



## Islands Plan Measures Success

**Substantial progress was made by the Falkland Islands in meeting the objectives laid out in the Islands Plan 2004 - 2007.**

Major achievements included a 155% increase in the average profitability of small businesses in 2006 over 2001; an 8% rise in the number of Islanders undertaking tertiary education; and the continued success of the Islands' fastest growing industry, tourism, which witnessed a 39% increase in the number of long stay visitors between the 2003/04 and 2006/07 seasons.

The Islands Plan - a rolling programme aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth - was introduced by the Falkland Islands Government in 2001.

Diversification of the economy is fundamental to the Plan, which is based on nine themes under which medium term targets for society, the economy and environment are laid out.

A report, "Our Progress 2004 - 2007", highlighting both the successes and areas where more progress is needed, formed the basis of the new Islands Plan 2008 - 2012.

Falkland Islands Government Chief Executive, Dr Tim Thorogood, said: "We are encouraged by the significant developments the Islands have made over the past four years. The new Plan has an even stronger focus on outcomes and milestones, which will enable us to monitor our progress even more closely."

### 2008 - 2012 Islands Plan key objectives include:

- **Self-Determination** – strengthen internal self-government in a new Constitution.
- **The Economy** – secure 5% growth in GDP over the life of the plan and increase economic development opportunities with new initiatives such as a definitive port strategy.
- **The Private Sector** – encourage entrepreneurs with business start-up facilities delivering £1 million of additional Gross Added Value.
- **Management of Public Services and Finance** – review civil service structure and reduce public sector dominance.
- **Camp** (*Falklands term for the countryside*) – develop a diversified Camp economy and socially vibrant and sustainable Camp population with 90% of all Camp businesses viable by 2009.
- **Education** – achieve the highest standards of educational achievement and develop a virtual classroom for Camp Education by 2010.
- **Health** – promote and maintain a healthy and fit society, including a 10% reduction in the number of smokers by 2012.
- **Environment** – conserve the natural diversity and ecology of the Islands and meet international standards and obligations in respect of the environment.

***The Islands Plan 2004 – 2007 Progress Report and Islands Plan 2008 – 2012 can be viewed at [www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)***

### High Quality Fishery

The Falklands Fishery enjoyed above average catches of both Loligo and Illex squid in the first part of the year. Initiatives by the Fisheries Department, including the development and implementation of electronic logbooks and daily monitoring of the fishery with up to the minute reports on stock status, have been key to the continued successful management of one of the world's most important resources of squid.



# Exciting Times Ahead for Falklands Oil

**Oil exploration in the Falkland Islands has reached a significant turning point in recent months, with three licensees securing major interest and investment in advance of a possible drilling campaign in the region.**

Desire Petroleum Plc has secured a farm-in partner who will pay the drilling costs for three of its exploration prospects in the North Falkland Basin. Rockhopper Exploration Plc has finalised agreements with several companies to supply drilling expertise and equipment in its licensed area. Falkland Oil & Gas Ltd (FOGL), which operates in the South and East Falkland Basins, has also secured investment and hopes to start exploration drilling in 2009. "This is probably one of the most exciting high impact exploration projects currently being undertaken anywhere in the world," said FOGL Chairman Mr Roger Liddell.

Phyl Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources, Falkland Islands Government, said: "These developments are extremely encouraging. It is hoped that rig availability will improve to enable further exploration. Meanwhile interest from other companies in Falklands oil exploration is on the increase".

The discovery of oil in Falklands waters would hugely benefit the Islands' economy, which has seen impressive development over the past 25 years to achieve self-sufficient status in all areas except defence. A well regulated hydrocarbons industry would enable the Islands to diversify their economy as well as contribute further to defence costs, which currently account for 0.1% of the UK's overall defence budget. The Falkland Islands Government's direct and independent defence expenditure currently totals 4.3% of GDP.

Seismic survey vessel & rig



## MPs Appreciate Falklands

The Falkland Islands recently played host to a number of UK Parliamentarians, all of whom received the typically warm and friendly hospitality for which Islanders have become renowned. Delegates from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's UK branch described their visit in February as "a real eye-opening experience" and praised

the work of Councillors in furthering the cause of the Islands. Jeff Ennis MP led the delegation, which also included Paul Holmes MP, Lord Jones of Cheltenham and Lord McColl of Dulwich. The group was visiting at the invitation of the Falkland Islands Government to gain an understanding of today's modern Falklands, its history, strong links with the UK, and continued commitment to self determination.



CPA Delegation at the Chamber of Commerce

Two members of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Eric Illsley MP and Gisela Stuart MP, visited the Islands in March as part of an inquiry on Overseas Territories. During the visit they met representatives from both the public and private sectors. On leaving the Islands they agreed they felt better able to appreciate the issues affecting Islanders. Writing in *The House* magazine about her visit, Gisela Stuart MP said: "What really draws me to the place is its people...There is a refreshing resilience and self reliance about them."

