth birthday. Five years of age is the compulsory age for starting school on Pitcairn. Jeannie Horrell the school teacher returned from holiday on the Braveheart on Thursday 25 September 2008 which meant Emily could finally graduate from preschool to the big school. Check out the candle on the birthday cake. **Her mummy Nadine tull:**

"Here are some of the photos I took of Emily's fifth birthday. Can't believe she's grown up this fast.... my big girl!!! She got totally over loaded with pressies and had a housefull of people come celebrate with us. Check out her candle.... Idiot mother didn't check to see if we had any birthday candles so I had to improvise! :-)"



Grandma Olive proudly watching



The Birthday girl



Great Grandma Dobrey watching



KARI YOUNG, THE PRESCHOOL TEACHER TULL: When Emily recently turned 5, she was ready to leave the preschool class of two children, and join the "big" kids in the main school room. There are now seven students in school

including the older correspondence student, and Emily's brother Ryan is the only one in preschool until his younger sister Adrianna is old enough to join.



BITS AND PIECES

CHARLENE WARREN-PEU and son JAYDEN left Pitcairn on the second Braveheart rotation in August. Charlene is here in New Zealand waiting to give birth to her fifth child and Jayden had his appendix removed a couple of weeks ago. All three will be travelling back home on the next Braveheart rotation in early December. Apparently flights to Tahiti are booked for 30 November 2008 and while baby's arrival time is close to departure date we have it on good authority baby will arrive before the departure date. I asked for a photo of Jayden in hospital but while mum Charlene took her camera with her she forgot to take a photo. I understand Jayden is interested in things historical, like Timothy Young who took Jayden to the Museum of Transport and Technology here in Auckland by train.

BEN LEFT PITCAIRN on the Braveheart on 27 September and arrived in Auckland on Friday 3 October. He travelled with Tom, Betty, Jacqui Christian, the optometrist and the tourist from The Lonely Planet guide. A few of us, including Bens dad waited at the airport for our loved ones to arrive. In the photo: clockwise standing - a former corrections officer to Pitcairn, Darlene holding baby Caleb and Commissioner Jaques (with the sunglasses following his eye operation). I am a sucker for taking photos of babies and Caleb gave some big smiles only after I lowered the camera.



PASTOR RAY celebrated his birthday on Tuesday 9 September with a public dinner at the square. Pastor and Anne returned in August on the Braveheart following a three months holiday in Australia and New Zealand.

I have received quite a few enquiries asking about **TRANSPORT TO PITCAIRN**. We do not have an airport so flying is not an option. The supply ship Tapora do not have passenger accommodation. The Braveheart is chartered by the British for the primary purpose of transporting officials on the three monthly rotation and private individuals are able to book spare passage. The charter is shortly to end. We understand alternative shipping is being arranged. Pitcairners travelling on the Braveheart receive substantial subsidies, currently paying \$NZ1,500.00, one way for the two days and three nights on board. The cost of flights are additional. Non Pitcairners like Pastor Ray and Anne do not qualify for the subsidy and I understand, their return trip on the Braveheart cost \$NZ48,000.00. Anyone wishing to travel to Pitcairn can contact the Pitcairn Island Administration in Auckland, New Zealand. For further information and contact details visit the Pitcairn government website www.pitcairn.gov.pn. Because there are fewer non subsidized fares travelling to Pitcairn it is possible the cost per person is likely to increase substantially.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT on Wednesday, 10 September 2008. "The warehouse will not be opening today due to the Warehouse Manager having an accident while woodworking on his lathe. A wood flew up and broke his nose." Aaaaja. (Ouch).

On 15 September the **TWO LONGBOATS WENT TOWING (TRAWLING) FOR FISH** for lunch for the passengers on the Cruise Ship Odessey. Har man buss dems pants. "They didn't have much luck catching fish".



SABBATH WALKS - I have mentioned in previous editions that most Pitcairners regard Saturday as a day of rest (from work). With Bens imminent departure after seven months, he realized there were many places he had not actually visited. With regular Saturday walkers of Ben, Dennis, Dave, David, Ariel, Randy with Adrianna on his back, Nadine and a few others from time to time, they walked (on different days)



to Christians Cave, Down Rope, Down Long Ridge, Down har ridge under highest point and Down Tautama. Nadine took the photo of a very puffed Dennis sitting on a rock going down to Tautama. In the picture to the left Dave is sizing up two halves of a rock. The terrain in Tautama is volcanic and the area has no vehicle access.

