

Watch Group awards night

IT was an evening of awards at the Chamber of Commerce on July 11 as members of the Watch Group (Falklands Conservation youth group) received presentations at their last evening meeting of the season.

The Watch Group have been collecting badges throughout the year for carrying out a variety of conservation and wildlife related activities.

Once they have collected 10 badges they receive an award. On Thursday night, following an excellent update on the Watch Group tussac planting monitoring on Middle Island from Grant Munro, two members of the Watch Group received their "Tussac Habitat" level awards.

Katie and Rose were presented with a certificate and a mug each and will now be able to look forward to a free day trip to a wildlife site of their choosing as part of their reward. They will now be working toward their "Rockhopper" level award next season.

There was also another special presentation that took place with the Robin Woods Memorial trophy presented to Sarah.

This award is presented annually to the member of the Watch Group who has shown the most commitment and engagement to Watch Group and conservation activities throughout the year.

Despite strong competition from a number of members, Sarah

was a worthy winner having demonstrated a real enthusiasm to all things conservation related during the season. She attended regularly come rain or shine and always put her best into all activities she took part in.

She also wrote an excellent article on conservation on Weddell Island for the Watch Group newsletter "Rocky's News".

The Watch Group meets twice a month with a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities and is for children aged 8-16. If you would like more information about the Watch Group please contact Falklands Conservation's Community Outreach Officer Glenn Welch at COO@conservation.org.fk.

THE CHURCH COLUMN

WHAT'S your vision of peace? A deserted beach? Quiet music? A wood-pigeon in a carwash? What?

A few years ago, we used the car wash at a well known U.K. supermarket. It was one of those giant automated machines where you just drive in, stop and turn the car's engine off.

The machine sprays the car with soapy water. Huge revolving brushes come down from the roof and in from the sides and flail against the car from front to back, before reversing to flail all the way from back to front. Finally, clean water sprays the car and another arm descends to blow it dry.

We put our token in the slot, drove in and shut the engine off. Soapy water sprayed down. The big brush started turning and descended from the roof... and down on one of the supporting pistons came a nest... on which a wood-pigeon was sitting serenely. She came down to our level, completely unfazed by the noise and movement. The whole apparatus, nest and all, moved past our eyes as the brushes flailed over the vehicle. Then the cycle reversed, the nest came back into view and we watched nest and pigeon rise slowly back into the roof.

The surrounding countryside is full of trees, cliffs, barns... many seemingly safe nest sites. Yet this bird had selected a place amid noisy machinery, just a foot or so from whirling wet brushes, where her nest moved and brought her within inches of human beings.

In noise and movement, she had found a secure place of safety where she could rest at peace.

This world cannot give us peace. It is rife in war, violence and aggression, homelessness, hunger and sickness. We live in a world of trouble, and we can't isolate ourselves from the ills suffered by our neighbours of all nationalities and all faiths.

But amidst the world's turbulence Jesus Christ offers us his peace, peace which the world cannot give. To those who will listen, Christ offers himself as a place of safety and security where we can rest, like a wood-pigeon in a carwash.

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' (John 14:27)

Rev Canon Kathy Biles
Christ Church Cathedral



L-R: Glenn Welch presents awards to Rose, Katie and Sarah. Pics FC

FIDC host business breakfast

RETURNING college and university students met with members of industry and business on July 19 to discuss careers options.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) along with Falklands College host an annual business breakfast to showcase the range of careers possible in the Falkland Islands, and to offer students career advice.

Jane Clarke, Business Engagement Officer at FIDC, explained that it also gives a chance for networking opportunities, "we had a room full of people, I've heard many great conversations going around. There's talk of graduate programs, workshops, apprenticeships and work experience. I am really please that students are being offered something."

Luna Ley is currently studying psychology, sociology and



criminology A-Level and told PN that the business breakfast was useful, "it's given me an insight on what they do for their jobs, and how they link to the subjects. It

has helped me realise there are options for me to do that.

"I didn't know that there were particularly options for jobs for me here, but now I know that there are jobs for me to do here that are part of my career that I could do after I finish university."

Jane added that, "I think all of the students so far have said they really enjoyed the conversations they've had.

"We do a follow up with them each year. We've had a couple of the students throughout the years that have gotten a job because of the business breakfast, and I think it is so worth it to give the children a chance to network with the business community."

Left and above: Students talking to industry professionals over breakfast at the Malvina. Pics Jane Clarke/FIDC

