

Ascension Island Council General Election

22nd September 2022

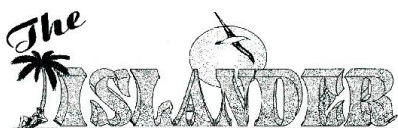
**Remember the closing date for Nominations is
Wednesday, 7th September 2022**

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION FORMS NOW!



Bids Farewell to Simon Bennett





Editor & Printer: Kitty

The New Islander Office, Fort Hayes,
Georgetown, Ascension Island.

Telephone + 247 66327

E-Mail: islander@atlantis.co.ac
www.the-islander-newspaper.com

Deadline: 6:00 pm Mondays

Technicians: Joopy & Kerry

The Islander post-box is situated on the downstairs
veranda of the new AIG Offices (Islander Building).

Deadline for all contributions: Monday's 6pm

Please submit copy on disk or via e-mail.

Max size for email is 1MB

Next weeks' editor: Elaine

Printers: Elaine

**CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN
THE ISLANDER**

FULL PAGE £10.00

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**IF NO SIZE SPECIFIED- SIZE WILL BE AT
EDITORS DISCRETION**

**A TRUE LEADER HAS THE
CONFIDENCE TO STAND
ALONE, THE COURAGE TO
MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS, AND
THE COMPASSION TO LISTEN
TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. HE
DOES NOT SET OUT TO BE A
LEADER, BUT BECOMES ONE
BY THE EQUALITY OF HIS
ACTIONS AND THE INTEGRITY
OF HIS INTENT.**

Douglas McArthur

Editor's Note

Hello Readers

Halfway through a short working week already!
Happy Days! ☺

I am sorry that there is no editorial but I have run
out of time and space!

Please remember though to get those nomination
forms in within the next few days.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Until next time...

Stay safe - Kitty

Good Timber

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil
To gain and farm his patch of soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow with ease,
The stronger wind, the stronger trees,
The further sky, the greater length,
The more the storm, the more the strength.
By sun and cold, by rain and snow,
In trees and men good timbers grow.

Where thickest lies the forest growth
We find the patriarchs of both.
And they hold counsel with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and much of strife.
This is the common law of life.

by Douglas Malloch



Ascension Island Council General Election

An opportunity to represent the people

Ahead of the Island Council General Election due to be held on 22 September 2022, Administrator Sean Burns has provided the following message to the island population:

"If you are passionate about Ascension Island and have a view or vision on how the Island should be run and public services improved, then I encourage you to stand for election to the Island Council on 22 September 2022. It is your opportunity to make a real difference for the community

This is a great opportunity for you to be engaged in policy development, setting and monitoring the island's budget and law making on Ascension. You will also have a chance to expand your horizons, engaging with representatives of other Overseas Territories, the UK Government and other stake holders. Councillors have a real say in advising the Governor on both Government policy, the island's finances and legislation for the Island – routinely debating the issues and putting across the views of those who live and work here. Councillors are also able to represent their constituents' needs by raising local issues and concerns.

Being on the Council will not affect your employment. We call meetings when councillors are able to attend (taking into account shift patterns if necessary). There are two regular council meetings a month. One 'informal' at 1000 on a Thursday and a 'formal' at 1700 on a Thursday. Other meetings are arranged by mutual convenience. All employers support democracy on Ascension Island and have undertaken to support staff attending meetings for council business.

To be an effective councillor will require you to dedicate some of your own time in addition to your day jobs. In recognition of this, councillors receive a stipend of £3,000 as well as additional help toward their internet costs. There is also an opportunity for one or two councillors to travel to the UK or elsewhere for annual meetings with other Overseas Territories and the UK Government.

Please think positively about putting yourself forward for this vitally important role.

For further information on being a councillor, you may wish to speak to one or more of the current Council members: Alan Nicholls, Kitty George, Andrew Ellick, Douglas Miller and Nicholas John.

Nomination forms and further information can be obtained from the;

Returning Officer: diane.baum@ascension.gov.ac (66403)

Assistant Returning Officer: siobhan.stewart@ascension.gov.ac (67000-100)

The nomination deadline for the general election is 16.30 on Wednesday 07 September 2022.

Office of the Administrator - 10 August 2022



Ascension Island Council – General Election 22 September 2022

Nomination of candidates

A General Election will be held in Ascension Island on Thursday 22 September 2022 to appoint a new Island Council. In order to vote in the election individuals must be listed on the current Register of Electors.

Qualification for elected membership

In order to qualify for election as a Councillor an individual must:

- be aged 21 years old or over and be eligible to vote in the election for which they are nominated; and
- be a British Overseas Territories citizen, British Overseas citizen or British citizen who is registered in the current Register of Electors that has been compiled and published in accordance with the Elections Regulations 2008. Copies of the register are available on the notice boards at the AIG building, NAAFI Store and at Two Boats Club, at the USAF Base Library, or within the Administrator's Office.

