

Photo - courtesy of Leslie Jaques -
Sunrise at Bounty Bay

The Pitcairn Miscellany

A Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57 Number 8 August 2014

Community

*M/V Norfolk
Guardian arrived
at Pitcairn in the
early afternoon of
Saturday 16
August...*

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Government

*The event was a
success...*

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Government

*...attend the
swearing in
ceremony of
Pitcairn's newly
appointed
Governor,*

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Environment

*"Unique
underwater
world discovered
in Pitcairn
Islands"*

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As I write this issue, my view is completely different from my "normal". I am now based in Brussels for six months to do some training on behalf of Pitcairn with the Overseas Countries and Territories Organisation (OCTA). OCTA works closely with the European institutions that are investing in infrastructure and development for Pitcairn. I am fortunate that the sun is shining today as since I arrived a week ago, it has rained most days. Apparently that is "normal" for here! Instead of the gorgeous sparkling South Pacific, I look out to brick buildings with lots of smoking chimneys, even in summer! Winter will be interesting!!

Before embarking on the journey to Brussels I spent some weeks in Australia where Pitcairn has engaged its second travel agent, Tropics Marketing, with a successful launch in Sydney. We are serious about getting Pitcairn on the map for adventure tourists.

Most of this month on Pitcairn was taken up with unloading cargo. As you will see below in the features, an enormous amount of cargo was safely landed on island. It is easy from afar to problem solve and make suggestions to fix all kinds of issues on this small island but everything requires many hours of planning and the logistics to implement anything on Pitcairn is always interesting. It was a tense few days waiting for the weather so unloading could begin, as August is traditionally the worst time of year for weather on Pitcairn. The date of arrival on Pitcairn had been changed a number of times due to many issues beyond our control so August it was. Faith and patience prevailed and all was landed successfully, thus the alternative landing can now begin.

As if unloading all that cargo wasn't enough, the Claymore 2 arrived on August 28th with the regular supply ship cargo and visitors of the first rotation for the quarter. Pitcairn can be a busy place!

Enjoy our articles, thanks to our local correspondent Leslie Jaques. Sue O'keefe has kindly agreed to take on this position whilst Leslie has to travel for his Councillor work from September to December. Pitcairners wear many hats to keep the wheels of the place turning! Believe me if you immigrate to the island, you will not be bored if you wish to get involved in all that is required to keep the community functioning.

The Alternate Harbour Project Finally Gets Underway!

By Leslie Jaques & Jacqui Christian

The heavy equipment for the long awaited construction of the alternate landing facility on the other side of the Island at "Tedside" finally arrived at Pitcairn during the month so that the project is ready to get underway. It will allow landing options when conditions are unfavorable at Bounty Bay. It is hoped that this facility will increase the number of cruise ship passengers able to land on Pitcairn and thus increase income for both the government and private sector economies.

The project is being funded by the European Commission (EU) under it's European Development Fund 9. This was part of a long process which began back in 2006 when Pitcairn first applied for funding from the EU. Getting the equipment for the project to begin was in itself a mammoth task and there was eager anticipation on the Island. This had waned over the years due to a number of delays in the project which took a lot of forward planning before the vessel bringing the materials finally got underway.

M/V Norfolk Guardian arrived at Pitcairn in the early afternoon of Saturday 16 August carrying over 1500 tonnes of heavy equipment. To get this into perspective the tonnage on board equated to 30 trips from our regular supply ship Claymore 2 which normally brings around 50 tonnes of cargo each quarter.

August is traditionally a month of unpredictable weather with rough seas and high winds. Thus it was not surprising that when the Norfolk Guardian arrived, it was bad weather. This made it difficult and



Photo - courtesy of Graham Ward -
Norfolk Guardian loading in
Auckland



Photo - courtesy of Leslie Jaques -
Barge trials on Pitcairn

only a few small loads were able to be landed at Bounty Bay in the first 5 days while the ship waited at Tedside.

The initial days were utilised in testing the 30 tonne capacity barge to be used to bring the equipment ashore and working on logistics with the longboat and shore crew. It was a tense time.

