

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

June—July 2013

\$2.00



Big moon + big storm = big tides. I used this equation to explain to Moby why the wharves at Thule and Golden bays and the Horseshoe causeway were all

completely submerged for a day this month. He just gazed at me with his unblinking eyes as if to say, *A meteorologist you're not, Mum.* (I think I'm clever because when my cousin Claire came to visit, and told me after a few weeks *I think your clock is, like, broken,* I said scornfully *it's a barometer.* But if that's the measuring stick for cleverness, well...)

Time is up for muttonbirding this year and there are no little birds to tell us why there were no little birds. It's been the worst muttonbirding season in recent memory, which makes Lania's visit to Ruggies all the more generous: she shared a slideshow of her family's trip this year, and a tray of roasted *titi*.

Speaking of birds, remember the penguin on the front page of the previous issue? The caption stated, wrongly, Fiordland Crested Penguin. It was, in fact, a Snares Crested Penguin. Matt Jones, excellent photographer and bird expert, sent the photo to me with the correct name and for some reason I turned around and mis-named it and I am truly sorry for the mistake: sorry to Matt, who of all people knows his birds and knows the difference between a Snares Crested and a Fiordland Crested penguin; Sorry to the readers who were led down my daft path of penguin misidentification. And, for good measure, I apologise to the penguin. For all I know, in his world, being referred to as a Fiordland Crested Penguin is akin to being called a Jafa. Page 2 for more *mea culpa*.

You know you've been watching too much X Factor when your



CONGRATULATIONS to the Stewart Island Promotions Team who won Best Food Stall at the Bluff Oyster festival. Thanks to Pam Henderson for this photo of Vicki in her cod costume.



Kingfisher at Lord's River. See page 10 for a story and more beautiful images from Paul Peychers, one of our return visitors. (Moon photo at left also from Paul).

husband comes home and instead of asking *How was fishing* you say: *So did you SMASH it, bro?* I couldn't sing *happy birthday* to save my life but I love watching singers, particularly live acts. When musicians turn up at the Pub here I find myself wondering about their lives. A while ago I cornered one such musician with a million nosy questions and he was kind enough to share what it's like to live on the road with a guitar. (p11)

The Search and Rescue weekend here was a great success despite nasty weather. I know someone who wishes he'd packed a roll of toilet paper, which apparently was the difference between silver and gold for the incident management team. There are so many puns and bad jokes I could make here my head is spinning. (p12)

A guest's comment at a recent wedding: *you know you're at a Stewart Island party when the saveloys are going faster than the oysters and crayfish.* Congratulations to Mona and Lorry for pulling off a big wonderful gypsy wedding. Everyone dressed up awesomely, including the cake! And a flenser from the whaling days to cut it... what a deeply beautiful touch of island family history. See page 15 for some rhymes from the night.

Thanks to the HMB School, Buck, Nigel, and everyone else who helped put on the Matariki Festival and hangi for the community. Story and photos next issue.

Please note: I'll be going overseas next month, so if there's anything you'd like to share in *SIN* this winter, make sure you get it into the July issue as there might not be another issue until September.

*Ma te wheturangi o Matariki,
e tiaki mai,
e manaaki mai i a koe,
i a kotou ranei,
mo te tau e taka mai ana.*

May the gentle light of Matariki
guide and inspire you all this year.

—Jess

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING GOOFS

Someone once sent a short, polite email to inform me our banner had been missing an *N* for three months. How could that have happened?

Here's what happens: I spend weeks putting together the *Stewart Island News*, I scan it repeatedly looking for goofs, and then I email it to the printer. This always occurs late at night, and as soon as I press *send* I head to bed. When my head hits the pillow a weird thing happens. A hibernating super-editor in my brain snorts awake, and every word from every page of the recent SIN scrolls down the inside of my eyelids and dozens of mistakes that are *TOO LATE TO CORRECT* jump out at me. And many more still get missed.

I make heaps of mistakes in these pages and I'm sorry about every misplaced apostrophe, un-credited photo, and misspelt name. One little misspelt name can make a huge difference! I learned this the hard way copy-editing a newspaper in Wyoming and botching an obituary. Fortunately, the lady whose death I reported had a great sense of humour and wrote me a lovely note of forgiveness. The telemark skiing Olympian whom I referred to as a telemarketer throughout an entire article? Not so amused.

I cringe when the phone rings in the days after the SIN "hits the stand" at Ship to Shore. Have I made someone mad? Have I made someone really really mad? I usually

say I'm sorry, and sometimes I really am sorry, and sometimes I'm sort of rolling my eyes sorry. A lady called once (actually thrice inside an hour) to lambast me, not for something I printed, but for something she suspected I *might* print someday and she was pre-emptively offended. (She didn't get any kind of sorry.)

Matt doesn't fall into the category of angry phone callers and he kindly mentioned my goof with good humour. But he certainly didn't deserve to have his name smudged with one of my mistakes, and that's probably one of the worst things you can do to a person who really knows his birds: pair his name with an egregiously mis-identified bird on the front page of a paper, next to his own photo to boot!

I am gutted about misnaming the penguin. Not just for the error but for what it represents. When people send me their photographs and articles they trust that I will treat those words and pictures well: I don't take that responsibility lightly, and I am truly *un-eye-rollingly* sorry when I goof on that.

—Jess



Snares Crested Penguin.
Photo from Matt Jones



Getting dinner ready. Buck prepares the hangi for the Matariki Festival at HMB School.

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Ph/fax 03 2191494 cell 027 4646147

jed.stewartisland@extra.co.nz

202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

Community Centre News

Hi All!

Winter is here so lets get started into a new gym programme. Tash from World of Fitness is here on the 26th and 27th June, \$30 for a 40min session and programme.

The Community Centre will support you by giving you a month free when you sign up for 3 months, if you already have a membership we will add 1 month to your existing membership. Tash is great and inspiring and gets you back into your gym groove so let me know text 0272316305 or leave a message on 2191477.

Circuit class is still going strong tues, thurs at 5.30pm or sat 9am – give it a go for all levels of fitness. \$2

Tai Chi and weights class is on Wed 10am \$2 - all welcome

A big thank you to Russell and Carolyn Squires for donating the use of the outdoor gas heater – it is great thanks so much.

—Diddle

Stewart Island Senior Citizens
(SISC)

Mid-Winter Traditional Feast

Will be held at the South Seas Hotel on

Tuesday 18th June

Stewart Island Residents over 60 Welcome

Phone Sue on 327



Photo from Carolyn Squires

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem



Hand coloured photograph of Halfmoon Bay 1920s

We welcome back to the island Jo Massey who is Southland's Roving Museum Officer. She goes all over Southland helping out small museums with things like the correct way of housing items, cataloguing procedures, photographing objects, funding, etc. She's been a great asset to our museum and we have her till mid August and look forward to using her skills to guide us in our cataloguing and housing of objects big and small. She has a great sense of humour and is fun to work with. We all learn so much from her on her visits.

We had a couple of identifications on the last month's school photo. In the front row the boy next to Rhonda Leask is Martin Amos and the boy next to Tammy Whaitiri is a Mackay but the first name is unknown. Sorry to Stephen King for mis-spelling your name as Steven.

