

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2006

\$2

Hi Halfmoon Bay! Our favourite letter of the alphabet Has Happily Hovered Here...yes, a nice big fat **H** has given us such beautiful long hot summer days...some afternoons Bathing Beach has looked like a postcard from Hawaii, the golden beach dotted with girls in bikinis, kids boogie-boarding and numerous happy tourists and visitors bobbing in the gentle waves.

Hurrah! The High continued for Waitangi Day. Sunshine warmed the crowd of spectators at the Island's traditional Maori v. Pakeha rugby game at Traill Park. The turn-out of players was great with many "Bluff imports." The guys tried hard, and the finally score was something like Maoris 489; Pakehas 6. The festivities shifted to the beach where a hangi, volleyball, and bonfire kept the crowd entertained until late. (This was a much happier fire than the previous week's flames at Butterfields, when flaring tempers reduced a moped to a charred skeleton and much unpleasant drama ensued.)

The recent golf tournament was a success, and the party afterwards was quite a



For more pictures from Waitangi Day go to page 7

hootenanny with Friday, Fox and Todd making music. The finale was more heavy metal than blues — Fox smashed the guitar to smithereens.

We have a real rock star coming soon, see notice below for details.

Remember: Census Day is 7th March. Fill out your forms and be nice to the census collectors (Mary and Josie) when they show up on your doorstep.

Sadly, three long-time Islanders have passed away recently. The community offers condolences to the families of the dearly departed.



Summer evening2006 , Halfmoon Bay Wharf

DON'T MISS
Top NZ Band
LUCK
featuring
ex-Exponents guy
Jordan Luck
7 pm Sat 25th Feb
Community Centre
Limited tickets \$20pp
Bar/Refreshments
Brought to you by
Toi Rakiura Trust

Breaking News!!

It's official: Stewart Island Weka are able to raise their own chicks in the same season in which they are born!!

On 19th Feb, a weka which had only hatched in Sept 05 and its new mate were found to have

hatched their own, first chicks!

Last month it was reported that this bird had been fitted with a special, radio-tracking device, just before leaving mum & dad's protection to see how well it fared on its own. The young family looks to be doing fine, and we will continue to watch them over the coming months.—K. Beaven

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And more!!

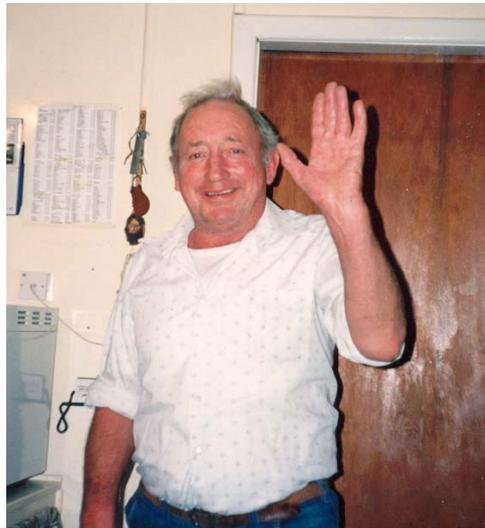
Boat-of-the-Month: **MERVYN JAMES KING**

Something a little different this month; most locals will know that Merv passed away on 29th January, peacefully at home. His contribution for the January – February edition of SIN was his last: he knew this would be so and subtly farewelled his readers in the last line. So this month here is a little about the Boat-of-the-Month-Man himself.

Mervyn James King was built in Dunedin by Alice and James King. Construction took nine months and Merv was launched with a bang on 5th November 1934. (Alice always claimed that it was a firecracker that started the launch proceedings.) He was fitted out by St Clair Primary, Macandrew Intermediate, and Kings High. During this time he contracted poliomyelitis and suffered serious hull damage. Although repaired at the Logan Park fever hospital, the weakened hull proved troublesome in later life.

Merv's interest in boats and the sea began early and he took part in yachting events on the Otago harbour before moving temporarily to Auckland for his Compulsory Military Training. There the interest strengthened when he met Pat, whose father owned a yacht. They became friends and sailed together (yes, really sailed...in a yacht....on the Waitemata Harbour) on weekends. After four years sea trialing Pat became Merv's first mate on 7th December 1957; a position she retained for 48 years. The couple moved first to Dunedin, then Invercargill while Merv worked for Burroughs Corporation, building yachts and sailing in his spare time. He was an accomplished boatbuilder and sailor, representing both Otago and Southland in inter-provincial yachting tournaments in the first half of the 1960's. Sandra joined the crew in Invercargill, and Stephen followed a few years later after the move to Stewart Island.