It was quite remarkable however that from Friday 22 August to Wednesday 27 August there was a six day window where the team worked from first light to well after dark to unload all the cargo.

A huge team effort was required with the Norfolk Guardian crew, the team on the barge and those on shore. Everyone played their part to ensure the success of the operation.

There was nervous tension as some of the equipment came ashore. Bounty Bay had never seen a fully loaded 30 tonne barge before and it needed to be carefully maneuvered by the longboat and shore crew with ropes, great skill and impeccable timing.

All together the team of Pitcairn's 12 working men plus 2 from the ship, landed seven years worth of the regular supply ship's load in six days. The barge with the Longboat in support, made around 50 trips into the landing at Bounty Bay.

The equipment safely brought ashore included a 20 tonne digger, a 16 tonne digger, 3 tractors, 2 loaders, 480 tonnes of cement, 200 drums of fuel and 84 tonnes of 12 metre length steel sheet piles. Loads that could not be landed in Longboats.

The last trip in the Longboat on the afternoon of Wednesday 27 August to bid farewell to the ship was a boat laden with gifts of fresh fruit, garden produce, fish and goat meat from the Pitcairn Community to the Norfolk Guardian crew to enjoy on their return trip to Auckland. A kind and much appreciated gesture.

A logistically huge operation was successfully delivered. A credit to all concerned from the funding proposals to the logistics to unloading at Bounty Bay.

Now the project can really begin.

We will continue to report regularly on the project as it develops.

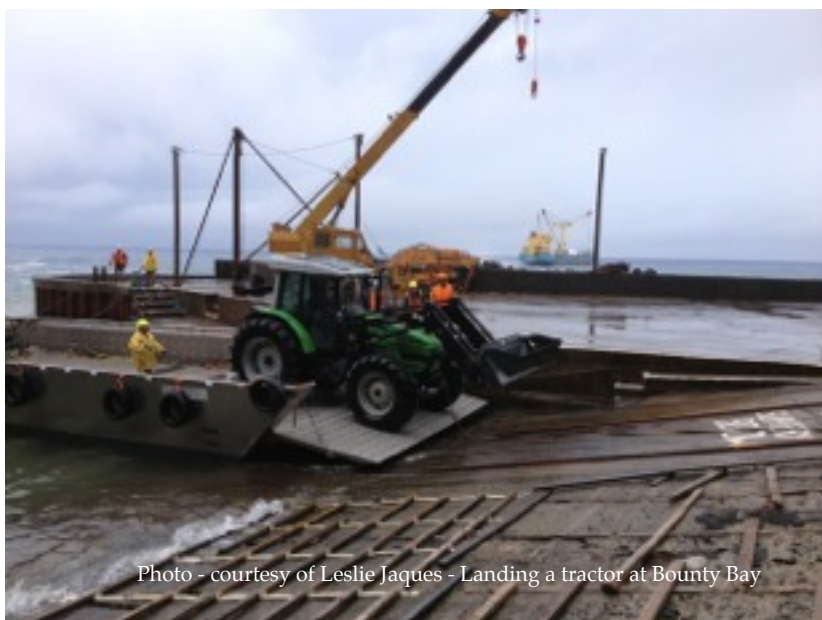


Photo - courtesy of Leslie Jaques - Landing a tractor at Bounty Bay



Photo - courtesy of Leslie Jaques - 20 tonne digger safely landed!

Tropics Marketing - Pitcairn Shares its Bounty with Australia!

by Jacqui Christian

On 5th August, Pitcairn Tourism and Tropics Marketing launched Pitcairn as an adventure travel destination to the Australian market. (Pitcairn already have engaged Hogan and Associates in New Zealand.) As one of Pitcairn Tourism's lecturers, I was invited to present Pitcairn coming from a perspective of one who knows the island and journey well, to the group of travel writers, agents and industry specialists.

I highlighted Pitcairn's location, how to get there, (which is a journey in itself!) the accommodation types available and what there is to do on island. Some were interested in the comment I made that Pitcairn is half way between Paris and the South Pole - according to our signs at the Highest Point! It certainly is remote.

