



On the Eco Trail

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Pitcairn News

Volume 2 No 10 October 2008

Julie in New Zealand tull: Not much has happened this month except we are still in the news regarding Victims Compensation. The second cruise ship arrived and Meralda Warren sailed on the ship to Tahiti with boxes of carvings. Timothy and Sarah are settling into their new flat in Australia so Timothy has not had the time to write his usual piece on Pitcairn History.

HONEY FROM PITCAIRN ISLAND

PIPCO is a community co-operative which sells products on behalf of its members. Membership is voluntary however a good majority are members. Honey is one of PIPCO's main products. Most members have their own personal hives and sell their honey direct to PIPCO. Surplus stock is also sold by individuals on cruise ships and by direct orders personally. And then there are friends and family who are always putting out their hands for more. I received a parcel from home once, delivered to my place of work and there were six jars of honey in it. I gave them to my work mates and one of them loved it so much he polished off a whole 250gm jar using his index finger as a spoon before I could finish answering their questions on the ins and outs of honey products on Pitcairn. Naturally we called him piggy. We like to boast we have the best honey in the world. My workmate thought so.



Certified disease free, able to be exported anywhere in the world. Support Pitcairn Islanders by buying their honey. Get yours from www.government.pn under "PRODUCTS"

SILVER SHADOW – THE SECOND CRUISE SHIP OF THE SEASON

On the 19th we had the visit of the second cruise ship of the season, the Silver Shadow. The seas were quite rough, so the passengers could not come ashore, but the ship anchored off Bounty Bay and the islanders went out in the longboat with their baskets full of souvenirs. Meralda left on this ship to go direct to Tahiti and attend several events there, representing Pitcairn with her exquisite tapa cloths made the way her ancestors once produced the only clothes available on the Pacific islands then. Meralda will be doing an article for November's newsletter. She took with her boxes of souvenirs from various ones and sold quite a few of them. She could have done with more model Bounty's.

From an internet blog one of the passengers wrote: ***"Today's stop at Pitcairn Island was the highest highlight of the cruise"***. The passengers were unable to get ashore on Easter Island as well because of the choppy seas but we were lucky enough to go on board and trade our souvenirs there.

I understand the next cruise ship is due on Christmas Day.

CHARLENE, JAYDEN AND CUSHANA-TIARE WARREN-PEU in New Zealand

At 6.55 pm New Zealand time on 5 November 2008, while fireworks were lighting up the sky, **Cushana-Tiare Jaime Maimiti Warren-Peu** was born, a second daughter to Charlene and Vaine and sibling to Ralph, Jayden, Kimiora and Torika. A gorgeous tiny baby weighing in at 5.8lbs (2.65kg). I got to hold her for at least two hours while visiting them in hospital. Pauline, Pony and Ben were too scared to hold her thinking she was delicate and might break. Lucky me. Charlene wasted no time in making sure North Shore Hospital sent off the birth records to Internal Affairs so that she can arrange for Cushana-Tiare's passport as they plan to be on the Tahiti-Nui aeroplane to Tahiti on 30 November 2008 to catch the Braveheart home again and to show off Pitcairns newest addition to everyone.



Jayden celebrated his 10th Birthday with a party on Saturday, 18 October 2008. I will tell the story with pictures.



Jayden – Birthday boy



Mum - Charlene



Birthday Cake



Nancy Young



Sisters – Pussy and Pony eating wild beans and pilai



Pussy (Marona) Young



Blowing out the candles



The Happy Birthday sign



Reeve Cooze

BITS AND PIECES

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS – Kari tull

There have been a lot of social activities on the island during October. The Fishing Club arranged a fish fry at The Landing in the beginning of the month, where most of the folks attended. Several of the men had been out fishing, and the table was laden with fried fish, boiled fish, marinated raw fish as well as salads and the usual temptations.

Every second Thursday we have Browns Bakery at The Square, where people bring their produce for sale, baked and cooked goodies as well as veges from the garden. And every second Friday night there is a public dinner at The Square with singsong in the church afterwards, singing to Bill Gaither DVDs with gusto. Christian's Cafe is also open every Friday night for drinks and dinner.

On the 14th the first public party for ages was launched - at Big Fence to celebrate the birthdays of both Shawn and Terry. And on the 20th Dave celebrated his birthday with a public dinner up Har Pinney.

HALLOWEEN



Here's the whole crowd.... Of course resident beauties Ariel and Hope wouldnt come get photographed, and we also had young David along with us.... The kids got BAG loads of lollies and drinks, balloons and carved pumpkins.

Fun had by all - old and young alike!



