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Jubilee Villas - A new home for Falklands Conservation



Jubilee Villas, Stanley - Falklands Conservation now own the Villa on the left.

Falklands Conservation are now preparing to move into their offices at 41 Ross Road, Stanley, known locally as Jubilee Villas. The Jubilee Villas are a prominent land mark on the harbour of Stanley and Falklands Conservation new home will be the first Jubilee Villa on the left in the picture above. The building itself has undergone extensive work to make it suitable as an office. The access to the building, shop and reception area, will be through a new gate and doorway that open onto Philomel Hill. This was to provide privacy for the adjacent residential prop-

erties and also for ease of access. Falklands Conservation will be able to increase the amount of visitors to the office now that the office is easier to access.



Currently the garden is overgrown and requires some management but it is planned to have the garden developed to show the different plants and habitats in the Falkland Islands, providing information for tourists.

The herbarium, which is currently stored at the Archives building, will also be moving to the new offices. This will make the herbarium more accessible to the public. If you would like to

the herbarium then please contact the office to make an appointment. The insect collection will also be housed in the new offices. As soon as the insect collection is available for viewing it will be announced in the Newsletter.

The purchase of the Jubilee Villa would not have been possible without the support and donations that Falklands Conservation has received. In particular the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation made a significant contribution and two members of the foundation recently had the opportunity to visit and look around the property during a short visit to the Falklands aboard the Azamara Journey. To date the appeal has been met with great generosity which has enabled Falklands Conservation to finally meet the purchase cost of the property. Additional funds are still sought for the conversion building works. If you are interested in donating then please contact the offices of Falklands Conservation. Jubilee Villas will provide a secure future for Falklands Conservation. In our own building we will be able to build upon our past work and successes and welcome a greater number of our members and visitors into our office. Once the office has moved and you are passing, drop in to have a look.



The new reception and shop area.



Invasive Species Project

-winning logo by Oliver Moorey

It doesn't seem possible that it is a year since I came to work in the FC offices, how time flies when you are having fun! My first year with the South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme has largely involved establishing infrastructure, the collection of background information and assessment of priorities. A workshop was held in July 2007 attended by 19 delegates from all sectors of the community. The output of the workshop was an Invasive Species Action Plan for the Falkland Islands. A project steering group was also formed after the workshop, in order to ensure that the project team remains sensitive to local issues and any possible changes in priorities. The usual suspects; rats, feral cats, thistles and calafate came out very high on the priority list. The project will be supporting FC's

ongoing rat eradication programme and the Beaver Island fox eradication. FC and others have been working on creeping thistle control in the Stanley area for several years; this has been very successful, on a recent visit to Black Eagle rock the project team removed the handful of plants that had appeared this year. This summer I have cut down or sprayed all the spear and creeping thistles that have appeared on the track between the racecourse and Jeremy Moore Avenue. The calafate at Port Sussex and Head of the Bay farms will provide more of a challenge; the first phase is to map the full extent of the spread and then to trial the effectiveness of various herbicides.

Dealing with invasive plants on South Georgia is also one of my responsibili

-ties; wavy-leafed bittercress was accidentally introduced about 8 years ago, probably from seeds stuck to building materials or vehicles. It has spread quite rapidly and my job was to find a way to stop this. The seeds can stay in the soil for between 5 and 7 years so it was essential to stop any plants setting seed this year. Weedol2? proved the most effective herbicide as it works very quickly and the plants die before the seeds are ripe.

Whilst in the UK last winter I undertook a spraying and the safe use of pesticides course and I was able to put what I had learned to good use whilst on South Georgia; this year I will be doing a chainsaw and strimmer course, specifically with the removal of calafate in mind.



Wavy-leafed bittercress.



Spraying wavy-leafed bittercress in South Georgia in January.

