



Ships Landing Point

UCKLUN TULL UN DEM TULL

Pitcairn News

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JULIE IN NEW ZEALAND TULL: There is so much going on on Pitcairn these days they have forgone a second trip to Oeno Island to rebuild the buildings and have a holiday relaxing on the pristine white sand and swimming and fishing in the blue lagoon. Coming soon is a new website www.demtullpitcairn.com to host the newsletter. Online Pitcairn is busy. January and February 2009 were delayed due to Mike's absence from Pitcairn and the March edition hasn't been posted to the site. Mike is due to leave Pitcairn again later in the year on another trip so it is preferable to be independent. To all of you who email me asking where the newsletter is, hopefully the site will be up and running shortly.

ANZAC DAY



"In 1915 during World War 1, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of an Allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the Allied. The objective was to capture Istanbul, Turkey an alley of Germany. The ANZAC force landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Turkish Army. What had been planned as a bold strike to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stale-mate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915, the Allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian and 2,700 New Zealand soldiers died. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians and New Zealanders at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which they remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war." Referenced from Wikipedia.

Pitcairners served in wars mainly with the New Zealanders. Walma Warren who passed away in March 2009 was the last survivor of our returned service men. From time to time Pitcairn has celebrated Anzac Day and this year The Dawn Parade commenced at 6.45 am with the tolling of the bells followed by a formal program which included the laying of wreaths, a list of Pitcairn Islanders who served in the Armed Services was read out by the Pitcairn Children and the service ended with the hymn "Sweet bye and bye" and a blessing by Pastor Ray Codling. Our oldest resident, Dobrey Christian laid the wreath for Pitcairn.



Dobrey with Commissioner Jacques



All of our children



David Brown raising our flag

BOUNTY BAY JETTY EXTENSION



Work has commenced on the jetty at the Landing to make it wider for cargo handling and also to avoid spray and waves from hitting cargo stored on the jetty. Interviews were held with the men interested in working on the paid job and most work in shifts of two days on, two days off. This gives them the opportunity of meeting their other paid and personal obligations. During a day off for some went fishing and diving and "har old man certainly didn't buss dems pants" (they caught lots of fish) and shared them amongst family and friends or invited them to dinner to share the feast. So a day or two off is handy.



The photos show ucklun who haven't been home for a while how things have changed. I took the very nice photo, top right, of Mavis sitting on the wall at the jetty last year. You can see how close the sea is to the wall behind her and the wet rocks show how close the sea water comes to. In the recent photo of the landing, top left, the arrow shows the position of the wall Mavis is sitting on and you can see how much they have reclaimed the land to the back of it. A vast difference. They have bulldozed a new road going towards "Old Man" (beneath Ships Landing Point) to get access to the large number of rock boulders which is crushed to make gravel for the cement used to make the interlocking concrete "ackman" used for breakwaters.



TIMOTHY YOUNG TULL about 'THE MESSENGER'

There have been many tales of ships which have frequented Pitcairn. For my final ship tale, I will speak of the *Messenger*. What is special about this ship is the fact that she was built and run by the Pitcairners themselves.

Messenger was a schooner built on Pitcairn with donated materials. Items such as nails were made from old iron donated by all the Pitcairn families. She had a length of around 45 feet, and had a beam of 15 feet.

Messenger was launched on January 15th, 1917. She began her maiden voyage that same month, and she reached Tahiti on March 1st. Her average crew number was about 10 men. The Pitcairners wished to give the boat to the Seventh Day Adventist mission in Tahiti for missionary purposes, but the acting consul in Tahiti requested that the ship be run by the people of Pitcairn. From then on, *Messenger* ran between Pitcairn and Tahiti, with trips to other islands as well, including Oeno. George Warren was often a skipper aboard her. Parkin Christian and Floyd McCoy also worked on her. Floyd McCoy wrote quite a lot about his experiences on her, a lot of which survives today.

In April, 1920, the *Messenger* was on a trip from Mangareva when adverse weather made it spring a leak. The *Messenger* was within sight of Pitcairn when she began to founder. The boats from Pitcairn tried to reach them, but to no avail. The visiting steamer *Sassenach* was told by the island about the *Messengers* plight, and turned and went in search of them. Finding them, she took the *Messenger* in tow, but the small schooner fast filled with water, and she was emptied of cargo and crew. Nobody died, but the *Messenger* was left to sink. Her wheel and Compass were taken before she was abandoned.



