

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May—June 2012

\$2.00

Welcome to our **new Halfmoon Bay School reporter**. See Sophie Conner's article below!

Stewart Island represented well on ANZAC Day thanks to local guide Matt Jones. His beautiful photograph of the dawn service appeared on the front page of the *Southland Times*. Check out [mattjoneswildlifeimages.com](http://mattjoneswildlifeimages.com) to see more of Matt's photos. (He doodles too—see *Shop Talk* p15).

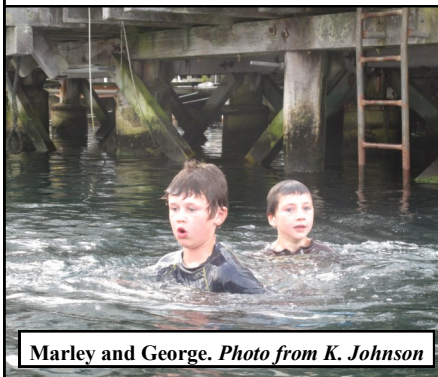
Please remember to bring your **Mainland cheese wrapper** bar-codes into Ship to Shore. This is Petra's pet project: she sends these in and \$1 per bar code goes to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (Fern's collecting them until she returns).

As Winter approaches the Bay is going into a quieter mode. The **South Sea Hotel Restaurant and Pub** will have **limited hours**. See page 3 for their Winter schedule.

There are now two community **coffee groups** on the go. The **Rug-gnats** meets from 10 to noon every Wednesday at the RSA. Parents, caregivers, grannies-for-hire, babies, and *everyone else* are welcome to drop by for baking, coffee and banter. Coin donation appreciated.



**Dawson boys and their girls.** Brothers Chris (without whiskers!) and Tim (no hat!) pose with their wives Serena and Simone at the Oban Fire Brigade Honours Night. Laura Cavanagh took lovely portraits of many of our fire-fighting heroes and guests that evening. See pages 8-9.



Marley and George. Photo from K. Johnson

A new monthly coffee group is meeting at the Hotel. See page 4 for details.

NIWA's seasonal report is on page 14, if you can understand it let me know. If you want a less wordy weather observation here's mine: **It's cold.**

Vicki's Travelling **Quiz** Tour has raised a pile of money, and the journey ends at the Pub on **Sunday 20th May** so be there!(p2)

Islanders fare-welled **Noeline Fife** at a beautiful service at the cemetery. Her niece has shared the words spoken at the town funeral: see page 6.

Jed: Thank you for your years of service as Fire Brigade chief.

Finally, good on ex-Islanders Rob Emmett and Doug Fox. With Murray Braven, these dedicated mates of missing Te Anau cray fisherman Bruce Gordon used a chopper and free diving to locate the **K-Cee's** wheelhouse in Doubtful Sound. —Jess

### Swim for Life

by Sophie Conner

Dunking your head under water? Doesn't that sound easy. What about jumping off the wharf with your clothes and shoes on? Well some brave kids of HMB School did just that. They jumped into the bone-chilling waters of Halfmoon Bay to complete their swim for life survival certificates. This freezing feat was accomplished with the help of the teachers and the cheering of their friends. Jumping off the wharf, treading water for three minutes, plus swimming to shore. **BRRR!** The numbing sensation was a bit hard on all the students. As the spectators gave them the countdown, pair by pair they jumped into the open ocean. All pupils had a blast (of

icy water). Was it cold? You bet it was. Was it fun? Sure thing. Was it scary? Oh yes! They also had to swim 200 metres and a selection of other distances to earn their certificates. But did they crack the challenge? Most definitely yes! Congratulations to everyone who did it!



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## Stewart Island Weather Observations

by Bruce Ford

Most of you will have seen the enclosure containing weather-monitoring equipment in Ayr Street, alongside the School.

This equipment is the official NIWA (National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research) recording site for our village. It contains the various (and very fragile!) thermometers, rain gauge and sun recording gear that most towns have. Due to the curiosity of many people – especially visitors – there has recently been a sign fitted to explain the different parts and the operation.

