

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

August—September 2012

\$2.00

Rest in Peace Hurricane Johnny. The man fished these waters for seven decades. The Island respectfully takes its cap off to legend John Leask. Condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed. *Obituary in the next issue.*

The Olympics have come to an end. With recent ugliness on the Island, it's been a tonic to tune into Usain Bolt smoking the track, and a particular joy watching the Kiwis rake in the medals. See "Shop Talk" p15. The Island has some connections to the Olympic games. Former salmon farmer Evan France was a rowing coach to gold medallist Nathan Cohen. *Casteaux* crew Kent's partner Casey made it close to the basketball finals. And former barmaid Lucy Gibson performed with Japanese drumming group *Taiko Meantime* at the men's Olympic marathon in London.

Speaking of giant drumsticks, the museum has an exciting new acquisition: a moa bone! Read all about it on page 2.

Greymouth Petroleum say they have approximately 14 more days of drilling. They are also rebuilding the causeway at the Hamilton end of Horseshoe (p13). It will be a boon for the Island and necessary for them as they need to get their gear back onto the barge. GP continues to state they are not interested in the Wohler's site.



Easterlies brought mounds of fertilizer to our beaches, and locals have been loading seaweed into wagons to feed their dirt and get amongst their gardens. There's been dirt slinging of a



Collection of Rakiura Museum

The end of this moa bone shows evidence of having been cooked.

nastier kind on-line. See article below if you have a stomach for any more oil-related rants. Otherwise, skip it, and steer clear of pages 8-11.

In other news, Gareth Morgan has declared war on pussycats and boy this has got people going. Donna and Gareth's cafe is a finalist in NZ Cafe of the Year, congrats! A local shark cave diving company has gone into receivership. Barnard the kakapo died on Codfish Island.

For a lovely Island romance grab a copy of this month's *Seafood Magazine* and read the story about Bid and Ernie.

In other parts of the globe human beings have run faster and jumped higher and thrown farther than ever before. In parts of the Martian globe an adorable robot named Curiosity is making tracks in strange red dust. In *this wee corner of the Earth* the sun is shining between easterlies and the tide is low. It's time to make tracks on golden sand with two baby boys who are fortunate enough to call this gorgeous island their home. —*Jess*

The drillers will leave soon. Will they leave a mess? They have been tidily sweeping up after themselves, complying with consent. Nevertheless, a can of worms has been opened and those worms are squirming through the Internet, replicating themselves virally as meaner scarier worms. Not sounding very *Celebrating Rakiura*? Sorry. I've read too much crazy stuff on-line and it's gotten to me.

Lots of people are upset. This is such a small place that people are upset because other people are upset. Over fifty locals signed the petition against drilling which isn't many in the grand scheme of things but we are a population of 400, so fifty is significant.

The on-line running dialogue about the drill has become toxic. Is this Island only populated by fat greedy uneducated rednecks and virtuous off-the-gridders? Firstly, NOBODY here lives truly off the grid. And some of the sharpest funniest people I've met left school in their teens. Some of the more tedious people have fancy degrees. Anyone

who chooses to live here does it because they love this place. Some residents are hitting raw nerves proclaiming they truly care about the Island while others here do not. It's gotten on my nerves, as I've predicated my life on a love and respect for this extraordinary Island and people who live here.

What does Occupy Dunedin have to do with the price of fish? I received this email from a bemused resident recently, after I mentioned that an Occupy Dunedin Facebook community page has posted the July issue of *SIN* on its site referring to it as "Propaganda". (This newsletter has been called *SIN*, the wee

rag, and rubbish, but *propaganda* is a first.) What do Allan Hubbard, aliens, the "depopulation project", earthquakes, the oil industry, the Olympic logo spelt backward, and the US War Machine, have to do with Stewart Island? Don your tinfoil cap, set aside nine hours, and surf the Internet.

What *does* Occupy Dunedin have to do with the price of fish? See page 10. (All of this nonsense, by the way, undermines the very sincere concerns and fears that residents have about oil drilling. Sorry for giving it any ink but I feel compelled to hit back when *SIN* and its contributors are slandered.)



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On Thursday the 26th of July 2012 at 3.00 pm a delegation of representatives of the four Southland runanga and the Department of Conservation arrived at Rakiura Museum to present the museum with a moa bone.

The moa bone was found at Doughboy Bay by a Department of Conservation worker Colin Bishop, on holiday in 2009. From photographs, Russell Beck (former director of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery) identified the bone as being the femur of one of the larger Moa species and it is thought to be around 600-700 years old.

The bone was retrieved by DOC staff and brought back to Invercargill. On closer examination it became evident that the Moa femur had been cooked. As this species of Moa is not thought to have lived on the Island, it is probable it was taken there either as food or so the bone could be used for other purposes. It is an important find, so far away from the mainland, and gives an insight into the lives of early Maori in Southern New Zealand.

Kaitiaki Roopu were informed of the find at a meeting and asked for advice on what to do with the bone. A decision was taken by them to return the bone to the Island, to be gifted to the Rakiura Museum. Jo Massey, Roving Museums Officer for the Southland area, prepared a customised box for it to ensure its safe transport and storage.

When the group arrived Rewi Anglem carried the bone and Michael Skerrett spoke. He was then supported by a waiata before Phil Smith, iwi representative and Rakiura Heritage Trust member spoke and the bone passed from the delegation to the home people.



From left Phil Smith, Bev Cowie and Pete McClelland (Acting Southern Islands Area Manager, usually Biodiversity Programme Manager, Off Shore Islands, Department of Conservation).

DESIGN CHALLENGE for RUGRATS *deadline extended*

Rugrats are running a design challenge for an image that can be screen printed onto re-usable fabric shopping bags (with the possibility of other items in the future) as an ongoing fundraising initiative. We are aiming to sell to the tourist market and locals alike and want something that relates to Stewart Island.

