

# The Pitcairn Miscellany



**Editorial**

*..gutter guards were installed to all buildings that catch rain water from the roof to help to protect drinking water from leaves thanks to some further EU funding ..*

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**Community**

*Our oldest mother, Irma Christian, stole the show leading with a story, prayer and song....*

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*Where there are duplicate copies of books, we operate a swap/exchange option in the Yacht Club next door...*

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*...To think while we lived that we did not agree,...*

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May, almost half way through the year already! April and May marks the end of the “cruise ship” season and the beginning of “catch up work” and the first school holidays for the year. It is usually a time to do maintenance around the place, complete projects and tend to gardens now that the weather is cooler and more conducive to growth.

It’s been a busy month. Mother’s Day was celebrated, the library was moved to its new premises next to the cultural centre and tourism office, gutter guards were installed to all buildings that catch rain water from the roof to help to protect drinking water from leaves thanks to some

further EU funding, the tennis court was resurfaced, sugar cane cut and processed to molasses, unsold stamps burnt to protect their value, honey collected from hives to send off to market, mail prepared for the supply ship, supplies unloaded from the supply ship, monthly market days resumed, public dinners

held to farewell the end of contract for our medical officer. And people think we sit under palm trees being served drinks?! No wonder we need time management courses! To take some time out an impromptu fishing day in the longboat was arranged. I hope you enjoy this month’s line up!



First act on the program: Dennis & Irma Christian

**Mother’s Day**

The second Saturday in May is celebrated as Mother’s Day and traditionally a special church service dedicated to Mother is held. Jean-Claude (our pastor) was keen to hold a special service and prepared a



Ryan, Emily, Torika, Bradley, Kimiora, Adrianna, Cushana & Emily present a song to congregation

lovely program with a number of special items from the community. No one walked out even though it was one and a half hours long rather than the regular hour! Our oldest mother, Irma Christian, stole the show leading with a story, prayer and song. The children gave out miniature bouquets to all who attended and there was a good mix of poems, stories and songs. Extra flowers decorated the building thanks to Nola and Mavis who were the rostered cleaners and florists for the week and a delicious lunch held in the square afterwards. Forty two people attended, record numbers for Jean-Claude, and a lovely special day had by all. Torika, our 11 year old, shares her Mother's day story ...

**Mother's Day on Pitcairn.**

By Torika Warren- Peu

Daylight broke through my curtains and I raised to greet the morning, but I had something else to do first, it was to give mum her happy mother's day gift, so I ripped the covers of and jumped out of bed I ran down the hall passed the lounge and bounded in to Kim's room there he was snoring like a hippo and sleeping

like a stone. I tore the covers off him and shook him like jelly but he still slept like a dead rock. So I went and asked Edward to see if he would get flowers with me

for mum as one of her presents. He said okay and got out of bed and grabbed a torch we went down the road and picked two of each flower. We came back but when Edward shone the torch on the bank there was a cat and it looked like a demon cat with freaky eyes. I was scared to the bone and asked Edward to see if we could go now he told me to come on and we came in side and put the flowers in a vase with some water. I turned the jug on, grabbed a cup, tea, sugar and the milk and made mum a hot drink , I took the cup cakes and caramel slice out of the fridge, grabbed the necklaces we made and our poems and pop up cards, Kim just came out of his room with his present for mum as well. We entered mums room just as she woke up, we gave her all of her presents and gifts. She said that she loved them and she also said the she had a very healthy breakfast with the cup cakes and caramel slice. After that mum, Cushana and I went to look for some flowers and ferns to



Kean Warren describes the journey of the Bounty Bible

make some little gifts for the people in church. The church held a special service program for the mums and after that they held a lunch as well. I had a great Day and I hope the mums had a great day too but not just on Pitcairn but around the world. I had fun that morning and I woke up before mum for once.