Disqualification for elected membership

The Island Government (Ascension) Ordinance 2008 sets out certain disqualifying criteria for elected membership and refers to persons:

- who have been convicted of an election offence; or
- who have within five years immediately preceding the date of the election, served a sentence of imprisonment of 12 months or more; or
- who hold, or are acting in, any public office designated by the Governor (a list of such public offices can be obtained from the Administrator's Office).

Individuals are encouraged to consider whether they would like to stand as a Councillor or, if not, who they would like to see as their representative on the Island Council.

Nominations of candidates

Nomination forms are available from the Assistant Returning Officer (Siobhan Stewart) in the Administrator's Office in Georgetown as well as the Returning Officer (Diane Baum) in the Conservation Building.

When completing a nomination form, individuals should ensure that:

- The names of the candidate, proposer and seconder are on the Register of Electors; and
- The signatures of the proposer and seconder have been witnessed by a Justice of the Peace (Jolene Sim, Martijn Smeets, Paul Bennett and Lisa Bailey) or the Returning Officer Diane Baum or the Assistant Returning Officer Siobhan Stewart. The candidate's signature may be witnessed by someone of their choice.

Further information can be obtained from Assistant Returning Officer: siobhan.stewart@ascension.gov.ac or 67000 ext. 100.

Nominations will be accepted from Thursday 11 August 2022, with the deadline for final submission being 16:30 on Wednesday 07 September 2022.

Returning officer - 10 August 2022

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Clerk of Council's Office
Ascension Island
South Atlantic Ocean
ASCN 1ZZ



pa.admin@ascension.gov.ac

+ (247) 67000 ext 100

www.ascension.gov.ac

Informal meeting of the Ascension Island Council

10:00 on Thursday 11 August 2022 at the Courthouse

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: HH Carl Mackerras, Acting Administrator
Matthew James, Crown Counsel
Shendi Keshet Director of Resources

Councillor Alan Nicholls
Councillor Nicholas John
Councillor Andrew Ellick
Councillor Kitty George
Councillor Douglas Miller

In attendance: William Hardy, Senior Medical Officer
Diane Baum, Director of Conservation and Fisheries
Siobhan Stewart, Clerk to Council

Apologies:

The Acting Administrator welcomed all parties. The Acting Administrator passed on his thanks to previous Councillors, Kate Chadwick and Andy Hobsons and present Councillors, Andrew Ellick, Kitty George, Nicky John, Alan Nicholls and Douglas Miller for their hard work and dedication as Councillors, noting that the current Council will dissolve on 01 September 2022. The Acting Administrator also thanked Council Clerks, former Crown Counsel Robert Cheeseman, Attorney General Allen Cansick, Governor Philip Rushbrook, Acting Governor Greg Gibson, Acting Attorney General and Crown Counsel Aine Hurley, and former Director of Resources Gareth Morris. The Acting Administrator highlighted that despite the backdrop of COVID-19 the Council has worked hard with officials to deliver two major pieces of legislation; the Biosecurity Ordinance and the Employment Ordinance. The Acting Administrator thanked Councillors for their support in recognising the much needed capital investment requirements across island and offering their full support to all aspects of the runway project. Councillor Nicholls also highlighted the achievement of the implementation of the Ascension Island Marine Protected Area and the adoption of the Management Plan.

The matters arising were addressed via the actions tracker and current topics discussed were as follows:

Resurfacing of roads after the completion of the runway project: After a meeting with 77 construction in July, we await further feedback on the possibility of them being able to carry out such work and if so an indicator of the likely cost. Alternative plans are being developed in case 77 construction are not able to assist.

Alternative Flags Flown outside of the AIG Building - Consideration to be given to alternative location/flag pole: As requested this has been investigated and can be achieved by simply having a second line on the pole. This can be in place within the next few weeks.

Freezer boxes - Consideration to be given as to whether boxes can be on sale at both the shipping office and post office: This suggestion has been considered and freezer boxes are now also on sale at the Post Office.

Contingency planning for Monkey Pox: The Senior Medical Officer [SMO] provided further information on the Monkey Pox virus, highlighting that unlike COVID-19 the virus is mildly transmissible and is predominantly spread through close physical contact. The SMO explained that he is in receipt of regular updates from expert colleagues in the UK Health Security Agency who have confirmed the risk of infection here is low in Ascension. Further discussion was had regarding the symptoms of Monkey Pox, with the SMO explaining that infections are likely to be mild with

transient symptoms and that vaccine options are currently being considered for Ascension. Councillor Ellick requested that further information be provided to the community in the Islander to offer reassurance, the SMO agreed to do this.

The SMO provided an update on the current **COVID-19** status of the island. The SMO explained that there are currently 10 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in the community. The SMO confirmed that all cases were mildly symptomatic, with no one being seriously unwell or requiring hospital admission, indicating the efficacy of the vaccination programme in Ascension. The Acting Administrator explained that public announcements on the latest COVID-19 case numbers are being provided to both employing organisations and the general public on a weekly basis. The SMO conveyed his thanks to Public Health England and the UK Health Security Agency for their excellent support and guidance. The SMO offered reassurance to those in the community with anxiety over contracting COVID-19 that many protective measures are in place in Ascension and that the chances of avoiding infection are slim due to the transmissibility of the disease. The SMO encouraged anyone with concerns or worries over COVID-19 to contact the Georgetown Hospital. Councillor Nicholls thanked the SMO and his team for their hard work and dedication in keeping the community of Ascension Island safe.

