



# EMD

"Our Island. Our Environment. Our Responsibility."

## December 2012

Monthly Newsletter From The  
Environmental Management Directorate



### Cat Trapping in Masked Booby Colony at Lot's Wife

Over the last four years Masked Boobies have been steadily colonising the Lot's Wife area. Monitoring work shows their numbers have been increasing and they are nesting in new areas each season. From time to time cat scat (or droppings) has been noted on the main path to Lot's Wife but with no reported or noted interference to the birds. However, we received a report from a concerned member of the public that a rabbit carcass and a considerable amount of cat scat had been noted within close proximity of a Masked Booby nest containing a young chick. After much thought on the matter it was decided that a few traps could be placed in the area for a short period of time to attempt to catch any feral cats before they could disturb the nesting birds or their chicks.

As a result, during the period from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, members of the Marine Section along with the National Trust's Wirebird Team placed 3 cat traps at various places along the path to Lot's Wife. The areas were chosen in relation to the location of the initial report and in other areas where cat scat was identified or in ideal cat resting crevices. The traps were checked and rebaited daily by volunteers and members of the Environmental Management Directorate.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September the first feral cat was caught just meters away from our initial sighting report and a nesting Masked Booby. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> another cat was caught further along the path very near a large group of nesting and roosting birds. The cats were then taken to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (ANRD) where they were put to sleep.

We would like to thank Mr Rex Thomas of Sandy Bay for his initial report, the Wirebird team of the National Trust for lending and setting up the traps and their knowledge of cat behaviour in choosing locations. Also a big Thank you to the volunteers and members of the Environmental Management Directorate for regularly checking the traps.

Birds colonising the mainland area in this magnitude have not happened for hundreds of years, the more we can do to protect them the better. We therefore appeal to all hikers that visit the Lot's Wife area to report their observations of the birds and to further advise us of any concerns they might have.

Marine Section  
Nature Conservation Division

### FLYTIPPING IN THE RUN IN JAMESTOWN

**A REMINDER** to the public that any kind of waste is **NOT** allowed to be discarded in the Jamestown **RUN**. This is **ILLEGAL** and offenders risk prosecution and a fine of up to £10,000 if convicted.

### CLOSED SEASON FOR SPEAR FISHING

**1<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY 2013 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> OF MARCH 2013**

**DURING THIS PERIOD SPEAR FISHING IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME  
OR PLACE IN ST HELENA'S WATERS.**

*The Spear Guns (Control) Ordinance CAP 91 states that during a closed season, no person shall have a spear gun in his possession on or within twenty metres of any tidal water or upon any beach or foreshore or while swimming or while in any vessel.*

During this time most fish are at the spawning stage and it is therefore necessary to put measures in place to allow marine life a chance to breed and to grow into sustainable resources. The aim of the controlled season is not to stop people from enjoying the sea, it is to respect our oceans and its resources.

Elizabeth Clingham  
Marine Conservation Officer

### STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Mike Durnford on achieving a Level 4 Diploma with distinction in Environmental Waste Management through Stonebridge College.

### NEWS ON THE ENDEMIC ACENSION FRIGATEBIRD

Until recently, due to predation from feral cats on the main land in the past, the Frigatebirds could only be found nesting on the offshore Boatswain Bird Island. However due to conservation efforts on the mainland by introducing a feral cat eradication programme, Ascension has now recorded its first returning endemic Frigatebird nest on the island's mainland.

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EMD wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.





## WASTE WHEEL 2012

In order to gauge the amount of waste being collected and managed at the landfill site a waste compositional analysis called the 'Waste Wheel' was carried out.

Using a pre-determined methodology the Waste Wheel provides information on the weight, type and percentages of waste streams being disposed of.

### Methodology

Research is undertaken for the period of one week every three months to give as accurate calculation as possible, these calculations are compiled as follows;

- 1) The Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) is weighed, using twin axle weigh plates, each time it arrives at the landfill site before depositing its load.
- 2) Five black bags are removed from the RCV, these bags of waste are weighed individually to give average sack weight and then opened and sorted into fourteen waste streams. These individual streams are then weighed to give percentages of bag contents.
- 3) The RCV is re-weighed after depositing its load to confirm unladen weight.
- 4) All information is recorded and analysed to produce the Waste Wheel results.

The Waste Wheel is designed to provide information for the following;

- 1) Changes in percentages of waste streams being disposed of.
- 2) Evidence the success of recycling activities on the island such as; SHAPE recycling of paper, cardboard and textiles.
- 3) Assess the potential benefits of future recycling initiatives such as; kitchen and green waste treatment for composting.
- 4) To provide data for the strategic management of waste streams and related infrastructure on St Helena.

The data collected from RCV weighing is used to calculate the overall mass of waste being deposited to landfill from kerbside collections and the estimated operational life of Horse Point landfill site.

It is estimated that 70% of all waste deposited at Horse Point is from kerbside collections.

The predicted current life span of Horse Point landfill site is just 15 years, however with investment, increases in recycling and improved management this could extend to up to 60 years.

The most significant changes in waste percentages by weight between the 2002 results and those of 2012 are as follows;

- 1) Paper and cardboard percentages have reduced by 2.8%. This reduction may be as a result of the successful recycling of these streams by SHAPE.
- 2) Polystyrene has increased significantly from 0% to 2.49%, polystyrene food containers from shops and catering outlets being the main contributors to this waste stream.
- 3) The textiles percentage has more than doubled to 7.33% with a high volume of clothing being observed within the waste, some of these items were still wearable and could have been donated to The Salvation Army for recycling.
- 4) Garden waste has decreased to less than 1% from a previous figure of over 7%.

- 5) Ferrous Metals have increased by 4% and this increase may be as a result of the variety of tinned foods and canned drinks being imported and sold. The recycling of these streams could significantly reduce the volume of waste being collected for landfill.
- 6) Glass was recorded as a high percentage in 2002 and was reduced to just over 5% earlier in 2012, maybe through the success of local glass recycling but since the July Waste Wheel results it has increased again to over 17%. Glass is a versatile product that can be re-utilised in many ways and its recyclability should be encouraged as an alternative to using other products.
- 7) Kitchen waste has reduced since 2002 from 35% to 23% and the latest results show a further reduction since July 2012, the initial decrease may be as a result of a lower island population and more recently from an increase in home composting which has been encouraged as beneficial for growing fruit and vegetables. However, this percentage is still the highest of all waste streams recorded and therefore the recycling and treatment of kitchen waste into useful compost should be considered a priority.

Protection of the environment is essential to modern day living. A reduction in the amount of waste and pollution generated is not only beneficial to our local environment, as waste sent to landfill breaks down to produce so-called 'greenhouse' gases that pollute the atmosphere, but also contributes towards global efforts to minimize the effects predicted through climate change.

**Mike Durnford - Climate Change and Pollution Officer**



SHG 167 being weighed before offloading



A bag of sorted waste ready for weighing