The image is to be screen printed in one colour so will need to be simple by strong and in black and white!! You can submit it in any format, eg, computer image, hand drawn image, or painting. We are hoping to release the bags at the Gala Day this Labour Weekend in order to have them ready for this coming summer season.

We invite people to submit designs to us by our extended deadline 20th August (we only received one submission by the previous deadline) to either our email: rakiurarugrats@xtra.co.nz or drop it into our Post Box No. 37.

If the final design is chosen from those submitted, a significant prize (watch this space) will be awarded to the winning designer. Note: by entering this challenge you waive all rights to the design, including any reproduction in any format for the purposes of marketing and promotion.

Over the past decade, several occasions arose when I required the services of a JP, and each time I called upon my neighbour
Margaret Rooney.

Margaret has always been readily available, helpful, kind, diligent, and thorough.

I am certain I speak for a multitude when I thank Margaret for her many years of service to this community.

RETIRING.

I wish to let the Community know that I am retiring in my role as a Justice of the Peace, so am no longer available for these duties.

The reasons for retiring are that I am finding it harder to get to training days and keeping up with new issues and technology. I believe it is most important in this time of considerable change and new technology to be up to date in order to serve the community well as a JP.

I have felt very privileged to be able to serve the Stewart Island community in this role for the last fifteen years but feel it is time for a younger person to take on this position.

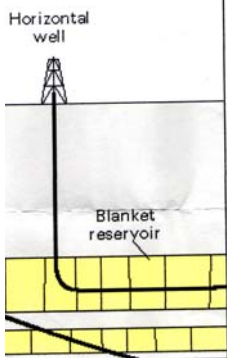
I thank everyone for their support.

Margaret E. Rooney

Greymouth Petroleum visit HMB School

by Sophie Conner

Rob and Lara from Greymouth Petroleum were the first to visit the school. They showed the year 3-8 students photos of the equipment travelling from Taranaki to the Island. They also explained about how far and where they are planning



We also met Jules, the Environment Safety Manger, she monitors the safety of the work area and drillers. She also talked about her overseas work experi-

ence. She's been to Kazakhstan, Qatar and various other places.

The students were lucky enough to go onsite and go on the rig. We were allowed to see the granite rock that comes out of the hole. The rock goes through a shake table to get the mud out of it, the mud is then recycled and used to keep the drill hole stable. The hole at the top of

the well is big as tea cup saucer. The drill goes down and then on an angle out under the sea into the Great Southern Basin, they say it will go down and out approximately 1.6km. The well is an exploration well to see if there is any oil, gas or minerals in the area.

It was sooooo much fun, we learnt a lot about the process and what the drillers do all

A recent Community Board meeting ended up in the pages of the *Southland Times* when resident Mark McPherson submit a petition against drilling and then spoke out against the Board, and called for Chairman Jon Spraggon to resign.

This news item surprised people who have never heard of Mr. McPherson. He lives here. Or that we have a community board chaired by Mr. Spraggon. We do! These people have been elected to represent us. This is not an apathetic community, evidenced by lively debates over coffees and pints, and heated cyber-stoushes on-line. Talking amongst yourselves is fine; but then it would be constructive to talk to your local representatives. They are only human and they cannot read your mind.

Do you know who your Community Board Members are? Your Council representative? If you have a worry about an issue on the Island, TALK TO THEM. They are approachable, they are hoping and expecting you to tell them what you think. Only a handful of people in the community approached any of them regarding Greymouth Petroleum. Yet over fifty local people signed the petition against the drill.

“We’re the sounding board for the community for the bigger issues,” said Karen Bowman. “People should give us a ring or approach us on the street... It would be nice to get more feedback. I realize people talk amongst themselves, but I don’t think enough people know they can pass their comments on to me.”

“I’m happy to be talked to/at by anyone,” said Brent Beaven. “I certainly talk to quite a few people about community board issues all of the time.”

“No I’m not resigning and yes I’d love to hear from community members for or

against what the board is doing,” said Jon.

And here are a few words from your councillor Bruce Ford: “Often when members of the community require information, the first stop should be the SDC local office. Kirsten would usually know where to find the answers as most of the paperwork goes past her eyes/keyboard. Planning and consents are handled by appropriately trained staff, and often they have deadlines to process within. For example, consents must usually be progressed within 20 days, and so on. Again, Kirsten might be the first port of call to advise on the appropriate department to apply to.

However, for general information purposes, there are a lot of emails, reports and other correspondence that come direct – to me, to Chairman Spraggon and other members of the Board. Often these are informational, occasionally they require responses. Due to sometimes having many different processes and proposals going on at Council – though of course we all have to go to work as well! – it is useful if folks speak to us direct if they have any concerns. If we don’t know the answer, we usually know who will have the information. There is a lot of information out there – the “First Edition” for instance, delivered to all mailboxes, and the Council website is regularly updated and full of useful info. Council also has the 0800 732 732 phone number for anyone in Southland to speak direct to Council staff.

Otherwise, I am aware that available information sometimes misses the people it is aimed at, which is why I try to be available “any time”, so am happy to receive phone calls or to be stopped on the street (as long as I’m not working on someone’s time sheet!). Like me, I am sure the Board members – as elected representatives – are equally responsive as they have the best interests of individuals in the community at heart.”

COMMUNITY BOARD
Jon Spraggon (Chairman)
Karen Bowman
Brent Beaven
Aaron Conner aka Squirt
Barry Rhodes
Jarrod Baird
SDC Rep: Bruce Ford.

Councillor's Report

Busy times! Progress is ongoing to enable a sustainable and price acceptable energy supply for our community. Since the February Workshop at the Community Centre, the topics presented have been evaluated and reduced to three possibilities: hydro, wind and solar p.v. (photo-voltaic). There is a considerable amount of further work to progress the measurement of streams in the North Arm hydro prospect, and that is currently in action. Quite a lot of results are on hand with regard to the wind possibilities, and the solar p.v. panels that were installed at the Post Office and DoC should reveal the likelihood of that possibility and respective \$ values.