The SMO reported on the most recent update from the Department of Health and Social Care within the Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) on the suggested **NHS Quota System** in the UK Government Healthcare Support Review. The SMO explained that it is proposed that five NHS referral slots be allocated to Ascension Island per annum over a three year period. The SMO explained that any unused slots can be shared with other Overseas Territories and likewise in return should Ascension run out of allocated slots, however as these slots are predominantly for long term treatment plans such as cancer patients, it is expected that Ascension is unlikely to require all five slots. The Acting Administrator explained that whilst this is still to go through parliamentary debate, further information will be required on the practicalities of the process. Councillor Nicholls highlighted the pressures and waiting times currently within the NHS system that may affect any referrals from Ascension, the SMO explained that initial diagnosis would still be dealt with through private healthcare providers, following the diagnosis a referral would then be made to the relevant NHS Trust which should avoid the initial lengthy waiting times.

The Director of Conservation and Fisheries (DoCF) provided an update on the **Blue Marine Endowment Fund** following the most recent update provided to Councillors on the 18 April 2022, noting that a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Blue Marine Foundation and the AIG was sent to Councillors for comment on 11 February 2022 following a meeting of the Inshore Fisheries Working Group that was held on 08 February 2022. Councillors requested that the clause stating *"Inshore fisheries management regulations must be in force before any payments can be made from the fund"* be clarified and seek confirmation as to whether Blue Marine would honour local approval and implementation of the inshore fisheries management plan. The DoCF contacted Blue Marine and received agreement with the principle that a system to manage the inshore fishery should be designed on Ascension. This was communicated to Council via an email on 18 April 2022. The DoCF confirmed that there has been no disbursement of funds in Ascension as the MOU has not yet been signed and there is currently no inshore fisheries management in Ascension. The DoCF explained that efforts now need to be focused on specific areas of the inshore fisheries management, such as the enforcement policy, mechanism for including the fishing community in decision making, and licences and registration, of which Crown Counsel is working to provide support with. Councillor George requested confirmation that accumulated funds thus far have been carried forward and have not been lost. The DoCF explained that any accumulated funds will be carried forward and will be made available following the implementation of the inshore fisheries management plan. Further discussion was had around the required criteria for applications to the fund. Councillor Nicholls requested confirmation on what the fund is currently able to release. The DoCF explained that there is currently a donation of £80,000 allocated for a sports facility. Initial discussions had taken place about using this for a sports facility to replace the football pitch at Long Beach. A further £70,000 ring-fenced for conservation projects could also be allocated to this project due to its benefit to nesting turtles. However, following initial quotations, more money may be required for this project to go ahead. The DoCF also highlighted that the Ascension Island Charities fund is also funded by Blue Marine for smaller projects and was oversubscribed this year, investing over £20,000 into community projects in Ascension. Further conversation was had regarding the maintenance legacy plans of any large infrastructure projects and the challenges around procurement and labour expertise. The DoCF explained that the next steps for the introduction of an inshore fisheries management system would be to provide Council with a proposal to change legislation, as well as further public consultation. Crown Counsel thanked Councillors for their input thus far, highlighting that this will allow the next Council to work towards the policy and regulations around inshore fisheries management in the new year. Councillor George thanked the DoCF for attending Council and providing a thorough update.

The Acting Administrator gave an update on the **runway project** reporting that the project is progressing well with the final aggregate ship now expected to arrive in Clarence Bay mid October 2022. Whilst this is later than initially planned due to the availability of aggregate it is not expected to affect the overall runway completion date. The Acting Administrator also confirmed that the bitumen backload ship is expected to arrive in Ascension by the end of December 2022. The Acting Administrator reported that asphaltting of the eastern side of the runway is now complete, with the installation of distance markers, lighting and other navigational aids currently underway. A visit from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to certify the eastern side of the runway is planned for 31 August 2022. Following approval by the FAA, work will then begin on the western side of the runway in September 2022, with a planned completion date of June 2023. The Acting Administrator confirmed that work on the road between the pier and the runway will take place from April to July 2023. Further discussion was had regarding the recent core samples taken from the roads and the possibility of sharing information and specialists in this field.

There was one item of **other business**:

- i. **Airlink Flights:** Councillor George requested that consideration be given for the Airlink flight to depart earlier from Ascension allowing passengers to arrive in St Helena a few hours earlier. Additionally, Councillor George asked whether an earlier departure from St Helena could be considered, enabling passengers (particularly those privately booked) to connect with flights departing South Africa the same day. The Acting Administrator explained that AIG will put this request to colleagues in SHG (as the contract manager) and Airlink (as the operator). Depending on the response received AIG will then engage local stakeholders if appropriate.

The meeting closed at 11:15

Siobhan Stewart
Clerk of Council



Ascension Island Dental Clinic

Updated hours in operation from 30 August 2022

The public are requested to note that from 30 August 2022 the Ascension Island Dental Clinic will only be providing urgent and emergency dental treatment. This is due to limited availability of nursing cover.