The School completes the manual write-up from the instruments each morning, and on weekends and holidays this is done by volunteers – usually Jon Spraggon and me. NIWA pays the School for this service and the funds help with the School’s ongoing fund-raising.

Whilst the site doesn’t receive much TV coverage because of its manual collection method, there is an automatic computerised weather station at South Cape, and this one *does* receive regular mentions on TV – alas, usually due to occurrences of more severe weather 40-50 kms further south and usually very different to the conditions in the township!



### Stewart Island Climate Station

This climate station is run by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). It measures rainfall, air temperature, and sunshine hours.

Observations began on 1 May 1970 and continue to be read by local observers at 9am each morning.

The glass ball is a Campbell Stokes sunshine recorder and works by burning a trace on specially treated card. The louvered white box on the stand is a Stevenson screen designed to shield thermometers from direct rainfall and sunshine while still allowing air to circulate freely around them.

The average annual rainfall at this station for the period 1970 to 2011 was 1532mm. The mean 9am air temperature was 9.6 °C, the extreme minimum temperature was -7.3 °C, and the extreme maximum temperature was 28.5 °C.

Data from this station are available from New Zealand’s National Climate Database, online with the Cliflo service at [www.niwa.co.nz](http://www.niwa.co.nz).

NIWA – enhancing the benefits of New Zealand’s natural resources

In addition to the above, we also have our own local automatic weather station with all the gadgets on the school roof, and it operates through S.D.C. Computer Communications.

This gear has been provided by your Community Board and is online at <http://obanweather.southlandnz.com/> and is also linked from the Promotion Association web site, Council web site and SIESA web site.

The information is not considered “official” however for TVNZ purposes, but it is always worth telling people that our weather is pretty good compared to that in many other parts of the world!

## Travelling Quiz Update *from Vicki Coats*

These are the takings so far. Money raised is going to the Cancer Society.

Balclutha Rosebank Lodge \$565.60

Palmerston Waihemo Lodge \$323.00

Oamaru Fat Sallys \$847.00

Mosgiel Hotel Taieri \$115.00

Dunedin The Church \$70

Frankton Frankton Ale House \$102.80

Wanaka Bullock Bar \$453.40

Arrowtown New Orleans Hotel \$427.30

Cromwell Cromwell Brew House \$82.30

Makarora Tourist Centre \$246.50

Dunedin Cableways \$382.90

Omakau Omakau Commercial \$340.10

Alexandra The Middle \$270.40

Milton White Horse Inn \$576.20

Total of \$4802.50 in three weeks!

I have some spot prizes donated from the White Horse Inn in Milton to be given out at the Stewart Island quiz.

The most teams was Balclutha with 16, and the most money raised in one night was Oamaru with a massive \$847.

Can Stewart Island beat both these scores???

**If you only make it to one quiz this year, make it Sunday the 20th May for the finale of the Travelling Quiz Night tour!**

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Jed also has a pretty good wood working workshop, arc welding gear and experience in construction and automation. So if you have an interesting project requiring a wide range of skills give me a call.

Ph/fax 03 2191494 Please leave a message. PO Box 123, Stewart Island



Safety monitors wait in kayaks for the Halfmoon Bay students to jump off the wharf for their Swim for Survival Certificates. See Sophie's story front page. Photo from Kath Johnson.

## **South Sea Hotel Winter Hours**

After a busy summer, the hotel is now very quiet. We need to reduce services over the winter months in response to decreased demand.

Depending on bookings, the restaurant may be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings over the winter months.

If you want to dine in the restaurant on these days, please ring the hotel to check your options.

There will be a full menu and blackboard specials served in the bar every day.

*Thank you for your support & understanding—Helen*

### **Thank you Rakiura/ Stewart Island!**



The new community trap hard at work

SIRCET would like to extend a huge thank you to all who purchased a raffle ticket or scratchie from the Ship to Shore Raffle and Scratchie Board during the recent SIRCET possum trap funding drive. A massive \$232 was raised, and the trust is very pleased to announce that all 10 of the new automatic kill possum traps purchased have now been sponsored! Congratulations to Di Morris – the winner of the raffle prize basket.

