

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA...IN COLOUR !!!

April—May 2013

\$2.00

Our busy Easter weekend, usually a last hurrah to the summer tourist season, was marked with grief as we bade a final farewell to our friend Loosy (aka Brett Twaddle). The owner of the Bay Motels was a prolific builder, keen fisherman, excitable storyteller, and loving family man. He was a man of big decibels and the Island could still hear his words at his service...he'd written his own eulogy! Loosy will be greatly missed and we extend our love and sympathies to Jenny. (Obituary next issue.)



Butterfield Beach. Don't freak out, Jane...this is 1981! Pictured: Bill Dean with Barry, Sue & Chris Atkins. Shark Tale p12

April! (Don't you like living in a place that wishes its ATM happy birthday on the public chalk-board?)

We've had all sorts of visitors here, running the gamut of human experience. Laura Dekker, the young woman who embarked on a solo sailing journey around the world when she was 14 years old in 2010 (and completed the circumnavigation in 2012) visited HMB School. William Pike came to speak at the Community Centre: he survived a



Mushrooms growing on a tree. Did you know we have a mycophile living in our midst? photo from Carolyn Squires

We live in an extraordinary neck of the world. In other places, school activities are cancelled due to rain. Here...due to sharks! Halfmoon Bay School had planned a water safety unit and kayaking in the inlet this term, but on advice from someone in the know, Kath cancelled the activities — white pointer sighting were confirmed in the areas they had planned to use. On that note, this issue of *SIN* has a shark theme and inside you will hear from shark cage divers, people unimpressed with shark cage diving, people who spend their lives filming and studying sharks, and more.

Happy Birthday to the island's ATM machine, it turned One in the beginning of

volcano eruption on Mt. Ruapehu in 2007 (p9). Mike Allison, a guy who owns a printing business, came down and went fishing with his mates on *Loloma* as he's done for the past decade or so... it was a serendipitous visit because *SIN* had just lost its printer and he gave Vicki his card and now look...we have colour! Big thanks to Mike for giving us a good deal.

ANZAC Day is Thursday 25th April (p20). HMB School Year 7 students will be fundraising for camp with a Bonza Breaky after the ANZAC service. Swing by the notice-board for a hot chocolate and a bacon buttie!! Check out the concert in the hall same day at

11 am (details p2).

The days are getting

shorter and nipper: local businesses are switching to their winter schedules. See page 19 for updated island schedules.

The pool is now closed for the season. Please return all keys in a named envelope to HMB School PO Box 58 OBAN.

If you want a big laugh go to youtube and type in Stewart Island Harlem Shuffle. All I can say is what everyone else has said on the subject: *Go Herbie!!*

Hope you enjoy this extra big and colourful edition.

—Jess

Gareth Morgan returning in May

You will recall Gareth Morgan's visit to Stewart Island last October in which he held a public meeting to see what Islanders thought of evaluating the island being made and maintained predator free. Gareth says good progress has been made on getting an action plan and he is now ready to return to Oban and discuss some ideas on how to proceed.

The public meeting will be at
5pm on 9th May at the Community Hall

and this time the plan is to present an outline of options and timings as well as the formation of a Project Board that will represent the interests of community, iwi, government agencies, and funders. The idea of the meeting is to both present the work done since October and to provide attendees with opportunities for comment both during and after the meeting. After this session, responsibility for the project will be handed over to the Project Board and it will coordinate all the activities that have to be completed to make this a reality, if indeed that's what results.



Neave and Bella at the Easter Dig.

*The weather's fine, the tides are right;
And all the time I'm wishing
That nothing else will matter,
Just as long as I'm out fishing'*

*And as long as I'm out fishing
If it's in my favourite spot
The busy world can pass me by
When fish are runnin' hot.*

*And if the catch is large or small
It doesn't really matter
My friends and I can eat the lot —
Fresh, grilled or fried in batter.*

*The great beyond has endless seas
With no forbidden sectors,
Or stormy days, or rotten luck . . .
Or Fisheries Inspectors.*

*So look for me from time to time,
And if you find me missin',
Be happy that for evermore
I have gone out fishin.'*



Haggis Sandwich
Gourmet offering from Andrew London and Steve McDonald

7.30pm, Monday 6th May
Community Centre
\$22/20
Door sales from 7pm

Kiwis love Andrew London and the lyrics he dreams up as a performer with Hot Club Sandwich. And given the number of Kiwis who claim Scottish descent, it is not surprising that Steve McDonald's Celtic inspired music inspires floods of patriotic nostalgia.

Now the two team up in *Haggis Sandwich*, a wide-angled and often irreverent approach to Kiwi culture – where some of it came from (Scotland), where it is now, and what we can expect in the future, given the everyday issues that consume and confuse so many of us. Food fads, youth culture, male insecurities, weddings, rugby, coffee – all of these and more are explored and exploited in *Haggis Sandwich*.



ANZAC DAY CONCERT

11.00 am 25 April, Community Centre.
The Invercargill Salvation Army Band and Pipers present a musical bonanza.
Supported by Toi Rakiura and the Stewart Island Players, the Band's visit has been made possible through the generous help of Real Journeys.
Thanks also to all those providing billets.



WISE UP TO WEEDS
with Amy



CAPE HONEY FLOWER
(Melianthus major)

Cape honey flower is found in Horseshoe Bay but is not generally common around Oban. Now is the time to remove it from the Island before it becomes a common coastal weed. It should still be flowering so will be easy to spot.

What is it?

Cape honey flower has large coarsely toothed leaves, up to a metre long. It has huge red to pink flowering fronds that produce papery pods filled with seeds, which die down over winter.

What is the problem?

Cape honey flower is very hardy and will grow in most conditions. It creates dense areas that exclude other plants from establishing. This plant can spread through suckering roots and fragments. Be careful with the green waste.

How to control it?

- Dig out small patches, ensuring you get all the roots.
- Cut away all the leaves and paste the stumps with a herbicide gel – it may require several applications.

Please contact Amy Lagerstedt at Environment Southland if you find this plant: email amy.lagerstedt@es.govt.nz Telephone 211 5115



The Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRCET) Would like to notify the community of a **PUBLIC MEETING** On **Tuesday 23rd April, 7:30pm** At the **Oban Fire Station**, on Argyle Street To discuss the trust's plans for formal **Deer Control** in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Area.



In accordance with its objectives to reduce pest numbers and improve the health and habitat quality of the forest around Halfmoon Bay, SIRCET is now seeking to formalise control of deer, and we invite comments and questions from the community.

Deer have had and continue to have a visible, localised impact on soil health and forest regeneration throughout the project area. While deer have been hunted in the area over the years, a vegetation survey conducted within the area in 2010 found that these efforts have not resulted in reducing deer numbers sufficient to promote repair and regeneration of the forest;

"...certain palatable species, particularly broadleaf, supplejack, and kamahi are being heavily impacted by browse at the tall seedling (browse tier) height. Seedlings of canopy species are apparently being eliminated or inhibited at the browse tier height. B. rotundifolia, a species known to be highly palatable to deer... was noticeably absent from the Ackers block. This may be cause for concern considering its relatively high abundance in a past survey..." (Wright, 2010).

A Discussion Paper is available for review. If you would like a copy please contact Denise Hayes at denise@sircet.org.nz or on (03) 219 1159.



This *SIN* has a shark theme for a few reasons: Great white sharks abound here; apex predators fascinate people; and the shark cage diving industry is developing in the waters that we use recreationally and commercially.

It's an issue that gets people wound up: After the March *SIN* (in which I mentioned berley), a local woman called me and said "But isn't berleying illegal!?" She was aghast that anybody is doing it anywhere in New Zealand, particularly right on our doorstep for the express purpose of drawing great white sharks to boats and divers. It's all a matter of perspective: luring white pointers to boats and divers is business for shark cage operators; an awesome adrenaline buzz for clients; and for some sideliners a cool, harmless activity that could create extra revenue and excitement on the Island. But for the lady who phoned me it is outrageous, dangerous, and ought to be illegal. Read Storm Stanley's editorial (p8), or chat with some local paua divers, and see she is not alone in her stance. Read comments from those in the shark cage industry... it's ultimately all great fun for humans and good for shark conservation (p4). Read the comments of a man who survived a great white attack in the Chathams and has spent hundreds of hours observing great white behaviour in Foveaux Strait and be reminded that while much is unknown about shark behaviour, one thing is certain: they are predators seeking meals (p10).

Friction makes interesting stories. There's friction within the cage diving industry, it seems, between the two companies presently operating in Foveaux Strait. And of course there is a tussle between the cage industry and those who vehemently oppose it. One would think a battle involving great white sharks would be the stuff of spectacle and drama. But it often boils down to nitpicking over the legal definitions of words. (Reminds me of all the tawdry Oval Office Monica Lewinsky porn and then Bill Clinton was on the TV stammering his sleazy legalese "it depends on what your definition of *is* is")...

Those who are dismayed at the cage diving industry are struggling to find traction to challenge its legality. They have ammo, the Wildlife Act of 1953. But, as one shark scientist explained to me recently, "The old legislation was never meant to protect sharks. It was written with birds and lizards in mind..."

Shark cage diving is relatively new in the country; compound that with the relatively young science of great white shark behaviour and it's understandable that a document from the 1950s doesn't quite do the trick.

(Continued on page 7)

Easter Quiz

The people came trickling in, it was a slowish start but then the flood-gates opened! And boy, did they come in! 31 teams in all, the Community Centre had no chairs left, no tables left and I don't think the Island had any people left who weren't present!

The raffle table looked ok, until Megan from the Fernery brought down a beautiful ceramic wall hanging and Sharyn from Leask Bay Fishing Charters donated two two-people fishing trips for prizes!

And a whole heap of other people brought wine and chocolate etc so a big thanks to everyone who donated items, bought raffle tickets and a HUGE thanks to Sue and Rachael to going round and selling the tickets! A thanks to Penny too, for running back to mine to rprint off extra sheets, I did think 30 would be enough! A grand total of \$780 was raised, simply stunning! That's going half to the Community Centre for allowing us to use the venue and half to the Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust.