The attendees had the opportunity to have their questions answered and meet a real live "Pitcairner"! Norfolk Islander, Mat Christian-Bailey, also attended the event. Mat currently resides in Queensland and works in the Tourism industry there.

There are opportunities for cross promotion between Pitcairn and Norfolk Island with our shared history. Richard Hankin, Tropics Marketing Director, followed with more information on marketing and availabilities of training over a delicious lunch at Sydney's prestigious Grace Hotel.

The event was a success with articles promptly published in Travel Daily, Travel Weekly and on internet blogs and social media. A radio interview followed thanks to Steve Collins of Radio Roaming - Talking Travel 24/7 to capture those who prefer to listen rather than read.

We look forward to welcoming more "Aussie" adventure travelers on Pitcairn!



Katherine & Richard Hankin and Jacqui Christian launch Pitcairn Tourism at Grace Hotel, Sydney



Visit of Dawn Princess.

By Leslie Jaques.

A calm, warm, sunny winter's day greeted the arrival of the cruise ship Dawn Princess to Pitcairn on Friday 15 August. Cruise ships usually visit Pitcairn in the summer months so this visit of 1800 mostly Australian passengers and 900 crew was a welcome winter bonus.

Virtually the whole Island's population embarked on the longboat from Bounty Bay early in the morning to meet the ship, traveling from Easter Island to Papeete on a world trip which began in Sydney.

The conditions were calm enough for the Pitcairners to board via a pontoon and the helpful crew soon had the bags and boxes carrying carvings, t shirts and general curios to the grand dining room for the community to set up their tables to trade.

The neatly appointed tables quickly became a morass as the shirts were picked up and put down. Trading was brisk. "Do you have a large black polo?"; "Do you have a red in extra large?"; "I'm sure we do sir," as the traders delved into the colorful pyramid of fabric that was once a neat and organised table.

It was so busy that the time just flew by and in no time at all it was time to say goodbye. And as the community left in the longboat there were cheerful waves from passengers and crew and three long blasts from the ships horn.

A very enjoyable day and once ashore a number of provisions ordered by the community were distributed and everyone went home happy.



Photo - courtesy of Henry Duffy - Dawn Princess at Pitcairn



Photo - courtesy of Henry Duffy - Dawn Princess trading



Photo - courtesy of Henry Duffy - Dawn Princess trading

Swearing in of Pitcairn's Governor

By Leslie Jaques.

28 members of the community, young and old, gathered in the hall on the afternoon of Thursday 14 August to attend the swearing in ceremony of Pitcairn's newly appointed Governor, Jonathan Sinclair.

Governor Sinclair was sworn in by Pitcairn's chief Justice Charles Blackie in a simple ceremony beamed live to Pitcairn from Auckland.



Photo - courtesy of FCO - Governor Jonathan Sinclair

Judge Blackie read the Commission of Appointment signed by Her Majesty The Queen and Governor Sinclair read an oath of allegiance prior to signing official documentation.

There was warm applause from the Pitcairn Community and the Governor responded saying he was honoured to be appointed and looked forward to working with us all.

Mayor Shawn Christian said a few words of welcome on behalf of the Community which brought the proceedings to a close.

The Governor who took up his post as British High Commissioner to New Zealand last week hopes to visit Pitcairn before the end of the year. He has held a number of important posts in a distinguished diplomatic career including working with UK Trade and Investment, head of intelligence policy department at the FCO, head of the Political team in Washington DC, head of the European Communities team in London, First Secretary in Delhi and Private Secretary to former Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

Jonathan is married to Helen and they have three children.

We look forward to welcoming Governor Sinclair to Pitcairn soon.

Continued Positive Media for the world's largest fully protected marine reserve in the Pitcairn Islands

by Paul Rose, Expedition Leader, National Geographic Pristine Seas.

In late June, two high profile articles were published on the BBC website "[Call to save Pitcairn's ocean bounty](#)" and also in The Guardian "[Unique underwater world discovered in Pitcairn Islands](#)" about the need for immediate protection of the waters of the Pitcairn Islands as the world's largest



Photo - courtesy of Dave McAloney

fully protected marine reserve.

