

THE WOOL PRESS

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Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to all readers.

Christmas week was a busy time for farmers who organised the very successful West Ram and Fleece Show and Estancia Shearing Competition held at Fitzroy. Reports on these events are published in this month's Wool Press and are excellent publicity for Falklands' farming.

As I write, FIMCO staff are hard at work preparing for the start of the meat export season with Zoe Luxton working at Sand Bay as the OVS this year. It is very encouraging to have a Falkland Islander in this post. Please take note of Joe Hollins' article about animal movement certificates if you are sending animals to the abattoir. Sooner or later we will have an EU inspection of the abattoir and the Veterinary Section is addressing issues to ensure that we are complying with requirements in order to be able to continue exports to Europe.

Many readers are participating in forage crop and supplementary feed trials this season and the results from those trials are some way off. However, trials using sheep coats have been going on this winter and Peter Johnson has recorded results from the trial at Manybranch in this publication. We are grateful to Bill and Shirley Pole-Evans for their help with the trial. Wool quality will certainly be a plus.

We are grateful to David Lambert for an update on the Wool Company and double dumping of wool bales. DoA staff have been coring wool simultaneously on East and West Falkland and I am hopeful that the growing call on this service is being met to everyone's satisfaction.

Helen Otley's article, "Eyes Down for Rare Plants" reminded me of a recent search for green-backed spiders! Readers as old as me may fondly remember seeing lots of green-backs in the gorse when we were kids. I moaned to a spider expert recently that I had not seen any for a long time. He reminded me that my eye level is not where it was when I was seven and I should get down on my knees and start looking more closely. I did this over the Christmas and there were the spiders in the gorse! It may well be the same with Helen's Dusen's moonwort and Adder's tongue. Take a look.

Best regards,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

ANIMAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE

By Joe Hollins

From this abattoir season a new piece of paperwork will be arriving on your doorsteps for stock movements, the Animal Movement Certificate. In fact it is not as new as it may seem, as it is a merging of two former documents: the Waybill and the Animal Transport Certificate. The waybill or stock movement certificate most farmers will be familiar with, whereas the Animal Transport Certificate is primarily used by transporters to document journey times for animal welfare reasons. The Animal Movement Certificate is of course for all commercial stock movements not just those to the abattoir.

This document is immensely important, and if incompletely filled, may result in refusal of stock at the abattoir. It covers three major facets of the EU abattoir accreditation:

1. Traceability of stock. This allows monitoring for disease in the abattoir as well as a fast and efficient response should a potentially infectious disease be identified in the carcass.
2. Good welfare for the animals when transported. This is important for the animals, for meat quality, to satisfy external audits, and to satisfy overseas customers. The modern consumer expects good welfare or refuses the product.
3. Control of drug residues entering the food chain.

Drug residues:

The control of drug and chemical residues is of vital importance. Each year the abattoir operates an EU approved programme of sampling for a wide range of chemical residues in meat. Positive tests can have a major impact on future exports and any future organic or part organic status. The last section of the form contains a farmer's declaration for any treatments administered to the stock being sent within the past 5 months. **THIS MUST BE FILLED IN.** This does not mean they cannot be killed. We have chosen 5 months because it covers some of the longest meat withdrawal times of any drug. But it does allow us to check that the animals have not been sent to slaughter for human consumption before the withdrawal time has passed. For example: if the wormer Ivomec injectable has been used, the withdrawal time stated on the bottle is 42 days. If this was 48 days ago there is no problem, but the drug still needs to be declared in case of anomalous lab results. Farms should be keeping a record book of all drugs used with their medicines for quick and easy reference.

Filling in the form on farm:

Very soon each of you will receive a pad of forms. A filled in example will be attached to the back as guidance. We are going to provide all the transporters with a pad as a back up in case you forget to bring your form to the stock pens. The following will act as reference for when the pads arrive.

Section 1: The full name and address of the owner.

Section 2: The 'address of the origin of the stock'. If same, just 'As Above'. But this may of course differ – a farmer may be based in say Fox Bay, but send stock from his land near Chartres.

Section 3: 'Description of route stock have travelled'. Despite the use of 'have' just fill this in as best as you can, although the route may not be fully known to you.

Section 4: 'Full name and address of person/company taking delivery of the stock'. This applies to the final destination eg: FIMCo.

Section 5: 'Full address of the destination of the stock'. This section is usually superfluous and only needs to be struck out or filled with 'As above' unless truly different.

