

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

APRIL-MAY 2009

\$2.50

The shark team spent a week tagging white pointers with huge success: 9 tags (compared to 3 last year) were implanted so they can monitor the comings and goings of this mysterious beast. They saw a total of 17 different white pointers around the *Jester* during the week, including seven in a single day. Clint Duffy's team tagged one of the biggest males they've ever seen: five-meter long Shack (short for Shackleton, named after Kina's son), and 4.7-meter female Miranda (named for the mum of one of the taggers) (I'm sure she's flattered). Miranda was tagged last year off Edwards and this year just outside of Bench. For the metrically challenged, 5 meters is about 16 feet, that's half the length of the *Jester* if you need a visual, and if you still don't get the picture these sharks are *super scary big*. Their tummies are filled with baby seals which are like flipped Cadbury Cream Eggs to them. Did you know there has been talk of starting a white-pointer cage-diving venture down here for loopies? This entails chumming the waters and lowering a paying customer off the boat in a hopefully shark-proof cage to observe (and be observed). Page 11 for more information.



Ted, Trev, Waddsy, Handy Towels and Stiffy compete in the Great Race (see story below)

We had a bit of a cage-rattle at 11am on 15th April with a 4.5 jolt.

A hunter recently saw 57 deer in a week round the Bay! Fantails abound, but titi reports haven't been so flash: numbers seem low. And *Rattus rattus* is comin' at us at us; we have a new member of the anti-rat pack, meet Jessie on p10.

Easter weekend saw a flurry of events. It's not many places where your evening's social events include a hoe-down (p9) and a boat burning.

Island kids are representing awesomely in arts and athletics: see page 8 for more.

Deep thanks to Barbara Wilson for sharing the story of her dad's World War II medals with us (p3).

Finally, farewell to the Bayne family. Di, Pete, Olivia, Henry and our favourite labradoodle Dash: we wish you all the best in your life off-island and hope to see you back here someday soon!



Cowboy Kent (p9)

The Great Race —or that's what they'd like to think...

by Clare Fraser (Ted Rooney's daughter)

It was Easter Sunday... A day of rest supposedly but not for some. Three wise men (the Summer wine crew) and chap by the name of Handy Towels and his mate Stiffy decided that this was the day for a wee race around Ulva

island in a couple of 120 year old boats. There was another boat around, The Sanctuary, but as she was the starter and there really as a rescue craft (a last minute addition to the race) we'll mention her in passing especially as she

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LEST WE FORGET

**A TRIBUTE TO STEWART ISLAND
MEN WHO SERVED
IN THE GREAT WAR AND
WORLD WAR II**

WHERE: RAKIURA MUSEUM

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL
UNTIL SUNDAY 26 APRIL**

**TIMES: MONDAY THRU
SATURDAY 10AM – 1:30PM
SUNDAY 12NOON – 2PM**



ANZAC COVE

ANZAC DAY 2009

POPPY DAY

will be held on Wednesday 22 April

ANZAC DAY Saturday 25th April 2009
(Sunrise at approx 07.20 hrs)

- 07 00hrs Assemble outside the Shop
- 07 15 Parade to the Memorial
Lay Remembrance Wreath
Parade Members to lay Poppies
Prayers
General Public lay Poppies and Wreaths
- Reading of the Ode
Last post (and minutes silence)
Parade dismissed.

After the parade everyone is welcome to adjourn to the RSA Pavilion in Ayr Street , for Rum and Coffee.

Any member of the public is welcome to make and lay wreaths.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE
OF TIME FROM LAST
YEAR FOR ASSEMBLY**

(Continued from page 1)

was a much more modern addition to the fleet— Brent Beaven was her skipper.

It was blowing a gale, we watched them board the boat and raise the flag and while we watched in trepidation as the

two small boats cruised slowly out of Deep Bay. In the background the sea looked more white than blue as the wind howled down the inlet.

Several minutes passed and then to our surprise two small boats and a much larger white yacht all going at a much faster clip passed in front of Deep Bay underway in the



PHOTOS: DEBS DILLON

**My Dad: an “ordinary”
New Zealand soldier**

by Barbara Wilson

For a lot of my life I somehow knew that my Dad had medals “somewhere” connected with his time as a soldier in World War 2. I don’t know how I knew. Certainly Dad did not tell me. The war was never mentioned and when the subject was brought up he declined to comment. My father died in 1997 aged 81.

