

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

September—October 2012

\$2.00

Joanne Leask has opened **Bird on a Pear** above the Wharf, hours are 7am until the last ferry (but she will stay open later on demand once her liquor license comes in). Bird on a Pear offers Roasted Addiction coffee, all-day breakfast, tea and juices, a cabinet of hot and cold food; and catering, function venue and specialty cakes are also on offer. Stop by, ask her about the name, and support the new cafe!



Jessi and Pippa enjoy high tea at Bird on a Pear with the Garden Circle. Photo from Jenny Gell

for more than a decade... Jan has done it for 15 years and she says this was the best year yet: they collected \$1,240. The ladies cleverly staked out the drill site and when the drillers arrived the guys lingered in the van, worried the girls wearing bright yellow attire with flowers in their hair

were protestors!

The movie theatre will be open this summer thanks to Ozzy Pete and Penny; and Deanne McPherson is opening the restaurant at Church Hill. Exciting times on the Island with new businesses popping up like daffodils.

Daffodil Day was a success thanks to the efforts of Jan Keen, Nicolette Thompson, Diddle, and Jo Learmonth (p12). Some of these ladies have been collecting money on Daffodil Day

Hardhat and daffodils:
Nic sports the new look for Spring.

Photo: Vicki Coats



The protestors never did arrive, and the barge-loads of drill gear are heading back to Taranaki as the **Greymouth Petroleum** drilling here is complete. *What did they find?* A murmur is “absolutely nothing”, a rumour is “maybe something”, and the official word is “that information is confidential.” The samples are being analyzed and the findings are not being divulged to the *SIN*, even though I promised we wouldn’t tell anyone.

Make sure you register ASAP for the **Stewart Island Try-a-Thon** which starts the 21st Sept. Info and form pages 4-5.



Fern's fern. This is a “well-armed” Island since Temple Tattoo visited and created some epic-dermis. More tattoos inside. Photos from Kate Hamilton.

A **Community Vision** meeting will be 20th Oct (p5). **Gala Day**, the 21st October, needs your help (p14); and the **Library** needs your books for its book sale next month (p15). Donations needed for the Labour weekend **Rakiura Heritage Centre Auction** (p14). **Ringa Ringa Golf Club** is celebrating 25 years in February 2013 but you need to register for the event by the end of October (p14).

Congrats to **Kari Beaven** who won a special award at the Environment and Conservation Awards in Invercargill last month. Kari was caught by surprise when she was awarded for “sustained commitment to environmental causes” and she had to get on stage with baby spit on her shirt.

Whitebaiters: Check page 8 if you are unsure about whitebaiting regulations on the Island.

Is anyone up for another **chook house** tour before the Island gets busy? Get in touch with Vicki.

After the last big **windstorm** I checked my favourite wind site to see how strong the gusts were and discovered it’s been cancelled. So I called weather site guru Uncle Ernie and he recommended www.predictwind.com — it costs to sign up but it’s really good and worth checking out if you like to get out and about on the big blue, especially with the Equinox Gales coming to a Strait near you. Batten down the hatches...
—Jess

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Stewart Island’s Crazy Idea – I think it can be done

by Gareth Morgan

I first got interested in eradicating predators in 2008 when I was lucky enough to visit New Zealand’s subantarctic islands. I learned then about the plunging population numbers of the various species native to those islands and the role that predators have played in their demise. On returning to Bluff that year I happened to pick up a copy of the *Southland Times* and read about an idea to clear predators from Stewart Island.

I thought little more of it until February this year when I found myself back down in the subantarctic islands once again. I noticed the difference in flora

(Continued on page 2)

HMB School News : Superstar Speeches & Terrific Tuataras!

by Sophie Conner

Halfmoon Bay School have been doing speeches. We got to pick our own topics. They ranged from Bermuda triangle to Mt Everest and Mark Ingles. Ms J invited an expert panel of judges, Mr Frew, Mrs Waddell and Mrs Ford. The treat for the winners and runner ups was to go to town and the top two spoke in round two. In the first round (school round) Billy came first, Sophie came second, Storm third and in fourth equal was Marz and Jack.

The students had a wonderful day. It started with a peaceful game of cards on the boat. Then we were lucky enough to attend art at the museum. The art class was all about the Polyfest that was happening in Invercargill. We went to Ice Age 4 and it was awesome.

The speech comp was next and **BILLY WON** that round too! Then it was off to see the TUATARAS. Billy got to try to feed the Tuatara but the locust (what they feed them) was to quick even for Billy aka pocket rocket. Marley got to hold a Tuatara on his ARM!!

HALFMOON BAY BEAT

Found Property:

I have had 2 x amounts of money handed into Police as found property. If you have lost money recently give me a call.

Traffic:

I have noted that there is again an increase in drivers permitting passengers to ride in a dangerous position on the back of vehicles. This includes utilities. The driver is liable to a fine of \$150.00 for permitting and the passenger is also liable to a fine of \$150.00 for riding. To prevent injury or fatality I will be enforcing the law in relation to these offences.

With the new tourist season upon us we will soon have an increase of pedestrians using our roads day and nights. Drivers be aware that pedestrians and cyclists also have a right to use roads and extra care is needed on the Island due to the shortage of footpaths and street lights. Keep the speed down and stay alert.

Dale Jenkins



Jo Leask's gorgeous cupcakes at the SPCA cupcake fundraiser. Thanks Jo and Vicki, \$150 raised on a rainy day for cats and dogs!

Motorau Moana Gardens Spruce-up

October 15-19
Please lend a hand.

Call Elaine Hamilton for more information
2191 027

(Continued from page 1)

on Enderby Island in just those four years and was told that this was the result of the pest eradication that had occurred there. We then went to MacQuarie Island where DOC is assisting getting rid of the rabbits there and saw an example of what would happen to the undergrowth there once that job is complete. Sadly I also learned that the population numbers of the native species of these islands continue to plunge.

I was dismayed as it seems just so mindless to be allowing this to happen. There are a number of causes of course, some of which are easier to arrest than others. Pest eradication seems really easy to me so we decided to do the Million Dollar Mouse project on the Antipodes and get those islands pest free. We raise the bucks and DOC does the job.

Coming back to the mainland in early March then I enquired what had happened to the 'big idea' on Stewart Island. I was told that since the 2008 scoping study had been completed, virtually nothing. I then heard Sir Paul Callaghan, who was dying of cancer at the time, deliver a speech on a ridiculously big idea – a predator free New Zealand. I wondered how on earth could that occur when as far as I was aware, there was no place on earth inhabited by humans that was pest-free. Over recent months I have learned about a large number of predator and pest -eradication programmes throughout New Zealand as communities and individual landowners commit to serious pest eradication projects. It is pretty exciting but of course a drop in the ocean.

So back to Stewart Island. Predator eradication there will cost \$30-\$50m apparently – let's say \$100,000 per person. And then it would have to be maintained. Hells bells that's nuts.

Or is it? Let's look at the economics of this. The population of the island is falling, the costs of living are rising as the population falls – is feels like a vicious spiral. The industry that once was the centre of activity, fishing, has become harder and harder as the quota has been mopped up by corporate and the local guys have to lease it back in order to fish. Without a thriving industry of some sort no community can survive. Now there's tourism of course and that comes in the form of summer holidaymakers, recreational fishers and hunters, and even the odd Greenie who's into the National Park and the happenings on



Ulva Island Sanctuary.

