



SUNRISE FROM ADAMSTOWN

PITCAIRN NEWS

DEM TULL

Volume 7 No 10

October 2013

Karioron Pitcairn tull: Good month for gardening, - the right amount of rain and sunshine and warmer weather, and we have literally drowned in tomatoes. People who were in the race for the first melon are anxiously watching and nurturing the vines and hoping for juicy melons in some weeks' time.

The cafes and takeaways have had a quiet period, but will hopefully pick up again. The eight children went around town for trick or treat on Halloween, all dressed up in scary gear.

There have been several overseas events where Pitcairn delegates have taken part; - UK government and Overseas territories meetings in Europe and Caribbean, PEW meeting in London and Marseilles, Bounty Festival in Tahiti – Pitcairners are indeed jetsetting around the globe.

Several Pitcairners are also in NZ for medical treatment, but are expected back on the Claymore shortly.

Pictures from the PEW meetings and Bounty Festival, were taken from Facebook. Reports from delegates to these events will follow next issue.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT: Twelve fit and brave people signed up for the tennis tournament announced by the Entertainment Committee, and met up at the court in Aute Valley to battle it out over several weeks. The three children taking part did really well, and Olive and Allen won the Cardon Cup. The finals were celebrated with a barbecue and drinks at the tennis court on the last Sunday in October.



SOME OF THE GOAT HERDERS OF PITCAIRN



Pet goats have always been a Pitcairn phenomenon, even the oldies of today remember walking their pets like they were dogs, and collecting leaves from the roti plant to feed them. The problem with pet goats is that they do grow up, and won't be so easy to get rid of. It was estimated that there might be as much as six hundred wild goats on the island. They eat their way through vegetable gardens, and for the first time they are also observed in town, ravaging gardens. Olive's veges down Pervis' had a hard time, till 'Olive-get-your-gun' got her gun out and shot them all '*daid as har broad axe*' from her window at Big Fence.

The Island Council recently tabled a proposal from overseas experts who have assessed the goat problem, and we face four options, ranging from total extermination of the goats to various degrees of control by culling and fencing. In days gone by the goat population was never allowed to become a problem, there was an appointed goat master in charge, and the men went out shooting goats regularly to get meat and to control the herds. Since guns were surrendered to the authorities in 2004 (some were given back) and the convicted men not allowed to ever shoot again, there has been no culling. Another reason is there are now two islanders paid to shoot goats, and with designated people paid to do the job, nobody wants to infringe on their mission. There has been no organized cull with one lot of men running and climbing up and down the rocky crags, driving the herds into an ambush where another lot of men are waiting with their muskets on alert. No wonder we are overrun by goats. And no wonder the authorities think we can't manage to keep the goats under control ourselves, and propose various options costing between \$ 72.000 and \$84.000 which involves professional hunters and hunter dog teams coming in for 28 days to do the job.

There will be a public meeting in November discussing the four options, or possibly presenting a fifth local option. It has been said the wild goats are part of Pitcairn culture and heritage, ever since Bounty days, but in the past it was also part of our culture and heritage to control and cull them regularly. Two men operating individually with a gun won't be able to keep the herds under control, it has been proven. We might have to resort to the old method of volunteers going out together to do the job.

PAWL'S GRINDING ACCIDENT

Pawl had an accident in the workshop; the grinder fell out of his hand and did some thorough grinding of his right foot. He was hurried to the Medical Centre where doc Kevin put in some stitches and provided a set of crutches and prescribed several weeks' rest.

Back issues of Dem
Tull can be found on
[www.demtullpitcairn](http://www.demtullpitcairn.com)
[.com](http://www.demtullpitcairn.com)



WALKING ABOUT

Doc Kevin and his wife Sharon are out walking every single day, and have to produce good excuses to each other if they miss one day. They walk up and down the road between the Landing and Len's house, exactly where the concrete ends, they turn and walk back again - and again - and again. But they sure are fit. So far they have walked over 800 km during their time here, without getting anywhere, but still!



STAR SHIP NEWS

Sad news to the many Pitcairners who fondly remembers Captain Ian McKillopp, the master on Queensland Star and several other Star ships, - he passed away earlier this year. Fellow Star captain Allan Brown also told us that George Rawding, ex America Star, is pilot on the Humber River. Allan himself, also ex-America Star, is now retired. Chief engineer Charlie Grieve has also retired, now living in Scotland and enjoying his golf.