— Vicki Coats



Pip and Karen at the Ball. Photo from Sarah Trammer

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS with SHARK DIVE NZ

How did you get the idea and where did you learn how to do this?

A life-long love of sharks, and I saw the cage divers off the Discovery Channel but couldn't put anything in place until such a time as the sharks were protected, which happened in 2007.

Is an excursion on your boat similar to a cage diving experience in Oz/SA?

No, it's totally different. In South Africa, they use snorkels on the surface with an open-top cage. In Australia, they put their cages on the bottom of the sea. Our cage here is a surface cage with the air being delivered into your regulator via a hose from the deck.

Other than location, what sets the Stewart Island dive experience apart? (ie Do the sharks behave differently?)

The sharks here are quite different to the sharks that you get in other part of the world. The sharks over in those other countries tend to be more tame and relaxed due to the high level of human interaction. The dive companies overseas focus on large numbers of 'bums on seats' whereas Shark Dive NZ offers only small, personalised tours to keep the level of safety for both humans and sharks maximised.

Is the water more clear?

Than where? On average it's clearer than South Africa, but not as clear as Mexico.

Are the sharks more concentrated in a smaller geographic area and therefore more accessible?)

The sharks are only concentrated at Stewart Island due to the concentration of seal pups.

Do you sort of play it by ear out there every day or do you have anything like a code of practice for your operation?

No, we do not play it by ear, unlike some other shark dive operators. We have a clear process on how our operation works, right through from departure to disembarking, with very stringent safety protocols. There is a draft code of practice before Government officials which we have had input in formulating, and we follow these 'best practice' methods to ensure the safety of both the divers and sharks. We also spend many thousands of dollars ensuring our vessel is maintained to the highest possible standards under the Safe Ship Management system that Maritime New Zealand controls.

(equivalent to a car WOF and rego, but stricter!)

Can you describe a perfect day shark cage diving?

Every day diving with the sharks is a perfect day! I'm very privileged to be able to experience the majestic beauty of these sharks and share this with other people.

Do you enjoy cage diving?

Obviously!

Have you dived with white pointers without a cage?

No that would be stupid! I often get asked by people wishing to do this and the answer is categorically the same each time – NO!

For you personally, is this business about providing an adrenaline rush, or wildlife education, or both?

Both, there are many misconceptions of sharks that people have, and the likes of movies such as Jaws has done nothing to foster a greater understanding of their behaviour. People are able to see the Great Whites in their own natural environment and get an appreciation for their size, their gracefulness and beauty, as well as respecting their place in the food chain! The adrenaline rush is just a bonus!

What do you say to the Stewart Islander who doesn't know you, or anything about your business, and is simply scared about the prospect of white pointers being attracted to these waters or hanging around the area longer?

What I would say is that we have had a number of people who have had those perceptions who have come out on the boat and come away with a totally different attitude towards myself and the sharks. The sharks have been there for many years, and are there for only one reason – the seal pups. They don't hang around any longer after their food supply runs out, and most of the sharks leave within a week of each other due to their need for sustenance!

There are people who are worried about the well-being of the sharks! Do you do anything to ensure the well-being of the white pointers?

The sharks are a protected species and we are very mindful that we are operating in their environment. Our cages are shark-friendly and we keep our interaction with them to a minimum.

There is a concern that the cage dive operation is altering the sharks' behavior in these waters: chummed water + boats + people in dive suits in water = danger. Some local fishermen contend that more white pointers have been seen since the operation began, and that sharks seem to pop up like hungry Labradors next to dinghies these days! There is a worry that this operation is compromising the safety of recreational and commercial water users here. What do you say to these people?

I appreciate that there may be some concerns. I say that if you want to use the ocean as a playground then between the months of January and June there is a very high number of Great White sharks which aggregate in this area and they need to be treated with a high level of respect!

As for interactions between sharks and humans, the average cod boat will discharge up to 500kg a day of offal into the sea and there have been many documented shark interactions well before I began operating shark cage diving seven years ago.

Are their concerns valid?

Not with my operation.

Do you feel that your operation is training the shark to associate food with boats and humans?

No. As per above, there have been many interactions between boats, food and humans since when the first cod fishery opened at Stewart Island in approximately 1886.

How do you envision the future of shark cage diving in Foveaux Strait? Do you anticipate there will be more operators?

Due to the high cost of setting up and maintaining a seasonal operation such as shark cage diving I don't envisage a large number of operators starting up.

Do you think there is enough interest and sharks to make our destination a shark cage diving mecca for the world?

Yes, because our sharks' behaviour is so unique there is potential for enthusiasts to engage with the whole Stewart Island experience. Unfortunately there seems to be the perception from some locals that they don't need the extra tourist dollars that my company brings to the area. This attitude has sometimes seen our clients being refused accommodation in some places on the Island. With this attitude being in existence, I can see Bluff being more of the mecca than the Island with

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202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

operators using larger, liveaboard vessels which don't require the clients to visit the island and spend their money there.

How would you like to see this industry develop?

Very slowly, with an overall strategy that minimises the impact on the natural environment of the shark.

How do you envision your future here? Are you hoping to be running a cage dive operation in five or ten years?

I will hopefully be operating a shark cage diving operation at the Island in ten years time! I would like to see a higher level of acceptance from those that are wary that my operation can happily co-exist and even complement other local businesses.

NOTE: The above responses are from skipper Peter Scott; the questions below were answered by marketing manager Andria Dean:

Your website states you're the "only shark cage company with a 100 percent perfect safety record".... does that mean something dangerous happened with the Adventure Crazy company? I don't understand the relationship between your company and Adventure Crazy, at the top of their web page it says CONTACT SHARK DIVE NZ but then further down it says "Please note we are not related to the over priced Shark Dive NZ company also based in Bluff, as we pride ourselves on conservation and protection of sharks in general..." Are you two different companies and if so why are they mentioning you on their website (although when I clicked on the link it didn't lead me to your site), also their disclaimer seems to suggest you are over priced

and not interested in shark conservation so could you comment on that?

As for Adventure Crazy, it is a website operated by a chap named Paul Morris. Paul Morris has been attempting to cash in on Shark Dive NZ's name and advertising for several years now. NO RELATION TO HIS WEBSITE! We have recently spent thousands on legal fees to get him to desist in using our company name in his advertising material as well as breaching our Trade Mark. Unfortunately, his attitude is such that he persists in his blatant disregard for the law. He does not operate a shark dive company, but piggy backs on those that do. He is in cahoots with Mike Haines, formerly of Southern Aqua Adventures (in receivership owing \$850,000), latterly of Shark Experience (which brings us to safety). Haines had a cage breach last February which made it to the media. Also he has deliberately snubbed his nose at Maritime NZ's Safe Ship Management regulations, taken passengers out without certification and on a boat that was unsafe. Although detained, Haines still took passengers out. As for Morris' claims that Shark Dive NZ charges more, this is true. We do not apologise for spending over \$20,000 per year on maintaining our vessel to the highest standards and ensuring that all our clients are in the safest of hands. Our boat is surveyed as per the Safe Ship Management regulations and safety is our top priority. I see no evidence of Morris nor Haines participating in shark conservation so I see that purely as a dig to make people suspect we don't care about our sharks and choose that company over ours.

I heard a rumour that you don't need to use berley or bait, that the sharks

just come up to the boat as soon as it arrives, is there any truth to that? If not, how do you normally attract the sharks to the boat? Also, a local recently expressed concern about sharks following your boat into Halfmoon Bay, have you ever had this happen?

The last two questions have made me crack up since receiving your email!! Are people really saying that, because they are both such ridiculous notions and totally untrue and unfounded. Peter does use minimal bait to attract them in the water but that is all. He has never had any sharks follow him into the Bay. He is neither a shark whisperer nor a Pied Piper of sharks! Sharks are interested in seal pups as their food, not large wooden boats. No bait is towed behind the boat ever. According to multiple published migration studies, the reported sustained swimming speeds of Great Whites are between 2.5 and 5.4 km/h, and the boat is travelling at around 16 km/h. While Great Whites can hit higher peak speeds in short bursts, it is quite unlikely that a shark could sustain sufficient speeds to follow directly back to port. Since no bait or berley is released from the boat away from the island, there is no trail for them to follow. This is directly opposed to fishing boats that clean fish on the way back to port leaving a trail that could plausibly be followed by the sharks. While Great Whites undoubtedly enter Half Moon Bay, any suggestion that they follow our boat is simply implausible.

The new Perspex cage built for Discovery filming....will that be available for tourists to use too?

—this has been built purely for the film shoot only and any future use will be for commercial filming purposes only.

LETTERS     

The following letter is a response to comments in the Q&A with Shark Dive NZ (see pages 4-5):

Paul Morris here, webmaster for Adventure Crazy that is owned by Rusty Rhodes. I also have my own sites being listed below!

<http://www.ultimatesharkexperience.com>
<http://adventurecrazynz.ning.com/>

Adventure Crazy has evolved from the early days of my first website Pauls Dive Planet in 2006 that became Dive Planet NZ now Adventure Crazy NZ. One of the very first pages I had was called Shark Dive NZ as I was passionate about sharks and diving, along with the conservation of sharks after being a victim of a Great White shark attack / encounter in 2005 that led on to learning about these amazing creatures.

I have been out tagging Great Whites to necropsies of Great White sharks and taken loads of photos and video of the sharks anatomy then putting it in lament terms on my sites so people can learn and understand the makeup of these sharks. I have been in a few documentaries with Discovery Channel, National Geographic along with a few other networks about my encounter as well as learning about this species along the way. I am very passionate about educating people about the Great Whites and I have given talks at schools etc as to the sharks importance in our marine ecosystem.

I have owned the domains great-whitesharkdivenz from 2006 that promoted Great White Shark diving in NZ both in Gisborne, then later in Southern NZ as well as in Australia with our friends of the Fox Foundation shark diving at the Neptune Islands south Australia.