“Researchers say that “immediate protection” is required or the waters of the remote Pitcairn Islands in the Pacific, home to one of the world’s rarest and valuable collections of marine species” – Headline of BBC News, June 26, 2014.

The articles were based on the important scientific research and discoveries of the joint National Geographic and Pew expedition to the Pitcairn Islands in 2012, and a recent paper in the scientific journal PLOS ONE publishing its findings.

The paper was authored by Dr. Enric Sala and marine scientists Alan Friedlander, Jenn Caselle, Enric Ballesteros, Eric Brown, and Alan Turchik who were on the joint National Geographic/Pew Expedition in 2012.

This pioneering expedition conducted the first survey of the health of the marine ecosystems in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Pitcairn Islands, including the first surveys of deepwater habitats.

The paper which can be found here (<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0100142>) **“The Real Bounty: Marine Biodiversity in the Pitcairn Islands”** provides an excellent summary of the important data that underscores the need for these waters as a large fully protected marine reserve.

Pew and National Geographic will return to Pitcairn Island in September 2014 to share the study in person with the island, along with further work together on the marine reserve proposal, now before the UK government for consideration. Most recently, the consideration of the proposal by the UK was also included in the formal remarks of Sir David King, the UK representative to “Our Ocean” conference in Washington DC in June. This important and historic two-day summit convened scientists, international ocean and foreign policy communities, and world leaders that met in Washington DC in June 2014 to find solutions to restore our troubled oceans and communities who depend on them.

“This is one of the most intact marine ecosystems on the planet, and right now it is in danger.” – quote by Enric Sala, expedition leader of the National Geographic/Pew expedition to the Pitcairn Islands. The Guardian June 27, 2014.



Many of our readers have commented on how much they enjoy the historical articles from Roy P. Clark. It is part of my family's heirloom as he was my mother's uncle. It is with pleasure that we share his writings with you. I thought you might be interested in learning more about Roy and his journey to Pitcairn....

Roy Palmer Clark was born on 2 October 1893 at 1616, Turk Street, San Francisco. At an early age he worked in Los Angeles, then went with his father, Lincoln, to Pitcairn Island via Tahiti in July 1909. On Pitcairn, Roy married Hyacinth May Coffin, who remained his wife for 57 years until May's death in 1974.

The following account of how Roy tells how he came to Pitcairn, is adapted from the May 1936 issue of Atlantic magazine.

HOW ROY PALMER CLARK CAME TO PITCAIRN ISLAND

On the 20th April, 1881 the Acadia, a large three masted full rigged clipper ship loaded with wheat, left San Francisco bound for Cork to await orders. The ship's crew consisted of 22 hands, the captain, three officers, the common seamen and two apprentice boys named Lincoln Clark and Ormond Fowler. The former eventually became my father. There was also one other member of the crew that helped to form an important part in my life. This was the sail maker, Phillip Cook Coffin. Many, many years after I had the pleasure of marrying one of his daughters.

From the time the Acadia cleared the Golden Gate [San Francisco] until she reached the South Seas, the weather was perfect and the voyage uneventful. This imperturbable, peaceful voyage came to an end on a clear moonlight night, 5th June, 1881.

Lincoln, whom henceforth I will call my father had just come to his room relieved by the watch and was in his bunk reading when all of a sudden there was heard a mighty grinding, crunching noise and a crash that shook the vessel from stem to stern. My father was thrown from his bunk to the floor, and then through the cabin dining room door and into the dining room.

It did not take long before every man was on deck wondering what was happening. As soon as it was found that the ship was wrecked on a coral reef there was great excitement but, as related to me by my father, there was no unnecessary confusion. Captain George immediately saw the situation and his orders were prompt and quick. Each order given by him was promptly obeyed. First a kedge anchor was cast astern, which was fastened to the windlass and in time the ship gradually began to free herself from the reef. At last she was free and began to drift to sea.

There was a slight breeze blowing offshore so orders were given to hoist sail so as to help on the kedge anchor but as fate would have it, the wind shifted, just at this opportune time when it seemed that all danger was over and blew the Acadia back on to the reef, this time never to come off again.