**Presenting Pipco and Pitcairn Island Pure Honey**

by Mike Lupton-Christian

Who and what is Pipco? The who are the Pitcairn residents and the "what" is the "Pitcairn Islands Producers Co-operative", working together, sharing hopes, resources and effort to achieve a common goal. That is to operate a



Mike Lupton-Christian, Pipco's chairman and keen apiarist, Photo courtesy of Dot Trow





## PITCAIRN ISLAND PURE HONEY

*If you haven't tried it yet you haven't tasted the most deliciously flavoured honey in the world.*

*The rich intense fruitiness of Pitcairn Island Honey flows from the nectar of the Mango, Lata, Passion, Guava and Rose-apple flowers found in abundance on Pitcairn.*

*This golden pouring honey is a must have Pitcairn experience  
To place your order go to:*

**<http://www.pitcairn.pn/shop/index.html>**

sustainable export industry. Its first and main product is the famous and legendary "Pitcairn Island Pure Honey".

It all started fifteen years ago,, the UK Government aid agency, the Department for International Development, funded an apiculture program for Pitcairn which included training for Pitcairn's bee keepers and a detailed analysis of the disease status of Pitcairn bees and honey. As a result, Pitcairn is able to export honey. This included investment in labels designed by Sue Williams the then Governors wife. The stunning design is informative, promoting the location advantages and history. They are still in use today.

James Driscoll, from New Zealand MAF, whose idea it was to form the co-operative became Pitcairn's adopted Honey Guru. He spent three months on island training the very green bee keepers of Pitcairn and help with the minefield of problems with exporting a very sensitive

product. James is no longer with MAF but is still very much involved with Pitcairn honey.

Over the years," Pitcairn Island Pure Honey" has gained status as a niche market product attracting a worldwide following of customers who enjoy the rich and intense fruitiness of Pitcairn's honey. These customers are willing to pay for a unique product that meets their expectations of taste and this quality organic product operates under best practice and good customer care models. The mail orders were small and regular, reaching many corners of the world, but with each quarterly shipment they are growing in volume.

In 2005 Her Majesty, the Queen, paid tribute to Pitcairn Island Pure Honey.

In 2010 Pitcairn Island Pure Honey won Two Gold Stars at the Great Taste Awards in the UK. The Great Taste Awards are run by the Guild of Fine Foods.

In 2011 Pitcairn Island Pure Honey was "Guest of Honour" to the Orléans Honey Festival in France.

Through reputation "Pitcairn Island Pure Honey's" demand is increasing. It is up there complimenting some of the worlds other great honeys.

The next shipment in September will reach you during November in time for the Christmas rush so be in quick for our order!

**Anzac Day 25 April 2013**  
by Leslie Jaques.

After torrential rain the day before, Anzac Day 2013 dawned bright and



Glynn Christian presents Great Taste Award to Leslie Jaques

clear as the Pitcairn Community gathered to honour those who fought in two World Wars and those who fight today in conflicts around the world. The children had braved the bad weather to decorate the square with traditional Polynesian coconut fronds and Rauti leaves.

The flags of Pitcairn, The United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, fluttered gently in the breeze as the Sea Scouts rang the bells to mark the beginning of the Dawn Service at 7am. Poppies were worn with pride as Mayor Mike Warren welcomed those assembled and Leslie Jaques reminded us of the story behind Anzac Day and of the many Pitcairner's who served with distinction in two World Wars.

The singing of the Hymn Abide with Me was followed by a reading of John McRae's poem "In Flanders Field" by Deputy Mayor, Simon Young, which brought a further reminder of the horrors of war.

Wreaths were laid by the Pitcairn Island Sea Scouts and NZ Police Sargent Allen Trow, Kean Warren for Pitcairn Island, Samantha Smith for the United Kingdom, Michele Christian for Australia and Maria Amoamo for New Zealand after which the Sea Scouts read the roll of honour of Pitcairner's who had served in the Armed Services and the immortal words of the ode from John Binyon's poem "For The Fallen" was made even more powerful delivered, in both

Pitkern and English by Meralda Warren.

As The Last Post was played Pawl Warren lowered the Pitcairn Flag and the observance of one minutes silence was followed by a haunting slow air played on the bagpipes. Pastor Jean-Claude Honoura then delivered a benediction praying for peace and harmony on Pitcairn and throughout the World. The service ended with the community singing a rousing and emotional rendition of Pitcairn's anthem, led by Jacqui Christian, "In the Sweet Bye and Bye".

After the service the Community shared refreshments including traditional Anzac biscuits and some wonderful Pitcairn baking. It was a simple yet powerful service which left a lasting impression and hopefully, lasting goodwill.

The Ode "For The Fallen" By Laurence Binyon was translated into Pitkern and presented by Meralda Warren.

