

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING *RAKIURA ROCKERS!!!*

September—October 2014

\$3.00



Harry, Leeym, Marley, Keisha, Winiata, Jack, Angus, Sophie, and Timu perform at BandQuest in Dunedin

The Island community has been bursting with pride since the school's Rakiura Rockers rocked the socks off Dunedin at BandQuest. Marley won BEST Male Vocalist; Timu won BEST Bass Player, and the little band from our little school won *SECOND OVERALL!!* To put this in perspective, Halfmoon Bay School was in a competition with much bigger schools. The next biggest school by comparison is John McGlashan with over 100 students eligible to compete; some of the bigger schools competing have over 300 students. Halfmoon Bay School has just 23 students.

For those who surmise our school has limited opportunity or resources due to our remote area and small population: think again. "I love it, we're doing so much great stuff with the kids," said Kath Johnson. "If some of these kids were in a bigger school they wouldn't get these opportunities."

The students have been learning music via weekly Skype sessions with teacher Mary Chetty of Kaikoura. Every Monday they have a 15-minute one on one lesson.

Last year, the Rakiura Rockers won first place in the

national on-line section of Bandquest. "Then we decided to try to go to the next competition, and give the kids the experience of doing a live show," said Kath. "It's obviously more exciting than standing in front of a video camera."

Exciting it was, and the kids were amazing. Back on the Island, anxious fans waited for word of the performance and then phones here buzzed with the thrilling texts, and the School's FB page quickly garnered dozens of happy comments. Meanwhile, the Rakiura Rockers celebrated at Macker's with ice cream sundaes! They have been the talk of the town and a massive point of pride for everyone here.

The School wants to thank the Community who essentially paid for the trip. \$500 from Quiz, plus money raised through cheese roll sales, chicken and firewood raffles covered the cost of travel and accommodation in Dunedin. There is an ongoing firewood raffle for Bandquesters so be in to win, and to support our awesome young musicians.

**The Rakiura Rockers will perform at the Pub before Quiz on Sunday 14th September.**

Knit and Knatter ladies have been very busy over the last few months, doing the usual knitting for the island littlies, baby hats for the Prem Unit at the Hospital, layettes for the neo-natal unit, and helping Stewart Island W.I. with the Hospice longest scarf challenge (if anyone has any spare wool it would be gratefully received). The latest project is knitting breasts or (Knitted Knockers) for the Cancer Society. —*Jenny Gell*

*For more information about Knitted Knockers see [www.knittedknockers.info](http://www.knittedknockers.info) or talk to the Knit n Knatter ladies about this wonderful project.*



Rakiura Knockers.

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE** regarding Public Input on Shark Cage Diving Permits

From Phil Melgren, Department of Conservation:

We have received two applications for Shark Cage Diving, these will be assessed across the month.

We are in the midst of Iwi Consultation and are going to request public comment and input. We will be providing details around this in the next few weeks. **Keep an eye on the Notice Board on how to provide input.**

**Vicki Coats will be editing SIN next month, check the back page for her contact details.**



**Apology and Correction:** The SIRCET Board Member listed as Jim Tait last month should have read Jim Barrett.

Stewart Island Women's Institute are bringing you a

# Christmas Card Making Workshop

SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
10 AM UNTIL 3PM  
OBAN FIRE BRIGADE

*A good chance to get organised before the silly season is upon us!*

*Please bring any materials you have available  
\$2 donation for hire of the Brigade*

*A small something for pot luck lunch.*

*Tea and coffee supplied.*

*All welcome, numbers may be limited by space so please book in with President Vicki or Secretary Shona*



# WISE UP TO WEEDS



## GUNNERA

*(Gunnera tinctoria)*

We're keen to eradicate gunnera on Stewart Island, so if you've seen any, please let me know and I'll come and remove it.

### What is it?

Gunnera is a mega herb with huge rough jagged-edged leaves up to 1.5m wide and 2m high. It produces a large flowering spike, with orange seeds when ripe.

### What is the problem?

Gunnera excludes other plants by shading with its large leaves and extensive seed bank. It prefers wet areas, particularly coastal, and tolerates shade.

### How to control it?

- Dig out small patches, ensuring all the roots are gone.
- Cut away all the leaves and the pink leaf scale, this is best done with a spade. Paste the stumps, it may require a few applications as there are small heads hiding in the brown scale.
- Be careful with green waste – the roots can re-grow if attached to the pink leaf scale.

**Please contact the Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email [shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz](mailto:shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz) or telephone 211 5115**



Above: Rakiura Rockers Leeym, Marley & Timu

Below: Crabby face. Photo by Carolyn Squires



# Glowing Sky Rakiura



Finest South Island Merino Clothing.  
 Between The Pub and The Shop,  
 or [www.glowingsky.co.nz](http://www.glowingsky.co.nz)

**moshi  
mosh**

Our former barmaid Lucy is always up to something interesting, last time we checked in with her it was Taiko drumming. Now, she and her husband have started an on-line language project which looks like a great tool for brushing up on foreign language skills.

Check out [www.moshimosh.co.uk](http://www.moshimosh.co.uk)

## Storage Solutions for our Medical Centre

As anyone popping into the Medical Centre can easily see, there is a lot of essential equipment taking up waiting room and other space. Finding storage solutions has been on the Health Committee's agenda for some time.

Thanks to the generosity and effort of many good folk, the problem has been solved. The photo shows our newly installed "Rapid Room". Sue Munro, our secretary and super sleuth, checked out the pros and cons of this idea. Then she negotiated a fantastic price. The structure is made of quality materials and is fully insulated and carpeted.

Quiz Mistress extraordinaire Vicki Coats suggested earlier in the year that the Quiz Night fundraising go towards "something big" for the

nurses. Locals and visitors responded generously and two lovely big cheques totalling \$6125 were handed over to the Health Committee - this along with other donations from memorial services etc. paid for the "Rapid Room".

Rakiura Shipping donated the cost of bringing the "RR" over the strait. Ian Munro provided cement and gravel for the concrete foundation and Jarrod Baird built it free of charge. Then Ian's trusty digger manoeuvred the room into its final position.



The results speak for themselves. Marty and Debs are all smiles and busy working out shelving and other ideas for the (RR). On behalf of the Health Committee - **A huge thank you to everybody. You are an awesome community.**

*Raylene*

**LETTERS** ☒☒☒☒**Missing Links, Questions for Predator Free**

I put this question up on the Q&A section on the predator free website and it just disappeared! So I thought I'd ask it here, along with another question; why won't they link my results?

My question seems to have disappeared without being answered!! How do you think these two articles will impact on the projected outcome of this project? <http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/10205213/Eco-tourism-prospects-in-Bluff-Hill-fence-plan> <https://nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/top-stories/24354740/fees-cut-for-kapiti-island-visitors/>

And a new advance is this from DOC, why can't we use these instead of a fence and poison? <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1402/S00802/unprecedented-0-pest-survival-rate-in-doc-rat-control-trial.htm> (thanks to Lania for sharing that on FB)

And I also notice no link to my survey results (or just the results themselves) have been posted on this site; wouldn't the local's opinions be a nice thing for other people to read?

*Vicki Coats*

**Shark Week**

Dear Stewart Islanders,

I watched Discovery Channel Shark week this year and was taken back at the violent ferocity of Stewart Island's white sharks featured on three top rated shows. That was until I realized the animals had been deliberately baited to attack small craft (with crew inside), divers, and cages placed at the bottom - at night.