If you have a dental problem that requires urgent attention, please telephone the clinic on 66348 Monday to Friday before 09:00. This will enable nursing support to be arranged and for a suitable appointment to be allocated. If necessary, please leave your name and contact number on the answer machine and your call will be returned.

It is anticipated that these limitations will remain in place until 12 September.

AIG apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Office of the Administrator
30 August 2022



Weekly COVID-19 Statistics

Monitoring of community spread continues

On Monday 08 August, Ascension recorded its first case of COVID-19 within the community. Since then, further cases of COVID-19 have been recorded and authorities are monitoring the spread of virus.

In order to ensure the public have a clear picture of infection rates within the territory, weekly infection statistics are being published during the period of transitioning to 'living with COVID-19'.

As of Wednesday 24 August, the total number of positive results from tests conducted by, or registered with, a healthcare worker at one of the three testing sites is as follows:

	08/08/22 – 24/08/22
USAF Base Clinic	10
RAF Base Clinic	1
Georgetown Hospital	6
Total	17

These figures are based on results of tests conducted at each of these sites. However, the test site may not necessarily reflect the primary accommodation of the person that tested positive.

Between Thursday 18 August and Wednesday 24 August the following number of daily positive results from tests conducted by, or registered with, a healthcare worker were recorded:

	18/08	19/08	20/08	21/08	22/08	23/08	24/08
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

As of Wednesday 24 August, there have been no admissions to Georgetown Hospital due to COVID-19 illness.

All members of the public are encouraged to monitor their own health for signs of possible infection. If you believe you have symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection you should arrange to take a test at your relevant medical facility and follow the guidance in place. Guidance can be found online at www.ascension.gov.ac/public-document/living-with-covid-19 and is available through your employer, local medical clinic and Georgetown Hospital.

If you test positive, you should isolate for five days. After this time you should end your isolation once you feel well, a test is not required to end isolation.

Authorities are monitoring the ongoing spread of the virus and the current guidance will remain in effect until they are satisfied that the daily positive incidence rate indicates that the peak of the spread has been passed.

Georgetown Hospital
25 August 2022

MAIL NOTICE

**Surface mail to St Helena via the MV
Helena will close on Thursday 8th
September at 12 Noon.**

**All enquiries to telephones: 66260 and
66583.**

Ascension Island Government



Invitation to tender

Painting and refurbishment of AIG buildings in
Georgetown

November 2022

Background

The Ascension Island Government seeks a registered company to provide maintenance services as described in the enclosed contracts.

The project is a fixed term contract.

The successful company will have qualified scaffolders and scaffold inspectors.

Information to be submitted by tenderers

If you believe that your company is able to sufficiently deliver against the responsibilities previously outlined kindly respond stating:

- Experience
- Availability
- Pricing
- High Level Construction Plan
- Business Financial Statement for the last three years
- Current References (within the last three years)
- Evidence of appropriate Insurance

The Ascension Island Government requests interested parties to respond with an initial full proposal no later than **2 September 2022**, the format of which may be determined by the tenderer.

Instructions and information for tenderers

Tenders must be submitted by email to Frikkie Myburgh no later than **23 September 2022**.

Tenders received after the date for receipt of tenders set out above may, at the sole discretion of the Ascension Island Government, be disregarded and returned.

If tenderers have any queries or requests for further information they should be submitted directly to Frikkie Myburgh.

The Ascension Island Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Contact details

The point of contact within the Ascension Island Government for this tender is Frikkie Myburgh, Project Manager.

Email	Frikkie.myburgh@ascension.gov.ac
Telephone	(00 247) 66215



7 Degrees South bids farewell

On Friday night, 26th August, a massive crowd (by Ascension standards) gathered at the Volcano Club in anticipation of a night of musical entertainment provided by local band, 7 Degrees South.

This was to be an extra special gig for the band, being the last performance with their founder and drummer, Simon Bennett, who left the island for good on Sunday's flight to St Helena.

We started out from humble beginnings, just planning to have a few jam sessions here and there, but with Simon's vision and determination, we blossomed into something pretty cool – and we could not have done it without him!

Needless to say, emotions on the night were high within the group, and this energy quickly transpired to the crowd, who were dancing and singing along from the get-go. Your energy made the night a truly memorable one for all the band members, what a great send off for Simon – thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

7DS will be taking a few weeks now to regroup, re-arrange, and ultimately recruit a new drummer (we'll be carrying out auditions soon 😊) but we wish Simon and his wife, Frannie, all the best for their future, you never know, maybe we'll be able to jam together again some time... until then, keep on rocking!

We only took a few, not so great pics after the show, but those memories will stay with us for a lifetime – thank you for the music buddy, you'll be sorely missed! Much love and respect from your band "7 Degrees South" – Kerry, Benji, Myles, Tyrell, Shadow and not forgetting former band members Josh and Ryall



MV Helena – Monday, 12 September 2022



The MV Helena is expected to arrive in Clarence Bay at 0700 hrs on Monday, 12 September and will depart for St Helena at 1200 hrs on Tuesday, 13 September.