*Dem nawa gwen groe ole semes  
uclan laf gwen groe ole,  
Age nor gwen futto dem ulla hem  
years dreag daun,  
Un when har sun se gorn daun un  
een a morning,  
Wi gwen always sink orf dem.*

*They shall not grow old as we that  
are left grow old,*



Meralda Warren reading the ode, photo courtesy of Dot Trow

*Age shall not weary them-or the  
years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun, and in  
the morning,  
We will remember them.*

### **The Library has Moved**

by Mike Rodden

The Pitcairn Island Library has had many locations over the years. It was recently moved from its site in the shared space with the Divisional Managers at the Square to a room in the Cultural Centre. It is open Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 - 10 am.

Nadine Christian and Charlene Warren trundled nearly 2,500 books down to the Cultural Centre with Nadine immediately cataloguing the books onto a spreadsheet. There are also a wide range of DVD's available for borrowing

The Library now has a written record of books that are available for loan. It is hoped to further develop the spreadsheet over time so that the books can be categorized also. At this point the list mainly includes titles of books and their authors. This can be sorted and viewed by either option so one can quickly identify if the book is available at the Library.

Charlene continues to catalogue the DVDs and books and manage the Library while Mike Rodden spent the last few weeks organizing the books into alphabetical order.

The majority of books have been set up with fiction (marked with a white dot) and non-fiction (orange dot) together on the shelves. We have managed to separate some categories and put them in their own sections. These include Cooking, DIY (Do it yourself), Crafts, Pitcairn and Related books, Children's, Religion, Gardening and Travel. We have copies of "The Laws of Pitcairn Islands" also. While these need to be updated, I'm told they are great bedtime reading.

There are a books by a variety of authors, such as; Maeve Binchey, Clive Cussler, Tom Clancy Dick Francis, Sue Grafton, James Patterson, Steven King, Lee Child, Martina Cole to name a few. We also have a book written by the

actor, Kirk Douglas who has apparently written a number of books. Some authors like Clive Cussler have even visited the island.

We are awaiting local author Nadine Christian's book "Remembering Love" to appear on the shelves.

National Geographic has provided a modern and extremely informative "Atlas of the World" and we also have a volume of Biblica, "The Bible Atlas".

While the Pitcairn section has a copy of Captain Bligh's log, from what I've seen around the Island in private collections, this section

is quite limited and it would be good to expand the range.



Where there are duplicate copies of books, we operate a swap/exchange option in the Yacht Club next door. Visitors can swap their books for ours if they so wish.

If you're tired of reading books but still want to visit the Library, we have a few jigsaw puzzles available and a few magazines although this section could do with some more recent issues and range expansion.

## Latest in Philately ...

by Russell Watson & Tourism Coordinator, Heather Menzies

### CRUISE SHIPS 2013



Pitcairners have forged lifelong friendships with passengers, captains and crew who have visited via cruise ships. At the close of a typical visit both visitors and locals are refreshed and revitalized - satisfied with the day's events, sights seen and friends made". The 2013 season saw seven cruise ships visit with twelve expected in 2014. The size and type of ship ranges from small expedition vessels, carrying 100 or so passengers, to huge ocean liners carrying up to 2500 - 3000 passengers which is over 40 times the population of Pitcairn! With the number of visiting cruise ships steadily increasing each year, Pitcairn's cruise ship season is always a busy time. Typically it starts around Oct/Nov and runs through to April the following year. With this in mind, Pitcairners must find time to get into their studios and workshops to create their carvings, curios and artwork. Most cruise ship companies confirm their booking to visit the island at least a year or so in advance. As the day of arrival draws near the Immigration Officer, Tourism



Coordinator, Mayor and Provisions Officer start corresponding, via email, with the ship to coordinate activities for the day. This varies depending on roles and whether the ship's Captain intends to land passengers or feels it's safer to have the Pitcairn Community go on-board to set up the Pitcairn Island Curio and Craft Market, deliver a lecture and mix and mingle with passengers for a few hours. These days approximately 35 - 45 Pitcairn residents might go out to visit a ship which is unable to land passengers. Landing cruise ship passengers is always at the Captain's discretion, depending on weather and sea conditions on the day. This means that everyone must be ready to either get themselves and their curio and crafts to the landing in time to go out to the ship or to set up their goods and trading tables along the main road or at the Square in Adamstown. Either way it's always a happy and exciting time with no one really sure which way it will go until the Captain has made his or her final decision.

