

May 2003



# FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

## NEWSLETTER

P O Box 26  
Jetty Visitor Centre  
Ross Road  
Stanley

Tel : 22247  
Fax : 22288  
E-Mail : [conservation@horizon.co.fk](mailto:conservation@horizon.co.fk)  
Website : [www.falklandsconservation.com](http://www.falklandsconservation.com)

## CAMPERS DANCE JUST BRILLIANT!

The Falklands Conservation Camper's Dance turned out to be one of those events not to be missed! Over two hundred people turned out from Stanley and East Falkland for the dance that was ably hosted by Fitzroy Farm.

People of all ages, local and military, all had a fantastic night and thoroughly enjoyed themselves well into the early hours of the next day. Included in the entry fee was warming food that people could help themselves to to stave off any hunger pangs caused by dancing. This had been laid on by Falklands Conservation courtesy of Fitzroy Farm and the military, who provided a great stew.

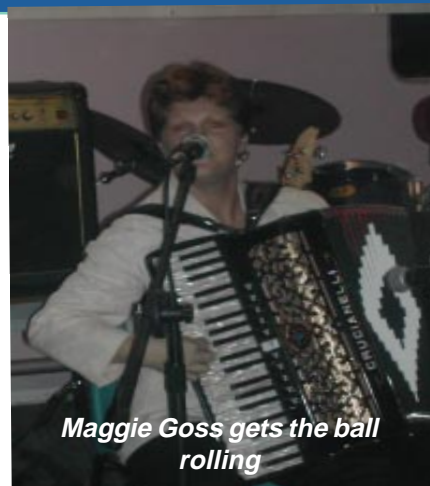
Later in the evening the live music got under way with Maggie Goss getting everybody into the swing of things with her squeeze box belting out sambas and circassian circles. It was then the turn of a young band called Inferno. The crowd listened as this talented band played through the set - well done boys! Jock and Liz Elliott performed, maintaining

the high standard that we have come to expect! The Avocado Monkeys then expertly took us up to the end of the dance with a 90 minute set of truly excellent music by Mike Triggs, Noel Igao, Chris Didlick, Shane Moffat and co.

There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the evening, great music and food. The dance was a huge hit and Falklands Conservation would like to thank all the volunteers for their help throughout the evening, the military for the excellent stew, all the musicians, FIDF for supplying the food tent, Falkland Tours and Travel for laying on a coach for transport to and from Stanley and Fitzroy Farm for being such fantastic hosts.

We would also like to thank all those people who came and made the evening such a night to remember, with your support Falklands Conservation managed to raise a staggering £1,200. This money will go towards the running of Falklands Conservation and support of the Watch Group.

*more pictures overleaf.....*



*Maggie Goss gets the ball rolling*



*The dancing begins*



*The party continues late into the night*

In the FIDF -provided food tent people were treated to a wonderful stew laid on by the military. The weather did get chilly as the night went on and the timely serving of food ensured that everybody felt ready to go and ready for some more dancing after a good feed. The sheep provided by Fitzroy Farm formed the basis of a great BBQ as well!

*The military involvement ensured there were no spanners in the works.....*



*'Inferno' - one to watch*

The talented band Inferno, with members under 14 years old, played seven songs, including popular material from the Red Hot Chili Peppers. This was one of the first public gigs the boys had done and from the feedback that we got, the first of many!



*Old hands at entertainment - the Avocado Monkeys*



*You don't often see these two THIS side of the bar!*

Without support from many people, some working for Falklands Conservation and others donating their free time to help, the evening would not have been the success that it was. In fact, some that were working for FC were in need of support on the night! (No names though - Nic!) Thanks especially to Wayne Clement and Mike Summers (above) running the bar and below, FC Trustee Jeff Halliday on the door (However did you stay warm? We do note the medicinal glass in hand!).



*Jeff Halliday as the friendliest bouncer in the Falklands!*

The Avocado Monkeys are a fantastic crowd puller with their combination of REM classics and 'good old get-up-and-dance tracks' and without them the evening would definitely have gone with less of a swing! The music for the whole evening was fantastic but Falklands Conservation would like to give a special thanks to the Avocado Monkeys for their continuing support for FC at events. They also played at the Charity Ball held last September free of charge.

The dance floor was quickly filled with Maggie Goss of Horse-Shoe Bay encouraging people to their feet with her skill on the accordion. With live entertainment covering such a range of music there was something for everyone and the feedback from all ages was excellent. There were people dancing most of the night and all seemed to enjoy the variety.

Because of the licence used at Fitzroy Farm, one of the nicest things about the Campers Bash was that families could come as well, meaning parents from camp and town could bring children to enjoy the evening too - although it did prove too much for some!



*A younger party-goer takes the chance for a quick nap!*

In the last year, there have been two evening dance events arranged as fund-raisers locally. Both of these, the Campers Dance and the Charity Ball back in September, have been incredibly well supported and successful events. It is hoped that both of these will become annual events, with a slightly different theme each time. Not only does it give the chance to raise funds for essential work, it also gives us the chance to get a huge range of people involved with Falklands Conservation who would not normally be.

Our most ambitious event yet will be the next Campers Dance, which will hopefully be held at Port Howard.