But what if that vision of Stewart Island being the world's first human-inhabited, predator-free island were to magically happen? Wouldn't that be the new thriving industry that would sustain the local economy and even restore the permanent population numbers to a level that would bring the cost of living down and stabilise the local economy? Servicing the visitation that the world's only predator-free, human settlement would, I put it to you, fulfil that 2008 vision you had, beyond your imagination. I'm not sure you realise just what a global response to that achievement there would be. Conservation is a mainstream issue now in developed countries – just go to Beijing and see how the people there feel about their environment!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and some community is going to grab it. For me, as a new Zealander and a Southland rate-payer I would like that to be grabbed by Stewart Island. It will make the impact on Invercargill of free-fees at the Southland Polytech, look like chicken-waste in comparison to the shot in the arm Oban would get.

But even if you as the community want to do it, \$40m is a truckload of dough. It needs a national fund-raising effort – central government, corporate, ordinary Kiwis. I think New Zealand is ready for this and I think I can help you significantly on the fund-raising side to get that money. You would be demonstrating something to New Zealand, to the world about what communities can do to get their environment back. That is worth heaps – and as well you'd generate an economic bonanza as well. Where's the downside?

Now once I'm back from Africa (where we are right now, there are 100 more people per hectare than there are on Stewart Island – jeez we're lucky aren't we?) – I will come and discuss all this with you – be nice to be back on the Island, although I won't bring my motor-bike this time! Whether you can be bothered with such a big undertaking, if so what is the way you'd prefer to proceed. But most of all I'd just like to meet these people who had this crazy idea of a predator-free Stewart Island back in 2008.

Meanwhile I'm on email, gareth@garethmorgan.com – feel free to provide any constructive feedback.

PROGRAMME

REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER	<p>7.30pm</p> <p>The Return of Toi Rakiura's Oral History Banners All visitors and members of the community are invited to join us in welcoming back the oral history banners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>At the Stewart Island Community Centre</i></p>
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SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER	Mihimihi / Welcome	At the Stewart Island Community Centre
10.00		
10.30	Morning Tea	
10.45 – 11.00	Tai Chi for all	Sue Connor
11.00 – 12.30	Workshop Session One	
	• Mosaics	Janet de Wagt
	• Positive Parenting of Preschoolers	Margaret Whittington
	• ipads & iphones – tips & tricks	Tanya Check
	• Seasonal gardening in Southland	Robert Guyton
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 1.45	Waiata for all	
1.45 – 3.15	Workshop Session Two	
	• Mosaics	Janet de Wagt
	• i-movies – using your digital camera	HMB senior students
	• Intro to Self Defence for Women	Alison Broad
	• Home Butchery – venison	Dale Jenkins
3.15 – 3.45	Afternoon tea	
3.45 – 5.15	Workshop Session Three	
	• Mosaics continued	Janet de Wagt
	• Palm-reading for beginners	Ulva Goodwillie
	• Eco-friendly cleaners	Robert Guyton
	• Wine – Growing, Making & Tasting	Sue Edwards
6.30	Keynote Speaker: Lydia Bradey 'From Hawea to Everest and beyond – Expeditions and Adventures'	
7.15	Pot-luck dinner (b.y.o. drinks)	

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER	Tai Chi for all	Sue Connor
9.15 – 9.30		
9.30 – 11.00	Workshop Session Four	
	• Flax weaving	Jane McKenzie
	• ipads & iphones – tips & tricks	Tanya Check
	• Intro to Essential Legal Issues - wills, marriage / partnership agreements, guardianship etc	Virginia Wilson
11.00 – 12.30	Workshop Session Five	
	• Flax weaving	Jane McKenzie
	• Plant propagation & fruit tree grafting	Robert Guyton
	• Wine – Growing, Making & Tasting	Sue Edwards
12.30 – 1.15	Lunch	
1.15 – 1.30	Waiata for all	
1.30 – 3.00	Workshop Session Six	
	• Flax weaving	Jane McKenzie
	• Intro to Cutting Children's Hair	Adele Larsen
	• Chainsaw Basics – Safety & Maintenance	To be confirmed
3.00	Poroporoaki / Farewell	

Sam Anderson, professional therapeutic masseuse, will be on the island offering therapeutic massage for the Try A Thon weekend.

Mornings: 15 minute chair massages for \$15

Afternoons options of up to 70 minute massages for \$70

Priority will be given to Tryathon participants but bookings can be taken for anyone else throughout the weekend as space allows.

Stewart Island Tryathon - 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME	
Email	
Phone	

Registration Fee

Please indicate in the table below which parts of the programme you wish to register for.

	Registration Fee	Please Complete
Workshop programme		
Saturday & Sunday - both full days, including Pot-luck Dinner & Keynote Speaker	\$50	
OR		
Saturday only	\$ 35	
Sunday only	\$ 35	
Saturday evening Pot-luck Dinner & Keynote Speaker	\$ 20	
Total Registration Costs		\$
Less		
\$5 discount for SCEP members		
Total Registration Payable (Cheques payable to Southland Community Education Programme.)		\$

If you attend the full programme and the dinner, the total registration payable should be:

Members of SCEP	\$45.00
Non-Members	\$50.00

Please note – new SCEP members are welcome		
Membership subscription for 2012	\$10	\$

Please return your registration form and fee, as soon as possible, to:

Sharon Pasco, PO Box 190, Halfmoon Bay

or to

Alison Broad, SCEP, 21 Albert St, Invercargill.

Stewart Island Community Vision

What is it that keeps you here on Stewart Island? What sort of community, environment and economy would you like to see? Do you want to grow old here? Why?

After a thought-provoking talk by a world-renowned presenter, Peter Kenyon, who has an interest in small communities, a group of us decided to revisit this community's vision for itself. Peter suggested "if you don't know what you're aiming for, you could be headed anywhere."



The last community visioning process was fantastic, however, it was held twenty years ago and times and expectations have changed. Many new "locals" are now here. For a vision to have an impact, it needs to reflect the current community, current knowledge, current environment and current economic and political situations. We believe it is time to ask these questions again. This time, we are approaching it in a slightly different way.

There is a lot of history in this community, some great stories, great achievements from people getting together over a goal, and a great future ahead. We want our community to have a shared future picture for the Island - a vision that unifies and captures what we care about and defines where we are headed.

We're not writing a book, instead we're asking us all to consider what are our personal values and hopes or aspirations for the island. We plan to keep it current, by revisiting the discussion together every 2 years and hopefully to nail the bits we might have missed before.

What do you most value about the Island?



How do you imagine the future of Stewart Island – is it a place that you are proud to belong to? How do you see our community connections - do you like being able to share part-time staff with other businesses, because you know the owners so well?- Do you like that there is a "Rugrats" and a school, so that young employees and business owners can stay on if they start a family?

We invite all people interested in the future of Stewart Island to participate. We welcome, residents, cribbies, workers and those somehow connected to the island to share your hopes and dreams and the things in our community we can do better.

Date:20thOctober **Venue:** Community Centre
Time: 2pm until just before little kids' bed time.

Facilitator: Helen Emmerson *from* Emmerson Group consultancy.

Food: pot luck tea, with some extras. Please bring a plate if you can.

Aussie Pete and Penny are screening "A Local's Tail" for our enjoyment and to spark conversations.

Style: Small group conversation, much like you would have at a café. 6-8 people sit at a table, and people move around to talk with different folk on new aspects. This means no one person can dominate the whole meeting, no one person needs to feel too shy to speak and 20 different conversations can be had at once.

MORE DETAILS WILL COME TO YOU or talk with Di Morris, Jill Skerrett, Gwen Neave or Wendy Bailey to find out more.

Mona has shared this poem with us (author unknown)

I remember the cheese of my childhood,
And the bread that we cut with a knife,
When the children helped with the housework,
And the men went to work not the wife.

The cheese never needed an ice chest,
And the bread was so crusty and hot,
The children were seldom unhappy
And the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the billy,
With the yummy cream on the top,
Our dinner came hot from the oven,
And not from the fridge in the shop.