I recently wrote to Energy Minister Heatley, and he has replied with an encouraging response, offering to help where possible. All Community Board members and myself are briefed and involved in this project. Please keep in touch with us - it's much easier to speak one-on-one regarding progress.

Also taking up some time on the Jetties Committee is the ongoing planning and preparation to refurbish the Port William Wharf this summer, and this is now well-advanced. Paperwork is always a major part of these projects, but with the success of Little Glory and Fred's Camp wharf re-builds, I am confident that we are on the right track with Port William.

Now that everyone has this year's rate notices, you will have noticed the reduction in sewerage charge. This is now the same charge over the whole Southland District. For those on lower incomes, don't hesitate to collect your rates rebate form from the SDC Office. You may be surprised regarding eligibility, and rebates are funded from central Government.

All Southland – including Stewart Island – is included in a Government-directed Representation Review. This Review happens every 6 years. Due to some population variances the current Council areas may require adjusted boundaries. The amount of Councillor work won't change so it seems to me that the Local Government Commission appears to be

hell-bent on change for the sake of change, especially as the current system seems to be working well and a new system would be bound to take time to settle. However, Stewart Island submissions were well-received. Thanks to all who filled in the review submission. Due to our status of being "a community of interest in isolation", both Community Board and Ward Representation are likely to continue as at present on the Island.

This is only a sample of the on-going work taking up our time and energy at the moment, so don't hesitate to keep asking us for those one-on-one updates. It's part of our Community Board job.

Bruce Ford

The Bonns at Deadman's Beach share this with us:

Readers may be amused by the following extract from a report on Stewart Island which was published in the *Southland Times* on 18 January 1867:

"I cannot close this report without calling the attention of the Government to the utter state of lawlessness which prevails on the Island. Few in number as are the inhabitants, a system of plunder has been established, not merely on any goods which may be landed from wrecked vessels, and which seem to be considered a lawful prize, but on one another. No one can leave his house unprotected for two or three days without being robbed. I heard of an instance where a three hours' absence sufficed. A single constable would have the immediate effect of putting a stop to the practice I have endeavoured to expose. His presence would evidence that the attention of the Government has been directed to the malpractices which had been carried on, and prove its determination to prevent their continuences. Port William would be the best place at which to station him, as that port is most frequented by vessels in distress, the cargoes of which have to be landed for safety, though at present such a proceeding would ensure their being pilfered. The system of plunder has been carried on in so barefaced a manner, with such impunity, and for such a length of time that one is almost tempted to the conclusion that the inhabitants from immunity have been led to believe that to plunder is the normal condition of man, and that "Those shall take who have the power, and those shall keep who can," is the principle enunciated by the local Government to which the few honest settlers on the Island would naturally look for protection.

Walter H. Pearson, Commissioner of Crown Lands
Crown Lands Office, Invercargill, Southland, Dec 26, 1866

Stewart Island Try-a-Thon

Thank you for all the wonderful feedback for this community weekend planned to learn new skills, listen to guest speakers and try your hands at different projects! We're currently working on the programme with support from the Southland Community Education Programme, so there will be something of interest to cater for everyone.

Be sure you keep the weekend of the **21st-23rd September** free so you can participate.

We're endeavouring to keep costs down so that this won't be a barrier to participation. Registration forms will be available early next week and distributed through a post office box drop but will also be available from the Post Office and the Community noticeboard - please be sure to complete these quickly and return them by the due date as we will need a good idea of numbers in advance to ensure we can cater for all activities.

Like to know more? Please contact either Sharon Pasco 2191009hm, 2190004 wk, email pascoclan@xtra.co.nz or email Alison Broad alsion@ihug.co.nz

A novel on shelf at the Library is *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen. This is one of the most thought-provoking, well-written, and entertaining books I've read in ages, and among other highly readable topics such as sex, love, family, drugs and rock'n'roll, this book tackles the very topical issues of CAT CONTROL and FRACKING. Check it out!

The newest eatery on Stewart Island

It's not a very flash place, but it has most of the comforts of home. A small portacabin is now one of the busiest places to eat on Stewart Island thanks to Greymouth Petroleum and the Island's newest Top Chefs, Rose and Vicki.

The day starts about 6.15 am when the wee white ute pulls up in the Bay and off on their merry way to Horseshoe they go. Next stop, in to see Dean in the little white van to blow on his instrument!!! Every worker onsite is required to be breathtested, anything over 100 won't do! After a wee bit of trial and error, alcohol consumption from the night before has been calculated, and with the addition of many pints of water there's (usually!) no problem blowing a zero. Although bladders are now currently three times the size as before.

The place is usually spick and span as the night boys do the washing up and clean the kitchen after their dinner, Stewart Island boys take note!

As the drill crew works midnight to midday and others start their day at 7am, there are a few tired faces and a few amped faces eagerly queuing up for brekkie. They get a selection of cereals, home made yougurt, a fruit bowl and the full English if they want it. There's a fridge full of sandwiches for some people, as 7am is actually lunchtime!

Then, after a well deserved coffee and cigarette break (to kick-start the mind you understand!) the meal planning of the next few days goes on. This is never set in stone as the drill crew quite often go out fishing with one of the locals and other local workers drop off salmon, mussels etc and the fridge may well contain a small fishy surprise!

Lunchtime comes around, with one crew coming in to start (also requiring breakfast) and one crew leaving. there's nor-

mally a big hearty soup in the crockpot and some delicious nibbly things for the boys to munch on. They seem overly fond of Southland cheese rolls; perhaps they've been converted!

Main meals are plated up and left for the night shift to microwave when they get a break/feel hungry/have time! As the rig is constantly going, there are no set times for meals, so you could find someone tucking into a lovely plate of silverside at 3am!

A big thumbs up to all the lovely locals who have contributed some most excellent baking! Marble cake, chocolate pud, ginger crunch, choc chip cookies have all turned up, and let me tell you, the speed at which they disappear means they are surely appreciated!