The “Community Trap”, now wholly sponsored by the local community, is located on Peterson Hill, and has already caught four possums, two of which were caught in the first week of its November 2011 installation! We will continue to report on its progress.

*A special thanks to Jill and Richard of the Stewart Island Ship to Shore 4 Square, who continue to show phenomenal support to the trust. Thanks guys!*

### ***Possum Workshop, Sat 9 June***



**Possoms a Pest at your Place?**

SIRCET will be holding a **Possum Workshop** on Stewart Island on Saturday 9 June, 10am – 12 noon (the location is to be confirmed and will be notified on the notice board and on the SIRCET website). Join us to learn about:

- How to spot possum sign
- Preventing damage to your property
- Trapping techniques &
- Trap safety for the kids



Video demonstrations will be held on how the new automatic kill possum traps work and, for those that may be interested in purchasing a trap for their own property, a video on the trap’s simple installation.

Contact Denise on (03) 219 1159 or [denise@sircet.org.nz](mailto:denise@sircet.org.nz) for any questions.

The inaugural gathering for **Coffee or tea at South Sea Hotel** occurred last month. This gathering began as "Would you like to go over to the Hotel and have a cup of tea?" and grew to setting a date for anyone else interested and a reminder placed on the Notice Board.

The word has got round, but you might like to invite someone along. The only organizing for this gathering is to set the date as **the third Thursday of the month 10 - 11am**, no minutes, no members fees, just come, buy your coffee and have a chat. I believe the last gathering took place in the back dining room.

—Lee Wadds

### **STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE**

On 10<sup>th</sup> May Garden Circle visited Stewart Island Lodge and spent a very enjoyable afternoon being given a guided tour by Jo and ending up with a scrumptious afternoon tea. Thank you Jo for entertaining us and good luck with your new venture.

In June we will get together at the Golf Course, where we hope to pot up native plant cuttings and plant the prepared rockery, if the weather doesn’t permit this we will have afternoon tea and a natter at Jenny’s.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 2.0pm**

*New faces are always welcome.*



## Community Centre News

Hi all

Just a quick note to let you know the reason McPhail and Gadsby cancelled - they had only sold 4 tickets prior to them coming and they could not come over for that number - so next time we have something great wanting to visit the Island lets get tickets early so we wont be disappointed at them not coming.

## NEWS

Netball/Soccer/Basketball on a Monday night - starting on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 7.30pm and starting now - Badminton on a Wednesday night 7.30pm bring a friend

Music and movement on a Monday 9.30am for under 5's

Tai chi on a Wednesday 10am and Thursday 530pm

Circuit Classes Tuesday & Thursday 630pm and Saturday 9am

Swiss Ball Tuesday & Thursday 430pm Saturday 4pm

Keep you ears open personal trainer coming soon - to get your gym mojo going.

We have great gym facilities and don't forget the squash court

If you have any queries just ask me or phone and leave a message 2191477 or text me 0272316305

## STILL LOOKING FOR OLD CARDS TO BE RETURNED

We are having a card amnesty – if you have an old community centre card that is no longer valid – just pop it under the door or in P O Box 187. Thanks

See you at the gym

Cheers

Sue

## Noeline Fife

1917—2012

*Tena koutou katoa; nga mihi nui kia koutou*

After a reading of “Te Hakuwai”, Noeline’s favourite poem by Rewi Fife, read by Maui Fife, on behalf of our whanau I was privileged to lead the service in Invercargill as we bade farewell to our beloved Noeline, the last of three Huria girls, one of whom was my mother, and like my mother Betty and Auntie Molly, she was a great reader. She was also a lover of learning, a scrabble fiend, (if you visited her at Takitimu on scrabble day she would get a bit edgy), cross-word fanatic, and lover of the flora and fauna of Rakiura.

Noeline was also the last to get married. When I was very little she lived with our Gran in Kaiapoi and she was the auntie who sang and played with me. I loved to hear the whistle from the woollen mill that meant she would soon be home for lunch.

