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Falklands Conservation



Newsletter

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FALKLANDS CONSERVATION CHARITY BALL 2005 IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

After months of planning the Charity Ball it feels that it was over in a flash, but that flash was truly fantastic! The venue for the Ball was as usual the Town Hall but it was our mission to dress and make it look better than it ever had. With a lot of material and about a billion fairy lights, round tables and an awful lot of hard work from everyone, I think we managed to make the hall look brilliant. The amazed look on peoples faces said it all, and for once the venue was dressed to match the wonderful outfits that were worn by everyone who attended.

The Charity Ball started at 7pm with a reception for the event sponsors, Consolidated Fisheries Ltd. It was down to their support that the Ball managed to reach new heights this year. At 7.30 pm the doors opened and people started to arrive. Within a very short time the hall was busseling. The Falklands Brasserie started serving tapas at 8pm and the auction got underway at 8.30 sharp. Mike Summers and Andrew Newman did a wonderful job and the bids just kept rising. A fashion show half way through the auction (to help display an auction item from the Falklands Wool Centre) got the crowds cheering and whistling! The auction finished on a high, with the star item of the Quark Expedition cruise going for a fantastic £5,000. An amazing total of

£10,000 was made on the auction alone and a whopping £14,500 was made from the whole evening.

Each year the Charity Ball has raised the standard of the evening but next year the challenge is really going to be on!

Much of the success this year has to go down to the large amount of people who volunteered their time and expertise to help get the hall ready in time and a massive thank you has to go to the following people:

Morrisons for the loan of the scaffolding and cover, and the lads who came along and built it all. Charlene Rowlands who took time off work to come along and help dress the hall. Paola Palavecino, Ali Liddle, Darren Christie and Hay Miller who also came along throughout the three days in which it took to make the transformation. Oli Yates, Nic Huin and Grant Munro who came along on the final afternoon and carried and fetched alcohol and chairs and anything else that needed doing! The amazing Sound and lighting men, Graham Didlick and Martin Cant who practically lived at the Town Hall in order to get it all ready in time (thankyou to Mrs Cant and Mrs Didlick also!)



....continued

Thanks also must go to the bar men on the evening, Wayne Clement, Chris Gilbert and James Greenland who did a great job. Sally and Tim Blake for all they did, Sam Miller, John Pole-Evans and Oli for just running around all evening making sure that everyone had a drink and food, not to mention all the Brasserie staff who worked so hard. The door-men, Shane Blackly, Mark Short and Kenneth Jaffray. Mike Summers and Andrew Newman for taking care of the auction. Mandy Shepherd, Una Hurst, Richard Cockwell, Ali Liddle, Shirley Merrel, the Falkland Wool Centre, The military for the VC10 flight, Sea Lion Lodge and FIGAS for the wonderful trip to Sea Lion Island and of course Quark for their huge generosity in donating a cruise as a auction item. Without these people and their amazing support we would not have had such a successful auction. Thanks also to the people who donated star prizes that were given randomly, Ledingham Chalmers for their hour of free legal advice, Tanya Ford for a hair cut within 24 hours and of course Malvina House Hotel for the night stay in their executive suite, all expenses paid. The models, Jackie Summers, Paola Palavecino, Angie Morrison, Ali Liddle and Tracy Pearce who will probably never do it again but



Top: Mr Wallace, Director of CFL at their private reception with George and Lucy Betts.
Below: Girls from the Falklands Brasserie doing a fantastic job in greeting guests.
Top right: The ball gets underway.
Bottom right: The Falklands Brasserie chiefs preparing tapas



Falkland Conservations AGM

The 2005 AGM will be held in Stanley this year on the 7th of December. Full details of this, including the election of Trustees, will be given to all members in early November. If you are interested in serving as a FI Trustee please contact the Chairman, Gordon Liddle on 22247 or email gordon.liddle@horizon.co.fk for further details of what this entails, and/or request a nomination form from Grant Munro at the Stanley Office. The nomination form must be completed and returned by the 1st of November 2005.

thank you for going ahead on the night! A massive thanks to Platonic for donating their time and keeping everyone dancing and to the children and Shirley Adams-Leach for the beautiful music which welcomed everyone into the hall. Ian Stewart Construction for making and donating the brilliant bar to FC, FIRS for the radio coverage, Penguin News for their support and photo taking by Sharon Jaffray and last but not least FIDF for the loan of the tables and the lads who brought them in.