In 1966 Merv's interest in the sea turned from recreational to professional when he, Pat and Sandra moved to the Island. Merv fished at first with Potty Bailey Snr, then worked company boats **VIOLET** and **JOANNE**, before purchasing **CLIONE** which he kept until his retirement. The last two decades of Merv's life were plagued with ill-health, largely as a result of the earlier damage sustained during the childhood bout of polio. He sailed a bit too close to the wind and nearly capsized many times, but regained course thanks to the efforts of first mate Pat and a dedicated crew of nurses and hospital staff. Still, his interest in things nautical manifested itself in the form of his research into vessels that plied Stewart Island waters from the 1800's till modern times. This interest kept him going when the state of his hull meant he seldom left the mooring, where he quietly sank last month.



That's it for this month.

Written by Merv's daughter Sandy King

Jane (McKenzie), Ian, Isabella, Lucy and Maggie Carrick would like to thank all of the Stewart Island residents for their kindness and support following the very sad loss of our much loved son and brother, James. Thank you for all of the cards, baking, flowers and plants which are a great reminder to us of how much James loved Stewart Island and the great times he had there. It really was his favourite place and "digging big holes" on Butterfield Beach was definitely one of his favourite pastimes. Thank you also to everyone who gave friendship and support to James during his short but happy life.



Lightning enlightenment

Chris Dillon has been kind enough to put together some tips for us to protect our electronics from the next lightning strike.

Later in the afternoon of Sunday the 8th of January we experienced a short but close lightning strike, which caused damage in the area from Observation Rock through to Horseshoe Bay.

Damage consisted of a blown transformer in Mapau Rd, radio and control electronics in the sewerage pump stations, high tension pole fuses supplying Hicks Road and Braggs Bay and a large number of computer modems, cordless telephones, fax's, sky decoders etc: etc:

By far the most damage in home electronics was to equipment which connects to both power and telephone circuits ie: modems, fax's, cordless phones & decoders

Lightning is the visible discharge of static electricity within a cloud, between clouds, or between the earth and a cloud.

A typical lightning flash lasts about a quarter of a second and consists of 3 or 4 individual discharges called strokes. Each stroke lasts a few ten thousandths of a second, although the visual appearance is longer. The "flicker" sometimes observed in lightning is due to seeing the actual strokes making up the flash.

A lightning stroke begins with a faint pre-discharge, called the leader, which goes from the cloud to the ground. The leader establishes a path for the highly luminous return stroke (what you really see) which propagates from the ground up to the cloud

Even with the advances in lightning protection technology, lightning strikes cannot always be prevented. The basic principle of a lightning protection system is to provide the means of controlling the strike and preventing damage by provid-

ing a dedicated path for the discharge of lightning energy safely to the earth.

Computer and electronic stores sell surge suppressors that offer protection from sudden electrical overloads, commonly referred to as voltage surges or spikes. They may be installed where the electricity enters the home, or they may be plug-in units at the point of use. These latter units should not be confused with true lightning arrestors

And it doesn't take a direct strike to destroy thousands of dollars of electronic equipment. Because most electrical circuits and communications networks connect to the outdoors, a near-miss that hits a tree or other object outside a home can still wreak havoc on equipment installed inside

The most obvious, and the **most effective, thing to do when lightning approaches is to unplug any electronic device.** While devices are relatively safe if they are plugged in but not turned on, they are still at risk if the lightning is close enough and powerful enough. By unplugging them, you physically break the connection between the device and the home's electrical supply and telephone network, eliminating the possibility of damage.

Surge Protection

The next best thing is to install surge protectors, which react instantaneously to the voltage surges and electronically block the damaging voltage from reaching sensitive electronics.

Surge protectors come in a variety of sizes and styles. The least expensive types are simply a small cube that plug into the wall, and the electronic device plugs into the cube. They are relatively limited in the amount of voltage they can handle and the speed with which they'll react, and are designed to be discarded after being hit with a surge.

A better solution is the surge protector multi box which plugs into any home

electrical outlet and then has six or eight outlets that electronics can be plugged into. Most types also have a phone jack in them that allows you to extend the surge protection to sensitive telephone equipment as well, and some have jacks for television also.

With the huge increase in the number of electronic devices in the home and the resulting popularity of surge protectors, the prices have come down in recent years. An eight-outlet surge protector Multi box starts at around \$50, and the higher-end models, which have a greater range of electrical protection, are still only priced at around \$100. Inexpensive protection when compared to replacing a computer or a big screen TV.