Acquisitions since last month have bought in some interesting items from the Traill family including a dish that belonged to the Rev. J.F.H. Wohlers when he lived on Ruapuke Island. It's because of Rev. Wohlers that we have among other things, a wonderful register of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths from 1829-1885. These have proved of great importance for families looking up their ancestry. Also a unique cast iron coffee grinder from the home of our first museum curator, Cedric Smith.

Bountiful were the **enquiries** from last month but this month there's been quite a **flood** (maybe it's something to do with the weather?). Subjects included the schooner Rosetta, the boat Ranui and the marching teams of Stewart Island. Did you know that the marching teams were often made up of locals working at the boarding houses and was their way of having a friendly competition between them. There was also an enquiry about a German trench mortar (gun) that was donated to the Stewart Island County Council in the 1920's. We want to know if anyone knows anything about it and what became of it. The gun sat on the grass verge at Halfmoon Bay beach not far from where the post office now stands. Families this past month included Titi Hinewai and William Stewart who Stewart Island is named after. We also had a lady come in who is doing the authorised biography of Sheila Natusch. We are really thrilled about this as Sheila has been an important part of our island over the years. The book is due out next year and we'll keep you posted on this.



Some of the photos for the photo exhibition at the Norwegian celebration have been picked out and we're excited at some of the ones that are showing up. Offers of others are coming in and already people interested in the celebration have expressed interest in the event 4, 5 and 6 April 2014.

The Saturday dawned, no sun up yet,
Yet a few undaunted souls negotiated the steps,

In the dark, up into the pavilion,
Grabbing the buckets of fish with caution,

Loading them onto the ferry in lots of ice,
Time for a quick photo with the sunrise; nice!

A wee bumpy trip across the Strait ensued,
Only the Blue Cod dared sample the booze,

We set up the stall and awaited the crowd,
The pipers came with the oyster nice and loud,

Customers came, buying mussels and cod,
If we had a tenner for every photo we would have made a wad!

The people didn't buy much, because, to be blunt,
Another stall had nicked our ideas and was right at the front!

But never mind as we wound up to make our way home,
We got to hear The Eastern and Bold Deceivers make the stage their own,

A vote and a trophy; nek minnit we won best stall!
(It's available to view in the library window, next to the hall)

A couple of drinks onboard and then in the boozier,
Next thing you know the day is all over,

Thanks again to all the helpers who chopped,
You know who you are and you guys rocked,

Especially Pat King who chopped, wrestled and sewed,
Animal wrangler extraordinaire and it showed! —Vicki Coats



Matariki Festival! Above; the kids' sign inviting us all.
Below: preparing salmon for the hangi.



Review of Conservation Management Strategies



Canterbury, Otago and Southland

The Director-General of Conservation gives public notice of the review of the following conservation management strategies (CMS) under section 17H of the Conservation Act 1987:

- Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy;
- Otago Conservation Management Strategy;
- Southland Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy.

Copies of the draft CMSs can be inspected during working hours between 9.00am and 4.30pm at:

- Department of Conservation, National Office, Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington;
- Any Conservancy Office in New Zealand;
- All Department of Conservation Area Offices and Visitor Centres in Canterbury, Otago and Southland;
- Main public libraries in Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

The draft CMSs can also be viewed and downloaded at any time, along with information about making a submission at www.doc.govt.nz/cms.

Persons and organisations are invited to make submissions on the draft CMSs and must do so in writing by 4.30pm, Friday 13 September 2013. Your submission should clearly state which draft strategy is being referred to, and be sent or emailed to:

CMS Submissions
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 4715
Christchurch Mail Centre 8140
Fax 03 365 1388

Email: southislandcms@doc.govt.nz

Any person or organisation wishing to be heard in support of their submission should state this in their submission. Submitters should be aware that any submission they make is subject to provisions of the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982. To obtain a copy of a draft CMS or for more information phone 03 371 3700 or email southislandcms@doc.govt.nz

For more information
about the Department
visit doc.govt.nz

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

LETTERS ☒☒☒☒☒



A really good issue covering topics of real importance to the Island community ... But I most liked the ANZAC day coverage. Especially the account of individual soldiers, their history and fate.

Many years ago I was visiting friends in Essex, UK , and happened to wander into a small village church. They had a display up of all the men in the village killed in the first world war.

Apart from being struck by how many there were from such a small place I was really moved by the fact that the folk there had put a name and face and story to each of their dead.

When I first started diving round the Island I worked for Billy Bragg who told me that as he was in a reserved occupation (cod fishing) he didn't have to go to the second war .

But he made an observation that I remembered. The Stewart Island men he knew who did go travelled further than anyone else in the world to die in the fields of France.

Storm Stanley



I wonder if you could run this in SIN. It is topical re recent discussions held on Stewart Island. The writer, Graham Sperry, was awarded third in a literary award and this article has been published in the Taupo Deerstalkers & the National Deer Stalkers Magazine. It gives another and recent view of deer repellent limitation and deer deaths.

Mary Molloy

NOTE from Ed: The linked article is too long for inclusion so please go to this link to see it:
www.fishnhunt.co.nz/forum/Attachments/Areas_and_effects_of_buffer_zones_23_3_12_Compressed_V2.pdf



Your readers might enjoy Michael's chat with the wonderful Craig Potton:
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaeltobias/2013/05/14/utopian-ecology-craig-potton-reflects-on-the-complexities-of-his-home-new-zealand/>

All our best and Cheers,
Jane Morrison



My suggestion for a mushroom corner title is FUNtastic Fungi. The picture in the last SIN evoked memories for me. Mrs Hunter, who died recently, used to glean fungi on Ulva once a year to make a big platter version of a moss garden with coloured fungi. I'd never realised before I saw one of her breathtaking arrangements just how many colours could be found among these delicate and unobtrusive members of the bush community.

Beverley Osborn



The Island Beat

Reported Crime:

Over the last 3 Months there has been a noted increase in reported violence offences. Alcohol is the common contributing factor. Most of the incidents are happening at private addresses. To reduce the incidence of violence, police are making persons responsible for their behaviour. Where there is sufficient evidence of an offence the offender/s will get a day off the Island to visit the Invercargill District Court.

Traffic:

The traffic ticket Compliance warning system implemented in January is operating effectively. There have been a number of infringement notices issued for Vehicle Licence and Warrant of fitness breaches. The majority of notices have been offered 14 days compliance to remedy the problem. Vehicles with Licence or Warrant of Fitness expired over 1 month are not offered compliance and have to pay the relevant fine.

Found Property:

Police are currently holding the fol-

lowing items of found property:

- Sunglasses found Elgin Terrace 05/06/13
- A Swiss army knife found Rakiura Track 07/03/13

An I phone found at Wharf 02/05/13

If you have lost property recently give me a call.

Senior Constable Dale JENKINS

SUBMISSION ON SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

**PRESENTED BY WILLIM J WATT
AT THE HEARING OF
SUBMISSIONS: 27 MAY 2013**

Your Worship, Councillors:

There are many good things happening in local government.

Unfortunately, the Stewart Island Electric Power Supply is not one of them.