Then Noeline married George and our Gran flew to Invercargill often, too scared to go to the toilet on the plane in case it tipped. Noeline was too scared to fly much at all and crossed the strait as seldom as possible but letters from her scrawled on back and front of the pages and numbered in a strange order would tell us about Stewart Island life; how much coal cost, how her garden was, what the boys and George were up to, what the kakariki and kaka were doing in the bush near the house. She knew exactly where to find little wild orchids on the island, not much bigger than a seed head of grass.

On my last visit to the island in 2004, just before Christmas, Noeline cooked me roasted stuffed muttonbird, which I’d never tried before, while I was at the carol service at the church across the road and many a February the phone would ring and her cheeky, ageing voice would be singing, “Happy Birthday to you”.

Maui spoke of his mother being a real “lady”, her love of family, nature and people and her determination to create as normal a life for Rewi as possible.

Shona Fife read us one of Noeline’s childhood stories and Fay, Noeline’s other daughter-in-law described Noeline’s networking, her friendship with a wide range of people including correspondence with Julia Cairns, an English writer, who in 1937, signed a copy of *Heaven’s Gate*

containing a chapter titled *To Noeline*, praising her description of our family cemetery between Kaiapoi and Woodend and urging her to keep her “glorious memory pictures stored away in her perceptive girl-mind.”

This is one of Julia Cairns’ poems, appropriate for Noeline’s return to Rakiura, the island she loved from the moment she landed and smelled its scented air in January 1948, and its people who loved her so well.

### Home

Home- the quiet shroud  
 That wraps around  
 This fickle life-  
 May be a memory  
 Of scented breath  
 Of flowers in a garden  
 Or a flushed sky, tree-fringed  
 And a blackbird’s call;  
 Or firelight playing  
 Through an open lattice  
 Wreathed in jasmine,  
 With blue smoke curling up  
 To bluer heaven;  
 Or sloping, lichen’d roof  
 That shelters dear chairs  
 Left empty,  
 Books yet sacred,  
 And dreams now hushed to sleep.

Moe mai ra Noeline, moe ma i te rangimarie o te Atua, te Tamaiti me  
 Te Wairua Tapu. Amene

Sleep Noeline, rest in the peace of the Father, the Son  
 and the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Diane Kawana*

# Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours Night





***Hail to the Chiefs!*** Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade Chiefs past and present pose at the OVFB Honours Night on 12th May. From left: Michael "Goofy" Goomes, 1967-82; Lloyd "Fox" Wilcox; 1982-95; Dave Valli 1995 -2006; Gary "Jed" Lewis, 2006-2012; and our current chief, Bruce Stubbs. (Invercargill based)

*All photos from Laura Cavanagh*



**Jed Lewis (centre) received the Nathan Pasco Memorial Cup for his service to the Brigade for the past 14 years. He is pictured with Noel and Sharon Pasco.**

**Snak and Yak: a visit from Peter Kenyon.** “The future ain’t what is used to be” but it does belong to those who prepare for it. Peter Kenyon asked a group of 40 Stewart Islanders, who were gathered to hear him speak last month as a part of the “Snack and Yak” series of themed get-togethers, what kind of future they would like to create and immerse themselves in here on Stewart Island. He pointed out the youngest people in the room and said that we needed to be “opportunity focussed” for their sakes. Coming back to the glass is half full analogy, he gave example after example of communities who have given their attention to the

# STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY

“Creating a healthy, inclusive, caring and enterprising community”

Peter Kenyon Presentation  
Monday 16 April 2012



**Key Opening Points:**

1. The future ain’t what it used to be
2. The future belongs to those who prepare for it
3. Whatever the challenge, community is the answer
4. We need each other
5. We need to be idea and opportunity obsessive
6. Tonight is about them (children and grandchildren)

Ask yourself...**WHAT LEGACY DO YOU WANT TO PROVIDE?**

**Healthy Community – what does it look like?**

Ideas from the floor:



assets in their patch (people, things, organisations, surroundings), and spoke of what they have achieved.

People get held up by “the good old days”, spending too much energy trying to get back there or lamenting their passing. It doesn’t work that way, the good old days are behind us and several futures lie ahead. Which one we move towards depends a bit on whether we plan forward or just react to what crops up; a bit on luck and a lot on what we as a community decide to do.