And on to the next day! It's a blast working around there, the boys are great; carrying the groceries and generally being helpful! They seem to appreciate the good home-cooking offered to them, although we think that secretly a couple of them wish for a McDonalds now and again; what you get used to, we suppose!

The ladies are in residence most mornings, unless they have to visit Ship to Shore for the fifth time that day, and you're more than welcome to pop in and say hello. The boys are always happy to take anyone on a tour around the site, just let them know and you can see the wonders at work. Just bring your gummies, earplugs aren't necessary, the good old generators that powered Stewart Island for many years were noisier! But a plate of scones wouldn't go amiss either.

PS Bookings for Islanders wishing to dine in this establishment are not currently being taken, although we are offering a meals on wheels service to some of our Stewart Island residents!

Love Vicki & Rose

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford "Losing You" by Nicci French

I seem to have read a lot of books recently that are one word plus "The" – e.g. "The Innocent", "The Accused". This month I've read "The Visitor" (Lee Childs) and "The Accident" (Linwood Barclay). "The Visitor" is vintage Childs and features the enigmatic Jack Reacher – he of the commitment phobia. This is Jack Reacher at his best – thinks that FBI profiling is hum-bug, and he can profile just as well by using common-sense and practicality. And then proceeds to prove his point in an ingenious way following a bizarre serial killer whilst trying to keep his own head above water. He succeeds, of course, but the unfolding of the thriller has to be in the 'ripping good yarn' class. However, "The Accident" – also a page-turner – is more topical. It involves builder Glen Barber during the most recent recession. An anxious and worrisome time is put into stark perspective when his sensible, pragmatic wife seemingly leaves her bookkeeping class, uncharacteristically gets blind drunk, then unbelievably gets into her car and drives off. She not only kills herself but members of a family in the car that crashes into her. This is a fairly straight-forward thriller – you think?

Think again. There's a twist round every corner. Most enjoyable.

But not as enjoyable as Nicci French's "Losing You". It's Nina Landry's 40th birthday, just before Christmas, and she and her two kids and new love interest are about to jet off from Heathrow to spend a holiday in the Florida sun. But amongst all the chaos of last minute packing and errands, things go unexpectedly wrong, beginning with an odd rattle in the car engine, then the disappearance of daughter, 15-year old Charlie. Were it not for the tension which French injects into the storytelling, the early events would be quite farcical, involving a surprise 40th birthday morning party, arranged by Charlie. This is attended by a drunken neighbour, an ex-fling and his family, the vicar and a crowd of unknown teenagers. How is Nina going to pack and get on the road to the airport, find Charlie, fit in the dog-sitting cousin with a migraine and a broken heart, a crazy dog who doesn't like noise, a maudlin-drunk ex-husband, plus a technology-mad 11-year old son who is busy filming everything on a new camcorder?

The farce element is soon overtaken by real fear. Nina is living every parent's worst

nightmare – a missing teenage daughter, and the worst of it is, the police – who do their duty - are rather more convinced this is just one more teenage runaway story. Nina knows better. The story is gripping, the red-herrings sufficiently bountiful to make you wonder about some of the friends and neighbours – and what Nina uncovers about Charlie's friends are the recognisable stuff of most families with growing youngsters in the home – that there's a lot more going on in the lives of our children than we know! Frantic because the police are moving so slowly, driven by her intimate knowledge of her daughter (plus the newfound knowledge that Charlie has a life of which Nina knows nothing!), Nina sets out to find Charlie herself. Instead, she uncovers a grisly secret and a web of horrific lies. The twelve traumatic and increasingly terrifying hours in Nina's life keeps you reading when you should be ironing or sleeping, and the ending is suitably climactic. Certainly my pick for the month and recommended for lovers of thrillers. It's a hard act to follow and so I'm breaking the pattern at the moment by reading Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford" – for the millionth time – as a way to wind down from such expertly applied tension.

Stewart Island Wharf rules review.

Congestion and problems at the Wharf caused by bottle neck and the small work area.

History:

2008. As a result of ongoing problems causing disruption at the wharf. A meeting between Stewart Island experience, Council, South Port, Island Transport, Helen Cave and Police was held to discuss the key problems and responsibilities. The lack of rules for wharf users was discussed.

A set of **12 simple rules** for Wharf users was made up and has been in place and used since 2008. Some of the rules are enforceable others are to make the wharf area work better.

The rules are reviewed at the end of August each year to consider improvements. The rules are placed in the SIN inviting the community to offer practical suggestions to improve.

With the increase in both passenger and freight traffic on the wharf the rules have made the wharf more **user** friendly.

The Wharf Issues are:

- i. **Parking Elgin Terrace (wharf road):**
Legal Authority for enforcement. Police and Council

Loading Zone (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) 30 minute parking limit.
Problems: Exceeding 30 minutes. Ties up parking spaces at peak times unnecessarily.
Parking on no parking lines and footpath.
Problems: Narrows road for cars, impedes foot path diverting foot traffic onto road.
Parking in turn around area by Wharf.
Problems: Impedes traffic, passenger and freight flow on and off wharf.
Rules to improve: 1. 2. 3. and 4
- ii. **Parking Wharf:**
Legal Authority is South Port. (Jon SPRAGGON)
Parking On Wharf.
Problem: Impedes traffic, pedestrian and freight flow on and off the wharf.
Note: Fish factory has 1 x car park on wharf in front of factory. There is one park for vehicle picking up luggage from bins. (in front of packing crates)
Rule to improve: 5. and 6.
- iii. **Passenger/Pedestrian flow on and off wharf:**
Legal authority is South port:
Problem: Passengers/pedestrians not following the clearly marked path from the foot path to behind the metal rail barriers and to the Wharf office when moving on and off the wharf. Risk of pedestrians being hit by Fork-lift, vehicles, bins on the Work area of the wharf.
Rule to improve: 7.
- iv. **Bulk Freight movement on and off Wharf.**
Legal authority: South Port.
Problems:
Bulk freight left on Wharf for long periods of time.
Bulk freight dropped off on wharf without pre booking or arrangement.
Bulk Freight being dropped off or picked up at Ferry/Freight boat loading and unloading times.
Rules to improve: 8. and 9.
- v. **Passenger Luggage**
Responsibility: Stewart island Experience
Problems:
Congestion at bins when uplifting luggage or large amounts of personal gear.
Pedestrians walking on work area of Wharf to place luggage in Bins.
Vehicles driving onto work area of Wharf at peak times to unload/uplift luggage. (running late)
Rules to improve: 10. 11. and 12

