



Ucklun tull un Dem tull

Pitcairn News

Vol 1, No 2

July 2007

Julie in New Zealand tull – We received a lot of positive comments about the first issue of Pitcairn News so have decided to carry on and do the next one. I've given a lot of thought as to how much we should tull about the after affects of the investigation and trials but to avoid the issue completely would leave us with very little news to tull about.

SUPPLY SHIPS

Has the container closed yet? That is the most common question asked by friends and family on Pitcairn close to supply ship time as they race to get their specialized extras and 'one of' luxury orders in to us. We always leave that last box open right up until the last minute. Hardware and tools are alien products to me so we are grateful that the internet has arrived on Pitcairn. Now when someone wants a specialized electric tool I tull them to search the internet and download the exact details and model. Easy.

The small parcels have progressed to larger items. Pitcairn has discovered Ebay, Trade Me and Ferrit. They scour the various web sites searching for goodies and when they find what they want we bid on the items for them. After the last two ships when I sent a 4 piece cane lounge suite on one ship and dining room suite on the other I have decided I really need to take lessons on how to tow a trailer.

Shipping to Pitcairn has gradually changed over the years. Our supplies used to go direct from New Zealand to Pitcairn and the goods would arrive approximately two weeks later. 5 July 2007 was the closing date for the containers for the next supply ship. I delivered 37 items including a 7 piece dining suite, 50 metres of water hose, 30 litres of paint plus numerous boxes, to Shuttles, the freight forwarding company who pack our containers for us but the goods are not expected to arrive on Pitcairn until the end of August. Our containers are taken by ship from New Zealand to Tahiti and reloaded onto the 'Taporo' the Tahitian ship contracted to carry our supplies home.

Despite the extra few weeks taken to transport the goods to Pitcairn, unloading supplies has become much easier, I am told. Previously our boxes and cargo would be stacked directly into the standard shipping containers and on arrival at Pitcairn the locals would unload the packages onto the deck of the ship and then lower them into the boats in slings or individually by rope. Now the packages are packed into smaller containers which are then loaded three to a standard container and on arrival at Pitcairn the smaller containers are loaded straight into the boats and taken ashore where the smaller packages are unloaded on dry land. Sounds much safer to me and requires less manhandling alongside the ship. Even though the changes were done a couple of years ago I wasn't aware of the details until recently so I hope it is news to most of you as well.



Photo: Adrian Cooke, QC and wife Lynn celebrating on Friday 22 June 2007 following Appeal Court hearing in Auckland, New Zealand. Lynn is one of ucklun from Norfolk Island.

1. We are still awaiting the appeal court hearing date for the verdicts in:
 - a) The defence appeal against conviction in regards the gang rape
 - b) The Crowns two appeals against sentences for the two men convicted earlier this year.
2. The Defence Appeal court hearing in regards the appeal against conviction for the other appellant convicted for the gang rape is tentatively set down for the end of September 2007
3. We understand the Parole Board has been formed and the first hearing may be on 25 – 26 July 2007.
4. The two men given Community Service have finished working their hours.



PHOTO NO 1

PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY CENTER, Dr Herb Ford (Fundraiser) 10.10.05

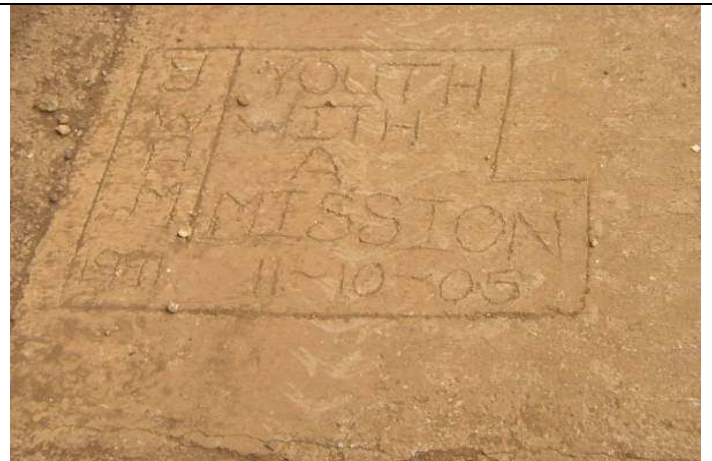


PHOTO NO 2

YWAM 1991, YOUTH WITH A MISSION 11.10.05

These are written into the concrete road at the crossroads of the Main Road and the Top Road above Big Fence. The dates refer to the time when they reached that particular spot in the road with the concrete mixer