Due to the arrival of the MV Ocean Grand, **freight and small parcels** will now be accepted in the warehouse from **0830 hrs to 1130 hrs on Friday, 2 September**.

All **bookings for vehicles and containers** will close at 1200 hrs on **Monday, 5 September**.

Frozen goods will be accepted from **0730 hrs to 0830 hrs on Friday, 9 September**. (This earlier time is due to the MV Ocean Grand being port).

In accordance with the Customs (Export Control) Regulations 2010, it is an offence to export fish from the island without a valid export permit. Persons exporting fish are required to purchase an export permit from the Post Office prior to delivering your boxes to the warehouse. The permit must be produced on delivery of goods. You are also reminded that a **maximum** of 10 kilograms of fish **per person** may be exported. A fisheries officer and a customs officer will present at the warehouse when checks will be made on all frozen goods. All boxes containing fish should be delivered unsealed.

Please note that in addition to being sold at the Shipping Office, the AWSML freezer boxes are also available at the Georgetown Post Office.

If you require any further information please contact the Shipping Office on 66244.

Please see below for revised times for Voyage 56 of the MV Helena.

DESTINATION	ARRIVE	DEPART	TYPE
Cape Town	START	27/08/2022	Departure
St Helena	03/09/2022	09/09/2022	Call
Ascension	12/09/2022	13/09/2022	Call
St Helena	16/09/2022	20/09/2022	Call
Cape Town	28/09/2022	END	



29th August 2022

EYE CLINIC VISIT IN SEPTEMBER 2022

We are planning to bring Miss Priscilla Brown out to Ascension in September this year for her annual visit. This visit is planned for the week after the 19th September; however, in the event that this flight is changed, she might have to come out sooner than this. As a result, we are not able to make specific bookings at this time. If you wish to be seen by Scilla, please call (66010) or email (smo.hospital@ascension.gov.ac) Sylvia and give her your details. We will then allocate appointments once Scilla's travel details are finalized...

No visits will be arranged without an appointment, and no automatic appointments will be given. Please do ensure you contact Sylvia as soon as possible to ensure a slot. Due to the timing this year, there will only be 17 days available for the eye clinic!

Georgetown Hospital



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

AIRCONDITIONING MECHANIC

**£12,250 per annum, Single or Accompanied status,
free accommodation plus other benefits**

About the role

Ascension Island Government is looking for a suitably qualified **Airconditioning Mechanic** to work on Ascension Island. You'll carry out installation and maintenance of air condition and refrigeration equipment, both industrial and domestic, across AIG and for its service users.

What you'll do

You'll assist the team leader with the planning and organising of the work, to install new air conditioning units (split and window mounted), inspect defective refrigeration and industrial air conditioning equipment, identify faults and undertake remedial work. This includes refrigeration units on board ships, and on shore. You'll develop and maintain a planned maintenance programme for all of AIG air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, including ensuring stock for maintenance and repairs is in place.

What you'll bring

You'll possess a recognised qualification or certificate of competency in refrigeration and air conditioning installation and maintenance, including F-Gas certification. You'll be an effective communicator, with colleagues and clients, and will have the ability to plan and undertake work using your own initiative. You'll have a working knowledge of effective H&S procedures relating to the role, and experience of using computerised systems to record and report on work activity. Licence for Class A, B and C vehicles essential.

What we offer

We're offering a two year, Single or Accompanied status contract with a salary of £12,250 per year (taxable in Ascension Island). You will also receive the following benefits:

- Rent free accommodation
- A Single status food allowance of £3,350 per annum or Accompanied allowance of £6,700
- A utilities allowance (water and electricity)
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2 year contract
- 30 days' annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care

This appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Criminal records check
- Medical clearance

Closing date: 16 September 2022
Interviews: tbc - by Skype, if off island
Required start date: November 2022

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/
If you have any queries about the role, email recruitment@ascension.gov.ac



Explorers Plant Day

Final Explorer's day of the year hosted by plant team

During the annual end of school year holidays, the Conservation and Fisheries Directorate put on weekly Explorers events for school-aged children, full of educational activities and fun games! This year is no different with the children taking part in a number of different events to learn more about Ascension's incredible wildlife, habitats and heritage.

This Wednesday was the last Explorers trip before the return of school, and was organised by the Plant team. The Explorers learned about the history behind Dampier's Drip and about Captain William Dampier, who was shipwrecked on Ascension Island in 1701 after the sinking of his ship the HMS Roebuck. The Explorers had to imagine that they were crew from the HMS Roebuck with very little supplies to survive on. The Explorers used craft materials to create caves for shelter, and formed a farm of native and introduced species that they could use as a food source.

The day was full of great games, crafts, and a documentary about miniature miracles that was followed by a fun quiz. This year's Explorers ended with a certificate presentation and some tasty St Helenian Plo.