Relatively new on the market are whole-house surge protectors. These units install directly at the electrical panel

UPS

While a surge protector should protect your computer from damage caused by an electrical voltage spike, it won't protect your valuable unsaved data if you're working on the computer when the spike occurs. For that, you need "UPS" a device called an Uninterruptible Power Supply.

The UPS is essentially a big battery, plugged into the home's electrical system and kept continuously charged by virtue of that connection. Should a surge occur that knocks out the power, the UPS kicks in instantly and automatically, supplying you with a sufficient amount of power to allow you to save your material and shut the computer down correctly.

As with the surge protectors, prices for UPS units have dropped considerably. A home unit can be purchased for around \$125, and larger office units, with a greater amount of reserve power for networks and other multi-computer setups, is in the \$300 to \$400 range.





ban Globetrotter *off-island adventures*

Donna and Gareth Hamilton recently returned from a Holiday in Europe. Following is Donna's account of their trip.

PARIS IN A BOTTLE

Since my early teens I declared I was going to celebrate my 40th in Paris, drinking French Champagne and buying French Perfume, - little did I know it would come up so quickly and I would have to follow through. (Something for which I am not famous!) But I am proud to say in this instance I did and it was an experience of a lifetime.

The trip began well after a few drinks at the airport and an upgrade to business. (It obviously pays to be nice to your travel agent!) - so needless to say the trip continued with a lot more drinks – free at that. Though landing in Singapore Airport with a hangover at 3 in the morning is not recommended. Especially when you are met by a charming Singaporean called “Patsy” who offers to drive you to your hotel for “a good deal madam” and promptly escorts you to a limo, hmmm!

Maybe she wasn't such a good idea, but our heads hurt too much to argue. Talking non stop for the 20 minute drive she managed to sign us up for a 4 hour personalised tour of Singapore



A room with a view

style breakfast, - what do they do with all those eggs! We joined Patsy's husband and had the most informative and interesting tour of Singapore. A lot of

“off the beaten track stuff” and visits to the “everyday life” of Singapore. We came away buzzing and would highly recommend “Patsy” to anyone visiting Singapore. We loved the city and would definitely go back, the continual buzz, the friendliness of everyone, the food, and diverse cultures. Our stay was a bit short and Dubai was our next destination. - but this time no upgrade, aah well back to reality.

Dubai!! - can't think why but everyone seemed to think I would love Dubai, with its glitz and shopping! But to be honest we were not at all impressed. Yes the



Coffee and curry: breakfast Dubai-style

hotels were lovely and very flashy, if not very expensive! One cannot maintain a serious drinking habit at \$15 to \$20 per beer! The city is definitely built to attract wealthy travellers, who for many, would love the exchange rate.

The class distinction is obvious, and funnily enough none of the lovely Sri Lankan hotel staff or workers we spoke to actually enjoyed being there. Two days of this was enough for us. By the time I had felt sorry for every worker there and tipped them accordingly we were eating into our drinking money! Next stop Ireland – Fantastic!!

We stayed with Gareth's brother – Aaron, who is now married to an Irish lass and live in the typical skinny 2 story suburban house, with the hand-

kerchief back yard, it was great. You just can't help but love the Irish, the culture, the Guinness, the scenery, the Guinness, the Blarney Stone – yes I climbed up there and yes I kissed the damn thing. We still take our hat off to



Gareth is, once again, the subject of a Caption Contest! Submit caption ideas to editor. (Sorry Gareth — Donna made me do it!)

the very clever individual that saw the gap in the market for tourists all around the world to come to that castle and to pay money to kiss that dirty old stone whilst lying upside down. - well done!

Onto Italy, our absolute favourite part of the whole trip. Where to start.

Rome! We stayed in a fantastic cheap hotel in the centre of it all and after dumping our bags went straight out for Pizza and cheap red wine. It was just as I dreamed. - so good! But as it is really the equivalent to our cheap McDonalds by the time we had eaten it every day, the novelty of it wore off.

We couldn't get enough of Rome. I even convinced Gareth to come to see



Fish market, Venice

the “Al Papa” (the Pope) along with 3 thousand other tourists, and as I had to have a good seat we waited and waited, 3 hours. But you know there were so many different and interesting

people to watch around us the time flew. And yes I got a buzz as he passed within a couple of feet of us! Though Gareth was not so impressed whilst trying to visit the Spanish Steps the next day we got stuck in a parade

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and as there were that many people we couldn't go anywhere so we lined up in a front row seat to watch the celebrities come by. After 2 hours of standing in one spot not being able to understand who we were lining up for we were a bit disappointed to see it was just old "Al Papa" again. Aah well.