*Organiser Sarah Clement takes a stint behind the bar.*

## Albatross get local help as new problem comes to light

Following the last Seabirds at Sea trip, a new potential threat to albatross is happening around the waters of the Falklands. Observer Tim Reid and Fisheries Officer Steve Waugh were shocked to see what looked like evidence of albatross being caught and killed for meat on certain vessels fishing in Falkland waters. The use of baited hooks trailing was seen, and on several occasions the carcasses of albatross with the bodies 'filleted' were recorded floating in the water around vessels. This is the first time that any such activity has been detected and the Fisheries Department assure us that it will be made illegal as soon as possible

## Watch Group Sponsored Jobs Day

It's not only the adult members of Falklands Conservation in Stanley that have been raising money! The Watch Group members were out in force recently on their sponsored Jobs Day. All funds are going towards future meetings and trips. The Watch Group have been lucky enough to be invited to Shallow Harbour and Sea Lion Island later in the year, so this extra funding will help cover some treats for the trip!



*Verity Livermore gets down to cleaning up some horse paddocks*

On a definitely lighter note, local support for the conservation and protection of albatross was demonstrated recently with the playing of the new Annual golf tournament, the Albatross Shield. Twenty brave golfers took part on a horrendous day with driving winds and rain. The 'shot gun start three club match' was won by Simon Goodwin, with Carole Lee from Port Howard as First Lady. Runners-up were Tony McMullen, Chris Gilbert and Michelle King. Warm food back at the club house rejuvenated everybody enough to take part in the auction, where a 'Ping' putter donated by Bernard Gallacher raised over £200. The raffle then took place, with a further auction after the winner of Bernard Gallachers driver, Kevin McFarlane, donated this back to auction, raising a further £225 toward the total of £1450 for albatross research in the Falklands.



*Simon Goodwin, the first winner of the Albatross Shield*



*Gary auctions Bernard Gallachers 'Ping' putter*



*The Falklands Conservation Rover gets a thorough cleaning out by eager Watch members*

Over the winter months, the Watch Group will be working towards their Gold Award, which is divided into eight separate badges, each focussing on environmental issues, from 'Soap box' where they have to give a presentation on an issue they feel strongly about - how to spread the word and influence opinions, through to 'Wildlife Action' where they actively repair a site and monitor what happens following their work. Many of the children are doing well and we will report back on their progress.

## Bird of Fortune?

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is probably the most famous piece of literature referring to the albatross. Originally written in a collaboration between Coleridge and William Wordsworth, to fund a walking tour that they were planning in 1798, the poem was largely based on Coleridge's dreams. However, later Wordsworth wrote that he had the idea of shooting the albatross, after reading the 'Voyages of Shelvocke', where in their passage around Cape Horn, the sailors on board the English boat *The Speedwell* consider the 'black albatross' (possibly a Falklands black-browed?) to be the harbinger of bad weather and fortune. In desperation, a suspicious sailor, Simon Hatley, shot the bird, leading to disaster and the wrecking of the *Speedwell*. Shelvocke's story is told in '*The Speedwell Voyage: A Tale of Piracy and Mutiny in the 18th Century*' by Kenneth Poolman.

# Ross Seal found in San Carlos River

A seal that was reported to Falklands Conservation in October last year, up to five miles inland on the San Carlos River has been identified as a Ross seal. After reports of sightings and concerns from fishermen and local farmers, FC went out to see if anything could be done for the animal. Unfortunately the seal was found dead, so it was returned to Stanley for autopsy by the vets. Initially it was reported to be a Leopard seal, but it appeared to have a larger head than normal. Pictures of the animal were sent away and it has since been identified as a Ross seal which is only a second sighting for the Islands. It is likely that the animal was sick already, as Ross seals are always found in salt water and are not found out of the Antarctic. The Ross seal is the smallest, least numerous and least studied Antarctic seal species. They can grow to 2.3 metres long and can weigh up to 200 kg. It has a broad and short snout and head, with prominent eyes. The front flippers are relatively long, measuring about a fifth of the entire body length. When disturbed, the Ross seal makes rasping and clicking noises.

The animals live solitary or in small groups, especially in the King Haakon VII Sea and near Cape Adare. They eat mostly squid. The pups are born in November and December. The last sighting of a Ross seal in the Falklands was in the early 1990's around the Canache area.



## Falklands Conservation Sale Items

*Available from the Stanley office*

**SALE SALE SALE SALE**



*At a sale price of  
only £7.00 with  
or without zip*

### **FALKLANDS CONSERVATION**

**Conservation Officer : Becky Ingham**

**Field Science Officer : Nic Huin**

**Executive Officer: Sarah Clement**

**Company Secretary: Ann Brown**

**FI Secretary : Hay Miller**

**Seabirds at Sea Team : Dr Ben Sullivan, Tim Reid and  
Andy Black**

**Trustees : Nikki Buxton (FI Chairman), Brian Summers FI  
Vice-Chairman, Keith Biles (FI Treasurer),  
Robin Woods (UK Chairman), Malcolm Hunt  
(UK Treasurer)**

*A full list of Trustees is available from our offices*

**The Newsletter is edited by Sarah Clement & Becky Ingham**  
Company Number 3661322      Charity Number 1073859

## **BirdLife to help Iraq assess environmental cost of war**

BirdLife International, of which Falklands Conservation is a Partner, announced in late April that they are preparing to send five teams of field biologists into Iraq to assess the impacts and effects on key habitats, sites and species.

The main area of work will be the Mesopotamian marshes, which is an endemic bird area and globally important for its bird populations. Iraq has 42 Important Bird Areas, a designation which we are heading towards in the Falklands, and 24 species which are recognised as globally threatened.

The teams are hoping to leave as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

### ***In search of Falklands words...***

*Following some recent confusion about the description of the 'gilletts' which FC have for sale, (I think we mean gilet actually), we have a request from Bernadette Hince in Canberra to hear from anyone about Falklands words - she can be contacted on [bhince@cres20.anu.edu.au](mailto:bhince@cres20.anu.edu.au)*



*The Newsletter  
is partially  
sponsored by  
Cable & Wireless*