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**Rope Rescue & Access Training** 



26 staff members from the Airport Fire & Rescue Service, St Helena Fire & Rescue Service and the Rock Guards, have successfully passed an intensive technical rope and access course, conducted by trainers Neal Pickersgill and Andy Barker of Technical Rescue Training UK Ltd.

The training comprised three different levels, including a separate programme for seven personnel who also passed as Supervisors. This training is a requirement under the Airport's accreditation, due to the Island's difficult terrain, but was also an opportunity to upskill personnel for search and rescue of missing persons which may occur elsewhere on-Island or around the shoreline.

The training will continue on St Helena, to be carried out by the newly qualified Supervisors. Technical Rescue Training UK Ltd will reassess the training programme every three years.

A reception was held at Plantation House on Wednesday 21 September 2016 to congratulate and present certificates to the 26 staff members who did a brilliant job.

Emergency Planning Manager, Ian Johnson, said:

"The training has now upskilled and qualified 26 personnel from SHG Fire &Rescue, SHG Rock Guards and the Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting Service in various levels of Rope Access & Rope Rescue, with seven personnel also achieving Supervisor level. This means we have teams of personnel who will be able to get to inaccessible areas of terrain on the Island, should we need to carry out rescue and recovery of any missing or injured members of the public. Under the direction of the Supervisors, the teams will further enhance their skills with regular training and combined exercise scenarios."

## Aircraft at St Helena Airport



St Helena Airport accommodated two aircraft on the Apron on Friday 23 September 2016. One aircraft was chartered by Basil Read and the other was a Hawker 800 aircraft arriving from Walvis Bay, Namibia, to collect an adult needing emergency medical care.

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# **Environmental Team Departures**

Project Management Unit (PMU) - In August 2016, Environmental Monitor for Halcrow/CH2M, Robert Kleinjan, completed his long-term contract as part of the PMU on the St Helena Airport Project. Robert first arrived on Island over four years ago with his young family. As Environmental Monitor, Robert provided oversight and assurance that the Environmental Management Plan for the Airport Project was being effectively implemented. He worked closely and collaboratively with Basil Read's environmental team, as well as St Helena Government's Access Office and Environmental Management Division. Robert led on communications

with stakeholders, hosting several environmentally-focussed Stakeholder Engagement Forums over the course of the project. Thanks go to Robert for his dedication and commitment to the environment and St Helena Airport Project. Robert returns to the United Kingdom with CH2M, and will providing support remotely as required. We wish Robert all the best on future projects. Access Office - At the end of October 2016, LEMP Project Manager, Ross Towers, will complete his long-term contract managing SHG's responsibilities for the Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme (LEMP). Ross joined the Access Office in October 2013, and was responsible for initial project planning, co-ordinating with partners to create the landscape outline and detailed designs, setting up nursery facilities and teams for plant propagation as well as engaging with the private sector on rehabilitation activities. Alongside the Project Management Unit, he also worked closely with Basil Read's environmental team on their LEMP-related activities. Ross has been a great asset to St Helena for his contribution to the Island's largest conservation and environmental mitigation project, and returns to the UK to continue his career in conservation. We wish Ross all the best on his future endeavours.



# **New LEMP Team Leaders**

The Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme (LEMP), has welcomed two LEMP Team Leaders - Shayla Ellick, who started work with the project in May and Paul Tyson, who started in September. Over the past five months, Shayla has led on line managing the field teams, drafting the nursery plant propagation plan, and

making the LEMP field base at the Horse Point Landfill Site operational.



Her main focus going forward will be on compensatory works for land permanently lost to the Airport, including rehabilitation and restoration projects at relevant sites around the Island. She will also be managing the nursery team and have overall responsibility for the Half Tree Hollow and Piccolo plant nurseries.

Paul will be focusing on the rehabilitation of environment and land, temporarily disturbed by the Airport Project. He is line manager for three field teams, and will assist with project management, health & safety, and recruitment - as well as day-to-day staff management. Paul's role will initially focus on procurement and work planning for the next 12 months and will see him liaising with all stakeholders on and off-Island, including data collection, analysis and reporting.

