



PITCAIRN ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator's Monthly Report to Council for August 2022

Administrator

I am delighted to cover the Administrator role until October. I want to learn from you how HMG can best support Pitcairn's development and to make progress on key local issues, which I will hand over to my successors if needed, to ensure momentum is retained. Thank you all for the warm welcome so far.

It was great that Stephen Thwaites could cover as Administrator recently, drawing on his deep experience of Pitcairn and leadership via the Financial Aid programme. He is now even better placed to support Pitcairn from his role in the UK. I am glad that the Covid outbreak in July was dealt with adeptly by Council, the Doctor and indeed the whole community. Covid will invariably return, and we all need to remain vigilant, but it was fantastic to see Pitcairn's Covid Policy and preparations passing the test.

My priorities are: to ensure the ambitious list of live projects are completed in a prioritised manner by the end of 2022 (with the Marine Science Base as top priority to formally launch early in 2023); and maintaining vigilance around Covid, helping Pitcairn open up to vital tourism via the upcoming cruise-ship season. I will strive to be respectful at all times, and strongly hope to see this reflected back and across Pitcairn's community.

The Marine Protected Area, and associated Science Base, are vital new pillars to support Pitcairn's future. They will attract new tourists and scientists at a critical global moment for the protection of the biodiversity of an exceptional and fragile marine environment. Supporting this work in the waters around Pitcairn will complement the existing opportunities on-island, such as more traditional tourism. So I am delighted to see so many people helping build the Science Base, and am keen to see this Council agree the final detail of the MPA Marine Conversation Regulations. These would be the first globally, and a fantastic story to champion for Pitcairn at the upcoming JMC.

I want to flag two specific events on the horizon. Firstly, the newly sworn-in Governor, Iona Thomas, is keen to meet the whole community via a virtual Townhall meeting (tbc on Friday 19 August, subject to Council agreement). Secondly, the next batch of (Moderna) Covid vaccines will arrive on the Silver Supporter on 8 September. The Clinic will then be rolling these out, as either first or second boosters. Finally, as well as a new (final) temporary Administrator in October, there will be routine replacements of our police and doctor contractors in September/October, and our teacher will not be replaced at the end of the current term, until or unless there are new students.

Routine meetings with Acting Mayor



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We have met frequently since my arrival and have discussed a range of issues and priorities, including: EU projects (including plans for use of the solar funding and a suitable ship to shore alternative); equal access to training and development opportunities for all; and Covid planning.

Other engagement

I have made the most of regular opportunities for informal engagement with Council, GPI staff, and the rest of the community. While my door is always open, I particularly enjoy getting out and seeing people at their offices or elsewhere, to get a better feel for the island and GPI infrastructure. I've met with all DMs, the Treasurer and island Auditor, and all Contracted staff. I have focussed on ensuring the recent new contracts and updated Job Specs are translated into clearer priorities and concrete objectives for the year ahead for each Division. I believe this is the obvious next step in terms of Performance Management and Training and Development, to maximise the efficiency of GPI. I am also really enjoying Pitcairn itself, especially during my time off, and am using social media to promote this incredible place.

The following sections cover divisional updates:

DM Environment/ Nature

Overall, the Division is functioning according to workload and priorities.

- MPA Officer continues to work with Blue Belt on various activities and liaises with DM when required;
- Land Management Officer continues to consult with land holders in reviewing existing holdings this will ensure land records are up to date and recorded;
- Department has reviewed the draft Bio Security Legislation, feedback has been provided to the DM. Next step is for the HoD and DM to discuss the feedback;
- The vacant position (temp Biosecurity officer) within the department has been filled;
- On Projects, DM liaising with NGO's especially those who have been awarded Darwin Plus funding for projects; and DM liaising with SPREP and consultant in regards to the invasives species project.

Three related documents requiring Council agreement have been circulated separately by the Administrator:

(i) Marine Conservation Regulations; (ii) FAQs; (iii) Fisheries Management Plan



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On (i), Council need to agree the final aspect (section 38) following previous agreement of the rest of the **Marine Conservation Regulations**. Two options based on Council comments have been proposed by the AG's office, related to the size and make-up of the review committee. DM Nature favours Option 1. Once agreed, the draft FAQs (ii) can be tweaked to reflect the final regulations.

On (iii), comments from the AG's office on the **Fisheries Management Plan** need to be considered and agreed so that the plan can be approved and implemented.