Above left: Explorers watching Natural World – Miniature Miracles



Above right: Explorers creating Dampier's Drip caves



Above right: Explorers playing Endemics vs Invasives

Above left: Group photo with certificates

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Explorers 2022 and we look forward to seeing everyone again for next year's Explorers!

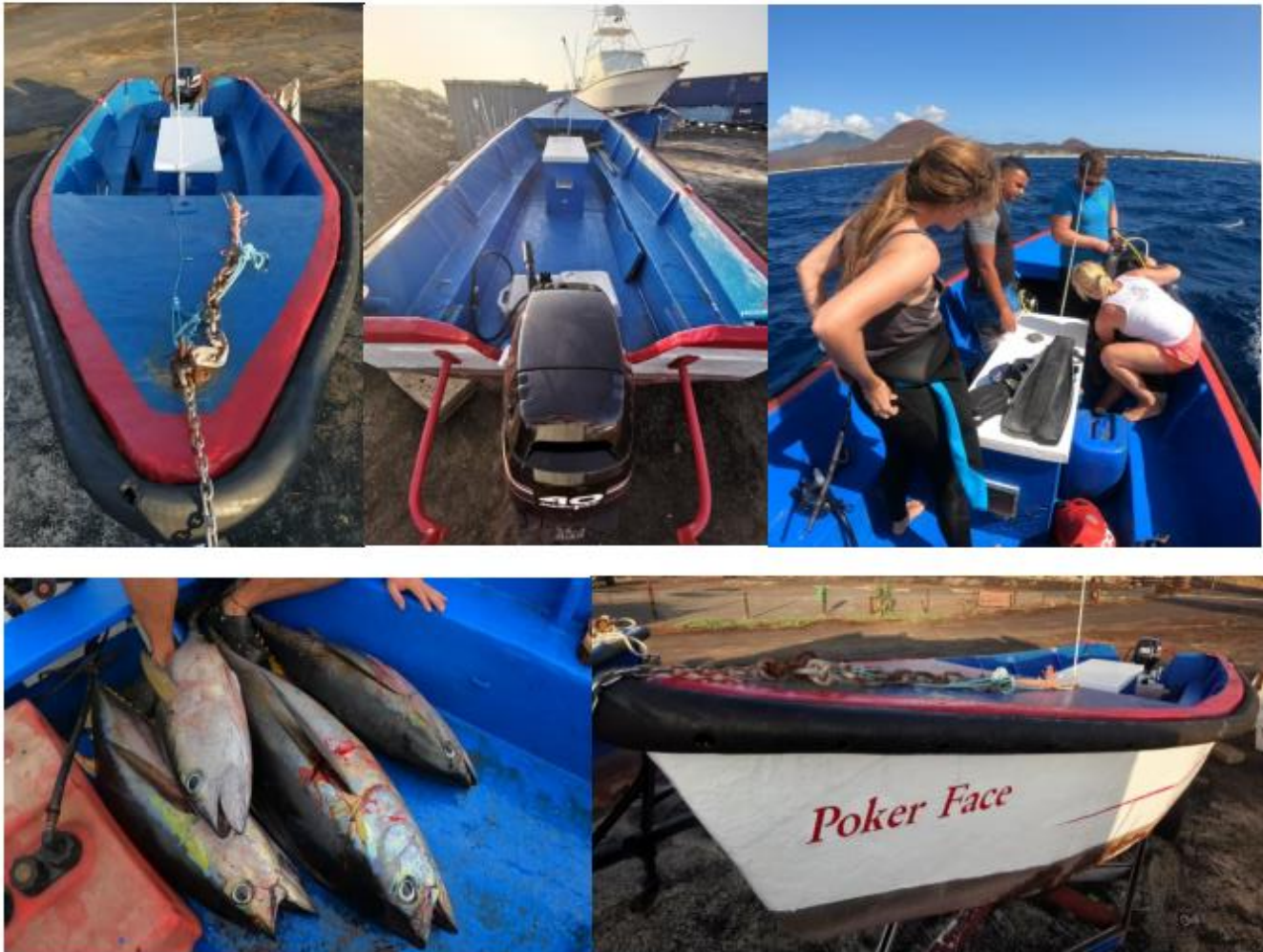
Conservation and Fisheries Directorate
30 August 2022

BOAT FOR SALE

Poker Face - £4,000

Specifications:

- 6m length
- 40hp electric start Mercury two stroke outboard (recently imported from South Africa)
- In-board electrics with solar charge (VHF radio, deck lights, bilge pump)
- x4 fishing rod holders
- Ladder and cleats
- 300m anchor line with anchor



The boat is in excellent condition and is being sold due to owner leaving the island. It is a solid boat for fishing, SCUBA diving and spear fishing.

It's had the same owner since 2019 and in that time has had work done to the restore the deck, benching and storage areas. It has also recently been repainted.

The engine is in excellent working order and was imported from South Africa in 2021. It is a 40hp petrol two stroke Mercury with electric start, and a new battery was purchased for it in March.

The boat will be available from the end of September.

If interested please email bain.aig@gmail.com or call 66235 after 28 August when owner returns to island. Viewings available to any interested parties.

