



News from Gilbert House

17/12/2019
Volume 1 Issue 12

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair— MLA Roger Spink	1
MLA Leona Roberts	2
MLA Teslyn Barkman	3
MLA Stacy Bragger	3
CYP—Emmaleigh Middleton	4
MLA Mark Pollard	4
MLA Roger Edwards	5
CYP—Tom Short	5
MLA Ian Hansen	6
Key Dates & Contacts	6

Message from the Chair

MLA Roger Spink - Government Services

As the year draws to a close it is time to reflect on some of the major changes over that year and to look forward to what we would hope to achieve in 2020.

Major achievements include- commencement of work on the library/new Falkland College, work on Bennetts paddock and a second road Diamond Jubilee Drive feeding West Stanley.


Added to this we have the Government housing contract underway for new houses on Sapper Hill. The new quarry equipment has all arrived giving extra crushing capacity, standby electricity generators have at last been wired in. Child Care providers (who can now pay carers better rates of pay) are rising to the challenge of improving standards and looking to provide (with FIG support) new purpose built premises. The agreement for provision of accommodation at Lookout Lodge will allow a speed up of Capital works. We also reached agreement on extension of the Fisheries ITQ which should be a major benefit in the region of £250 million to our Fishing Industry.



On an international front we have had a positive reception from all the major UK parties during visits to UK in May and also at the party conferences. The commencement of the second LATAM flight should provide a step change in international travel with positives for Tourism, spares delivery, crew and passenger changes, ability of Islanders to travel, and will open up the Falklands as a gateway to Antarctica. The doubling of internet packages will help connect the Falklands with the rest of the world and retain our younger generation in the Islands.

Looking forwards in the New Year I would like to see the Port project funded and be awarded. The new power station project needs also to progress if these important projects do not move forwards we risk undermining the industries we rely on. Making a success of the second flight is also a challenge. Hopefully we will see progress on the Oil Development and Salmon Farming fronts, both offer great potential subject to passing strict environmental and social scrutiny.

Much has been achieved by the hard work of our Civil Service and others and much remains to be done. However we can all have a Christmas break and look forward to the new year. I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Members of the Legislative Assembly and staff would like to wish the people of the Falkland Islands and friends all over the world a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please note Gilbert House will be shut from 12:00, 24th December and open again on the 2nd January as per normal hours.



Although I may not relish being out of the country, this trip to the UK has proved varied, interesting and useful.

The highlight for me was undoubtedly meeting Sir Joe Bossano. As many will know, Sir Joe has been an elected member in Gibraltar since 1972 and for three decades has given unwavering and outstanding support to the Falklands. He is, in the truest sense, a great friend of our Islands and I was honoured to spend time with him. I suggested that a visit was overdue and I hope that we will have the chance to welcome him back soon.

Time in Edinburgh for a Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians event also gave opportunity to meet with Members of the Scottish Parliament from Scottish Nationalist, Conservative and Labour Parties, who found time to see me despite being in the middle of election campaigns. It was good to renew links and reinforce the long-standing relationship that we have with Scotland and to brief Members on the modern Falklands. I'm very grateful for their interest and offers of support and hope that a cross-party visit will come out of this in the future.

In terms of 'getting the message out' - we have a great opportunity to do just that in February when we host a conference of the British Islands & Mediterranean Region (BIMR) branch of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP). This will bring politicians from territories such as the UK, Channel Islands, Gibraltar and Malta to the Islands for several days.

As well as discussing the BIMR CWP's strategies and programmes, these conferences are about empowering, encouraging and supporting women and girls in all walks of life - all good stuff which I think all everyone can sign up to.

Our programme aims to show off the Falklands and our fantastic women in both Stanley and Camp and will offer opportunities for the community to attend presentations and workshops. If you would like to hear more, please get in touch.

My trip has concluded with meetings at Westminster and a forum for the Overseas Territories on Public Accounts Committee work - along with longer-standing PAC members. I'm privileged to have taken MLA Pollard's seat on this extremely important committee, but know I have much to learn.

Finally - it's that time of year again (already!) and I would take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, hopefully spent with the people you love best.



MLA Leona Roberts with Sir Joe Bossano, Gibraltar

Natural Resources

Something I've been asked a few times lately: what is the background of the ITQ Review? Why are ITQ access fees different?