The Wharf Rules: (To make the Wharf more user friendly)

1. Police **will enforce** loading zone time limit, No parking lines and parking on footpath.
2. Park Vehicles in 30 minute loading zone with vehicle facing away from wharf. (Stop bottle neck at turn around area)
3. Park inside broken parking lines where possible.
4. No parking in turn around area. **'Keep it clear'**.
5. South Port (Jon SPRAGGON) to enforce parking on wharf.
6. No unattended parking on wharf other than in the one approved park on beach side of entrance to wharf, for loading or unloading only .
7. No pedestrian traffic on work area of wharf.
8. All Bulk Freight to be moved off Wharf within 24 hours of arrival.
9. All Bulk Freight to be pre booked before going onto wharf.
Non Perishable bulk freight/freight items to be uplifted/dropped off outside of Ferry/Freight boat arrival departure times.
10. Small amounts personal luggage to be taken to Wharf office via walkway and then placed in bins by office.
11. Drop off bulk amounts of Luggage early.
12. If you have large amounts of luggage personal items wait until the congestion is clear before loading/unloading.

Any new suggestions to improve the way things work at the Wharf give me a call 03 219 0020

Dale Jenkins

Meet the drillers!

A quick snapshot of some of the guys currently working on the Island. *from Vicki Coats*

Andrew Gadsby and Nathan Vile. Andrew is 29 and has worked for Greymouth for a year, Nathan 27 and has worked for them for three months. Formally Andrew was a builder and Nathan a mechanic.



So what's your job title?

Floormen (aka Roughnecks)

And what do you do?

Assist with job operations like mixing the mud, climbing the rig, pipe connections etc

Do you do the washing up?

No, that's for the loosehand, Tom

So why did you take the job with Greymouth?

It was a great job opportunity, it pays well and being on a roster system of two weeks on and two weeks off means you get paid for four weeks, but only have to work two. It's well paid work.

What had you heard about Stewart Island before you came here to work?

Nothing apart from it's cold.

And how have you found the Island? What have you done when you haven't been working?

Beautiful! Not cold at all, it's been really warm. Awesome scenery. We've been fishing, diving and on a few walks hoping to spot a kiwi but we haven't seen one yet. The locals are great, especially our cleaner Tracey at the pub, she's a laugh and has really looked after us.

Would you consider coming to Stewart Island for a holiday when the job is finished?

Love to. Some hunting would be great and it would be nice to drink some piss too, as you can't really when you are on shifts.

Scott Hollins is 32, engaged to Lacey and has a new six week old baby girl Frankie at home.

So how long have you been doing this?

I've been in the industry for about ten years in total; seven with Greymouth and for the last five years I have been working for them as a driller.

Did you have need any qualifications to start in the job?

No, I didn't have any to start off with, but over the years you get heaps of training and certificates. Probably the most important for a driller is the IWCF (Drilling Well Control). You have to re-sit that every two years.

What's the thing you enjoy about your job the most?

Well, the job's just a job, but the money, the time off, the people you work with and the places you get to go to are great.

What's the worst thing about your job?

The weather and standing in one spot all the time, plus being away from your family.

What did you know about Stewart Island before you came?



Muttonbirds. And it is supposed to be cold.

What do you think of the Island?

It's fantastic, the locals are awesome and it's a great place for a change. Back home the Mountain is always in your view so it's nice to have some different scenery.

What have you done while you've been here apart from work?

We took the scooters out around the Island but mostly it's been to do with the ocean; having a swim or fishing with the locals. *Would you consider bringing your family here for a holiday?* Yeah, maybe when Frankie's a bit older though.

Paul Marshall is 63, has been married to Kaz for 22 years and has a son of 18.

So what's your title then?

I'm a Drilling Fluid Consultant, but you can call me a mud engineer.

Which means??

Fluid circulates all the time while you are drilling; it goes up,

comes down and around. It's my job to maintain the physical and chemical properties of the mud, different formations require different fluids. I test the mud and make changes accordingly.

Where in the world has your job taken you?

Beirut, Athens, London, Aberdeen, the Middle East, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, the USA, lots more too.



How long have you worked for Greymouth?

I don't. I'm a self-employed independent consultant; I've been doing this job part-time for over 25 years. It's convenient for me as I can maintain a whoever, whenever, however sort of lifestyle, so if my partner and I wish to do anything, we can.

But you're not part-time at the moment?

No, I'm on-call so I'm always on site. I've taken a few small walks just to get out of the place for a while!

You've been all around the world, what did you know about Stewart Island before you came here?

I didn't even know New Zealand had a third Island.

So what do you think of it?

Absolutely gorgeous, reminds me of an island just offshore from Perth where I live. Stewart Island is welcoming and pleasant and natural, just the sort of place I like to visit. It has all the charm of the people who live here, there's no arse-kissing, just hello, you're here, how are you!

So would you bring Kaz on holiday here?

We have already said if we are ever visiting the South Island we will definitely stop here for a few days. I've been to the South Island before but she never has. In fact, she's threatening to come over at the moment!