When I came to live on the island the RSA had just closed its branch here. I met Ted

Rooney and asked him how I could find out about the medals. He put me on to Mr Bruce Henderson who is Secretary of the Bluff RSA. I duly wrote Mr Henderson a letter. He rang me and said he would make



enquiries. Months passed and I had decided I was hoping for too much after so many years had passed. One day Mr Henderson phoned and asked if I had heard anything. I said not a thing and he said he would try again. More months passed. Collecting the mail one day Barry handed me a

CourierPost bag and to my absolute surprise it was from the Medals Office at Trentham Military Camp. It was a very moving experience opening the parcel to find two wee boxes with four medals enclosed. Just writing about it makes me cry. You can see medals just like these on the wall at the RSA hall. I guess all New Zealand soldiers serving in the war received them.

No DSM’s but so precious nonetheless. Dad was born in Karangahake in 1916. He was involved with gold mining in

the Waihi/Waikino area before joining the 24th Battalion and going off to war. Unfortunately he was captured in Crete and consequently was to serve a long period of internment as a prisoner of war in Germany. On his return to New Zealand he took up farming and lived his life mainly in the Waikato. How fortunate was I to have this “ordinary” New Zealand soldier for my Dad. I hope his grandson will cherish his medals as I do.

I Cannot Think

*I cannot think of them as dead,
Who walk with me no more
Along the path of life I tread
They have but gone before.*

*And still their silent ministry
Within my heart hath place,
As when on earth they walked
with me,
And met me face to face.*

*Their lives are made forever mine;
What they to me have been
Hath left henceforth its seal
and sign
Engraven deep within.*

Poem by Frederick Hosmer

(Continued from page 2)

great race, it had started at Golden Bay and was to finish there several hours later. The Elizabeth was leading, The Sanctuary was next and the Sonja-May brought up the rear.

As the boats approached the Pipi rocks The Sanctuary was in the lead, but rounding the Pipi rocks at the south end of Ulva island The Sanctuary lost her Jib and fell back into last place, where she was to remain for the rest of the race. The Elizabeth powered up and took over the lead until the small fleet reached the top end of Ulva. There Handy Towels and Stiffy made the mistake of the race: they took a line one way but the canny old men aboard the Sonja-May had the wind in their faces and cunning on their side. Up went the Jib and the Foresail and off they took... racing back down the inlet back to Golden Bay and victory.

Moral of the day: Three wise men will always out-smart youth with cunning!!!
—C. Fraser





ban **G**lobetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

Jenny and Ewan Gell recently cycled the Central Otago Rail Trail. Following is their account of the two-wheeled 152-km adventure

The Otago Central Rail Trail is 152 kms of rail track between Middlemarch and Clyde with the tracks and sleepers all removed. It has been made available for cyclists and walkers. As it was constructed for steam trains the maximum incline at any point is one in fifty.

We left the island on the Sunday morning and drove up to Dunedin. The weather was fine but cold and we decided we needed more warm clothes in case of cold weather on the trail, so went into Dunedin and bought some track pants etc. Then we drove to Middlemarch and it was still early afternoon so we went to a café there for a coffee, and were a little bit alarmed by the walk on various people coming off their bikes having finished the trail at our end.

We duly went up to the sheep station where we were staying that night at a B.& B and after seeing our room etc. we went down to the sheep yards to give Phillipa, (the daughter who has now taken over the running of Gladbrook Station) a hand to draft some sheep. We were later entertained with some pre dinner drinks and snacks and talking to Pip's mum Elizabeth along with one other chap also staying there and heading off on the trail



Poolburn Gorge Tunnel

next morning too. We were given a most fabulous meal of "rack of lamb" from one of Pip's flock which was as nice meat as we've ever eaten.

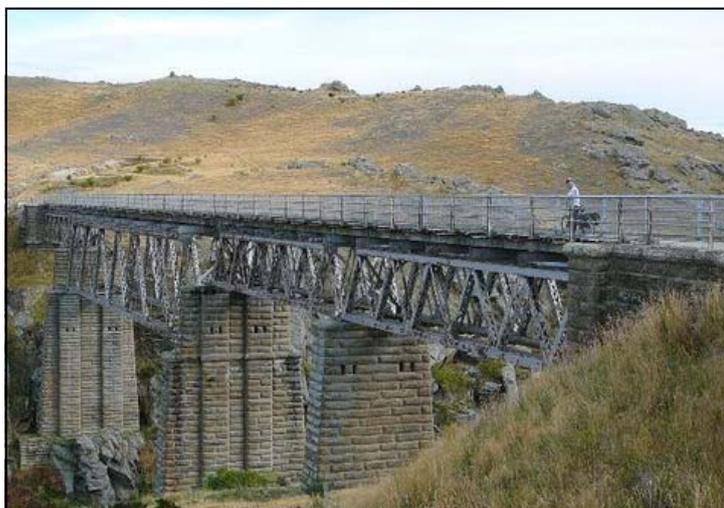
We left our car in Pip's care and she drove us into Middlemarch to collect our bikes and so we set off on our great adventure. By the time we had ridden 200 mtrs along the road to the start of the rail trail our bums were so sore we wondered how we could ever make it over 152 kms of rough surface, but not wanting to chicken out quite so soon we hoped numbness would set in and all would be fine. That day the weather was very hot and fine, as it generally was for the entire trip and we had a slight

but steady climb all the 27 ½ kms up to Hyde, with lots of stops but really enjoying the scenery. We checked in to the Hyde Hotel which was right on the rail trail.