In June's issue we published a photograph of a verse written into the concrete road below the Village Square. It was only after publishing the June newsletter I found out from Kari that along the whole length of the concrete road starting from the Hill of Difficulty at the Landing, Bounty Bay, to where the concrete finishes at just past the village square, at approximately 5 or 10 metres apart, are messages and writings in the concrete. The names of the original settlers, both mutineers and Polynesians, plus every local person living on Pitcairn at the time the road was constructed are written into the concrete road at handy intervals which makes it an interesting walk.

In this issue we pay tribute to Dr Herb Ford, our very good friend from USA who has been a true friend to Pitcairn for decades. Herb visited Pitcairn together with Youth With a Mission leader Loren Cunningham in 1991, and they decided to help Pitcairn build a "real" road by concreting the Hill of Difficulty up from The landing.

They started the fundraising, and Youth with a Mission arranged for engineers and experts to visit and assess the viability of fixing the road. A significant amount of money was raised, exceeding US\$100,000 in 1995, and very influential people contributed. Volunteer engineers and workers were ready for the job, when in 2000 the British put the road on hold "pending the outcome of the investigations and trials". Not until 2005 did the work go ahead, and now the Main Road is concreted from the Landing to The Square in Adamstown.



The children have been working on projects in Sabbath school recently. Torika decorated a plate for my Mum, Irma and presented it to her. Mum tull it has pride of place hanging on her wall at home.

Isn't Torika beautiful? She posed for the photo with mum just for Pitcairn News.

I hear the Pastor is Jack of all trades and master of them all. Apparently he is doing some wonderful things on Pitcairn including broadcasting a music channel 24 hours per day. That coming up in the next newsletter.

PITKERN HUMOUR AND INTERNAL MAIL

In between their hard work in the community working on the roads and in the gravel pit, tending to their vegetable garden, doing their carvings, watching DVD's, dreaming up visions for Pitcairn's future and doing maintenance work down Bob's Valley, what else do the Bobs Valley Five do? They have all become letter writers. They had to. The community is writing to them. Three times per week. I am told that Olive writes a letter to each of the five men, every mail delivery. That is 15 letters per week from Olive alone. One of the guys inside writes 28 letters a week. No wonder Pitcairn's internal mail statistics have increased from virtually zilch to the average 200 - 250 letters out and a similar amount in, per month. We won't even try to guess what is written between the five men and their supporters in the community. Only the Corrections Officers would know. As is usual with any correctional facility all mail to and from the Remand Center is checked.

Every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings mail for the five guys is delivered to Dennis the Postmaster, and at 9am he walks or drives to Bob's Valley three minutes down the road with all the letters, some of them attached to huge hibiscus flowers, a message of love from their families. No wonder they call Dennis "the florist". He delivers the mail, and picks up their mail for the community, takes them back to the post office to put 10c stamps on and cancel them, before he gives them out to people who have been waiting patiently at The Square.

The Postmaster received recently a written complaint signed by all five of them. They claimed he was "slipping in his delivery duties", as their mail sometimes was one, two or three minutes late, and on Sunday 3 hours and 7 minutes late because the postmaster chose to do his own pleasure, crewing the longboat to visit a passing ship. They complained of squashed flowers, stamps stuck on the wrong way (not stuck on square) and "shoddy" cancellation. In our eyes this letter proves how high the morale still is in Bob's Valley, and that the legendary Pitkern humour is still alive and well.