OTHER NEWS

Dem Tull accepts the apology from The Pitcairn Miscellany for printing Dem Tull's article on Lily Warren without crediting Dem Tull scribe Tim.

GLOBAL COOPERATION DAY

A global event we knew very little to nothing about beforehand, but now we are taking part in all kind of global events; it is healthy for us pretending we are part of the world out there. A tree was planted by the tennis court in Aute Valley by the children, and proud parents and community members attended the event.



From the tree planting events, looking north into Aute Valley toward Hulianda, and the lonely coc'nut.

MARKET DAY AT THE SQUARE



From October's market day – lots of mouth-watering goodies. Emily taking care of Clive's tons of tomatoes and green veges, Charlene in charge of the Warrens' pies, pizzas, bread rolls and huge sheets of arrowroot biscuits.

MARINE RESERVE

Various events were arranged by PEW Foundation to promote our joint proposal for a marine reserve around all the Pitcairn islands, which Simon and Melva attended both in London and the main event in Marseilles. The tshirts read: *Let's create the largest marine reserve in the world.* Yeah, let's!!!



From the final day of 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress, and Team Pitcairn made their case for the largest marine reserve in the world. It's now up to U.K. government to give their blessing.

JOHN ADAMS' GRAVE



JOHN ADAMS' GRAVE in the western part of Adamstown has undergone some changes. Kean and Roger have built a fence around the graves of old Adams, his last wife Teio, and his daughter by Vahineatua – Hannah, who became the mother of Simon Young, who again sired most of the Young's on Pitcairn. Hannah was also the great great grandmother of Australian-born movie star Erroll Flynn (Dem Tull February 2010) who portrayed Fletcher Christian in the very first movie about the Bounty mutiny in 1933. The grave site is said to be close to where Adams' house once was, and is one of our few historic sightseeing attractions. The graves of the other eight mutineers are unknown.

The approach from the road to the grave has been kept nice and tidy by Carol and her team, who has also looked after the grave itself, weeded and planted flowers around it.



The original headstone for Adams' grave is in the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, UK. It is made of lead sheathing covering the wood, and says: *Sacred to the Memory of Mr. John Adams who died 5 March 1929 aged 65 years.*

Does anyone know when this headstone was sent to England and the present one made to be put on his grave? I can't find any history on the event. We invite comments.

FROM THE BOUNTY FESTIVAL

The Bounty Festival in Tahiti 24th-26th October. Tourism coordinator Heather took part from Pitcairn, with Meralda to promote our Polynesian culture and heritage, Brenda to promote immigration and Mike to promote Pipco's honey. Marie came from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Maurice Bligh, great....grandson of Captain Bligh attended as well as several of Ida Young's descendants living in Tahiti.



Heather addresses the crowd. The Pitcairn stand at the festival. Our delegation plus Marie Thomas and Maurice Bligh



Papeete's mayor plants a breadfruit tree in commemoration of the event.



Nancy Hall Rutger, daughter of James Norman Hall who was co-author of the Bounty trilogy.



Vaeana Kilian with Meralda and Heather.

THE DEM TULL HALL OF FAME: AMERICA STAR

TIMOTHY YOUNG TULL (big.tim.tull@gmail.com)



*The America Star underway. (photo courtesy of www.bluestarline.org
[photograph Copyright © Captain Peter Stacey])*

If there was ever a shipping line that deserves Pitcairn Islands thanks and respect, it would be the Blue Star Line. For generations it served Pitcairn, right up until the sad day in 2003 when the last ship disappeared over the horizon. For the 2013 induction we will induct that particular vessel, America Star.



*The ACT 3 (photo courtesy of www.bluestarline.org
[photograph Copyright © David Shepherd])*

Launched as the ACT 3 in 1971, the ACT 3 was a fine and elegant vessel, sporting fine lines and a simple but purposeful profile.

The first recorded visit to Pitcairn was on November 30th, 1983. The ship was on its way from Panama to Auckland, and on this occasion it evacuated Olive Christian, who was suffering from appendicitis. Unlike some other ACT ships, she initially does not seem to have stopped at Pitcairn regularly this early on, but things would soon change.