LETTERS

☒☒☒

I think it's important for EVERYONE to remember, whether you are for or against the exploration drilling and or drilling in general, that verbally attacking and name calling etc, gets you nowhere but further away from the topic at hand. Finger pointing and name calling are old playground pains and have no use in this discussion, other than to personally upset and hurt those they are aimed at.

Is that what this is all about?? I think not people.

I can see that the exploration drill has generated income for some of the businesses and individuals at a much needed time of the year.

I also understand that we have been told that we (may) benefit if gas is found, meaning cheaper power bills for all.

Knowing this I also can see that what I feel Stewart Island has stood for and also openly advertised as ie. Clean, pristine, untouched beauty, and wild life haven, which (please correct me if I am wrong) is what a lot of the businesses here use as a selling point to visitors.)

IF by chance the exploration drilling happens to find what it is looking for, what then for the businesses that use our untouched land and waters filled with animals and plants as a selling point? What about the mammals and birds that migrate through here every year?

Some people say that it's not worth discussing unless it actually happens.....won't it be far too late by then? It could be a possibility, and so in my opinion, worth some time and thought on everyone's behalf that live here.

I can see the financial gains that could be generated from something big like this. I am not blind, but in my eyes What we could potentially lose if something goes wrong, is just not worth the risk.

To me our beautiful sacred Island, should stay just that, why mess with the real Treasure we already have?

Those that are fortunate enough to be born with two eyes, should never view life through just one.

Lania Davis

☒☒☒

We'd all love to not have an oil well in our back yard, even a tiny wee exploratory one. And thinking that thought makes me feel like an absolute hypocrite. How do we get to the Island ? Well we haven't got sufficient sailing skills to take our little trailer sailer down the South Island & across the straight. Even if we did we'd probably need someone, or several someones, in great big boats to rescue us!!! Instead we drive 9hrs then we take an always interesting, sometimes thrilling, ferry trip. Thank goodness for the motors on those! While we are there we walk most of the places we want to go after Don, in his car, has collected us & our gear from the wharf. We hole up in Watercress Bay (beside a cosy coal & wood fuelled fire) pretending to be hermits & occasionally we wander in to the shop or the pub for sustenance much of which has arrived there by boat. From our windows we watch the various motor boats go back & forth across Paterson Inlet taking commercial & recreational users to & from their destinations. Stewart Island like almost every other place relies on fuel for even the most "green & eco-friendly" businesses (even DOC have a pretty big boat) & that fuel has to come from somewhere.

If there has to be an oil well in the backyard (and no one is suggesting that long term there will be) then at least the history of Greymouth Petroleum gives some comfort. They haven't (as far as I can find out) been implicated in any environmental dirty deeds.

We live most of the time on Banks Peninsula. Last year, because of damage to Lyttleton Port, Akaroa Harbour, without notice, became the main port for cruise ships visiting Canterbury. Some of the locals love it, some hate it & some know full well that love it or hate it their businesses are only surviving here because of it & they adapt. With over 70 ships last year & a predicted 78-81 this season that is a lot of people, a lot of potential for catastrophe & a lot of opportunity heading our way. We can embrace it & make sure it all happens in the best possible way or we can complain & moan & fear the worst. I'm more the glass half full sort & I'd like to think I have both feet on the ground so I prefer to focus on making sure things happen in a good way to provide great outcomes for all involved.

We love it here & we love Stewart Is-

land. We especially appreciate the bird-life, the bushwalks, the sea, the weather, the night skies, the sunrises & sunsets. We are lucky enough to have a foot in two amazingly beautiful places in NZ & we are about as greenie as you'll get without going off grid completely. We also understand that much of what we use on a daily basis has some connection to the oil industry despite our best efforts to minimise that. It's pretty much impossible to get away from it so we just do our best to minimise our reliance on it & to face up to our part in the need for it and that means a pragmatic approach to test drilling on the likes of Stewart Island. I hope by the time the next SIN comes out the fears of the opponents will be laid to rest & that some positive consequences will have manifested for the community.

Sue Lovett

☒☒☒

I would like to congratulate Jess on a wonderful edition of *SIN* last month covering the test drill for gas and oil at Horseshoe Bay. Her interview with Robert Brady, GM for Greymouth Petroleum asked a lot of the questions that people here have been wondering about. It was also good to see a mixture of comments from locals expressing their concerns and opinions about the Horseshoe Bay drilling.

A number of locals will have taken up the invitation to have an on-site tour of the drilling site and learn a little of what is going on. We are lucky to live in a community where people care passionately about our environment and openly express their concerns. While some people might feel disappointed that there wasn't notified consent for the application for the test drill, others felt that our elected representatives and Southland District Council and Environment Southland staff have looked closely at the application and approved it with stringent conditions. Any future application for anything other than the test drill will have to be publicly notified as the implications for the community and environment will be far reaching.

There has been considerable debate on the Island about the pros and cons of oil and gas exploration – some of it healthy debate and some of it very destructive. It is disappointing to see some residents acting as a mouthpiece for radical extremists from organisations like Occupy New Zealand and Occupy Dunedin

whose objections go beyond those of locals worried about the environment. I think it is very unfair that they have labelled Stewart Island News as a 'propaganda piece' for the oil industry and have criticised residents of Horseshoe Bay and others for their lack of concern. Jess did an excellent job of trying to get local comment and factual information about the Horseshoe Bay drilling. It is to be hoped that people stick to the issues when discussing the drilling and respect any opinion other Islanders might have.

Margaret Hopkins

☒☒☒

It appears the topic of drilling is a hot topic that will affect all Stewart Island residents, both new and old. I have put my two cents in from time to time when I felt strongly enough to voice my opinion (note "opinion", not necessarily the view of any others).

I have however taken exception with a number of strongly viewed protestors, not with their point of view on the matter, as I believe in lively debate on such issues we are faced with now, but in the manner they choose to do it.

Personalities aside, this seems a matter to discuss passionately and fiercely as it affects many who have and are coming to love the island we call our home. I say personalities aside because this has the potential to degrade into a war akin to a session in the Taiwanese parliament. Great viewing on TV, but will get us nowhere. Please try to debate the issue, not the person.