The kids were a lot more contented,
They didn't need money for kicks,
Just a game with our mates in the paddock,
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner,
Where a pen'orth of lollies was sold
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic,
Or is it I'm just getting old?

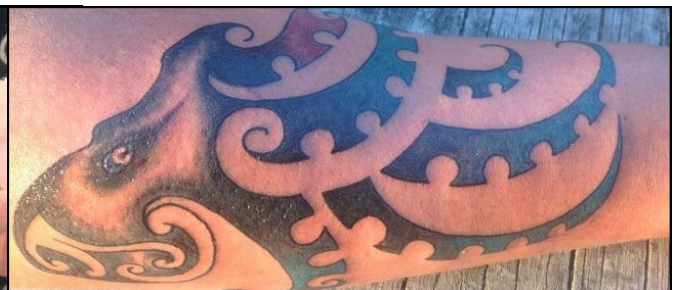
I remember when the loo was the dunny,
And the pan man came in the night,
It wasn't the least bit funny
Going out the back with no light.

The interesting items we perused,
From the newspapers cut into squares,
And hung on a peg in the outhouse,
It took little to keep us amused.

The clothes were boiled in the copper,
With plenty of rich foamy suds
But the ironing seemed never ending
As Mum pressed everyone's Duds

I remember the slap on my backside,
and the taste of soap if I swore
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?
Or our initiative was destroyed
We ate what was put on the table
And I think our life was better enjoyed.



The Edwards' new art.
Photos from Kate Hamilton

John Stephen Leask

4th April 1931 to 4th August 2012

John Stephen Leask was a product of Stewart Island, by both upbringing and ancestry. When the first Tom Leask fell under the spell of Stewart Island and settled in 1860, from the far away, rugged Orkney Islands, he and Dinah could not have envisaged how fast the roots of the family would be fixed in Stewart Island soil, and how their family would grow.

Tom and Dinah had nine children, one of whom, John, was Dad's grandfather, his father was also John, but known as Eric and now we have three more generations to continue the family.

Dad was born and lived the first part of his life on the house on top of the hill, in Leasks Bay, which Pop built with the last of the wood from Mill creek saw mill. Until, in his forties, he had built a new house down the hill to cater for the expanding family.

Aunty Marion has many memories and Dad also told a few stories about his childhood at Leasks' Bay. Olive, Marion and John together with their cousins, were outdoor children, spending a lot of the time on the beaches and boats around Leasks Bay, at Ringa Ringa they would make balls and slippers out of bull kelp, they would gather and cook muscles and with swimming and beach races were very fit.

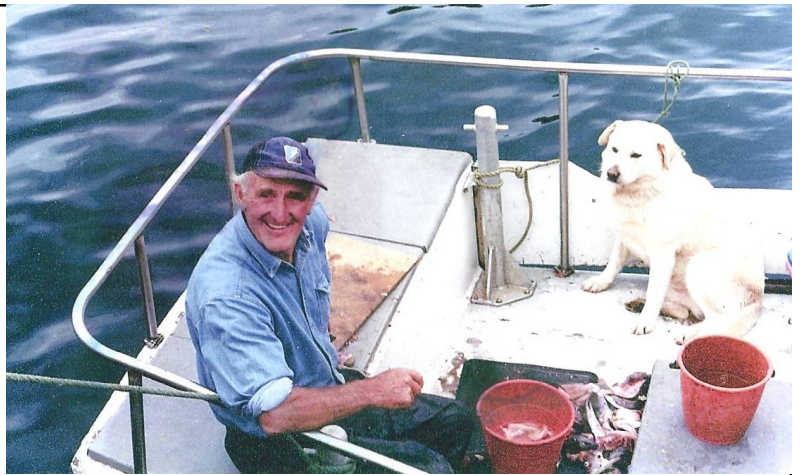
One day Aunty Marion remembers, Pop took Marion and Dad fishing, it was really rolly out there and they huddled together under a blanket, until Pop saw them and hauled them out to start fishing. As we know having something to do made them forget their seasickness. Us older children were treated the same way but he must have softened later as one day he brought Danny all the way back to the bay on a rough day.

He was proud of his fisherman sons, they in turn respected his advice, lessons and notebooks with the "marks".

Pop (Eric Leask) ran the Olga as a tourist boat, and was well known for the trips, of course the family helped too, It was Marion, with Alistair and Dad who one day had the job of guiding the tourists on the bush walks, they took with them the chirpy bird whistles, you know the sort you fill with water, one of them went ahead and hid, then when the group approached they heard whistling, those with the group identified some very rare birds.

Dad was Dux at Halfmoon Bay School, and attended Southland Boys High School, boarding with his cousins, the Jensen family, but not for long, after a year he returned to the Island to continue the life he loved.

When Dad was 18 he was conscripted into the army. This was an exciting time



of his life, he was posted to Napier, to help during the watersiders strike, he made lifelong friends both in the army and with the locals in Napier.

The army time must have wetted his appetite for travel, so he took his bike and dog and took off to see New Zealand. Unfortunately the dog had to be sent home from Timaru, having worn out the pads on his feet. Dad however carried on right up to the North Cape, even found some ambergris on 90 Mile beach.

By the time he was 20 he owned his first boat the Marlene. He loved fishing, coddling, crayfishing and paua, choosing to be a day fisherman so he could return home each evening. The boats were also used for taking the family and friends camping or picnics up the inlet and around the Island. He had the Tainui, the Gail 1, the Lo Loma and after much anticipation the Rawhiti, which is now in good hands with Andrew and Sharon continuing the fishing and hospitably he became famous for.

Animals were always a big part of Dads life, as we were growing up there was always a dog with us, among them Ben, Scamp, Kim, Stephens Rex and Aunty Olives dog Glen. We even raised a fawn that Dad rescued when he found it all alone nestled in the ferns. He later rescued another orphan, this time a duckling. Judy the cow gave us milk and calves for many years, there were sheep and goats to keep the grass down, and always hens and a cat or two. As a young man he had a horse, Joey, later he brought Toby and Creamy for Andrew, but he also enjoyed them and lately he has had great pleasure taking his great-granddaughter Tamara horse riding. Not forgetting Jeremiah who has had the benefit of his love and meticulous care.

We didn't have many mod-cons, there was four children in the family before we had 230 volt power which allowed us to have a washing machine and a fridge. But we were one of the first families on Stewart Island to have a TV and as soon as a colour one came out



we had one of those as well.

Dad was a hard worker, he didn't sit around much, he dug a driveway up to our house, so they didn't have to trudge up the hill with children and supplies. It wasn't until I was 12 that we owned a car, a Morris Minor. He realised how small it was when we drove it up to Timaru with four children, and it was soon replaced for the trip home.

We owned several cribs one burnt down in a spectacular fashion. Over the years we made many friends when people would come and stay in the cribs, some families year after year.

Our Mother, Elsie was on a holiday, down from Dunedin with a group of friends when they met each other, fell in love and married in Timaru. From then on the MacDonald relations were part of his life, from our holidays in Timaru and them visiting the Island, for the walks, picnics, fishing and boat trips.

Dad was a gardener, a gift I think from his mother. He grew the vegetables for the family and later helped others with their gardens. There was always new potatoes and peas for Christmas dinner, and plenty to share. Before he left on his last trip to town he had dug over the garden ready to plant the new potatoes.

We enjoyed family holidays to visit family and friends, to Timaru, Mossburn, Dunedin Central Otago and other places. Our friends and family must have been very patient to have our constantly expanding family visiting them.

For nearly a year we lived in Invercargill, but the call of the sea was too strong, so weekends were spent in Riverton doing up the Taramea, later to be named the Gail 1, and soon the family was back on the Island.