Photo - courtesy of Warren Christian
- Roy P Clark

Soundings of the ship were taken and showed that she was leaking badly. Orders were given to lighten the ship and tons of wheat were thrown overboard but this proved to no avail for the water in the hold of the vessel still increased. As a last resort all hands took to the pumps and spelled off and on for two hours. But the ship was doomed. There was nothing left to be done but to seek safety for the crew, so two boats were lowered into the water and the crew of the Acadia left their home to the mercy of the elements and took to the ship's boats for weal or woe.

The sailmaker, Phillip Coffin, suggested to Captain George that they set sail for Pitcairn Island. He stated that he had been there some years before on a whaling ship and that the people were very kind and hospitable. This suggestion met the approval of the captain and without delay was put into effect, so the two boats left Ducie Reef and the ill fated Acadia for Pitcairn Island.

Often have I heard my father relate how it was at this time he enjoyed the best meal he had ever had. The Negro cook took some bottled fruit and, for the want of something better, washed out his hat well with salt water and then emptied the contents of several bottles of fruit into it, stirred in some broken ship's biscuits, and served a meal a la mode. There must have been high hilarity and merriment. However, the meal was enjoyed by all.

As the boats drew near to land the islanders saw them and surmised correctly that they belonged to a shipwrecked crew. They hastened to prepare food and go to their assistance. A boat put off from land loaded with fruit, water and other articles they thought would be needed. The boat's crew were shown every consideration and were treated with kindness such as they never expected. On reaching shore there was also spread on the sand a great repast such as potatoes, chickens, fried bananas and other native foods. The crew were led up the steep incline to the landing edge and then on to the village, called Adamstown.

Everything was done to make the crew as comfortable as possible and to make them all feel at home. Each of the 13 families took one or more of the crew in their own homes. My father and Ormond and Captain George were taken in by the Pastor or Minister of the island, Simon Young, a direct descendant of Edward Young of the Bounty. Even to this day, the remembrance of the name of Simon Young calls up respect and reverence for one that was more than a man of God.

The crew of the Acadia spent many happy days on the island before a ship was sighted to carry them back to San Francisco. This was in February 1882, after spending nearly eight months on Pitcairn. There was one who did not leave the island and that was Phillip Coffin. He wooed and won one of the young island girls and was soon married and thereafter made his home with the islanders.

My father's sea career after his homecoming was not at an end. For sometime he worked for the Pacific Coast Steamship Company as clerk and purser. Finally he tired of sea life and turned to the electrical trade. Time passed. He married. I was his first child. Five years later my sister was born. We were the only children.

About this time some of the Pitcairn Islanders had occasion to leave the island. Two finally reached San Francisco and eventually the home of my parents and grandparents. These islanders were made welcome and became as one of the family. Our home was their home as long as they chose to stay. It was a case, on their part, of receiving their cast bread after many days.

During the visit of the islanders to our home the old life of Pitcairn was brought vividly back to my father's memory. Old experiences were related. Narratives forgotten were brought forcibly to his mind and from this time the germ of Wanderlust and the desire to visit Pitcairn again entered his very being. He spoke often to me, in my youth, of Pitcairn and the South Sea islands. He spoke of getting away from civilisation with all its grasping selfishness and its inhumanity. He hinted to me of his desire to visit the South Seas again. This was the call of the tropics, though he little realised it. When this call once gets into one it stays there for life, or until the desire is gratified.

He spoke to me of how he would like to see me find a home and wife on Pitcairn and that I might love the island as he had. This wander call was so great that worldly ambition was set aside and he made a trip to Tahiti to see

what the prospects were of making a living there for a time and if opportunity offered to go on to Pitcairn. It was decided that Tahiti was not a fit place to bring my mother, myself and sister, so the idea was abandoned.

I was a miscreant at school. No teacher ever liked me, or, as far as I am aware ever tried to turn a bad boy into a good one. I played truant away from school for weeks at a time and associated with evil companions. I was on the downward road.