In the 27 years I have been watching Shark Week the level of shark violence and fear of animals has never been higher. It would appear that Stewart Island residents are cowering under an assault from daily and repeated shark attacks. At least that's what shows like "Lair of the Mega Shark" revealed to an estimated 30 million viewers this year. Last year an estimated 27 million viewers watched Stewart Island sharks trained to attack a cage with a diver inside.

Additionally, I saw many animals with deeply scratched bodies and damaged noses from repeated hard and baited interactions with the film crews. Does New Zealand have film permits for this kind of thing and are the animals of Stewart island protected?

I am including the Shark Week link page so you can watch the shows and judge for yourself. Please watch "Lair of the Mega Shark" as I believe it is the worst of the bunch.

For the most part the crews involved this year are the same crews from last year. They are US based and under a mandate to bring back "scripted reality programming" to the Shark Week franchise. That means all stories are fabricated just enough that audiences are unsure if they are real or not. For the most part audiences believe these shows to be truth, so these shows are now acting as the marketing and conservation narrative for the places they feature.

In places such as remote unpopulated islands with sharks that narrative is OK. In places like Stewart Island trying to market itself as a natural relaxing paradise with a strong conservation ethos this new narrative eclipses any regional efforts - you just cannot reach 30 million viewers, ever.

I have grave concerns for the future of Stewart Island tourism. It has been hijacked by a few for profit entities who are using white sharks, callously, to promote their narrow business focus and US based film careers. None of which have anything to do with what Stewart Island stands for.

The shows are:

"Lair of the Mega Shark"

Synopsis - A dive team from the USA featuring Jeff Kurr and Andy Brandy Casagrande 4 come to investigate a Mega Shark terrorizing the small town of Stewart Island. The shark is suggested to have attacked a small boat and sunk it. Highlights included deliberate baiting of a small craft and a shark attacking it with film crew inside. Sharks attacking cages that are baited. Faked moments of danger outside of the cages. Suggestions that Sperm Whales are dying at the island creating unsafe conditions.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIVlcDRSo6w&index=6&list=EL23sw-WrvSFaIvw6ENUH2\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIVlcDRSo6w&index=6&list=EL23sw-WrvSFaIvw6ENUH2_Q)

"Air Jaws: Fin of Fury"

Synopsis - Shark Filmmaker Jeff Kurr and Andy Brandy Casagrande 4 embark on a world wide mission to track down the missing "mega-shark" Colossus. This giant killer white shark is tracked to Stewart Island where it is filmed attacking a baited one man cage and divers both at night and day time. The shark is fake, the story designed to scare people. Stewart Island is where this shark lives. The sharks filmed are very real and chummed to create a frenzy for cameras.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9JpTk5o8&list=EL23sw-WrvSFaIvw6ENUH2\\_Q&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9JpTk5o8&list=EL23sw-WrvSFaIvw6ENUH2_Q&index=2)

### "Zombie Sharks"

Synopsis - Featuring Jeff Kurr and Andy Brandy Casagrande 4, a man is asked to flip a Great White shark on its nose. His voyage to Stewart Island features a simulated out of cage experience where the shark almost attacks him. He is also sent into the water in baited shark cages. He dives with Orcas in NZ waters.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxGa3I-Vf2w&list=EL23sw-WrvSFaIvw6ENUH2\\_Q&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxGa3I-Vf2w&list=EL23sw-WrvSFaIvw6ENUH2_Q&index=7)

*David Taylor*



### **Guardians of Stewart Island / Rakiura**

I have put together a simple website to help explore and understand environmental issues relating to Stewart Island and Ulva Island, called Guardians of Stewart Island / Rakiura. This is funded directly from the conservation fund established in 2003 by Ruggedy Range™ Wilderness Experience. So far around \$10,200 has been raised by contributing some of my revenue from each person that has participated in one of my guided walks, scenic road tours, cruise or water taxi charters.

Anyone who wishes to join Guardians of Stewart Island / Rakiura is welcome.

The website is: [www.guardiansofstewartisland.com](http://www.guardiansofstewartisland.com)

One of the key areas that is considered is the concept of Predator-Free Rakiura, as proposed by the Gareth Morgan Foundation in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

Other environmental issues will also be raised on this website as time goes on.

Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the issues or raise an environmental concern is welcome to contact me via: [mail@guardiansofstewartisland.com](mailto:mail@guardiansofstewartisland.com)

*Furhana Ahmad*, Ruggedy Range™ Wilderness Experience

### **Community Board Update**

After 30 months of frustration and delays some progress has been made with the Renewable Energy Project. The solar panels, previously on the roof of Stewart Island Flights and the Department of Conservation, have been reinstalled on frames at the sewerage ponds, a 30m mast to monitor wind flows erected on land beside the back road and the final site for a V-Notch Weir, [Hydro Power], selected and the necessary helicopter pad and access track cleared. Hopefully all will be up and operating by the end of this month and we can finally start to gather information to base future decisions on.

The Main Road storm water work is now largely completed with the reinstatement of the grass and gardens to be done in early September and road sealing late September early October weather permitting. Although not part of this

project, the Board has decided to extend the paved footpath on the northern side of the Main Road to reach the kerb and channel adjacent to the theatre entrance.

It has been brought to the Boards notice that there is a spelling mistake in one of the names on the War Memorial. Work is underway to have this corrected.

Changes should shortly take place on Elgin Terrace between the Red Shed and the Wharf as new parking spaces and no parking areas are marked. As part of a long term plan to make this area more user friendly for both pedestrians and motorists, the car parks will be relocated to the footpath side of the road with parked vehicles pointing away from the wharf. No parking lines will be painted on the northern side of the road and a white line down the centre of the road.

Discussions and costing are tak-

ing place to convert the lawn area from the hotels driveway to the school's access road into an angle parking area.

Investigations are also underway to build a community owned structure in the area between the present wharf, fish shed and Elgin Terrace which would allow for improved pedestrian and vehicle flow, freight storage and possible short term parking. Public consultation would take place before any decisions were made on this development. Ideas for the 10 year plan are presently being sort.

If you have any thoughts on items that you think should or should not be included please feel free to contact any member off the Community Board to discuss them. Your input is important if the needs of this community are going to be met.

*Jon Spraggon*



## SIRCET Update *from Shona Sangster*

It certainly feels like spring is upon us now with a run of warmer weather recently. Though perhaps it will be a case of in like a lamb out like a lion. Here's hoping winter doesn't come up with one final blast to freeze all that new growth! I'm just back from a trip to Perth, WA where I had a great time, and couldn't help but laugh at seeing the brush-tailed possum in the zoo, with a sign letting people know what they can do to encourage this animal in their back yard! Such a good reminder that one person's pest is another's treasured native species.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July I was lucky enough to be able to attend a Plant Identification course, run by Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology in conjunction with DoC who kindly allowed other interested people to attend free of charge. To my surprise it turned out that the aim of the course was not to rote learn or memorize as many long latin names as you can, but to give us all the skills to describe plants using the correct terminology and to figure out how to identify an unknown plant using all the tools at our disposal. By the end of the two days we were all feeling really confident and able to describe and identify plants with ease. A huge thank you to the Department of Conservation for allowing non-DoC staff to participate, and to tutor Beth Endres for being so passionate and generous with her time.

We also wanted to remind all dog owners that we have another Kiwi Avoidance training workshop coming up at Labour weekend, all welcome, new dogs and those that need reinforcement. Stewart Island is home to the only active trainer south of Cook Strait so please do take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions please get in touch with Sandy King or Di Morris on 2190009 or email [in-fo@sircet.org.nz](mailto:info@sircet.org.nz). And not forgetting our feline friends, we also have free cat bells available. Make sure any collar has an elasticised segment so that if it gets caught on something your cat won't choke, and be aware that some cats are clever enough to silence a single bell and you may need to add two to ensure potential prey is adequately warned.

