

Falklands Conservation Newsletter

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Falklands Conservation Charity Ball 2007

The Annual Falklands Conservation Charity ball proved to be a wonderful success again this year.

In just a few days the hall underwent a complete transformation. The entrance was decorated with voile and lights, whilst the main section was elegantly dressed with blue and green fabric covered walls and tables decorated with white linen table cloths finished with navy blue napkins and candles. The finishing touch was the handmade chocolates in complementing blue and green wrappings at each place setting.

Some changes were made to the layout of the hall this year; the bar was moved into the SW corner of the hall next to the stage, Consolidated Fisheries Ltd, the sponsors of the Charity Ball were seated on long top tables down the north side of the hall, and the large gantry was replaced by a line of gazebos allowing for better seating arrangements and more space. Instead of a Tapas menu, every table was provided with a hot meal of either Lasagne, Chicken Curry, Sweet and Sour Pork or Vegetable Risotto for the vegetarian option with accompaniments.

The sponsors for the event, Consolidated Fisheries Ltd, enjoyed a private champagne reception and were enter-

tained by the talented children of the FICS and Shirley Adams-Leach, while taking a closer look at the artwork and auction items displayed in the reception room before the night began.



Shirley Adams-Leach and children from the FICS entertained guests as they arrived for the Charity Ball. Photo Penguin News

As people arrived they were offered a complimentary glass of champagne by members of Falklands Conservation and all the ladies were handed white carnations by Adam Henry, a WATCH Group member.

Mike Summers and Gary Clement began auctioning the items after everyone had eaten. The items were shown around the hall by Vicky Collier and Adam Henry (both WATCH Group members).

The artwork proved once again to be especially popular, with pieces from Veronica Fowler, Jackie Garner, John

McDermott, Gary Clement, Sarah Crofts, Tyssen Smith and Ali Liddle.



"After Action" by John McDermott



Ali Liddle showing her piece of art around the hall. Photo Penguin News



"The Tarn" by Tyssen Smith

Sea Lion Lodge donated two nights for two people and FIGAS donated complimentary flights for the trip, Malvina House Hotel offered a champagne meal for two and a night in the Executive suite with a full english breakfast, Carol Cant donated a beautiful beaded and embroidered silk and felt evening scarf, FILO offered a 10 week spanish course, Sonia Felton donated a pencil portrait from a photograph, a VIP day at MPA was up for grabs, a collection of signed Falkland Islands books including original artwork and memorabilia was much sought after and the very popular Antarctic Cruise was donated by Quark.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated such fabulous auction items this year.



Vicky Collier modelling the beautiful hand-made evening scarf donated by Carol Cant.

This year we offered 3 star prizes which were stuck to the underside of peoples chairs, although it did take some time to find the stars, mostly because it had been forgotten where they had actually been placed, and also because people just wouldn't believe they could be sitting on a fabulous prize.

Again, thank you to Leann Tooby for donating 6 months of Bodyblast, Roy and Beverley McGill for a portable DVD player and Maria Peck for some beautiful hand-made jewellery.

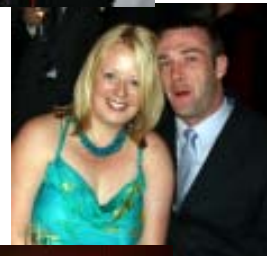
After some furious bidding wars, that were extremely well encouraged by the banter between the

auctioneers, Mike and Gary, the stage was removed and the party really started with everyone up dancing and being very well entertained by SWN. The night was a fabulous success due to the enthusiastic help from volunteers and the wonderful sponsorship from Consolidated Fisheries Ltd.

Thank you also to the doormen, Mark Short, Ian Betts and Kenneth Jaffray; Adam and Vicky for showcasing the artwork; John Pole-Evans and Francesca Rodd for helping to serve food and drinks; Chris Gilbert and Wayne Clement our barmen; Martin Cant for providing a wonderful sound experience; SWN for the music; Malvina House Hotel for the fabulous food and serving; Marg and Pat Hayward for looking after the cloakrooms; the FIC for the skip; the Seafish Chandlery for donating the wine for the tables; FIG for all their help with the Hall, especially John Birmingham and Ricky McCormick for all the preparations for the ball, FIRS and the Penguin News for the advertising and coverage of the ball; the Pink Shop for the framing of the artwork...and if I have missed anybody out...thank you too. Without your help, support and donations, the night would not have been assuccessful. Of course, our final thanks must once again go to the

sponsorship from Consolidated Fisheries Ltd, as without their support the evening would not have been anywhere near as spectacular. Due to that sponsorship, all monies raised go straight to supporting Falklands Conservation and its projects.

Some pictures of the evening...



Sorry, I didn't have room for any more.

Falklands Conservation Annual General Meeting 2007

The Annual General meeting this year is being held in the Falkland Islands on the **21st November** at the **Chamber of Commerce** in Stanley. The meeting starts at **7pm** and there will be a photographic presentation from the **Shallow Marine Survey Group**.
All members are invited to attend the presentation.

Conservation of threatened plant species in the Falkland Islands

The species composition of the Falkland Island flora is relatively well known, however there is still much to be done in terms of mapping the distribution of the flora. Of greatest urgency is the need to find out where threatened plants and habitats occur, and what state they are in, as well as general vegetation mapping to identify the most species rich examples of each habitat type across the islands. This information will be used in the first instance to raise awareness of the importance of particular sites to plant conservation. Detailed geo-referenced population data for threatened species assesses their status and identifies which areas are crucial to their survival. These data can then be shared and used, for example, in environmental impact assessments. In the long term, such information will allow us to identify ways in which the conservation status of these species can be improved.