Next morning we set off as early as we could as we had 32 ½ kms to

ride up to Ranfurly so figured we would need lots of stops. We headed off into a bitterly cold head wind which we really wondered how we were going to cope with. Came to our first tunnel and soon after that by about 10.30 the wind went away and again very hot and fine. We travelled up the side of a deep gorge and over a very high viaduct enjoying the occasional downhill bit but always realising that at this stage, every bit of down hill had to be repeated back up again. Whenever the trail comes to a road-crossing there are stock gates and to the side is a narrow cattle stop just wide enough to ride a bike through. If you don't have quite enough momentum to get through and a wobble

starts, then the natural thing is to put your hand out to the rail to steady yourself. Unfortunately, Jen did suffer a nasty fall at this point. Fortunately a group of medically trained people just happened to be there and were able to administer some care to Jen. We were



Crossing the Poolburn Viaduct

then wondering what to do — could Jen ride on?— if not, how do I get help. Even supposing we could get cell phone cover from there, where was “there”? How on earth do we ring for help and say



Day Three: Ewan and Jen at trail's highest point.

where we are? As we were mulling all this over a van pulled up. You won't believe this, it was Dave Thompson, the owner of “Rail Trail Services” who we were booked through. Well, Dave was marvellous, he spent ¼ hour with Jen, getting her confidence back and showing her what and how to do. He had no bike carrier on the van at that stage as he was just forwarding luggage, so couldn't take Jen's bike but felt she would be able to ride on the next 7 kms to Waipiata where we could then arrange transport up to Ranfurly. So away we went again, slowly, but we weren't there to be in a rush anyway. Once we reached Waipiata and had some lunch in the hotel, Jen felt she was not up to riding the steep climb from there up to Ranfurly and I fully agreed so we phoned for a taxi and Toni (the taxi operator) came down, met us at the pub, loaded Jen's bike onto a bike rack and took Jen off while I continued biking the last 7 ½ kms up a very steady slope. I know the maximum incline on the rail trail is only one in fifty but you have to bike it to realise how steep that is. However, I got to Ranfurly not too far behind Jen at our motel (Hawkdun Lodge) where Richard went to much fuss as he had heard of Jen's fall and had the spa bath on ready for us. I

pointed out that we did not have our togs with us so he just said “lock the door then!” so later that eve-

ning we went skinny dipping!

Next morning Jen was still very sore and we were now faced with the steepest and longest section of our trip so I decided to get Toni (the taxi driver) to take Jen the next 13 ½ kms up to Wedderburn and I would meet her there. That still left quite a few kms to get up to the highest point. Once over that it was a very steep downhill run to Oturehua for our next nights accommodation in an old restored 1886 stone mill building. It was luxury and we also had two other couples that we had kept coming across at various points on the trail, so we all went to dinner together at the pub and got on very well. The people that owned the Mill are also growing saffron very successfully and while not in huge quantities at this stage, (approx. ½ kilo) it is of very high quality, so that was very interesting.

Next morning we set off ahead of the other couples with the plan to meet at Lauder for lunch. Certainly this was the most exciting and interesting section of the trip with two big tunnels and a huge viaduct over the Pool Burn Gorge and via the

tunnels you cross from the East side of the Raggedy Range to the West side, most of it downhill for us since we crossed the highest point the previous day although still the odd bit of a climb. But now you are thinking that every bit of climb means a bit more downhill to come. We got to Lauder ahead of the other couples so waited at the pub. for them. We all enjoyed lunch before continuing on to Omakau for our next B & B and again we all met for dinner in the pub.

After a bit of a climb out of Omakau to start the day, came the final run downhill for the most part all the way to Alexandra and so to the final 8 kms up a gentle slope to Clyde where we handed in our bikes and checked in to the historic old Dunstan House for B & B and again the other couples were staying in the same place, so we all went to dinner at a very nice restaurant that night.

Next day they carried on to Queenstown and we got the Rail Trail Services bus back to Middlemarch and so back to our accommodation at Gladbrook Station for the night before driving back to Invercargill and so to home.

The whole Rail Trail experience was great, it is good for all ages. We saw a wee girl of about four riding on a trailed bike behind her dad. At the other end of the scale there were riders older than us enjoying it. Accommodation is from backpackers type dorms to top of the line bed and breakfast so it caters for all ages and budgets.



Day 5: Arriving at Trailhead in Clyde.