The Shallow Marine Surveys Group launch their website:

<http://smmsg-falklands.org>

The Shallow Marine Surveys Group was formed in 2006, its main objective to collect, catalogue and photograph the little known wildlife that inhabit the shallow waters around the islands. The Group is made up of a team of experienced biologists and divers and volunteers and have now launched their website which explains the work they are doing and what they plan to do in the future. The site also includes an image gallery of just some of the animals that inhabit the shallow waters.

There is information and contact details on the website for anyone interested in any aspect of their work. Since 2006 they have catalogued species and the website and their photographic presentation highlight the amazing colour and diversity of marine life in the Falkland Islands waters. Make sure you visit the website for a glimpse of what lives beneath the waves in the Falkland Islands and to understand the critical conservation importance of our near shore waters.



Gearing up on the Damien II for another survey



The 'trilobite' isopod *Acanthoserolis schythei*



Common large anemone *Actinostola chilensis*



The WATCH Group enjoy a fabulous start to the Summer Season

In partnership with
Standard Chartered 

The WATCH Group are half way through their summer trip season. In December children and adults went to Little Chartres and Port Stephens.

At Little Chartres they assisted Jim and Leslie Woodward in the creation of a Wildlife Corridor, that will help protect the delicate plants and animals in that area. The group removed some of the old fencing and laid out the batons for the new fence that is going to be put in place.



At Port Stephens the children realised the extent of the marine pollution problem. Rubbish swept onto the beaches at Port Stephens have come from as far away as Brazil. The children were shown the dangers that marine pollution has to the wildlife not only in the Falkland Islands but on a global scale.



In January a group went to Pebble Island for the first time. On Pebble the children cleaned a beach near the settlement, climbed Marble mountain and photographed the five different species of penguins that can be found on the island.



The trips form an important part of the environmental programme organised for them. It allows the children to experience different places in the Falkland Islands and raises their awareness of the beautiful yet fragile place in which they live. The WATCH group have had an absolutely fantastic time and would like to thank; Jim and Leslie at Little Chartres; Diane, Leigh, Drew, Ann and Peter at Port Stephens; Raymond and Arina, Dawn and Pebble Lodge at Pebble Island; the helpers - Jo Lazo, Pia Schuchert, Eileen Davies and Esther Sanchez; FIGAS for all their patience and Standard Chartered Bank whose continued support make all the trips possible.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Do you enjoy being outside?
Do you enjoy learning about Falkland Islands wildlife?
Would you like to be more involved in the work that we do?

If you answered yes to any of the above then why not register as a volunteer with Falklands Conservation. We are currently putting together a new database of volunteers that would be willing to assist with projects such as our Seabird Monitoring Programme, Plants Project, beach cleans, tussac planting and helping with our conservation youth group, the WATCH Group. When an opportunity arises we will contact the members on the voluntary database to see if anyone is interested and able to assist. The Volunteer Database can offer you the opportunity to visit places sometimes difficult to normally visit. If you are interested then please complete the enclosed form and return it to the office or email you details to anna.shepherd@conservation.org.fk or phone/ visit us if you require more information. Our contact details are on the front page.

Supporting Falklands Conservation is just a click away.



There are many ways to support Falklands Conservation...your annual membership, volunteering to help with our projects, purchasing branded clothing and now a new way...by using the link below as your homepage and search engine, you can help raise money for Falklands Conservation by just clicking your mouse.

Every little helps so use the following link to help support us even further.

<http://www.everyclick.com/uk/falklandsconservation>

King Penguins reach celebrity status in Stanley

Stanley have been visited this year by 3 King penguins who are currently moulting at Moody Brook and Gypsy Cove.



The penguins have received a huge amount of attention from tourists and locals alike due to the fact that it is unusual to be able to see Kings so close to Stanley. There is a potential that the penguins could sadly suffer a little because of the attention. As they are moulting they are unable to feed, and rely totally on their fat reserves. If the penguins become stressed from too close attention they will use up more of their energy reserves than they can really afford to and this could jeopardise the success of the moult.

So if you are going to visit the penguins please follow the Countryside Code and remain at least 6m (20 feet) away, remain low to the ground and move slowly.

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The Newsletter is edited by Anna Shepherd

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