

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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Successful Careers Fair 2013

The 2013 Careers Fair was held at Prince Andrew School on Wednesday 9 October, organised by the Adult and Vocational Education

Service working closely with private and public sector employers. Opening at 10am the Fair kick-started with the launch of the Apprenticeship Scheme by Fair and Apprenticeship, Coordinator, Cynthia Bennett who welcomed everyone present and gave a brief history of the Fair and the Apprenticeship Scheme.

This was followed by a speech from Director of Education, Colin Moore who urged the young people and students present to choose and inherit their own career. He went on to encourage them to choose their careers carefully and wisely and to choose ones that they would enjoy and achieve satisfaction. He reminded them that along with qualifications they would also need important personal qualities, which are just as essential for taking them far.

The official opening speech was given by Councillor Christine Scipio-O'Dean. Councillor Scipio-O'Dean explained that the purpose of the Fair was to showcase the range of careers available and needed on the Island and is a significant event in St Helena's calendar for keeping young people on the Island aware of available career choices. She also extended thanks to everyone who made the event possible and urged everyone present to gain as much as they could by browsing the various stalls and asking questions. Planned events for the day then commenced and all

visitors were able to browse the various stalls set up by organisations and businesses on St Helena which aimed to provide information on what specific jobs entailed and

qualifications needed to pursue chosen careers. There was also a range of hands on activities displaying specialist equipment which is used in selected businesses and sections within St Helena Government.

Throughout the day various talks were also given on topics surrounding Opportunities on completion of the airport, Apprenticeship, Scholarships, Career development through scholarship, Insurance, Career Path to

Environmental Management, Police Cadetship, Training, Hospitality, Private Sector Development, Tourism and Career options with Maths and Statistics.

The purpose of having a Careers Fair is to encourage promotion and employment with businesses, as well as promoting career progression. Cynthia commented on the

success of the day:

"Once again I have been totally overwhelmed not just from the success of the Careers Fair but more so from the tremendous commitment and support given by everyone enabling us to put on such a splendid and meaningful display.

"The stalls were evidence of lots and lots of hard work, thought and even more improvement. I am sure that we all can be confident that we have achieved the whole objective of the Fair to present information on careers in all forms to a cross section of people regardless of their age or interest.



New Addition to the AG's Chambers

The Attorney General's Chambers have recently welcomed a new addition to their staff, Nikita Crowie, originally from Deadwood.

Nikita is a familiar face in the Legal Section having worked there before leaving for training in the UK in 2010. Nikita has now returned as a Legal Officer having recently graduated from the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives.

Funded by the St Helena Government, Nikita embarked on her three year's training at Bristol City College.

Nikita said:

"Initially the purpose of my study was to train as a new Registrar of Lands but since then Government underwent restructuring and my role changed to become even more exciting and diverse, dealing with all legal issues as opposed to just lands related."

In her first year at College Nikita learnt the basics of all laws; these included Criminal, Tort Law, Civil Litigation, Family, Contract and Land Law. Once the basics of the different laws had been learnt, in her second and third year Nikita was required to work in a professional office alongside her study; Nikita was based at Quality Solicitors Burroughs Day in Bristol where she was able to gain practical experience to complement her theory.

Nikita's second and third year was spent studying her specialist subjects which are Land Law, Contract, Equity and Trusts and Conveyancing.

Nikita will be inputting all that she has learnt while on training into her new role on St Helena.

Nikita said:

*"I specialise in land related issues and contracts but the department is very varied so I can be asked to assist with any query that comes through the door".
"Of course St Helena law is in many respects different to the laws of England and Wales. In St Helena we deal with local Ordinances so certain things I learnt while in the UK I cannot directly apply her but many of the principles are the same. I have definitely been putting my knowledge to work even though some matters have been a bit challenging,*



but then again, I always enjoy a challenge."

Nikita plans to remain on Island for the long term but recognises that she will need some refreshers along the way. She said:

"Law is progressive, new laws get passed, laws get repealed so you always need to keep abreast of current practices. With law it's not just about knowledge, it's about your conduct as well so obviously I can't do anything that infringes with what a person of the law needs to be doing."

Nikita has settled back in, enjoying Island life and feeling like she never left:

"It's good to be home and in familiar surroundings, and I would encourage any young person with the chance to embark on overseas study to embrace it. The opportunity only comes around once in a life time. I know study can get really hard and there are many times when I wanted to throw in the towel, but I thought I will never get this opportunity again so I need to make the best of it and I would encourage anyone to take that chance."