Today, her wheel sits outside the Pitcairn Museum, and her compass is in private hands. Handwritten copies of the final days of the *Messenger* are also on display at the Pitcairn Museum.

Pictures: A drawing of the *Messenger* from her logbook.
The *Messengers* wheel outside the Museum.



OUR WATER SUPPLY AND POSSIBLE TRADE BETWEEN PITCAIRN AND TAHITI

It took the Trials to resume our shipping contact with French Polynesia and the fact that super tankers have replaced the much smaller tankers that used to be our supply ships from New Zealand on their way to North America. The *Tapora* has been our supply ship for a few years now, including Pitcairn on their itinerary when supplying the outer islands of French Polynesia. From September 2009 Nigel Jolly of Stoney Creek Shipping will commence its regular service between Pitcairn and Mangareva in the Gambier Islands.

Pitcairn is investigating the possibility of trading between Pitcairn and French Polynesia in Honey, Fruit and Vegetables. One of the problems facing us in growing a regular supply of vegetables is the lack of water on Pitcairn. Our vegetables thrive in winter and tend to go to seed quickly in summer due to the lack of regular watering. Apart from one small water spring at Browns Water just out of Adamstown, which most homes use to supplement their washing water, each family have their own private water supply averaging approximately 30,000 litres for each home. It is pure rain water and is not chlorinated or fluorinated.

Most older homes have concrete wells and in recent years some families have imported plastic water tanks from New Zealand at great cost when including freight charges. However the plastic tanks last a lot longer and require little maintenance unlike the concrete wells. Beneath the foundations of one home is a water storage well and the prison at Bobs Valley has two large plastic bladders supported by wooden structures. Most of our larger vegetable gardens are in the hills above Adamstown. We have traditionally made use of empty 44 gallon drums placing a few of them in each garden plot next to a make shift structure of a couple of corrugated roofing iron to catch the rain water and drain into the drums. This is not an ideal situation if you are going to start a business of market gardens with a regular contract supplying vegetables and fruit to Tahiti.

Due to the recent long spell of no rain Pitcairn is currently conducting an audit of each private water stock which statistics could assist with a funding application for more water tanks to be placed by all Government buildings to boost our water supply.

BITS AND PIECES



"FRIDAY 8 JANUARY 1999 – A HUGE DAY! TODAY WE RAISED THE BOUNTY CANON." Quote from Miscellany January 1999.

Working with a dodgy compressor and makeshift lifting device nicknamed "midget-sub" a group of our men, Terry, Randy, Dave, Shawn, Pawl, Steve, Dennis and Jay (all present in the photo) together with marine archaeologist Nigel Erskine spent the better part of a whole day raising and



rescuing the Bounty canon from its resting place since the Bounty was burnt in 1790. The canon, one of four from the Bounty, was taken temporarily to Australia to undergo conservation and after much lobbying from Lea Brown our Museum curator the canon was finally returned to Pitcairn on the supply ship Tabora on 6 April 2009 and shortly after unpacked from its box at The Edge, attended by most of the inhabitants with cameras.

SALE AT BOBS VALLEY - Tenders were called for various items in the buildings in Bob's Valley after the last of the five prisoners was released to home detention early April, and locals flocked down on the appointed day to pick up household items, used work clothes and bedding, tools, old ATVs, couches and garden chairs. HMPP has been a corrections institution since the first men were incarcerated in October 2006, and now it is being "dismantled", at least as a prison. We still don't know what will happen to the buildings, still surrounded by barbed wire, but beds and mattresses were not put up for sale, so maybe the Governor's office is planning for tourist accommodation albeit with urinals only in the rooms and two long drop toilets outside. Fridge, freezers and a microwave were not sold, but the stove is gone.

The famous **MAX HONEY** is 4 months old. Remember he was the first baby born in New Zealand in January 2009. **Mum Rachel Salt tull:** *Max is not a day time sleeper (even in the car he doesn't seem to drop off!) and if he does, it's a cat nap for 20 minutes. Fortunately he seems to know that he needs to sleep during the night and only wakes every three hours to feed. He's just too nose to sleep during the day (as much as I try to make it appear like its night time and "sleep time" during the day he seems to know it's not). He's a good baby though and is a real guzzler, so we're very lucky.*



THIS IS THE YACHT SEASON ON PITCAIRN. A few yachts have stopped for short periods during the month. On 21 April 2009 a large super yacht "Mari-Cha", with seven people on board, on its way from NZ to the United States, contacted us on VHF channel 16 in passing, but could not stop. Everybody was out with cameras as she sailed by under Adamstown and then set course for Panama. A sight to behold for those with a love of the sea and ships.