Finally, a huge thank you to our tireless volunteers who have been out there helping come rain or shine. Special thanks go to Hilli Barrett for the extra effort and time she has put in recently and Fiona Brownlie for whipping the nursery into shape. And we are proud to announce that thanks to the work of all our volunteers, SIRCET were winners of the Heritage and Environment section of the Invercargill region Trustpower Community Awards. The Trustpower Community Awards are run in 25 regions around New Zealand to recognise and reward the outstanding contribution voluntary groups and organisations make in our communities.

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

### *Carmichaelia williamsii* - William's Broom, Giant-flowered broom

Two of these plants were at the SIRCET nursery for years and were thought to be a rare local plant. When Letitia wanted to plant them in the town gardens, a quick bit of research revealed them to be far from home. One is now planted in the garden near the shop, a good place for a plant that likes dry conditions! Like other native brooms, the flat, green branches are photosynthetic and serve as leaves. These have an attractive sculptural quality as they are wider (about 15 mm) in this species than in other *Carmichaelia*, making it easy to recognise. The pea-like flowers are also atypical of the genus, being yellow rather than mauve or white, but they do have purple veins. In Dunedin, flowers appear in winter and early spring, and mature into chubby pods (25 mm long), the sides of which fall off when dry, revealing bright orange seeds suspended from the pod rim. It grows rather slowly into a spreading shrub 2 m x 2 m and needs light pruning to maintain its shape. It is rare in the wild - coastal areas from the Bay of Plenty to East Cape and on some northern offshore islands. However, it is surprisingly hardy and also drought, wind and salt spray tolerant. Cuttings have been taken and if you want this beautiful and unusual plant in your garden, they will be ready next year.



## SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

Everyone likes a little tart once in a while, don't they? I'm talking about the kind you bake in the oven, not the first one that comes to mind people.... Jeez!

Not only are these tasty, but super easy to whip up for a quick lunch or dinner, and you can use little or a lot of ingredients, depending on the filling you prefer and how flash you want it.

I'm not a pastry queen, and haven't bothered to put in the time to master pastry making, but will add it to my list of things to improve on...so I tend to use ready-made pastry most of the time. It works well and cuts out some of the prep time making this a quick recipe when rushed. The only time consuming bit is caramelizing the red onions but this can be done days ahead and stored in the fridge.

This is also easily made gluten free by buying ready-made gluten free pastry from bin inn (which is also dairy free), I find this to be the best I've found so far, as you can roll it thin and it still holds together, also having a nice texture and flavour!

This recipe makes a family size tart, or if you prefer you can make individual ones, they do look great for a lunch with a salad!

### CARAMELISED ONION, BLUE CHEESE & PINE-NUT TART

3 medium red onions, cut in half and sliced thinly  
 1/2 a packet of pine nuts- dry roasted  
 1 wedge of creamy blue cheese  
 4 eggs whisked  
 Salt n pepper to taste  
 1tsp of fresh or dried thyme  
 50mls cream  
 50mls milk  
 2 sheets of ready rolled flaky puff pastry



### METHOD

Once red onions are sliced add a little oil to a pan and add onions, cooking on a medium heat to begin and reducing heat after around 5 minutes, don't forget to stir regularly. (Remember you are sweating the onions down and cooking slowly not

browning them at a high heat!) You can use regular onions if you want but the red are sweeter and have a higher sugar content so caramelize faster and are tastier.

Add a little salt to onions around 15 minutes into cooking, this helps release the natural sugars and caramelize quicker, around 30 minutes usually is enough I find, onions should be a deep brown colour and reduced to about a half to a 1/3 of what you started with. If they need some more cooking  
 OPTIONAL: 1 tsp brown sugar and a splash of balsamic vinegar if you like it.

Heat oven to 170 fan forced, butter tart tin and add pastry, sealing together two sheets to cover whole tin, lightly push into sides and trim off excess pastry. Whisk eggs, add cream and milk, salt n pepper, thyme and mix again. Roughly cut cheese, replace blue with feta or similar if you aren't a fan of either.

Add egg mix to tart tin, spread onions around tin evenly, sprinkle cheese around, top with toasted pine nuts and place in hot oven to cook. It takes around 30-45 minutes to cook especially for bottom of pastry to cook properly. Remove from oven when ready and when possible remove from tart tin and place on a wire rack to cool if not eating straight away.

Other ideas for fillings are spinach, feta and pumpkin, remember to squeeze all of water out of cooked spinach or you'll end up with a soggy tart. (Hehe)  
 Roasted red pepper and marinated artichoke and blue cheese.  
 Smoked salmon and cream cheese, corn and bacon tart.

I tend to use creamy blue cheese so the other flavours aren't too over powered, but that is totally up to you the maker.

So have a crack at this easy recipe and try a tasty little tart, you won't look back....

I apologise for the tart remarks... But I found it rather amusing as I wrote this article and couldn't quite pull my mind out of the gutter, but those of you who know me know I'm usually always stuck in the gutter anyway! Enjoy!

**MUSEUM MATTERS** from *Bev Cowie*

The write-up last month on the framed piece of handwork, has brought no more details to light, so we are now throwing out another request to locals. The Stewart Island "Quilt of Valour" has never been located. Correspondence on hand from Alexander Turnbull Library dated 2005 makes note that they know of its existence, but cannot give any more clues as to its whereabouts. We are assuming that it was created here on the island - maybe CWI, a church group, or another woman's group. So if anyone out there knows where it may be, or can fill in any gaps please get in touch with the museum. If we managed to locate it we could use it as a feature for our WW1 celebrations next year. [PHOTO] Some of the names shown on it are Owen Bragg, Olga Jensen, Mrs Pollock, Mrs Hicks among others, not all from Stewart Island.

During Jo Massey's visit we gave our Maori cabinet a spring clean/make-over/upgrade - whichever you think fits!! Come in and see the small changes, and the very large piece of greenstone that was located during Russell Becks visit. Spring cleaning does unearth some unusual items - some good, some bad!

Museum hours up until the end of September are Monday thru Saturday 10 am-12:00 noon, Saturday 10am-1:30 and Sunday Noon-2 pm. October hours will be Monday - Saturday; 10.00am - 1.30pm; Sunday; noon - 2.00pm.

We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 or [stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz)



**Lania Davis made this: a Minecraft birthday cake.**

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## RAKIURA FILM SHOWS

During Labour weekend people on Stewart Island will have an opportunity to view two film programmes from the collection of Nga Taonga Sound & Vision, formerly known as The Film Archive. *Rakiura on Film 1927-2009* is a 70 minute compilation of 14 films and television items.

Several films were made by Captain George Turner, who lived for 40 years at Halfmoon Bay. Turner was an outstanding still photographer and a maker of 16mm motion pictures. He is known to have given public lectures (showing movies) throughout New Zealand on the attractions of Stewart Island. The opening of the Stewart Island Museum in 1960 and the wedding of Joan McKellar and Albert Turner in 1947 at Andrew's Anglican Church are on the programme... Along with a brief view of the settlement at Port Pegasus in 1935.

Other items show Flying Boats, views of Oban, the Hotel, general store and Post office many years ago.

The earliest film on the programme, made in 1927 promotes Bluff Oysters. A couple dine out, on a menu of oyster dishes - cocktail, stew, omelette and oysters on toast with celery sauce. While they are waiting for their oyster cocktails, the man tells the woman about how he went on a trawler once and describes the process of trawling, sorting and packing oysters, which is accompanied by images of these processes.