Also I do question the validity of petitions when referring to them in general. They are there to gauge a persons response to a carefully worded statement or statements in the manner of either sign if you agree with it or don't if you don't. There is no room for clarification. This can also depend on the persuasiveness of the person carrying the petition, as it demands an immediate response (often driven by emotional factors) without significant time to form an opinion based on the thought process.

Emotion cannot be ignored, but coupled with correct information and thought, can be a very powerful tool.

One last thought, if you deem yourself to be a spokesperson for the masses, be very sure that you actually speak for

them and not because of a petition or a few discussions. The petition is a powerful tool for action, but can only work if those who signed it understand what the driving force behind the petition is and agree with its direction.

I am still undecided on this issue and wary of future ramifications, but would appreciate information, both pro and con, provided in an intelligent and transparent manner. I look forward to more discussions on the matter.

Les Pullen

☒☒☒

What !!! No cats on Stewart Island: yet another outsider with grand plans in store for us Hill Billies. Ever since I've been married I've had a cat and yes like most cats her name is Puss, well actually it's my wife's but over the years I've grown quite attached to it, although not as close as my wife. She, quite naturally, was distraught to read she was going to be put down and is frantic with worry and is just as distraught at the suggestion she be "grandfathered" out. As she pointed out she has always had one since she was little whereas I on the other hand, whilst single, only got a visit from the odd stray now and again.

I have managed to settle her somewhat as I pointed out that fencing off the inhabited areas would take some time, years in fact, and clearing the Island, decades, and that seemed to do the trick as she went to bed with a Valium and is fast asleep with puss curled up beside her but unfortunately, not purring.

My, what a lot of attention our little piece of Paradise is attracting, same paper same day different page. When first this minor controversy about the drill was aired on TV I was a little taken aback by the length of time given to Dr Moore's opinions and views, to which she is entitled, and although I thought her more personal attacks a little over the top, I let it slide. However after this latest assault on our Chairman, Jon Spraggon, by a Mr McPherson I believe (hard to keep track of all these Islanders, more so when they don't appear on our ratepayers list) a response is in order.

I'd like to open by saying that some activists (not meant as a slur but a statement of fact as their activities are defined by the word) have used Facebook to further their crusade for the cause and attack their opponents with half-truths

and character assassination attempts. Instead of being used as a debating tool Facebook is now a war zone with both sides now trying to outdo the other in an insult war.

Being computer illiterate (well almost, as what little knowledge I do possess was taught by my grandchildren being age 6 and 9) my wife keeps me up to date but from what I've seen and heard I find it can be an odious medium as it has no restraints, moral code of conduct, and can be used to attack individuals in a public format without fear of reprisal. Dr Goebbels would have found it an invaluable tool for propaganda. "Tell a lie often enough and people will believe it" (Goebbels).

It's been stated on Facebook that those in favour of the exploratory drill are a "Pub Crowd" who have been defined as "Sheeple/Bullies, a small group of uninformed and uneducated people who have little constructive to say" and also as "Bullies, Bitches and Rednecks".

As for the Pub Crowd I have a passing acquaintance with these undesirables and on my rare visits have found them courteous, friendly and helpful to visitors and locals alike which does not define a Redneck but rather the opposite. As for the uneducated bit I only know of one who can't read or write and who despite this handicap has more knowledge in his little finger than you lot, or I, put together and has put it to good use.

This campaign has been based on half truths, misleading statements, character assassination and scare mongering, this is not a criticism but a statement of fact and a statement of fact cannot be a criticism.

In closing might I offer a compromise, get Lucy Lawless down here, chain her semi-naked to the Derrick for a week and I guarantee you the "Pub Crowd" will sign your petition. Hell, I'll even sign the thing.

Richard (Squizzy) Squires

☒☒☒

Sad indeed to learn that the lovely *Secret* has gone onto the shore — could you give [her owners] special sympathy? —boats are family to us Stewart Islanders.

Sheila Natusch

STEWART ISLAND PROPAGANDA CELEBRATING THE OIL INDUSTRY

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean everybody isn't watching you.

So, this jolly wee newsletter serving a tiny island community is actually a sinister advocate of oil drilling. The so-called *Stewart Island Propaganda* is a cog in the US War Machine. So say the folks of Facebook community pages Occupy New Zealand and Occupy Dunedin (*Is it "folks"* or is it just one hysterical lady sitting at home banging away at her keyboard and maybe not entirely sound of mind?) (Wait, I just described myself) (Conspiracy: the Editor of the *Stewart Island News* IS Occupy New Zealand!!!!)

hey guys ... im a concerned Australian I please youtube HAARP ... its the weapon of mass destruction the US has used on many countries to trigger earthquakes and Tsunamis ... Im afraid that Christchurch was just part of the depopulation experiment (the US has been taken over by Israeli terrorists and the FED has had 9 trillion dollars stolen from it ... scientists are being held against their will to commit crimes against humanity! I am really scared and I can't sleep at night . Please educate yourselves ... peace and love all the way from Australia.

I was gobsmacked when I first saw that *SIN* had been pinned to this group's community Facebook page. Then I started to scroll through it to find out what they were on about, and I was speechless. Then I made a speech, albeit not a very eloquent one. The gist of it was *Yuck!* and *Yikes!*

While I feel compelled to say something about this loony allegation, **in NO WAY do I equate the Occupy message with the Island friends and neighbours who are sincerely worried about the drilling here and have great concern about the future if oil is found here.** Nobody who supports the exploration drill would support an oil refinery here. And I suspect (and hope) that most people opposed to drilling here don't really believe that I and this newsletter are part of an oil advocating conspiracy.

