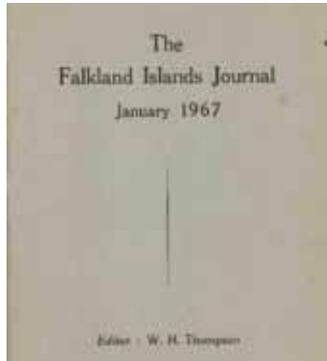


The Falkland Islands Journal: Recording the life and times of Islanders for 50 years



The first issue-released in 1967, cost 5/-

THE Falkland Islands Journal was first published in 1967. It was the brainchild of the then Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands (from 1963-1969) W.H. 'Tommy' Thompson whose short foreword stated :-

"I hope this issue will be the first of many. The idea behind the Journal is to promote interest in the Falkland Islands and their history. Editorial policy is to publish items of interest from the past and present. Politics do not come into it. If any reader takes exception to anything which is printed from the past they must resort to the grave to lay their blame: as to the present, the authors of all signed papers are alone responsible for opinions expressed in them. MSS., and letters will be gladly accepted, but with a budget which is less than even the proverbial shoestring, and difficulties of printing, no guarantee of publication or promise of payment can be given. W.H. Thompson."

John Smith gave Tommy local support and both are a testimony to what we have today.

Tommy Thompson edited the first four issues. JA and JICB Jones the 1971 and 1972 issues and an Editorial Committee from within the Islands the 1973 and 1974 issues. There seemed to have been a lack of interest in the Journal at the time. Fortunately, an eminent farmer, Executive Councillor and historian, Sydney Miller (1905-1992) took on the job of editor, "for a year or so only to rescue it from its imminent demise" (his words to me). He ended up editing the Journal for 15 years and passed on (in 1990) to myself, a thriving and active Journal.

All work on the Journal is voluntary and the editor is ably assisted by an editorial team; wife Geraldine, Rob Philpott (Liverpool), Dr Kevin Kenny (Ireland), daughter Emma Jane Wells (Scotland), son-Tom McAdam (S Korea), Alison

Barton and Nikki Buxton (Falklands).

Major events in the life of the Journal have been the introduction of a glossy colour cover (in 2000) coupled with a major expansion in size and content.

The story of the front cover of the 50th issue (2016) is another charming and poignant one - all the more so because two of the three participants (Sir Cosmo and Lady Haskard) have died within the past year.

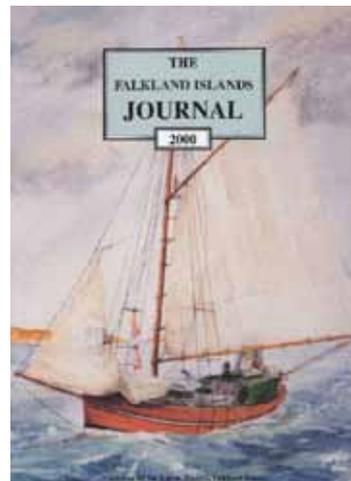
A website was created in 2004 by Tom McAdam (www.falklandislandsjournal.org). It contains a full register of all articles published, contact details, details of back issues available, front covers and forthcoming issues.

A CD ROM of all back issues (until 2015) is available in the Islands and in the UK (from me (jim.mcadam@falklandislandsjournal.org)). This is operated and produced by Nikki Buxton (Synergy).

The Journal team work closely with the National Archivist and the Director of the museum and her staff.

Most museums have some form of publication outlet to report on their activities and to issue more in-depth reports on particular areas of research they are carrying out or targeted exhibitions they have mounted. Often a lot of work goes into presenting these exhibitions and when they are taken down, the material can be forgotten about. The Falkland Islands Journal is an ideal medium to present this material and I am happy to report that the Journal and the museum will be more closely integrated from now on.

The Journal is sold in the Falklands and distributed globally to a range of subscribers. This year, we



The first colour cover

Did you know that the beautiful Quality Street lady began life on Ross Road in Stanley or that 782 islands make up the archipelago - not the 776 usually quoted? All this and much more contained in the Journals

were honoured to have dedicated commemorative stamp issue which featured four covers of recent Journals. The Journal has received huge support from the Jane Cameron National Archives over the years - firstly by Jane herself then ably followed on by Tansy Bishop.

Who can contribute articles?

Anyone! There are many regular historians/contributors who do an immense amount of work documenting the history of the Islands out of sheer interest in, and love for the place.

For example Stephen Palmer - Archival history - Edward Walsh - history of the Catholic Church, Phil Stone - Geology, David Luxton - family history

Then there are people who simply have an interesting story to tell about the Falklands; often their own or their family's experiences.

Look out this year for Tony Carr's Falkland Memories. He spent his childhood in the Falklands (1938-1946), his father being stationed there as a customs officer.

