



# Pitcairn News

The crew of "Fidelio" took this picture of Bounty Bay, the jetty to the far right and the sheer cliff face under ship Landing Point hazy with seaspray.

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August 2011

## KARI orn Pitcairn TULL:

The month of August went fast, with visits from the ship "Aquila" in traffic between Pitcairn and the rat eradication team on Henderson (120 miles to the NE), the visit of Swedish ship "Fidelio" and then our supply ship Claymore on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

A couple of yachts have visited on their way to Mangareva.

It is also the migration season for the whales, which have been observed around the coast frequently, leaping in the air, blowing and generally showing off.

The weather has been too warm for winter, but with a couple of showers in between.

Ships, boats and the sea are important to our everyday life on Pitcairn which is reflected in the number of sea events covered in this issue.

We thank the "Fidelio" crew, Melva, Darralyn, Meralda and Brian for pictures in this issue.

AND Julie apologises for the late publication of this issue.

## YOUNG, BUT KEEN GARDENERS



Torika and Kimi are eager gardeners, just look at what they have produced in the vege patches outside their family's house up Malai – Torika is showing her big red tomatoes and Kimi got some cabbage whoppers.



## VISIT OF THE “FIDELIO”

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, we had a visit from a gigantic Swedish car carrier, the “Fidelio” with Swedish and Filipino crew, which stopped for 45 minutes, but trading was brisk and the crew very excited to be able to stop and visit with us on their long voyage across the Pacific from Panama to Brisbane, Australia. They also appreciated the fresh fruit and frozen fish we brought onboard in abundance for trading purposes.



The “Fidelio” observed from the longboat, and the longboat observed from the ship, as we approach.



Trading



Going back ashore



**FAREWELL** to Doc Peter and Maria who have served their second term on the island, now heading back to New Zealand. We will miss their engagement in the community and their caring attitude. Our loss is Dunedin’s gain

## THE TREE PAGE

We have put our trees aside for a couple of issues, but it is time to show you more of our beautiful trees, some in bloom at the moment. Pitcairn is so densely covered by brush and trees, and though some of them are regarded as useless weeds, they are absolutely beautiful. Maybe you Pitcairners out there are able to identify these trees, whether you left the island 30, 20 or 5 years ago. You will find the answers on page six.



1



2



3



4



5

## CASTLES

Can anyone see any resemblance between these two pictures, or is it only me? Whenever I see Jacob's tall pines up Har Hollow, majestically towering over Aute Valley, I think of a castle on a hilltop, like the Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, the castle that also inspired



the Cinderella Castle in Disneyland. Instead of tall towers and spires, we have the tall pines, and to me it looks just as awesome.

*Kari tull while our historian Tim is having a break.*

## THE TWO BIBLES



Among all the other books that arrived on Pitcairn onboard the Bounty in 1790, most of them belonging to Captain Bligh - volumes of Cook's voyages, several medical volumes, a navigational manual - were two Bibles. They were used to teach the islanders to read, after the illiterate John Adams was first taught the letters by Edward Young, who died in 1800, leaving Adams in sole charge of the women and children.

Sadly, Adams got into the habit of presenting the Bounty's books as gifts to passing captains or crewmembers of visiting ships. Or maybe not so sad, for it is doubtful whether these books would have survived long in our humid climate. The books later surfacing in England or USA had a better chance of preservation, in historical or antiquarian societies or in museums.