**And the new arrival of stamps to Pitcairn on 30 May...**

**PITCAIRN LOBSTERS**



Lobsters in the Pitcairn Islands are difficult to catch, requiring a dedicated crew, handmade lobster pots and a great deal of skill. Three species are known to frequent this area and several searches located excellent specimens.



The Easter Island spiny lobster *Panulirus pascuensis*, is native to the south eastern Pacific Ocean, round the coasts of Easter Island and Pitcairn Island and found at depths of up to 5 metres (16 ft). Adults grow to a total length of 15–25 cm. The colour of this spiny lobster is dark red – greenish - purple with pale transverse bands on the posterior edge of the abdominal segments. *Panulirus pascuensis* feeds at night and is an omnivore and scavenger.

Its diet consists of slow moving prey such as molluscs, echinoderms, crustaceans and chitons, supplemented with fish carcasses.

The Aesop slipper lobster *Scyllarides haanii* –this species is located on coral reefs and rocky bottoms with recorded depths ranging from 10 to 135 m. The Aesop also tends to hide

during the day seeking rocks and crevices for protection and camouflage. This solitary species forages at night, feeding on a diet mainly consisting of bivalves. This species grows to a maximum body length of 50cm, although it most commonly reaches between 16 and 30 cm.

For further information please contact:

The Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau  
 PO Box 27404, Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.  
 Tel.+ 04 385 3765  
 Fax + 04 385 3706  
 Email [stamps@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:stamps@pitcairn.gov.pn)



Allan Trow, Dennis Christian, Mike Lupton-Christian & Sam Smith burns the stamps

**Stamp Burning**

This is done to limit the number of first day covers and mint stamps in circulation to keep them valuable. Stamps on Pitcairn are usually kept on sale for 2 years then destroyed. Often a number of issues are burnt at one time as was done on the 12th of May. The first day covers destroyed at this burning were



Auditor, Mike Lupton-Christian destroys the stamps

the: Return to Pitcairn, Charles Darwin, Royal Navy Part 1, Aircraft, Dragon Fly; and Mint stamps: Snails, Royal Navy Part II and Yellow Fautu.

## PITCAIRN'S MUSIC HERITAGE

by Maria Amoamo<sup>1</sup>

Song and dance are central to Polynesian heritage and identity.

The development of music on Pitcairn reflects the rich duality of culture contact between Tahitian and English settlers. Pitcairn music has been created and re-created through processes of adoption, innovation and synthesis. During the 1810s, soon after Pitcairn's 'discovery' visitors to the island were regularly entertained by performance of Tahitian-style music and dancing.

Reciprocation was offered by reacquainting islanders with western music and dancing. Accordions, harmoniums, organs,

ukulele, piano and guitars have all made their way into the musical repertoire of Pitkern folk heritage. The established tradition of British hymnody, dating back to the time of John Adams, has been a staple of Pitcairn Island life and by the 1850s hymn singing was an important affirmation of community identity. By the 1870s the island housed several keyboards gifted by ships' captains and crew like HMS Shah (1878) and HMS Opal (1879). The impact of visiting ships in the nineteenth century is recognized in the practice of fare welling ships crews. One example is the good bye song written by Rosalind Amelia Young in the late 1880s or early 1890s. The original lyrics comprise this first verse:

*Now, one last song we'll sing –  
Goodbye, goodbye!*

*Time moves on rapid wings –  
Goodbye!*

*And this short year will soon be past*

*Will soon be numbered with the last*

*But as we part, to all we'll say –*

*Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye*

*But as we part, to all we'll say*

*Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye*

Today it is still common to still hear this signature song on special occasions – recent recipients include the crew of Picton Castle who visited Pitcairn in January this year. Such practice continues to make a significant impression on visitors. Upon visiting Pitcairn in 1964 Frank Clune commented that:

All hands paddle furiously until we cross the bar, and with Pervis at the helm we row towards our ship, to the strains of "Ship of Fame", (by Pitcairner Driver Christian) sung by the islanders;

The steamer hoots, the boats cast off, and the Pitcairners sing their hymn of hope, "Shall we gather at the River?" Their song rang in my ears for many a mile as the Athenic gathered speed and headed west (1966: 239)

Another of Pitcairn's signature songs In the sweet by and by was written in the USA by composer J.P. Webster and writer J. S. Bennett in the mid 1860's and could be regarded as especially expressive of Pitkern cultural identity. Visitors to Pitcairn who experience Sabbath Day service or special events like Anzac or Bounty Day may be lucky enough to hear this sung by the islanders.