I use to have a pretty good relationship with Mr Scott of the now Trade Marked Shark Dive NZ that was registered in 2013. This relationship fell apart after I started promoting another company.

My websites promote Shark Diving out of Bluff using a vessel called the Kiri Waipai that has full certificates for shark diving operations. The vessel is fully equipped with everything for this type of adventure sport. We offer the best opportunity to see Great White sharks departing from and returning to Bluff, instead of having to get round trips to Stewart Island before being able to make trips happen.

Their term Piggy back is inappropriate as we are promoters of an adventure sport!

They see no evidence of Shark Conservation protection? I think they need to open their eyes and read over all my material as I have loads of it that I am currently placing into my two new sites. One of these sites is for the promotion and tour info and the other is a social media site for shark divers to upload their photos and videos.

<http://adventurecrazynz.ning.com/group/shark-research>
<http://ultimatesharkexperience.com/>
<http://whitesharktrust.wordpress.com/>

Adventure Crazy removed the page that predates Mr Scott's Trademark for shark dive nz as well as removed all phrases to that string of text to avoid confusion. Mr Scott has confirmed that he has no issue with our domain names.

Mr Scott does have shark quota and that does contradict shark conservation does it not?

I do not think that Mr Scott should be trying to backstab others in the tourism industry as many companies have had losses before being taken to a new level.

If any of your readers have photos or video of shark diving they can upload them free to my social network that is about to be rebranded
<http://adventurecrazynz.ning.com/here> they can also read about and watch videos of the shark conservation and Research.

Kindest Regards
Paul Morris
Adventure Crazy



The following is a reply to a letter from the SIN Editor to Ian Angus (of DoC Marine Conservation Team), enquiring if and how his office intends to address the concerns of some locals regarding the shark cage industry in Foveaux Strait:

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is aware of the issues around shark cage diving. This is a relatively new activity to NZ and government agencies, with interested parties, are committed to working through the various issues that have come to light.

Maritime NZ (MNZ) has a responsibility for developing and monitoring marine safety rules and are leading on the development of white shark cage diving guidelines in New Zealand. MNZ has released

Interim guidelines (available through the MNZ's website).

DOC's statutory interest in the activity comes about through the Wildlife Act 1953. There are a number of marine animals protected under this Act. Of relevance to shark cage diving is the protected status of great white sharks.

Under the Act, DOC is responsible for the welfare of great white sharks. DOC is contributing to the development of the shark cage diving guidelines and will soon make available interim guidelines. The focus will be of ensuring the welfare of the great white sharks.

DOC will be seeking feedback on these interim guidelines, and with MNZ will later seek to merge the interim guidelines into a succinct set of guidelines.

Reuben Williams
(on behalf of Ian Angus)
Media Advisor, DoC



Having just received a letter from Southland District Council about proposed changes to our electricity pricing structure, I felt obliged to find the calculator and find out what it meant for us, hiking up the standing charge and reducing the per unit charge, with our rather low bill of about \$140 per month.

Our last bill was made up of 142 units of power and a standing charge which works out like this in the old scheme and the new proposed scheme:

Old: 142 @ 0.0604 = \$86.11 + \$52.74 = \$138.85
New: 142 @ 0.5520 = \$78.38 + \$96.98 = \$175.36

That's an increase of \$36.51 on a usual month!!

Now, as I haven't used a calculator for a while, I thought I might go the whole hog and work out how much power I would need to use per month to actually save on the new system. Correct me if I'm wrong, but the difference between the standing charges is \$44,236 per month more. The saving per unit is \$0.0544. That means you need to use over 814 units per month to get a cheaper bill!

Old: 814 @ 0.6064 = \$493.61 + \$52.74 = \$546.35
New: 814 @ 0.5520 = \$449.33 + \$96.98 = \$546.31

That's a whole lot of power! And I'm pretty certain that most households on the

Island do not fit into that category.

So what SDC are trying to say to us is: If you are careful with your power, energy efficient, lean, green and eco-friendly, you are now going to be charged more!?!?!?

If you use lots and lots of power (and therefore diesel) you will be charged less!?!?

I understand that the equipment needs updates and repairs and am quite happy to contribute in the upkeep of the system, but I'd much rather the unit charge go up for residential properties and the standing charge go up for the commercial properties that use a lot of power. Their bills are already horrendous as any big business owner on the Island will tell you.

Top of the letter received: SDC People First.

I can think of other ways to describe them!

Vicki Coats

✉ The organising committee for the Stewart Island Locals & Cribbies Ball would like to offer their sincere thanks to the individuals and business's who assisted to make the Good Friday Ball such a great success. It was a won-

derful team effort in true Stewart Island style with volunteers making their time available to design , produce and sell the tickets, to decorate the Community Centre, to help gather and prepare food, and to work in the kitchen and bar during the evening.

This was also seen on the Saturday when so many turned up and assisted with the cleanup to ensure the venue was available for other bookings later in that day.

Because of the freely given assistance and team work over \$5000.00 was raised and will be available for projects on the island to benefit our community.

Once again our sincere thanks,
Mona, Bugs, Jack & Spragg,
SI Lions
& Cribbies Ball Organisers

✉ Dear Friends, We hope you enjoy the words and work of the extraordinary Nigel Brown, Michael's latest "Green Conversation" subject in Forbes.

www.forbes.com/sites/michaeltobias/2013/04/10/nigel-brown-a-new-zealand-original/

Warm regards,
Jane Morrison

(SHARKS Continued from page 3)

Scan through the Wildlife Act you might find a leg to stand on but it's a bit wobbly. When it comes to shadowy, mysterious creatures about which not a lot is understood, it's difficult to quantify and prove a point.

According to the Wildlife Act, it is illegal to hunt or kill great white sharks [*hunt or kill* defined: in relation to any wildlife, includes the hunting, killing, taking, trapping, or capturing of any wildlife by any means; and also includes pursuing, disturbing, or molesting any wildlife—].

How do you prove that an animal is being disturbed or molested? What *exactly* does it mean to pursue; disturb; take? Is the white pointer snacking on chum truly *disturbed*? If Grim (the white pointer) could talk he might say he's having a grand time getting feeds and viewing divers in cages, it could be like a day at the zoo with free snacks for him. How are we to know?

Is he being *pursued*? If the boat is just sitting there drawing the shark to the boat, then it's more like *lured* and that word doesn't appear in the jargon.

Is anyone *taking* the sharks? That's another word going through the wrangle machine: what does it mean, exactly? If a shark gets his snout stuck between the bars of a shark cage has he been "taken" for a moment? Or is the whole enterprise — boat, chum, bait — "taking" the shark from his natural everyday routine of seal hunting into an unnatural commercial zone of paying customers and steel bars (*snifters*, as one local man down the Pub refers to the cages).

It seems as if the shark behaviour is being *altered*, but that word isn't in the jargon either. And it's unproven, but appears a no-brainer to some, that putting feeds in the water alongside humans could have scary implications for water users who don't travel in steel cages. And what of the fact that a big ingredient in those feeds is tuna... tuna are not naturally frequenting the waters around Bench Island—what is this doing to the sharks' approach to things? If an excellent taco stand opened on the wharf I'd be calling my friends and I'd be loitering. Kina Scollay cautions we must be careful not to humanize the sharks... yet I can't help but wonder how they perceive their world.

DoC has produced a manual of shark cage diving guidelines (they will be soliciting feedback on this document); one shark cage skipper is seeking to establish a permit system to protect the industry from "cowboy operators". So, measures are being put in place to protect the sharks from cowboys; and to protect the shark cage operator's livelihood.

Meanwhile, some local paua divers are scratching entire areas off their itineraries: around Edwards white pointers are being fed on a regular basis all to the tune of boat engines and the backdrop of boats and humans in the water—would *you* dip a flipper in there? Some kayakers and oyster divers and swimmers and wharf jumpers are feeling jumpy.

Protect the white pointers....
Protect the shark cage business....
Is there anyone else we should be trying to protect around here?

—Jess Kany



Left photo from Sarah Trummer; right photo c/ Vicki's FB page



Shark cage diving at Stewart Island – should we be worried?

by Storm Stanley

Sharks like Stewart Island – our clear water and our plentiful supply of seal pups attract them – and the sharks in turn are attracting a new industry to the Island, shark cage dive operations (or SCDO). At least one regular dive operation is already established within 7km of Halfmoon Bay and there's a prospect of more to

come. Those of us who spend time in the waters around the Island are concerned, and here's why.

First, let's take a look at what shark caging involves.

Throughout the world SCDO operators follow the same basic formula. They find an area of high shark numbers, for instance near preferred prey such as a seal or sea lion colony. The operator pours a mixture of minced up fish, oils and blood to form an attractant pathway for any sharks in the area. This slick normally extends some kilometres downstream. "Throw baits" of tuna or other fish are attached to a rope and dangled in front of the attracted sharks to lure them close to the boat. The wet-suited tourists climb into a metal barred cage with a viewing slot at eye level and are lowered into the water. The operator tries to keep the sharks close to the cage with tow baits, often resulting in the shark grabbing the bait or bumping or sometimes mouthing the cage, thus giving the human occupants a bit of a thrill.

SCDO companies claim that repeatedly attracting sharks away from their normal hunting pattern, luring them towards wetsuit-clad humans, and teasing and rewarding them with bait does no harm to the sharks and creates no risk to others who might be swimming, diving or fishing in the area. But what does the research actually say?

Two significant studies have been completed internationally on the effects of SCDO activity on shark behaviour, one in South Africa (Johnson and Kock) and one in South Australia (Bruce and Bradford, CSIRO). SCDOs are fond of quoting the South African report as it draws no conclusions about a link between caging and attacks on humans. However buried in the report is the fact that at the Mossell Bay research site, four great white sharks showed very strong behavioural changes in response to caging activity. The researchers' conclusion? *"We feel that sufficient evidence exists to confirm that white sharks can be conditioned by the practice of chumming and baiting"* and *"it is probable that commercial and recreational fishing vessels could be mistaken as cage diving vessels and a conditioned response may be evoked"*. This last observation is borne out by the increasing number of accounts heard at Halfmoon Bay about greater frequency of interaction and aggression shown by sharks to boats in the area of the Titi Islands.