PUBLIC WORK

Public work was announced on the 21st, and everybody had to do their part. Some people cleaned the Health Center and the Museum buildings on the outside, some were Down Rope, and most ended up in Tedside, dynamiting the rocks obstructing the road there, and improving the access to Tedside, with tractors, bulldozers, hoes and rakes. Instead of paying taxes, we do public work one day a month, women as well as men.

Adrianna wanted to do some public work as well but had to settle for digging holes in their driveway as helping to dig out boulders in the road to Tedside was a little bit too much for her. Sister Emily on the other hand preferred to be the lady in her pretty dress.



PUBLIC MEETING

There was a public meeting on the 27th with updates on various projects and information from Pitcairn Development Team. The Mayor informed that the Governor apologised for the way the Victim Compensation issue had been announced in media by Kathy Marks before the islanders had been informed, and before it had been passed through Parliament in UK. Only the victims had already been told.

Children who visit Pitcairn will still have to apply especially to the Foreign Office in UK, and pitcairners reacted strongly to that, claiming that Pitcairn is safer than most places in the outside world. The development of a Child Protection Policy on the island has taken one year and a half, but is now presented to Council for approval. It is a known fact that all personnell sent to the island has to attend a compulsory child protection course, but it was pointed out that there has been no such course made available to the islanders (not even to the the convicted men) to demonstrate their willingness to make the island safe. When asked by the Mayor, almost everyone expressed their interest in attending such a course.

There was discontent among some about the freight charges on Store items and how they were incorporated in the shelf price. It was decided to leave it to Council to discuss at the forthcoming meeting.

BOBS VALLEY

On the 29th there were two hearings by videolink to the parole board in Auckland. One man still on home detention was granted parole, and the results have not come through yet from the other application for home detention.

PETER SHEA

It is with sadness we report that on 10 October 2008 Peter Shea, a former school teacher to Pitcairn, and his younger brother were both killed in an accident when the car Peter was driving hit a truck coming from the opposite direction. Our condolences to his family.

THE BACK PAGE

SOCIAL WORK AND ABUSE SPOTTING

In Septembers newsletter I reported that most of the Pitcairn community was shocked when they learnt an eight year old great grandson of a resident Pitcairn family would not be allowed to visit Pitcairn because Britain considers Pitcairn to be an unsafe place for children. I am pleased to report that Britain has agreed to issue a visitors visa for the Pitcairn child to visit his family

When the Governor passed the very unpopular Child Protection Ordinance it gave them the right to remove children from Pitcairn for little or no reason. Shortly after the ordinance was passed, one child was at risk of such a fate because a small bruise was discovered on his backside. Meetings and discussions took place over this incident and thankfully the child is still with his family. Wrap your children up in cotton wool because goodness me, it is so easy for children to suffer bruising for various innocent reasons like playing. No children on Pitcairn are allowed to walk to and from school. But they can still be abused by 'outside' school teachers as we all know from press reports (the school teacher was never charged I understand he was considered unwell to face the charges or because he and others were citizens of other countries)

It has been common knowledge for some time that all official visitors to Pitcairn must attend a course in Auckland on abuse spotting. They are also briefed on the make up of the community i.e. who is who, the various characteristics of individuals and families. We understand they are advised who to socialize with and who not to. In the October public meeting there was discussion on why the same course on abuse spotting was not offered to Pitcairners especially those living on Pitcairn. A vote by 'show of hands' on who wanted to do such a course was almost unanimous. I believe it is a very good idea as it will give us some knowledge in spotting abuse of children by outside professionals like British Doctors, British Royal Engineers, school teachers just to name a few of the occupations of "outside" men who were on the list of 'abusers' of interest. In the case of the British Doctor, the event is well known on Pitcairn and talked about often and his name and timeline is on 'that' list. But he wasn't charged. According to the timeline his "victim" was 13 years old at the time.

On Pitcairn, regularly the 'outsiders' hold meetings to discuss and analyse the gossip gleaned from innocent conversations and covertly and from their personal observations, about the goings on in the community. We are renowned for our unique sense of humour and nicknames of each other and places and I wonder how they analyse those conversations. The occasional 'outsider' has expressed dismay at some of the conversations from those meetings. Over the last few years including during the investigation and trial, gossip was and still is rife on Pitcairn about what married outsider was / is committing adultery and what marriage came under stress sometime later. One such incident which is joked about often is that of a naked government official having sex with a married naked other government official, down Tedside, the only area where you can drive children to play in sand, was nicknamed backstroke, imitating the sexual activities of the couple spotted in broad daylight in close proximity to the childrens play area and rock pools. Such gossip about 'outsiders' continue to this day on past and current situations. I wonder what category those gossips are filed under in the 'outsiders' meetings or are they ignored, fearing the next finger will be pointed their way? So 'outsiders' as you are spying on us, we gossip about you too. This statement may seem petty to some of you but given the nasty press reports reporting sex abuse and adultery on Pitcairn, on a small and intimate island with a population averaging 50 it is a very big issue especially when one group of people are perceived to be morally better and safer than the other, when they are not.