Section 6: 'Particulars of stock'. Where this will have altered from previous years is the movement ID. Three options are now available: (1) Official movement tags (record numbers including numbers missing due to mistagging etc); (2) Body brands (record official brand letters and paint colour); (3) Ear tags carrying the same letters as the recently issued official body brand. If you are unaware of what this is, please contact Sarah Bowles at the DoA.

Section 7: 'The name and signature of the owner or occupier of the farm of origin of the stock'. Self explanatory, except that the last box requires departure and arrival time. The departure time is actually the time you begin loading the stock. The arrival time can be struck out as 'not applicable'.

Sections 8-12: For others to fill in en route and on arrival. Section 8 will apply to the transporter on the farm.

Section 13: 'Treatment declaration'. Please don't forget this. As explained above, this section will be checked at the abattoir and if incomplete the stock cannot be slaughtered. Either declare those used, or tick the box if none.

Now – peel off the bottom (yellow) copy to retain for your records, and, new this year, FAX it to the abattoir ASAP. This needs to arrive ahead of the stock. If you do not have a fax, let us know and we may be able to resolve the issue another way.

Why the fax? This is mainly an issue for the West more than the East because there are so many links in the chain. Port Howard may receive stock from between 1 and 5 farms which are mixed in the holding paddocks. All the certificates (ie: up to 5) are placed in a box there for collection. This may be some 2,000 sheep, 3 shiploads. As these three shiploads will be mixed mobs and transport times have to be monitored, three new certificates will be written out currently by the Tamar. These 2,000 sheep represent 5 truckloads on the East (400 a time), so 5 more certificates will be written out. All these certificates travel forward with the stock and arrive at the abattoir, where they will be checked and tallied by the Official Veterinary Surgeon. The most significant certificates are those that carry the farmer's declaration, the first certificates. A faxed copy allows the OVS to resolve problems if certificates go missing en route.

Baffled? Then 'phone us – we're happy to explain.

UPDATE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY

By David Lambert

Progress continues to be made as more farmers have sold and shipped wool. Having now established the optimum dumping requirement for 40 foot containers we have already shipped a total of 9 full container loads to Europe, many of which will take advantage of the free warehousing deal negotiated on member's behalf. Sales continue to be made at excellent prices net Stanley basis in relation to the published MPG figures. We are preparing invoices as we speak for wool already on the water on its way to clients, and the first of our farmers can expect to be paid for their wool in the next few weeks.

The company deals with its members on the basis of net Stanley (i.e. the amount the farm will receive after deducting post-Stanley shipping and freight expenses plus commission and other costs), in order to avoid any confusion when dealing with different buyers in different locations, who would all have a different gross price basis - perhaps difficult to reconcile at farm level, particularly when dealing on several different continents.

We have now arrived at the point with the wool dumping machine that we know what the optimal level of dumping per 40' container will be to minimise overall freight rates. We will be shipping a further 6 to 8 containers on the next SAAS voyage. Many of these wools not already sold will enjoy our free warehousing deal whilst sitting virtually on the doorstep of several of the largest wool processors in Europe, meaning that when the wool is sold our total freight costs will be much reduced compared to shipping and storing wool in Bradford. We are also investigating freight options to Bradford which will significantly reduce costs when serving the trade there, including some of the smaller specialist woollen clients who can be expensive to service due to the tiny weights involved.

I was pleased to hear that a UK agent has decided to also join the RBA in order that those of his clients who were not already members of the RBA might also share the benefit of the new sheepsback insurance policy (which was negotiated by me on behalf of Wool Co and the RBA). This makes perfect sense and is the sort of thing that we set out to achieve when first looking at a wool co-operative – getting farmers together and spreading costs as thinly as possible. I am sure everyone appreciates the fact that all our costs will now be reduced a little.

Wool Co is now officially Associate Members of the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO). This will greatly help Wool Co (and to a lesser extent the rest of the Falklands wool producers) in its efforts to reach out to new markets and clear the way for Falkland wool to be imported to new areas of the world. Other noted Associate members of IWTO include Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), The Woolmark Company, Schlumberger (NSC) and Wools Of New Zealand. Obviously in many locations no firm has attempted to sell Falkland wool before and so we do not expect overnight success in these markets but with a persistent and co-ordinated approach and assistance from IWTO and our Government many barriers should get broken down over time. Being a member of IWTO spells out to the rest of the world wool trade the serious nature of our intentions and automatically raises our profile far beyond any conventional advertising that we might undertake. We intend addressing the whole of the IWTO conference in May 2007 to formally introduce our company which should further increase our profile with the trade. In addition we have some exciting news coming up with regards to other upcoming publicity and will be releasing details of these in February.