The report also notes that research results may have been



confounded by the fact that operators who supplied vessels for the studies changed their practices once observers were off the boats - for example by increasing the amount of reward feeding of sharks to hold them at the boat longer. Reward feeding is discouraged in most SCDO codes of practice, but codes of practice are commonly ignored. Reward

feeding has been mentioned in NZ fishing magazine accounts of cage diving and is a regular feature of YouTube clips posted by tourists.

The South Australian study concluded: *"All monitored parameters support that there have been changes in the pattern of shark behaviour at the North Neptune Islands which are consistent with impacts from berleying/provisioning operations"*. According to this CSIRO report, white sharks (a fully protected endangered species) exhibit behavioural changes such as spending longer time at areas where caging occurs than they naturally would. They also demonstrate anticipatory behaviour, waiting on site for caging vessels to show up. This increased residency time leads to competitive interference between sharks as numbers artificially increase in the area. The sharks also need longer on site to provision with sufficient seals for the long migration ahead as berleying and baiting interfere with their normal hunting behaviour.

Shark caging is the ONLY activity in which an endangered, fully protected species is interfered with in such a way in this country. Add to these effects the not infrequent cases of sharks injuring themselves biting and attacking steel protective cages and a good case exists for DOC, who administer the Wildlife Act which covers endangered species, to take action. But to date that Department has stood by even as the risk to sharks increases as more SCDO businesses seek to establish themselves.

The danger that SCDOs pose to other marine users is less clear cut. While no research exists which points to increased attacks on human beings caused by SCDOs, anecdotal evidence definitely points to increased risk.

Operators always claim that their activities are not a threat to the rest of us. Yet ask any of them if they would be prepared to dive or swim in the vicinity of their own operation and the response is always "absolutely not!" People who work in the waters around Stewart Island have noted that sharks are showing a greater attraction to boats and are more aggressive towards boats. As a result, most paua divers now avoid areas in which SCDO vessels operate.

We've heard shark cage operators downplay the risk by claiming that cod and other fishing boats throw fish waste over the side without causing any problems. But this ignores

the obvious difference - cod boats don't have people in the water giving off all the signals excited humans do while blood and fish oils are liberally thrown round to draw big sharks as close as possible.

We also hear the common refrain that SCDO are "passionate about sharks" and are helping shark conservation. Given the research findings quoted above, this is questionable and a more cynical observer might conclude it is more about the money. At around \$600 per head for up to six dive tourists at a time, plus \$300 for each sightseer it's probably a pretty good living.

We can also learn some lessons from what has happened in other countries with shark cage diving. Capetown in South Africa has become a shark caging destination, with 12 licensed SCDOs. The growth in SCDOs has coincided with a significant increase in fatal shark attacks. Although there is an absence of evidence for any causal link, many suggest that cage diving operations are a contributing factor. Closer to home, the government of Western Australia banned great white shark cage diving in June 2012.

For me, this is an activity that needs to be either banned or very tightly regulated. It is bad for the sharks and it is a threat to the safety of others.

Volcano survivor William Pike spoke at the Community Centre about his experiences on Mount Ruapehu in 2007. He was camping with a friend in the Dome Shelter when the volcano erupted, sending torrents of snow and rocks through the door and burying his legs. He and his friend tried in vain to free him — but their hands were frozen and the ice axe didn't work. So his mate went for help: before he left William asked him to tell his family and friends that he loved them, as he knew his chances of survival were slim. Alone, he desperately tried to pull his legs free from the frozen sludge of mud and rocks, and could feel his shattered bones pulling apart and crunching back together. He could feel his body shutting down. When his rescuers arrived his pupils were fixed and dilated, the inside of his mouth was dark purple, and his body temperature was 25C.

He awoke to the sight of florescent lights on the ceiling of a hospital room. Soon, his father came to tell him his leg had been amputated. He also had a blood infection, crushed kneecap, kidney infection, and through 15 operations he required 64 units of blood (a young boy at a previous talk asked "Mister Pike, How did you manage to drink all that blood?") It's a gripping, frightening story, but William manages to tell it with humour and put the utmost positive spin on the events. He feels lucky they stayed in the Dome—if they'd stayed in a tent they would have been blown away, if they stayed in an ice cave they would have drowned. He's grateful the experience brought his family closer.

He is taking time off from his teaching job to travel around the country promoting the William Pike Challenge, a program encouraging school children to try new things, and enhance their outdoor survival skills. (Doctors surmise he survived such a trauma because he was so fit to start with.) He shared a home video his mum had made from the early, morphine hazed and harrowing days in the hospital bed, through to his first bush walk with his prosthetic leg (acquired from "the leg shop" as he

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Museum Photo Exhibit

The Saturday before Easter, the Museum held the opening of an exhibition of photographs at the Community Centre. It was a mission for the Museum trustees to get it all ready: the previous night the Hall was the scene of a Ball, and that afternoon it was the venue for a much-loved local man's funeral service. The museum team had only a short time to properly place and adhere 99 prints to the walls, and untrustworthy sticky products to do the job.

Trustee Raylene Waddell welcomed the crowd and began by acknowledging the occasion that had brought the community together in the same room just hours prior. "Today we witnessed sadness, and great tributes to a colourful man, a courageous man, a kind man," she said, and she thought the photographs represented those same attributes which so many Stewart Islanders possess: colour, courage, and kindness. She warmly thanked all of the trustees past and present who work tirelessly to preserve and share our treasures.

In conclusion Raylene noted that they had struggled to get the photographs to stay on the wall with their sticky stuff, and she asked us to let them know if we saw any falling down.

I kept my eyes peeled but didn't see any prints springing off the walls; instead, I found I had the opposite issue. Pausing to stare into the eyes of Islanders long gone, it felt like I was falling *into* the pictures. It's the power of art, and particularly the pull of compelling photography, that the viewer

feels transported into another world for a moment.

The Museum chose 99 images, the earliest from 1869, and grouped them into categories: views of Halfmoon Bay, farming, fishing, muttonbirding, milling, school, a rogues' gallery... There's a view of a churchless Bay, then the Anglican church appears, then, four years later, the Presbyterian steeple is there too.

"When you use the wharf today, do you ever think of it like that?" asked Raylene, referring to a photograph of cattle being herded along the Halfmoon Bay quay. (A cheeky voice in my mind replied: *sometimes*).

Scores of Islanders and visitors enjoyed the exhibit, which lasted for three days, raised hundreds of dollars for the Museum, and bemused, fascinated, and delighted viewers. My toddlers' whinging receded as the present fell away for a while and I found myself peering into the fish-shed in

1900, crashing a millers' smoko; smiling to see the lovely *Secret* again; and staring into the eyes of a long-gone Stewart Islander who I never met but seemed vaguely familiar all the same (this isn't mystical: many of the people photographed are great grandparents of locals).

Thanks to the trustees for sharing these beautiful, sometimes funny, sometimes haunting images from the Island days of yore and lore. —*Jess Kany*



Every shark season for the past seven years, a tall man with yellow dreads shows up on Stewart Island. (Tessa calls him "Curly.") He is a shark researcher and filmmaker who works with Clinton Duffy on the shark tagging team. He has spent hundreds of hours over the years in the waters of Foveaux Strait observing great white sharks.

Q & A with Kina Scollay

In the past seven years that you have been working amongst the great white sharks at Stewart Island, you have captured footage that seems to show great whites hunting as a pack. At what point does your team decide that what you see isn't a one-off thing but a behavior that can be officially documented?

We're not really a team studying behaviour, we're studying movements and tagging them, but I've learned a lot of their behaviour watching them and I've seen really interesting actions underwater. For me...I'll be watching them for ages underwater and I'll see them do something and then do the same thing again and I'll go *hang on*.

Do you have any theories or hunches about shark behavior that may be too hard to prove and officially document?

Lots of stuff...Major stuff that I can't go into because it's not proven, or it's in the process of being proven. One interesting thing...what they tend to do is they have a routine. He'll come in and go around a boat clockwise and then he'll do it again and you'll go *I've got him, I know what's going on* but then he'll go anticlockwise fast and dive and come up hard from underneath-- they have that predator's instinct to catch you unawares, is something that I've noticed.

Do you ever disagree with your teammates or other scientists in the field about your conclusions?

Yes. Simple answer. Clint and I bounce stuff off each other heaps, generally not disagreeing, but there are definitely things we disagree on, we've worked in different communities and I come from such a different angle having been attacked. You'll hear a shark will only attack a human because it looks like a seal, and it

The White Shark is warm bodied; by using a process named regional endothermy the shark is able to elevate parts of its body above that of the ambient water temperature. Through a counter-current heat exchange system, the temperature in the stomach, brain, eye and swimming muscles can be up to 13 °C higher than its surroundings (Goldman, 1997) with its stomach remaining at about 25°C (Goldman 1997). This can be extremely advantageous for the shark, allowing the shark to accelerate its speed and have more powerful attacks on prey (Goldman 1997).
—Goldman KJ 1997. Regulation of body temperature in the white shark, *Journal of comparative physiology B*, vol 167, pp. 423-429.



will take a bite and realize it made a mistake and go away. And I don't buy that at all. I know my colleagues probably do. Shark experts been banging on about it for 20 years and I think they're still wrong. The sharks are looking for a meal.

I've often heard that theory, that great whites attack humans because they're just mistaking them for seals.

These sharks are really smart and really cautious and they suss out a situation really well. They know what's going on...they have all of these amazing senses... and we're not that similar to a seal, they know the difference. Yes, there have been some cases where they have attacked a surfer possibly because he looked like a seal, but in general they are too smart and they have the situation sussed out.

So they know it's a person and they make a conscientious decision to attack a person?