Mary Crowley a long time visitor to Pitcairn returned on a yacht with two tourists for a couple of days visit. It was her charter two of the three remaining Corrections officers left on.

THE BUILDING OF THE ROOF COVERING THE VILLAGE SQUARE IS FINISHED.

Last month I reported that it was under construction. The photo tull how large a project it was.

SWINE FLU – Doctor Cardon held a Public Meeting to inform everyone of the possible threat of the Influenza A, H1N1 coming to Pitcairn and what to do if it did and prevention methods. A leaflet with information was handed to everyone and a decision was made by all to close our borders to all ships until further notice. The complete ban was later revised to allow visits from ships that had a health certificate clearance and Doctor Cardon would visit all yachts to assess the 'wellness' of those on board.



Another SIGNIFICANT DATE on our calendar this year WAS 28 APRIL 2009, THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOUNTY MUTINY. Below is the first paragraph of a press release made by Pitcairn Islands Study Center in California, USA. An edited version was printed by most print media in New Zealand including Radio and TV.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, April 27, 2009 ----- On the eve of the 220th anniversary of the famed mutiny at sea that led to its becoming a hiding place from the world, tiny Pitcairn is now inviting the world to its shores. On April 28, 1789, sailors aboard the British naval vessel H.M.S. Bounty, revolted against their captain while the ship was sailing among the Tongan islands. To escape punishment, a number of them fled to remote Pitcairn Island. It was nearly two decades later before the world knew the mutineers had settled on the then uninhabited island.

ANOTHER PITCAIRN HOUSE IS BEING BUILT – The foundations for David Browns house was laid over a couple of days in April. Many Pitcairn men turned up to help and others to take photos. He is building his house half way up Jims Ground near the turn off to Jack Williams. The view from his site is simply fantastic.



GOVERNMENT OF PITCAIRN ISLANDS COUNCIL REPORT – this is the first of a new Council Report published on the Public Notice Board in April with March news. The statements in italics and bold font are quotes from the Council Report. ***“This report is written for Council by nominated councilor, Jacqui Christian with the intention to give another view as there is currently no report written by locals from Pitcairn and shared with Partners and the wider community. Information is also published by Pitcairner’s and associates living away from the Island which may sometimes contain biased or inaccurate information that impacts on the community here”*** the report states. On Pitcairn “Partners” is generally referred to as Council, Governor, DFID, FCO.

The report continues ***“As with all information, it is written by an individual and may be subjective. I have tried to comment on the monthly events based on what the majority of Pitcairners have told me even though some may disagree with the stated opinions.”*** Even so, the report was implemented and sanctioned by Council and as such is representative of Councils opinions and not the individuals.

The report has received mixed reactions from the Community and according to Council Minutes the first draft report was rejected in its present format as not appropriate for council however Council approved the edited report and I will highlight a few opinions from council. ***“Many people were disappointed with the Governors visit and a depressed mood has been hard to shake off.....The impression created is that long proposed infrastructure projects would not happen.....It was felt that some in the community were favoured over others during the Governors visit and that the influence of some were disproportionate..... There have been two factions in the community since the election issue in November 2008 where the majority of the Council and up to half of the community disagreed with the Governor and Legal Advisor”***