24 September 2008 the **SUPPLY SHIP TAPAROA** arrived. Unfortunately the sea was rough this time and the Tapora had to heave to on the Western side of the Island which made it a longer journey. While returning with the empty longboat to the Tapora they trawled for fish and caught a Cuta (Wahoo) and the tiller on the boat caught the chest of one of our men and cracked some ribs. Aaaaja.

ARRIVING ON THE BRAVEHEART on 25 September 2008 were Jeannie Horrell, school teacher, Daphne returning from medical treatment in New Zealand with granddaughter Hope plus the Optometrist and the tourist from Lonely Planet guide mentioned above.

THE BACK PAGE

COMMISSIONERS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR

Last month I quoted from Minutes published on the Falklands Islands government website querying questions/statements asked of Commissioner Jaques an attendee at the meeting. Following on from that I emailed Melanie Tankard the current Governors representative on Pitcairn who was kind enough to answer the following questions for me. I am still unable to find any record of the reports being tabled in the Council Minutes but maybe I missed them.

1. *What relationship does Leslie Jaques, our Commissioner have with the Governor?*
2. *Why did they (the Chairman) think it was a difficult question for Leslie to answer?*
3. *What is the unusual position mentioned in Questions 30 & 31?*
4. *What is the significance of this relationship or lack of?*
5. *How widely known is the relationship mentioned in Q31? No one I have asked seems to know.*

Melanie kindly replied:

I have had to consult the Governor's Office on this as I wasn't sure which Committee was being referred to. I now know these questions were asked of Leslie at the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) hearing on the Overseas Territories. Islanders were asked to submit evidence to this Committee (and in the event I think Kari took up this option). A copy of the report on the FAC hearing was sent to Cookie, as Mayor, and to Kari, because she gave evidence. Leslie attended the hearing representing Pitcairn because he happened to be in London at the time and volunteered to give oral evidence to the Committee.

To answer your questions:

- 1) Leslie, as Commissioner, reports directly to the Governor. He is in regular contact with the Governor, and they have a good relationship.
- 2) I actually don't know why the Chairman would have thought that would be a difficult question for Leslie to answer. I can only assume it is because Leslie is appointed by the Governor. The other OT representatives were, I believe, elected representatives.
- 3) This is probably also the 'unusual position' being referred to. Other OT elected Heads of Government were in London at that time for the OTCC. Leslie had suggested that Jay, as Mayor, accompany him to London to attend the OTCC, but Jay had already been off island for some time by that point representing Pitcairn at various meetings in the Pacific, and chose not to go. Leslie was therefore Pitcairn's only representative.
- 4) I don't know why the Chairman chose to ask this question, but I suspect he just wanted to know how the elected OT leaders got on with their HMG appointed Governors.
- 5) The OTCC has certainly been discussed at Council. As I said above, Jay was invited to attend in 2007. Cookie was invited to attend this year, but prefers to wait until next year when, hopefully, the new shipping service will be operating and he won't need to spend so much time off island. I understand Leslie will share the agenda for next month's meeting with Council and consult them on what they might like him to say on their behalf.

I hope this answers your questions sufficiently. Kind regards, Melanie.

COMPLAINANTS COMPENSATION

I know this is the September newsletter but it is difficult not to comment on another news report started on 6 October 2008 in my neck of the woods but which appears to be circulating worldwide on the subject of victims compensation claims against the British. Britain has, after some resistance, now made it possible for Pitcairn complainants to apply for compensation. You may be interested to read the document "Framework for Compensation" on the Pitcairn Government website <http://www.pitcairn.gov.pn/Compensation%20Framework.pdf>

The issue of complainants compensation has been a very controversial topic over the course of the investigation and trials. Accusations of offers of compensation (bribes we called them) were made by many Pitcairn women after we were tracked and hunted down all over the world and interviewed by the police, but the offers of compensation were denied by the diplomats, legal people and police investigators. Many emails in large groups including the associated press, smaller groups and intimate groups have circulated around the world on this topic alone. Legal action was threatened over some emails. I understand sworn affidavits complaining amongst other things, about the offers of compensation, were filed by some women with the Police Complaints Authority in New Zealand and its equivalent in Britain. Nothing happened. I hope to report further on this controversial topic in the October edition.

