



PEOPLE

WITH JULIET POUTEAUX

Island nurtured Oxfam's climate change adviser's love of nature

Former Elizabeth College student returns as keynote speaker

by Juliet Pouteaux

THERE is still hope that people are trying to tackle climate change, Oxfam's climate change adviser and former Elizabeth College student Simon Bradshaw has said.

Dr Bradshaw, 39, lives in Australia, but has happy memories of his childhood in Guernsey. He has returned for a short visit and was Elizabeth College's keynote speaker at this year's prize giving.

This was his first visit back to the island in three years.

'I have lots of happy memories of college and of growing up in Guernsey,' he said.

'It's a wonderful place to grow up in and it nurtured my love of the natural world.'

At college he was interested in sailing, kayaking and climbing, and that love of the outdoors persisted when he left college in 1996 and became a deckhand in the Caribbean.

He went on to study environmental philosophy at Cardiff University and then spent four years at Melbourne University researching environmental challenges on the Tibetan Plateau. This research included several weeks of fieldwork in Tibet, Nepal and India.

Simon joined the Australia Tibet Council and worked alongside the Tibetan community in their struggle to protect the environment and culture of Tibet.

'This is an area which is on the front line [of climate change],' he said.

'It's exposed, because it already has a dry landscape. It has the largest ice sheet outside the Arctic and Antarctic.'

However the climate is warming and the ice sheet receding, and there are worries about what this will mean for the country and those downstream, as the ice feeds major rivers in the region.

In 2010 he moved to the Aus-



Oxfam's climate change adviser Simon Bradshaw also gave a talk on the consequences of climate change.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 16122904)

tralian Conservation Foundation, where he became increasingly focused on solutions to the global climate crisis, before joining Oxfam in 2012 as a climate change adviser.

'I have spent a lot of time in the Pacific island countries, which are so vulnerable to climate change,'

he said.

'It also shows me how they are rising to deal with the challenge. It gives me a lot of hope and optimism.'

He said it was tough because the poorest communities were often hit with climate change first, even though they had done the

least to cause the problem.

'There are great challenges to work on in the years ahead,' he said.

He now lives in Sydney with his wife Kyinzom Dhongdue and their two-year-old daughter Lhakyi Dhongdue.

He said he had been revisiting

the good things about Guernsey during his short visit, such as blackberrying, swimming in the sea and visiting Sark.

As well as speaking at the College's prize giving, he also gave a talk on the consequences of climate change to an Upper Sixth geography class.