It is worth reviewing briefly the history of the power supply. It was advocated and largely implemented by Harry Slingsby, County Clerk of Stewart Island County not long before the 1990's local government reorganisation. The added convenience of 24 hour availability of power, the substantial reduction in diesel use that resulted from central generation, and the reduction in ambient noise levels were three immediate advantages. Technically, the scheme was well-conceived. Financially, it was less so. Everyone – permanent residents and cribbies – was encouraged to join the scheme to help make it viable. But very soon after its introduction an extraordinary and substantial capital contribution was required, with the promise that 'this is the very last time this will happen and from now on the scheme will be self-sustaining.'

Electricity on Stewart Island is expensive. But there is a great deal one can do with good building design, energy-efficient systems and sensible appliance use to minimise consumption of electricity. We have done that with a modern solid-fuel range which is both the primary means of cooking and is also the supply of hot water, for domestic use and for central heating.

In the future it is inevitable in the 'Peak Oil' era that diesel prices will continue to rise. My own knowledge of energy planning generally suggests that a sensible energy strategy for Stewart Island would be based around

- First, **energy conservation** and preference for renewable sources.
- Second, supplementary use of alternate technologies like wind and solar power, **introduced on a small-scale incremental basis.**
- Third, encouraging people to **remain in a centralised electricity scheme**, because there are economies of scale.

Looking at energy consumption holistically. For example, use of electricity for heating is an inefficient use of a high-grade energy resource. Wood fired space heaters are the most economic form of domestic heating. An holistic energy policy for Stewart Island would include a woodlot, possibly based on self-coppicing eucalypts, which could provide space heating in perpetuity.

An important part of this is managing electricity demand as far as practicable to minimise peak demand.

What has been suggested (in your letter from Ian Marshall to "Customers" of 8 April 2003), goes completely the other way.

- First, by reducing the average price per unit, you will encourage greater consumption and increased peak consumption.
- Second, by increasing the uniform annual charge by a huge 84%, you will discourage small consumers from remaining part of the scheme and encourage them to look for alternatives.

I think you need to consider the wider implications of such a dramatic change in pricing policy.

As you know, non-resident ratepayers constitute around half of the rating base of Stewart Island. Over the years (and I have averaged a month or more every year on Stewart Island since 1953) I have seen the changes in the community brought about by economic and government policy change. Many have been negative. The permanent population has struggled to sustain at 400 – 500. However, a saving grace for the community has been that the improved transport services (particularly, the land-based aeroplanes and the fast ferries) have made it practicable and affordable for people to maintain holiday houses on the Island. This has been a saving grace because:

- It has sustained the residential property market, (so that residents who must move off the island have someone to sell their house to)
- It has widened the rating base.

In effect, the non-resident ratepayers increasingly are subsidizing the (now, rather privileged) lifestyle of the permanent residents. While costs remain reasonable overall, this is something the non-resident

ratepayers accept.

What you would do, if you accept the SIESA proposal, is to push this too far.

In our case, fixed costs per annum of owning a (modest) property on Stewart Island would rise **from \$2,318** [\$1,685 rates plus \$633 power supply charge] **to around \$2,838** (\$1,736 rates assuming 3% increase plus \$1,164 power supply charge).

As my written submission shows, electricity costs to larger power consumers (Stewart Island residents and businesses) will increase very little, if at all, and in some instances will decrease.

Ian Marshall's letter justifies the price increase on the basis that:

"...the assets and equipment that generate power on Stewart Island urgently (need) upgrades and costly repairs".

This is an admission of bad management. The Local Government Act, and in particular its annual plan process, places heavy emphasis on the need for proper asset planning and asset management. The Act makes it mandatory that necessary equipment replacement be funded from 'depreciation' or 'loss of service potential'. **Indeed, it is illegal to fund it otherwise unless a council specifically resolves not to fund for depreciation.** Has such a resolution been passed by the southland District Council, and if so, when? You cannot make this sort of thing retrospective.

One has to ask, who is the governing body of the SIESA? The answer is on their website – the Stewart Island Community Board. The SDC website names the members of the Board, who are (to my understanding) permanent residents and business people.

So, we are faced with a situation where a governing body

- Appears to have acted illegally
- Appears to have acted to introduce a pricing regime which will disadvantage others in the community but which will advantage individual members of the governing body.

This is at odds with the concept of natural justice and is a matter which could be of interest to the Ombudsman.

To avoid this and to act in the overall interests of the wider Stewart Island Community, it is suggested that:

(Continued on page 15)

Our four Year 7 students Marley, Sophie, Jack & Timu have been part of a year 7&8 (old time Form 1&2) class for the last year. Their class is made up of 21 kids from eight island and remote rural schools all around NZ. The students 'attend' class every Tuesday afternoon via the Internet and phone and also 'hang out' together at other times in an online space called WeLearn (similar to Facebook but with more controls). In May the class met face to face for the first time in Wellington. The students spent five days together completing a variety of 'educational' activities, BUT the main focus was on the social aspect of their education. These schools are similar to us in the fact that they have low numbers of senior students which can impact on the students social skills. The camp was an absolute BLAST and the kids were an awesome group. —Kath Johnson

The year 7s students of Halfmoon Bay School travelled to Wellington in May.

First up it was exciting for Timu on his first trip on an Air NZ plane. After great scenery we arrived in the Windy City. We were met at the Airport by our online teacher and two students from Uruti and Chatham Island. Ten minutes after our arrival we met the nine Taranaki students and their teachers.



From the airport we laughed with our new friends all the way to our accommodation - Downtown Backpackers, right beside the Railway Station.

That afternoon's activity was Weta Workshop. The highlight was the tour of the actual workshop where we saw the artists at work and props from famous movies and electronic games such as Halo.

Dinner that night was very healthy with lots of greens - as in frozen green slushies at MacDonal-
alds.



Tuesday morning saw the group starting on Breakfast TV. Marley was the spokesman for the group and was in his element being the star of the show.

We headed out to Porirua to the Police Museum and learnt how to lift fingerprints. Another favourite was dressing in a variety of police uniforms from through the ages.



That afternoon we climbed, swung, flew and yelled our way through the high ropes course at Adrenalin Forest. This was also our first William Pike outdoor challenge.

Water polo lessons were served next and we were lucky enough to be coached by a very experienced NZ water polo trainer.

Dinner that night was Top Taste - a fancy Chinese Restaurant with Lazy Susans! A first for many of us.

First stop Wednesday was Te Papa - as a school group we were allowed to enter the museum before opening time and we had a guided tour which gave us a lot of inside information especially about the Maori and Pacific vibe of the museum.



We strolled along the waterfront and through the CBD to Parliament. We nearly didn't make it to meet John Key after Mrs Fergus thought she



would shoot a few rolls of film in the high security/ absolutely no photo lobby. The 'Classroom' was a replica of the Debating Chamber. After being shown the 'book of rules' that the MPs have to abide by there was a knock on the door and in strolled John Key. Everyone had the opportunity to ask him questions then we were allowed a photo shoot with him. Then after high fives, handshakes and even a hug he was off to finalise the following days budget presentation.

Even more exciting than meeting John Key was...



meeting the Hurricanes and watching them train. At the end of the session they spent half hour talking, signing and having their photos taken with our group. We also had the opportunity to go to their personal gym and social room. Thursday was Zoos Noos - a joint programme between the Zoo and Capital where we got to use iPad minis to film our own news clip about our trip to the zoo and the unique animals that live there. The afternoon was an opportunity to look around the zoo some more and even watch a kiwi undergoing surgery.

