



EMD

Environmental Management Division
"Our Island. Our Environment. Our Responsibility."

August 2013

Monthly Newsletter from The Environmental & Natural Resources Directorate,

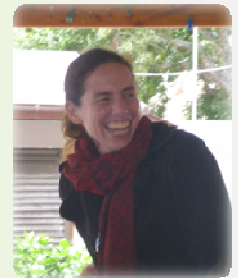
STAFF MOVEMENTS

Last month we said goodbye to Environmental Risk Manager: Ian Rummery who was elected as a member of the islands Legislative council. Congratulations Ian, and we wish you well in your new role.

This month we say goodbye to: The Head of EMD, Tara Pelembe and Environmental Risk Advisor, Glen Westmore who are returning to the UK at the end of their contracts. We would like to wish them well in their future endeavours.

GOOD BYE FROM TARA

It has been really wonderful spending two years back home to set up the new EMD. It is hard to believe that it is already time for me to move on. Although it sounds cliché, this is a really important time for St. Helena and we need to make sure that the development we are looking forward to is sustainable – effective management of the environment is key to this. The three pillars of sustainability are social, economic and environment – we need to make sure that these three pillars are equally balanced. EMD is now well-placed to finalise and implement a comprehensive legislative and policy framework. Although additional resources are always required, EMD has a great team of committed, talented individuals working towards ensuring that the Environmental pillar is progressing in parallel to the social and economic ones. There are other organisations such as the National Trust and SHAPE who are also making significant contributions to this goal, as are a number of committed individuals. We all need to work together to make this happen – it is our island, our environment, our responsibility.



Tara Pelembe

GOOD BYE FROM GLEN

Almost exactly a year ago I arrived on St Helena to take up post as Environmental Risk Management Advisor and Trainer. Over the past 12 months I have been working to share my expertise on waste management, climate change and pollution with the staff at EMD and to help develop policies and legislation to protect and enhance the environment of St Helena.

The main focus has been the creation of the draft Environmental Protection Ordinance, which will hopefully go before LegCo later this year. This ordinance strengthens protection of species of native and endemic wildlife including those on international CITES lists, sets rules in place for the handling of waste and litter and sets the framework for pollution control, national conservation areas and hazardous materials. All of this work is designed to keep St Helena a green and pleasant place to live.

I have held training on pollution and ways to control it, with a series of formal sessions being run for EMD staff but also with people from other SHG departments and island businesses attending. Much of my day to day work has been the provision of advice and support for the Environmental Risk Management team but I have also been writing pollution and climate change policies, submitting bids for additional funding to allow sampling and monitoring of physical environmental parameters across the island and commissioning a data search tool for EMD to allow better use of the data already held.

Because of my background in Engineering I've also worked on a few things outside of my original contract including checking and reporting on the commissioning of new fuel tanks for the airport, the new airport drainage design at dry gut and most importantly being seconded to Connect to help try and resolve the water shortage situation.

I'd like to thank all of my colleagues from EMD for their support and ongoing hard work; protecting and managing the natural environment is a vital task. Whether because of agriculture, fisheries or tourism the future sustainable economy and community of St Helena is ultimately reliant on the environment being considered a priority.

Thanks and goodbye.

Glen Westmore





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WORK EXPERIENCE AT EMD – BY CHELSEA YOUNG

There's always that question that people ask: "What do you want to be when you get older?" Well I haven't truly decided, because I have a passion for two careers.

By working here at EMD I was able to experience the feel of conservation and also learn more about marine life and the process that are involved in finding out the different species in St. Helena's waters, that's one career I might pursue in the future and become a marine biologist. From a young age I always had a like for science and became intrigued by the sea life.

Here at EMD I have also enjoyed working with the other groups like terrestrial up at Scotland, and going on walks with different people and getting to know everyone, by doing work experience here it has given a better understanding of what happens in the work place and has allowed me to learn new things and expand my knowledge.

Last but not least I would like to say thank-you to all at EMD for making my time here memorable and fun.

ST HELENA SCIENCE

The Environmental Management Division in partnership with Enterprise St Helena and Saint Helena National Trust hosted 'St Helena Science' on the morning of Wednesday, 14th August at the newly opened Business and Information Centre at The Canister, in Jamestown.

The event consisted of a wide range of presentations, which included presentations by staff from Environmental Management Division, St Helena National Trust and returning degree students.

A forum entitled: 'How can we make recycling work for St Helena?' was also included in the event. The audience openly participated in the forum and discussions.

To conclude the event Dr Priscilla McDaniel presented a very thought-provoking presentation entitled 'Trans-Atlantic working mothers: The migratory experiences from economic and geographical perspectives.'

The event was well attended and finished at about 1pm.

EMD'S INPUT INTO THE AIRPORT PROJECT

SHG supports and inputs into the environmental management of the airport project primarily through work done by myself as EMD's environment lead, other staff in EMD, ANRD and the Environmental Health Section.

As the EMD lead, I form part of the environment team for the airport project, along with Robert Kleinjan, the Project Management Unit's (PMU) Environmental Monitor and Annina Van Neel, Basil Read's (BR) CECO, we meet weekly to discuss and take forward environmental issues in line with the overall environmental requirements for the airport project as set out in the Environmental Statement (ES), the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the Contractors EMP. We also attend the weekly client meetings and the monthly Stakeholder Engagement Forum.

Over the past few months the following key issues have been addressed:

- Discussions regarding facilitating the contractor's waste management plan through exploring options for shipping their hazardous waste off the island.
- Site walkovers for the road at Millennium Forest Junction, Dry Gut Open Channel, borrow site on Prosperous Bay Plain and the new BFI line. Site walkovers are done to identify any environmental issues on the ground before new sites are opened up and are attended by the environment team and other stakeholders as appropriate.
- Review of the ES Addendum for the Dry Gut Open Channel that went for planning approval in July. Following approval EMD staff and our work experience students assisted with the advance mitigation works on site.

In addition to the above, EMD's marine team work with BR and the PMU to conduct monthly seabird surveys in the Gill Point area to monitor whether or not the construction activities are having an impact on the seabird populations in the area.

Also ongoing is the provision of advice on seed collection and plant propagation by the EMD Nurseries team and biosecurity advice by the Pest Control and Biosecurity officer and her team at ANRD.

Isabel Peters