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Reading Awareness at St Paul's Primary

Reading Awareness Day was once again celebrated at St Paul's Primary on Thursday 26 September, led by Miss Sherell Thomas. The day began with pupils dressing up as various book characters; Bob the Builders, Harry Potters, a little Barney and Super Man could be seen amongst the crowd. Teachers also joined in, dressed as Witches, Cats and Cowboys. A competition was held to select the best dressed book characters. Participants from each year group were selected to go on stage and Judges, Sharon Henry, Jean Corker and Vivienne Wood had the task of selecting the best dressed boys and girls. Commenting after the announcement of the winners, Vivienne said: *"Those that won wore costumes that reflected great imagination, where parents and children took time in hand making them. There are many more I wish I could have chosen and picking the winners was a tough decision."*

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss, 'I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!'

The day followed with reading sessions and parents were also invited to join in scheduled activities.



Cancer Awareness Week 2013

The St Helena Cancer Support and Awareness Group each year holds a Cancer Awareness and Fundraiser Week on the Island. This year activities started on Thursday 10 October with a Pink Panther and Friends Walk About (pictured) in lower Jamestown, collecting funds for the cause. An Information Stall was also held in front of the Canister. Other planned activities include a Cheese and Wine night onboard the RMS St Helena, a Coffee Morning at the Consulate, a sponsored Pink Walk and a Mufti and Awareness Day for all organisations.



His Excellency Governor Capes officially launched the Peaks National Park on World Tourism Day, 27 September 2013. Attended by Councillors, school children, SHG officials, members of ESH and other interested parties who braved the climb from Black Gate, the launch took place at 10am with an opening speech from Terrestrial Conservation Advisor and Trainer, Dave Higgins.

Dave welcomed everyone to the launch and expressed his appreciation for attendees' interest in conservation on St Helena. He went on to talk about the launch of the Peaks National Park as part of the development of 23 National Conservation Areas for St Helena which will make up over 40% of the Island when they are completed. Dave then handed the floor over to Governor Capes for his opening remarks.

In his speech Governor Capes remarked on the hard work that has been done since 1996 when the area around Diana's Peak was proclaimed St Helena's first National Park. Since then much hard work has been done to preserve the tree fern and other endangered species. Governor Capes gave special thanks to the Nature Conservation Group, to the National Trust and to all those who have worked so hard to care for St Helena's environment.

Governor Capes said:

"As we prepare for the arrival of air access, just over two short years away, it is right that we should raise awareness of the priceless asset we have in St Helena's natural beauty and take steps to ensure that we preserve it for the generations to come. By clearly defining the boundaries of our national parks and setting out clearly what may, or may not be done within those boundaries we will retain a place that all who live here can be proud of and enjoy, while giving our tourists an unforgettable experience."

"Let's enjoy the best of St Helena, but let's be sure to leave it in good shape for others to enjoy."

Following this Governor Capes and Councillor Gavin Ellick each planted a tree within the National Park and the day continued with refreshments and various exciting activities organized by the Nature Conservation Team and the St Helena National Trust. Activities included tree planting for school children, workings of the Peaks Nursery, Flax Weaving with SHAPE and showing attendees the important but dangerous task of getting rid of flax. Also on offer was a walking tour around the Peaks and a chance to see some of the endemic invertebrates found there.

On the success of the launch, Dave commented:

"A number of organisations deserve our thanks including the St Helena National Trust and Tourism; special thanks go to all who joined us on the day. The next 18 months will see further development of National Conservation Areas. The designation of these biodiversity hotspots will help meet the goal of a sustainable and green Island. Anyone interested in our work can contact me on 22270 or david-higgins@enrd.gov.sh"

National Conservation Areas (NCAs): Fast Facts

What is a National Conservation Area?

A NCA is an 'umbrella term' adopted by St Helena to describe a range of sites that represent the very best of St Helena's landscapes, plants, animals, landforms and heritage.

What is the purpose of NCAs?

- To conserve nationally important assets
- To conserve what is important to people and help create and sustain livelihoods—allows discrete management appropriate for that area
- To conserve the environment for future generations
- To conserve ecosystem goods and services

How many NCAs are there?

There are 23 designated NCAs, split into four types:

- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- Important Wirebird Areas
- Historic Conservation Areas



Governor Capes plants a tree at the Peaks National Park