Onto Tuscany and our castle! Sounds so



Tuscan castle

easy, not quite, first we had to find our rental car and then get out of Rome. 2 hours later we got on the motorway out! (it was only a distance of 4 km on the map!!!!!!) But our little pint sized car traveled well at 140km an hour and we were still the slowest on the road! Being me I had booked us into a Romantic castle in Tuscany! Again - hmmm.

We finally arrived in the dark. It was raining, it was windy and the castle was in the middle of nowhere. Even after finding the castle there were no lights and no people. By this time



Biggest thickest creakiest wooden door ever

every scary movie you have ever seen about old creaky castles had come to mind, and these fears were not put to rest when having found the receptionist she informed

us, as we were being ushered into the biggest room I have ever been in via the biggest thickest creakiest wooden door I have ever seen, that we were the only guests!

And to top it off there wasn't anyone that actually was in charge over the nights! So we were it! Gareth couldn't stop grinning, I couldn't stop shaking! The castle normally houses 200 guests over summer, so you can imagine the

size. So off past a multitude of ghoulish statues to our turret. And yes it was a gun turret. Our apartment was over three levels and to get to each you went down the stone spiral staircase, complete with gun slots.

Needless to say I drank every drop of alcohol we had with us that night and anytime I had to get up to visit the bathroom poor Gareth had to come with me! Upon waking the next morning in our four poster bed, the sun was shining and the castle was gorgeous. If not large and still very empty. But after 5 nights of this I was kinda used to it and my nightly wine consumption had gone down considerably.

We had a ball exploring Tuscany. Each day we would jump in our little car, the driving on the wrong side of the road, didn't faze us at all. We quite enjoyed it. We shopped in supermarkets where no one spoke English, I proudly lined up in a deli section and took ticket number "8" as I knew that was "Otto". So could gladly yell "Si" when she called it out. The rest of the transaction was done with hand signals and a lot of laughing, but we managed to eat very well.

The locals loved dealing with us, I think it made their day each time we haltingly tried to speak their lingo. -

we were quite often the butt of some joke of which we couldn't understand in markets and cafes. But Gareth can now say with ease "Scusi, Una grande birra per favore." *Excuse me, One large beer please.*

Tuscany is beautiful, and the people are beautiful. It was a lot more populated than we had imagined and we loved it- every corner or rolling hill you went over there was another stone building just oozing history. Every cafe you went in had a family working there who argued and laughed loudly and expressively.

We will go back for longer next time. It had been suggested to us to take photos of home, fishing, the Island etc, and you know we had them out so many times, people loved to see where we were from. We also took little Stewart Island momentos as gifts and we were so pleased we did. Quite often these generous Italians would give us wine,(which by the way was more often than not quite "rough" - it was always from the family vineyard! - potent stuff) olive oil etc and we were grateful to have something to give back. It was with real regret we left Tuscany for Venice. But then Venice more than made up for it.!



Venice

What a place. The boats, the hustle the bustle, the noise, the laughing. We couldn't get enough, we were out wandering each morning as early as we could to catch the boats delivering goods, the fish markets being set up, the locals out doing their buying. The little toy dogs with their coats on having coffee with their owners in the Cafes!!!

Still can't get into that culture!

Yes, Venice is definitely romantic and fantastic. Just as I had imagined. We ate fish that were no bigger than the spotties off the wharf and paid more than a crayfish here would cost for the pleasure! We ate off the beaten track, sometimes walking miles thru tiny alleyways with hand written directions

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ELSIE LEASK

On February 2nd family and friends gathered to farewell and celebrate Elsie's life. Elsie arrived here as a vivacious young school teacher from Timaru, holidaying with friends. She fell in love with a local fisherman (as many others before and since) and thus began her life here on Stewart Island. She was devoted to her 5 children and still found time to be very much

involved in community groups. She made friends easily and was always ready to welcome people, especially children, into her home for a cup of tea and a bit of home baking, along with cordial and a bowl of colourful jelly for the younger ones! Her love of flowers and animals has certainly been passed on to her family. It was not often that there wasn't flowers on the table or chooks and kittens to feed. She was a very proud and loving mother, grand-

mother, and great grandmother. Her smile lit up her face. Whenever anyone was able to do something for her she was more than grateful and would always reply in her caring way, "Is there anything I can do for you?" Thanks for the memories Elsie. Rest peacefully now!

Thank you to all those who offered their support and kind thoughts to the family.