Our activities are increasing rapidly and we are now also discussing new and exciting options with third party processors with regard to processing options for skirtings which may lead to substantially better prices, free or nearly free core-testing and better or fairer value for each individual farm when interlotting.

Wool Co have received a number of enquiries from non-members and we hope that our member numbers will increase before the end of the season as more and more wool growers come to realise that we are indeed a safe pair of hands.

Whilst we are unable to offer the full package of benefits to non-members we are able to discuss selling parts of non-member clips to the trade and any interested farmer is more than welcome to ring for a chat or drop into the office for a smoko. The office number is

2006 ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

By Nyree Heathman

Although a rather cold and wet day, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of the shearers and spectators that attended the 2006 Estancia Shearing Competition at Fitzroy farm. The days events started with the Intermediate competition for which there were 4 entrants. Having each shorn 4 sheep the winner emerged as Gilberto Castro with 36.65 points. Second was Robert Ferguson with 42.20, third Michelle Amor with 44.50 and fourth Keith Alazia with 45.45.

This was followed by the Open heats and then the Farmers category. John Jones claimed top spot in the Farmers class with 31.05 points. Steven Dickson was second with 36.80, Tony Heathman third with 42.35 and Keith Alazia fourth with 46.65. Competition then stopped for an hour or so whilst everyone tucked into Gilberto's asado and Shula's filled rolls and replenished their beer supply from the bar.

The Team Shear followed after dinner with 5 teams of shearers battling it out. The first shearer from each team shored 4 sheep before handing over to his partner who shored the final 4. The combination of Jan Clarke and Steven Dickson took top prize in this class with 35.63. They were followed by Kieran McCulloch and Luke Farhn with 42.20 and third were John Williams and Richard Short with 45.25.

This then brought us to the last event of the day – the Open Class final. As well as the excellent shearing demonstrated by the 4 finalists, the crowd was also kept entertained by Andrew Newman's amusing and informative commentary. The final was very close with only 2.60 points separating all four shearers. Paul Phillips proved to be the best on the day winning the competition with 43.05 points. Hot on his heels was Lee Molkenbuhr with 43.90. Jan Clarke was third with 45.00 and Kieran McCulloch was fourth with 45.65.

Many thanks to all those who helped out, both on the day and beforehand, and in particular to Alan at Fitzroy for allowing us to host the Competition there.

EYES DOWN FOR RARE PLANTS

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

At first glance, the Falkland Islands can appear to be a largely uniform landscape of diddle dee and white grass. However, if you get down on your hands and knees and have a proper look, you'll be surprised what you can see.

Naturalists and scientists have been collecting and identifying plants in the Falkland Islands for over 200 years and the total number of native species now stands at 171, with a further 175 plants introduced from elsewhere. Whether some plants are truly native or introduced many years ago, and how some species managed to get across to the Falklands from South America is still being debated by experts across the world.

Comparisons of measurements of growth form, flowering parts and genetic testing of Falkland Islands specimens compared to plants in North and South America, New Zealand, Australia and Europe are key to determining whether a plant in the Falkland Islands is truly native, a sub-species or a plant unique only to the Falkland Islands.

Some plants, like the widespread and easy to spot Vanilla daisy, are endemic meaning that they are only found in the Falkland Islands. Other endemic plants are much rarer and some along with other native plant species, which are also found in South America, have only been recorded in a few or even only one location here in the islands. In all there are 23 native plants that are so rare as to be of conservation concern and these appear on a national red data list.

Some of these rare plants have undoubtedly been under-recorded. There may be only a narrow window of opportunity to spot the more conspicuous flowers or fruits, they may be at a very low density in an area dominated by another species or it may be that there are just not enough people that can recognise the small and inconspicuous plants. So are rare plants really rare or are they so small or cryptic that we don't find them? Or do we simply not look in the right places? More eyes to the ground might help to solve these questions.