We have to be careful not to humanize them. It's not like they're saying *I've always wanted to snack on a human* and they see you and *game on*. It's a hunting situation. And we hear about frenzied attacks but it's not a frenzied attack, it's a cold calculated hit...they've got the situation sussed out and *bang* they take an opportunity, there's nothing frenzied about it.

Why do we read and see on youtube sharks smashing into viewing cages? A cage doesn't resemble anything you'd imagine a shark would see in nature. Are they just curious? Do you think they are surprised when they rush at something and encounter

steel? When a shark senses a feed does it go into some sort of zone where it doesn't think straight?

They want a meal. There is bait there and they want the feed that's been advertised. They bite cages and boats testing things — *is that boat or cage edible? Can I break it?*—it's not necessarily a frenzy. Other species of sharks you could apply that to, they have cold blood in their brain and as they get worked up the blood warms up. But with a great white shark the heat exchange provides warm blood to their body and brain and they are capable of instant decision.

How do you describe yourself?

Diver. Shark researcher. Filmmaker.

What do you like most about visiting Stewart Island?

The people. I love it there, and I just really enjoy the community, it's great. It's a real highlight of my year.

What do you get up to down here when you're not tagging sharks?

To be honest I could talk for hours about what I'd like to get up to, but we have very little time off. Keeping camera gear going which is in and out of the water and sharks' mouths day in and day out is a real challenge, and the photo ID stuff takes heaps of time, so unfortunately I don't get much free time.

Do you get an adrenaline rush every time you see a shark or is it ever ho-hum?

It's never ho-hum. It gets to a point where I'm extremely focused on what I'm doing, so it's not a big adrenaline rush as I'm too focused. But it's never boring, they keep you on your toes the whole time.

What's the most exciting part of the day?

Probably many moments throughout the

day when I see cool interactions with the sharks and I'm filming them and trying my best not to let the sharks eat my camera and I'm smelling cool shots everywhere. And it's a real relief at the end of the day to see an amazing shot, you know in your gut at the time it's amazing but seeing it at the end of the day is very satisfying to know you got it and it's in the can.



of many life events for you? Is it a personal private thing that people bug you about? How big or little is it from your perspective? Looking back through the prism of eighteen years -- your close work with sharks, your life experiences, becoming a father -- has the significance of the 1995 attack evolved in your mind?

It's one of many life events. It has been a life changing event. I guess it was huge for me. It changed my life a lot and I spent a long time trying to stop it from changing my life. Especially for a commercial paau diver...it really affects your life.

You use a camera on a pole, and you also get in the water with the sharks to film them, why don't you do all your filming in the water?

The two most important parts of the job is to ID them and tag them. And if I'm in the water at the beginning filming them then we're never sure we tagged the right shark afterwards, so it works best for the research if I use a pole. It's more difficult because all I can see is the viewfinder but I have no peripheral vision so I have to rely on what I know of shark behavior and the calls of the other guys. But I've got it sussed. There's more frustrating cameraman moments but better shots – I can get closer. And it's a unique situation where I can watch these sharks interacting amongst themselves... when I'm in the cage they're reacting to me so with the pole I'm seeing more natural behaviours – obviously not natural because there's a boat and berley, but more natural than if I'm there in the cage.

Program here on Stewart Island is right up there for me. It has uncovered so much about these creatures that was never known before and has been totally groundbreaking in that respect.

What is your dream project?

I'm about to kick off a research program on the Chatham Islands that involves tagging and my ID work combined with some other methodologies. I'm very excited about it.

When you were a little boy what was your general view of sharks?

I don't recall dwelling on them much at all.

When you were a young man (22) you survived a great white shark attack at the Chatham Islands. How often do you get prompted to tell the story?

I get asked a fair bit but I don't often tell it. Eighteen years down the track now, I'm more likely to tell an abbreviated version of it. It used to annoy me to get asked but it doesn't annoy me anymore.

How often do you get asked to show your scars?

Surprising how often people ask and yeah, I don't do it.

Many people would assume that surviving a shark attack is the stuff of television drama and soul searching autobiography. I haven't seen any movie or book about it from you... is it just one

You still dive commercially.

Yes.

Shark cage diving as a tourist activity has been gaining momentum and popularity around the world and now it is starting up in New Zealand... right here in Foveaux Strait! Proponents of the industry believe that the more public get to observe great white sharks up close, the more appreciated and respected these sharks will be and the better chance they have of survival. As somebody who has spent a lot of time viewing great whites underwater, and has respect and interest for these creatures, are you excited about the cage diving industry gaining a foothold here?

Not really. It's like shark porn. People go on the trip and go on about how sharks are wonderful and amazing and need to be saved, they get so wrapped up in talking about shark conservation and I think they lose sight of the fact that it's an apex predator. I'm more pragmatic about it. Sharks are important, but people are important too.

You've spent hundreds of hours in the company of great white sharks, an apex predator which once mauled you. Are you scared of anything? Grizzly bears? Mice?

I haven't met a grizzly bear but I'm sure I'd be scared of them. I'm definitely scared of sharks. I'm probably more scared of sharks than most people. I manage it and I deal with it but I'm more scared of sharks than anyone. I'm more scared of them than I am of mice.

Dolphins and other creatures been known to form bonds with some humans. I'm not suggesting that you are friends with any of the sharks, but do you think any of them can recognize you, Kina Scollay?

I certainly hope not. I don't think so.

Can great whites discern the sound of a particular boat's engine? Can they recognize the shape of a particular boat?

Anecdotally, from reports from cod fishermen in the Chathams and Stewart Island, yes, they can probably tell one boat from the other.

What achievements make you the most proud?

My son and family are my proudest achievements, but in addition to that I think the Great White Research



A story of two Great Whites accidentally caught by Barry Atkins and Bill Dean (Crewman and family friend) on Stewart Island in 1981.

Submitted by Alina Atkins on behalf of Bill Dean and the Atkins Family

Barry and I were fishing for Greyboy sharks (popular for fish & chips) on the *Faith* out in Foveaux Strait, running two long-lines, each about 800metres long. We'd laid one line and then moved about two to three miles away to lay the second line, each with around 400 hooks on them. During the hour or so it took to lift the first line the weather changed and the sea became quite rough. Once we got the first line in, we went to try to pick up the second line, but could not locate it. At each end of the lines is a large grapple anchor, with a rope going to the surface with a big brightly coloured windy buoy. But in those days there were no such thing as radar reflecting buoys, the *Faith* did not have radar or GPS as those were pretty much unknown for commercial fishing boats at the time. So after an hour or so of searching, with the weather getting worse, we decided to head back to Halfmoon Bay.

The next morning the weather had passed, the day was, as I clearly remember, bright and sunny with very flat seas, so Barry and I decided to go and locate the second line. We spotted the windy buoys from some distance away, and we quickly realised that something was quite wrong. The two buoys, which had originally been about 800 metres apart, were now about 50 metres apart. We did not know whether it was tide or wind that had caused it; we certainly did not expect to find what we did find.

The *Faith* had a hydraulic hauler on it, and so we picked up the first float and tried to pull it up. It quickly became obvious that the line was not going to come up easily. In the end, as the boat rolled to port and then back to starboard, the hauler would take up about a foot of rope. It



Trevor Atkins (Matt's grandfather) with teeth.

took quite a long time to get the line up but as the grapple came closer to the surface, we could see a very large shark's tail coming up through the gloom. As it came closer we realised there were in fact two tails. We got the two Great Whites to the water's surface but at this stage we had no idea whether they were still alive.

We surmised that the line had caught some Greyboy sharks overnight and that the Great Whites had been attracted to the Greyboys' struggles. They had probably become tangled by spinning their prey as sharks are want to do, and thereby wrapping themselves in the line.

There was no way that we were able to get these sharks onto the *Faith*, the larger shark turned out to be about 17 feet long, and probably weighed a tonne and a half or more. The smaller shark would have been about 11 feet long and probably weighed something like three quarters of a tonne. I remember Barry and I poking the sharks with a gaff to see if we could get any reaction, just to try and make sure that they were dead. After some time we came to the conclusion that they were in fact dead, and then we had to get a line around their tails to try and tow them back to Halfmoon Bay. There was a bit of discussion about which of us was going to get that close to them to get the line attached, but eventually that happened and we started to tow them back towards Oban.

Barry towed the fish into Butterfield's Beach and we tied a buoy to the end of the line attached to the sharks. One of us, I can't remember who, then took a dinghy out and attached a longer line and took it back to shore, where a tractor pulled the two fish ashore.

There was quite a bit of interest

Chris (left) and Matt Atkins



from the locals and anybody else in the area who had heard of these sharks, we left them on the beach overnight and the next day set about dealing with them. We took the jaws out of them, they were cut up and the meat put into the *Faith's* freezer, and then I remember towing the remains well out to sea and dumping them. I don't think we ended up selling any of the meat, I don't think there was a market for it.

From my time on Stewart Island, that was certainly one of the highlights although unintended. *Bill Dean*

Sue Atkins tells me that some of the shark's meat was actually sold, and some of the teeth as well, with many kept as mementos. One was kept and plated as jewellery by a family friend.

Alina Atkins

When Barry and Bill went out that next day to retrieve the second line, Barry asked if I and the children wanted to go up with him as it was a nice day and the sea was calm. Even then i was a fair weather sailor. My first comment was "you never catch anything when I'm on board!" however I relented and off we went. Chris had good eyes and he spotted a buoy and Barry started pulling the line in. The first couple of hooks had sizeable grey boy sharks heads on and the bodies missing. Barry mumbled something about something big being out there to do that. We searched for the other buoy and finally found it. As it was being winched in (the winch stalled a couple of times and Barry had to put it in gear again to keep it gong) we saw the two sharks coming to the surface. Chris, Tracy and Matthew took off into the wheel house and refused to come out again. As I recall there was a conversation about who was going over the side to tie them off but Barry was skipper after all and Bill was crew, no competition. I also remember it took four hours to steam home and at one stage Vaughn Fisher in his vessel came past and wanted to know what Barry had as the fins in the water being towed looked huge. *Sue Atkins*

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

Community support appreciated

To say it has been a stressful time for DOC staff recently is a bit of an understatement. The release of a draft new structure for DOC and the discovery rats on Ulva in the days leading up to Easter could have made for a pretty bleak break for most of us, had there not been other things to divert our attention. The ball, Museum photo exhibition, Rugrats Easter Egg hunt were welcome diversions, not to mention the many conversations with members of the community as to the welfare of staff and their families. I'd like to say a big public thank you to everyone for the support shown to us and also in turn, extend our condolences to another member of the community, Jenny, as she comes to terms with life without Brett.