FROM COUNCIL MINUTES:

Elected Island Councilor Turi Griffiths is councilor no more. When researching on the various policies and law change recommendations he discovered that at the time he was elected he wasn't eligible to stand for Councilor as he had not resided on Pitcairn for a consecutive period of three years due to his absence from the island for 10 months following his wife Darralyns accident and evacuation for medical treatment in Tahiti and New Zealand and was honest enough to bring this to the attention of council. His replacement is Jacqui Christian.

Pitcairn Island General Store Policy

- 4.1 The Store will stock and sell alcohol and cigarettes
- 4.2 Alcohol or Tobacco maybe ordered on Private Orders."

Updating the Local Governance Ordinance - on elections and voting

"The Mayor tabled correspondence from the Deputy Governor outlining options for updating the Local Governance Ordinance. Council agreed on the following recommendations:

- That both proxy voting and voting by email be introduced. Providing that email votes are sent directly to a designated individual on island, such as the Gov Rep.
- That Paul Rishworth*** will be requested to draft appropriate recommendations for contesting election results and that a 3 week period, within which to contest results, is acceptable.
- That some provision be made to cover a person going off island for compassionate reasons, such as medical. This will enable people not to be penalised when standing for office - due to time spent off island.

PDT representative Jacqui Christian conveyed that PDT will not be ready to submit its recommendations for reducing the time needed to qualify to vote or stand for public office in time for this year's elections."

*** Paul Rishworth is legal advisor to the Governor. He replaces Paul Treadwell. The Island Council does not have its own independent legal advisor nor has it direct access to Paul Rishworth. It transpires that Councils access to Paul Rishworth is via the Governors Representative on Pitcairn, to the Governors office in Wellington, New Zealand to Paul Rishworth in Auckland, New Zealand and back again. A tad intimidating if you have issues contrary to the Governors. However it is understood that council or individual councilors are free to consult independent lawyers on policy making issues but it would be at their own personal expense. Elected councilors are paid \$NZ10.00 per meeting (maximum 3 hours per meeting) and a maximum of \$NZ30.00 per month for working on policies outside of council. They are paid \$NZ10 per hour when attending PDT meetings of three hours per time, usually once per month. A councilors remuneration would be lucky to buy five minutes of a good lawyers time.

Payment for Mayor and Chair of Internal Committee when Attending Special Council/PDT Meetings – (from previous editions you would have read that there is unhappiness about what most consider inequities in the different payments (in some cases no payment at all) for the various groups 'making policies'. Sometimes the difference is hundreds of dollars per month for what most consider the same work and time. This is creating some dysfunction in the community and is hindering what should be a moving forward time in our history.)

From the Council Minutes: "Following on from an inquiry from the CIC made at the last meeting the matter of why the Mayor and CIC were not paid for Special Council/PDT meeting attendance was discussed. The Governor's Representative said she had briefly raised this matter with the Governor's Office and it was considered that meeting attendance for the Mayor and CIC is covered by their annual salaries. Council was advised that the matter should be considered further when the proposed salary review is undertaken. In response the Mayor stated that his and the CIC's annual salaries were set over a year ago and did not adequately cover the length or frequency of Council meetings. It was noted that time spent on the governance restructure initiative had resulted in excessive time demands on all Council members – yet the Mayor and CIC do not get paid. The CIC pointed out that since the establishment of PDT (in February 2008) all PDT members have been paid for every hour worked and yet this has not been the case for Council. It was agreed that the arrangement is inequitable and unfair providing little or no incentive for extra effort.

The Governor's Representative conveyed that she has discussed with the Commissioner the possibility PDT members being paid salaries rather than an hourly rate. It was decided that a proposal should be sent to Council's partners outlining its members concerns and that the report should attempt to quantify actual meeting attendance since the inception of PDT in February 2008. It was also noted that some consideration should be given to payment for other related policy development groups, like the Social Welfare Development group, being paid for their work."