Dad along with many of the Leasks' was a stalwart member of the Presbyterian Church, taking over Pop's job of ringing the bell, on committees, and with the maintenance of the grounds and garden, helping at church bazaars. Our Sunday was a rush getting everyone ready for Church and Sunday school, afterwards there was a roast lunch and the

treat of ice cream for dessert brought at Morris's on the way home. He never fished on a Sunday but we often had afternoons at Ulva, maybe with people we met at church in the morning or a visiting Minister and his family. In his later years he joined the Anglican Church and with his usual helpfulness was an asset to them as well.

Our home was busy, the kettle always on the boil, with friends and family, such as Alex Trail, or people Dad met at Church and all the cousins dropping in or being invited for meals, but most of all Dad loved to entertain on the boats. With picnic lunch packed, an invitation to go "up the Inlet" was never refused, Nana and Pop, the aunties and cousins would gather, for fun, sunbathing, and swimming. Summers seemed to be longer and warmer then.

He fancied himself as a barber, cutting our hair, the boys with clippers that pulled, they all had "short back and sides".

Dad loved to dance, as we saw at family weddings, dos on Stewart Island and any other opportunities. With lots of energy he was a stayer on the dance floor. He also had a role with the Stewart Island players on stage in one of their productions.

His family was important to him as were friends and he treated everyone as he found them, always kind gentle and interested in what they had to say, and never judgemental. He didn't say anything detrimental about other people.

After Dad married Airdry nearly 29 years ago they bought the original Leask property at Leasks Bay point and restored it with much care, never tiring of the view and raising the flag

every day.

They enjoyed travelling together, firstly to Auckland then New York where they saw Phantom of the Opera, Canada, and Australia.

Dad is survived by his wife Rev Airdry Dyson-Leask, his sister Marion Donaldson, His Children Veronica Simonsen, Stephen, Andrew, Gordon (Fluff) and Daniel Leask, stepchildren Glenn and Fiona and their spouses/ partners Jerry, Elena, Sharon, Bonnie, and Ida, grandchildren Clint Brett and Trent, Vanessa, Marita, and Charlotte, Cory, Joel, Mason and Rhys, Nicolette, Melanie and Tia, Tamara and Zach, and Emma and Sarah, their partners/spouses Justine, Lisa, Emma, Nikola, George and Mike and his great grandchildren Imojin, Leeym, Charlie, Logan, Summer, Alyssa, Layla, Evie, Hunter and Savannah.

We would all like to give thanks for the incredible kindness and support from Stewart Islanders the food, good wishes, music, memories shared at the Island gathering and his funeral in Invercargill and donations to the Stewart Island Medical centre. To all the people who travelled to be there for us we appreciate this. Thanks too to the emergency personal who helped Dad at the time of his accident, the caring staff at Southland Hospital, and Richard from All Saints Church in Invercargill for the funeral service and support.

To all our children and grandchildren, you have been blessed with an amazing Granddad, share your memories and listen to the stories, Dad was a good storyteller and has passed down this gift. Dad was proud, of the beautiful, clever dark eyed girls, the handsome boys who have salt in their blood, and the little ones happy and full of fun. You have all inherited his generosity of spirit, and friendly nature, walk tall secure in your heritage and history.

Our Dad, Granddad and Great grandfather will be terribly missed, we were proud to have such an Island identity, and friend to so many, as our Dad, our memories will be lasting, and his family will continue to grow.

—Veronica



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

Whitebaiting

Whitebaiting season is now well under way and judging by the number of people spotted with nets at Mill Creek over the past month, this tasty delicacy is still as popular as ever. However to ensure that whitebait remain plentiful, DOC staff are calling on whitebaiters to ensure they comply with white-baiting regulations.

Whitebait are the young of some of New Zealand's most precious native fish. The five main species of whitebait - inanga, kōaro, banded kōkopu, giant kōkopu, and shortjaw kōkopu - belong to the Galaxiidae family, which was named after the Milky Way galaxy, as the very first species described was sprinkled with dazzling spots.



Whitebait are the young of some of New Zealand's most precious native fish. The five main species of whitebait - inanga, banded kōkopu, giant kōkopu, and shortjaw kōkopu all belong to the Galaxiidae family, named after the Milky Way galaxy, due to the sprinkling of dazzling spots, especially on inanga (pictured here). Crown Copyright: Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

Like many of our native species across the country, whitebait are in decline. Water removal for out-of-stream use, pollution, wetland drainage, introduced pests and destruction of stream-side vegetation are some of the issues that threaten the long-term survival of whitebait species. The whitebaiting season is another threat to the viability of freshwater fish populations.

DOC administers regulations regarding fishing methods, timing, location and net size to ensure that enough young fish get upstream to mature and subsequently create new whitebait for the future. Regulations include requirements to use only one white-

bait net at a time, to stay within 10 metres of the net, and to ensure that the net does not exceed more than one third of the water channel width.

Throughout the season, which runs through until the 30th November, DOC staff will continue to patrol Mill Creek and other sites where whitebaiting is known to take place. If you are a whitebaiter please be aware of the regulations and also ensure that you only whitebait where this activity is permitted. Whitebaiting is not permitted anywhere within a marine reserve, or in any streams or rivers within a national park or reserve. It is also an offence to whitebait from a boat or to be in possession of a whitebaiting net within a national park or reserve.

We are aware that in the past people may have gone into places like Mason Bay and Doughboy Bay to whitebait, or have whitebaited up the Freshwater River. Please be aware that anyone whitebaiting in these places is very likely to be committing an offence and if caught may find themselves facing prosecution. If you have any doubt about where you may legally whitebait please contact us. Full details of the whitebaiting regulations can be found online at: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1994/0065/latest/DLM189522.html>

Other items in brief:

Motorau Moana volunteer programme

The Motorau Moana gardens are one of Stewart Island's gems, tucked away between Bragg's Bay and Horseshoe Bay. Every year, these gardens are maintained by a hard working, enthusiastic band of volunteers ably led by Elaine Hamilton. This year's volunteer effort will occur the week before labour weekend (15-19th October). Residents are welcome to pop around and have a look at what is going on, or even join in the fun. If you want to know more, contact Elaine Hamilton (2191027).



Motorau cleanup last year. Photo from Elaine Hamilton

Golden Bay track resurfacing

John Henderson's team will start "topping up" the gravel surface on the Golden Bay track this month. This will involve a helicopter bucketing loads of gravel into the track and then workers spreading this out to where it is needed. The track will remain open for the duration of this work, but walkers will need to follow the instructions of the site supervisor, especially when the helicopter is at work.

Kiwi survey

Over the next few months, we will be surveying kiwi from HMB out to the extent of the Rakiura Track Great Walk. By understanding how many kiwi inhabit this area and where the gaps are, we can make some decisions about future management of this area. This would include accessing options to increase the numbers if they are found to be sparse. If you have seen or heard kiwi in recent times around the township or any of the local tracks, then please pass these onto AI Check.

Stewart Island

There is an island in the South
That shows God's creative hand
From the green of native bush
To the shining golden sand

The sound of native birds
Is all that you can hear.
This is like a little paradise,
Our Lord is very near.

Like cattle in a field
On a windy day,
All facing one direction
So the boats all turn one way.

To gaze down on the harbour
Is to watch the constant change.
No matter where you cast your eye,
Bush is the natural frame.

The bush is like a tapestry
When seen from overhead,
Different textures, different greens,
Like many varied threads.

Each track brings new adventure,
Take time and pause awhile.
The view from Observation Rock
Brings dreams of Ulva Isle.

The good news of our Lord has come
Here to the ends of earth.
Let's all give Him the glory
And sing of His great worth.