In 1987 the ACT 3's steam turbines were replaced by diesel engine, like many ships at around this time. However, there were more changes looming ahead for the vessel.



*The ACT 3 is transformed into the America Star on November 25th, 1991.
(photo courtesy of www.bluestarline.org [photograph Copyright © Captain Peter Stacey])*



*The America Star at Wellington Container Terminal on November 25th, 1991 just after her repainting.
(photo courtesy of www.bluestarline.org [photograph Copyright © Captain Peter Stacey])*

November 1991 saw the ACT 3 transferred to the Blue Star Line, where her funnel received a new and different coat of paint while in Wellington on November 25th. Gone was the blue and white ACT symbol, replaced by the blue star in the white circle, surrounded by red. The America Star was born.

The first visit to Pitcairn as America Star was just after, on December 4th, 1991, when Captain George Rawding visited “to show the funnel and new name.” It did not carry supplies this time, it was a goodwill visit.

Once, when the Pitcairners were on a visit to Oeno, America Star came in sight, and when the Pitcairners called on VHF, Captain Rawding was stunned...he thought Oeno was uninhabited.

America Star was a popular ship for trading, both with passengers and crew. It is remembered as a great ship for buying soft drinks in the slop chest. All the locals on Pitcairn got to know the crew and officers well, and remember them as very friendly. Following the departure of Captain Rawding from America Star there was Captain John Morecombe-Harness.



*Unloading cargo at Pitcairn from America Star.
(photo courtesy and Copyright © Alan Brown)*

One particularly notable day around this time was in May 1997 when America Star arrived with supplies in extremely bad weather.

P&O Nedlloyd bought Blue Star on April 1st, 1998. However, nothing changed to the physical appearance of the America Star. She and the other three “Star Ships” (Queensland Star, Melbourne Star and Sydney Star) were the last remaining vessels to carry the Blue Star Line livery.

In August, 1998 the final captain of the America Star, Alan Brown took command. He shares many of his memories of his trips to Pitcairn on the America Star, some examples being Dennis “Sambo” Christian with his mail and ordering Quality Streets for his mother Irma. Irma also travelled on the America Star with Captain Brown and his wife Linda. He speaks of



A view from the America Star over Bounty Bay in 2002. Standing on the deck is Irma Christian. (photo courtesy and Copyright © Alan Brown)



The final visit of the America Star to Pitcairn Island. It is celebrated with a Barbeque. (photo courtesy and Copyright © Alan Brown)

anchoring off Bounty Bay overnight where he “kept you all awake overnight with the beat of the ships generators.” He also mentions working in the containers with Meralda Warren and Dave Brown discharging supplies. On one occasion he remembers bringing Mike and Brenda Lupton-Christian as well as Andrew Christian with their belongings when they moved to Pitcairn. There were also the private orders for delivery from Auckland on the return trip north, and these orders were written on any old scrap of paper (he wishes now that he had kept some of them).

In 2001 she made eight visits, and in 2002 she made nine visits. In 2003 she made only one visit, on January 8th. This last one was to say goodbye. By many accounts, this visit was special. Captain Brown threw a Barbeque for the Pitcairners, and in his words, they had the farewell Barbeque “with the crew getting stuck into the fish and the islanders all the meat!” He also brought down on this trip the stamps for the first-day issue of the Blue Star Line and envelopes (which he informs me arrived late for the issued day by one day. The stamp in his passport proves it). Since the America Star was destined for the breakers in China, there was a lot of items that were donated to the locals and the island in general, be it foodstuffs or...furniture. The longboat was making runs ashore, and was

nearly up to the gunnels due to the weight of the items aboard. At one point, when passing the wreck of the Cornwallis, the longboat almost joined her, coming close to capsizing.

America Star then departed Pitcairn Island forever, and on February 16th, 2003 she arrived in Shanghai, China. She was handed to the Chinese ship breakers on the 19th of that month.

By June 27th, 2003, America Star was no more (except for certain ground tackle sitting in the deep waters off Pitcairn, and various furniture sitting around Pitcairn). She was the last ship to carry the Blue Star Line funnel.