Good response to draft planning documents for Stewart Island / Rakiura

More than 300 submissions have been received by the Department of Conservation on the two draft planning documents for Stewart Island/Rakiura. The number and quality of submissions is an excellent reflection of the public consultation process that began in September 2005, Department of Conservation Public Awareness and Planning Manager Anke Habgood said. An initial assessment of the 315 submissions shows a broad range of topics have been covered by submitters with recreational

hunting, biosecurity and biodiversity being the most common. The submission period for the Draft Stewart Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Plan and the Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan closed at on March 11.

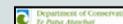
"I am thrilled with the number of submissions received and that so many individuals and organisations are so keen to be involved in this process. Stewart Island / Rakiura is a special place," Mrs Habgood said.

Public hearings are the next stage in the process. Those submitters who have requested to

be heard will be given a chance to verbally express their viewpoint to a hearing panel.

The two draft planning documents, released in November 2008, followed an extensive public consultation process including public meetings, several workshops, presentations, along with regular newsletters and information presented on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz.

It is unclear how long the process will take to complete. This will become clearer when further analysis of the submissions is completed and is largely dependant on the number and content of the public hearings.



Stewart Island Promotions Association update

by Chairperson, Ulva Goodwillie

Easter has been a very busy time with Stewart Island ferries and planes having to put on more arrivals and departures than normal. Great to see smiling visitors walking our bays and boating our waters, even with the latter days of Easter being rather chilly.

The Stewart Island Promotion Association is all about promoting our Island to the rest of the world. More outstanding promotion for Stewart Island recently has been:

North & South magazine – brilliantly written article with Sandy King & Jessica Kany as intrepid penguin searchers

New Zealand Gardener for green finger profiles on Shorty Gray, Fluff Leask, Ernie Hopkins and Iris Tait. Their kiwi glasshouses photographed really well, and the guys looked really serious.....

New Zealand Heritage, a six page feature 'Scattered sites, glowing skies.' by Margaret Hopkins. Beautifully written with old and new photographs, an excellent historical portrayal of our Island.

Perhaps a less well-known publication has a Stewart Island contribution from Peter Tait. The February 2009 issue of *Indigena* magazine, which is the quarterly journal of the Indigenous Forest Section of the NZ Farm Forestry Association has Peter's article on Ulva Island.

A *Hunger for the Wild* episode featured Stewart Island venison with Mark Moxham as local deer stalking guide.

A re-run of the *Getaway* programme on Prime TV showcasing Philippa and Ian Wilson's accommodation, Liz Cave's Rakiura Kayaks and Ulva's Guided Walks, which is all great publicity for Stewart Island.

Another *BBC* interview last week with myself selling Sirocco and his stay on Ulva Island in September.

The *New Zealand Geographic* editor joined the shark-tagging team on the *Jester* for a few days

NZ and Dutch journalists were here last month

Two more film crews this month

The Stewart Island website is still work in progress. If you wish to alter your listing remember to send your application in to our secretary, Colleen. We always meet on the first Thursday of each month to action these requests. Our next meeting we will be discussing future planning of the Association.

There is a Red Cross First Aid training course on 20-21 April for those that need their certificates to be updated OR for anyone wanting to improve their first aid abilities. Also there will be a one day workshop by Venture Southland regarding keeping businesses going for the whole year, instead of being seasonal. And the Singles Ball website is up and running! www.singlesball.co.nz

An online survey on tourism on Stewart Island is currently being undertaken by Ministry of Fisheries, and NZ Tourism research through AUT University. The last week of the survey period is coming up for the marine tourism research on Stewart Island. They have received a very good response from visitors and also from residents, mainly because the cards are handed out to all departing visitors at the transport terminals. They are, however, just trying to give a final boost to get more responses from local businesses. They have sent some hard copies of the survey out to a sample of businesses and will also send a final email reminder after Easter. If they receive a good number of responses from businesses, it will add more value to the findings they can present back to the community.

Our high profile Sirocco will be on Ulva Island in September/October this year. We need to promote the rarest flightless parrot in the world – to everyone and everybody. This is an opportunity of a lifetime and a chance that should not be missed; it is probable that Sirocco will not be coming back to Ulva Island in the future so we need to take huge advantage of his presence here later this year.

Keep warm, Ulva



DOC Spot

Around-the-clock care

Twenty-one kakapo chicks have been taken to a special hand-rearing facility in Invercargill to secure their chances of survival. The chicks are among the 34 which hatched on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island this breeding season, bringing the critically endangered kakapo population to 125.

Kakapo recovery team leader Deidre Vercoe said unfortunately not enough rimu fruit had ripened on the island for all 27 mothers to feed their chicks on. Ms Vercoe said some mothers were struggling to keep up with the demands of their hungry offspring, so in order to ensure their survival some of the chicks are being hand-raised.