Gisela Stuart MP's article can be read at [www.falklands.gov.fk/recent-features](http://www.falklands.gov.fk/recent-features)

# Focus on... Agriculture

The agricultural industry plays a pivotal role in the unique culture of the Falkland Islands. Sheep farming and the export of wool were the mainstay of the Islands' economy for 160 years before the establishment of a fishing industry. The Department of Agriculture Ten Year Plan is designed to help develop and support a prosperous and self-reliant agricultural sector that creates opportunities for Falkland Islanders and is highly valued locally and internationally. The Department's short to medium term plans, outlined in the Islands Plan 2008 - 2012 (see page one), focus on three main milestones:

## Organic Certification

The Falkland Islands' remote location, temperate climate and traditional farming methods provide an ideal setting to develop organic produce. To support and enhance the industry's diversification efforts, the Department of Agriculture is embarking on the establishment of an internationally recognised organic certification scheme.



## Sheep Farming

Sheep farming remains the major form of land use in the Falklands and wool is the main land-based export. The Department of Agriculture is focused on providing advice and technical knowhow to enhance existing wool production. Improving the value and amount of wool produced will be achieved through initiatives such as the supply and evaluation of superior genetic material, and increasing lambing rates through improved pasture management. By 2009, it is expected that the average wool fibre diameter of Falklands wool will reach 24.75 micron and that wool income will reach £2.5 million.

## Meat Industry Development

The development of a meat and livestock industry is a key diversification strategy to complement wool production. Commercial meat production started in 2002 and continues to develop, with the Falkland Islands Meat Company reporting a 15% year on year increase in the price of Falklands meat obtained during the 2007/2008 export season. The Department of Agriculture has produced a programme focused on developing livestock production systems that can consistently supply local and export markets. Initiatives are in place to improve the quality and quantity of sheep meat and beef by improving nutrition with better grazing management, improved pasture and the introduction of cost effective winter feed options. By 2010, the industry aims to achieve new income of £150,000 from beef alone.



## Annual Reception



L-R: Sukey Cameron MBE, Baroness Thatcher, David Tatham, Councillor Mike Summers OBE

Over 260 people attended the Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London, on 10 June, including guest of honour Baroness Thatcher. Councillor Mike Summers OBE thanked guests for their continued support of Falkland Islanders in achieving their "legitimate goals of freedom and self determination". He went on to update guests on the prospering Falklands economy and hopes for the future, saying: "We will continue to drive forward with energy and commitment to develop our industries and our community with even more success."

Councillor Summers' speech is available to read at [www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)

## Students Mark Commonwealth Day



Karen Minto and Michael Brownlee, students at Chichester College in West Sussex, represented the Falkland Islands during Commonwealth Day in London on 10 March. The students took part in a tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by a discussion on the Commonwealth. They also attended the Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey. Events concluded with a reception at Marlborough House in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, who was interested to learn about the students' studies in the UK and life in the Falklands.

## By-Election Result



New Legislative Council

John Birmingham has been elected to sit on the Legislative Council following a by-election on 3 January. As well as representing the interests of constituents in Stanley, he will take responsibility for the Land Use and Public Services portfolios. Councillor Birmingham previously served on the Legislative Council from 1993 to 2005.

## Falklands History Clarified

A booklet, entitled *Getting it right: the real history of the Falklands*, has been launched by independent scholars Dr Graham Pascoe and Peter Pepper. The new research was presented at the London School of Economics in May and is a condensed version of a detailed, 1,000-page study of the subject, *The Falklands Saga: a Critical Study of the Falkland Islands in History and International Law*, by Dr Pascoe and Mr Pepper, which is expected to be published in 2009.

The booklet is available to download at [www.wildisland.gs/atlantis/gettingitright.pdf](http://www.wildisland.gs/atlantis/gettingitright.pdf)

## Dictionary of Falklands Biography

A *Dictionary of Falklands Biography* has been published, containing essays on the lives of 480 people connected with the history of the Falklands and South Georgia from 1592 to 1981. The Dictionary can be purchased from [www.d-falklands-b.com](http://www.d-falklands-b.com) or at Falkland House in London.

## Diary Dates

- **Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 3 – 6 July** - UK Government Representative Sukey Cameron MBE, together with colleagues from the Islands, will be present on the Falkland Islands stand in the International Village. This will be the tenth year the Falkland Islands have exhibited at the Show.
- **Annual UK Political Party Conferences** - Councillors Andrea Clausen and Ian Hansen will be present, together with Sukey Cameron, on the Falkland Islands Government stand at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester, 20 – 24 September, and the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, 28 September – 1 October.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

[www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)



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