Twenty Questions with Matt James

Twenty questions is a light hearted look into the favourite things of people around Ascension. This week Crown Counsel Matt James has kindly agreed to answer my questions.

Where did you grow up as a child? <i>Answer: Pembrokeshire, in South Wales</i>
What languages can you speak? <i>Answer: Only English, unless being able to ask for directions to the library counts</i>
How many Countries have you visited? <i>Answer: Thirteen – USA, New Zealand, Turkey, Spain, France, Italy, Andorra, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Morocco, Austria, and (of course) Ascension</i>
What is the best place you have visited in the world? <i>Answer: Doubtful Sound, New Zealand</i>
Where in the world would you like to visit? <i>Answer: Rwanda, to go gorilla trekking</i>
How long have you been on Ascension? <i>Answer: Three and a half months</i>
What is your favourite place on Ascension? <i>Answer: Cricket Valley</i>
What is your favourite thing to do in your spare time on Ascension? <i>Answer: Anything beach related</i>
What sports team do you support? <i>Answer: Atlanta Falcons (NFL), Wales, and everyone who plays England</i>
What is your favourite movie? <i>Answer: Muppets Christmas Carol (when seasonally appropriate)</i>
What is your favourite TV series? <i>Answer: 30 Rock</i>
What is your favourite book? <i>Answer: The Old Man and the Sea, by Ernest Hemingway</i>
What is your favourite meal? <i>Answer: Jacob's ladder (barbecued beef short rib), with mac & cheese</i>
What is your favourite drink? <i>Answer: Either a negroni or an Aperol Spritz, dependant on the weather</i>
What is your favourite piece of music or song? <i>Answer: Rocket Queen, by Guns n Roses</i>
If you could meet one famous person, who would it be? <i>Answer: Dolly Parton</i>
What is your favourite car? <i>Answer: So long as it has wheels and can roll uphill, I'm easy</i>
Have you ever flown a plane, bungee jumped, parachute jumped or scuba dived? <i>Answer: No to the plane, yes to the rest</i>
Can you play any musical instruments? <i>Answer: Piano, guitar, ukulele, trombone</i>
What one thing can you tell us about yourself that may surprise people? <i>Answer: According to Spotify, I've been in Taylor Swift's top 1% of listeners for the last 3 years</i>

If you want to be featured in 20 questions, please drop me a line via the Islander email address at islander@atlantis.co.ac

Lorna Mills

MV November Rain

Those of you in visiting Georgetown last week would have seen a beautiful vessel anchored off Long Beach – the pleasure craft **MV November**.

The crew of four was originally due to visit Ascension Island back in July but were faced with delays. They finally arrived here on Thursday, 18 August.

The **November Rain** is a 23 metre/75 ft catamaran which has spent the past 6 years travelling the African coastline in the Indian Sea, mainly travelling between Seychelles, Madagascar and Mozambique.

On 6th July 2022, **November Rain** set off on her very first World Tour. The Tour started in Cape Town. The crew of 4 comprising of Captain Josh Austin (24 yrs) and crew members Manuel “Manny” Alves (43 yrs), Rorke Anderson (23 yrs) and Marcel Fourie (24 yrs).

The first leg of the trip to Namibia was meant to take 3 days to complete the 712 nautical miles (nm). The first stop would be Walvis Bay, Namibia. However, at 0720 am on 9th July, some 170 nm South of Walvis Bay, the engine died after some of the electrical connections had gotten wet. The crew discovered a leak in the Port engine room! The leak was stopped and the engine room drained and dried. The hunt then began to find the fault... By this time water in the Port engine room had created an electrical short which then shut down the electronics on the Starboard engine! The catamaran was now adrift! After hours of fault finding, at 1915 hrs that evening, the crew was finally able to get both engines started again and November Rain continued cruising.

At 0120 hrs on 10th July, the Port engine was displaying high and low voltage alarms which was most definitely from the water damage. At 0400 hrs the crew could get no throttle commands from the Port engine and continued steaming to Walvis Bay with on a single engine.

After nearly a month in Namibia undergoing maintenance on the engines and minor structural repairs, the crew set off again.

On 8th August the 2nd leg of the World Tour began. For the crew the 2nd leg is super special as it would take the boat out of Africa for the first time, as well as two of the crew.

The crossing from Walvis Bay to Ascension Island took 10 days to complete the 1894 nm journey. The first 8 days were quiet with minimal bird life and zero sea life. However, 2 days out of Ascension Island, the marine life sky rocketed! The last 40 hours of the crossing gave beautiful views of jumping dolphins, whales breaching and cruising around the boat. The diverse marine life became more apparent as they came closer to the Island. Frigate birds were soaring high above the boat indicated bait fish in the area. A definite memorable moment of the crossing would be the two black Marlin that the crew caught and then released off the South West Drop off (Plato Drop Off).

November Rain arrived in Clarence Bay on 18th August. The crew advised that their brief but brilliant stop here at Ascension Island has given them a taste of the amazing new world's and adventures that lay ahead, particularly for the two crew who had never left Africa before.