There have been fundamental changes to fisheries over the past few months. To lay it out, Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) is the system we use to allocate licences to fish in all fisheries except the Illex fishery. For companies that hold their ITQ, it grants them the right to access that portion of fisheries. Fisheries operate under different licences and access fee levels for each are set annually by ExCo.



ITQ Review - October 2019:

In 2017 FIG commissioned an independent review of the ITQ system in the Falklands. This comprehensive analysis informed a set of recommendations which were considered by FIG and the Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA). These recommendations tackled issues such as how to strengthen the three tests ITQ holders are subject to in order to continue to hold the rights: effective control; active involvement and economic efficiency. It also developed a series of ideas that will change the structure of ITQ to strengthen industry stability and by extension, FIG economic stability.

Two headline changes are a provision of a mechanism to allow an early renewal of ITQ rights and the development of a FIG-FIFCA Accord. An ITQ licence term is 25 years and this opportunity to be able to apply early for renewal gives security for investors and the opportunity for Government and fishing companies to plan in better confidence.

The Accord is a comprehensive and pioneering 'road-map' document that captures at its core, the objective indicators to fulfil the three tests listed above.

These, alongside the other recommendations, are agreed in principle and the Director of Natural Resources, Andrea Clausen is overseeing their implementation.

ITQ Fees - November 2019:

Separate to the review, FIG considered the issue of ITQ access fees which are reviewed annually in accordance with the Fisheries Ordinance. Historically, this fee-setting has not been based on a full economic analysis of the industry.

The change here is that this year, fees will now be based on a full economic analysis. As a result of this fees have been increased for some fisheries and reduced in others to better reflect levels of catch and profitability.



MLA Stacy Bragger

Education and Community

I thought I would take the opportunity in this month's newsletter to highlight the success of a new weekly community event. Parkrun takes place all around the world and the Falklands now has its own event. Every Saturday morning you can go down to Cape Pembroke and walk or jog the 5k to the Lighthouse and back. The event has been embraced by the community from the very start and I was amazed at the first Parkrun to see over 150 people attending. Over 200 different people have taken part so far, impressive numbers for a community of our size. It's been good to see the mix of different people turning up each Saturday. The experienced runners, people looking to do more exercise, walkers, kids, people taking their dogs for a stroll etc. It's even gained some attention from outside the Islands with the event organisers doing interviews with Parkrun podcasts. Congratulations to the Running Club and FIOGA for getting it started. I'm going to keep trying to move up the finishing positions!

I was pleased that young Islanders Emmaleigh Middleton and Thomas Short were able to represent the Falklands at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament event that took place in Delhi, India recently. I represented the Falklands many years ago at the Youth Parliament. I found it a challenging but very rewarding experience that I got a great deal from so I believe it is important that we continue to encourage our young people to take part in these sorts of events. Emmaleigh and Thomas had a packed programme and from what I've heard so far they enjoyed the experience while waving the flag for the Falklands.

We'll shortly be entering 2020 and I'm looking forward to continuing to work towards delivering the aspirations of our Islands Plan. I am hopeful that we will see significant progress made on our work to upgrade our key pieces of infrastructure. One of the key projects will be the proposed new port and we are due to be considering different options early in the New Year.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas and here's to an exciting 2020.

Commonwealth Youth Parliament—Delhi, India

Report by Emmaleigh Middleton

I had the honour of representing the Falkland Islands at the 10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, held in Delhi, India. Tom Short and I were part of a 47-person parliament, made up of people from 24 nations across the Commonwealth. The aim of this event is to encourage and promote youth participation in politics. The political world is still very much dominated by the older generations, but events like this help younger people, who have an interest in politics, to take a step into that world and experience first hand some of the responsibilities it holds.

Split into 2 parties (Tom in the government, me in the opposition), with several independents, we governed over the imaginary country of Commonwealth Land for four days. During that time, we debated, amended and introduced a key piece of legislature, held two sessions of question time, passed two resolutions, and experienced the culture of India. With topics ranging from Climate Change to Urbanisation to Equality, it was packed and diverse programme.

The main piece of legislation that was discussed was The Climate Fund for Women Bill 2019. This bill was designed to help women become more equal in the fight with Climate Change, to empower them into becoming key drivers for change and resilience. With several amendments made by the opposition, it was agreed that the bill would be passed.