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

Monitoring of yellow-eyed penguin nests has

been continuing throughout the summer. The good news is that during the monitoring period we found two nests that we'd missed during the nest search. These two nests bring the total to 39 this season, still down on last season's total of 45.

Last week we caught and weighed 36 chicks – every one we could get our hands on in the monitored areas. One or two chicks may have eluded us, but even so less than half of the 78 eggs laid have hatched and survived until now. Chick weights ranged from a pathetically thin 3.16 kg to a whopping 6.70kg. Generally speaking chicks that weigh less than 4.5 kg at this time will not survive when they fledge; that is, go to sea and fend for themselves. Fledging should not be far away now for most chicks, which are almost fully feathered, and we'll be keeping an eye on them until they do go to sea so that we know how many survive their chick phase at least. Once they go to sea and start feeding themselves they are known as juveniles.

In past years we've had no way of knowing what happens to these juveniles, how many survive and where they go, but this year DOC has begun a microchipping programme that may help plug that knowledge gap. Microchips are tiny, about the size of a grain of rice, and are inserted under the skin. Each chip has an individual number which can be read using a special reader. All of the chicks we weighed had chips inserted, and from now on any penguin caught or handled, alive or dead, will be checked for the presence of a microchip. The



Yep adult (left) and an almost fully feathered chick.

number of the chip will tell us where the penguin came from and when the chip was inserted, i.e. how old the bird is. In time this will help us understand what is happening to our birds when they go to sea.

We've also been gathering information about the causes of

chick deaths, with help from our pathologist friends at Massey University. These guys are the CSI stars of the bird world, and have the unenviable task of examining rotten eggs, dead chicks and tissue samples that we send to them. They've been able to tell us that all our unhatched eggs this season (there were 7) were infertile, that the avian diphtheria-causing *Corynebacterium* has been active again, that several of our chicks starved, and that a "systemic protozoal disease resembling leucocytozoonosis" (try saying that one!) has killed several chicks. I'm still grappling with what exactly this latter beastie is – suffice it to say that the chicks were diseased.

At the conclusion of the field season, when the chicks have all fledged, everything we have observed and learned this season will be put together in report form, analyzed, considered, pondered on and discussed. (Hopefully I'll learn what some of those big words mean, if not how to spell them!) The Trust, DOC and researchers will then be able to come up with some objectives and a plan for next summer's work.



Julie McInnes & DOC vet Kate McInnes prepare a yep chick for weighing.

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WAITANGI DAY



PHOTOS: GRIM AND JESS



The Island is gearing up for another **SINGLES' BALL!** Get your thinking cap on, get your party hat on, get your groove on, and get involved. If you have any ideas or would like to help to organize the next singles' ball, contact **Doug Beck** at 2191 127.



Know any part-time or ex-pat-Islanders? Why not suggest a subscription to the *Stewart Island News*.

The January issue of S.I.N. ran an article regarding a shark caught in Thule Bay by people illegally using a net in the Inlet. Bev Cowie, who was hosting the offending fishermen, has followed up to clarify some aspects of that story. She writes:

Yes, the people were staying in my house at Thule **BUT** I had no idea they had set the net. They found it in Les's little green shed where they should not have been in the first place and did not even ask my permission to use it. So I would like to point out to islanders that I did not and would not have allowed them to use it. Of course, the net is now probably useless and I know of no-one to repair it, or even if it is worth repairing, but if there is some-one out there willing to have a go, please contact me.

Bev Cowie
Bay Motel

RINGA-RINGA HEIGHTS GOLF CLUB ELECTRIX TOURNAMENT SAT 18TH FEB

1st "Top Guns"
R. Squires, R. Dennis, P. Bayne, S. McKenzie
63-28-35

2nd "The Professionals"
B. McPherson, K. Moylan, B. Hamilton, K. O'Laughlin
63-23.25-39.75

3rd
A. Eade, J. Eade, R. Skerrett, M. Coutts
70-28.5-41.5

Nearest the pins
No. 2 J. Tecofsky,
No. 3 B. Hicks,
No. 6 K. Moylan

Sunday 19th Feb
Official Medal
N. Bennett 80-22-58
J. Spraggon 74-11-63
R. Squires 94-20-74

Stewart Island News thanks Maurice at **Executive Car Service** for transporting the paper between the printer and the Island. For parcel pick-ups from Invercargill Airport phone 214 3434.



30th January, Chew Tobacco Bay.

Oban Globetrotter (Continued from page 5)

from the hotel owner on it. "A good family friend, - you go eat there!" We did and it was fantastic. We would end up blowing our daily budget on the one meal and alcohol, but a lot of laughs were had.