Peter has an interest, generated from years of working amongst small communities and in particular, small island communities. He has gathered novels worth of experiences and stories, which demonstrate communities looking within themselves for the answers to their most difficult hurdles, and coming up with unique ideas that fit their own situation. He bases his work on what he calls “Asset Based Community Development” (or ABCD, so it’s not rocket science). It means the opportunities, skills, people and places are the starting point for today, not the problems and deficits you want to fix.

For example, many small island communities face a common concern in that their young people grow up and move off shore for school and university. They then often stay away to go about their lives elsewhere. One older lady in her community decided it was time she learned to use computers and the Internet. She used her new skills to track down where these young people had gone via e-mail, Google, social networking and other means, everyone up to the age of 35 who had lived on the island at some point. Every 6 months the town mayor

wrote a letter to them to tell them what was happening in the community, suggest they might like to visit again to attend a particular event, festival or show and generally ensured they didn’t forget what was good about living in that community. They found, after a time, when those people were at an age to invest in a house, business or to start a family, some began to look back to the small community in which they had their early memories and returned. In the meantime, they began to view every one of those people, and every one of the children coming through who may be in that situation in the years to come, as an ambassador for the island.

To start a bit of conversation and controversy, Peter asked those of us present what is the most important age bracket to attract to live in a community. He argued that the 30-40 year old group were the ones with the money and experience behind them, and the years ahead, to want to raise children, invest in business and buy houses and as such they were the most important group to target. There was a lot of discussion afterwards about whether or not he was right, and I’ll leave it to you to ponder for yourselves what you think is true.

For an evening session, and one to which many people arrived already apologising that they would leave early, I haven’t seen so many people stay afterwards to continue their conversations over a cuppa and supper for some time. The following day there were still ideas buzzing around and conversations about how to take the next step.

One big idea from Peter and many of the communities, which has also been buzzing around here for some time, was to

hold a “community visioning” meeting here on the island. This is not a detailed plan for someone or some organisation to carry out, or to sit on a shelf, but a discussion about what do we want Stewart Island and our future to look like in 5 years as well as 50 years’ time. Do we want a school, employment opportunities, cafes, grandparents...? Those questions lead us to think about “what is our role in this”? How do my own decisions and actions help get us to this vision, or take us further away from it? It doesn’t take too much thought to work out how important employers of young people on the island are to the size of our school, or how important our school is to any employer wanting to hire long-term staff of family-raising age, how important grandparents are, our shop, green spaces and other community assets. The important step will then be to follow this up with an annual revisit. Did we get the question right? Did I do my bit in the decisions I made, the actions I took, to move closer to this vision? What should I do differently next year?

Some people are starting to organise a group to follow up on this idea. If you are at all interested in shaping when and how it happens, please drop us a line. We want to make sure ALL of the island community can attend, which includes children, tourism operators busy in the summer, transient staff (they are here every year, though not always the same ones, and they will be for some time to come) boarding school students, home and away staff and anyone else who cares what it’s like to be here. Watch this space...

Peter Kenyon is from the Banks of I.D.E.A.S. [www.bankofideas.com.au](http://www.bankofideas.com.au)

—article by Kari Beaven

**Healthy, Inclusive Caring Communities:**

1. *Places that values participation*
2. *Places that knows itself and its assets*
3. *Places where the capabilities of everyone are identified*
4. *Places where collaboration and cooperation live*
5. *Places which develops leadership*
6. *Places where residents are opportunity and idea obsessive*
7. *Places where passion, hope, optimism and a positive attitude develop*

**Suggestions from Peter Kenyon on the process forward:**

- Think about what **you** want Stewart Island to be like for your children/grandchildren
- Create a Community Asset Map
- Invite ‘Local Experts’ over to share their knowledge (eg: *Janette Malcolm – South Invercargill, Rebecca Admunsen – Glengarry, Invercargill*)
- Have a community workshop – share ideas, network
- Check out other islands, network with them