Several films on muttonbirding feature, including an extraordinary film made by Noel Lee of the Wairua delivering birders to Titi Islands in 1965. Precarious landings on the islands are documented and unloading of supplies. Another is an excerpt from the 1970 television programme, Landscape, documenting a meeting called by the Lands and Survey Dept to appoint mutton birders to supervise the muttonbird season and to grant permits to those going to Crown Islands. These scenes are followed by the Birders embarking on the Wairua to the Titi Islands and preparing for the birding season. Another film was made by Margaret Hixon of birding on Herekopare Island in 1973 The final item on the programme is from *Native Affairs* recording Rakiura Maori gathering in 2008.

### Rakiura on Film

**Sat 25th October at 4pm (gold coin donation)**

**Sat 25 October at 7pm (\$5 adult \$3 kids) with bar  
Stewart Island Community Centre**

### AUNT DAISY & THE DANCING COSSACKS

CINEMA AND TELEVISION ADVERTISING 1930 2000

The other programme is *Aunt Daisy & the Dancing Cossacks*, a collection of seriously funny cinema and television advertising made between 1930 and 2000. The cars we drove, the bands we watched, the slacks we wore... combined with stylish graphics and animation. It is an interesting take on how society has changed over 70 years. Old favourites like Ches 'N Dale and Crumpy in the Toyota Hi-Ace are there, along with promotions for Anchor Milk, the Miss and Mister New Zealand competition and much more.

**Monday 27th October 4pm (gold coin donation)**

**Stewart Island Community Centre  
running time 60 minutes**

## Update from Cr. Bruce

Stewart Island's renewable energy programme has finally moved a further step in our quest to manage the cost of electricity. In the week 26-28 August, the team from Energy 3 erected a wind monitoring mast at Horseshoe Bay between the quarry and Back Road. This will measure and transmit data on a continuing sequence for evaluation wind resource. Approval from DoC for Garden Mound to be sampled will receive ongoing analysis in conjunction with the Horseshoe site.

At the same time, a work crew and DoC staff have established a heli-pad and some track in the vicinity of the North Arm hydro power stream. This will enable the fitting of a V-notch weir to measure the water volume for hydro calculation. This work is with guidance from Dr. Brian Caruso of Canterbury University, who is an experienced authority.

Also proceeding is the next stage of the Seniors Housing prospect, and Ms Paula Comerford from Stimpson Property & Community Advisors will first visit on 18-19 September. Her aim is to help us further develop a business plan and carry out evaluations necessary to formulate appropriate financial and sustainable operations. It is proposed that a meeting of all interested persons be held to introduce the possible methodologies, and for Paula to meet you. It is to be held at 11.00 a.m. Friday 19 September at the Fire Station - please make a note in your diary now and keep an eye on the Notice Board in case of changes.

The general idea of how such a housing project could work and the best methods of facilitating are No. 1 on the Agenda. There are many variables for buildings and it is anticipated that we compare how other communities have achieved success and so that we can try to avoid some of the pitfalls that some communities have come across. No point in re-inventing the wheel - but best we aim for a sturdy and well-proven one! Meantime, just to get an idea of some of the directions we might follow, Google "Abbeyfield" and see how they operate.

And then before the end of the year, the Port William Wharf is to be re-built, and the remainder of our jetties will be looked at as part of ongoing maintenance. Planning is also underway for a replacement wharf at Ulva Island - details to be confirmed.

There's actually quite a lot happening in the background at the moment, and don't forget you are all welcome to keep up with latest developments by logging on to Council website, or ask Kirsten if you can look at the minutes and/or agenda for Council or Community Board Meetings. When you see the hundreds of subjects covered, you'll see why I can only pick out the most immediate to report in SIN, but the smaller projects - often of great interest and importance to us - are all there to be followed in the minutes. Please take advantage of this, and I'll let you know in the next SIN how the headline things are going, or contact any Community Board member or myself.

### Church Chatter

This photo was taken on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 2004. As part of the centenary celebration of Oban Presbyterian Church, a ceilidh was held in the church on the Sunday evening of our big weekend. There were speeches and singing, recitals and reminiscences.

Here, our local choir is performing. Gwen Neave is conducting, Ulva Goodwillie is the accompanist and all the usual suspects are attempting to keep in tune.

If you look very carefully, you can see the late John Leask seated up front at far right. John was the compere for the evening and told a great story about a Leask relative, practising a hellfire and brimstone sermon in the Leask family home. The preacher obviously took his duties very



seriously for he had written in the margins of his sermon notes reminders such as “Bang pulpit!” and “Look fierce!” and was acting these out as he practised his delivery.

We aren't planning on a ceilidh to celebrate our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary but there will be an afternoon tea in the Community Hall on the Saturday of Labour Weekend starting at 2 p.m. and an exhibition of historic photographs of church events.

The Rev. Heather Kennedy will conduct a service of celebration on Labour Weekend Sunday. The congregation extends a warm welcome to everyone to share these celebrations with us.

*Raylene Waddell, Session Clerk.*

### From Wohler's Monument, Stewart Island, to Oihi Bay, Northland

Walking the length of New Zealand is something Ryan Craig is drawn to do, with the added burden of carrying a cross all the way. Today, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2014, Ryan has started his fourth journey of the length of New Zealand.

He arrived last night by ferry, his only luggage a large, white, wooden cross, supported by a clever contraption of bicycle wheels mounted on a wooden compartment in which he stores tent, sleeping bag, clothes, camping gear and food.

Going right out to the Wohler's Cross at Ringa Ringa was very important for Ryan. Underpinning the reason for this year's walk is his desire to recognise the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christmas Day, 1814, when Samuel Marsden preached the first Gospel sermon at Oihi Bay, Northland.

Ryan wanted to make the connection between the two crosses which commemorate two great missionaries, Wohlers and Marsden. Here in his own words is his rea-

son for this walk:  
*The Purpose – Unity  
I feel that God has asked me to walk the length of the country, with a cross and two flags. One flag being the NZ flag and the other being the Tino Rangaitiranga flag, this is to signify the two peoples groups. And the cross to signify Christ, the only means*



*by which true unity can come to our nation, and his ultimate act of love for the forgiveness of our sins.*

Ryan lives in Twizel, where he works as a bee keeper. I asked him if he ever encountered aggression on his walks and he admitted that he sometimes did but stressed the enormous and frequent acts of kindness and hospitality offered to him by complete strangers. As the world of commerce bombards us with 'so many shopping days till Christmas' spare a thought for Ryan as he pulls his message of hope along the highways of our country.

You can follow Ryan's progress on his Facebook page: RyanCraigsWalk2014.

*Raylene Waddell*





**Caption Contest.**

Favourite caption goes to anonymous with *That's just great, the only bar in town and no bloody straws!*

So runners-up Si Taylor and Sue Ford get to share the beer and broccoli! Congrats!

Si's is:  
*Has anyone seen my friend Cole Lee?*

And Sue's:  
*Hi Jess, re the photo, I thought I'd let you know that there have been rumblings that the Quiz team gathered at this table were illegal as Bro Colly was the SEVENTH member of the team and kept "feeding" answers to the other six. I couldn't say for sure as I was dazzled by the light glinting off several dozen green sparkling wigs. But given that the Sunday Quiz was unofficially subtitled "Green Knight", the caption should be: "Oh, go on Kim – give us a kiss!"*



**New Caption Contest.** I love the look on this doggy's face as he walks through the soft sand.  
Winning caption gets a pitcher at the pub.  
Send to Vicki (contact details on back).  
*Photo from Carolyn Squires.*

**Medicinal Gardens Project**

The medicinal garden has a new home! The Council and Community Board have approved a planting plan for the former garden beside Glowing Sky. This large triangular area was formally planted in natives but had to be dug up when the drains underneath were repaired. The bare patch of earth is going to be the perfect place to showcase plants that have medicinal qualities. I've expanded the scope of the planting to include edible plants as well.