Eiffel tower queue

And so the grand Finale. Paris for the big 4-0. By this time we had had such a fantastic trip it didn't need to be anything special. I was in heaven already. But you know, from the time Gareth gaily suggested that we "underground" to the hotel from the airport. And we ended up being caught up in a huge multi cultural push-



ing, slanging match on the subway, (we still don't know why they were upset at each other, but scary to be stuck in the middle none the less) to the true "Parisian" hotel we stayed at just off the Champs Elysees.

Paris was a dream. And my big day was spent, as I hoped it would be, starting the day with French Champagne. Walking the Champs Elysees. Buying my French perfume. Riding the big Ferris wheel that every loopie rides. Queuing for the Eiffel tower just on dark in the crisp clear winter night. Walking the back streets to find a restaurant we had been recommended, as one of the best fish restaurants around, actually finding it. More French champagne. snails, (no frogs legs) limpets, cats eyes, you name it we tried it. Staggering back to the hotel — knowing I was going to wake up with a hangover — but knowing it was the best hangover I was ever going to have. "Forty" rocks.

But being "home" rocks too.

and now, a word from our visitors...

A Cook's Eye View by Avril Power

Scouting Mosgiel would like to thank the Islanders for their Hospitality during our stay on Stewart Island over the New Year period. My role (along with some other Mums) on the trip was cooking for them. The months of fund raising and planning was all worthwhile as the Scouts were able to experience snorkelling, fishing and tramping as well as visiting Ulva Island and the museum. The Ulva Island trip was a highlight for the Scouts, everybody was caught up by Ulva Goodwillie's enthusiasm during the guided tour, without her knowledge we would have missed the many treasures of this natural environment. As part of our commitment to provide Scouting in the community our Scouts also planted trees for DOC and collected litter along the beach.

However, although a successful trip we had our share of dramas. Some more parents were due to join us for the New Years celebrations, but sadly they were involved in a serious car accident on their way to Bluff and had to be air lifted to Dunedin hospital. They were all out of hospital by mid January but their full recovery will take many months. When this news reached us in the kitchen we were waiting for the Scouts to return from an



Planting trees

overnight tramp to Maori beach. As soon as their bus arrived I was looking for the Scout Leaders to inform them of this bad news only to be told that one of them was at the Medical Centre with one of the boys who had fallen and needed stitches in his leg. Could anything else happen? Well they say things come in three's. One of our parents bought his boat to Stewart Island, and during the very stormy

night of 1 - 2 January the boat broke from its mooring and crashed against the rocks, causing damage along one side.

However our spirits were not dampened and we continued with our programme of activities. On News Years Day we prepared a special lunch and the Stewart Island Scout Leader David Squires and his wife were our guests. My view all week was from the kitchen window of the Community Centre, but I'm not complaining without the use of these facilities my job would have been much harder. Once again thank you for having us, especially all those who supported us during our stay, to name but a few David Squires, Jill and her team at Ship to Shore, Sue at Shearwater and Leanne at the Community Centre.

Finally a quote from my 12 year old son: "That was definitely a camp to remember."

Training ground for champions

Our family thoroughly enjoyed 8 days of Stewart Island hospitality 3-10 Jan (thank you Holger and Chris), walking, running, fishing, bird watching, swimming, eating jam wraps from the Kai Kart, visiting Ulva Island and relaxing. What a ball we had.

Stewart Islanders might have noticed our three children out running during this time. Whilst in Oban, son Malcolm was completing his training for the South Island Colgate Games where he competed in and won the Grade 13 boys 1500m walk and recorded a personal best time in coming 5th in the 1500m run.



Our eldest son, Tim (18 years) was in training for the World Cross Country selection race over 10,000m on the 21st January. On one occasion he ran out to Ackers Point, then back to Oban, then over to Maori Beach, then back to Little River where he joined us for lunch. After a short rest, food and drink, he walked back to Oban with us where we enjoyed afternoon tea at 'The Wharfside'.

The day was completed with Malcolm and our daughter Claire hiring a kayak for a jaunt in Halfmoon Bay and me (Bev) joining in the fun with a swim. We must have walked and run nearly all tracks accessible and ad-



acent to Oban (a particular favourite being Ryans Creek) and hope to return some day for more of the same.

Tim achieved the target time in the selection race and today (14 February), he received notification of being selected for the NZ Team to race in the World Cross Country Champs in Fukuoka, Japan, in early April.

So thank you Stewart Island for providing such a perfect preparation ground for our kids. Next time, he has his sights set on running to Port William and also is eyeing up Mt Anglem.