**Presentation Attendees:**

- Jill Skettert
- Graham Cowley
- Diana Morris
- Henry Morris
- Peter and Dannie Games
- Peri Gibson
- Alan Tall
- Jessi Nichols
- Sharon Pasco
- Debs Dillon
- Chris Dillon
- Fiona Gordon
- Annette and Phil
- Wendy Hallet
- Wendy Bailey
- Ewan
- Brent, Kari and Pat
- Beverly Osbourne
- Gwen Neave

## DOC Spot

*By Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor*

### Kakapo take flight

The Kakapo recovery team is enjoying a busy 2012, despite there being no breeding on Codfish Island / Whenua Hou this year. The most significant project was the translocation on of eight kakapo (six from Codfish and two from Anchor Island), to Little Barrier Island / Hauturu, on April 14. Planning for the transfer was a logistical challenge for the team, led by programme manager Deidre Vercoe-Scott. It involved several teams catching the birds in the early hours of the morning, after which they were loaded onto a helicopter for a flight to Invercargill. Once there, they were transferred onto a commercial Air New Zealand flight to Christchurch, then Auckland. But the journey didn't end there. Another helicopter flight, this time to Little Barrier Island, took the kakapo on the final leg of the journey. By this stage they were down to seven, after 10-year-old Rakiura was diverted to the vet at Auckland Zoo, where she was treated for a minor ailment - "crusty bum".

The birds were welcomed to their new home with a powhiri before being released. The translocation is a six to 10 year trial to determine whether the four female and four male birds will breed and raise chicks on their own, without management or supplementary feeding. There used to be a kakapo population on Little Barrier but they were removed because of the threat of kiore. The island is now predator free and, like Codfish Island, is out of swimming range of rats and stoats.

Little Barrier would be deemed a suitable site for an unmanaged kakapo population if the birds breed and raise their own young successfully, without intervention, at a rate sufficient for the population to increase. However, even if Little barrier is deemed suitable, whether a kakapo population is established there will depend on outcomes at other potential kakapo sites. It may simply remain a 'stand-by' island for



**DOC staff from left: Hayley, Errol, Daryl, Jo, Ros and Hannah line up beside the chopper with their precious cargo, after a successful morning catching kakapo on Codfish Island / Whenua Hou . The birds were translocated to Little Barrier Island / Hauturu.)**

kakapo to be used should Kakapo Recovery need to move birds to a holding site.

### Marine Reserve prosecution

Recently, two Southland men were apprehended and subsequently prosecuted for catching blue cod within the Te Wharawhara (Ulva Island) Marine Reserve in Paterson Inlet. Fishing in a marine reserve is what is known as a "Strict Liability" offence which simply means it does not require an intentional act by the person(s) or knowledge that they are actually in a marine reserve for them to commit the offence. It also does not require any marine life to be caught, simply the act of trying to catch or take marine life.

On this occasion the men claimed not to know of the marine reserve boundaries and that their boat's navigational aids didn't have the marine reserves co-ordinates loaded in. This is perhaps a timely reminder that the onus is on persons fishing both recreationally and commercially to ensure they have the relevant information and boundary co-ordinates of any marine reserves located in areas they may be fishing. Details of all New Zealand's marine reserves & co-ordinates are available free from ei-

ther the Rakiura national Park Visitor Centre or the DOC website: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

### Marketing boost for Rakiura Track

As I have mentioned in previous columns, there has been major investment in the Rakiura Track over recent years to bring it more in line with the Department's other eight Great Walks around the country: Port William hut has been extended; tracks have been realigned and gravelled where necessary; interesting and informative panels have been installed at the huts and historic sites along the way; and a new campsite has been established on the ridge above North Arm hut. This month the visitor asset team commenced work on an upgrade of North Arm hut, which will see it extended by 4.8metres to provide more bench space and seating for visitors. Although the hut sleeps 24 people, up until now seating and cooking capacity has been severely limited. This lack of living space was highlighted in a visitor survey carried out in 2004, where 34% of respondents felt the level of crowding was an issue. An online visitor booking system for the huts and campsites on the Rakiura track has been running successfully since October 2010 and since being introduced occupancy has increased

by 15%. Although North Arm hut will remain closed while these renovations are completed, the Rakiura Track will remain open for trampers equipped to camp or just wish to overnight at Port William hut.