The End begins for the America Star as she is left to the breakers in Shanghai (photo courtesy of www.bluestarline.org [photograph Copyright © Frank Fox])

Though she was scrapped, much of her still remains, such as tons of furniture now on Pitcairn Island, as well as two of her anchors, in the waters off Pitcairn Island. She definitely left her mark.

Special thanks go to Mr. Fraser Darrah, and his website www.bluestarline.org. Without his help I would not have gotten a lot of the information, as well as most of the photographs in this article and webpage.

Also a great thank you to David Shepherd, Captain Peter Stacey and Frank Fox for giving their permission through Fraser Darrah to use their photos.

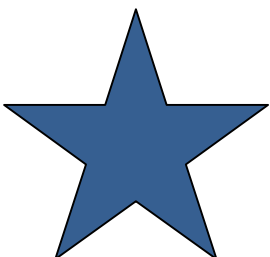
Herb Fords book “Pitcairn: Port of Call” was useful for information on some of the earlier Pitcairn visits by the ship.

While looking for information for this article, I was contacted by Alan Brown, who contributed a number of photographs and information, and he shared these words: “Over 10 years ago, still miss the calls there, the trading, carrying Sambo’s mail for the Post Office, picking up stores orders for the next call, it was a great hour or 3 stop over. Hope some of the regulars on Pitcairn still remember it all too, we had some fun on cargo days – being stuck with Meralda in a 20ft container doing the 45 gallon oil drums, Dave & Bren having to wear safety boots, could go on...I remember Terry too, usually last in the queue when the shop was open, but always knew what he wanted and it was normally tucked away in a corner for him. My wife Linda has also called there on the Island, we brought home Irma on one of the trips another person we often talk about, along with many more.”

Here is one of the picnic tables from the famous BBQ aboard the America Star, now sitting up Ships Landing Point for those who enjoy a meal in the open air with the view to Adamstown and Bounty Bay to the left and to St. Paul's on the right.

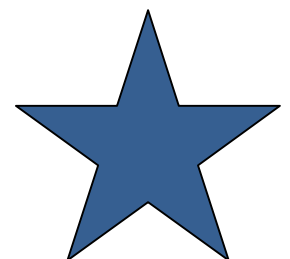


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To read this and previous Hall of Fame inductions, please visit:

<http://www.demtullpitcairn.com/halloffame.html>



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Been reading Dem Tull for quite a few years. I sure enjoy the newsletter plus member of Friends since 2005. I always thought people on island ordered own supplies and store was for extra stuff. Do you order like a co-op to get better prices and everyone figures what is needed for 3-4 months? - Donna, California

(Ed: *Every family order some items that the store doesn't carry, like a special brand of shampoo or some coffee brand - whatever. In the old days the store didn't have freezers or fridge, so all perishable goods had to be ordered on private lists, or you got no flour, meat, chicken, eggs etc. The store at that time only carried nonperishables like canned goods, dry goods, toiletries. Today the store has expanded its operations, with five or six deep freezers and more storage area, so you can basically buy everything there that you need during the three month period between supply ships. Unless you need a special brand. Prices used to be cheaper on private orders, but now it is the same whether you order specially or buy it off the shelf.*)

I know Pitcairn has Duncan's/dunnys. Also maybe cess pools/Septic. What is done with the sludge?

(Ed: *The outside duncans are up to 20 feet deep, in the old days dug by manpower and adzes and shovels, but today the machines do it. When the contents reach a certain level, they are filled in and a new pit is dug. For the inside flush toilets, each house owner has a machine-dug pit made in the ground well below the house, then cover and cement the top securely, and that's where the sludge goes. We never see it again – hopefully.)*

Just had to make mention of the Pitcairn women being given the vote in 1838. I have argued the point many times at trivia nights that NZ was NOT the first country to give women the vote. Of course most people have no idea that Pitcairn even exists, but Google has now become our friend in proving that we are right. I also always remember at one trivia night the question in which ocean is Pitcairn Island and before I could answer, one of my friends said very confidently - "*the Pacific that is where pilhi comes from*". Although I got my recipe from Norfolk, at least I know my friends listen to me LOL. – Neroli, Australia.