“This has been a massive and pretty intense breeding season, but everyone has been amazing. Their efforts have made this an incredible year for the recovery effort,” Ms Vercoe said.

For further information check out the Kakapo Recovery website at www.kakaporecovery.org.nz

“We knew it was going to be a cracker breeding season, but we didn’t know exactly how many chicks there would be, or if there would be enough food. We planned for the possibility of hand-rearing right from the beginning.”



For the kakapo team, hand-rearing means around-the-clock care

Ulva Track Upgrade

It doesn’t seem that long ago that we were celebrating the completion of the “new” tracks on Ulva Island. The reality is that that was eight years ago in 2001. While these gravel tracks have held up well to the years of heavy use, it is now time for a bit of an upgrade.

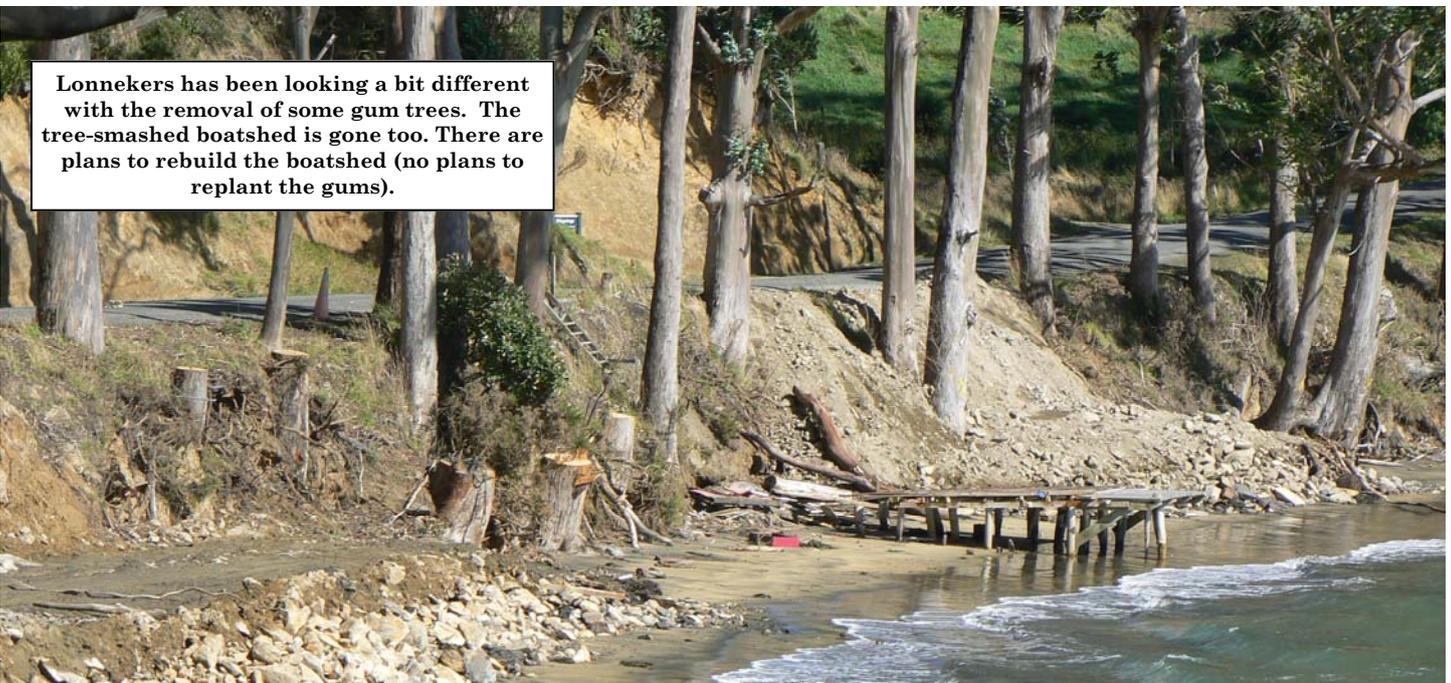
The tracks currently require resurfac-

ing due to track subsidence, loss of materials and gradual deterioration. Patching was considered but discounted due to the unevenness of repair. The tracks need to be maintained to a high standard so they continue to meet the needs of an increasing number of visitors.

The Department of Conservation is currently in the process of awarding the contract to carry out the re-gravelling of all the tracks on Ulva Island. The work is projected to be carried out between May and July 2009, when the visitor numbers are a bit lower.

Quarantine is being taken seriously and contractors are working closely with DOC to ensure that no pests or weeds are taken to Ulva Island inadvertently. Ulva Island will remain open to the public; however some tracks will be closed. The contractor will endeavour to carry out the works so that visitors can enjoy a reasonable amount of the island.