There was also one urgent resolution put to the parliament, one that was not scheduled. With the news that the 10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament may be the last, there were some strong emotions when it came to this issue. We were to discuss and vote on whether this should be the last one that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would hold. Once speeches from the leader of the opposition, independent spokesperson and the Prime Minister had finished it was

time for us to vote. That is a moment I will never forget. The moment when 47 people from across the world, all stood in unison and agreed that it should not be the last one.



The Commonwealth Youth Parliament has allowed me to meet people that I would not otherwise meet. We have formed bonds that span oceans and continents, we have learnt about parliamentary procedures from multiple nations, and experienced some of what it takes to be a politician. For many of us, myself included, it has inspired us and encouraged us to go down this route further and possibly pursue a future career in politics.

MLA Mark Pollard

Trade and Industry

What inspires me to strive for a better Falklands.

Many people have asked me recently both why I do the job I do? And would I stand again in two years' time? The answers to both questions are that as long as my inspiration to create and protect a better way of life for Falkland Islanders outweighs the negativity that surrounds the privileged position I have then I will try and continue to do it.

I appreciate that it is a matter of debate on what exactly would be a better life for Falkland Islanders. On this subject, as with others I am always open to listen to the opinions of others. The people who both feed my desire to create a better Falklands and help to form my opinion on what it should consist of are family, whether it is my parents, in laws, wife, brother, sisters in law or daughter, nephews or niece. My friends, all the people who have supported me in the

past in some way and have allowed me to be a part their lives. Lastly, all the people who take the time to speak to me in some way help form my ideas.

The areas that I feel we need to protect or improve range from the environment, safety, our freedom, equality, health, education, our infrastructure and others. In order to improve most of those we have to also improve and protect our economy. To work towards strengthening our current revenue streams as well as identifying and nurturing new ones.

Attempting to solve a huge variety of problems is probably one of the best parts of our role. Whilst you may not agree with how we go about solving these problems all of the time, I do hope you recognise our will to strive to create a better Falkland Islands for all Falkland Islanders.

I would also like to take the time to remind people that if they wish to share their ideas with me, then there are many ways they can get hold of me. The one guarantee in this job is that if you fail to share your views or ideas with us then we definitely won't consider them.



Recently I was asked by a member of the public about how much 'gravel' was used on the MPA road during the Black Topping season. This got me wondering about the whole process of manufacturing materials for the road. I am very grateful to Marc Short at the Quarry for his help in producing this short insight.

When laying the Black Top the men lay two or more layers made up of a 'Binder Course' and a 'Wearing Course', the top bit that you drive over. The binder is made from 20mm aggregate and the wearing course a finer product of 10mm.

It is not quite as simple as that as each course is made to a specific recipe depending on the grading of the raw aggregates.

To produce 400 tons of product for the MPA road, a fairly typical production day, the quarry would have to blast 1,000 tons of raw materials from the rock face. To blast this amount of rock they would have to drill five holes and would need some 350Kg of explosive.

1,000 tons of raw materials will produce 169 tons of scalplings, 450 tons of 20mm aggregate, 180 tons of 10mm aggregate and some 201 tons of 'quarry dust' which is between 0 and 5mm.

Sized aggregates, along with approximately the same tonnage of filler (fine dust of about 63 micron) and the hot bitumen (5.5%) is mixed for around 90 seconds before it is dropped into a hot storage bin from where the asphalt can be dropped into a lorry and carted off to the road for use.

Under the ideal conditions the new asphalt plant can produce around 120 tons of asphalt per hour.

It takes 2.6 tons of asphalt to lay one linear metre of road which is 2,600 tons per Kilometre which in turn requires 6,500 tons of raw materials per Kilometre.

Quite staggering figures I think you will agree.

Commonwealth Youth Parliament—Delhi, India

Report by Tom Short

We arrived at Delhi Airport in the early hours of Sunday morning after a long flight which luckily had inflight entertainment! Upon arrival, there was someone there to 'meet and greet' and we met up with the delegates from Barbados, who unbeknown to us, had been on the same flight from Heathrow. We were all whisked away by car to the Ashok Hotel which was our base for the next four days. I spent the rest of Sunday eating and exploring with the Barbadian guy and sleeping off jet lag ready for Monday morning.