Mapping of botanical areas of interest around the Falklands forms part of the new Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) Falkland Islands Plants Conservation Project. The information collected together with the existing plant survey data will be used to initiate and develop the Threatened Plants Action Plan, to investigate the threats faced by species and how they can be addressed. It will also allow the start of long term monitoring of important plant populations through the assignment of permanent biodiversity assessment points across the islands.



False plantain (*Nastanthus falklandicus*)

Photo Nic Huin

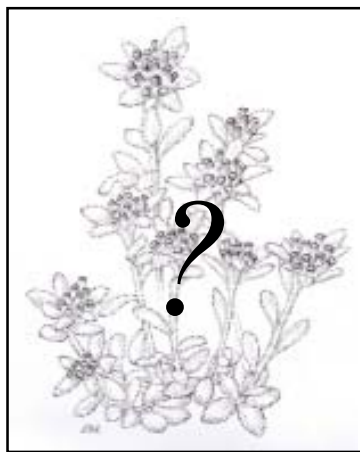


Moore's Plantain (*Plantago moorei*)

Photo R Woods



Hairy Daisy (*Erigeron incertus*) Photo Nick Woods



Antarctic cudweed (*Gamochaeta antarctica*)



Falkland rock cress (*Phlebotobium maclovianum*) Photo A.J. Bellamy

At present five native Falkland Island plant species are recognized as globally threatened and 17 species as nationally threatened. The globally threatened species are the Falkland rock cress (*Phlebotobium maclovianum*), Hairy daisy (*Erigeron incertus*), Antarctic cudweed (*Gamochaeta antarctica*), False plantain (*Nastanthus falklandicus*) and Moore's plantain (*Plantago moorei*). Some of these species, such as Moore's plantain, are currently only known from a single area of the Falklands and this is the only place in the world where they are found. Similarly, the Antarctic cudweed is also endemic to the Falklands and yet it is known from so few places that we do not even have any photographs of this plant. To date it has only been spotted on Pebble Island, in the Port Louis area and on Saunders Island. The outside of its natural habitat the only record is the original herbarium specimen collected by Joseph Hooker near Berkeley Sound in 1847, which is held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It appears to be similar in appearance to the Falkland cudweed (*Gamochaeta malvinensis*), only hairless.

The biodiversity of the Falkland Islands is of intrinsic value and we still have much to learn about the biology of these species and how they interact with their surroundings. These particular species are amongst those at the top of the priority list for conservation action in the Falklands.

So, if you spot any of these five threatened plants then please take a photo, record where you are (ideally using a pocket GPS but if you don't own one then give the best grid reference you can or any place name information) and make a note of the rough number of individual plants of the species that you see. Send the information into Falklands Conservation or email rebecca.upson@conservation.org.fk and help improve our knowledge of plants in the Falkland Islands. R.Upson.

Falklands Conservation takes part in the World's Biggest Bird Fair

The British Bird Watching Fair, held in the UK at Rutland Water every year over a 3-day weekend in August, is the largest event of its type in the world. This year's good cause, to which all profits from the Fair are donated, was Saving the World's Critically Endangered Birds - all 189 of them. In 2007 the Fair attracted over 18,000 visitors. Quite a lot of them found their way to the small Falklands Conservation stand where a band of enthusiastic volunteers were promoting the wildlife of the Islands and the work of Falklands Conservation.



Everyone was kept busy at the stand with the steady flow of visitors. Photo R Wood
We were also pleased to be able to promote visits to the Islands through distribution of brochures provided by the Falklands Tourist Board, who were not at the Fair this year.



Photo R.Wood

The opportunity was seized to raise do-



Ann Brown talking with Tim and Margaret Carr. Photo R. Wood

nations and sell as many of our publications and goods as we could. In particular Ali Liddle's Penguin Arts and Crafts book had lots of promotion and was very well received. Avid collectors of bird pin badges purchased our penguin range, sometimes in bulk, and some hats were subsequently seriously loaded with these! Altogether over £1,000 of sales income was generated. Donations were encouraged through the large penguin collecting box and from a Penguin Competition. Entrants had to answer the question 'Which penguin is on our logo?' with a pretty obvious answer nearby on the display. The prize was an original rockhopper penguin picture generously donated by Mandy Shepherd.



Nicola Robinson draws the winning penguin competition entry with Robin Woods giving a helping hand
Photo Ann Brown.



Photo R.Wood

A particular success was the recruitment of 18 new Falklands Conservation members. This was in large part due to applying the 'Cromarty Technique' devised and demonstrated by John Cromarty. It pointed out the large amount paid by people in the UK to visit the Islands and how a small subscription to FC would put something back to help the wildlife they appreciated so much. It worked wonders!

Many famous bird people attended, including Bill Oddie and Nigel Marvin, and it was a great opportunity to meet many of our friends and colleagues (a nice surprise to see Alberto Yanovski, from Paraguay and Chairman of BirdLife International in the Americas), to chat up cruise ship and tourism companies, and to get ideas from other conservation charities.

We are very grateful to everyone who helped on and supported our stand, particularly Robin and Anne Woods for their dedicated efforts throughout the whole event, and to Zeiss for the reduced rate stand costs. We intend to be back next year! A. Brown

Falklands Conservation

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The Newsletter is edited by Anna Shepherd

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