But of course with out the sponsorship and tremendous support of Consolidated Fisheries Ltd it would have been impossible to put on such a grand evening, due to their support all money made goes straight to Falklands Conservation and the projects that are being run.

It may seem like an awful lot of people to thank, and you'd be right, but I think that the above list is a indication of the amount of support and help that Falklands Conservation gets from the community.

A massive thank you to you all for coming along and giving your support to your environment and wildlife.

The 2005 Charity Ball was organised by SeAled Events of SeAled Pr Ltd working on behalf of Falklands Conservation.

Island restoration on North West

The sixth of October 2005 will be remembered as another bad day for the rats of the Falkland Islands, after a team of 3 set out to eradicate them from South West Horse Island (3ha). Tim and I from FC and Esther from Fisheries left Port Sussex in the morning using the Conservation RIB, ably driven by Sam Miller. To record our adventures for posterity, budding filmmaker and Fisheries Officer Duncan Brake came to observe the proceedings with his video camera.

We started out with wet feet, as only Tim and Sam had the foresight to bring wellies to get into the RIB, the rest of us had to wade out bare footed, an unpleasant experience at the best of times. Luckily Sam managed to skilfully pilot the boat to an area of the island where we could all jump off without having to swim, so

we soon warmed up. After a quick run around the island, I decided that we only needed to lay out markers on a relatively small part of the island where it was at its widest. The rest of the island could be baited by eye, with the team walking side by side a short distance apart from each other. Having laid the marker poles, it was time to start baiting. Moving from one end of the island to the other, we started to throw the bait trying to ensure that coverage was enough to guarantee that every rat on the island had access to the poison. Work was regularly interrupted by our visionary cameraman staging scenes that wouldn't have been out of place in a Hollywood movie, with bait bouncing off his camera lens as he crawled through the tussac giving a rats-eye view of the proceedings. Having covered the island, we stopped for a well-deserved lunch of squashed empanadas and biscuits.

Having recharged our batteries, we then

had to walk the coast of the island baiting inland every 25 paces, paying particular attention to areas of thick tussac and around a shag colony where the rat population was likely to be at its densest. This didn't take too long, and after a quick tidy up we were ready to leave. The trip back in proved to be an unpleasant one for Tim and I, who repeatedly got soaked by waves as Sam enthusiastically raced us home looking disturbingly more pleased with himself with each passing wave. Esther meanwhile had curled up under the cab and would have fallen asleep had she not been so busy laughing at the misfortune of her bedraggled shipmates!

Whilst fun was had by all, it shouldn't be forgotten that in the process some incredibly important conservation work was being carried out, providing a safe haven for the wildlife of the Falklands for future generations to enjoy.

By Darren Christie

Tussac Planting at Elephant Beach

by Ali Liddle



On Saturday 17th September a group of volunteers left town to head out to Elephant Beach Farm to help Ben Berntsen and Ricky Evans plant tussac on part of their land on the north coast. The group included myself, John Cole, Russell Smith and his daughters Ffion and Ellis, Alan Dawson, Roger and Karen and their son Kyle Barlow and Dion Robertson.

Ben and Ricky had applied for a grant from a Tussac Restoration project about 3 years ago to enable them to buy the materials to fence off an area of camp from stock grazing. Due to years of overgrazing, resulting in erosion on the point of land at the entrance to Little Creek, there were large patches of black dry peat and dead diddle-dee which are ideal for tussac planting. A few days earlier Sam and Hay Miller and Dion Robertson, who was on work experience with Falklands Conservation, went out to Cape Dolphin to pull tussac plants ready for the volunteers to plant at the weekend.

So it was with a Rover full of bags of tussac plants followed by a convoy of willing helpers that headed out over the camp on Saturday morning. After a picnic lunch and a little liquid refreshment we set to digging and planting in a number of areas around the coast, some a little way inland others just above the high tide mark. Everybody worked extremely hard, even little 2 year old Kyle, once he overcame his desire to pull up the plants as fast as Roger and Karen were planting them! Within a few hours the rover was empty, everyone was pretty dirty and a small corner of the Falkland Islands had been transformed from a black dusty desert to a little tussac plantation. It was really satisfying to look back over the camp and see tussac plants gently blowing in the breeze and I know we're all keen to see how it grows over the coming years.