One document was shared for information and optional action – to consider **RSPB's letter regarding Bio Security Border Protection**. This can then be taken forward jointly with the Governor's Office and FCDO as part of future contracts/renewals for the supply ships.

Two other documents were also shared for information only, with no Council decisions needed:

Darwin Plus - Bio Security Project (RSPB)

- **Pitcairn & Henderson Rat Eradication Feasibility Study & Explanatory Note documents:**

The feasibility study is for Council information. As explained in the covering letter, the document is a guide for RSPB some of the activities may change depending on how they execute them and or new technology comes to the fore.

- **Pitcairn Reed Warbler & Honey Risk Assessment.**

As part of the Darwin Plus RSPB project a study of the Pitcairn Reed Warbler will be conducted on island over a three month period. This will take place towards the end of the year.

Operations Division

See updated separate Annex covering Prioritised Plan of Works for updated timelines and prioritisation of all outstanding projects, to then be circulated as a Community Notice.

Contracts and Cleaning DEPARTMENT

- Regular monthly Grounds maintenance and cleaning was carried out during the month.

COMTECH DEPARTMENT

- Reconnect ADSL and local phone line to 1 premises.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

- Complete installation of 6 Government solar systems.
- Complete installation of 1 residential solar system.



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ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

- Repair to mobile crane belt.
- Service and maintenance work on power generators fuel.
- Change over mains generator electronic controller unit.
- Service and maintenance to longboats.

LANDING DEPARTMENT

- Pax transfer form Silver Supporter.
- Return mail and empty containers to Silver Supporter

R.A.M DEPARTMENT

- Regular monthly road maintenance was carried out during the month and prep work for the concreting of roads.

PROJECTS

- Finalise draft EU solar concept and costing for Pitcairn.
- Complete walls structure for Marine Science Base.

DM Finance and Economics

DM stands down as DMFE at the end of August to retire, replaced on a temporary basis on a 6-month contract by Simon Young, following recruitment. Simon will do the role remotely initially. I am sure Council will suitably thank Leslie for his long-running work both on Council and as DMFE, as well as his previous roles.

Another busy month for the division.

The Post Office dispatched a number of parcels and general mail on the departing supply ship. Honey and the Artisan Gallery are the biggest customers. There have been global delivery problems caused by covid-19 which has impacted on customer relationships on and off Island. We are awaiting confirmation from HMG on Pitcairn's application to become members of Universal Postal Union, which should give access to appropriate mail tracking systems. The Administrator has formally submitted the request.

We are awaiting delivery of latest stamp issues and first day covers from Tower Mint. The current almost ad-hoc process is not unacceptable and needs urgent revision. The internal audit process is being moved from a monthly to three monthly cycles. Sales are anticipated to pick up with Aranui and other cruise ships scheduled to call from September on.

The Store has experienced some supply chain problems with orders not being fulfilled and some empty shelves. Generally, there has also been a push to reduce stock levels in some areas. New staff are fitting in well. Grateful to the GT for his support/processing work during recent absences.

Following the recent audit, a number of changes have been introduced. These are working well and all should be in place ahead of external auditors visiting in September.



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Miscellany Has a temporary editor with Nadine Christian taking the role on a 5-month fee for service contract while Simon Young is away.

Tourism continues to be the mainstay of Pitcairn's income generation. Tourism website migration to Squarespace continues. Accommodation provider options adjusted and promoted. Accommodation Allocation data base reviewed and operational. Covid Free to Covid Safe messaging adjusted to reflect current status. Updated GPI Covid-19 Travel & Quarantine policy circulated to cruise market & travel trade. Cruise Call Schedule updated and circulated.

MPA & Conservation Marketing Activities continue, including Review of DSS web content, Blogged School Trip to Outer islands, DSS SQM Solar equipment successfully installed and operating and DSS branding and merchandise development continues.

Silver Supporter July Sales were NZ\$33,500. **On-line Pitkern Artisan Gallery Sales & Marketing** sales since Established Sept 2020 to July 31st 2022: NZ\$54,947.68

On-island Service Coordination including Pre arrival comms: Aranui & Azmara Cruises, Welcoming Activities for SS landed pax and yachts revised and operational.

DM Communities (update not received in time, key points to be given orally at Council). Focus to include support and guidance for new Settler (arrived July).

Forward look

DM Ops and Administrator: See updated separate Annex covering Works Plan and Projects list for updated timelines and prioritisation of all outstanding projects, to then be circulated as a Community Notice. These will need significant casual labour and support from the whole Community.

Tim Moody
Administrator of the Pitcairn Islands