*Beverley Fraser, ©September 2012
(Beverley and husband Bruce have been staying at the Manse and Bruce has preached here, he included this poem as part of a recent service.)*

www.templetattoo.co.nz



Tam's fantail

DEAD MAN BEACH

The origin of the “Dead Man Beach” name is now something of a mystery, shrouded by the mists of time. Olga Sansom in her 1970 book “The Stewart Islanders” states the name arose “after a body once washed up there”. Although a 1893 Survey Plan shows the beach as “Simons Beach”, the “Dead Man” name was already in common local usage by that time (references to that name are found in Otago Daily Times (page 2, 4/8/1895), and Otago Witness (Letters from Little Folk, 23/9/1903). In 1928 the historian Dr Basil Howard described the Dead Man Beach name as “still unexplained”, which suggests that by then the name was already very old as no living locals could explain its origin.

There are local anecdotes of the “Dead Man” having been an unknown person, of the body being stored in a cave on a nugget near Lonnekers Beach, and of it being buried at Lonnekers. Despite searching for newspaper reports of the incident giving rise to the name, nothing conclusive has yet been found.

One possible candidate however is the 1865 drowning of William George Atkinson of Invercargill:

(Extract from the Southland Times of 27 December 1865):

“A report has reached us of a melancholy accident at Stewart’s Island, by which Mr. W. G. Atkinson, formerly assistant to Mr. Clark, the chemist, has come to an untimely death. It appears from the scanty information we can gather that the unfortunate gentleman, who recently left Invercargill in the Flying Scud, for a trip to Stewart’s Island, went on to the rocks somewhere on the coast, for the purpose, as is supposed, of either fishing or bathing, and having been overtaken and surrounded by the tide, and being unable to swim, he was drowned. His body was discovered on the beach by some of the inhabitants of the island and there buried.”

Differing reports concerning the drowning filtered back to the mainland, leading to the Southland Times publishing a leader bemoaning the lack of an investigation by the Coroner:

(Extract, abridged, from the Southland Times of 10 January 1866):

“THE DUTIES OF CORONERS

.... If circumstances tend to raise the faintest suspicion that a man or woman has come to his or her death by unfair means, an inquiry is at once instituted, conducted by an officer specially appointed—the Coroner—before a jury of intelligent and respectable men. This is at least the mode of procedure under British rule. In all British colonies it has hitherto been rigidly observed. It has remained for this, one of the latest formed, to become the exception. We refer to the reported death by drowning of a late citizen, Mr. W. G. Atkinson who had been long and favorably known by this community in his capacity of chemist. Suffering from ill-health, induced by too free indulgence in ardent spirits, he, at the suggestion of some friends, took a trip to Stewart’s Island, in sanguine hope of benefit from the change of scene and occupation. Arrived there, he regularly betook himself, we have been informed, to his favorite amusement of fishing. While engaged in it, he was surrounded by the rising tide and drowned. We are also led to believe that he persisted in remaining on the isolated rock whence, in endeavoring to reach the shore, he lost his life, in spite of repeated warnings from some of the inhabitants of the place. Then there is another account, to the effect that, according to his usual habit, the deceased left his temporary residence alone, to walk among the rocks, and was no more seen alive — his body being found on the beach, and soon after interred. Another version of the affair is, that while in a state of delirium tremens, the unfortunate man started to walk, as he supposed, for Invercargill, and perished before he could be prevented from attempting his insane purpose.

Which account are we to believe? One, at least, of them is obviously untrue. In such a case the investigation by a Coroner and Jury ought, we think, to have been resorted to. But by some oversight this has not yet been done. Yet Stewart’s Island has for a

long time past been nominally an annexe of this province, and under the control of the authorities here. Who is to blame? Are our resources at such a low ebb that the expense of the inquiry cannot be borne by the province? Or is it simple negligence? If the latter, there is yet time to redeem the oversight. There are many reasons why an official record of the death of a British subject should be kept, occurring from what cause soever. Friends might endure agonising suspense; property might be withheld from its rightful owners through the omission of a duty such as we insist upon. The holding of an inquest is, we are aware, by law optional with the Coroner in cases wherein he may feel satisfied as to the cause of death. It is not often the responsibility of its omission is incurred. In making these remarks, we wish to be understood as in nowise reflecting on the Coroner, Dr. Deck, who has always efficiently performed his official duties. It is in the public interest that we have undertaken the task, as the case we have commented on is not the first instance in which authoritative inquiry has been neglected. It is to be hoped that we shall need to make no further allusion to the subject, and that the mystery at present surrounding the death of a fellow-being may be thoroughly cleared up.”

It seems things haven't changed that much in the newspaper business when you consider that the Editorial, while nobly demanding proper process for a citizen in death, found it necessary to then sully the final memory of that citizen by recording for all posterity various somewhat inglorious but juicy accounts of his death - even while admitting that some of those accounts must be obviously untrue!

The Coroner, Dr Deck, responded with the following letter:

(Extract from Southland Times of 12 January 1866)

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE SOUTHLAND TIMES

Sir, — With reference to the remarks in the leader of your last issue, I wish to state that no Coroner is required to hold an inquest at a greater distance than twenty miles from his residence; and I, therefore, when informed by Mr. Commissioner Weldon of the death of Mr. W.G. Atkinson, declined to proceed to Stewart’s Island, to hold an inquest. I could not well afford the time that such an undertaking would require.

I, however, suggested that the police should make strict enquiry into the case, so that if there should be any suspicion that the deceased met with his death by foul play, I might be able to take further steps in the matter.

This unfortunate occurrence shows what a necessity exists at Stewart’s Island for a Resident Magistrate or other public officer. —I am, &c,

*J. Field Deck, M.D., Coroner.
Invercargill, Jan. 11, 1866.”*

No record of the outcome of any Police investigation has been found, and no Coroner's report ever eventuated. Even though the newspaper stated the body “was found on the beach, and soon thereafter interred”, Mr Atkinson's name does not appear on any of Stewart Island's cemetery records, nor was his death ever registered with the Registrar of Deaths. There is no record of any family for Mr Anderson at Invercargill.

It may be that after drowning in or around Halfmoon Bay, it was Mr Anderson's body which washed up on Dead Man Beach where it was found and recovered by locals, stored in an off-shore cave pending any investigation, and eventually buried at Lonnekers. As the death and burial were apparently never officially processed or overseen by the authorities or any relatives, the incident may possibly have left a local memory of having been unresolved, with Mr Atkinson being simply remembered as the “Dead Man”.

Even if this death is not the relevant one, its details certainly make interesting reading.

—Jon Bonn
Deadman Beach



ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

Ann Pullen
has shared her amazing adventures in Canada and Alaska.

Nearly 50 years ago when I left England for my big OE my intention was to spend 6 months in Australia, 6 months in New Zealand then onto Canada until I was ready to go home – well – plans are not set in concrete and things change. I did spend my time in Australia and a bit longer in New Zealand, but never managed to get to Canada (that's what

happens when Mr Right comes into your life). So ... Canada has been on my bucket list for the last 45 years or so. I have managed to get to lots of other exciting

places, but because Canada is a 'civilised' country I thought I could leave that one until I was a bit 'longer in the tooth' as it would not be such a challenging country to visit.

The years were passing all too quickly and I had decided this was the year. I was talking to Elaine Hamilton one day saying I was looking at going to Alaska and Canada for a holiday, her ears pricked up and before too long we were planning the trip together – well – what a trip we had! Five weeks of magnificent scenery every day, lots and lots of laughs (until we cried sometimes) and a few things that 'stay on tour'.