Later in the day after a guided tour around the north coast area, which is a stunning stretch of coastline, we headed back to the house and with only one bogging en route (Duane!) we were soon relaxing with a cold beer or two. A few of us set up camp in the yard with a beautiful sunset as a back drop before getting stuck into a fantastic supper provided by Ben and Ricky. The evening proved to be very sociable with party games and darts matches involving everyone, including 5 year old Ffion, going on late into the night - a great night in camp with fantastic hosts and company. The following day the sun was shining just as it had been all weekend so we were in no hurry to get back to the big smoke of Stanley after what had been a really fantastic and very productive weekend away.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help restore a little bit of the Falkland Islands to its former glory - you all did a great job. Thanks to all the youngsters who helped out, Lucas, Kieran, Duane and Dion (any excuse for a race over camp in the Rovers!) and last but by no means least huge thanks to Ben and Ricky for being such brilliant hosts for the weekend. I'm sure we'll all be back again soon for some more of the same!
Cheers everyone!

Albatross Competition



With the 5-yearly albatross census approaching fast, Falklands Conservation are planning an albatross sweepstake for the summer months.

The last survey in summer 2000/01 identified a serious decline in the numbers of black-browed albatross breeding in the Falkland Islands, the world stronghold of the species range. The survey estimated a total of just 382,000 breeding pairs in 2000/01 compared with 506,000 pairs in 1980/81 and 468,000 pairs in 1995/96.

The majority of the decline has traditionally been attributed to mortality associated with longline vessels fishing between here, Brazil and South Africa, the broad area of dispersal of these majestic birds. However, work over the past years by Falklands Conservation's Seabird At Sea Team and FCO OTEP and FIG funded Albatross and Petrel Programme has demonstrated that trawl vessels also cause significant mortality to our feathery friends. At the forefront of a global effort to reduce the incidental mortality associated with fishing,

Falklands Conservation are working with the fishing industry and the Fisheries Department to minimise the threat to the seabirds that breed and forage in Falkland Island waters.

The island-wide survey this year will set off from Port San Carlos at the start of November and head down through Falkland Sound en-route to Beauchêne Island. There, the first team will alight and commence the huge task of counting all albatross and penguins. The survey effort will continue with teams on the East and West Falkland plus a small team on Mike Clarke's *Condor*, together covering all colonies of albatross and penguins in the Falklands, with the exception of the elusive Jackass, who will be hiding in their burrows!

What will the total number of pairs of black-browed albatross be for the summer breeding season of 2005-06?

The person who guesses closest to the actual total number of breeding pairs estimated during survey work this summer will claim the prize of £200, the winner will be announced on the 1st of March 2006.

Each entry costs just £1 and any number of guesses is allowed. Entries will be received only at Falklands Conservation and competitors will be given a ticket indicating their name and estimate. The closing date for entries is the 30th November 2005.

Weddel Seal spotted in the Falkland Islands

Reported by Susie and Simon Bonner of Roy Cove on the 17th of September.

Weddel Seals are far more commonly spotted on sea ice in the Weddel Sea in and around Antarctica. I guess this one is a bit lost!

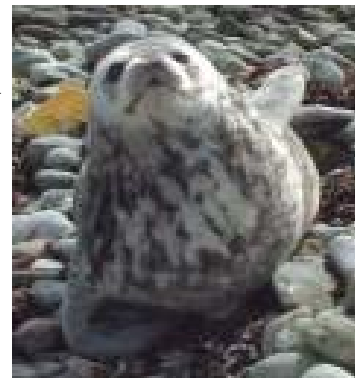
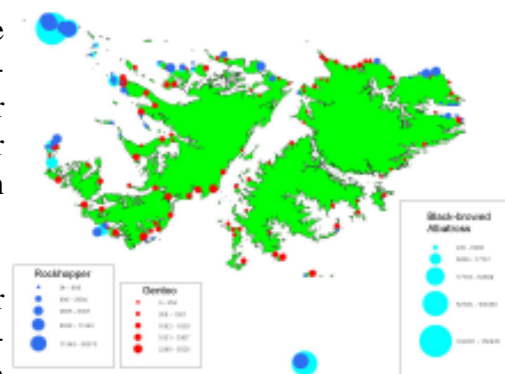


Photo sent in by Susie and Simon Bonner

Coloured dots represent the locations that will be visited



The competition is open to persons over the age of 18 only.

FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

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Bill Featherstone (UK Treasurer)

A full list of Trustees is available from our offices

The Newsletter is edited by Sarah Clement

Company Number 3661322

Charity Number 1073859

Correction from last issue,

Annual Review actually should have read "Bi-annaul Magazine now available"

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Falklands Conservation.



CABLE & WIRELESS
FALKLAND ISLANDS