Now is the time to look for three particularly rare plants. Dusen's moonwort, Adder's tongue and Spider-plant are small plants less than 5 cm high, which produce flowering parts only during our short summer. These plants are all found at one site at Cape Pembroke and a few other places on East Falklands, but Falklands Conservation think they could be elsewhere. Whilst they no doubt will remain rare, knowledge of other locations where they occur could be critical to their conservation.

"We're interested in any records of these plants and now is the time to look for them. At Cape Pembroke, Dusen's moonwort and Spider-plant grow on open, short grass and sand dune environments, and Adder's tongue is found amongst diddle-dee," explains Grant Munro, Director of Falklands Conservation. "The three plants are so rare that the Government has made it illegal to pick or cut them, so please photos and location information only".

For more information, contact Falklands Conservation on 22247.

SUMMER CAMP VISITS THE VETERINARY SECTION

In December, ten camp children spent a week in Stanley for 'Summer Camp'. Myra Pitt took them to a number of locations in and around Stanley, including Stanley Dairy, the Market Garden, Gypsy Cove, Whalebone Cove along with a daily swim. They also paid a visit to the Veterinary Section where they all had a great time and took some photos of what they saw.

Veterinary Services Officer, Sarah Bowles took a look back on the day...

"On Wednesday 6th December the Veterinary Service expanded its staff by a considerable amount when ten Camp children called in to see what happens in the veterinary section of the DoA. Among other things the children took time to view were a variety of Xrays, see a demonstration on how blood samples are collected into tubes, and also to look at some of our photographs and specimens kept in the clinic.

After seeing the kennel room where animals stay whilst in with us, we had a lively discussion on the different types of fish caught in Falklands waters.

The children showed great enthusiasm, asked many intelligent questions and, we hope, enjoyed their look around the clinic; most of them having had animals staying at some stage, but had never visited the Vet Section themselves before.

We would just like to say thanks to all the Summer Camp kids, and their teachers, for coming to visit and we hope to see them again next year.”

EWES WITH SHEEP COATS PRODUCE A HIGHER NUMBER OF HEAVIER LAMBS AT MANY BRANCH

By Peter Johnson

In April 2004, sheep coats were placed on 196 mature ewes at Bill and Shirley Pole-Evans' Many Branch farm. 196 ewes without coats were also tagged to be used as a control. All of these ewes were then put back into the mob of mixed age ewes to be joined and spend the winter together. Lambing took place in October.

In mid December, all of the ewes were gathered for lamb marking. The trial ewes were weighed and wet & dried to determine if they had a lamb. The udders of the lactating ewes were spray marked to identify their lambs when they were marked the next day. This technique worked well to identify the correct lambs according to their treatment (blue for coats, red for no coats) as can be seen in the picture.

The lambs were also weighed and all of the results are shown below.

	Coated	No Coat
Average Ewe Weight April	41.2 kg	40.7 kg
Average Ewe Weight December	37.2 kg	37.9 kg
Lamb % (based on wet/dry of ewes present)	72.90%	68.50%
Average Lamb Weights	15.4kg	14.7 kg

The ewes will be shorn in February, and the lambs will also be weaned at this time. We hope to obtain a weaning weight of the lambs. This will show us whether the significant benefit (on lamb weight) of the ewes being coated carry's through to weaning.

The real benefits of the coats will hopefully come from the higher quality of wool found under the coats at shearing. The above information illustrates however, that there are no adverse effects on joining, reproduction, lamb survival and lamb weights from ewes being coated. The slight difference in ewe live weight is probably more of a testament to the heavier lambs from the ewes with coats on.

THE TWENTIETH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

2006 REPORT

By Nigel Knight

Thursday 28th December 2006 dawned bright and clear, this was in contrast to the previous day of heavy rain. Some partygoer's heads may have also been allegedly a little clouded after the Camp wedding on the 27th. But none of this distracted the residents and visitors at Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating 'a good day' out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith had already been working hard transforming the Woolshed. Ruben after a variety of other tasks helped Keith take entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. When Tony and Susan arrived with their entries they also gave invaluable help. As usual the entries started as a trickle but it soon became quite hectic as the deadline for entries approached. The Islander Aircraft had already made an early visit delivering H. E. The Governor to present the prizes in the afternoon.