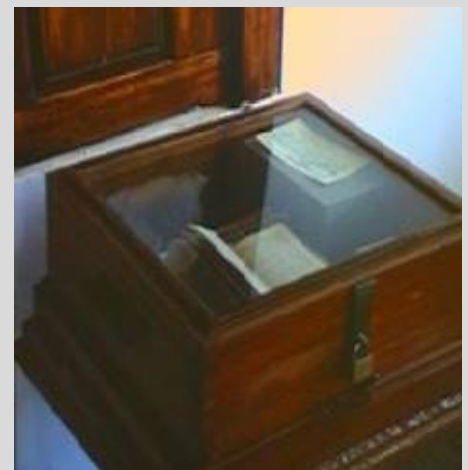
In 1839 the two Bibles were given away, - the islanders had been given new Bibles by now, and each family was collecting their own libraries. The "Cyrus" of Nantucket, Massachusetts visited in 1839, and the ship's carpenter, Levi Hayden, was sent ashore to acquire wood for charcoal burning and attending to the charcoal pit, and got to know the islanders well. He was given two Bibles, one (later called the Pitcairn Bible) from Mary Christian, daughter of the mutineer - and the other (later called the Bounty Bible) from John Adams' 12 year old grandson of the same name. Both these Bibles were donated to various museums and Seamen's Friend Societies by Hayden when he returned home. Mary's Pitcairn Bible is now in a Library in the USA. It was printed in Scotland in 1764, and is still full of holes from bookworms and insects of the Pacific.

The Bounty Bible, donated by Adams was said to have been used by old John Adams to teach the young ones, ended up in the archives of the Connecticut Historical Society. A century later an enthusiastic school teacher and lecturer in Hawaii was corresponding with Roy Clark on the island, and managed to track down the Bounty Bible in 1945.

The NZ school teacher on Pitcairn, A. W Moverley, wrote to the Society in 1948 and requested that the Bounty Bible be returned to Pitcairn, and it was consequently repaired and rebound in London, where King George and Queen Elizabeth showed great interest in it. The Bible was then packed and sent first to Fiji where a wooden case was made for it with a glass top, and in February 1950 the Bible and the box was presented to the people of Pitcairn. Since then it had been kept in our church, but a couple of years ago moved to the museum, just above the church. It was considered safer to keep the Bible locked up in the museum than in the open church. The glass covered case contains the Bible itself, a facsimile of William and Elizabeth Bligh's marriage certificate, the standard flag used on the Pastor's car during Prince Philip's visit in 1971 and a New Testament in very small print donated to the church. In the drawer underneath the case are photos of the Bible before and after being rebound, some fragments of the old binding, and many letters written by the Hayden family relating to the Bounty Bible plus some newspaper clippings.

All the information about the two Bibles was found in "History of two Bibles from H.M.S. Bounty" by Mrs Pauline Fargher Ernst, who spent years researching the whereabouts of all Bounty books, in particular the Bibles. Pictures of the Bounty Bible before and after rebinding

The rostrum and the stand with the Bible case formerly in the Pitcairn church.



## ENGINE TROUBLE



Our longboats have kept the engineers busy with fault-finding and repairs this last month. “O’Leary”’s engine died on the way back from “Claymore II” in Tedside, and the remaining men had to launch “Moss” and go out to tow them back. There were no oars or lifevests onboard, but an anchor (see the taut anchor rope in the bow) was dropped overboard to stop them drifting towards the rocks, until rescue arrived.

An approaching yacht required assistance to get in to the island because of multiple problems onboard, and “Moss” went out to tow her in. Halfway out their engine broke down and they had to call on VHF’s channel 16 for assistance from shore. The remaining men once again went down to launch “O’Leary”, but found its engine unable to start. The third and last longboat, “Tin”, was pulled down, but no luck with that engine either. The last resort was the stabcraft, but by then the crew on “Moss” had managed to make the engine go again, and towed the yacht in to Bounty Bay.

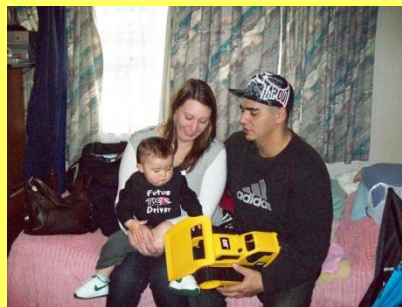


*The longboat crew on their way back in while towing the yacht, with Pitcairn getting bigger on the horizon. They sure were far out!!! Randy and Dave around the tiller aft.*

“Moss” was on her way back in from carrying departing passengers onboard the “Claymore II” off Ginza Valley in the south, when they had to call for help. Onboard were also children down to the age of four. Their engine had died, so the “O’Leary” crew went out to the rescue and towed her back in to the Landing. so all ended well.