We started off flying to LA then on



Black bear (we were inside the coach)

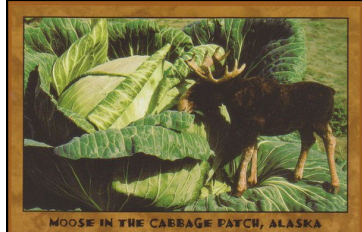
the Anchorage, arriving at 1.30am in broad daylight....The land of the midnight sun, which can be dangerous because it is daylight just about all night, so it is easy to just 'keep going'.

Alaska is the most fascinating country with so many challenges for the people who live there. The average

age is under 30 and more young people fly a plane than drive a car, and in both cases not always with a licence. The temperature to start with is the biggest challenge. Minus 50deg is very common for much of the winter and so much land is

covered in permafrost, so growing anything is a real challenge. I wondered why the trees were so small and stunted looking, it did not take long to find out they were permanently growing in frozen ground. Trees that were 300 plus years old were no more than 2 meters high, and because the actual growing season is so short with months of darkness, they have to make the most of the 3 – 4 months when it is daylight. Gardening is another challenge, but everywhere you go there is so much colour with hanging baskets. Everyone goes to so much effort to have the baskets looking their best. Veges can almost be seen growing overnight ..with the long days, and the size of the cabbages can reach 127lb (nearly 58 Kg)

The 800 mile oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez took 3 years to complete and has to cope with the permafrosts and the constant earthquakes they have. But it has paid off for the residents as they



Some cabbage!!!!

do not pay federal or local tax at all on anything, and each man, woman and child receive an annual dividend from the oil company. This year they received

nearly \$2,000 each. The pipe line was completed in 1968 costing over 8 billion -- the largest and most costly project ever undertaken by private industry.

I also wondered why there was a power plug hanging from the front of cars..... if you do not plug the car into a power socket on a trip to town it would be a case of walking home and then towing the car home after the thaw!!! Although there is plenty of skiing and dog sledging happening in the winter months rather than driving, all roads are kept open and snow clearing is a constant happening.

It is very evident that they have learnt by experience regarding building on land with permafrost, with many older buildings in some areas on a lean, or sinking into the ground as the land thaws out underneath them. They have also learnt a lot about earthquake proofing their buildings after the major earthquake in 1964. This earthquake resulted in about 143 deaths, lasted nearly four minutes and had a magnitude of 9.2. It completely flattened the port of Valdez which has since been re built further inland.

We found Alaska a very fascinating country with so much to see. We



A plane for transport not a boat

One of the many great train journeys



only touched on a small part of it, and would love to go back in the spring or autumn and experience some of the more isolated areas.

Next stage of the journey was a cruise from Seward to Vancouver, calling into Haines, Juneau and Ketchikan, all magical places with some great 'retail therapy' opportunities. Somehow cruising seems such a false world with all the luxury, entertainment, food and being waited

on. We were on the 'Statendam' from the Holland American line and similar to the big ones that come into the inlet in our summer. It was

quite strange being on the 'other side' and being guided when on shore tours instead of being the guide (no we didn't ask difficult questions).

Canada for 12 days was the last adventure, every corner with just amazing views. We finished off with a train trip from Banff back to Vancouver on the Rocky Mountaineer. We had booked a red leaf carriage which was the most basic of the three options, but somehow we had been upgraded to Gold leaf, no com-

plaints from us! This meant we were in the clear domed double decker carriages, with viewing upstairs and silver service dining downstairs. What a magical way to finish a fantastic five weeks. The engineering expertise of the early pioneers to put the lines in such difficult terrain is quite mind blowing, even zig zagging the tracks on some steep places. I think it is just as well the train was only a two day experience, as once again food and drink



Ready for the snow

were at our disposal all day, and this time was 'all inclusive'.

We have seen numerous black and grizzly bears, bald eagles, caribou, reindeer, elk, beavers, sea otters, whales, dall sheep, long horned sheep, ground squirrels etc (Question - what is the difference between a caribou and a reindeer? Answer - reindeer can fly.....ha ha ha).

There were so many highlights of the whole trip, Visiting Santa at the North Pole, (there is a village by that name) panning for Gold on the Yukon, crossing the Klondyke River in the coach on a barge, travelled over the top of the world highway, Butchart Gardens, and the 6 story high movie screen at the Victoria Museum on Vancouver Island, Rafting in Jasper, and the magnificent Rocky Mountains to name a few.



The pipeline



Lake, mountains—they go on forever

easy task for two 'retail therapy' starved Stewart Islanders being let loose in countries with so many exciting shops. But with an extra bag and a couple of lots of hand luggage plus a few other small items, we made it back safely all in one piece. Believe me by the time we had talked to so many people every day, we made sure everyone knew exactly where Stewart Island was!!! We handed out many pamphlets, booklets and other things to advertise the island, so look out for an influx of people asking where Elaine or Ann live in the next year or two.

Now I have to plan for the next thing on the bucket list (sky diving and bungy jumping are still well down the list).

The 10 most 'interesting' questions asked by cruise ship passengers (no Elaine and I did not ask any of these questions):

1. Do these stairs go up or down?
2. Does the ship generate its own electricity?
3. Do I have to leave the ship to go on the shore excursion?
4. Is the water in the toilets salt water or fresh water?
5. Does the crew sleep on board?
6. Where's the elevator that will take me to the back of the ship?
7. What do you do with the ice carvings after they melt?
8. The carpets with the days of the week on them in the elevators - do you change those every day?
9. When I go to the photo gallery, how do I know which photos are mine?
10. Is there a wave machine in the pool that makes it do that?

The last day arrived and we had to get everything packed, not an



Left: Daffodil Day Team Nic, Jan, Jo and Dids at the South Sea Hotel.

Right: Jan and Nic wear hard-hats and steel-capped gumboots to do the rounds at the drill site.

Photos from Nicolette Thompson



Stewart Island commercial Paua industry update

by Storm Stanley

The waters around Stewart Island have been important commercial fishing grounds for a very long time. While the last decade or so has seen a steady decline in the number of fishing operations based on the Island, commercial fishing is still an important contributor to the Island economy and identity. One of the three most important fisheries left here is paua fishing. This is one of the few dive fisheries in the world, and almost unique in being a breath holding only fishery, there being a prohibition on the use of any type of underwater breathing apparatus. The current Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for Stewart Island, or Paua5B as the Ministry more prosaically calls it, stands at around 90 tonne. In future SIN articles we will discuss the place this very productive and rich fishery has played in the Islands history; from when the tangata te whenua first settled and explored the Island up to the present time and maybe speculate on what the future holds. We will also look at the biology and characteristics of this fascinating mollusc, which evolved nearly 40m years ago, and explain why its biology and population dynamics make it so vulnerable to overexploitation.

In this article however is aimed at giving a snapshot of the current state of the industry and an update on management measures local divers and quota owners have in place.



Paua. Photo from Geoff Laing.

There are only a handful of paua diving operations left in Halfmoon and Horseshoe Bay's. As with other fisheries, the introduction of the Quota Management System in 1987 has seen a steady loss of fishing capacity as quota ownership has migrated to the mainland. This has also been the experience in other small fishing communities around coastal New Zealand. Those who remain though are strongly committed to ensuring that their fishery is a healthy one and one that they will be proud to have been a part of. Paua divers on Stewart Island are part of an organisation, Pauamac5, which represents their interests and acts as a forum to look at better ways to manage the fishery and to enable the implementation of better management options. Pauamac5 has a close working relationship with the Ministry for Primary Production (MPI) which has ultimate responsibility for, and control of, the fishery.

At this year's Pauamac5 July AGM divers reviewed the state of the fishery and confirmed the harvest strategies they wished to see in place for dive operations working in the Pau5A fishery.