"We from Pitcairn Island", originally composed by Australian pastor, Lester Webster

and Pitcairner, Melva Evans, in 1967 is also regularly performed to welcome and farewell visiting ships crews and visitors coming ashore. Farewell songs epitomize the fact that Pitcairn is an isolated and remote island, visited only by sea vessels.

Pitkerners are also especially fond of sharing their music with visiting French navy crews who, since the mid 1970's have visited Pitcairn every 12-18 months. Crew members have established a tradition of going ashore and performing lengthy sessions; the Tahitian members of these crews perform on guitars, ukuleles and impromptu percussion and Pitkerners are always keen to join in the music – singing and playing.

Recently, some islanders have been discussing some of the old tunes once sung, and those that remain popular with the island community. Nola Young recalls a song written by Theo Young when he was the teacher at the School "Down Niger" (1932-35). Theo wanted to stop the kids at school fighting. These lyrics with a current message are:

*We should love one another for God loves to see,*

*Little brothers and sisters together agree,*

*No cross angry words,*

*And thoughts that unkind,*

*Shall not come from the lips, Shall not enter the mind;*

*Shall not come from the lips,*

*Shall not enter the mind.*

*We should love one another for the day will soon come,*

*When we all shall not live in our dear happy home.*

*Perhaps one should die,*

*Oh how sad it would be,*

*To think while we lived that we did not agree,*

*To think while we lived that we did not agree.*

In terms of music, Pitcairn culture encompasses a range of western traditions (such as Christian hymnody, art music and popular song of various kinds).

Contemporary influence derives from western styles (most notably country). But local lore is also preserved for successive generations by the likes of Meralda Warren's song Pitcairn's places, recalling the flora and fauna names of the island. The musicology of Pitcairn will no doubt continue to reflect Pitcairn's isolation and unique Bounty heritage, constructed out of particular interactions and

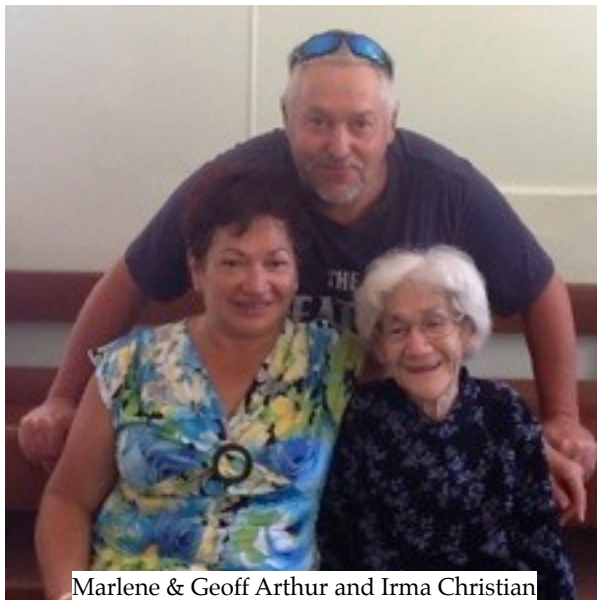


Local artist Meralda Warren sharing her songs

mutual articulations, experiences and understandings between those who live on, visit, and communicate with Pitcairn Island. Many songs have been written for locally produced concerts for home made entertainment, usually following the tune of other well known piece. Currently we have visiting with us Geoff & Marlene Arthur who came to spend some time with Marlene's family; Irma & Dennis Christian. Geoff a "typical Aussie" is from Sydney Australia. He was born in the gold mining town of Bendigo, Victoria in 1955. He was educated at the school of "hard knocks" in Mildura, the home of the big cod, a town located on the Murray River in Northern Victoria. Now, 7588 km to the east of Sydney Geoff has written the latest Pitcairn song to share:

(To tune of Men At Work's Song - I come from a land down under.)