Bev and Martin Hodge
(Wellington)



The January S.I.N. *Oban Globetrotter* article

include pyrography, plaster-working, fabric painting, and knitting with dog hair (although a library lady cautions that her son's dog-hair hat "smells like a wet dog" after rain).

top shelf of the reference section.

daughters.

Thanks to funding from Toi Rakiura we have a beautiful new book called *Maori Healing and Herbal*, and a very interesting book on Maori Astronomy called *Work of the Gods*.

The November issue of S.I.N. referred to a diary by New Zealander Trooper Theodore Christian Ernest Laugesen, penned in the horrifying European trenches of World War I. I asked which Stewart Island family donated this extremely moving read; the answer is Elaine Hamilton. Trooper Laugesen was her great uncle. His diary is in the reference section.

The Devil's Teeth is a fascinating non-fictional account of great white shark behaviour off the California Coast. *The Little Book of Chicken* is happily surprising — recipes for intimidating-sounding Chicken Cordon Bleu and stuffed roulades are easy and tasty. Kathryn Harrison's *Seeking Rapture* is a well-written meditation on the complicated relationship between mothers and

Thanks to Stew, Lindsey, Pat, and Loraine for recent donations of books.

Visitors are welcome to borrow books at the cost of 50 cents per book.

Happy Reading, Jess

Our newest DVD, the Bob Dylan doco *No Direction Home* directed by Martin Scorsese, is excellent.

We have exchanged our Large Print books for an entirely new collection. We have mysteries, romances, westerns and non-fiction. Large print books are not just for seeing-impaired people. If you're a late-night reader and your eyes feel tired straining to read regular print, try a book with "LP" on the spine. LP books are located on the

by Margaret Hopkins generated considerable interest in Lord Howe Island. Elaine Hamilton has been kind enough to share a selection of Lord Howe's community island newsletters. They are available for perusal at the Library desk: just ask to see them.

We have many new books through our new circulating collection, including the new Robert Jordan, Scott Turow, and NZ author Renee.

Interesting new craft books



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Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

Local Records are Breaking By Kari Beaven

Stewart Islanders have caught more rats over the last 7 months in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project than were caught over the whole of last year. The possum tally is also 10 possums off beating last year's number of furry fiends no longer stealing food from local tui (and not everyone's trap records have been counted yet!)

The Restoration Project has grown further and faster this year than ever before. The target of setting possum and rat traps in place from the end of Ackers Point up to the Golden Bay road was met in December 05. These traps are all ready for action, as soon as the trapping program and volunteers

their "adopted" line(s), clearing their traps and where needed, renewing baits. Their catch records are kept to help us know where and how many pests are still roaming around, and when it is time to close a line of traps (temporarily) to concentrate our energies in higher pest areas.

In the last 7 months (from July 05), community volunteers have given 410 hrs towards the Project. This is on track to being the biggest year of involvement in protecting our wildlife from introduced pests ever, and again not all the current records have been tallied.



Tui juveniles are all over HMB gardens at present

Contributions have ranged from one-off afternoons to regular weekly commitments. Volunteers have carried out the day-to-day running of pest control, they have built rat traps and penguin nest boxes, cut access tracks through thick bush areas and helped monitor the resurgence of Stewart Island's native wildlife.

Islanders' contributions make the Restoration Project possible, and mean we can look forward to another fantastic year ahead.

If you would like to contribute to the Project and get a little exercise at the same time, we're still looking for more volunteers.. Please contact Kari Beaven on 2191 533 or e-mail: sircet@callsouth.net.nz Don't be put off if you don't want to touch traps; there are many tasks which don't come into contact with them (eg clearing access paths). If you would like to trial volunteering for a short period to see if it's for you, we'd appreciate your help.

are ready for them. Currently, trap lines have been run by volunteers from Ackers Point through to the Peterson Hill rd and also through Deep Bay. Each week to fortnight, volunteers faithfully go about visiting

Here are the answers to last issue's crossword puzzle.

The island foods (there were 14, not 13) are:

Across

- 5 whitebait
- 17 abalone
- 29 moki
- 55 kina
- 58 mussel
- 71 groper
- 82 muttonbird
- 93 oyster
- 100 cray

Down

- 8 blue cod
- 10 scampi
- 11 trumpeter
- 12 greenbone
- 35 salmon

Did you find them all?

Island Cuisine

This delicious puzzle features 13 South Sea specialties, most of them are hidden in the *italicized* clues. The bracketed numbers indicate how many letters are in each word of the answer.