Information regarding track status will be displayed with regular updates at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre/ DOC field centre, Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre, Golden Bay wharf and at the Post Office cove shelter. Up to date information can be obtained by contacting the Department of Conservation, Stewart Island.



Lonnekers has been looking a bit different with the removal of some gum trees. The tree-smashed boatshed is gone too. There are plans to rebuild the boatshed (no plans to replant the gums).



Our Easter Book Sale raised \$680 which is nothing to sneeze at. Thanks to Eamonn, Casey and Megan for helping me set up/ take down; Hilli for sustaining me with a mussel chowder lunch, Helen Cave for donating restaurant meal for raffle, and to everyone who showed up and purchased books, raffle tickets, the Lord of the Sandflies magnet, and to Jim and Richard for cash donations. All proceeds will go toward new books.

Speaking of new books, we have more! New titles include *Kluge: the haphazard construction of the human mind* which explores how we think and our brain's anatomy; Kiwi novelist Stephanie Johnson's *The Swimmer's Rope*, the new P.D. James and Douglas Kennedy; *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (sequel to Larsson's *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*); a charming story *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*; and *Young Men and Fire*, one of the quintessential accounts of wildfire fighters. Seven-year old Shannon Fraser (Ted and Margaret Rooney's granddaughter) wrote a book and donated it to the Library. If you'd like to read this gem entitled *The Possum* ask at the desk. New DVDs include the *Best of Billy T James* and Season One of *Flight of the Conchords*.

Some concerned locals have contacted me at home to tell me the computer has been left on at the Library. Aotearoa People's Network staff access those computers remotely from Wellington when we're closed, so don't fret if you see one on.

Thanks to Pat, Megan and Helen C for donated books. —Jess

Vicki's website-of-the-month:
www.reachme.co.nz
 Request your free pack for new mums!

Earwig Corner Overheard at a recent local wedding:: "Only at a Stewart Island wedding would you see leftover crayfish and oysters."



HMB School Wonderboxes to be displayed at Te Papa

Te Papa Discovery Centre Supervisor, Melanie Dash was at Halfmoon Bay Primary School on Wednesday 8 April to collect the students' wonderboxes that will go on display from June this year.

All the boxes were presented by the students and displayed for their families to view during the day prior to them being packed up for their journey to Wellington.

The Wonderbox programme centres on the natural habitats of New Zealand. The children focus on an aspect of the environment which is important to them and recreate it in their 'Wonderbox'. They had just four weeks to work on their boxes.

The children of Halfmoon Bay School looked at the different jobs on Stewart Island (both now and in the past) and how they use the natural environment.

'This is a wonderful opportunity for those children that don't have Te Papa on their doorstep to



experience the museum and contribute to its exhibitions', said Melanie Dash, who is in charge of the NatureSpace Discovery Centre.

There will be a total of 10 boxes exhibited from each school during the year with each box being displayed for 3 months at a time. The boxes will be displayed in Nature Space Discovery Centre.

Athletics Day

by Kath Johnson

We had a fantastic athletics day at Surrey park with the other Southern Zone Schools on 23rd March. Absolutely everyone gave it their best. Special congratulations go to Meg Kenny (high jump) and Manoj Amanono (shot put) who won these events for their age group. Meg was 1st out of 33 eight year old girls and Manoj was 1st out of more than 60 eight year old boys. A outstanding effort certificate was also presented to Timu Moxham who competed in the seven year old boys age group. Timu with having a February birthday should have

been back with the 5&6 year olds doing tabloids. Timu made the finals (top 8) in both 60m and 100m and finished 4th in high jump. The seven year old boys were a group of 43.

Watch this space for cross country results next month. You will have all seen the students training hard around the block each school day morning. We're looking forward to testing ourselves against the Mainland kids at Gorge Road on Friday May 22nd.



Stewart Island Barn Dance

by Margaret Hopkins

A quick glance inside the Stewart Island Community Centre on Easter Saturday and the imagination immediately transported you 'way down the farm'. About 130 locals and visitors danced the night away to the wonderful music of the *Possum Pickers*, who on this occasion were mostly members of the talented Hayes family from Progress Valley. The youngest member Lachie Hayes played the drums and made his solo singing debut with a very credible version of 'Purple Rain' that sounded truly amazing for an 11 year old. His sister Kelsi, also a very talented musician sang, played guitar and violin along with her parents, another brother and Grandfather Pe-



ter. Many people dressed for the occasion with some highly amusing costumes on display. Winner of the best-dressed contest was our very own Jed Clampett, who along with wife Chris and friends Kent, Casey and Lauria looked like they had just stepped off the set from *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

Kent's niece Lauria visiting from the USA and Joanne Laing from Leask Bay won second and third prize. Plenty of other hill-billy types, cowboys and banditos were around that night, not to mention the scarecrows that adorned the hall, including the very real looking Percy



parked in the corner leaning on the bar. That effigy was last seen disappearing home in the arms of Karen Bowman.