November Rain departed for Maceio, Brazil on 22nd August before they enter the Amazon River for a 12-day Amazon down-river trip. This will be followed by a trip up the Brazilian coast, finishing the year in the Panama.

The crew off the **MV November Rain** "would like to thank everyone on Ascension Island for being so friendly and willing to assist us during our visit, and to everyone for putting in the effort to keep this piece of heaven in the Atlantic so clean, quiet and untouched".



MV NOVEMBER RAIN

CIN ZA-TOM7501G1515

SYR/007/2016

MMSI 664072000

CALL SIGN S7L2951

HOME PORT VICTORIA

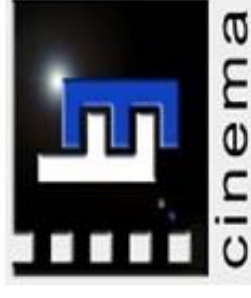
LOCATED IN THE NAAFI COMPLEX ON TRAVELLERS HILL

If you look younger than the film classification photographic ID will be required.

ALL FILMS DOWNLOADED
BY



bfbbs




		Fri 02 Sep 1900	Sun 04 Sep 1400
	Where the Crawdads Sing (15) PREMIER		The Bad Guys (PG) FINAL SHOWING
Sun 04 Sep 1900	Wed 07 Sep 1900	Fri 09 Sep 1900	Sun 11 Sep 1400
Top Gun 2 Maverick (12A)	Elvis (12A)	NO SHOWINGS CLOSED	The Railway Children Return (PG) PREMIER
Sun 11 Sep 1900	Wed 14 Sep 1900	Fri 16 Sep 1900	Sun 18 Sep 1400
Elvis (12A)	Where the Crawdads Sing (15)	Bullet Train (15) PREMIER	Minions- The Rise of Gru (PG)
Sun 18 Sep 1900	Wed 21 Sep 1900	Fri 23 Sep 1900	Sun 25 Sep 1400
Jurassic World Domination (12A)	Thor-Love and Thunder (12A)	Nope (15) PREMIER	The Railway Children Return (PG)
Sun 25 Sep 1900	Wed 28 Sep 1900	Fri 30 Sep 1900	
Bullet Train (15)	Nope (15)	The Invitation (15) PREMIER	

Statistics for the week ending Monday, 29 August 2022

Location	Max (Celsius)	Min (Celsius)	Rainfall (mm)
AIRHEAD	27.4	20.5	5.8
TRAVELLERS HILL	N/A	18.1	23.3
RESIDENCY	N/A	17.5	44.5
GEORGETOWN	N/A	N/A	N/A
ST. HELENA	19.5	13.0	8.6
FALKLANDS	8.5	-1.7	11.8
UK (Brize Norton)	26.8	11.4	4.6

Tide Times & Georgetown Pierhead/English Bay Swell Outlook

Day	Swell	High Tide		Low Tide		Sun		Moon		Moon Phase
						Rise	Set	Set	Rise	
Wed, 31 Aug	1.3 m	08:16	20:35	01:59	14:34	06:59	18:56	22:27	09:54	
Thu, 01 Sep	1.0 m	08:54	21:17	02:35	15:13	06:58	18:56	23:19	10:37	
Fri, 02 Sep	1.5 m	09:38	22:10	03:19	16:00	06:58	18:56	--:--	11:24	
Sat, 03 Sep	1.7 m	10:36	23:22	04:16	17:02	06:57	18:56	00:15	12:16	
Sun, 04 Sep	1.7 m	11:58	--:--	05:37	18:26	06:57	18:56	06:57	18:56	
Mon, 05 Sep	1.3 m	00:56	13:38	07:21	19:56	06:56	18:55	02:17	14:16	
Tue, 06 Sep	1.4 m	02:25	15:02	08:52	21:10	06:56	18:55	04:21	16:24	

Moon Phase Key

 New Moon	 First Quarter	 Full Moon	 Last Quarter
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For more detailed information, including swimming and swell warnings, please contact the Met Office on Ext: 3317



TWO BOATS CLUB

Telephone 64621/64610/64439 E-mail: twoboatsclub@atlantis.co.ac

Lunch is served Monday-Friday 12-2pm. Menu consists of burgers, toasties, chicken, sausages and more. Please call the club or email for a copy of our menu.

Friday 2nd September

Jacket potato served with salad & filling of your choice



Just Cheese-£3.50

Cheese & Onion-£4.00

Baked Beans & cheese-£4.00

Tuna Mayo-£4.00

Tuna Mayo & sweetcorn-£4.80

Tuna Mayo & cheese-£4.80

Chicken, Bacon & Sweetcorn-£5.00



Please place orders by 2pm Thursday 1st September

Saturday 3rd September

In support of the Muga football competition, the bar will open at **11am**.

Lunch will be on sale from **11am-4pm**. Normal daily menu will be available.

Hot food will be on sale from 4-8pm



Cheese burgers – Bacon burgers- Hawaiian burgers – Hotdog & onion –
Gammon soup – Popcorn chicken & fries – Fries



Kids disco from 7:30-10:30pm
Followed by adult disco – DJ Cory