While the draft structure indicates there may not be a substantial decrease in the level of staffing here on the island, we really won't know that for sure until the final structure is released at the end of April. It may then still be several months before individual staff know how they will be affected and whether or not they will retain employment with DOC on the island. It's an unsettling time for most of us however we will endeavour to keep the community informed as we learn more.

Ulva Island update

As many of you already know, four rats have been caught on Ulva Island in the last few weeks. This has resulted in the initiation of our pre-prepared response plan that has seen an increase in trapping effort and finding a rodent dog to check the island for rat sign. Traps are currently being checked weekly and the last check of all 189 traps on Ulva Island was clear with no further rats caught. About 20 more traps have been installed in the coastal environment in the area where all of these rats have been caught. We will continue to run all of these traps until we are confident there are no more rats present.

The four rats caught have all been sent away for genetic analysis to see if they are from one litter or are four separate rats that have managed to get to Ulva Island. They will also be compared to the "library" of genetic samples that we have been creating to try and establish where they may have come from.

Miriam Ritchie arrived on Tuesday night (April 9) with her two rodent detecting dogs and as this is being written they are currently out on the island searching for rat sign. While the results of that check are not yet available, they will be used to help plan

our next steps. We will also be setting up the existing rat monitoring ink card tunnels on the island next week as another detection device.

Until we get all of this information together it is impossible to say if we are dealing with some individuals and have contained the threat or if we are again looking at an established population and hence which steps we should take from here. In the meantime, we will continue to run the traps and tracking tunnels to both detect and eliminate any further rats that may be present.

We have an e-mail distribution list that allows us to send out more regular updates on the situation. If you aren't on this list but would like to be kept informed, then please send your e-mail address to Brent (bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz).

Other items in brief:

Fire ban lifted - The Fire Ban for Stewart Island / Rakiura has now been lifted, but a Restricted Fire Season is still in place – this means anyone wishing to light a fire in the open must first obtain a fire permit to do so, unless the fire is to be contained in a BBQ or incinerator. Fire Permits for Stewart Island / Rakiura are issued by DOC on behalf of the Southern Rural Fire Authority. As only a limited number of staff on the island are designated Rural Fire Officers please be aware that permits may take up to 5 working days to process – therefore anyone wishing to obtain a fire permit should apply well in advance of the date for which the permit is required.

Bungaree hut paint – Three volunteers joined Andrew King and painted Bungaree hut during the week following Easter. This is part of a new partnership DOC has with Dulux, where Dulux will supply free paint for backcountry huts over the next three years.

New toilets – Twelve volunteers from the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust helped install six new toilets at campsites around the North West Circuit recently. The team were issued with instructions that the holes needed to be deep enough so they should never need to be re-dug. As this picture of Trust chairman John DeLury shows, they certainly made sure those instructions were complied with!



John 6 feet under.



Any guesses what this is? Hint next page. Photo from Alina Atkins.



GO BILLY!!!! Billy Check had a wonderful start, he just let the others bunch up, and then he sprinted around the outside! He was in the lead from about 300m and stayed leading for the rest of the race to win the Southland 800m 9-year olds. Photo from very proud mum Tanya.

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER

by Jo Riksem



This is one of the most famous photographs of the church 1904-1905. It gets many a comment regarding the church and the two lonely trees.

Our church isn't a place where we go once a week, and listen, sing, have a little tea and chatter and then go home till next Sunday. We all work throughout the week to make it all happen. There's the person who turns on the steeple light and opens up the door each morning for anyone to come in and visit. Then there's one or two who clean the manse making it spick and span for the new minister. Someone does the flowers in the church each week and floors are cleaned and wood work polished. Enticing smells finds some person baking at home for the morning tea on Sunday after the service. A car whizzes through the streets to the plane or ferry with a person to meet and greet the new minister. There's a small team that get together, elders, they're called to make sure things are ticking along and concerns are worked out. Another team gets together to manage the church buildings and keep them in order. Don't let us forget the person who takes minutes and handles funds and generally oversees the lot. You'll see a smiling face or two at the door each Sunday welcoming each one and handing out the hymn books, later taking up the collection. Last there's that someone who goes up in the evening closes the church and turns on the steeple light that shines all night long, a thing of beauty no matter what the weather.

This work that goes on each week is multiplied though the community many times over in many other ways and in many different groups and organisations by volunteers. We are thankful to each and every one of them for they are what makes this beautiful island the loving community that it is.

For 5 weeks, May 5 through 2 June we are pleased to have Rev. Scott Thomson take our services.

'I'm completing a circle,' says Scott Thomson, who will lead worship at Oban Presbyterian Church this May. Scott has never preached at Oban, preferring to 'let the leadership get on with it,' but admits islands have figured in his life. He met his wife, Barbara Gough, at the St Martin Island Community in Otago harbor when Anglican and Presbyterian leadership established a work and worship retreat that has developed a strong conservation message. 'Barbara introduced me to Stewart Island, and the house she helped her father Ian build. 'Then there is Southland. Fifty years ago I was ordained at Oreti Plains parish, and we went on to Wellington, Waimate, Timaru and finally Masterton. We did all the usual church stuff, but I'm right out of that now. Preaching was my big thing - the last thing I've let go - so I'm scratching around for what I will say.' Scott has a strong interest in history, particularly international relations. He was a member of the government advisory committee on overseas aid, and is an honorary vice president of the NZ Institute of International Affairs. A self confessed internationalist, he finds Stewart Island fascinating. 'Mainlanders tease me about the remoteness, and of course in many refreshing ways that's true. The flip side is that the world passes through. Places like the Island are important, not just for memories, but for the hard choices the world faces about its future. 'The Christian tradition seems to me to offer a basis for the choices we have to make. Whether as countries, or families or individuals, we all do have to make them - and very uncomfortable some choices are, specially as we grow older. That's what I'll be talking about, and people will do the thinking for themselves.'

Church services: every Sunday 11-12 followed by a cup of tea and goodies.
Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 - 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

Community Centre News

Hi All

Clothes swap/take, any clothes you have that you would like to give away, we will have a week of it, where you can drop clothes off and take what you would like, great for kids clothes and adults. It will be 26th April till 5th May, the clothes left will go to the Salvation Army in Invercargill.

Any keen squash players out there - I am happy to put a list together with contact details to share out - text 0272316305 or email me stew-art.island@xtra.co.nz.

A huge thank you to the trustees and gym members and helpers, who made and sold over 300 mussel kebabs we raised over \$1200 - most excellent effort.

Another big thank you to Pub quiz and Vicky for raising \$390 for the community centre.

Circuit class is still going strong tues, thurs at 6.30pm or sat 9am - give it a go for all levels of fitness. \$2

Tai Chi and weights class is on Wed 10am \$2 - all welcome

We will start up netball/soccer/volleyball - we will decide on night depends on numbers - starting 22nd April.

Diddle



Betty finds a cap!



Bye-bye to the skate ramp! The removal is making way for the new community bowling green. Photo from Alina Atkins.

NEIGHBOUR'S DAY

It wasn't really the greatest turnout ever, but a small and enthusiastic bunch of Skip Bo players turned up to share tea and nibbles and beat the heck out of each other in the ruthless game known as Skip Bo (actually, not really the greatest choice of game when the aim of the day was be nice to your neighbours!). Megan and Jules were keen amateurs, (apologies to customers who wanted to buy something from the Fernery, she was wagging) whereas Vivien, Barry and Heljo play every night after work at the hotel, Beverly plays with her friend, Karin is extremely keen on beating Jeff when she has the chance and I try and kick Hippy's butt at least a couple of times a week!



It was hard fought games, with cries of cheating abounding, but finally after the double V final, (Vicki vs Viv), the wee scot emerged triumphant! The prize-giving was duly made; a neighbours day badge and a Hennessy Hammock the prize, kindly donated by Ann and Tom.

Thanks to the quiz who sponsored the hall hire and thanks guys for turning up; the aim of Neighbours Day Aotearoa was to meet and get to know people you wouldn't normally, and in that respect the day was a great success! Just a bit sorry the day clashed with the kids athletics day, as I know there are many more keen Skip Bo players out there...We might have to make it a regular thing!

Just remember, there are no friends in Skip Bo!

—Vicki Coats



Deanne and Chris thank all those who have supported the restaurant over our first season. We are enjoying our new life together on the Island. It has been a very busy time, with re-building the restaurant, getting married and learning the restaurant business all in 9 months. We hope you have all had a great season and like us look forward to slower days and a well-earned break. We give a special thank you to the local staff who have been with us this season; Lania, Eden, Holly and Tam. We have been very lucky to have had such great people to call on and hope they have enjoyed working with us at Church Hill.

We are very proud to have catered for the many locals and visitors over the summer period, and to have contributed to the experience of many visitors to the island. Returning the restaurant to our community was very important to us and with your support we believe we have achieved what we returned to do.

Church Hill off-Season hours:

Lunch – closed (enquire if you wish to have a special group function and we may be able to help)

Dinner – from 5.30pm -7.30pm

Many thanks,
Deanne & Chris

(William Pike Continued from page 9)

refers to the limb centre, where he persistently sought a good stump.)

He spoke to a sizeable audience which included the visiting Mossburn School. The children asked some good (and some of the darnedest) questions at the end of his talk. *Can you balance on that leg? What happened to the amputated leg? Do you feel like everyone's looking at you when you walk down the street? What did it feel like when they*

chopped off your leg? Is it fun having one of those legs?