The report goes on to list in date order happenings during the month e.g. **Friday 27th - “Café open as well as Church dinner at square. Shame to continue to have conflicting events so that people have to choose which one to go to”.** I am not sure why it is a shame to have conflicting events. I believe it is great Pitcairners have a choice. Most fortnights on Fridays Pastor opens the Sabbath with a communal dinner and community singing in Church. This event is well attended. While most of the community no longer attends church on a regular basis the Seventh Day Adventist tradition is still evident in the community and if there is any criticism the jokes are usually directed against some who parties and drink alcohol on Friday nights (the Sabbath) and preaches the gospel in Sabbath School and Church the next day. Seventh Day Adventists gospel preaches against participating in secular activities during the Sabbath, from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. SDA’s are teetotal. Again that is an individual’s choice to make. Notwithstanding our love of all kinds of music most of us still enjoy singing to gospel music. Gaither Gospel songs are very popular on Pitcairn. For Pastor to change the date to celebrate the opening of Sabbath (an event on most SDA calenders around the world) is the same as saying we will change the Sabbath to a Tuesday. Growing up on Pitcairn we often referred to Fridays as preparation day, preparing for the Sabbath where Fridays were spent cleaning the house, washing and ironing and cooking enough food for two days, Sabbath being a day of rest. Each family used to be assigned a section of the main road to sweep on Fridays. In days gone by, come sunset on Fridays Pitcairn and ucklun sparkled with cleanliness. Even today, on Pitcairn Sundays is like a normal Monday. Some paid work is usually from Sundays to Thursdays with Fridays off or if they work Fridays sometimes they finish early. Tradition continues.

FROM COUNCIL MINUTES – CHILD SAFETY FOR YACHTS

Arrived from London was a notice of rules regarding children visiting from yachts. The notice is to be presented to all yachts with children by the Community Police officer warning the visitors about child abuse on Pitcairn. While the notice was presented to council for their input, the Governors Representative stated that most of the contents was non negotiable. Of course this created considerable debate and much anger in the community. Some felt Britain and New Zealand should clean up their own backyards before cleaning up ours. Given the serious crimes in the world including Britain and New Zealand it is a shame Britain place more importance on the welfare of strangers who chose to visit when it is highly likely most would have known of the trials due to the information portrayed in the media thanks to Britain and their handpicked journalists.

YOU JUST CANNOT WIN WITH THE WEATHER. One month it rained so hard we thought Pitcairn would wash into the sea. The next it was drought. On Thursday night 7th May into early Friday morning the wind blew and blew. Thanks to international telephones I was talking to Dennis at 1.00 am Pitcairn time while the wind was blowing as sleep was impossible for them. Next day revealed a horror story of broken windows, trees blown down, sheds blown away and fruit fallen from trees. I just had to fit in this May happening to show you some photos of the wreckage.



THE BACK PAGE

The front page article titled "Whats Changed?" in last months edition resulted in a flurry of emails from Division Manager, Natural Resources and The Commissioner both of whom were instrumental in writing and implementing the new structure. It was quite obvious they were unhappy with my opinion on their new structure. They invited me to check with them in future as they would be happy to supply me with the correct information. (I prefer to rely on information contained in written documents like Council Minutes). The Division Manager warned me to be careful with what I write as she said my article contained "false information", "mis-information" and "inaccurate information". I asked a number of times to let me know what were false information, mis-information and inaccurate information but no samples were given. They defended the lack of law change appearing to believe **recommending** law changes makes it alright with the Commissioner tulling he preferred to look at the bigger picture.

From the new Council Report referred to on the previous page which contained words like factions, depressed moods, disproportionate, favoured ones, etc shows quite clearly the mood on Pitcairn is currently very divisive. While I do not know the reasons for their non attendance, 20 of the 51 local residents currently on Pitcairn, didn't attend the launch of the new structure on 1 April 2009, an unprecedented high number. Also news of the new structure, a significant change for Pitcairn, is still not referred to on the Pitcairn Government website or at least if it is it is not shown in a prominent position where I can find it.

I still believe the current structure of council is inconsistent with the written law and may therefore be illegal and some share my opinion. Again I reminisce on the unholy mess our lack of **written** laws created during the investigation and trials. The various Pitcairn courts i.e., Magistrate, Supreme, Appeal presided in hearings over many weeks, at great cost, arguing the promulgation of our laws. An appeal to the Privy Council on this very subject resulted in the Lords ruling they would hear **PRE TRIAL** matters **AFTER** the trials and appeals, a ruling which scandalized many who believed it would never have happened in a country with Human Rights laws. While the structures are being put in place in the wrong order i.e. before the written laws have been changed and come into force I will continue to tull as I believe it is wrong. If we are to be prosecuted on international standards and international customary laws then we should be entitled to international expectations in this matter as well.

As for the new employment structure this is an evolving issue which will continue for months to come. There are already a number of issues but I will wait and see if they are resolved amicably before commenting.

Harts et. Ef any yorley wunta tull, tulla me orn julie@customcredit.co.nz
Hooray