DOC has just entered a new partnership with Air New Zealand that will see the airline and the department working together to protect the environment and promote recreation opportunities. A key feature of the partnership involves working together to boost awareness and participation of the nine Great Walks, including the Rakiura Track. Both organisations can see real value in promoting the Great Walks to New Zealanders and international visitors and one of the first initiatives is a series of articles featuring the Great Walks planned for Air New Zealand's in-flight magazine, Kia Ora. Kia Ora is the magazine put into the seat pockets on all Air New Zealand flights worldwide. The print run is 46,000 monthly and it has a readership of nearly 300,000 people.

As well as the national branding of the nine Great Walks, local staff have been working on a marketing plan specifically for the Rakiura Track, highlighting the many advantages of this particular Great Walk – an island adventure that can be walked year-round, by anyone with a moderate level of fitness. New brochures and a video clip are just some of the things currently underway and we will soon be approaching local businesses to outline what opportunities there might be to encourage more visitors to the island to experience what Rakiura has to offer.

**Other items in brief:**

**Busy week on Bench** - In mid April, the biodiversity team spent a week on Bench Island monitoring New Zealand fur seals / Kekeno. This involved catching fur seal pups and marking them, then counting the proportion of marked versus unmarked pups in the colony. This gives an estimate of the total population within the colony. While the data is still away being



**There will be more room to move when this 4.8m extension to North Arm Hut is completed.**

analysed, it appears that seal numbers have been pretty stable for the last few years. While on Bench Island the team took the opportunity to catch and transfer 14 weka from Bench to Ulva Island. This transfer is primarily aimed at increasing the genetic health of the weka on Ulva, but will also assist the recovery of the Ulva Island population. All of the weka have been banded with a single metal band. We are very interested in having any sightings of banded weka reported to the local DOC office to help us monitor where they settle and if they are contributing to the breeding population.

**Rat-dog check underway** - DOC ranger Miriam Ritchie returned to Ulva Island with her rodent-detecting dog, Occi last week to carry out a further check of the island. We have also recently baited and activated all the traps and tracking tunnels on Ulva Island. If all of these combined efforts continue to show no evidence of rats, then it is possible that by the end of May the island can again be declared rat-free.

**Rat genetic study** - A study of rat genetics is continuing, with Norway rats being caught from mainland locations to compare their genetic profile to the population that established on Ulva Island. Not only should this tell us where the recent invasion came from, but it will also give us a "library" of genetic material to compare with samples from any future invasions. This isn't a quick process, as despite having 60 traps set up around the Golden Bay - Deep Bay

coast and catching lots of Ship rats we only average one Norway rat every 10 days. At the start of May, the traps were moved to the Pipi Rocks / the Old Sand Neck section of coast to focus on the Norway rats in this location

**Debrief date set** - A debrief about the Ulva Island rat invasion and response will be held on Friday, June 22 at the community centre on Stewart Island. Everyone is welcome to participate in this debrief, with the aim of reviewing what has

happened over the last 18 months and working out what went well, what could be improved and any other lessons, both for us and for other islands around the country. Further information will be sent out once we have confirmed timing.

**Visit the Visitor Centre** - With winter on its way and fewer people around, opening hours in the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre have been reduced. Although still open every day, during winter these hours are: **8.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 2pm at weekends.** Remember you don't need to be a visitor to visit! As well as interpretive displays, we have a wide range of wildlife DVDs and videos, comfortable couches and a wide screen TV, making the visitor centre a great place to escape the wild and windy weather outside. We also stock cards, books and gift items catering for people of all ages, including cosy possum/merino socks, gloves, scarves and hats. So if you need to buy a gift or just want to treat yourself, why not come in and browse. DOC is in the process of implementing a national retailing project throughout all its visitor centres across the country so there will be changes to what we stock. In preparation for that, during May we are offering a discount of 10% on all full-priced stock (apart from those items we sell on behalf of various community groups). We also have a sales table with items that have been marked down by 25%. Be quick for these bargains.



May to July 2012

Issued: 01-May-2012

## La Niña over, and a mild start to winter for New Zealand

Neutral conditions prevail in the tropical Pacific (no La Niña or El Niño), after the end of the 2011/12 La Niña event. Near New Zealand, lower than normal pressures are expected to the north of the country, with higher than normal pressures over southern New Zealand.