He also showed a video made after a William Pike Challenge at a Taupo School and the interviews with those kids were priceless:

“—we were stuck in the bush...well, we weren't stuck, the teachers deliberately put us there—”

To read more about this inspirational man, go to www.williampike.co.nz

—Ed



With the end of daylight savings, **sessions for A LOCAL'S TAIL** times have changed. The times are now **2pm and 4pm daily**.

Group bookings outside these times are still welcomed, upon request.

To all local's that have not yet had a chance to view A Local's Tail, you are invited to come along as our season is closing soon.

In the last SIN, we indicated that we would be trialling other movies to work out next seasons plans.

Thanks to Deanne and Chris, Church Hill Restaurant & Oyster Bar, for donating two vouchers as part of supporting the first movie. The winners of the draw were Bonnie and Niki Stewart.

So far we have shown a great classic, CASA-BLANCA and a nail biting thriller, SHADOW DANCER. Stay tuned for the final movie for the season.

www.stewart-island-news.com



He went so hard he lost a gumboot, but it was worth it! Proud winner of giant chocolate egg poses with his prize at Rugsrats Easter Hunt.

Kaua e mate wheke mate ururoa

Don't die like an octopus,
die like a hammerhead shark.

—Maori proverb commonly used to encourage someone not to give up, no matter how hard the struggle is.

Insanity is a state of mind

by Sue Ford

Life can get a bit hectic on Stewart Island, but after 25 years, I'm almost over the shock of discovering that The Garden is NOT the place where one sips one's G&T of a balmy summer evening, that it is actually a Labour Camp full of weeds that grow waist-high overnight, week after week after week – no time for any 'sipping' for *real* gardeners. I'm still coming to terms with the mind-set and am still not a gardener, but this past summer I made a determined effort with my much-loved but usually neglected roses. They certainly showed the rewards of a little regular attention. But actually, I do have a helper in the garden. Blackie.

Blackie is a blackbird who is spending his second year in the garden. The reason I know it's the same bird is because of the white tail-feathers – he used to have a white shawl too, but he slowly lost that before the end of last summer. The big excitement this summer has been that Blackie's son, Whitey, has joined us. Whitey has a "stripe" of white feathers down his tail. So there I am, grubbing around and swearing at the never-ending sorrel and chickweed that someone carefully nurtures behind my back, and Blackbird Father & Son follow me around, "helping". They dig diligently in the nice clear patches I've just hoed, and they chuck clods of earth all over the footpath and me, and generally create feathered mayhem. But they are entertaining company, and I do like to natter on a bit. It's nice when there isn't anyone interrupting your monologue every five minutes, trying to get a

word in.

So there I was one lovely summer afternoon – and we had a few, didn't we? – accompanied by Blackie. I was chattering on, telling him about my plan for rose pruning when I happened to glance up and see a small face peering at me over the top of the gate:

"I'm sorry," said the face – which turned out to belong to a small boy – "were you speaking to me?" he asked.

"Hello," I smiled. "No, actually I was talking to this – " I was going to say "to this bird" but realised that such a comment could call into question my sanity. Worse was to come – the bird had flown, quite literally. "I was talking to a bird," I finally admitted.

"Yeah. Right!" said the lad, and after he'd taken a quick glance around to confirm that I was indeed on my own, he shot off, probably eager to put a kilometre or two between himself and the strange old woman who sat on the garden path talking to an imaginary friend called Bird. What started off as a marginally insane understanding that a blackbird valued the sound of my voice soon turned into full-blown Mad Woman Syndrome in the eyes of that young beholder. So how would he have viewed that same Mad Woman, up to her armpits in the swimming pool, dressed in knickers and tee-shirt, standing on tip-toe in an effort to keep her bedraggled hair dry, pulling apparently with neither strength nor result upon the half-open pool cover, and talking to thin air – no bird available this time? That's what he'd have seen through the pool door later on.

What he wouldn't have seen would have been Debs on the other side of the pool cover roller, stitching the two lengths of 'bubble-wrap' together whilst I held it taut from the pool side of the material. It could have scarred the lad for life too since me in a wet tee-shirt competition would be a show-stopper for all the wrong reasons. In fact, I looked like a cross between The Pillsbury Dough Boy and Michelin Man but with a hawthorn bush planted on my head where my hair-do had been. Even a strong stomach would have been put off their dinner. Before I could get to my own dinner, Debs came up with this scheme for putting in a second row of stitches, whereby (still dressed in my next-to-nothings don't forget!) I would crawl through a 'tunnel' formed by the pool cover so that she could stick the needle through from the outside and that I could retrieve it on the inside of the tunnel and stick the needle back through to her, for the whole width of the pool.

Anyone who had previously doubted my sanity would have been convinced of the limited number of brain cells operating by the time I crawled out of my 'tunnel' – dripping with sweat, hair even bushier, knickers like a full nappy, tee-shirt clinging to more curves than a snake on a Snakes & Ladders board – and, it has to be admitted, a grin from ear to ear. You see, insane as it sounds, Debs and I had a lot of fun. My state of mind was relaxed and happy, and satisfied with a job well done. The Mad Woman had struck again, and the next morning, had *such* a tale to tell her friend the blackbird – after first checking there were no stray little boys around!



Rugsrats Easter Hunt: Mayhem in the sand pit as children (and increasingly frantic adults) dig for bottle caps which Cherie hid extremely well and very deep (eventually there were calls for a digger).

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

from Jenny Gell



It's Party Time for

Garden Circle so we are

having a **Garden Party** at the home of Diana Bryant

on Wednesday **1st May**

(May Day)

at 2 o'clock.

Everyone welcome – the more the merrier.

Afternoon tea provided.

'The Sealion and the Sharks'

from Jim Watts

In March 1924, Lightly laden and homeward bound from the Ross Sea, the SIR JAMES CLARK ROSS stopped at Campbell Island for ten days before carrying on to Paterson Inlet and Port Chalmers. The five whale catchers prowled for whales while the ROSS took on wool, shepherds - and some fresh mutton! The crew explored, stretched their legs, and filled in time. Coal baskets were improvised to serve as successful crab traps. We can suppose that in the ship's galley, the crab meat and mutton were welcome substitutes for the 'boring' salt meat and whale steaks.

One fine day...."because of the crabbing, we witnessed a deadly fight between a sea lion and two sharks. It played out right in front of our eyes." A sea lion had already developed a taste for the bait, and attracted by the tempting smell of the salted meat, two sharks showed up at the scene. They were formidable fellows, as we could tell from the giant dorsal fins that cleaved the water of the fjord, side by side. Excitedly we waited to see what would happen. We knew that sharks and sea lions are implacable enemies, so a life and death struggle was inevitable. In a fight between a sea lion and a single shark, the result is certain: the shark is torn to pieces by the seal, which has the great advantage of its fabulous speed. But here the seal would find itself up against two huge jaws instead of one, both with several rows of razor-sharp teeth. This heightened our excitement to no small degree. We held the basket with

the bait on the water's surface to make the sharks come closer. It was when they had come up right underneath us and carefully wound around the basket that the sea lion first noticed his enemies. Like a living torpedo he shot after them, and the sinister creatures took flight. One of them quickly reached safety on the other side of the ship; meanwhile the sea lion attacked the other shark with incredible speed. There was no chance for the victim to get away. The sea lion struck again and again, lightning-quick, and each time tore a chunk of flesh out of his enemy. The seal, fluid as water, had no trouble avoiding the sharp teeth and the fearful tail of his victim. The water boiled wildly with the violence of the fight unfolding below, and it soon flowed red with the shark's blood.

The unusually exciting fight was short. The shark was completely defenceless against the rapid, furious attacks of the sea lion, and there was no possibility of resistance - the sea lion didn't leave any time for that. The shark was simply murdered. Soon the water was still again, and the bloody mangled body of that hated thief of the seas floated on the surface. The sea lion had finished off his enemy with unbelievable speed. And these are by no means toy sharks that threaten the coasts of New Zealand.

While we were still uncertain about the result of the duel, it was already over, and before we knew it, the sea lion shot like a meteor under the ship and set out after the second shark - so indescribably fast that the victim didn't even get a hundred metres away. The sea lion des-

patched this shark as quickly and as thoroughly as he had its companion. Scarcely two minutes later, two mutilated corpses floated on the water's surface. The sea lion swam away as cool as a cucumber, clearly not the least bit tired. On his way he even grabbed the piece of salt pork out of the basket that was hanging overboard. The creature was completely unruffled. Later we again saw triangular black shark fins in the distance - and apparently the sea lion saw them too. Just after our sighting, the water in the place where the fins disappeared was set violently in motion, and soon the stream ferried along towards the ocean the bodies of three mutilated sharks, accompanied by swarms of skuas."

This account, and a hundred others, are told in the book *Storms, Ice and Whales: The Antarctic Adventures of a Dutch Artist on a Norwegian Whaler*. by Willem van der Does (1934), translated by Ruth van Baak Griffioen (2003).

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan / Cambridge, UK. The book is listed by Amazon.

Only a few days after the Campbell Island visit, the SIR JAMES CLARK ROSS called at Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island. Ninety years later in 2014, we will be celebrating this first arrival. We will also be sharing the stories and showing the record of the following years of Norwegian presence and association with the Stewart Island community.

Mark the weekend now on next year's calendar: 4-6 April 2014.

STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We have been particularly fortunate in the past few weeks to be the recipient of donated books from the quiz night, Friends of the Library and generous readers.

Amongst the new books gracing our shelves you can find the following:-

Jodi Picoult's latest "The Story Teller" - a twisted tale with a holocaust theme.

"Dressed to Kill" an account of a female Apache Pilot in Afghanistan.