With the need for speed we drifted off to Indoor Go Karts. The teachers got a little carried away with the competitiveness and didn't even obey the simplest road rules. The students were better behaved than the road raging adults but still managed to have a wheelie good turbotastic time.

Friday was a team challenge - a scavenger hunt/ Amazing Race that took us from Island Bay to The

Cable Car Museum to Lyall Bay to Seatoun to Courtney Palace to Tenakori Road to Te Papa to the Library and even to an Irish pub in Cuba Street! Teams were given six hours to make their way around Wellington in any order they liked collecting clues and photos in the race to be the winning team. One team (not mentioning any names eh Sophie and Ms J) spent one and a half hours lost in the Wellington wopwops AKA Breaker Bay.

On Friday evening we tackled our way through the crowds to Westpac Stadium to watch the mighty Hurricanes take on the even mightier Chiefs! Even though the weather was rainy we



were dry and comfortable in our corporate box seats sipping free lemonade.

Very little sleep was had as we spent our final night together at the Backpackers. Next morning was full of tearful goodbyes as we farewelled our new friends. For a moment we thought we weren't going to make it home as our flight to Christchurch was cancelled due to FOG. After a two hour delay we were finally unaccompanied minors on our way home!

Without the generous consistent support of the whole community this amazing experience would not have been possible. The opportunity to meet with a whole group of kids from rural and remote areas was really special and great friendships were formed. MASSIVE thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts as we raised over \$3000 for this awesome trip.

The account of this trip was written by Sophie, Timu, Marley, Jack, and Ms. J.

Here are the two links to more pictures and information:

Our school Facebook Page www.facebook.com/pages/Halfmoon-Bay-School/132950816752949

and

storify.com/VLNPrimary/vln-primary-wellington-2013

Stewart Island/Rakiura has a magical touch for many people. The group of hunters from Nelson I accompany have been visiting hunting blocks here for nearly 20 years, and they haven't missed a year yet. Of course the group does not comprise the same members each time but the ones that miss out wish they could be there. In fact, we made a cell call through the mountain radio this year to one of the regulars who could not make it this time. 2013 is the 8th trip for me and I intend to make many more before I leave this earth.



inexpensive to visit; it cost each of us over \$1100 for the 14 day trip but is well worth it. Each trip has different experiences so is never boring. One experience that comes to mind was the visit of 3 thresher sharks one night in early May. One would come in to very shallow water occasionally, so we tried to grab its tail and drag it up the beach. I have to admire their strength as we didn't have a hope in hell of achieving that! While someone held a good light on proceedings, another hunter videoed

the activity. I look forward to seeing the outcome of that.

Photography is my big interest. The only weapon I carry in the outdoors is a late model Canon SX50 HS which is very handy for capturing wildlife, natural history, landscapes, camp life and other subjects. My best images are entered into the NZDA national competition each year. During the last few years, with all

the technology available these days, I have got into a few videos as well. These are great tools for showing people that have not visited the Island what it has to offer. My young grandson really appreciates these videos and remains glued to the TV when they are shown.

the activity. I look forward to seeing the outcome of that.

Although our last trip had plenty of rain, we got out each day to search for adventure. No doubt there are many more adventures to be had in the future.

A mention must be made here for the charter boat operators I have traveled with: Herbie Hansen and Philip Smith. They are very helpful with masses of knowledge freely available to passengers so are great ambassadors for the Island.

STORY and PHOTOS from
Paul Peychers
Te Anau



Part of the magic in this part of the world is the diversity of wildlife that exists here. During one day it is possible to see deer, sea lions, seals, kiwis, white faced herons, penguins and other interesting wildlife that no other place in New Zealand can offer. Not to mention the wide variety of seafood we harvest during our stay. With a diet of venison, blue cod, butterfish, moki, trumpeter, oysters & paua, who could complain? The sunrises are the best I have encountered throughout NZ. But I don't have to tell the readers that!



I like giving something back to the Island, so take a few traps with me each time to remove wild cats and possums. Totals this time were 3 cats and 5 possums plus 1 rat. If every hunter made the effort, we would have a lot more valuable wildlife living here. I have been involved in stoat trapping with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation since the stoat control programme commenced around 7 years ago up Lake Te Anau, so it feels worthwhile to help out while on holiday. Areas I have visited include Long Harry, Smokey beach, Little Kuri and North & South Lords. The images shown in this issue are from the Lords river area. This hunting block is not



When a young musician stands up by the windows at the Pub and sings his heart out, I can't help but wonder the same stuff you might wonder: what's his story? Does he care that some people are talking and playing pool, how hardscrabble is his life, how wonderful and free is his life, what's it like to travel from pub to pub with a guitar and sing your heart out? A month or so ago I cornered one of these young singer-songwriters and asked him to dish on his life.

Q & A with MONTY BEVINS

How old are you, where were you born, how long have you been called Monty and where did that name come from?

I'm 26, born in Otahuhu, Auckland, and got nicknamed Monty at an Under 14 cricket Tournament for my apparent resemblance to Montgomery Burns off the Simpsons. Pretty inaccurate I would of thought.

Why bare feet?

It started out as a sock ritual with one of my best friends Alastair Burns who I first started gigging with and who started my live career really, and it's graduated to bare feet over the years. I'm not sure I'll go as far as saying it connects me to the ground, but certainly makes me feel like I'm playing in my own living room, a kind of freedom and a bit of a statement of sorts. I'm not a super serious person and so I guess it represents a relaxed-ness.

Is the travelling musician thing your only job now/ How long have you been doing this/ what led you into this?

I've been in and out of part time jobs over the past, well, since Uni really...but I always seem to come back to the music. I spent a couple of years playing full time in London. It always gets to a crunch point where gigs are starting to impact on work, and work is starting to infringe on potential gigs, and so it's at that point that I take the plunge into full time gigging and I've been lucky enough for it to have pulled off, although sometimes luck has nothing to do with it, there were some yards in London. I did the same thing in Wellington more recently, and the decision to tour the South Island for this entire summer was just a progression of that notion to take the plunge. SO, since mid December I've been on the road in my car with a speaker, my guitar, some pedals, and a notebook!

Youth, freedom, no shoes, have guitar-will play, travelling from pub to pub... it all sounds just great. What are some of the downsides of the travelling musi-

cian's life?

It is great. It's a really wholesome existence, meeting new people, experiencing the heart of new places, you're in amongst it entertaining and engaging with locals, and very exciting / changing which I've gotten used to and embrace.

I guess the lengthy stints behind the wheel can be a bit draining. I've got a Milford Sound to Timaru with a midday gig en route lined up, and my max-o driving time before I start going nuts and talking to myself and singing opera at full noise is about 3 hours. But that's just poor scheduling I guess! Not having a room/house to spread your stuff around, I'm forever diving into my backpack hunting for a pair of god damn socks where they would just be in a top drawer, and right now I've set up my little bluetooth keyboard connected to my phone in a wee cafe scabbing their wifi. I've grown to like this part, but not having anywhere to stay in a random town when you rock up 'cos you don't always have every day planned can be a wee bit stressful, but I've met some amazing people along the way who's couches I've crashed on, and better still my family who are dotted around and have sleepouts / rooms for me...the generosity you encounter on the road is outrageous and I'm incredibly grateful. So as you can tell, very minor complaints.

