



Press Release October 21 2013

Calling all Pitkerners - Hunt for Diaspora begins

A Survey has been commissioned to learn more about Pitcairn's Diaspora and their potential interest in returning to Pitcairn either permanently or temporarily.

Pitcairn Island's population previously peaked at around 250 but has now reduced to around 50 permanent residents. It is essential to hear from Pitkerners and their families who do not live on the Island to learn more about their views on returning or settling permanently on Pitcairn. The survey also welcomes views in general about the island's future.

Heather Menzies, Pitcairn Tourism Coordinator, and her Partner Kerry Young are seventh generation descendents making the lifestyle choice to settle on Pitcairn seven years ago. Both are passionate about the Islands future.

“Seventh and eighth generation descendents returning to the island will find the island has changed a lot. The island still retains its beauty, subtropical climate, lush vegetation and pristine clear waters. But we are now part of a global community with internet, phones, regular shipping services, sound social services and regular travel to and from the island”

The tourism industry is growing in leaps and bounds with increasing visitor numbers and cruise ship visits.

Ms Menzies says “The Island needs the energy and passion of the Diaspora to ensure our heritage is sustained for another 250 yrs”

Governor of Pitcairn, HE Vicki Treadell, encourages Pitcairn Diaspora and readers who know them to make contact with the survey coordinators, listed below.

“I am enthusiastic about strengthening Pitcairn's population and economic viability and see this survey as a crucial step towards this goal.”

Vicki Treadell believes it is important that as many of the Diaspora around the world as possible complete the survey.

“The British government supports the efforts of the Council to better understand the Diaspora and the likelihood of a possible return”

The Pitcairn Island Council and current residents are also helping to locate their friends and relatives.

If readers know of any Pitcairn Diaspora, please encourage them to make contact with the Diaspora Survey Consultants.

Diaspora Survey Consultants: Contact rob@solomonleonard.co.nz or Kirsty@solomonleonard.co.nz

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