The next three days were full on! Monday began with meeting more delegates over breakfast before travelling together to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. The morning was taken up with informative orientation sessions on procedures and the role of the Legislature. The Commonwealth Youth Parliament was formally inaugurated and we were addressed by the guests of honour and representatives of the Delhi Assembly. In the afternoon, we got down to work and prepared for the next day's business of debating bills and resolutions. Delegates had been divided into the Government, Opposition and Independent beforehand and I had been placed in Government. We then set about choosing a Party Leader, Chief Whip and Ministers, and those who were going to speak for or against motions for debate. I was very pleased to be voted Minister of Agriculture. The day ended with a tour of the Indian Parliament and a delicious dinner hosted by the Speaker of the House.

Tuesday was our first full day acting as Parliamentarians. We debated 'The Climate Fund for Women Bill' and its amendments and passed two resolutions - one on 'Inclusive Urbanisation' and the other on 'Youth as Key Drivers of Sustainable Development Goals'. There was also a Question Time for the Opposition to quiz Ministers but not me - yet. After a busy day, we were treated to an Exhibition by young artists and a Dance production in a theatre followed by more scrummy food.

The final morning was filled with another Question Time, Final Addresses and a mock Press Conference. It was my turn to answer three questions: on Climate Change and GM crops. During the afternoon, we were taken on a guided tour of the Qutub Minar (a large archaeological site of ancient Delhi) which was fascinating. It all finished with more food, music and dancing; and everyone on the dance floor by the end of the night.

This trip was amazing and I would like to thank the Falkland Islands Government for giving me the opportunity to represent the Islands. I learned a tremendous amount and the Youth Parliament has given me first hand knowledge of how a parliament works beyond Question Time. On my return, I had a meeting with an MLA and discussed the possibility of a Youth Council being created in the Islands. Having had this experience, I now intend to get involved in such an institution. I would also like to take this moment to thank the marvellous hosts and the organisers who did a fantastic job and made this Youth Parliament a resounding success.



MLA Ian Hansen

Health and Social Services



This Assembly has now been in place for just over half of its lifetime. The question that all industries ask, quite rightly, reference to agriculture, fisheries tourism et al, is what have we as have Government achieved or more importantly failed to produce.

Within my portfolio brief I would like to think we have progressed certain things.

Orthodontics treatment has been an important issue to address, and the DHSS has been working very hard to deliver this. This treatment in my view is very high on my agenda, but it will come with a cost. We have a visiting expert on orthodontics from Chile next week to scope how we can work together on this.

KEMH are also cutting down on locums, and the Director and staff are working very well together concerning budgetary issues for next year.

With my farmer's hat on, FLH are still OK financially, but with the current steep drop in wool prices, and the uncertainty about meat sales, the FLH Board are aware that capital and operational expenditure may have to be reviewed. We definitely do not want to go back to asking FIG for any sort of subvention. The current price of wool sales doesn't just effect FLH, it is an Island wide farming issue.

I hope all FIG employees and everyone else in our wonderful Islands have a great Christmas and are back bright eyed and bushy tailed for the New Year.

Next Public Meeting	A series of public meetings in Camp and Stanley regarding the Single Constituency Referendum will be advertised in due course
Next sitting of ExCo	Wednesday 29th January 2020
Next sitting of Legislative Assembly	Friday 31st January 2020, Hill Cove

Gilbert House Staff	
<i>Office Hours</i> 08:00-1200 / 13:00-16:30	Phone
Cherie Clifford	(00500) 27451
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly clerkofassembly@sec.gov.fk	
Meghan Law	
PA to the Legislative Assembly paassembly@sec.gov.fk	
	Address
Emma Jaffray	Gilbert House
Administration Assistant	
assemblyadmin@sec.gov.fk	Stanley Falkland Islands FIQQ 1ZZ

Key Dates & Contacts

MLA Contact Details	
MLA Barkman	tbarkman@sec.gov.fk (00500) 54754 / (00500) 53583
MLA Bragger	sbragger@sec.gov.fk (00500) 55144 / (00500) 54391
MLA Edwards	redwards@sec.gov.fk (00500) 55140 / (00500) 52044
MLA Elsby	belsby@sec.gov.fk (00500) 53240
MLA Hansen	ihansen@sec.gov.fk (00500) 55142 / (00500) 52929
MLA Pollard	mpollard@sec.gov.fk (00500) 55888
MLA Roberts	lroberts@sec.gov.fk (00500) 54753
MLA Spink	rspink@sec.gov.fk (00500) 51680 / (00500) 51128