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## Press Release

# The Morag Husband Campbell Medal South Georgia Association 2020 Award to John Caradoc (Crag) Jones

The South Georgia Association is delighted to announce the award for the third year of its newly struck medal for 2020 to Mr John Caradoc Jones, *“For his contributions to fisheries management and scientific studies, and for championing adventurous travel, exploration and mountaineering on South Georgia”*.

**The Medal** has been made possible by a generous bequest from a long-standing supporter of the Association, Miss Morag Husband Campbell. She was so enthralled when visiting South Georgia, she determined to leave a bequest to the SGA. The Medal comprises a Sterling silver relief medallion, 60mm in diameter. The name of the awardee is inscribed on the reverse.

**The Recipient** Crag Jones has devoted much of his life activities in the Southern Ocean and, specifically to South Georgia. He has been involved in fisheries management both as a scientist and as a government officer. He is well known in the mountaineering and expedition world, having made a number of challenging ascents, particularly in South Georgia. His first ascents of previously unclimbed peaks are The Three Brothers, Mt Ashley, Mt Pelagic, Mt Nordenskjold, Starbuck Peak, Mt Baume; and the third ascent of Mt Paget, the island’s highest peak (2,935 m (9,629 ft)). He has also completed lengthy ski traverses including the Shackleton Traverse.

Crag worked as one of the first observers on fishing vessels in the Falkland Islands, managing the observer team and data collection in order to ensure compliance with regulations to protect the fish stocks. In 1990 he was recruited as first post-conflict civilian Harbourmaster on South Georgia, establishing and running a new harbour and devising data management system for trans-shipment operations. He returned in 1994 to extend IT system for the new fisheries management operation, and as scientific observer on research cruises.

Since 2007 Crag has chaired and coordinated the South Georgia government’s Expeditions Advisory Panel who advises the government on expedition management and acts as the stakeholder voice for visiting expeditions. His skill in liaising between applicants and government and the respect he has earned in the mountaineering and expedition world gives him authority to guide applicants who wish to visit South Georgia. He has helped steer the government’s view of the expedition world, and the value of allowing expeditions to take place, balancing the inherent risks and keeping alive the spirit of adventure in one of the world’s last wildernesses.

The Award will be presented to Crag Jones at the next meeting of the Association.

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Website: [www.southgeorgiaassociation.org](http://www.southgeorgiaassociation.org)

President: David Tatham

Chairman: David Drewry

Secretary: Fran Prince

Notes for Editors:

**The Award:** is to individuals who have contributed significantly to the understanding, appreciation and promotion of South Georgia. This includes i) scientific studies as well as the arts and humanities including culture, history, heritage, artistic endeavour etc. ii) adventurous travel and "exploration", iii) activities which enhance the wider appreciation of South Georgia (e.g. in the media or through administrative functions).

**South Georgia:** is a sub-Antarctic island and a British Overseas Territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. It is remote, mountainous and of exceptional natural beauty, with abundant wildlife both on the island and in the surrounding ocean. Uninhabited apart from two small research stations and a few government employees, it is an unspoilt wilderness with a fascinating heritage that is none the less environmentally vulnerable and has been featured in the recent Blue Planet II series. It is 165 km long and some 35-km wide. The Falkland Islands are about 1,300 km (810 mi) west. Captain James Cook made the first landing in 1775. It was the base for the extensive harvesting of fur and elephant seals in the late 18th and 19th Centuries. From 1904 to the 1960s its primary activity was whaling. Sir Ernest Shackleton landed and traversed the island after his perilous crossing from Elephant Island in 1916. He died on a subsequent expedition and is buried at the whaling station of Grytviken.

**The South Georgia Association:** was formed in 2001 to give voice to those who care for South Georgia and has several hundred members. Its aims are to encourage interest in, and concern for, the island of South Georgia, to encourage the study of South Georgia, and promote the conservation of its natural and cultural heritage, and to promote contacts and encourage fellowship among those who have lived and worked in or around South Georgia, have visited or are interested in the Island. Further details are to be found at: <http://www.southgeorgiaassociation.org>



Crag Jones at Carlita Bay, South Georgia in 1990. The peak in the background is the Three Brothers. Crag made the first solo ascent some years later.