My parents decided to take me out of school and find some kind of work for me to do. At last work was found in the worst possible place for a boy of my temperament. I worked in a theatre and soon began to smoke and drink and waste my money in other useless ways. Then it was that something happened. I look back through my life and find that it was God's intervening hand that changed my whole course of life

My father and I left San Francisco in July, 1909 for Tahiti and eventually went on to Pitcairn. What a welcome we had! I shall never forget it! My father found old friends and we were feasted and dined as ever any royal family were, and in the very same home that sheltered my father some 40 years ago we were welcomed as he was during his first stay on the island.

Life was made pleasant for us, the islanders doing all in their power to make us feel at home. We lacked for nothing. We in time became as one of the islanders and well do I remember the time when one of them came to my father and offered him a home in the most magnanimous manner possible – a home that we could call our very own and in which today myself and family live.

The old sail maker, Phillip Coffin, was still on the island and had raised a large family of which most all live today. Phillip Coffin and my dear old father have gone the way of all men and now I am more alone than ever.

My wife and I have been married for over 20 years and we are happy and contented. We have a girl just past her sixteenth year. I rejoice to know that the Lord has been able to use me in His work on the island and have in more than one way proved myself useful to the now large community of Pitcairn Island.

The tale of how it happened that I came to Pitcairn is ended. As the tropics called to my father they also call to me and I would not leave them for any and all the allurements of any city in the world.

(Roy Palmer Clark passed away on Pitcairn on May 10th 1980 aged 86 years)

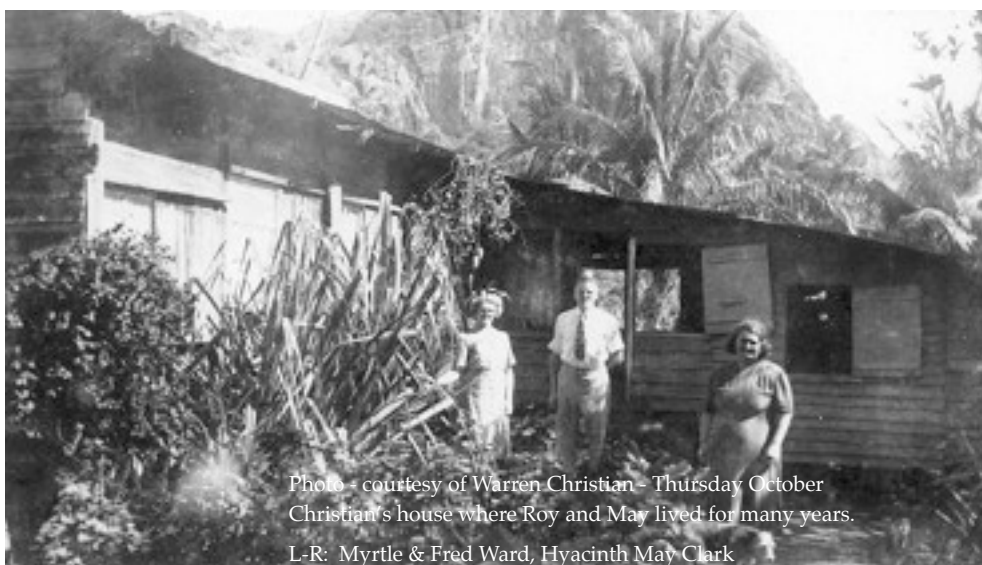


Photo - courtesy of Warren Christian - Thursday October
Christian's house where Roy and May lived for many years.

L-R: Myrtle & Fred Ward, Hyacinth May Clark

Birthdays -

Happy Birthday to Mavis for the 18th and Claire Rapson! Hope you enjoy your special days.



An amazing woman!

Some of you may know Enid Webster who served as the nurse on Pitcairn for three terms between the late 1960's and late 1980's. At 93 years of age she is still very well and recently walked the famous city2surf event in Sydney, with her son and grandson, a 14 km walk with a hill called Heartbreak Hill that deters people my age! She finished in the top 7% of the 81,420 entrants with a time of 2 hours 47 minutes and 22 seconds. Amazing. Well done Enid! You are still an inspiration.



Photo - courtesy of Sun Herald - David Webster, Enid Webster, Mark Webster

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, it is very much appreciated.

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