They are lovely reminiscences; he remembers playing in the lifeboat of the *Criccieth Castle* which was slowly rotting away behind the Town Hall. That prompted me to use a painting of the *Criccieth Castle* (see next page) on this year's cover. The ship was eventually wrecked between Cape Horn and the Falklands in 1912 with eleven survivors reaching the Falklands in an open lifeboat after eight days of incredible hardship; an amazing

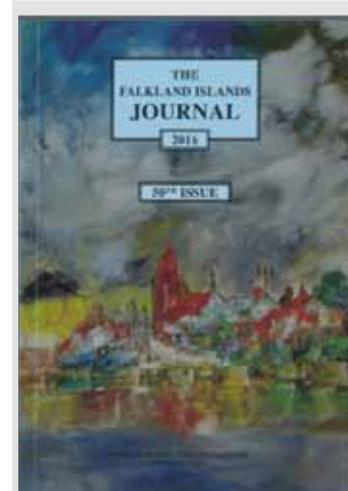


Tommy Thompson and John Smith (inset)



feat. There is a badge from the boat in the Museum in Stanley These little historical connections are fascinating.

There have been a huge range of



2016 front cover: Oil painting of Stanley by Tommy Thompson. Tommy painted this in the late 1960s while he was Colonial Secretary in the Falkland Islands and it hung in Sullivan House where he lived with his wife Sheelah.

One evening the then Governor Sir Cosmo Haskard and Lady Haskard were having dinner with the Thompsons at Sullivan House. Sir Cosmo admired the painting on the wall and Tommy promptly took it down and gave it to him. The painting has been a great favourite of the Haskards ever since and hangs in their family home, Tragariff, Bantry, Co Cork, Ireland. It is a constant and very pleasant reminder to them of the view they had from Government House eastwards along Ross Road towards Stanley. Both they and Tommy were delighted that it was being used on the front cover of the 50th issue of the Journal. This is highly appropriate since it brings together two individuals who did so much to bring the Journal to fruition.



Wally MacBeth holding the shotgun used to kill foxes with children Raymond, Rowena and Marie

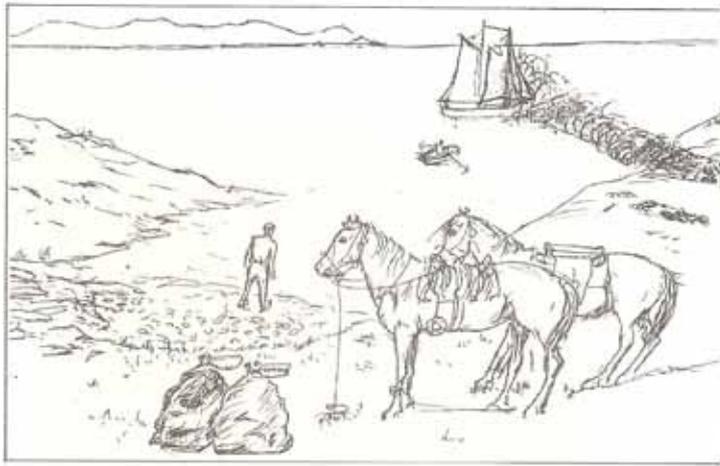
topics over the years; everything from history of FIGAS and flying, maritime history, Falkland families, natural history (eg the Warrah) birds, rocks, and people with interesting Falklands' connections. One of particular recent interest was from Ross Road to Quality Street: The Life of Ellaline Terriss. She was an actress, born in the Falklands and eventually ending up as the glamorous belle on the lid of Quality Street tins.

Any documenting of history is important as so much gets lost in the mists of time. There have been some important, widely cited articles in the Journal. Many of Phil Stone's excellent geological articles are widely consulted on global databases and Robin Woods' 2001 article (with a small correction the next year) on the number, size and distribution of islands in the Falklands archipelago is the most widely cited article published. This was the result of a monumental piece of research by Robin. And how many islands are there? 782!

Schoolchildren's articles
The Journal is particularly dedicated to encouraging schoolchildren in the Falklands in the study of their local history by publishing winners and highly commended entries of the 'Alastair and Jane Cameron History Prizes'. These are the most popular articles printed in the Journal. I get wonderful feedback on these from readers all over the world. And many are based on substantial research which leaves them the definitive account of a particular event.

For example, a review of Roberto Herrscher's excellent history of the *Penelope* was printed in the 2011 issue. Herrscher cites Megan Middleton's account in the 2001 issue (she was then aged 11) as the definitive history of the vessel. There is plenty of commentary and analysis in the academic literature on the political lead-in to the Shackleton Report and it's ultimate outworking through the farm subdivision programme.

