



The

Voice

November 2009

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Hello from the New Director of Health and Education David Jenkins

I am excited about being selected for this appointment, which I commence when I arrive in the Falklands in January. I will be working as part of the FIG senior management team, reporting to the Chief Executive, and I will have a number of specific objectives and priorities on which to keep me busy!

My professional background includes many years in the Army, which I am leaving early to join this unique appointment opportunity. It is a pretty unique role as the appointment, for the first time I think, combines the strategic management of both healthcare and education and therefore suits my background perfectly. I have many years of wide-ranging experience as a Senior Executive in Healthcare / Education and Business Improvement. In the last few years I have successfully innovated, devised and led key service improvement and business growth initiatives and have led complex strategic healthcare and education audits and efficiencies. More specifically, I have experience as a Hospital Director with financial authority and experience of negotiating Treatment and Hosting contracts with NHS Trusts and, in another role, developing clinical policy and standards, in conjunction with both budget and contract negotiations, with the MOD and various other government agencies. I am especially keen about improving all areas of health for the Falklands population and am aware that my passion will need to be focussed, prioritised and supported!

I also have many years experience as an educator/teacher and have held a variety of appointments within the MOD but also in higher education in different UK Universities. I am particularly interested in the use of distance learning and have facilitated such learning across the world via use of the internet for a number of years.

In looking at 'what makes a successful business?', such a Virgin, one message always comes across loud and clear – People. One central focus for me within health and education will be on how to best meet the requirements by harnessing the talent already in place in the people of the Falklands, and facilitating appropriate efficient and effective development where appropriate. I see the appointment of Director of Health and Education within FIG as a really exciting opportunity for me to improve health and education standards and opportunities across the islands.

I have been to the Falklands on a number of occasions and know that I will love to be part of the FIG community. I will also relish the chances to get fit again, run another marathon, continue with my fly-fishing, undertake wildlife photography and assist in conservation work. Without doubt I too, like Andrew Lee, will be taking out leisure centre membership – see you all there!!

New Members First Impressions.

Congratulations to our new Elected Members. We asked our new members what their first impressions were generally since being elected to Legislative Assembly.

MLA Sharon Halford felt that there was 'too much paper and not enough English!!'

MLA Jan Cheek said that here first impressions were 'Firstly genuine

surprise, followed by a sense of the huge responsibility we carry. Since then a balancing act managing the mass of information received and beginning a programme of visits to portfolio departments to gain a better understanding of issues affecting them.'

MLA Gavin Short said that he 'Initially had a feeling of almost shock followed by the realisation of just how many people had put their faith in me. Since then its been like white water rafting - against the flow of the river, a groovy experience.'

MLA Emma Edwards said that 'the first couple of weeks has been a bombardment of information. The presentations were very useful to allow us to gain an overview of the Islands; the positives as well as some of the negatives. I think it will be a very interesting four years ahead for us.'

And finally MLA Dick Sawle said that he had been 'Flooded with info'

All the best to all Members for the next 4 years.

A note from the Chief Executive

Dear Colleague,

Much of the time of senior managers over the past few weeks has of course been focused on briefing our new Assembly Members on the details of the complete range of challenges and opportunities that face the Government. The new Assembly has of course a number of priorities many of which reflect the debates of the election campaign. Assembly Members are though determined to understand the details that lie behind issues and the policy decisions of the last Assembly before finalising their priorities. Things are likely to get firmed up as we get in to the New Year and focus on budget decisions and Islands Plan priorities.

Meanwhile we have had a further visit from the National School of Government in the UK who have a contract to help FIG develop a better framework for career development, training and performance management. We have been finding this work quite challenging as we try to learn from experience elsewhere but develop something practical which we will all feel will help us here in FIG. FIG's input is being led by Richard Fogerty, John Barton and Manfred Keenleyside with input from several more managers and staff. Please e-mail Carolyn Montgomerie or one of these three if you would like to know more or become more involved at this stage.

As ever of course the day to day work of providing essential services to the community continues: it is no surprise that new Assembly Members are impressed by the efforts and standards of FIG staff. Well done and thank you.

With good wishes.

Tim Thorogood
Chief Executive

Education- Twenty Years On

In the late 1980's the Director of Education, Mrs Phyl Rendell and the Chair of the Education Board, the late Hon. John Cheek were leaders for Education and set future priorities. The construction of the Community School was a physical symbol of the importance attached to education.

Mrs Rendell and Mr Cheek advocated that Falkland Islanders should have the education required to participate in our modern society. It was recognised that this would take two or three generations.