The NIWA National Climate Centre’s outlook for early winter, May to July 2012, indicates air temperatures are likely to be average or above average over most of the country, except for near average in the east of the South Island. Seas around New Zealand are likely to remain near normal or slightly cooler than normal during early winter.

Early winter rainfall is likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island, and near normal in other regions. Similarly, soil moisture levels are likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island and near normal in other regions. However, river flows are likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island, normal or below normal in the west of both islands, and near normal in the north and east of the South Island.

### Overall picture

#### Temperature

Seasonal temperatures are likely to be average or above average over most of the country, except for near average in the east of the South Island. Despite the overall pattern of near or above average temperatures, frosts typical of winter will occur from time to time.

#### Rainfall, soil moisture and river flows

Early winter rainfall is likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island, and near normal in other regions. Soil moisture levels are likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island and near normal in other regions. River flows are likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island, normal or below normal in the west of both islands, and near normal in the north and east of the South Island.

### Regional predictions for the next three months

#### West Coast, Alps and foothills, inland Otago, Southland

Early winter temperatures are equally likely to be near average or above average. Seasonal rainfall totals and soil moisture levels are likely to be in the near normal range, while river flows are equally likely to be in the near normal or below normal range.

Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	Temperature	Rainfall	Soil moisture	River flows
Above average	40%	20%	20%	20%
Near average	40%	50%	50%	40%
Below average	20%	30%	30%	40%

#### Background

The 2011/12 La Niña event ended during April, and present conditions in the tropical Pacific are ENSO-neutral (no La Niña or El Niño). The three-month average of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) for February-April is close to zero. Sea surface temperatures are now warmer than normal in the eastern tropical Pacific.

Almost all global climate models predict neutral conditions in the tropical Pacific over early winter (May-July), with about half of them continuing this situation over the subsequent three months. However, about half the models predict the evolution of an El Niño state during the August-October period. NIWA will continue to monitor the global climate situation.

In spite of the collapse of La Niña in the tropical Pacific, the easterly circulation regime that has been dominating New Zealand climate patterns since December 2011 is expected to persist through the May to July 2012 period.

## SHOP TALK

by Jules Retberg

### **Money, money, money!**

The big news, perhaps not just for the shop, but for Stewart Island in general, is the installation of an ATM at the Four Square.

I really wish I'd had my camera to snap the crowd of locals ooooh-ing and aaaah-ing around the strange orange alien shortly after it was switched on. For those that haven't yet seen the ATM, it's right next to the DVDs. For those afraid to use it, we're happy to help you (but please don't tell us your PIN!)

And just when did we start using all these acronyms in our daily language?

So, ATM - what does it mean?

I thought **A**utomatic **T**eller **M**achine but the magical internet informs me that it's also an acronym for "**A**t **T**he **M**oment" used by the speedy-thumbed youth texting and emailing their m8s (that's "mates" to you and me).

The first ATM was developed in the late 1930s but wasn't patented until 1963. Called the Bankograph, it was installed in the City Bank of New York but customers didn't embrace this early technology - as it didn't dispense cash and was actually just an envelope deposit machine. However, it led the way to what we know now as the modern ATM - or cash machine, ABM, bank machine, cashpoint, or "hole in the wall" if you're British!

The overall response from locals and visitors alike is that an ATM on Stewart Island is a positive thing, although the Four Square has received a worrying number of orders for balaclavas ...

All joking aside, the ATM meets rigorous security standards - so don't even think about it!



# Need a Resource Consent?

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**Jarrod and Laura. A big THANKS to Jarrod from the community for all of your hard work at the Fire Brigade.**

Hi, my name is Lynn and I am keen to move to Stewart Island. ☺

However, I do require employment before I make the move.

So if you are looking for a hard-working person with a sense of humor please give me a call. I am willing to try anything (well almost anything)!

I will be on the Island in the last week of June, if you wish to meet me. I can be contacted on

**027 2745452 or email**  
[lynntm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lynntm@xtra.co.nz)

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