Planting is going to occur in early September and the area will be covered in eco-wool weedmat and mulch to keep the weeds down and give the plants a chance to grow. Thank you to the Council for funding this eco-friendly option!

Debs Dillon recently loaned me a book of hers "New Zealand Medicinal Plants" by Brooker, Cambie and Cooper. This has proved an excellent text and I will feature a couple of plants from the book in this article. For edible plants I have been referencing 'A Field Guide to the Native Edible Plants of New Zealand' Crowe. The author has had a long interest in edible plants and gathered knowledge from many sources. He tested that knowledge with a personal survival test of 10 days alone in the bush with no food supplies. At the end of that time he had lost some weight and had a keen appetite!

Horopito or peppertree (*Pseudowintera axillaris*) is well known for its peppery taste and is even being used commercially as a gourmet pepper spice. Traditionally the leaves were steeped and the resulting liquid used to treat skin conditions and oral thrush. Leaves were also chewed for toothache. Modern testing has shown Horopito essential oil to contain eugenol, which is a dental analgesic. In conjunction with an aniseed extract it's been shown to be effective against oral thrush.



While spinach is a familiar vegetable at the table we have our own variation with New Zealand Spinach. Along with Cooks Scurvy Grass and Native Celery, NZ Spinach was one of the plants that Captain Cook fed to his crew to prevent scurvy. Other early captains followed his example and found these plants highly effective in preventing and curing scurvy. While scurvy is not a problem now, NZ spinach is quite the gourmet green. The closely related Beach Spinach grows on Stewart Island and it can be eaten, either raw in salad or steamed.



*Coprosma lucida* or karamu is a common coastal plant here and with its glossy green leaves and bright orange berries it makes a great garden plant. The berries are said to be sweet and delicious (birds seem to think so too!). In the new garden there will also be *Coprosma acerosa* or sand coprosma and its blue berries are said to be the sweetest of all the coprosma's. But most fascinating for the C. Lucida is that the seeds can be roasted and ground into coffee. They are supposed to have an excellent coffee smell and a vague coffee taste. It would take a lot of the small seeds to get a cup of coffee!

Shona Sangster

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## BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford

### “A Discovery of Witches: The Book of Life” by Deborah Harkness

It's difficult to review “The Book of Life”, final instalment of Deborah Harkness' All Souls Trilogy. This isn't because the book is lacking at all but because I'm hoping that some of you who haven't yet given the first two instalments a whirl can be persuaded to start – and I don't want to give away the explosive ending! In this final book, all the loose ends are drawn together. The premise of there being four species - warmbloods (that's us), vampires, witches and daemons - sounds completely whacky, but it is an engaging series of adventures with the fantasy played down in favour of tension, high drama and a good dollop of humour. Harkness is an excellent story-teller and her characters are witty, contemporary, and entirely believable. Whilst not all the ‘goodies’ end happily-ever-after, not all the villains receive their just desserts either - yet! The writing is excellent and the characters so believable that you look at your neighbours differently – just in case... Suspend your belief in our reality and give the Harkness version a go – it doesn't disappoint. Escapist fiction at its best and coming to the Library soon we hope.

“**Blacklight**” by **Melton, Dunstan & Romano** is a weird book which will appeal strongly to followers of contemporary fantasy, but didn't quite cut it with me. Buck Carlsbad chases bad spirits and deals with them whilst searching for his misplaced past and family. Interesting and different.

‘Jolly Good Yarns’ – my definition of an ‘adventure’ story with thrills, and which doesn't rely on gore and bloody bodies to forward the thrills (though a body or two is likely to turn up of course). The following all justify my personal criteria: **Jeffery Deaver's “The Twelfth Card”** is a labyrinth of clues leading back 140 years. Sixteen year old Geneva is researching her family history and a freed-slave ancestor, and it looks as if it will prove fatal to Geneva. The tension and drama, draw you to a well-crafted ending, though I really don't like Lincoln Rhymes! Worth reading just to pit your wits against Deaver's in this twisted plot. Less compelling, but intriguing and different is “**No Return**” by **Brett Battles**. Wes Stewart is a film-maker in the wrong place at the wrong time – if he wants to stay alive. Whilst filming an innocuous TV documentary near his childhood home, a Navy fighter plane makes an inexplicable crash landing nearby. In a futile attempt to save the pilot, Wes stumbles across a conspiracy that takes him to childhood contacts and present secrets. This is the first of Battles' books I've come across, but I'm now looking out for more. “**Be Careful What You Wish For**” by **Jeffrey Archer** turned out to be the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of a series, The Clifton Chronicles, but is a stand-alone story – until you get to the end and find out you need Volume 5 which isn't published until 2015! If you've read the first two, you'll be looking out for this one and won't be disappointed. Good old-fashioned tale unfolding in Archer's trademark thrilling fashion, but annoying to come in the middle of the saga with the end not yet written! I should have paid more attention and looked for the first three instalments at least. No such trouble with **David Baldacci's “The Forgotten”**. There are so many strands to this plot but for Army Special Agent John Puller it all begins with a letter from his aunt in which she says things are not quite right in the Florida town of Paradise. And then she dies before John arrives in town. But so do other people, and a couple of private vendettas and some Pentagon-like interference going on in the background may – or may not – be part of the problem with Paradise. Definitely deserves the description of page-turner. “**Killer Instinct**” by **Joseph Finder** is another book which isn't full of blood and guts but of intrigue and clever plotting. Easy-going Jason Steadman is a reasonably successful sales rep leading a comfortable but unexceptionable life until he meets Kurt and befriends him. Suddenly, Jason finds all his obstacles to promotion fading away. It takes a while for our friendly ‘good guy’ to see the connection, but suddenly, his own life and that of his beloved wife are in danger. Then he and Kurt both discover that the company they work for is playing a double game too. The story doesn't start out riveting – but that's the whole point. It's what can happen to ordinary good folks struggling in some areas of their lives, enjoying other parts, who come up against extraordinary bad (and mad!) ones. Went from interesting to page-turning as the plot became more twisted. Definitely good book month at the Library!

**Shop Talk by Jules Retberg**

**At Home With Shop Talk**

I've got a few weeks holiday from work which I'm enjoying spending at home, a place I don't always see during the day so it's been great! This month's Shop Talk is not Shop Talk at all and almost didn't happen.

deadline for SIN: *today*  
 ideas for Shop Talk: *zero*  
 distractions: *email, internet news, Facebook, coffee, biscuits, a meowing cat ...*

A cat? We don't own a cat!

I followed the persistent sound of meowing and discovered a cat by the back door. If cats could smile then this one grinned like the proverbial Cheshire Cat when I opened the door. It wound its body around my ankles and shot past me into the living room. As it stood on the arm of the sofa the constant gentle meow became a much more insistent MEEE-OWMEEEEOWMEEEEOWW!

What to do? The cat had no collar so I couldn't find out who it belonged to and none of our neighbours so far as I knew owned a black cat. I made a few phone calls while the cat explored the house. An hour later my calls had led to a dead end and I got the feeling that had the cat turned up in a different garden, it might well have met **its** dead end!