What does education cost today?

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| Infant Junior School/Camp | £ | 1,503,090 |
| Falkland Is. Community School | | 1,468,280 |
| Training Unit | | 606,150 |
| Stanley House | | 317,420 |
| Further and Higher Education | | 623,680 |

Our students represent a very small statistical group but results suggest that the majority achieve their potential despite wide variations from year to year at GCSE level. The value of the investment is evident from the number of students who return to the Islands with their A'levels and degrees to take up positions with FIG and with local businesses.

In the 20+ years that students have had these opportunities it is estimated that some 300 have studied to A'level standard and of these approximately 175 have gone on to study to degree level.

What about the budget process?

Departmental budget submissions have been submitted to Treasury in line with the end of October deadline and Treasury have been verifying the details and raising queries with departments. Once the initial review has been undertaken, the next stage will be for 'Star Chamber' review meetings to be held with Directors, which Heads of Section may also be required to attend. These meetings will involve review of budget assumptions, discussion of queries and options and examination of scope for savings, before the review process with Members commences. The current 09/10 budget was set on a deficit basis, in line with the medium term plan, which projects progressive improvements to bring the Government finances back to a surplus position.

An Update from the Oil Department

The Department of Mineral Resources is facing an exciting six months ahead as Desire Petroleum and Rockhopper Exploration gear up to drill exploratory wells to the north of the Islands.

Both companies will be making use of Diamond Offshore semi-submersible rig Ocean Guardian and hope to start drilling operations in early February as part of a campaign that could last a minimum of 6 months. A Maersk tug is expected to begin towing the rig in late November/early December, with the journey south lasting some 65 days

Prior to each well being drilled, the operators will have to seek approval from FIG, who together with the British Geological Survey and the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change, will ensure that the companies can drill the well safely and to best practice.

In addition, the operators will also have to submit an oil spill contingency plan and an emergency response plan.

BHP Billiton, who are leasing acreage to the south of the Islands, have recently submitted their Environmental Impact Statement and are going through the public consultation process before the EIA is submitted to ExCo for approval. Borders & Southern meanwhile are now looking for farm-in partners to participate in the exploration of their acreage.

De Mining in the Falkland Islands

You will probably be aware that a company (BACTEC) has been engaged to remove mines and unexploded ordnance from various parts of the Islands.

By signing the Ottawa Convention the UK Government agreed to remove all mines on British territories by 2009 (now extended to 2019). The current de-mining activity is to clear minefields at Surf Bay, Sapper Hill, Goose Green and Fox Bay East. These were chosen to represent the types of minefields that would have to be tackled if a wholesale programme of clearance was to be pursued. Clearance operations are due to start in early December and be completed by the end of the summer.

A De-mining Programme Office (DPO) has been established by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that BACTEC and its employees have the right skills and training to do the job and to provide quality assurance that de-mining is undertaken to agreed standards.

Many different branches of Government, including Customs and Immigration, Public Services, Fire Service, Police and KEMH have been consulted on the de-mining initiative. The Environmental Planning Department has processed planning applications for the sites and is actively working with the DPO and contractor to secure environmental remediation of the affected land. While the intention is to restore the land to its condition prior to de-mining operations, climate and soil conditions mean that it will probably be some years before the demined areas look like they do today.

Antony Payne, Environmental Planning Officer

The Rural Development Strategy.

What is it?

- It is a mechanism for achieving the vision of the Islands Plan
- A long term strategy for rural sustainability and development
- A route map of actions, policies and investments.

Why have an RDS?

- It provides an opportunity to maximise camps contribution to the FI economy
- It develops the strategy for sustaining, developing and supporting camp and the rural economy
- It provides the Camp focused part of the EDS
- It helps to differentiate/define the Falklands in international markets
- It provides a framework for decision-making and investment and policy decisions.

The first workshop resulted in identifying strength, threats, opportunities and challenges faced by the camp. The workshop also covered the economic profile of the camp and the summary of findings included:-

- To do nothing would mean the continued decline of camp
- The two mainstays of camp (agriculture & tourism) have some potential but will not on their own provide sufficient new jobs to halt the decline
- Camp needs to diversify and grow economically and socially new business growth is necessary
- Service sector growth will follow business diversification and growth and
- Effective "enablers" are necessary to stimulate and support growth.

The outline structure of the RDS has been agreed by Core Group and is now being developed. For more information contact Nuala McKay FIDC nmckay@fidc.co.fk.