The article by Sophie Pompert Robertson (then aged 14) on the impact of sub-division on Port Stephens (FIJ 2014) stands out as



11. The man from the nearest shepherd's house on the mainland of West Falkland has lit fires to signal to the distant island farm that he has mail for them. A system of fires was used whereby one fire meant local mail, two fires - overseas mail (from Britain) and three fires - the schooner was wanted as soon as possible (either for a visitor or a telegram). Mail could be left in a hand made weather-proof box about the size of a dog kennel.

Line drawing by Kitty Bertrand in the 1991 issue

the only published analysis of the personal impact of the process on farm life in the Islands themselves - it should be compulsory reading. They are particularly important as records of family histories.

The level of detail in Laoisa Bishop-Newman's article on Tuberculosis (2013 issue) is quite phenomenal and will stand as a definitive medical testimony. There are many personal accounts by children of 'what their parents did in the war'. These are, without exception salutary and moving. Other examples include Alastair Summers' article in 1993 (he was then 14) on the Bertrand and Felton families with a great collection of photographs. Mark Pollard (he can be proud of this one) and Wayne Clement's prizewinning entry (in 1994 - they were 14 and 13 respectively) on Stanley and Darwin Cemeteries is indispensable. Many people have told me how useful it has proven to be.

A 14 year-old Nick Rendell won the Senior School Prize in 1995 with a comprehensive article on FIC Colonial Managers; I often refer to that one. If you need to know any May Ball winner, go to Samantha Brownlee (2002) or the history of the German Camp - Hannah Pointing 2005, or who has ever lived on Sedge Island (Matthew Lazo - 2007). In the latter you will have an account of the island which could not be bettered. The late Jane Cameron once told me this entry alone made the whole competition worthwhile. However it is unfair of me to select articles in this way, every one of them is interesting in its own right and makes a significant contribution, I just seek to give a flavour of what is in there.

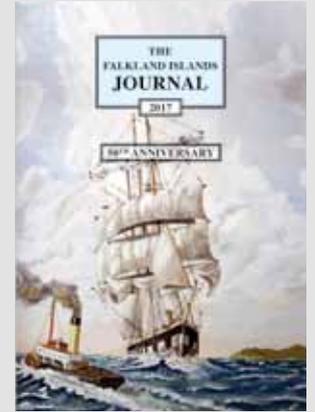
If you don't have all the back issues, the CD ROM will soon rem-



FIJ Journal stamp issue



Jane Cameron



Alastair and Jane Cameron History prize winners 2016 included in the latest edition of the Journal

- Aviation Incidents in the FI
by Craig Lewis
- What Was Life in Stanley Like Living in a War Camp
by Nicola Wilks
- Lakelands Farm
by Thomas Ford
- Jetties that my Granddad has Built by Nathan Luxton
- Roy Cove by Zoe Miller
- The Llamosas, my Ancestors
by Lachlan Crowie
- The First Privately Owned Land Rover in the FI
by Nick Rowlands
- The Life of Phyllis Jaffray
by Benjamin Jaffray
- Beauchene Fishing Company
by Molly Roberts
- IJS -What it Used to be like
by Gabriella Hartley
- The History of The Jaffray Family
by Liam Jaffray

These and many more original articles can be found within the 2017 Journal available from the Capstan Gift Shop and the Museum Bookshop from late November.

edy that.

This year's Journal has an interesting combination of an article from the A&JHC and an independently submitted piece of history. Zoe Miller (Great-granddaughter of Sydney Miller) has a highly commended project on Roy Cove printed while in the same issue, Colin Young, who was Grasslands Officer in the 1960s, recalls his memories (and some historic photographs) of grassland improvement at Roy Cove. Both articles intertwine beautifully.

It gives me great pleasure that we are able to facilitate the documentation of the history of the Falklands over the past 50 years and beyond through encouraging the likes of Colin to publish his memoirs and Zoe to have the results of her history project appear in print.

And finally, if you were to ask me what was the most moving article to have been published over the past 50 years, it would be hard one to call. All of the above have given us great pleasure in publishing them. However, in 1991, after I had edited my first issue, the late Kitty Bertrand called me round to her house to ask if I would publish a series of sketches she and Cecil had done on Camp life in the Falklands. I was deeply moved that she had entrusted them to me. It filled me with the reality of the precious gift I had been entrusted with and, of course, they appeared in the 1991 issue. They are quite delightful.

If I could finish with Sharon Jaffray's review of the 4th Edition of the FIJ CD ROM in the Penguin News (31st March 2017) "...be warned that you should make sure you have plenty of time before inserting the disc into your computer...you will find so many interesting articles along the way that you can expect to lose at least a couple of hours... While most of these searches could be carried out on the internet, I doubt the information available would be so in-depth..... and one of the special things about the CD is that many of the articles are written by people we know".

Therein lies the value of the FIJ over the past 50 years

Jim McAdam