The evening was a very successful fundraiser for the Stewart Island Community Centre with the money going towards upkeep and maintenance.

We would like to thank the following people and businesses:

Real Journeys and **Ship to Shore** who contributed prizes for best dressed.

Real Journeys for transporting the band.

Jim Barrett for the wonderful oysters raffled on the night.

Sanfords for the mussels and salmon for supper.

South Sea Hotel for discount accommodation for the band.

Philippa Fraser-Wilson for managing the bar.

And the many other people who helped on the night and with setting up and clean-up next morning – your efforts all made for a successful event.

Kakapo Encounter 2009

26th September—26th October

Kakapo Encounter 2009 is going ahead!

Perhaps your business would like to set up a package to make use of this opportunity? Guests need to eat dinner, travel and stay at least one night, so there are plenty of chances to make sure it is with your business.

Contact details for these opportunities will be made available soon. Watch this space!

Ulva Island Trust

the GALLEY

I know Easter's over but cut this out and save for next year: this is a goody Elaine Baily shared with us that she found on the Internet. You can't go wrong with a recipe that calls for Mars Bars!

Chocolate Crackle Egg Nests

- 3 cups Rice Bubbles
- 200 grams Mars Bars
- 3 TB Cream
- 2 Tsp Cocoa
- 12-24 small Easter Eggs
- 12 muffin patty pan papers

Chop up Mars and place in large microwave bowl with cream and cocoa. Zap 1 minute on medium, and stir well. Repeat till all melted 3-5 minutes. Stir in Bubbles. Put in patty pans. Hollow out middle and put eggs in. Store in fridge but remove at least 30 minutes before serving.

Girl Guide Biscuits

3 varieties: Plain, great for fudge cake and truffles and Chocolate & Mini Chocolate.

\$3 a packet

All proceeds to Girl Guides Association
Available till stock lasts
at Stewart Island i-SITE Visitor Centre

Meet Jessie Nichols

pictured here (left) with the Who's Roger Daultry (right).



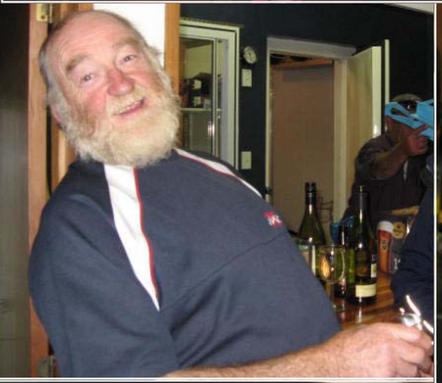
I would like to introduce myself to anyone that hasn't met me already. I am taking over the pest control manager role from Di Morris. I would like to thank Di for all her hard work and enthusiasm. She has left some very big boots to fill - I found her enthusiasm contagious and I will try my very best to carry on running with all the good things she has helped achieve. I am very excited to be involved in the com-

munity trapping project on the island. Since arriving here in September I have fallen in love with the place and know that from all the hours of community support to control pests - it is a successful and worthwhile project. I am looking forward to putting in as much energy as everyone else involved. Many of you may already have noticed the increase of rats, in the bush or around your homes. This year we are preparing for a particularly high increase in rats. By the look of all the fruiting trees there seems to be a lot of food around for rats to thrive on. The results of recent monitoring showed already an increase in rats. Monitoring is done by putting ink pads into tunnels and the next day seeing how many wee footprints were left trotting through the ink.

(Or big footprints of a curious possum!) We really want to get on top of the rat numbers by increasing the number of traps that are operating on the ground and making sure they are continuously baited and checked. A big thank-you to all those involved in checking traps! Although the monitoring showed an increase, the benefits of trapping also shone through. A lower number of rats were recorded in the area at Ackers Point currently being checked more intensely. So carry on keeping up the good work! It's definitely making a big difference. Anyone else wanting to get involved and help keep the numbers down would also be greatly appreciated. If you're interested, in any capacity, contact me on 291 or 027 3036021 or Jessie@sircet.org.nz .



The Drambuie and stories were flowing as the community gathered at the hall to farewell long-time residents Ron and Irene Dennis before their move off-island.



THE RAKIURA HERITAGE TRUST

The A.G.M. of the above Trust, Rakiura Museum, will be held in late October 2009.

Nominations are called for people interested in standing for the Office of Trustee, for the period commencing from the date of the A.G.M.

E. Hamilton and P. Goomes retire by rotation and both are eligible for re-election.

Nominations are to be in to:

The Secretary P.O. Box 114
Stewart Island

by the 30 June 2009.