Hunt for Descendants – The following press release was released to the media in October 2013 which means Dem Tull is some weeks behind although we ran an advert on this in the September Edition. We understand the organisation collating information from the survey is hoping to have received the completed forms by the publication of this Edition. Nevertheless Dem Tull believe the re-population of Pitcairn will be a challenge and an ongoing project for some time to come and regular reminders will be necessary. While our population has declined to 50 or so local residents this number has stayed static for some time now. This is due to a number of residents returning to Pitcairn over the last 20 years replacing the young ones who left.

Most of the new residents who had not previously lived on Pitcairn came to Pitcairn for a trial period before deciding to make the move “permanent”. It is a different way of life for sure. But for the ones who made the move, whether returning after a long absence or as new residents, they appear to have settled into a way of life that suits them. Pitcairn need young people. If you at at a loose end, where ever you are, why don't you give Pitcairn a try, even if it is only for three months or so. My son Ben spent eight months of a gap year on Pitcairn when he was 18 years old. During the eight months he was another young able bodied man, much needed on Pitcairn. The cheapest way to get to Pitcairn is by joining the Claymore II in Tauranga, New Zealand even if it takes two weeks to get there. Why not give it a go?



Calling all Pitkerners - Hunt for Descendents begins

A Survey has been commissioned to learn more about Pitcairn's former residents and descendents about their potential interest in returning to Pitcairn either permanently or temporarily.

Pitcairn Island's population previously peaked at around 250 but has now reduced to around 50 permanent residents. It is essential to hear from Pitkerners and their families who do not live on the Island to learn more about their views on returning or settling permanently on Pitcairn. The survey also welcomes views in general about the island's future.

Heather Menzies, Pitcairn Tourism Coordinator, and her Partner Kerry Young are seventh generation descendents making the lifestyle choice to settle on Pitcairn seven years ago. Both are passionate about the Islands future.

"Seventh and eighth generation descendents returning to the island will find the island has changed a lot. The island still retains its beauty, subtropical climate, lush vegetation and pristine clear waters. But we are now part of a global community with internet, phones, regular shipping services, sound social services and regular travel to and from the island"

The tourism industry is growing in leaps and bounds with increasing visitor numbers and cruise ship visits.

Ms. Menzies says "The Island needs the energy and passion of former residents and descendents to ensure our heritage is sustained for another 250 yrs."

Governor of Pitcairn, HE Vicki Treadell, encourages Pitcairn Diaspora and readers who know them to make contact with the survey coordinators, listed below.

"I am enthusiastic about strengthening Pitcairn's population and economic viability and see this survey as a crucial step towards this goal."

Vicki Treadell believes it is important that as many of the Diaspora around the world as possible complete the survey.

"The British government supports the efforts of the Council to better understand the Diaspora and the likelihood of a possible return"

The Pitcairn Island Council and current residents are also helping to locate their friends and relatives.

If readers know of any Pitcairn former residents and descendents not living on Pitcairn, please encourage them to make contact with the Diaspora Survey Consultants.

Diaspora Survey Consultants: Contact rob@solomonleonard.co.nz or Kirsty@solomonleonard.co.nz

Ends

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THE BACK PAGE

ELECTION

The last couple of weeks there have been intense campaigning and electioneering, even more so than in previous election years. Election Day is Tuesday 12th November, and we are voting for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and five Councilors. Candidates for our election are the following:

Mayor: Brenda, Shawn, Simon

Deputy Mayor: Brenda, Jacqui

Councilor: Brenda, Jacqui, Michele, Charlene, Sue, Darralyn, David, Leslie

And election results were:

MAYOR (For the next three years)

	First Draw	Second Draw	Third Draw
Shawn	18	20	20
Brenda	4	-	-
Simon	18	20	19
Spoilt Votes	2	2	3

DEPUTY MAYOR (For the next two years)

	First Draw
Brenda	28
Jacqui	12
Spoilt Votes	2

COUNCILOR (For the next two years)

	First Draw	Second Draw
Charlene	31	
Darralyn	31	
David	30	
Michele	20	
Leslie	16	27
Sue	16	10
Jacqui	15	
Melva	14	

Harts et. Ef any yorley wunta tull, tulla Kari orn uptibi@hotmail.com ulla Julie orn julie@customcredit.co.nz. Hooray