When you started out you were just playing in exchange for beer and a meal I imagine. What's the smallest compensation you've ever received for performing? The most unusual? Do you busk?

Unfortunately I'm not yet beyond that concept of playing for a meal and a beer, thankfully these days I'll usually get some petrol money thrown in! I remember doing a 4 hour gig in a cheesy beer-fest imitation pub in London for 80 pounds, dinner not included, but that was post 'taking the plunge' period where I was taking anything. Not sure if this is printable, but I was kindly offered an ounce of marijuana for doing a gig in Rangiora, I asked if that was "what like a grocery plastic bag full" ? but the bloke couldn't tell me, nor how much that would be worth to me, and even if he could that would only be potential as I'd have to then sell it on illegally myself? Wasn't hard to say no to that one. There's plenty of 'just bring your guitar along we'll give you a few beers' chat. I do busk, and in fact lately I've been busking on the day of an evening gig to try and promote some interest for the gig around the town. Now that I have this 6 track EP to sell it can be very worthwhile, and certainly a guy Mike Rosenberg of 'Passenger' has proven that busking your way around the world can be very feasi-

ble and rewarding.

You use looping equipment – can you describe what that is and was that hard to learn how to use?

The timing and 'smoothness' takes a while to learn, making it all sound seamless despite starting and stopping the recorded loop. It's reasonably simple, you tap a pedal and everything you either play (on guitar) or sing gets recorded, then at the point when you tap the pedal again a 'loop' is created, and that plays round and round. I then layer vocal harmonies, bass riffs, beats etc over the top it's pretty limitless. I learnt off a kiwi musician Jayson Norris in London, he's phenomenal and opened my eyes to what is possible with a loop pedal.

What are you into besides music?

Like most Kiwi blokes I like to dabble in a lot of stuff. Although I couldn't admit to being one over the past month really, I'm a multisport athlete. I came 14th in this years Coast to Coast, and I was really stoked with that. I love the outdoors, and I love competing and pushing myself so it makes sense. I've played cricket since I was 5, up until a few years ago, played for a couple of Auckland rep teams 'in my day', and bit of Premier/Senior cricket too. I've been enjoying surfing lately, just got myself a 4/3mm (for Dunedin) and I'm into it, pretty rubbish, but into it. I like travelling and experiencing new places/cultures, and I like most sports but particularly rugby league football. Fishing, snowboarding, water skiing, it's all there to be done you've got to get amongst it don't ya? Plan is to do some back country ski touring this winter.

Do you want your audience to sit listening and watching or do you mind if people are playing pool and talking and carrying on? Have you ever been badly heckled?

In an ideal world 'my' audience would sit down and listen intently to every lyric I sing, but I'm realistic and maybe one day that will come. These days I get a wee bit gutted when you're 100% in the background and an ipod on shuffle would be doing the equal job of someone who's pouring his heart and soul into every tunes and has been toiling away at his craft for 9 years. It's amazing how often people come up and give you really positive feedback when all along you thought they couldn't care less and weren't listening though, so you've just got to get on with it and ultimately I'm still very into the music it's just a luxury when people are listening that's all. The odd heckle, but nothing like in a cricket game when

(Continued on page 17)

LAND SAR

RAKIURA / STEWART ISLAND

TAUTUKU CUP SEARCH AND RESCUE COMPETITION

On the weekend of the 17th 18th 19th May Rakiura/Stewart Island Landsar (search and Rescue) hosted the Tautuku and Rakiura cups. If you hadn't noticed, the competitors were the people walking around in florescent orange.

The competition was between search and rescue teams from Otago and Southland. It is an opportunity for search and rescue groups to network and use their skills learned from training and operations.

On Friday night nine 4 person Search incident management teams competed for the Rakiura cup. They were tasked with the investigation, confinement, search and deployment of air, sea and ground search assets to find two overdue Kayakers circumnavigating Stewart Island.

The Rakiura Stewart Island Landsar incident management team led by Garry Neave (incident controller) Dale Chittenden (operations manager) Alan Check (Intel Planning) and Gary (Jed) LEWIS came a creditable 2nd.

The New Zealand Landsar CEO Harry MAHER was in the winning team.

Teams from Dunedin and Tokanui came in third equal.

On Saturday eight 8 person field search teams went bush on Back Road and near Ryan's creek Airstrip to search for lost Day walkers and Kiwi spotters. Throughout the day the team skills in leadership, Tracking, Navigation, Search method, observation, radio, first aid and clue gathering were assessed and marked.

Rakiura/ Stewart Island Landsar search team led by Brent Beaven and team members, Matt Atkins, George Nicholas, Kyle Learmonth, AaronTempler, Phillip Dove and Paul Jacques came a creditable fourth.

Teams from Dunedin Landsar came in first and second with Catlins Landsar taking out the third position.

The competition concluded Saturday night with a dinner and prize giving and social evening.

About 130 competitors, victims, organizers, Amateur Radio, caterers and Islanders were involved in the weekend.

Rakiura/Stewart Island Landsar would like to thank the Stewart Island community and businesses for supporting and making the weekend a success.



The winning team

Story from Dale Jenkins

Photos from Furhana Ahmad

37 Years on...

It's been an eventful journey since Bill and Robyn Todd first offered Phillip and me the opportunity of working in real estate here on the Island for William Todd & Co. Bruce Tolson was leaving and someone needed to step into his real estate shoes. Incidentally, not so long before, Mr Bob Hicks Senior who worked in real estate for Otts, literally carried out his real estate duties here completely on foot.

We began our duties in a 1962 Series 2 Land Rover. Phillip handled the vacant land and I the houses. Folk often rode on the back of the truck (on the pink foam squabs I'd made). No sealed roads, and often rutted with mud. No one travelled fast. Around that time a new listing was done on a handshake and a sales agreement on a one page tear-off sheet, with carbon copy.

Although the Island's community was sustained essentially by the fishing industry then, visitors and 'cribbies' flocked to the Island at long weekends and in the holiday season. They braved the 2 hour voyage on the Wairua or the flight by amphibian plane.

Cribs/holiday homes are often kept in families for several generations so it's always been a surprise and a privilege when one comes up for sale. One memorable sale was when the property "Tenola", owned by Mr Ernie Squires and family, and its contents were auctioned. It was a perfect January day. Folk even brought their lunches and picnicked on the lawn. Trestles were set up outside, loaded with an array of household contents – everything from bone china to old wooden croquet mallets. Prior to the auction, interest had been keen, with several people coming to the Island especially to view the house and land. However one never knows what other interest there may be. On the day, it sold to a Stewart Island family. Sometime later this gracious old home on sold and then became Church Hill Restaurant.

Another sale that comes to mind happened after taking Hugh Broughton to view a crib. Unbeknown to me, my colleagues and their friends were there, sitting around the table with a large jar of nice fresh fat oysters. Hugh was invited to join them. After indulging in a few of those Foveaux Strait delicacies, Hugh announced "I suppose I'll have to buy it now!" which he duly did.