—Chairperson, L. Hansen.

**SIRCET Information Night to discuss:
Rat Contingency Plan for the
Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project**

Tuesday 19th May, 7.30pm at the Fire Station

Informal discussion:

This is a plan which has been written for the project area, identifying there will be years when rat numbers inside the Habitat Restoration area are not being kept down by the current trapping rotation.

A *Special Edition* SIRCET News has just been printed ready for circulation, describing the three stages in detail and giving a chance for you to write feedback or ideas. If anyone would like to talk in person with SIRCET trustees and staff in person, please come along to this informal discussion night.

SIRCET Trustees
info@sircet.org.nz



White pointer, NE end of Edwards, Easter Sunday

WHITE POINTERS have little black dots around their snouts which are called *ampullae of Lorenzini*. These are tiny sacs filled with jelly which are sensitive to electrical discharges as small as 005 microvolt. Sharks use these sensitive organs to detect prey underwater.* All creatures give off a different, specific electrical field, human beings included. If a white pointer follows a trail of chum to a cage containing a diver, it's possible the shark will associate the chum with the human being's electrical field. In my opinion, leading white pointers to have food and people in the same thought isn't the wisest idea, particularly in an area where locals and visitors dive for paua, oysters, fun, etc. What do you think about a cage-diving venture down here?
*I'm not that smart, I obtained this information from the fascinating book *Great White Shark* by Richard Ellis (597.3) available at your Library. —Ed

The following note and poem were sent anonymously to SIN:
was sitting at Lee Bay when a bus arrived, Sam and the old bus and also his dry wit and lyrical genius came to mind, my pencil jumped into automatic pilot and this was the result.
This one's for Sam, gone but never forgotten.

Drive thru Loopies

The bus stops, the herd are un-ended
She's wondering where to have lunch
He's wondering if there's a toilet
She's going to have cod and chips
Don't forget the tartare sauce
And maybe I'll have pudding
He's going to go for a sh—
Don't forget we're having lunch at the pub
And maybe I'll have a beer
The herd's beginning to get restless
She's thinking about doing some shopping
Can't forget t-shirts for the kids
And maybe they'll have XXXL for me
He's thinking the pub might have sky tv
Can't forget about the cricket
Maybe the black caps are winning
The herd's steered back on the bus
She's thinking she saw a craft shop
Can't remember where it was
Maybe the driver might now
He's thinking thank god it's over
Can't remember what the guide was talking about
Maybe I should have taken a photo



NASA cameras recorded this photograph of Pulsar B1509, a neutron star pumping out electromagnetic energy. It's shaped remarkably like a human hand.

Advanced technology is combined with the skills of an expert dermatologist to diagnose melanoma at the earliest at the earliest possible stage.

- Concerned about a mole or lesion (e.g. It's changing size, shape, itching or bleeding)
- Have a personal history of melanoma or other skin cancers
- Have a family history of melanoma
- Have many moles
- Have funny looking moles (called atypical moles)
- Are fair skinned and have light coloured eyes
- Suffered from sunburn during childhood or adolescence
- Frequent outdoor activities
- Have a history of UVA sunbed / solarium use

Bookings Available at the Nelson Clinic
0800 MoleMap
0800 6653627
www.molemap.co.nz

MoleMap
early detection avoids the risk of melanoma

Stewart Island Health Clinic
May 7th, 8th, and 9th
Book for a new appointment or if you're a current client have your follow-up review

The Singles' Ball website
www.singlesball.co.nz
is up and running.
If you have any special offers for the ball such as cheap accommodation or if you have photos from past balls for the gallery please send to Vicki at stewartisland@xtra.co.nz



caption contest

Elaine Hamilton sent us this photo, any ideas for a caption? Send them to *SIN* and we'll print the best ones next month.



New gardening ensemble for Sharon

Recently our *Stewart Island Tramping Club* went on their annual expedition and this year instead of tramping the hills we had a cruisy holiday at Lake Hood staying with Val and Ian Johnson (ex Stewart Islanders). We did however 'tramp' around for the day at the **Ellerslie Flower Show in Christchurch** which we all enjoyed.
—M. Hopkins

LOST in or around the hotel about 20th of March: Green and brown Kathmandu coat belonging to Angus Kenny. My mum is really mad so if you've seen my coat lying around please can you let me know where it is. *Thanks, Gus.*

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE
The next meeting will be at the home of Wendy Hallett on Thursday 14th May at 2pm

Competition:
A Yellow bloom
A Red bloom
A White bloom

Congratulations

Proud parents
Bridget and Eamonn
Welcome Maia!

Newlyweds
Liz and Heath

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com
The next deadline is Monday, 11th May.

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:

12 issues to an Oban address or Internet address \$24
12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30
12 issues to international address \$54

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