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10																	
	S	T	O	P		W	H	I	T	E	B	A	I	T				M	U	M									
11	T	I	R	A	M	I	S	U			I	L						12	G	O	I								
	R		13	A	T					L		14	P	O	U	T		16	B	R	A	S	S						
	U					17	G	A	B	A	L	O	N	E					E				S						
18	M	A	N	G	O									F		20	C	A	R	S		24	E	P	I	C			
	P					27	O	L	E						29	F	R	O	M	O	K	I	N	A	W	A			
31	E	R	E			34	D	E	S	P	I	S	E	D			36	B	Y			37	B	R	I	M			
	38	T	E	Q	U	I	L	A														39	F	O	E	P			
40	E	M	U				L	L						41	U	S	E		43	M		44	E	N	D	I			
	R		A				O	M		A				45	T	R	O	U	T			E			48	A	N		
49	50	R	E	L	I	C			51	O	B	I	R				53	N	U	R	S	I	N	G					
54		54			55	K	I	N	A	S					57	A	U	R	N			E							
58		58	R	I	M	U	S	S	E	L	L	I	N	G		60	P	O	I	N	T								
		62	G	I						63	L	I	E			64	D	R			65	S	C	O	T	C	H		
			M		67	H					L					O											E	O	
68			C	A	S	E			70	H	A	M			71	B	I	G		72	R	O	P	E	R	I	N	G	
			76	H	E	R	O	D			77	S	U	N			78	A	T							79	E	R	
80		81	O	P	A	L			82	M	U	T	T	O	N		B	I	R	D	S								
		86	P	I	G				87	E	B	B			Y				88	L	O	O	N	Y		89	B	I	N
			C										90	I		91	P	G						O		R		G	
93			E	N	J	O	Y	S	T	E	R	R	O	R			98	A				99	W	H	E	R	O		
			I							100	A	N	A	E	M	I	C	R	A	Y								A	
			101	C	O	I	N				102	I	D													103	D	O	G

There's an expression that goes, *Whatever floats your boat*. Turns out what floats a lot of peoples' boats... is boats.



"The King" was crafted by, well, "a King." Merv built this whirlthing for Elvis fan Elaine Hamilton for her 50th birthday.

As editor of this newsletter, I would like to say that I will miss Merv's consistently wonderful, witty, flawless articles — Boat-of-the-Month was a contribution I could always count on. Page 2 has been a favourite amongst our readership. Merv may have been home-bound toward the end of his life, but his fondness for Stewart Island's unique maritime history reached far and wide through his eloquent writing.

Maui Fife wrote from Western Australia, "I shall miss, as I am sure all other readers will too, Merv King's inside front cover stories." Bob, a subscriber from Wyoming USA, recently commented to me (in a cowboy drawl) "I just love those stories about boats."

No matter how far removed we may actually be from a pitching deck on the Southern Ocean, Merv's words have kept our hearts cruising on one lovely boat or another somewhere off the coast of Stewart Island. Thanks, Merv, for doing what great writers should do. Thanks for transporting us, and keeping our hearts afloat.



Some summertime staff come and go, staying long enough to wait tables and party at the pub. But some come and go and then come back again, delving a bit deeper into Island life.

Last month Lucy took time away from tending the pub to spend a sunny afternoon sorting out Stewart Island blue cod and a "trumpy or two."



Ship to Shore

The friendly staff at Ship to Shore are always here to help. Please ask if there is anything you want us to try and get for you!

We are having a draw for a portable stereo/radio and some Coke products as consolation prizes. Four draws in all. Spend over \$20 at any time and put your name in to win. Runs until Sunday 26th Feb.

Attention wine card holders: there will be some minor changes to our wine card promotion in the near future. "Stay tuned"...



Things are not very okey-dokey with this digger, which suddenly found itself in an undignified position beside the Back Road. This JCB machine is capable of several tricks, but rolling over and swimming are not amongst them.



2006 Olympics Gold Medallist for Turtle Impersonation



Chocolate Award goes to George, Lurch and Magic for the Waitangi Day hangi at Butterfields. Thanks guys for the beautiful kai.



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Would like to invite any interested persons, local or visitors, to join us on a **Garden Bus Tour on Thursday 9th March**, leaving the Post Office at 1.15pm, followed by **Afternoon Tea at The Empress Pearl Restaurant.**



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email (preferably as MS Word attachment).

Please send articles and queries to editor@stewart-island-news.com, or post to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island
The deadline for the next issue is Sunday, 19th March.

If you wish to have Stewart Island News posted to you or a friend, please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:

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