Once the entries were all in, Paul Robertson, Peter Johnson and Ted Jones set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the Fleece having the highest Commercial Value. They did this by working out the clean weight by estimating the yield and then multiplying this by the actual greasy weight. They then estimated the average fibre diameter before multiplying the clean weight by today's prices for that micron wool. Once this had been accomplished the next task was to select from the twenty-nine Rams that were entered, in the three Ram classes the one they considered to have the 'Best Conformation' along with the 'Runner up' and third place. Next they had to judge the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion from all the Rams exhibited in the Show, not a job for the fainthearted.

A total of seventy-seven fleeces from fifteen Farms and twenty-nine rams from seven Farms were exhibited at this years Show. All the entries had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of Rams, every one a credit to its owner.

By now the Barbecue, which had already been set up by Tex and Mandy Alazia using their gas fired barbeque pits and this year in the capable hands of Leon, Justin, Chris and Tex plus other numerous helpers was in full swing. This fortified all those that intended judging the three classes of Rams and the three classes of fleeces, which now awaited them back at the Woolshed. Once this task had been accomplished the time consuming job of counting up the judging slips took place, before the final results were known.

These were all then competently collated by Lisa. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully relieved of its fleece by Ali and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out. The fleece weight and the sheep weight competition produced some very accurate results. This necessitated the equal first places to be decided by a draw to enable an individual winner to be selected. It was also very satisfying to see an increasing number entries in the 'Under 21's Sheep Judging Competition' this year there were eleven entries, Mike Evans expertly produced the 'Master judging sheets' to enable the results from this competition to be worked out. During the Show Marlane recorded the highlights on camera.

Shortly before six pm, a good crowd once again assembled in the Woolshed for the Prizegiving. This years prizes were presented by H.E. The Governor who had flown out to Fox Bay especially for this event. The Prize-giving brought this years Show to a close, after which the focus of attention now moved back again to the Social Club for more drinking and dancing into the early hours of next morning. Thus bringing to an end another successful Ram and Fleece Show.

THE TWENTIETH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2006, **PRIZE LIST**

PRIZE	DONATED BY	WON BY	POINTS	WT/Kgs.
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CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGETT

1 st PRIZE.	ENGRAVED CHALLENGE SHIELD PRESENTED BY MR & MRS AUSTIN DAVIES + £100 PRESENTED BY NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD.	.Coast Ridge Farm,	103	55.0
2 nd PRIZE.	£.75 DONATED BY STANDARD CHARTERED BANK.	South Harbour Farm	66.	56.5
3 rd . PRIZE	£50 DONATED BY CABLE & WIRELESS PLC	Goring Station	60 ..	52.0
4 th PRIZE	£25 DONATED BY R.M.PITALUGA & FAMILY	Coast Ridge Farm,	45	39.4

CLASS 2 FULL WOOL SHEARLING RAM

1 st PRIZE	LYN BLAKE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP + £100 PRESENTED BY NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD.	Manybranch Farm	103	52.5
2 nd PRIZE	£75 PRESENTED BY CABLE & WIRELESS LTD	Goring Station	88	61.5
3 rd PRIZE	£50 PRESENTED BY SADDLE COMPUTERS	Coast Ridge Farm,	71	53.0
4 th PRIZE	£25 PRESENTED BY THE RURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	Port Howard Farm	59	60.0

CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM

1 st PRIZE	FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL MARKETING CHALLENGE CUP ,A REPLICA & £40 PRESENTED BY FALKLANDS LANDHOLDINGS LTD	Boundary Farm	87	82.0
2 nd PRIZE	£75 PRESENTED BY URSULA WANGLIN	..Coast Ridge Farm	75	86.0
3 rd PRIZE	£60 PRESENTED BY FALKLAND ISLAND WOOL GROWERS			

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

THE CHAMPION RAM OWNED BY Keith Knight , WON `THE PATRICIA LUXTON PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP` + REPLICA FROM THE LUXTON FAMILY CHARTRES.