The cat was very friendly and obviously someone's pet, but I was in a bit of a fix:

I couldn't return it to its owner because I didn't know who that was;  
 I couldn't keep it;  
 I was reluctant to let it outside as I didn't know if the cat was interested in birds.  
 And by 'interested' I don't mean it was going to peer through a pair of binoculars at the fat pigeon in the garden and check it

off a list of birds seen on Stewart Island!

The noticeboard! Of course, why didn't I think of that earlier. Heaps of things are pinned onto the "Lost & Found" like coats, gloves, hats, glasses, small children (OK the last one isn't true). I could put the cat up there. Not literally of course. I mean, it had no collar, where would I stick the pin?!

While I was writing a description of my houseguest I heard a noise. The cat had head-butted the slightly open bedroom window and made its intentions clear. The fat pigeon headed for the sky and moggy returned to meowing at the back door again. I let the cat in. It jumped out of the bedroom window straight away and began circling the house, meow-meow-meowing all the way, only stopping to peek through each window at me with a questioning "meow?". I let the cat in again and shut the bedroom window.

I walked down to the noticeboard to pin the "cat found" sign up and when I got home the moggy was gone - the office window its exit of choice this time.

The moral of this story? Don't leave windows open if you're trying to contain a cat - and cats, please wear a collar so that you can be returned home easily and don't meet with a grizzly end. Oh and thanks meowing black cat for giving me something to write about!



**Stewart Island Women's Institute (SIWI)**

The WI held their second meeting on a cold and blustery Thursday night, unfortunately it clashed with the chef's visit as well, but turn out was small but enthusiastic!

One of the WI projects in town is making up emergency kits for people who have to stay in hospital and haven't had a chance to pack a bag. We've ran with this idea and made 20 of these packs up so far, including toothpaste and brush, comb, shampoo, soap, razor etc to go to Invercargill A&E and we've also got 4 very flash ones at the Nurses clinic here. So if you do need to be flown off, you know you'll at least be able to have a wash!

We also raised \$344 for the SPCA on cupcake day, thanks for everyone's sweet tooth and Lania, Megan and Shona for peddling

the goodness!

We are holding a card making day on 20th September to get those Christmas cards made nice and early, all welcome to come along and get stocked up!

We're looking to hold a mosaicing day some time in the not too distant future also, so keep your eyes on the noticeboard for more info from SIWI (Stewart Island Women's Institute).

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at the Fire Brigade if any ladies are keen for a meet up, chat and a wine or cup of tea!

*See Vicki or Shona for more!*



## Buffer or Barrier? *by Sandy King*

Following the article about “The Fence” from the PFR Governance Group in August’s SIN I thought I’d take a closer look at the difference between a buffer zone and a physical barrier, and the relative effectiveness of each when dealing with invasive predators. Conveniently, there are easily accessible examples of each – found in the work SIRCET are doing from Ackers Point to Golden Bay Road vs a low key DOC project on adjacent Native Island.

The GG article began with these statements: *“One of the key principles for undertaking any eradication is that reinvasion can be managed. Some sort of barrier is needed to slow reinvasion, but so far the only barriers that have been shown to work are water (which is why eradications have happened on islands) and predator fences.”*

The important word to note here is “slow” – the idea that a barrier such as a fence will completely stop all reinvasion is outdated and unrealistic, we now know to expect some reinvasion in most cases (except perhaps where the barrier is extensive, such as the expanse of Southern Ocean surrounding Campbell and Macquarie Islands), and that the systems in place to manage reinvasion are essential and the key to a successful project.

The SIRCET project has no physical barrier, instead the project area has been divided into 3 zones, the Core, the Buffer, and the Community zone – effectively a buffer for the Buffer. I think every local is aware of the persistent hard work and dedication that has gone into the SIRCET trapping programme over the winter months. The Core area, from Ackers Point to Leask Bay/Evening Cove, and the Buffer now have lines 75m apart with a rat trap every 25m along those lines – a 75x25m grid. During an intensive trapping session those traps were checked daily for about 10 days in early autumn, every second day until June, and subsequently twice weekly. 623 rats were caught in the Core and Buffer zones between April and June.

Native Island, on the other hand, does have a physical barrier - albeit a bit “leaky”. The narrow stretch of water separating Native Island from the mainland is easily within swimming distance of rats and reinvasion is a certainty. The question is whether this leaky barrier is enough to slow reinvasion so that occasional re-invaders can be caught faster than they can breed. Regular SINers might recall an article in January 2014 in which the Native Island project was explained – testing whether Goodnature self-resetting traps would get rid of rats and possums. Locals were invited to join the team on their monthly checks, and recently I took up the invitation and spent a morning with the guys checking traps and chatting about what they’d achieved. They have 146 Goodnature self-resetting rat traps set on lines 100m apart with a trap every 50m (a 100x50m grid), checked and serviced monthly. It is impossible to tell how many rats have been killed, most carcasses are either removed by weka or decompose in the interval between checks. However, they monitor progress using tracking tunnels (tunnels with inkpads and tracking paper, baited for

one night each monitoring period. The results are presented as percent of tunnels showing rat tracks). They monitored rat numbers before traps were first set in November 2013 and got 84% tracking, which is “quite high”, and have since been monitoring rat numbers frequently.

The same monitoring technique has been used by SIRCET to monitor rats remaining in the project area for a number of years. In spite of huge numbers of rats killed monitoring still shows high tracking index results. More specifically, the intensified trapping effort in the Core area hasn’t decreased the tracking index to below 10% - a prerequisite target for the introduction of sensitive bird species such as robins (a core goal of SIRCET’s Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project). The following table compares tracking results for the SIRCET Core and Buffer zones with Native Island.

	SIRCET - Core	SIRCET - Buffer	Native Island
November 2013	No data	No data	84%
January 2014	No data	No data	46%
March 2014	25%	30%	No data
April 2014	12%	70%	17%
June 2014	15%	40%	30%
August 2014	No data	No data	6%
Sept 2014	42%	56%	No data

It would appear from this that even a “leaky” barrier is enough to slow rat reinvasion to Native Island to the point where it can be managed; even with a wider trap grid, less frequent checking and an unproven type of trap, although it remains to be seen whether the downwards trend continues and is maintained.

SIRCET has achieved a lot over the past 12 years as a result of its trapping effort; during annual bird call counts numbers have consistently been higher inside the project area than out, and monitoring shows improvements in the vegetation. However one of their aims is to reintroduce some of our rare, precious and vulnerable species – to have saddleback/tieke resident in our gardens, and to do this the rat tracking index needs to be consistently 0%, i.e. rat numbers are so low they are undetectable. Saddleback and rats cannot co-exist and there are plenty of examples to prove this. When I talked to Trustees their frustration at not yet being able to attain their ultimate goal was palpable. The question of whether a barrier would serve their purpose better than a buffer was met with wistful looks and muttered comments about the cost of a fence. However in the long term the initial cost to erect a fence may be comparable with, or even less than, the cost of maintaining the effort that went into trapping from April till June which resulted in an encouraging decrease in rat abundance in the Core zone, not to mention the unquantifiable costs of having your ultimate goal always somewhere beyond the horizon.

Thanks to SIRCET for sharing their data and thoughts, and for their efforts to enhance our local environment, and thanks to DOC for the data.

## Playing the Money Card

by *Ron Morrison*

In the July-August 2014 SIN, I pointed out that because Stewart Island is so large, total island eradication will need to be conducted in phases (using zones that are eradicated separately). I also pointed out that DOC has identified the development of large scale detection tools as the innovation needed to establish the feasibility of total island eradication (it is currently not feasible). And, because this innovation must be the equivalent of a fence in terms of providing a barrier, I suggested delaying township eradication until this new technology became available. Given the community is against the fence, this provides an opportunity for township eradication without the need and cost of a fence.