Marlene & Geoff Arthur and Irma Christian

*Yu ca ya har, yu ca ya har  
ha thunder?*

*Yu batter run, yu batter tek  
cower*

*Yeaahaaah!!!! Ooooh Yeaah  
har hem thunder*

*Daeden in one den in Big  
Belly*

*With ha slackan jaw un  
nother fer tully*

*I asa ha man ef he tryen a  
tempt me*

*Runnen a bout in one "bussa us"  
Kombie*

*In ha hippie walley haed fulla  
wannabee*

*I meet one know et all gairl, she make  
I nerwous*

*She come in un make my brekfest*

*Un she asa me - herabout yu come  
from??*

*Yu come from har land down yender*

*Side hem gairl glow un hem maen  
plunder*

*Yu ca ya et, yu ca ya hem thunder?*

*Yu batter run, yu batter tek cower!*

*Buyen a bead from ha man in  
Pulawana*

*He big es a brute un gut plenty big  
banana*

*I asa hem - yu speak my language?*

*He smile un gimme one wegemite  
sandwich*

*Un he tull -*

*I come from ha land down yender*

*Side hem beer flow un hem maen  
chunder*

*Cos I come from ha land of plente*

*Oh! Yu come from ha land down  
yender*

*Yeah oooo yeah!!*

### **The tale of the flying teeth!**

By Rodger Millard

Early one morning, startled home owners rushed outside to the sound of large clumsy boots crashing about on the corrugated iron above their heads.

Screeching tin, squeaking nails and creaking rafters had them thinking thoughts of earth quake and disaster!

But as they squinted into the sun they were relieved to see that it was only a motley collection of Pitcairn workmen! With some justified indignation, the most common reaction was, "well it's nice to see you, but what are you doing walking all over my roof?"

A few days earlier, as the rain and wind rattled at the windows, it was difficult to remember that

not long ago, Pitcairn Island was in the grip of a drought, without usable rain for 180 days! On Pitcairn, the only reliable source of fresh water is what can be collected from the roof and stored in plastic tanks, concrete wells or, more recently, huge rubber bladders. International experts visited the island to advise on how best to avoid water shortages in the future.

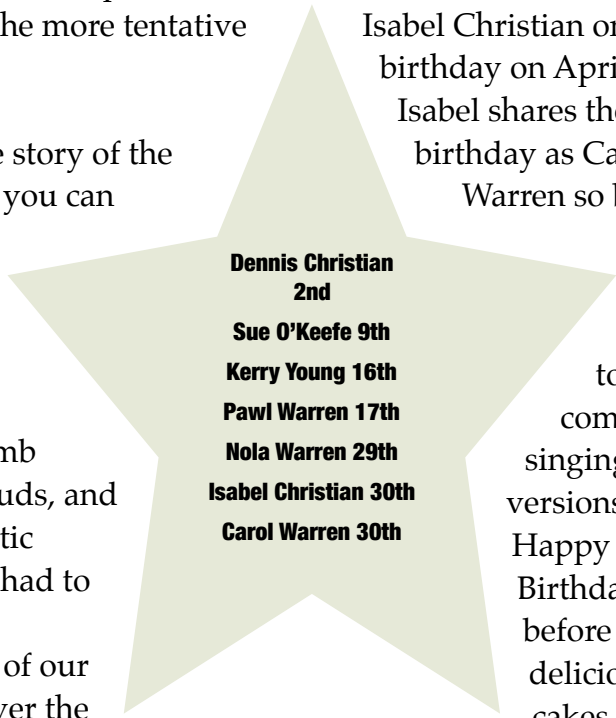
One of the measures recommended was to fit leaf guards to all the roof gutters. Most of the Adamstown houses are crouching deep in the shade of large leafy trees and filtering the water on it's way to the well has always been a problem! Hence the above mentioned group of large footed lads testing the strength of ancient architecture and rusty tin, as they balanced along the roof edges tucking lengths of plastic mesh into various arrangements of guttering and spouting.

Most Pitcairn houses are of single story construction, but being built on a slope usually means that the roof on the sunny side is four or five metres off the ground! Access was a problem at one of the more modern homes which featured several stories and was well beyond the stretch of an ordinary step ladder. Not everybody was comfortable as they contemplated the possible hang time involved in a misplaced foot on this roof, and it was left to a few brave souls to scramble up a second story porch post, dangle from the roof edge

and hoist themselves up onto the tin high above the more tentative workmen.