These included

- Continuation of the minimum harvest size of 135mm for all commercial catch. The current amateur Minimum Legal Size is 125mm, so our divers harvest at a larger size than amateur fishers. This

increased harvest size is to allow the build up of a larger biomass of breeding age paua which should in turn increase the overall paua population. To support this initiative the quota owners are funding, through MPI levies, research into length at maturity and aging techniques for paua around the Island in the coming season. The information this provides will mean we all know what size is the most appropriate for the fast growing paua which are characteristic of Stewart Island waters.

Leave the TACC at the current level for the medium term at least. While there are some indications that the Stewart Island paua fishery is rebuilding after the TACC reductions of 2001/02 (catch rates have increased substantially since that time), divers are adamant that they want to see more fish in the water before any review of TACC levels takes place. They have commissioned an ongoing monitoring of catch rates and other fisheries dependent data to keep an eye on progress.

Greater use of harvester crews Data Logger equipment. The paua industry throughout New Zealand is acutely aware that the key to good fisheries management is good information on the state of fish stocks. While MPI collects fisheries dependent data (that taken from fishers such as catch rates and shell size trends) fisheries independent data (population assessments commissioned by the Ministry itself) has proved to be less than robust. To address this the industry has developed electronic data loggers. One of which is carried by the diver and automatically records depth, time underwater and GPS coordinates amongst other things. You will see these small units attached to the upper back on many divers wetsuits. This captures the effort component of a days diving. The other type of logger is a larger unit carried on the tender boat which records landed weight of catch, GPS and other catch information. This captures the catch component of the days diving. Both the units are periodically downloaded and forwarded to a central data base from which the data provided can be analysed and used to inform management measures or harvest strategies.

Decisions made by divers and quota owners at the AGMs is included in an paua fishing Annual Operating Plan. This document is mailed to all quota owners and to permit holders in mid September in time for the October 1 start to the new fishing season. Copies of the AOP will normally also be available on the Paua industry Council website.

So, when you see some of your local dive crews heading out to sea in the face of a breezy North Easterly, bear in mind that they do a tough job well and that they take their responsibilities to help manage their fishery in a sustainable way very seriously.

In next month's SIN we will look at a bit of paua biology and why training great white sharks to attack stainless steel cages with people in them is a stupid idea.

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford
 “Arthur & George” by Julian Barnes

And now for something completely different! Or it was so for me. And I was never more pleased with a last-minute selection than with “Arthur & George”.

A novel rather than my usual who-dunnit, it nevertheless involves a mystery, a culprit, a victim and a detective (of sorts). Arthur – we eventually discover – is some 15 years older than George, and is growing up in the Edinburgh of the mid-1800’s. His family is now very poor, his illustrious ancestry dimmed, his dipsomaniac father is committed, and the family is held together by The Mam – their mother. Arthur grows tall, muscular, built for sport and adventure, and is very ambitious, not least to restore the family fortunes and rescue The Mam from penury and the shame of taking in lodgers. In this he is thwarted, but somewhat grudgingly accepts medical training and specialises in ophthalmology. His practise is hardly thriving, but it gives him the time to write – and his writing (his favourite subject is the 1400’s, the Age of Chivalry) is more successful than he could ever imagine. A good marriage and children complete the picture of a happy man – but Jean Leckie is about to enter his life and turn it upside down. After tragedy, trial and tribulation, George suddenly comes into his life and adds another dimension to his world, for which both Arthur and Jean – and George - remain always grateful.

Meanwhile, George is growing up in the strict atmosphere of a Vicarage in a Midland village of England, along with a younger brother and sister. The sleeping arrangements at the Vicarage make you scratch your head, and you are left to draw your own conclusions by the end of this highly entertaining and absorbing semi-biographical account. All George wants to do, right from being a small child,

is to be a solicitor. However, there is something weird going on locally: a series of vile, anonymous letters, mostly but not solely sent to the Vicarage; a nasty series of malicious pranks - advertising the Vicarage “For Sale” through to the arrival of un-ordered live geese. It all takes a sinister turn when grazing animals are found with their bellies slashed. Those animals still alive when found have to be put down. Bigoted village policemen, inept policing techniques, lack of knowledge of police detection and the law, a determination to find a culprit – and enter George.

I don’t know which is the more absorbing – the “detective story” or the details of life in mid- to late 19th century England, including the basis upon which the modern Court of Appeal system rests, even in New Zealand. I confess I approached the book without enthusiasm, but finished it with reluctance, sad that it would be some time before I read another tale with this calibre and style of writing, happy that at the conclusion the continuing lives of the main characters were mapped out and thus the ends neatly tied. There is one exception to the latter: who did in fact commit The Great Wyrley Outrages? As the back page has it: there are differences between what we believe, what we know and what we can prove! And how quickly can YOU spot who “Arthur” actually is?

I see on the “New” shelf “The Life of Pi” by Yann Martel. Fortunately – given the content – this is a work of complete fiction! I “read” this as an audio book years ago, and was confused, amused, horrified, relieved, and finally completely bewildered. Another “and now for something completely different” experience, but it requires that you suspend belief in any practical world to enter Pi’s thoughts on *his* world. Fun, but exhausting – try it and see what you think.



MP Trevor Mallard and Ruggats Chairwoman Jo Learmonth at the Pub. Mr. Mallard spent a morning visiting with Ruggies mums and discussing issues they have been having with compliance to new regulations.



Scores of Islanders paid their respects to John Leask at a farewell gathering at Leask Bay. Photo from M. Hopkins

Stewart Island Bunkhouse Theatre Update

A Local’s Tail, a short entertaining film for the tourists, is on its way. Commencing at the Bunkhouse Theatre in October 2012. Stayed tuned. All the details will be in the next SIN.

Cheers, Aussie Pete and Penny

Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club Inc

Wish to advise Stewart Island residents that on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th February 2013 we will be **celebrating 25 years of golf on Stewart Island.**

A meet and greet followed by a buffet dinner will be held on the Friday night and the following day Saturday 16th the annual Electrix golf tournament will be played as part of these celebrations so we would like you all to be part of this, keep this date free and start thinking about who your team members may be.

The game will take the same format as other years and as usual be followed by a BBQ and prize giving for all. We are hoping for a good turn out to make the 25th year of golfing on Stewart Island an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all.

Registration is due by the end of October.

If you aren't a RRH Golf Club member and you would like to know more about this event you can contact either
 Sue 2191327
 Jon 2191449

Gala Day

Open to all individuals, businesses and community groups. Lets have some fun!

Labour weekend Sunday 21st

Rugrats are keen to do a baking stall, sausage sizzle, run a Stewart Island southern man competition, face painting and run some games/races for fundraising, silly bikes.

Garden Circle, school, library, senior citizens, Knit & Knatter have tables booked there are lots of other opportunities...

Who wants to be in charge of ...

- Chowder competition
- coffee stand
- Fancy dress parade
- silly triathlon
- Wood chopping competition
- silent auction
- Food stalls
- Garage sale stall
- Clothes stall
- Toy stall
- Home made jams pickles etc
- Chocolate wheel

These are just some ideas for you all - good chance to do some fundraising for your group or a good cause, and heaps of fun. *Contact Diddle 2191166 if interested in any project*



Ernie & I would like to thank the many well wishers who sent cards, flowers and phone calls for our recent 60th Wedding Anniversary—*Bid Hopkins*

Rakiura Heritage Centre Auction

A reminder to everyone that we are having an auction at Labour weekend and we are looking for donations of anything you may like to get rid of from your attic or shed. We have been fortunate to have received some books from the Roy Traill collection including natural history, war stories, classics, biographies and history, donated by Sheila Natusch. Books of significance to Stewart Island from the collection have been accessioned at the Rakiura Museum but there are some duplicates already held, along with a variety of titles which will be auctioned.

Several early Stewart Island postcards will also be included in the auction. A list of the items to be auctioned will be available prior to the day.