While real estate is a career that I had never anticipated, having trained as a teacher, it has been a wonderful experience and I sincerely thank everyone who has been part of it. Through it, Phillip and I have formed some very special friendships, and I'll always maintain that only the best people want to live on Stewart Island - even if it's only part time.

We warmly welcome Jeanette Mackay as Stewart Island's salesperson for Locations William Todd & Co Ltd.

Jeanette was born in Gore and completed a Law Degree at Otago University. After living and working in London for over 20 years, Jeanette and her partner Steve moved to the Island. They have now lived here for over ten years, taking an active part in Stewart Island's community. Jeanette is looking forward to the challenge of a new career and to working with those both old and new to this unique Island.

We wish her the very best.

Diane & Phillip Smith and Bill Todd – William Todd & Co Ltd

Following the above article in regard to Diane Smith and her husband Phillip in earlier times involvement in Real Estate activities representing my Family Company originally William Todd and Co Ltd and subsequently "Locations Real Estate".

I cannot let the opportunity pass without acknowledging my Appreciation of the very Professional and Diligent way Diane has conducted herself in all her Real Estate Involvement over the past 37 years. It has been a pleasure to work with her, her acumen in all matters has been beyond reproach and I wish her a long and happy retirement and welcome Joanette Mackay to represent us in local Real Estate Matters.

Sincerely
Bill Todd

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER *by Jo Riksem*



Mab Prentice organist 1954



Loraine Squires at the organ 2006

Music is a big part of our church services and as the Bible says, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.” We have been blessed over the years to have some wonderful people playing on our different organs. Two of these people are shown in the photographs above and below.

Each Sunday with the different ministers and organists we get a lovely variety of hymns old and new, many of the hymns with some soul stirring stories behind how they came about.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” written on the evening of George Matheson’s sister’s marriage. His whole family had gone to the wedding and had left him alone. There is a story of how years before, he had been engaged until his fiancé learned that he was going blind, and there was nothing the doctors could do, and she told him that she could not go through life with a blind man. He went blind while studying for the ministry, and his sister had been the one who had taken care of him all these years, but now she was gone. Even with his blindness he became a wonderful minister with a hymn that has lasted down the ages.

July will bring a variety of ministers again and it will be interesting to see what hymns and stories will come through the month. We often get a variety of instruments enhancing the organ like guitars, piano, flute and others. Come help us make a “joyful noise.”

Church remains open daily to come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday 11-12 followed by a cup of tea and goodies.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

from Jenny Gell

Our next meeting will be at Wendy Hallett's

at 2 o'clock on Thursday 18th July.



Once upon a time there was a family called Wiig,

Olaf and Eunice had five young kids,

Don and Elaine, then joy of joys, Bruce and Bryan, two twin boys!

Then came trailing behind, Little baby Mona, the family now defined.

The twins were clever, most people they could outsmart, But little baby Mona

could always tell them apart,

No one to this day is quite sure why, But to their little sister they couldn't lie.

Now Olaf her dad, had a favourite dog called Kim, But Kim liked Mona better, didn't bite her, but sure bit him!

One more story about teenager Mo growing up in Bluff, A night on the

(WATT Continued from page 7)

The previous bad management be acknowledged with good grace and the upgrade be funded at least partly from Council reserves.

The schedule be revised, keeping the Uniform Annual Charge at its

current level but revising the unit charge with a view to encouraging economy in consumption.

The governance of SIESA be reviewed, with a view to placing authority and responsibility with a group with more commercial acumen and no conflict of inter-

est, real or perceived.

That an holistic energy policy be developed which will benefit the whole Stewart Island community, not just the residents.

Thank you for considering my submission.

William J Watt

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford
 “Summit” by Richard Bowker

At last! A good, old-fashioned thriller – so old-fashioned, it’s pre-mobile phones. This makes some of the passages in “Summit” clumsy by today’s standards: “Why doesn’t he just pull out his mobile and ask for help? Oh, right – even the ‘spooks’ don’t have them yet”. It’s difficult to place in time, but I suspect it’s during the Cold War. The U.S. President Winn is about to host what may be a break-through summit meeting with his opposite number from Russia. It could spell an easing of the arms race. There are irritations for the President, like the mad scientist who has merely sniffed his latest concoction in the ‘germ warfare’ field and has gone into a euphoric world to marvel at the patterns that raindrops make on the window. The formula for *that* drug is kept under close guard! Ah, but wait

Fulton is a renowned pianist, but reclusive since a concert in Moscow and a chance encounter with one of his most ardent fans – Valentina. Since that concert his will to perform has deserted him, to the despair of his caring agent and the resignation of his mentor, an expat Russian. What none of them know is that Valentina, in a strange pyramid connected to devices invented by yet another mad scientist – a Russian this time – is a powerful psychic. While ‘victims’ (anti-Soviet personnel in key positions) are engaged in philosophical discussion with Russian KGB emissaries, she can psychically enter their minds and re-arrange their thought patterns. They *seem* to come to the realisation that the Soviet methods of governance are actually better than the democracies of their own countries. Then, hey presto! the KGB have undercover agents in the most unexpected places. They don’t care that every encounter brings Valentina one step closer to death. They have a very big fish in their sights and all they care is that she live to

convert – the President of the USA!

Keeping Valentina going is her connection to Fulton and her love of his music, so when Fulton unexpectedly accepts an invitation to perform in Moscow, it’s the answer to a prayer for her. Apparently in an attempt to keep her happy, her KGB ‘handlers’ have arranged for her to hear Fulton play and to meet him at a reception later. She doesn’t know that Fulton has accepted the invitation under pressure from the CIA to persuade Valentina to defect. Not knowing about the Presidential plot, the CIA need to find out why Valentina is so successful with her hocus-pocus. Does the pyramid play any real part in it?

Bill Sullivan is a washed-up CIA operative, now driving a desk. He spots disparate messages and information coming into the CIA and puts two and two together. He makes four but is viewed sceptically by all who know him as – basically – a failure. So the race is on. Will Valentina escape from Russia before her handlers kill her? And will she stay out of KGB clutches if she does? Will Sullivan manage to convince anyone of the horrific threat he perceives? (Yes, he does, but he convinces some of the wrong people – just to give you a hint!). And will Fulton fall in love, survive – or ever play the piano again if he lives?

I know, it sounds like 1960’s sci-fi as I describe it, but in fact, it is a taut, cliff-hanging page-turner. The psychic bit is merely the plausible vehicle for the rest of the brilliant plot, not the weirdo elephant-in-the-room. Very difficult to put down once you are into the story. Warning: not everyone gets to ‘end happily ever after’! I want to re-write the ending to suit myself so that good triumphs over evil more emphatically – but that would spoil it all.

town was planned to go strut her stuff,

Hair all done, lippy just right for a kiss, But it seemed like one item had sadly gone amiss,

She searched high and low while her brothers snickered, It seemed she couldn't find any clean knickers!

Well, in this state off to party she couldn't very well go, It wasn't really done then to go commando,

But brother Bryan said, no, you will go to dance, You can just borrow a pair of my pants!

So off she set, looking kind of cranky, But at least she had a place to tuck her hanky!