"River Cottage Veggie Everyday" to tempt the tastebuds

Kevin McCloud (of Grand Design fame) latest offering

The "Inn BoonsBoro" trilogy for Nora Roberts fans

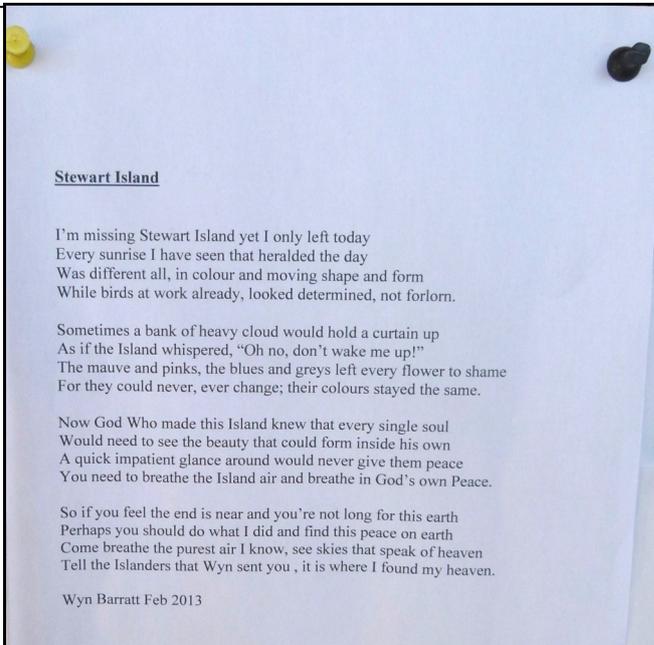
For younger readers we have stocked up on well known classics like "Charlotte's Web", Margaret Mahy picture books and a wonderful boxed set of many of Roald Dahl's best loved works.

We have "What shall we do today?" which contains 60 craft projects for children. Also the "50 Shades of Grey" trilogy which could entertain the more mature reader.

Remember, any book you would particularly like can be requested from other libraries on your behalf. There is a charge of \$2 per book if it comes from another SDC library or \$5 per book if it's from further afield.

Happy Reading!

You won't find just fliers and advertising pinned to our local noticeboard. Mittens, dive boots, cryptic notes on muttonbird leaves, grievances, party invites... and, sometimes, poetry. This was pinned up last month by one of our visitors (Thanks to Sam Jenkinson for pointing it out to me).



Southland Swimming Sports Results:

Top three - place getter ribbons:
Storm LeQuesne freestyle **2nd**
4 x 25m Medley relay: George Conner (backstroke), Angus Kenny (breaststroke), Storm LeQuesne (butterfly), Billy Check (freestyle) **3rd**

Top eight - finalists ribbons:
Billy Check 50m freestyle **6th**
George Conner 50m freestyle **7th**
Storm LeQuesne backstroke **5th**
Tommy Dobbins backstroke **6th**
George Conner backstroke **7th**
Angus Kenny breaststroke **4th**
4x 25m freestyle relay: George Conner, Angus Kenny, Billy Check, Storm LeQuesne **6th**

Also a few weeks ago were Southland Athletics
Billy Check 800m **1st**
Timu Moxham shot put **3rd**

The *Stewart Island News* wants to hear from YOU.
Send your letters to PO Box 156 or to editor@stewart-island-news.com

shark porn: chilling cinematic moments when hungry sharks chomp on underwater aluminium cages, filled with divers, during TV news stories and so-called documentaries —*urban dictionary*

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem

The Rakiura Museum Easter Photograph Exhibition was a big success with many people turning out to see the old photographs and bringing back many memories for Stewart Islanders and visitors alike. Thank you so much for the communities support. There are still some photographs left @ \$10 each and photographs can still be ordered on cd at \$15 an image. Plan now to attend our next celebration on 4, 5 & 6 April 2014 to celebrate 90 years since the ship, "Sir James Clark Ross" came into Paterson Inlet. This will cover the people, buildings, and boats associated with our Norwegian whaling base and the Ross Sea whalers.

We recently received a request from a gentleman who's taken on a large project. He states, "The Onward Project needs your help! As part of the WWI commemorations, the Onward project aims to publish a photograph of every man and woman that served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force during the First World War. Doubtless, this is a monumental task, but with input from the community and in particular museums, historical societies and the likes, we believe that the goal is achievable. The first volume has been published and includes approximately 4,100 portraits, and work is now well underway on Volume 2. The end goal is to have the finished project available to all as an ever-lasting legacy to those that served from New Zealand." **We at the museum would like to ask for all to go through photographs and see if you have any of family or friends that served in WWI and bring them in for us to scan and send to this project. We will also keep copies on file for the museum archives. It's preferred to have them in uniform but if not the person in civilian clothes**



Unknown soldiers Can anyone put a name to the two soldiers in the photos? No names were on the back when given.

is OK too. If you have what service they were in and their service number that would help too.

Genealogical enquires: Two interesting family enquires came in. One from a family Niven (also spelt Neven) who we found out was related to Kelly of Invercargill. The other one is a large family starting with Tomuri and going on to include Smith, McKenzie, Robinson, Fraser. Goodwillie and Niven. We received an extensive family tree from this person that will help with future enquires.

Acquisitions included a cd of "150 Years of New Zealand Shipbuilding 1795-1945". This is a cd of a book covering over 800 pages of information and tables. We have two copies of the cd for sale @ \$20 each. A lovely donation of records of building work done to Halfmoon Bay School from the years 1900 – 1972 with plans and details also came in. Thanks to our donors.

School parties is something else the museum caters for and we are fortunate to have Lee Wadds and Margaret Hopkins on our team who give a great little talk to visiting school parties. Strath Taieri, Queenstown and Mossburn are some that have been through recently. It's good to start them young on how important it is to preserve our precious history. We also had a visit from some of our own Halfmoon Bay School children looking for information on an Anzac project they are doing.

For more in-depth information join Friends of Rakiura Museum with twice yearly newsletters. Just email us at stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz or 03 2191-221

Shop Talk
by Jules Retberg

It's a funny old world

The Ship to Shore is a pretty sociable place I think most would agree. None of us would work there if we didn't enjoy being with people, but some days we hear the funniest things. Here's a light-hearted look back at this season's highlights:

Customer: *Is this all the postcards you have?*
Reply: *Yes.*
Customer: *Are they all \$5?*
Reply: *No, the postcards are \$1 each.*
Customer: *So a postcard costs \$1. Do I need to buy a stamp for it?*
Reply: *If you want to mail it to someone, yes!*

A customer is walking around the shop carrying a half dozen box of eggs in each hand.
Customer: *Are these all the free range eggs you have?*
Reply: *Yes.*
Customer: *Do you think that's good enough?*
Reply: *Er, yes. Why would that not be good enough?*
Customer: *I want a dozen. In one box. Not two boxes.*

A customer is standing outside the shop, studying the opening hours sign.
Customer: *The sign says you're open Monday to Sunday. Why don't you open on Saturdays?*

Customer: *The coffee machine is broken*
Reply: *What's the problem?*
Customer: *I pressed long black coffee and this came out (holds a cup of black coffee)*

Reply: *What's the problem?*
Customer: *Where is the milk?*
Reply: *You pressed long BLACK coffee ...*

Finding an ATM on Stewart Island has been a surprise for many people. As with all ATMs that are not operated by a bank, a small fee is debited from your account if you withdraw cash. One customer began rooting around in her bag, plucked out a \$2 coin and called out, "Where's the slot to put my two dollars in??".

Honourable mentions must go to questions we simply just don't know how to answer!
Are we on an island?
What's in the sausage rolls?
Do you live here?

*Finally, Jess mentioned that this edition of the SIN would be 'shark themed' so although this wasn't strictly heard IN the shop, I was walking back to the shop after my lunch break. It was one of those situations where a group of people are walking **in the road**, I was walking on the pavement, and I couldn't help but listen to their conversation as I attempted my over-taking manoeuvre.*

Man: *Please come swimming, I promise you won't get eaten by sharks.*
Girl: *No!*
Man: *You have more chance of being run over by a car in Queenstown than you have of being eaten by a shark on Stewart Island.*
Girl: *No!*
Man: *In fact, you have more chance of being run over by a car on Stewart Island than you have of being eaten by a shark.*
Me: *If you continue to walk **in** the road then you WILL get run over by a car on Stewart Island.*

STEWART ISLAND SCHEDULES

SHOP

7.30am—6.30pm

FLIGHTS

(as of 1st May, until 1st Oct)

SI to INV: 9am, 1pm & 4pm

INV to SI: 9.30am, 1.30pm & 4.30 pm

LIBRARY

Mon 12.30-1.30

Wed 2.30 – 3.30

Fri 12.30 – 1.30

Sat 11 – 12

FERRY

(as of 1st May)

08.00am Halfmoon Bay to Bluff

09.30am Bluff to Halfmoon Bay

15.30pm Halfmoon Bay – Bluff

17.00pm Bluff to Halfmoon Bay

During June – July – August the following change to the afternoon service will take place:

15.00pm Halfmoon Bay to Bluff

16.30pm Bluff to Halfmoon Bay

Congratulations

Parents
Simone and Tim
Welcome
Ryan Stewart Dawson



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STEWART ISLAND WELCOME SIGNAGE

Stewart Island Promotions are investigating the placing of 'Welcome' signs at the 3 main entry points, [Halfmoon Bay Wharf, Golden Bay Wharf and the road to the airstrip], for tourists and visitors to the island. We are interested in gathering ideas as to what form such a sign could take before proceeding further with this project. If you wish to contribute your thoughts on possible designs please contact Kirsten at the Council Offices.

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Anzac Day Commemorations



Poppy Day Friday 19th April
Poppies will be available outside Ship to Shore

Anzac Day Thursday 25th April
0700 hrs

Parade will assemble outside shop

0715hrs

Parade to the memorial & ceremony

After the parade everyone is welcome to adjourn to the RSA pavilion in Ayr St for refreshments, tea coffee & Rum toddies. Any members of the public are welcome to make and lay a wreath.

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.

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

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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This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 bach owners, former residents, and other subscribers around the country and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too. So tell all of those people about your business! Contact editor for rates. editor@stewart-island-news.com