It is policies like this that is changing Pitcairn. Remember months ago we wrote about the yachtie who fell down Tedside and was injured and the locals didn't go to his aid because they didn't know? Despite the various policy making groups and the perception we are being guided towards self determination, Britain is in charge on Pitcairn so most of us tend to mind our own business when 'outsiders' visit. It is safer for us that way. A sad change in our culture as in the past we have made many lasting friendships with outsiders.

DRUM ROLL

In the latter part of October press reports with headlines “**KINDERGARTEN SEX EDUCATION BECOMING MANDATORY IN ENGLAND**” dominated the news for a while. Apparently Britain has among the highest teen pregnancy rates in Europe with thousands of pregnancies to girls under the age of 16 and 18 so “*the British government is bringing sex education to all schools in England – including kindergarten-age children*”. What about all those girls who didn't fall pregnant? That is an amazing number of underage girls who were raped, I believe the legal term is statutory rape our Pitcairn men were told. I wonder how large is Britains victim compensation payments for those girls?

VICTIMS COMPENSATION

This is still making the news for various reasons. I have listened to radio interviews given by the Governor, the lawyer for the victims and Kathy Marks. There have been many articles written on this topic including one by Ulamila Kurai Wragg in Pacific Magazine. Mrs Wragg is wife of Graham Wragg who runs the Pitcairn charters on the vessel ‘Bounty Bay’. The title of Mrs Wraggs article is “*Compensation For Pitcairn’s Child Sex Abuse Victims Can Invite Fresh Charges*” and was published on October 30, 2008.

Some of the content of this article contradicts earlier reports that some 26 women had been contacted. At the time I was amazed at the number 26 which I believe most likely included the women who were hunted down and who told the police to get lost. Now the news report is saying “*Victims of child sex abuse in Pitcairn who failed to co-operate with police officers during ‘Operation Unique’ in bringing an assailant to justice will not qualify for any compensation.*” I understand some of the convictions against some of the men were by women who refused to co-operate. If so, were they forced by the courts to be victims but may not qualify for compensation?

Now that the victims are certain of compensation payouts and Pitcairn Law provides that corroboration of evidence is not required, are we going to be making headline news all over again, because according to Wragg, Deputy Governor Ginny Silva told Pacific Magazine that new allegations brought to their attention will be referred to police for further investigation and to the Prosecutors Office to decide whether charges should be brought. Absolutely, new offences should be prosecuted but after the very, very, extensive investigation by very experienced British and New Zealand police officers and detective inspectors and prosecution by some of New Zealands best prosecutors who persued Pitcairn women and ‘outside’ women who lived on Pitcairn all over the world, me included, surely they will not go back there and revisit historical charges they failed to prosecute on. If so, Pitcairn will never heal but we may feel a whole lot better if next time they were to prosecute the School teacher, Doctor, Royal Engineers and all those ‘outsiders’ whose names appear on the list of abusers of interest which hopefully will show the world that Pitcairn was abused too especially by the media.

FURTHER UPDATE ON THE VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE	
NAME OF PROJECT	CURRENT POSITION
Breakwater at Bounty Bay or Alternative Harbour on the Western side (project announced early this century)	Commenced – NO. A few months ago I wrote that the Breakwater was dead in the water. The Commissioner disagreed with me. In Septembers Public Meeting he stated the Breakwater was needed to encourage more cruise ships to stop at Pitcairn. However the alternative harbor on the Western side was now the preferred option. There is no infrastructure on the Western side and the road from Tedside into Adamstown is worse than the Hill of Difficulty used to be and approximately 10 times the distance. It is my personal opinion that there is not enough money to pay for this project and that it is dead in the water. Fingers crossed I am wrong.
Windmills for alternative power	Commenced – NO. In Septembers issue I reported that while no dates had been given it appears to be going ahead. In Octobers public meeting it appears DFID believes this project is too expensive. Will it go ahead? Fingers crossed.
New Store	Commenced – NO. Nothing new to report.
Concreting remainder of Main Road to Pulau	Commenced – NO. Nothing new to report
Shipping	It was announced in a public meeting that the agreement allowing Mangareva to be used as an international port has been signed and that interests of Nigel Jolly (Braveheart) has won the tender for the new shipping contract which is planned to commence from early 2009.
New Bounty Bay project – widening jetty	Nothing new to report since last month when we reported a funding application is to be made to DFID

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