The August-September 2014 SIN Governance Group update presented several arguments for why delaying township eradication is not the preferred option. None of these arguments suggested that the new technology was not being designed to provide a barrier against reinvasion. Instead, their focus was directed to the community's estimated economic benefits. Let's examine these arguments.

We were reminded of the economic benefits predicted by the March 2014 Economic Appraisal (hereafter EA2014) and encouraged to reap the rewards sooner than later. DOC is forever hopeful that money will trump the community's commitment to rejection of a predator-proof fence.

It was claimed that delaying township eradication will put the community's economic benefits at risk. If true, this obviously has the ability to affect community decisions. This is a new topic. Until supporting evidence is provided, this is simply an unsupported assertion.

It was claimed that securing the necessary funding for Predator Free Rakiura is a massive undertaking, requiring a show of support from the community. Let's consider the prospectus. Creating the largest predator-free sanctuary in the world generates interest. But, what happens when potential investors learn that "At the moment the concept of eradicating predators from the whole of Rakiura is purely theoretical. We don't yet know whether it is possible, let alone the how"? Continuing, investors learn that five years of research is being conducted in order to develop the technology required to make this a reality – but there is no certainty that this will prove successful. We are expected to believe that a show of support from the community will divert attention from the project's blatantly obvious weaknesses.

It was claimed that the majority of tourism benefits will accrue from township eradication, and that these benefits will accrue whether or not Predator Free Rakiura becomes a reality. This is not how I would interpret the "New Income" graph on page 22 of the EA2014. The graph shows tourism spending starting when township eradication is completed, then ramping upward and peaking when total island eradication is completed. It is inappropriate to say that Predator Free Rakiura is unimportant. Predator Free Rakiura is the marketing tool and reason for increased tourism. Predator Free Oban and Predator Free Rakiura do not have equivalent marketing value.

Let's switch gears and examine how predator eradication is associated with economic benefits. The EA2014 presented several case studies where predator eradication facilitated increased tourism. The lesson learned from these case studies is that the mere act of predator eradication does not attract visitors and does not produce economic benefits. It does, however, provide an opportunity for a community or for enterprising individuals to create profitable tourism businesses.

Consider the Ulva Island bird sanctuary. Predator eradication provided an opportunity for native and endangered and iconic birds to be brought together at one convenient Stewart Island location, which in turn provided visitors with the opportunity to see many wild bird species in an idyllic natural setting, with minimal effort. With a little help from local tourism businesses, Ulva Island now has an international reputation and is experiencing 2-3 times the visitor numbers observed in its pre-eradication days.

A major weakness of the economic benefits being suggested by the EA2014 is that it ignores the lesson learned from the case studies – that the mere act of predator eradication does not produce economic benefits. The EA2014 does not encourage the community to develop a strategy that will capitalize on the opportunity being offered by Predator Free Rakiura. It essentially presents the estimated economic benefits as fact, apparently believing that the mere act of creating the largest predator-free sanctuary in the world is sufficient reason for 50-75% more visitors to make the trip to Stewart Island.

In closing, I want to discuss why waiting is not "doing nothing". Waiting until DOC establishes that Predator Free Rakiura is feasible, rather than just theoretical, is the only way for the community to gain any assurance that the advertised economic benefits from Predator Free Rakiura might be more than theoretical. Waiting provides an opportunity for township eradication without a fence at Maori Beach – a fence that the community has indicated that it does not support. Waiting does not delay the completion date for Predator Free Rakiura; it just pushes back the starting point. Waiting is a statement from the community of its desire to proceed with township eradication when it is ready and on its own terms.



**THE BENEFITS OF PEST ERADICATION.**

*By Stewart Bull*

Kia ora koutou katoa, Stewart Bull is my name and the natural environment is my game. As part of the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group I am representing the Rakiura Titi Island Community which has a membership of approximately 16,000 people.

I am currently a representative on various bodies and committees, Chair of Rakiura Titi Committee, Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu representative on the Rakiura Titi Island Administering Body and a Member of Southland Conservation Board, member of Whenua Hou Committee, Kaitiaki Roopu (Iwi liaison) with Department of Conservation, Te Ao Mara-

ma (Murihiku Resource Management Group), Chairman of Oraka Aparima Runaka, member of Coal Island Trust, member of Fiordland Marine Guardians

I have made myself available as it allows me influence for the betterment of the environment and the activities that take place in and around the natural world.

The Rakiura Titi Island community in conjunction with the Department of Conservation undertook a pest eradication exercise on Taukihepa (Big South Cape) approximately 6 years ago.

We used helicopters to distribute Brodificom all over the island as well as manual distribution in caves and under houses, etc. It is with pleasure that I can state this was a successful exercise.

Although some of the birds such as weka took a bit of a hit, they have recovered to such a state as to become a nuisance. The recovery of the tui, bellbird, robin, parakeet, morepork etc., has steadily increased as each year passes.

The insects and plant life have also made a noticeable recovery. The weta had all but disappeared but now on a still night it sounds like rain on the leaf litter as the weta ping about.

I just wanted to share these thoughts as it is a prime example of the positive outcome that can be achieved by removing pest species.

If we apply cost and benefit analysis then benefit definitely wins, therefore imagine the outcomes that we will see as a consequence of ridding Rakiura (Stewart Island) of pest species that are predated our bird life. I have no doubt it will be similar to that we are seeing on the Titi Islands.

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## **Predator Free Rakiura Update**

*Submitted by the Governance Group*

We've fielded a number of questions on the practicalities of how an eradication would work. The details of these are being worked through in the detailed feasibility study that is currently being undertaken. However we thought it would be useful to provide some information on the legal aspects of an eradication.

### **Regulatory Processes and Issues for Predator Free Rakiura**

The Biosecurity Act can provide powers to undertake pest control on Rakiura and to prevent the introduction of unwanted predator species. At the local level these powers are accessed through a regional pest management strategy.

Currently there are a number of rules in Southland's Regional Pest Management Strategy that support the Predator Free Rakiura concept. For example it is illegal to introduce any mustelid (stoat, ferret, weasel) to Stewart Island. The same rule applies to feral cats, feral pigs, hedgehogs, magpies, rabbits and rats and mice. There is also a rule which requires all domestic cats in Stewart Island to be neutered and micro-chipped. This rule is yet to be enforced but its implementation would involve full consultation with the local community beforehand.

The Biosecurity Act could also be used to manage the internal border between Stewart Island and the South Island. Under the current Regional Pest Management Strategy existing powers could be used to monitor the border and to prevent the passage of designated pests.

However a better option in future may be the use of a Pathways Plan to manage the border. This method was made possible by amendments to the Biosecurity Act in 2012. A Pathways Plan could enable the setting up of policies and programmes specifically aimed at protecting the integrity of Predator Free Rakiura. This would be done by focussing on the means or 'pathways' by which predator species could cross Foveaux Strait, e.g. shipping, aircraft, freight, passengers, etc. It could in effect be used to set up a local border control system. However this can only be done through an extensive consultation process with all affected parties and with the full cooperation of those who are responsible for or operate in the defined 'pathways'.

### **What Consents will be required under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Building Act 2004?**

Depending on the nature of any work proposed, this may require resource consents from the Southland District Council and/ or Environment Southland under the Resource Management Act 1991; such as for indigenous vegetation modifications for the proposed fence and any associated works which may be required to cross watercourses with this structure, or to run the fence down to the coastline.