The story lasted for months and months, The night Mona went to town wearing Bryans Y-Fronts!

Read at Mona and Lorry's wedding. Written by Vicki.

DOC Spot *Submitted by Sharon Pasco,
Programme Manager Community Relations /
Field Centre Supervisor*

Update on new structure

As announced in last month's DOC Spot, details of how the Department of Conservation will be structured from the 2nd September 2013 have been released. These changes are focused on streamlining conservation delivery operations and growing conservation by working with others, with two new business groups created to replace the current Operations Group: Conservation Partnerships and Conservation Services. Changes have also been made to strengthen our current Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai (KKA) group. The new structure reduces DOC's internal administrative regions from 11 to six. It also removes a layer of management from the organisation.

The impact for staff currently based on Rakiura, as I mentioned last month, is reasonably significant with the current workforce being down-sized from 18 full-time-equivalents to 14.5 and all management responsibilities shifted off island. The good news since then is that eight staff have been reassigned into roles in the new structure, as there are new roles here on the island that are very similar to their current work. It is still quite unsettling for the rest of us as we wait to see who will be appointed to the various roles available here and elsewhere with the department.

We would like to thank the community for the wonderful support we have been receiving during this difficult time, in particular the parishioners of the Oban Presbyterian Church. The magnificent morning tea that arrived out of the blue one morning was a real surprise and fortunately coincided with a time when the majority of the staff were working around the village. Thank you for thinking of us, your kindness was much appreciated.

Appointments to some of the more senior roles in the department are also starting to be made. Last week it was announced that the current Area Manager for Southern Island and Murihiku, Andy Roberts will take on the role of Director Conservation Services for the Eastern South Island Conservation Service Region when the new structure is implemented. This region stretches from Hanmer Springs in the north to just south of Dunedin and to the west takes in Twizel, Aoraki/Mt Cook and Arthurs Pass. As yet no one has been appointed to the role of Director Conservation Services for the Southern South Island region. Former Southland Conservator, Barry Hanson, who for the past year has been working as project director for the delivery review, has been appointed Director Conservation Partnerships for the South and Eastern South Island region.

We will endeavour to keep you informed as further ap-

pointments are made. Full information on the new structure can be found on the DOC website: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/issues/new-structure-for-doc/>

No sign of rats on Ulva

Trap checks on Ulva Island have continued to be clear, with no further rats caught since the discovery of four rats in traps on the island late March/early April. At the end of May, Fin Buchanan and his rodent detecting dog "Pai" spent six days on Ulva searching the entire coast and inland areas and found no evidence of rats. Fin's visit followed a check carried out by colleague Miriam Ritchie and her two rodent dogs in April. While Miriam's dogs found a rat den near West End, no evidence of rats being present on the island was found during that check.

This means that we now intend downscaling our response. The "coastal" and "inland" trap networks will be checked monthly (this is our business as usual approach). The "background" traps will remain open and will be checked again in two months. The next dog check is scheduled for November.

At this stage, it looks like implementation of the "new" response plan has been successful in preventing a rat population establishing.

Other items in brief:

Maintenance of tracks and huts underway - Track trimming has been completed between Rakeahua and Doughboy and light maintenance carried out on both huts. Port William has had a number of windows replaced and a start has been made on re-gravelling of local walks.

Safety issues highlighted - The recent poor weather coinciding with high tides has caused a couple of visitor safety issues, which staff are looking to rectify:

- The first 200m of track from Lee Bay to Maori Beach has suffered some fairly major slumpage and a section of this track may have to be re-routed.
- Trampers have reported some major windfalls on the Freshwater to North Arm track which is making track-finding difficult.

Great year for Great Walk - It has been a great year for the Rakiura Track. With just a month to go before the end of the financial year, indications are that this will be a record year for the track in terms of visitor numbers.

(MONTY Continued from page 11)

you've snicked one 9 down against a fierce rival in a final with 20 runs to win and you haven't walked and the umpire somehow hasn't heard it. It's all relative and it's generally un-thoughtful easily ignored stuff if it is present.

Talk about the favourite places you've played.

Redcliff Cafe in Te Anau's a great place to play, the owners get stuck into it, and it's a small quirky bar with a big heart. I played an impromptu gig in a cafe in Chiang Mai (northern Thailand) whilst travelling with another best friend of mine. I'd spotted a guitar / amp when walking by in the afternoon at a time when I hadn't played in a few weeks, and no sooner that I'd asked the owner to play it she was organising a concert for the village for the following night! She spoke Thai, French, and English fluently, and gave us a wee Thai cooking course followed by eating this amazing food the next night, then we had a few beers and I played a wee show to 15-20 people in this cafe in Chiang Mai. Magic stuff, that's what travelling's all about.

Do you have a strict itinerary or do you just wander from gig to gig?

I try to book about 6 weeks in advance, but certainly wherever I travel I'm open to opportunities and try to tee things up last minute as well. I'd ideally just drive into whatever town I happened to be passing through and play a gig but it generally leads to the unsustainable scenario of playing for a 'meal and a drink'...so I slick my hair back and get on the blower 6 weeks out.

Talk about some recent adventures.

Well last week I flew to Auckland to play at a lovely beach wedding in Devonport, I even played the bride down the aisle with my own tune 'Love This Strong' which was surprisingly fitting given I'd written it for friends' whose wedding I'd played at in Rarotonga. I then hit the road and played in Cooks Beach, Whakatane, and then another wedding in the beautiful Craggie Range winery in Hawkes Bay.

You must like the island, this was your second visit here. What do you like about it/ what do you get up to here?

I do! I like how untouched and rugged it is, and how you can't put your finger on the vibe of the place, nor it's locals, just nicely dif-

ferent. You're a lot closer to marine life, and by closer I mean you just have to go out snorkelling or in a wee row boat and you'll see/catch fish at the drop of a hat. There's kaka right in town, and kiwi not far away, and so many cool kayak/run combo missions to do! In my most recent visit I stayed two nights so that I could do the 3 day loop walk. I get a bit itchy walking so I decided to just run the lot and be back to have a beer on the South Sea Hotel veranda. Took me 4 hours, and I got some great snaps along the way. I also got some 'you're an absolute nutter' looks and comments from some underestimating tramps.

What's your favourite song (of yours)?

I always seem to get pretty pumped for 'Go On', it's quite personal and meaningful having written it for a best friend and older bro through their respective tough times.

Do you take requests/ what's the most requested song? What's the song that just guts you to be asked to play?

I'm very happy to take requests if they're good songs! I have had 5 songs that I just won't play anymore, but now 6 thanks to a very persistent Australian on the week-end reminding me that 'You're The Voice' just isn't a goer. It joins the list of Wonderwall, The Gambler, Hotel California, Brown Eyed Girl and Living On A Prayer.

Are you inspired by your travels to write more songs or are you too busy and tired? Does song-writing come easily to you? Which comes first, the music or the lyrics?

Definitely inspired by my daily experiences on the road to write more, particularly about living in the moment, and comparing my life to those who are on the treadmill or slaving away for someone else doing something they're absolutely not passionate about. I think the lyrics are something you can always chip away at and work on, then it's when a nice or catchy melody pops into my head can find the lyrics that would most suit the mood of that melody and join em up. The

most original melodies for me come from what just pops into my head (when I haven't got my phone nearby) that I then transpose onto guitar.