Stewart Island / Rakiura
 Community & Environment Trust



A big THANK YOU
 to Vicki for the wonderful donation of \$900 through the Quiz Night, to go toward some new automatic rat traps.
 Thanks Vicki!
 From *SIRCET*

Stewart Island's own exclusion fence – how does it work?

The fence that protects the Dancing Star Foundation property between Lee Bay and Horseshoe Bay was designed and built by "Xcluder" to create an impenetrable barrier to possums, rats, cats and deer.

Xcluder designs and builds fences that are able to exclude all introduced mammals found in New Zealand (from the size of juvenile mice to deer). Several years of scientific trials and over 10 years of testing in the field have shown categorically that undamaged Xcluder fences are effective at excluding all target animals – they do not climb over, dig under, or get through the fences. The Xcluder Fencing Company is a wholly New Zealand owned business.

Xcluder now has 13 years of project history to show that when maintained appropriately, the fences work effectively in the 'real world' over long time periods. They maintain an active research programme aimed at understanding key issues in ani-

mal exclusion, eradication and restoration.

Xcluder fences have been proven experimentally and/or in the real world to keep out the following animals: mouse, Indian house shrew, ship rat, Norway rat, kiore, tenrec, mustelids (stoat, ferret, weasel), hedgehog, rabbit, hare, brushtail possum, cat, dog, pig, Indian mongoose, Javan macaque, goat, Mouflon sheep, Javan deer, fallow deer, red deer, white tailed deer, guttural toad and livestock (sheep, goat, cattle, horse). When suitable designs are chosen, Xcluder fences will also exclude: chameleon, badgers, mink, red fox, squirrel, cane toads, snakes and many other terrestrial animals.

The stainless steel mesh has a maximum width of 5mm that will stop the smallest of rats getting through. The mesh extends under the ground and out from the fence to prevent animals from digging under. The hood on top is effective at preventing animals from climbing over and its height stops animals from jumping over. For the Stewart Island fence, the only way in, is round the ends, where a targeted trapping effort presents a formidable barrier.

Fence and Product Life Expectancy

The fence is designed so that sections or materials can be replaced without having to completely strip large parts of the fence. In the event that one small section of fence is damaged it can easily be repaired.

Throughout NZ

Between 1999, when an effective fence design was developed, until the end of 2009, 28 conservation areas covering a total of 8,396 ha had been enclosed by 113 km of exclusion fences and cleared of invasive mammals. They cover a wide range of sizes: 8 are <10 ha, 11 are between 10 and 100 ha, 7 are between 100 and 1,000 ha, and 2 are >1,000 ha (Cape Kidnappers and Ocean Beach Wildlife Preserve (2,200 ha) and the Maungatautari Ecological Island (3,400 ha)). Small fenced enclosures of the same designs have also been used in zoo/wildlife park settings for threatened species protection or breeding programmes (e.g., Mt Bruce, Rainbow Springs). Other well known fence projects include Orokonui, Macraes Flat and Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (aka Zealandia).

M is for MUPPETS.

A is for *APPLE*... My two-something Mo is learning the alphabet. Sometimes my brain seizes creatively.

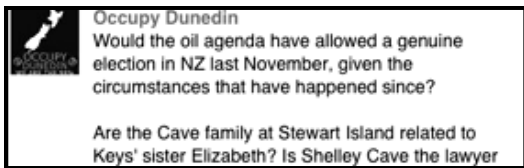
B is for *Bee*. P is for *Pee*. What does S stand for?

S is for *STUPID*.

Huh?!

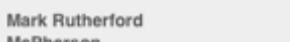
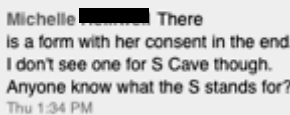
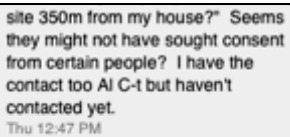
Nah, we don't use that word with our babies. They will grow up all too soon and learn those words and worse.

Speaking of so-called grown-ups, the investigative teams at Occupy Dunedin and Occupy NZ and their helper elves have been busy since the last issue of *SIN*. They dug deep, scanning social networking sites, scrutinizing paperwork relating to Greymouth Petroleum, and drawing conclusions about the residents of Horseshoe Bay. Upon the discovery that one neighbour hears kiwi outside her window, folks posted the usual astute and relevant comments regarding people they have never met. On its FB page, Occupy Dunedin has posed important, provocative questions...



WOW. *Are the Caves related to the Prime Minister?* Same surname in the families: must add up. (And here I thought they were related to *caveman* quarry worker Fred Flintstone.) *Did the Cave clan and oilmen conspire to tip the election?* Maybe Dale should put them all, in, like, jail or something?

Is there a scrap of truth to any of this? I suggest you put these questions to your neighbourhood publican (if you want to see Pinot Gris squirt out of her nose).



What does the S stand for? One guess what he answers.

But seriously... Now that the drill is finished here, I wish these groups and their helper elves would turn their attention to other matters and stop the insults and insinuations directed at family, friends and neighbours here. I hope they will delete their abusive comments on-line, and cease and desist with their infantile spew on public Internet pages.

Our children at Rugrats behave more judiciously. S does not stand for *STUPID* in Mo's world, particularly in reference to his daddy. S is for *STOP*. M is for *MOVE ON*.

Let's please *MOVE ON*.

—Jess

STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Books, like most things, can come and go in fashion. Of course, there are some classics which forever remain in your heart, or on your bookshelves. Naturally, everyone has their own definition of classic. For some it may be Tolstoy's "War and Peace", for others it's Harry Potter or even "50 Shades of Grey".

But whatever your personal reading preference, somewhere out there is the perfect book for everyone. If you have a shelf of books that you've read once but don't really want to throw out, or never really actually read at all, we would love to hear from you.

We are collecting unwanted books for our Book Sale which we plan to hold in October. All proceeds will go towards keeping our library shelves well stocked. This year we are hoping to enlarge our Stewart Island section, which contains both books by local authors and those which mention the Island.

So if you have anything you can donate to our cause, please either bring it to the Library or contact Kirsten (309) for pickup.

And if your shelves look a little empty afterwards...I'm sure you will find books you will love at the October Book Sale!

—Kirsten Hicks

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CONGRATULATIONS

New parents
Laura and Jarrod

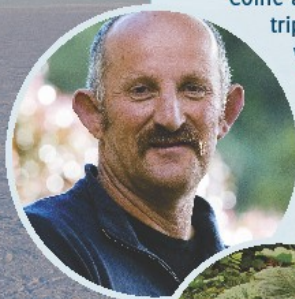
Welcome
Sarah Elizabeth Baird

OurFarSouth

ROADSHOW

In February 2012, Gareth Morgan led an expedition to explore Our Far South: the subantarctic islands, the Southern Ocean and Antarctica.

Come and hear Gareth talk about the trip, the issues the area faces, what we can do to look after the region and why conservation is such a big issue for New Zealand.



Gareth will also be talking about the potential opportunity to make Stewart Island pest free – and why it will be bigger than free fees are to Invercargill.



NEXT STOP

STEWART ISLAND

6pm Tuesday,
16th October
Doors open 5.30pm

Community Centre

www.stewart-island-news.com

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

On Thursday 13th September Garden Circle sampled High Tea at “**Bird on a Pear**”, we all had a ball and can highly recommend it.

Thursday 11th October we will be at Kate Hamilton’s to do some potting up of native plants and discuss the calendar of events for 2013.

Thanks to those offering to host us, it looks as if we are in for an interesting year.



November 8th, Jill (Matt Jones’s Mum) is going to give a talk on “Life as a Florist”



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**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess at
PO Box 156, Stewart Island News, HMB Post Office
or to editor@stewart-island-news.com**

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