## UCKLUN IN NEW ZEALAND

### Celebrating his first birthday – Ayden



**Meralda’s farewell party with some good old fashioned singing. After a successful trip showcasing her artwork and skills Meralda returned to home on the Claymore II**



## SUPPLY SHIP DAY 24<sup>TH</sup> August 2011



The “Claymore” dropped off supplies for the next three months, and on the same day the “Aquila” arrived from Henderson, grabbing all the limelight with its helicopter doing sightseeing turns over Pitcairn. It is only 40-odd years since the last helicopter was seen here, some sources claim it was in 1968 on the “Brenton”, so no wonder it attracted attention, especially from the younger generation, who has only seen helicopterson TV. The first picture shows its landing on the “helipad” near the

tennis court in Aute Valley, and the two other pictures from the Edge, where some of us were unloading containers, while watching the big whirring bird.

It wasn't exactly calm in Bounty Bay, so “Claymore” anchored off Ginza Valley on the south coast, and the two longboats had to travel a long way to unload supplies. The picture shows the meeting of the two longboats inside St Pauls Stone, one full of cargo from the “Claymore” going to The Landing to unload and the other one empty going out for another load.



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### MRS CHRISTIAN – ‘BOUNTY’ MUTINEER

*Fletcher stole the ship: She mutinied and gave women the first vote*

Meet Mrs Christian, a real-life 18<sup>th</sup> century heroine of rebellion, women's rights and democracy. This is the bloodthirsty, true story of Mauatua Christian and the 11 other revolutionary Ma'ohi women of HMAV BOUNTY, the foremothers of Pitcairn Island. They succeeded where the mutineers failed and in 1838 became the first women in the world to have their full right to vote written into law, more than 80 years before just some British women over 30 were franchised.

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Answers to The Tree Page questions: 1) banyan tree 2) wild Tedside rose 3) flame tree flower below Mavis' house 4) morning glory 5) seed of tatrimoa tree out Tatrimoa.

# THE BACK PAGE

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There has been frequent community meetings to set up a 5-year plan “with substance”, urged by the Governor, and much work has been put into the discussion and planning. The National Action Plan has attracted a lot of the community as well for weekly meetings, identifying laws and ordinances from our law book which is not aligned to either our almost two year old Constitution or to the Human Rights. New proposed ordinances are regarding election, immigration and ombudsman, which are prioritized at the moment. We are way behind other Overseas Territories, which begun their similar process over ten years ago. But we never had a constitution until March 2010, and only basic human rights until we had a constitution, so no wonder we are lagging behind. The Pitcairn Appeal Court decision of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 states that the European Convention of Human Rights did not apply in Pitcairn, as it had not been specifically applied - *“however, basic human rights apply to Pitcairn despite the fact that the Convention does not there apply”*. But “basic” human rights did not even include a choice of legal counsel or a trial by jury at the 2004 trials.

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Since the external auditor is coming on the second rotation of the “Claymore II” in September, it has been a busy time for the various divisions preparing for “inspection”. Extra crew has been taken on for preparing sheds for machinery, which usually is left out in the weather. It was stated by two Councillors that it is good for machinery *not* to be under a roof, so the salt can be washed off, but Dfid recommends that the sheds be used for housing machinery and give them longer life. Stock take has been done for the very first time, to comply with Dfid’s stipulations.

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The budget has been under discussion several times in Council, and it has been noted that of our \$4M or so yearly budget, over half of it goes to fund “Claymore II”s four visits with supplies and passengers, and of the remaining, most of it goes to funding the five British and New Zealand professionals with partners, their free ATVs and fuel, their travelling and free housing. *“There was considerable discussion on the increased costs of funding off-Island professionals, the excessive costs of six monthly rotations for Police Officers, the logic of two quad bikes per couple and the need for an off Island break for those on a two year contract.”* (ed: and even on a *one* year contract).



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Hooray