Who are your musical heroes?

As I mentioned before, Jayson Norris was a huge inspiration to me in London, and still is. He's an honest genuine dude who is in it for the music entirely. For that reason I'm really inspired by Ben Howard too, a UK singer / songwriter starting to really take off. I saw him at Shepherds Bush Empire as support for Xavier Rudd and was blown away by his raw acoustic songs from the heart with melodies that really bloody struck me. His approach is so organic, there's no pretentiousness, and he's not pretending to be anyone, much like Ben Harper who if it weren't for the outrageous success would absolutely still just be playing music anyway. Mumford & Sons are just brilliant as well, you can see a theme here as to who I'm inspired by. The genuine musos who don't give a sh*t about anything other than the music.

What's your ultimate musician fantasy? Winning New Zealand's Got Talent? Getting picked up by a big American record label? Doing what you're doing until you're 75?

Not sure if doing what I'm doing right now will be sustainable until I'm 75! THE ultimate is to play in front of a 3-4000 seat theatre crowd who are all moved and singing my lyrics back to me in chorus. That's a wee way away, but in the mid-term I'd love to just be playing full original gigs with other great musicians and bands, writing towards a first album, and just generally getting more stuck in to the life of a full time professional touring musician, you know, nailing it.

Do you plan on returning to London? coming back to Stewart Island?

I'll go back to London to visit my friends who are still there, and hopefully play some more gigs...I've actually promised friends of mine in London who are the owners of The Pilgrim Bar & Kitchen in Vauxhall a freebie for having sent my

surfboard back from the basement of their pub! Most certainly plan on returning to Stewart Island. I'd like to do some fishing and get a kayak/run mission under my belt, and play a gig for all you locals who are doing it tough through the winter!

If you hear that Monty is playing at the Pub I recommend you get yourself down there for a night of great music.



**Southland Biodiversity Expo:
“Biodiversity in our Backyard”**

Southern Institute of Technology, Environment Southland, Fonterra, New Zealand Landcare Trust and the Department of Conservation invite you to Southland’s first Biodiversity Expo.

Saturday 13 July 2013

Venue: Hansen Seminar Centre, SIT, Tay Street, Invercargill

The Biodiversity Expo showcases biodiversity on our properties, the economic and environmental benefits of biodiversity, and how to go about enhancing the biodiversity in our backyard.

Entry is free. The doors open at 9 am and the Expo will run until 2.30 pm.

The Expo will feature:

expo stands run by farmers, community groups, rural industry representatives, local government and trusts

opportunity to meet award-winning farmers

live fresh-water crayfish, lizards and native fish

‘bite size’ (five minute) presentations throughout the day

key note talks by leading ecologists, economists and farmers

Registrations or more information: contact Judy Fleck, SIT:
Ph 03 211 2699 extn 8788. Email judy.fleck@sit.ac.nz.

LOST HAT

Unabashed shade of purple. Old lady showercap style. Charlie’s favourite headgear. Missing somewhere between Lee Bay and Halfmoon Bay. If you find this hat can you please return it to us at POB 156. Thank you.



Well done Stewart Island!

Lands End Garden Club of Bluff would like to thank you for your wonderful support with the hospice collection.

A special thank you to

*Real Journeys
Ship to Shore
The South Sea Hotel
and Mel & Luke*

*\$189 was collected from the island and \$1,438 from Bluff.
(It was well up this year!)*



SIN has received so many ideas for names for the mushroom corner I think I’ll do something fun, and use a different one each week.

FUNGUS FEATURE. *Photos from Carolyn Squires*



Shop Talk

by Jules Retberg

Many happy returns

“You know you’re in a small town when they wish a local ‘happy birthday’ on the cinema billboard” is what I wrote in my diary almost ten years ago while I was in a place called Port Alberni in British Columbia. We were about to board a working freight boat to travel down the Barkley Sound so I didn’t get time to stop and take a photo, more’s the pity. Brain fog has descended over a few memories from my mid-life-crisis-gap-year-305-days-without-a-hairdryer-trip, but some things stick in my mind, and that is one of them.

Now, along with a bunch of buddies at work I get to write Stewart Islanders’ birthdays up on **our** board. I will admit to taking a snap of my birthday up there and sending it to friends and family in the UK and I’m sure that many a birth or engagement announcement on the board has been similarly whizzed around the world via the magic of the internet.

The older we get, the less birthdays seem to matter - or get acknowledged. Some people hate getting older, some embrace it, some fight it with plastic surgery and hair dye, and others simply don’t care. But for kids, every month or week closer to the next annual milestone matters - how often have you heard “I am 6 and three quarters” or “5 and a half”? Priceless! And just when **do** we stop counting like that?! When we reach double figures maybe.

“Many happy returns of the day” is a less common phrase used these days to wish someone a happy birthday but I’ve frequently wondered about its origins. I consulted *The God Of All Things Internet* otherwise known as Google and learned that it was used in 18th Century England as a birthday and new year greeting. It refers to the passing of a year and wishes someone a long and happy life, to return to this day, their birthday or new year, many times.

Whatever your age and attitude towards the day of your birth, I’m sure everyone can find a way to recognise their 365-day journey around the sun, whether it’s made public on our birthday board or a quiet thought to yourself at home.

And congratulations to Jill and Richard who celebrated owning the shop for 10 years at the end of May. A gorgeous cake made by Carol was shared with everyone that came into the shop early enough!
Jules



Hi Everyone

From Monday 3rd June our opening hours will be 7:30am to 6:00pm every day.

Our decision to close half an hour earlier than we currently do allows us to manage our staffing more effectively during the quieter season as well as the knock-on effect of the ferry timetable change has on our grocery, produce and chilled deliveries to the island.

The Four Square brand is known for “looking after the locals” and as the majority of locals shop with us during the middle part of the day, we believe most people will be unaffected by our slight change of hours.

It goes without saying that you will still receive the excellent service and value for money that you always have by shopping with us, and we thank you for your understanding.

Cheers

Jill & Rich, Ship to Shore

congratulations

Parents

Amber and Simon

welcome baby

Zade Bowen Leask-MacKenzie

Newlyweds

Mona and Lorry

Parents

Mel and Luke

welcome baby

Elise MacKenzie Simeon

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Jai and Jill celebrate Jill and Richard's anniversary running Ship to Shore with a lovely big cake from Carol. Photo from Jules.

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HMB School Photo Competition

Your chance to have your photographic talents exposed worldwide in the 2014 Stewart Island calendar! Great prizes and winning photo on the cover!

Requirements:

- ✦Crisp, clear shots preferably in landscape format with a minimum finished size of 1.5MB
- ✦Presented on disc or slide format. Named.
- ✦Shots to be taken on Stewart Island, or waters surrounding
- ✦By entering in competition you agree to have your photos reproduced for the purpose of fundraising for HMB School
- ✦Entries to be handed in to Nicolette Thompson or Jan Keen, HMB School or SS hotel,
- ✦on or before 30th June in a named envelope with contact details.
- ✦ONLY 10 SHOTS MAX PER PERSON

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