

JANUARY 2023

# THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



## Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this edition you can read all about the prize-giving reception which Governor Phillip hosted for the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race, find out about a team of scientist who visited the Island to support our local specialist in identifying, managing and containing non-native species, and read about an Indian Naval Sailing Vessel who were participating in the Cape to Rio race and why they made an unplanned visit to St Helena.

If you'd like to contribute a story to the St Helena Ambassador or have any suggestions on what you'd like to see included, please feel free to contact me on tel: 22470 or via email: [jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh).

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# Governor Phillips hosts prize-giving reception for the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race

HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE and Mrs Phillips hosted the prize-giving reception for the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race (CTSH), previously called Governors Cup Yacht Race, at Plantation House on Friday, 13 January 2023. During the reception, Race organiser from Royal Cape Yacht Club, Dale Kushner, presented appreciation plaques to key stakeholders, including Airlink, Andrew Weir Shipping, the MV *Helena*, the Governor, Saint Helena Yacht Club, and St Helena Tourism, and gave a special mention to various individuals and institutions in appreciation of their assistance in making the CTSH event possible. Prizes were then presented to participants of the CTSH as follows:

## Multihulls

**3rd:** *Sulanga*

**2nd:** *Banjo* awarded the Bellows Line Honours Plate for being the first yacht across the finish line

**1st:** *Compromise* awarded the Patrick Taylor Cup for 1st place in the multihull category

## Monohulls

**8th:** *Unwind*

**7th:** *Sudioos II*

**6th:** *Rocket*

**5th:** *Serendipity* awarded the Waterman Trophy for 1st place monohull from False Bay Yacht Club

**4th:** *Naledi* awarded the Ambrose Family Trophy for being the 1st family to cross the finishing line

**3rd:** *Anastasia*

**2nd:** *Kia Paarl FOMO*

**1st:** *Tintin* awarded the Governor's Cup plus a prize from Airlink.

Congratulations are extended to all participants of the Cape to St Helena!



# Team of scientist supports development of new biological recording system for St Helena

Helen Roy from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and a team of scientist arrived to St Helena in November 2022 to observe invasive non-native species that are already present on-Island and assess the potential of these non-natives species spreading to other places across the Island.

In hopes of finding a way to manage and contain the non-native species, Helen and her team have been working with our local specialists to essentially develop a database of non-native species. In addition to this they have been working with the St Helena Research Institute to produce a recording system for the Island called 'iRecord St Helena'. The premise of this new system is to create the ability to record terrestrial plants and invertebrates found on St Helena.

The teams first week of training consisted of workshops prioritizing the management of established invasive non-native species, their eradication and spread prevention. Whereas, the second week consisted of an introduction to the 'iRecord St Helena' system. Additionally, within the two weeks of the team's arrival there was a training seminar located at the Education Learning Centre.

Helen explained:

*"On the first day which was Tuesday there were many people from the Government departments, the Saint Helena National Trust and the Research Institute and then later in the week it was more in*



*depth training for BEST Project Manager, Selene Gough, on how to design survey forms, how to update it and how to guide other people in using the 'iRecord' system. It's a very simple system for everybody to impute data and extract data. So all of the people who attended the seminar will know now how to do that. And then there was more advanced training that's been around designing*



*survey forms, using the 'iRecord' system. Ultimately, it's really exciting to think St Helena has this recording system and its way of capturing this incredible biodiversity data."*

Helen plans to return to St Helena, bringing a smaller team back in about a years' time to talk about the analysis side of the 'iRecord' system, and to establish whether there are any trends from the data imputed into the system.



# Indian Naval Sailing Vessel 'Tarini' visits St Helena



Indian Naval Sailing Vessel *Tarini* recently participated in the 50th edition of the Cape to Rio Yacht Race.

The team, skippered by Capt Atool Sinha with Lt Cdr Ashutosh Sharma, Lt Cdr Dilna K, Lt Cdr Roopa A and SLt Aviral Keshav as the crew, set sail from India on the 17 November 2022 for Cape Town.

The expedition aims to train the crew on-board in essential seamanship skills including Navigation, Communication, Technical and Planning. The expedition is an important milestone in training of the two women officers on-board for undertaking solo circumnavigation as well as promoting the work of the Indian Navy.

Unfortunately the team experienced a rigging failure when they departed Cape Town for Rio.

With thanks to the Indian Navy and representatives in the UK they were able to make contact with a sailing rigger in Cape Town who flew to St Helena and the *Tarini* diverted to St Helena, as the location was downwind of their location.

As they have now fixed the rigging failure, the crew set sail to Rio on the 21 January 2023.

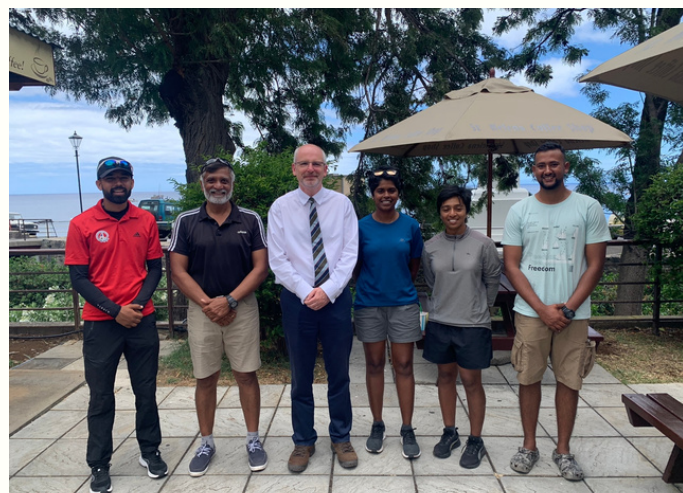
*Tarini's* Skipper has about 41 years of sailing experience and has won several national and international medals for India and is committed to training his crew, encouraging a leadership mentality in tough conditions during their sailing journey.

The Skipper, Capt Atool Sinha, said that he found St Helena to be "quaint and friendly" and that the community spirit reminded him of his own country and he would love to return.

St Helena's popularity as a port of call is popular for sailing yachts, a large number of which stop here every year. A safe haven awaits in an unspoilt conveniently positioned destination in the South Atlantic.



Crew of *Tarini* in Cape Town, South Africa



HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE and crew of *Tarini*