THE CABLE & WIRELESS PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP IS PRESENTED TO THE RESERVE CHAMPION + £25 FROM URSULA WANGLIN .WON BY Coast Ridge Farm,,

ROSETTES WERE PRESENTED FOR 1st.,2nd.,3rd. and 4th., PRIZE WINNERS IN ALL SIX CLASSES. A CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION ROSETTE IS ALSO GIVEN. THESE WERE ALL PROVIDED BY JIM McADAM. MEDALLIONS

FOR 1st. 2nd., AND 3rd. PLACE WERE PRESENTED BY TWIGWORTH TRADING

A SILVER CHALLENGE CUP + £100 FOR THE FLEECE WITH THE HIGHEST COMMERCIAL VALUE & £50 FOR RUNNER UP. PRESENTED BY THE F.I. DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WON BY Mount Kent FARM WITH A FLEECE HAVING AN ESTIMATED GROSS VALUE OF £22.22 THE RUNNER UP HAD A VALUE OF £16.63 WON BY Coast Ridge Farm,

£100 FOR THE BEST CONFORMATION RAM WON BY Keith Knight. 82.0 kgs £75 FOR 2nd.PLACE WON BY Coast Ridge Farm, 86.0 kgs. 3rd.PLACE WON £50 , Coast Ridge Farm, 87.5 kgs ALL PRIZES PRESENTED BY FIMCO

A CHALLENGE CUP AND REPLICA FOR THE FARM WITH MOST POINTS IN ALL CLASSES IS GIVEN BY MR & MRS OWEN SUMMERS WON BY Mount Kent + £50 FROM PORT HOWARD FARM

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

IN THE `GUESS THE SHEEP WEIGHT COMPETITION` THE WINNER RECEIVED £25 FROM MEREDITH FISHING Co. WON BY R Stevens WHO GUESSED CLOSEST WITH 38 Kilos. ACTUAL WT. 38 kgs Shirley Pole-Evans also guessed 38 kgs but the draw favoured Richard.

THE WINNER OF THE `FLEECE WEIGHT` COMPETITION RECEIVED £30 FROM RBC LTD., WON BY Valerie Harvey WHO WAS CLOSEST WITH A GUESS OF 3.7 KGs. ACTUAL WT 3.7 kgs. James Killingbeck also guessed 3.7 kgs.

WHILST THE WINNER OF THE `MICRON ESTIMATE` COMPETITION RECEIVED £50 FROM THE ARGOS FISHING COMPANY. WON BY Dae Peck WHO GUESSED 18.61 mu. ACTUAL 18.27 mu RUNNER UP WON £25 FROM C&W Ltd THIS WAS Mark Jones WITH 19.08 mu.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY SPONSORED THE SHEEP JUDGING COMPETITION FOR THE UNDER `21`s`.WON BY Felicity and Fayan RUNNER UP WAS Reba Peck AND 3rd. PRIZE WENT TO Dale and Dylan

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

WARRAH KNITWEAR KINDLY DONATED £50 FOR SHOW FUNDS

F.I.G.A.S. ONCE AGAIN GENEROUSLY AGREED TO FLY FLEECES FREE OF CHARGE .

THE SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIAL CLUB FOR FINANCING TROPHY ENGRAVING & THE BARBECUE WITH MEAT SUPPLIED BY RINCON RIDGE & COAST RIDGE (BURGERS, SAUSAGES & BREAD ROLLS BY SHIRLEY), COOKING BY,LEON , JUSTIN , CHRIS AND TEX WITH HELP FROM FRIENDS BARBEQUE PITS LOANED BY Tex & Mandy Alazia.

KEITH, FOR TRANSFORMING THE WOOLSHED.

Peter Johnson, Paul Robertson and Ted Jones FOR JUDGING THE SPECIAL CATEGORIES, AND ALL THOSE WHO DID THE SUMS AFTERWARDS in particular Lisa. Marlene FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT.
In particular Glynis and Gordon.

H.E. The Governor FOR PRESENTING THE PRIZES

THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIAL CLUB

AND NOT FORGETTING THE RESIDENTS OF FOX BAY FOR BEING EXCELLENT HOSTS.

WEATHER FOR THE LAST QUARTER 2006

By Siân Ferguson

Happy New Year to you all. The past year seems to have flown by, lets hope we see a lot more of summer before the season changes - although there is one thing I love about winter - my birthday!! Camp Sports are on next month, shortly followed by Easter, then Liberation Day, Farmers Week and a nice long break before Christmas again, hurrah!!

Reflecting back on the past year, sometimes it can be quite difficult to think of your achievements. I think the one I must be most excited about is actually managing to grow some sunflowers (child's play I know). I ended up with quite a few, so conned people at work to take the spares. The competitive streak in everyone showed through, so it followed every Friday each plant was measured to see who would win The Great Sunflower Race.