And what is the story of the teeth? Well, as you can imagine, these few brave lads had both hands clinging tight during their climb towards the clouds, and supplies of plastic mesh and tools had to be thrown from below! As one of our team lent out over the edge of the roof, shouting instructions into the gusting wind, he was forced to put so much effort into his Ps and Qs, that out popped his false teeth to sail straight down towards the group of up turned faces far below!

member of the community, Isabel Christian on her 3rd birthday on April 30th. Isabel shares the same birthday as Carol Warren so both were



subjected to the community singing various versions of Happy Birthday before delicious cakes were cut. Cute as

ever Izzy stole the show though it was hard to capture her face on camera as she flitted about enjoying being in the limelight for her special day.

The celebration of Sue O'Keefe, Pawl Warren & Kerry Young's 50th birthdays held as a combined party on the 17th of April wasn't subject to cute photos. Nevertheless a fun night was had by all!

**Market Days Resumed**

Now that things have quietened down after the end of cruise ships season, regular monthly Market Days have resumed. This month was a busy day as the completion of the tennis court took preference and many didn't have time to make items to take to sell but the children were able to take

the opportunity of people willing to part with their hard earned dollars in exchange for valuable fresh vegetables. Limited bags of tomatoes were snatched up as soon as Rodger declared that the market was open and fresh lettuce and bok choy disappeared into bags for happy shoppers to take home. Its great to have some fresh greens again. Such is the blessing of winter on Pitcairn.



**Longboat Fishing Trip**

It has been some weeks since the weather was calm enough for fishing and we were treated to a day out in the longboat to catch some fresh fish. Nine people took the opportunity to go out in the longboat on the 23rd and after 2.5 hours at a favorite site, came home with 130 fish. The catch was shared out amongst those in the boat who then shared it to other families so all had a lovely meal of fresh fish.

**Supply Ship**

The supply ship arrived on Saturday 25th May bringing supplies and visiting Pitcairners Julie Christian and Ben Christian-Webb. Irma is fortunate to be able to have all the family on



**Birthdays celebrated in April:**

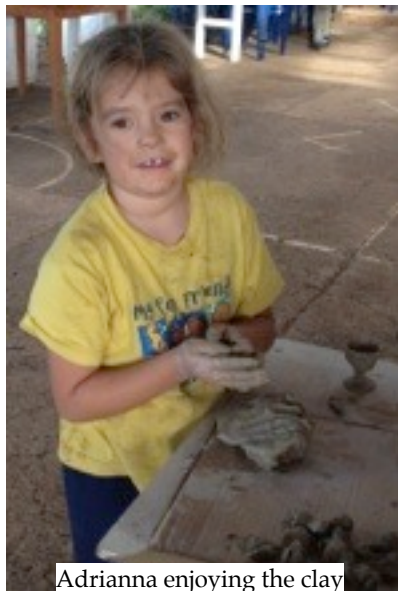
Though it had been a busy weekend with the visit of the French Navy on "Prairial" All turned out for a public party at the square for our youngest



island for the first time since 1992!

Unfortunately the unloading interrupted the special church service Jean-Claude had planned for the farewell of Peter & Maria who left with a number of residents on the Claymore 2 to get some medical attention in Tahiti. Part of the development of new access to medical services here is utilizing the shorter turnaround time of departing Pitcairn on the day the supply ship leaves and being able to return on the second rotation thus preventing the longer and more expensive stay for three months in New Zealand.

Peter too needed some medical attention and had to leave three months earlier than planned. Thankfully, Marlene Arthur, visiting Pitcairner, is a registered nurse with extensive experience in emergency medicine and was able to fill the gap as Medical Officer, between Peter's departure on the 26th May and our next



Adrianna enjoying the clay



Emily shows off her masterpiece

doctor, Kevin Donovan, with wife Sharon, who were here last year and are due to arrive on 6 June. It's been a long, long time since we had a Pitcairner as Medical Officer. Thank you Marlene for adjusting your plans and staying on for a further three months to help us out.