Off Islands Professionals not coming to the Island with Children – Minutes 9 September 2008

"The CIC said it had come to his attention that an advertisement for the new teacher stated that it was preferable that those with dependent children did not apply. The Governors Rep responded that at the moment HMG preferred that people coming to the island do not have dependent children due to what had happened in the past. There ensued general discussion on the matter and Councillor Brenda Christian asked why HMG has taken this stand when what happened here (the trials and subsequent convictions) was no different to that which happens anywhere else in the world. Melanie responded that FCOs preference was a safe guarding measure and that it is likely that as the island's child safety practices, policies and procedures are developed the matter will be reviewed. The Governor's Representative's honest response to the question was acknowledge and the Mayor asked that she convey to the Governor's Office that Council has not previously been made aware of this matter and it would have been helpful if it could be kept better informed.

In response to a query from the CIC at the last meeting the Governor's Representative had sought clarification from the Governor's office regarding FCO's policy on off-island professionals coming to the Island with children. She read the following response from the Governor, George Fergusson, dated September 11th 2008.

"I gather from Melanie that at least one Councillor has expressed surprise that we are not currently allowing off-islander professionals to be posted on the island with dependent children. Frankly, I am surprised at his surprise. It has been FCO policy for a number of years not to allow its officers to be posted to the island with dependent children. This is a decision taken by our Human Resources Welfare Department in London based on risk assessment including access to medical facilities and medical evacuation, education and other services. Pitcairn is not alone in this – there are a number of postings around the world which, from the point of view of an employer's duty of care to its staff, are not considered suitable for children. Since that principle applies to FCO personnel, it would be inconsistent not to apply it to other professionals posted to the Island.

In fact our concerns go wider than that – until we can be sure that adequate safeguards are in place to manage risks to child safety on Pitcairn we are not in a position to encourage any children to spend time on the island. During my visit earlier this year I emphasised to many of you the importance of getting child safety right. Lyn and the Social Welfare working group have been doing some valuable work in this area – there is still more to be done. We expect there will be a further review soon to enable us to gauge progress. I do hope Council and concerned members of the community will engage constructively in helping us to demonstrate that risks to children are managed sufficiently well to allow us to encourage more families to the island."

Also in the last Council Meeting: it was announced that a grandchild of a Pitcairn couple living on Pitcairn **might not** be allowed to come from New Zealand to visit, as the authorities still regard Pitcairn as not safe for children. That was a shock to us all. The local Social Development committee has been working for a while on guidelines for child protection, and will undoubtedly present a policy soon.

Until quite recently, the announcement of **FORMER DEPUTY GOVERNOR TO PITCAIRN, MR JOHN YAPP'S** appointment as British High Commissioner to Belize was posted on the Pitcairn government website. According to recent news reports, Mr Yapp has been ordered home to Britain after serving 10 months of a three year posting because of a **"tawdry affair that scandalized the country's expat community"** one news report said. For those interested in further details you can Google "John Yapp British Diplomat" if you want to know more.

UPDATE ON THE VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

| NAME OF PROJECT | CURRENT POSITION |
|---|--|
| Breakwater at Bounty Bay (project announced early this century) | Commenced – NO. Current position – Planning stage |
| Alternative Harbour on the Western side | Commenced – NO. Current position – Planning stage |
| Windmills for alternative power | Commenced – NO however in a recent public meeting it was mentioned that while no one has heard anything recently, it appears to be going ahead. |
| New Store | Commenced – NO. Current position, unsure but apparently they are trying to put systems and policies in place to make the project viable and to satisfy DFID the keeper of the money purse. |
| Concreting remainder of Main Road to Pulau | Commenced – NO. Current position – Planning stage |
| Shipping | Commissioner Jaques announced before leaving Pitcairn in August that Mangareva is now an International port. In a recent public meeting the Governors Rep was asked for an update. Apparently we are waiting on a letter from the Polynesian President to confirm. Apparently this is vital for any new shipping venture to be viable. |
| New Bounty Bay project widening jetty | Costings have been presented to council and a funding application is to be made to DFID. |