My entrant, Calamity Jane, finally overtook the rest and was in the lead, until a slight accident with a scalpel resulted in her stalk being cut through - if you know me, there's no need to ask how or why!! So, lots of TLC later (and by that I mean some sellotape and keeping me and sharp objects away from the plant), Calamity amazingly continued growing, re-attached herself together and has now happily flowered in my porch. And now onto the weather...

October Summary

Temperature average was normal at 10.5°C. The highest temperatre was 18.2°C on 26th, while the lowest was -0.1°C on the 4th. Rainfall was slightly below average. The wettest day was the 5th. There was 7 days when sleet or snow fell and 3 days of hail. There were 2 days of fog. No thunder was recorded. October saw 184.4 hours of sunshine, slightly above the normal. The sunniest day was the 22nd with 14.3 hours of sunshine and there were 3 days when none was recorded. Average wind speed was 16.2, more than the norm. The highest gust of 57 knots and highest hourly wind speed of 41 knots both occurred on the 27th. There were 17 days with gusts over 33 knots which is average for the month. Gales were recorded on 7 days, slightly above average.

November Summary

Temperature for November was 0.2° above the long term of 12.9°C. The highest temperature recorded was 23.4°C on the 12th and the lowest was -1.3°C on the 3rd. Rainfall was slightly above average for the month. The wettest day was the 15th. There were 6 days when snow or sleet fell and 9 days when hail was reported. No thunder or fog was recorded. There was 241.7 hours of sunshine, more than the November average. The highest daily total was 13.3 hours on the 20th. There were no days when no sunshine was recorded. The monthly average wind speed was 16.0 knots which is slightly less than average of 16.2. The highest hourly average speed of 42 knots and the highest gust of 60

knots both occurred on the 27th. There were 19 days with gusts over 33 knots, which is average for the month. Gales were recorded on 3 days, which is below average for the month.

December Summary

The average temperature for December was 16.6°, more than the norm. The highest temperature was 22.6°C on the 11th and the lowest was 1.0 Deg C on the 2nd. Rainfall was above average and the wettest day was the 27th. There were no days when snow or sleet fell and 6 days when hail was reported. 1 day of thunder and fog was recorded. There was 299.2 hours of sunshine, well above the average of 228.1 hours. The highest daily total was 14.1 hours on the 25th. There were no days when no sunshine was recorded. The monthly mean wind speed was 16.2 knots, more than average of 16.0 knots. The highest hourly mean speed of 47 knots and the highest gust of 64 knots, both occurred on the 17th. There were 22 days with gusts over 33 knots which is above average for the month. Gales were recorded on 5 days, above average for the month.

2006 Rainfall Totals for the Falkland Islands

Location		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stanley	2005	57	42	39.5	76	30	41	68	28.5	24	23	27	71
	Average	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68
MPA	2005	89	32.3	45.2	61.9	47.4	72.8	58.8	43.5	45	34.1	39.9	68.1
	Average	63	46.5	56.8	54.1	49.5	58.1	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.6	57.9
Bleaker Island		135	52	37	43	26	66	42	43	40	23	25	55
Cape Dolphin		53	24.5	22	50.5	39	51	45.5	30.5	24	21	20	15
Darwin		63	20.5	25.3	20.5	25	48.5	34	39.5	20	21	37	59
Elephant Beach		64	37.5	37.5	59	34	64	52	45	31	25	-	-
Fern Ridge		-	-	35	57	58.5	63	45.5	-	31	13.5	20	57.5
Head of the Bay		77	38	40	68	18	62	58	47	32	33	31	51
Moss Side		53	29	36	57	46	58	54	42	32	27	28	20.5
Paragon		-	-	-	42	43	18	14	12	29	5	11	25
Pebble Island		66	26	22	60	45	43	42.5	37.5	32	16	36.5	22
Port Howard		131	48.8	48.5	71.5	82.5	80.5	71	75.5	59	31.5	50.5	85
Saladero		56	26	37	26	45	-	-	28	21	12	17	35
Shallow Harbour		-	19.6	33.3	51	47.5	48	53	-	31	9.5	22.5	41
South Harbour		30	10	28	30	40	45	53	44	25	10	13	50
Swan Inlet		67	24	45.5	49.5	43	72	54	-	27	28.5	37.5	59
Wineglass Station		87	32.5	36.5	66	62	63	61.5	47	28	42.5	41	85.5

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We still have a couple of rainfall gauges at the department if you are interested in collecting monthly rainfall data. Please contact us if you are interested or for more details.