**School Holiday Program**

School holidays came a little early this term as Bradley left for two weeks on the Claymore. Our teacher, Hilary Millard, kindly arranged the holidays early so that Bradley wouldn't miss out on school. During the holidays, our Child Youth Officer, Pawl Warren, holds an art/craft activity with an educational element twice a week for approximately 1.5 hours a session. Previous activities such as steam powered boats, stained glass windows and baking rainbow cakes were enjoyed by our children.

This week it was clay modeling and our little team enjoyed "playing in the mud" at the square.

**Sugar Cane Season**

Last but not least was the processing of sugar cane into molasses. Quad bike and trailers ferried freshly cut cane from various gardens to the mill where the old blue tractor was set up to drive the crusher. Having had a lot of rain over the past 18 months meant the cane was thick in size and juicy. Boil after boil was cooked on the fire in a huge purpose built pan. Depending on the volume of juice, each boil took between an hour and an hour and twenty minutes to produce molasses of the right water content - not too runny so that the



Ryan making a clay cannon with Pawl Warren supervising



Kimiora "drives" the mill



Olive Christian "skims" the boiling syrup

syrup will ferment and go off over time - or over-boiled to produce sugar. It is a real art and the fire temperature is to be monitored for a consistent boil. Molasses is eaten with Pitcairn dishes such as green banana pilhi, molasses cake, popcorn balls, as a hot drink, pancakes, to make Pitcairn sweets called "Lawle" or in place of commercial sweeteners. On the day of cane crushing it is traditionally thickened with arrowroot flour to make a sweet, gooey pudding ( a bit like phlegm!) and tasty sprinkled with freshly grated coconut and sliced ripe bananas. Two days and the equipment is all packed up for another season next year.

**Weather April 2013**

Total Rainfall Taro Ground 124.6 mm.  
 Total Rainfall McCoy's 94.1 mm.  
 Days of rain 17.  
 Greatest Daily Rainfall 31.6 mm on 24th  
 Av Humidity 77 %

Current Miscellany Production Team

**Editor — Jacqui Christian**

**Website management — Bill Haigh**

**Electronic subscriptions currently: \$15 USD per year. Tell a friend!**

Feedback is welcomed along with contributions, corrections and suggestions. Send all to: [miscellany@pitcairn.pn](mailto:miscellany@pitcairn.pn)

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

Av Pressure 1018.8 hPa  
 Max Temp 26.5 on 20th  
 Min Temperature 17.5 on 24th  
 Mean Temperature 22.5  
 Sunshine Hours 185.7

**Shipping**

8<sup>h</sup> April- SV Sauvage;

12<sup>th</sup> April- SV Elcie;

12<sup>th</sup> April- SV Nanna;

16<sup>th</sup> April - SV My Muse;

17<sup>th</sup> April- SV Pacific Cool;

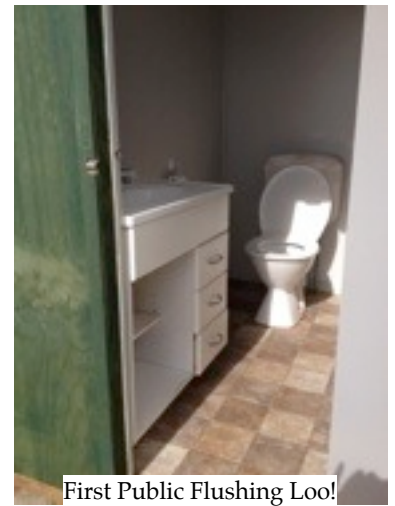
17<sup>th</sup> April- SV Hasta Luego;

24<sup>th</sup> April- Cargo vessel

27-28<sup>th</sup> April- French navy Vessel "Prairial"

Sadly the Marina with 1200+ on board cancelled on April 26<sup>th</sup> due to a medical emergency on ship. Pitcairn was ready for their visit as they had hoped to land their passengers. A public flushing loo had even been built at the Landing instead of the traditional "long drop".

Guests on yacht Sauvage all the way from the Isle of Wight in the UK, visits Pitcairn Island. "Pitcairn far exceeded our expectations" said Chris, on the trip of a lifetime from the UK to



First Public Flushing Loo!

Easter Island to Pitcairn to Mangareva to Papeete and onto Australia before returning home. Chris and Kate enjoy their first ever green coconut ("niar") drink in the late afternoon on the deck. Great feedback for our fledging tourism industry!



Guests Chris & Kate Smith taste their first drinking coconut!