One day Meralda wasn't feeling her usual self so decided to take herself off to do some rock fishing. She thought catching fish would cheer her up. Well hooking a couple of Moi's (similar fun to catching Trout) and then losing them, only deepened her 'down' feelings. She wrote this 'tale' to the Bob's Valley guys. As they couldn't go fishing for her they thought they would do the next best thing. They drew and cut out cardboard fishes and mailed them to her in the hope it would cheer her up. It did.

The envelope is addressed **TO:** Daughters Warren, Up Nunks, Behind the courthouse, Pitcairn Island. **From:** Us in a presson.

Meralda has recorded a music CD which she sells on cruise ships. She recently donated \$450 to the Pitcairn legal fund from the sales of her CD, a lot of money for Pitcairn. Warde you are a gem. *Daughters and Warde are just two of Meraldas many nicknames.*



Early in the year the co-op store ran out of writing paper and envelopes. In recent times some of the locals have become innovative and have weaved envelopes from the thatch used for weaving souvenir baskets and some are made from the leaves of banana trees and letters shoved into the hollow of bamboo trunks. Check out the photo showing the types of home made envelopes. The postmaster's hand is not dainty enough to stick the stamps squarely onto the round flowers. Pauline you need to weave some square flowers to fit on the square envelopes so that the stamps can be stuck on squarely so that the five men can stop giving the postmaster a hard time. A lot of love and fun goes into making the hand made envelopes.

HEALING AND MOVING FORWARD - In each issue we plan to document the progress of Pitcairn healing and moving forward. Last month we wrote that there were some good things happening on Pitcairn and that we appeared to have taken two steps forward and only one step backward. I'm sorry to say that in this issue it is more like one step forward and two steps backward. But that is life. It will take time. Mistakes are made and hiccups happen. A few very public things happened over the last couple of weeks that stymied our footsteps a little. I have decided not to write about them in this issue. Most of you may have already heard about one or two of them given the flurry of group emails in recent days.

PUBLIC MEETING held on 2 JULY 2007 in which it was announced that Commissioner Jacques with the help of Jacqui Christian, are drafting a new Charter for Pitcairn. Brief details were given and it appears changes to the Island council is being considered where the term of office for elected officers i.e. Counsellors, Island Mayor, etc may increase and so will responsibilities. We eagerly await the details.

Also on the agenda was fire prevention. Darralyn and Turis house may be jinxed. Not only did the timber for building their house journeyed part way around the world three times due to bad weather on Pitcairn but their copper (not the human variety) tried to burn their house down as well. Lucky Malcolm, the human copper, was nearby to spot the flames and raise the alarm and their house was saved.

FINALLY - A sample of emails to the Editor - In the last issue I wrote an article about my mum's 80th birthday party. The following emails were received:

From Mitch and Sue Bunkin - *Here's my IRMA story. My wife & I arrived on the "America Star" in November, 1993 to visit our friends. Staggering ashore, soaking wet and somewhat seasick, I contemplated the pile of supplies off loaded on the jetty. Trying to be helpful (and not look like a wimp), I dutifully tried to lift up a large, very heavy sack of potatoes. At that moment, a lovely little 49 kg lady with an angelic smile approached, said "hello," effortlessly flipped the "unmovable" sack on her shoulder, and went on her way. What a wonderful experience !!! I met a warm, lovely, dignified lady who was/is tough as nails when she has to be.*

From one of our Norfolk friends - *Hey Julie, Congratulations on such a good reading "News Letter"... Waal dun fu you - ... Thoroughly enjoyed et. Always thinking of myse friends orn Pitkern. Nor keep in touch as much as I should... But dem know I thinken of dem often...Keep up the good fight - yawley gwen win in the end - Next time you talk gwen home, please remember me to Irma. Look forward to your next "publication*

I apologise I have run out of space and can't fit in any more responses – but Herb Ford wrote that he will celebrate his 80th birthday in August, hard to believe, so will wish him a Happy 80th birthday in the August issue. Also Russell Henry (a former school teacher) will celebrate his 80th next year. Time is flying past.

Thank you to all of those who gave me news to tull if anyone would like to tull please email me on julie@customcredit.co.nz Until next time. Hooray