Whether such consents are required will become clearer if the proposal proceeds further to a more detailed design stage, and this design would then be assessed against the relevant provisions of the Southland District Council District Plan, and Environment Southland's Regional Water Plan and Regional Coastal Plan to determine if resource consents are required.

If resource consents are required under these planning documents, then the relevant consent authority (be it SDC or ES) would also need to decide the extent of public consultation required in relation to this i.e. whether full public notification is appropriate/ necessary, in which case anyone can submit, or whether the consent authority is satisfied that the effects are localised and minor to the extent that the application can be dealt with on a non-notified basis if written approvals of affected parties are obtained.

The Building Act 2004 provides an exemption from the need for building consent for fences as follows:

#### **Fences and hoardings**

- (1) Building work in connection with a fence or hoarding in each case not exceeding 2.5 metres in height above the supporting ground.

Regardless of whether the fence required a building consent from the Southland District Council or not, it would still be important to seek appropriate engineering design input to ensure the robustness of the structure long-term.



**Kiwi Advocacy Project**

SIRCET have had the privilege of following the lives of the kiwi that were transferred from Ulva to Ackers in February 2013. This is part of our larger Kiwi Advocacy Project which Kiwi for Kiwis provide a large portion of the funding for.

The Ackers kiwi will continue to be monitored over the next year, thanks to the support of our funders. Jill Skerrett and Richard Wilson sponsored a raffle at the local shop for one transmitter and also personally sponsored another transmitter. The Air New Zealand Great Walks Biodiversity Project also funded two transmitters. These transmitters have now all been put on the kiwi, replacing their old ones. Thank you to Brent Beaven and Philippa Green (DOC Stewart Island) for proving the technical expertise to safely put the transmitters on. Catching the birds for transmitter changes gave us a great opportunity to check out the birds and they were all doing great!

Takiti and her mate are still in the same area between Ringaringa and Lonnekers. When we went to catch them in June to replace Takiti's transmitter, they were both sharing a burrow. Takiti snuck out the back entrance, leaving her mate behind to be caught and fitted for a transmitter. I'm sure that this pair will lay eggs this year and the burrow they were caught in looks like a good one to raise a family in!

Matatika and Ngaio were caught together in one of their favourite burrows and both now have new transmitters. This pair raised a chick last year and hopefully will be nesting again soon

TX 22 was finally caught in July. His habit of hanging out in crown fern and astelia made it hard to sneak up on him

but Philippa did a fantastic job and nabbed him. He was with a female who took off and proved more agile than myself through the scrub. While I'm not sure who she is, I would assume that she's a fellow Ulva transportee! Another strong pairing and hopefully they too will breed, maybe in a burrow rather than under vegetation!



We will continue to follow these birds over the next year and update the community on their activities with SIN articles. Other kiwi advocacy activities will be another kiwi avoidance workshop for local and visiting dogs during Labour Weekend. Wouldn't it be fantastic for the kiwi if we could get 100% of our local dogs to undergo this training?



We have recently purchased a second collar for this training. This collar is smaller and ideally suited to petite dogs. Funding for this and kiwi advocacy work was provided by the Mazda Foundation. Check out their website [www.mazdafoundation.org.nz](http://www.mazdafoundation.org.nz) and see the awesome projects they sponsor. They liked our kiwi project so much they gave us more funding than we applied for!

Next article we will introduce you to our new Kiwi Monitor and let them tell you what the birds are up to.

*Letitia McRitchie*



**Cupcake midden.** That's not the accurate or politically correct term for this image but I'm not sure what you'd call this detritus of a crazed baking binge: bench-top strewn with crumbs, icing-smear plates, and cupcake wrappers. This is what happens when SIWI has a cupcake stall for the SPCA and you march down there fully believing that every cupcake you purchase will save sick kitties and hurt puppies. I have a complicated relationship with cupcake stalls, further compounded by my confusing relationship with cupcakes. Am I

hurting the cupcake's feelings if I only like its icing? The pineapple frosting was genius, but wait, the cake had raisins hiding in it. (That is what raisins do: they hide. And that's dishonest. And yes I'm talking about you, sultanas, I'm calling you out, and the fact that you are a raisin and call yourself a sultana? That's just another way of hiding. Stop it. Go away from my cupcake.)

You learn something about people when you eat their cupcakes. When I say learn I mean you acquire information about them on a primal, reptilian level. You recognise something in them that's brave, bordering on reckless. One lady's cupcakes had a one-to-one icing-to-cake ratio which I applaud, yet fear at the same time. Her cupcakes are decorated with gold glitter. Is that OK? Edible? Too late, already in my tummy.

Cupcake sales raise questions and spark ethical dilemmas. If you're at home and bake some cupcakes all is well. But if you visit a cupcake stall and purchase a multitude of cupcakes in all shapes and flavours baked by a variety of people

(because you're trying to save a multitude of sick kitties and hurt puppies)... then lines get blurred. Is it right or wrong to scrape all of the icing off a cupcake into a little bowl, and look at it for a while like you're pretending to think about it, and then just eat it all with a spoon? Wrong? Right? Or so wrong it's right? And what about mixing and matching? Your friends and neighbours worked hard on these creations and you're taking the frosting off one and smearing it atop another. Nobody told you you could do that! And what would Nigel Latta say if he saw your children eating so many cupcakes in one sitting and getting so much icing on their faces that an entire cupcake wrapper sticks to your youngest boy's cheek and he says "Mummy, my tummy hurts" as he pushes his plate away.

Thanks for listening and someday I might use this confessional space appropriately known as SIN to discuss my complicated relationship with cheese, because apparently, the more I eat it, the more penguins I save. —Jess

# Stewart Island Film Festival

Brought to you by the New Zealand Film Archive and Toi Rakiura



Stewart Island Community Centre



## *Stewart Island through the ages*

A collection of footage of Stewart Island through the years especially put together by Jane Paul from the Film Archive NZ

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 4pm Gold Coin Donation

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 7pm \$5 adult \$3 children  
Bar available



## *Aunt Daisy and the Dancing Cossacks*

A collection of cinema and television advertising made between 1930 and 2000 of seriously funny New Zealand history. The cars we drove, the bands we watched, the slacks we wore...combined with stylish graphics and animation.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 4pm Gold Coin Donation

### CHURCH HILL RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR

It is time to reopen the restaurant for the 2014-15 season. The restaurant will open mid-September and we have a number of events planned for the season. We are starting with a weekend of beer and whiskey with a festival on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. We will have a Melbourne Cup Day charity race meeting on the first Tuesday of November and a food theme night in October or November. We look forward to seeing everyone and bringing some fun events to the community.

### Craft Beer Festival & Whiskey Tasting Evening

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Craft Festival Tickets:

\$25 if you are entering as a brewer

\$35 if you are a spectator

Food and tastings provided in entry fee. Prizes for brewers. A great days fun and a chance to talk beer with fellow brewers. If you are keen to brew then this is a chance to meet some people who can get you started.

Whiskey Tasting Tickets:

An evening with Sam Snead of "House of Whiskey" Auckland. Sam has a great knowledge of everything whiskey and will deliver an evening of great whiskey, education, storytelling and all round entertainment.

\$50 or \$45 if combined with a beer festival ticket

Entry includes great whiskey tastings and food

Tickets available from Church Hill Restaurant

Welcome in the summer at Church Hill with Chris & Deanne



Islanders donated \$1,000 to the Cancer Society on Daffodil Day. Photo from Sarah's mum.



Nice tweedles. Photo from Carolyn Squires



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. **Please send articles and enquiries to Vicki Coats at PO Box 49 Stewart Island or email to [stewartisland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewartisland@xtra.co.nz)**

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