Conspiracy. People have conspiracy theories about the moon landing, the government, the Illuminati, space aliens amongst us, etc.; interesting banter while you're sharing a bowl—I mean a cuppa—with mates. But this brand of cynicism runs deep and can render everything into portents of doom. No news is bad news (a cover-up) Good news is bad news (no moon landing) and bad news is even worse news (the ChCh earthquakes were man-made).

What happens when you turn such a paranoid lens upon this tiny community? I'll tell you what: bad things happen. You look askance at your neighbours. You have a creepy feeling that everyone knows you (because they DO); that everyone knows where you are and what you're doing (because they DO) and that everything and everyone are somehow related to each other here (because WE ARE). You're at the shop, the phone rings in the back office, and suddenly someone tells you that you need lemons. And you DO. All of the other shoppers say hello and know your name, and then you go up to the counter to buy your lemons and the person selling them to you asks after your family by name and they know your account number by heart and they know which lollies you like best. You glance down and see the *Stewart Island News* for sale at the counter and isn't that a coincidence because you're the editor. And the lady behind the counter a columnist. And six of the people currently in the shop contributors. The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has an article in the *SIN* and you realize that YEP spelled backwards is PEY, a stock market acronym for Powershares High Yield Dividends. Those insidious banks and their plots...

SIN is propaganda. Really????! Have people seriously concluded the *SIN* is so sinful? Yes. Some have done this. I'll try to break it down for you, but in order to do that I've had to read numerous pages of Internet conspiracy theories, and also get inside the heads of these people, and if you ever saw *Red Dragon*, the prequel to *Silence of the Lambs*, you know that when you get inside someone's head to resolve a creepy situation BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

Here goes: An investigative team at Occupy New Zealand (or maybe one hysterical lady), combed through issues of this newsletter with a nitpicking paranoid comb, making connections, and cracked the code. *My God*, they concluded, *Everything on the Island is connected to each other!* Ben Hopkins wrote an Oban Globetrotter in March describing

his work on an offshore supply vessel.

Greymouth Petroleum ran an ad in the SAME ISSUE inviting people to a meeting. Coincidence? Not a chance!!! The seasoned conspiracist doesn't buy co-inkydinks. Ben, conspiring with the editor and the oil industry, are pushing their pro-oil drill agenda on the unwitting readers. Nekminit, Greymouth Petroleum barges arrive and set up shop at Horseshoe Bay, the July edition of *SIN* is produced, and wouldn't you know... our old friend Ben of oil industry infamy submits a letter to the editor and of course the editor, colluding with him and the oil industry, prints it!! (Does your head hurt? It's because your brain just got sprained.)

THIS IS CATASTROPHIC: A MESSAGE FROM STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA. HELP NEEDED FROM EVERYWHERE.

Why is the island on this radar at all? Over the past two months, an Island resident, vehemently opposed to Greymouth Petroleum's presence on the Island, has been using social media as a vehicle for his message and SOS. The Facebook sites Occupy Dunedin and Occupy New Zealand are among these forums and, more recently, Forest and Bird's Facebook page. He contends that Stewart Island needs help because its residents are either too busy greedily counting their fortunes, or "held to ransom" by the quarry owner who is one of the main employers on the Island. (The quarry owner, a long-time resident and generous member of our community, has been vilified on these pages. As have anyone else supporting the drill or profiting from their presence which implicates the garage, the flight centre, the shop, a local fisherman, RJ, and numerous other people and businesses here.)

Photos of Horseshoe Bay have gone up on these sites with captions like: "When all the birds and fish are dead, I'll be around to remind everyone about this conversation." (Um, all the birds and fish on the Island are dead and that's your cue to smugly say *I Told You So?* Yuck! Yikes!)

Visitors to these pages from all over the world made comments such as "Hope someone sets fire to it" "the people need to march on the land and tear it down" "F*&%#n as—holes!!! We need something like the French revolution to sort some of those greedy people out" "mongrel bastards" ... you get the idea. Most of the on-line commentators inciting this violence are unknown to Islanders. Ditto the people reading their suggestions. If I went up to you at the Pub and said I was going to throw you off the wharf, you'd laugh. But if Grim did that, you might be wishing you had a wetsuit handy. What about these people wanting to knock down the rig and set fire to it? Who are they? Are they for real? Talk about making a mess at Horseshoe!

Once some Stewart Islanders caught wind of these posts they began to add to the comments, beginning with a frank statement from Vicki correcting some misinformation (i.e. there are no pukeko here). She posted the link to her FB page in one fell swoop bringing dozens of Islanders' attention to it (she has numerous Island-connected FB "friends"). All hell broke loose. It got ugly and personal, vitriolic and really creepy. When Ben attempted to defend his article (a linchpin of their conspiracy theory) the person behind the moniker "Occupy New Zealand" made an attack against Ben particularly close to home, and it became evident that someone has been feeding them information about families here. (Cue the Kinks song *Paranoia Big Destroyer*) Tempers flared. In pages of rages, the Occupy NZ person posted, among dozens of rants, "Shame on you and shame upon your future generations whom you sell out for a fast foreign buck. You all need to have a hard look on the insides and ask yourselves why you are so bereft of intellect that you must resort to the dirtiest, cheapest form of revenue generation

Stewart Island/Rakiura is known as the anchor of NZ, with the south island as the waka and the north island as the fish. The island is so peaceful, it has even had a "no fly" zone for years. Rakiura is the most preserved part of NZ, with no supermarket and the very first ATM arriving VERY recently.

There are many ground dwelling birds such as pukeko and wild kiwi whose survival will be threatened. Patersons Inlet is a sanctuary reserved for porpoise, dolphin and various endangered marine life. This is an assault of the worst kind.

In March 2010, the southland officials were united in their opposition to mining this area. What has changed? Feel free to ask them at this email: email@sdcsouthland.govt.nz

Locals are feeling "held to ransom" because the private land owners who have allowed the drilling are also the main employer on the island so the locals don't feel they can "come out" without risks.

to 'create jobs.' Slavery created jobs too; as did the Nazis—" and "While it's not obvious to all, there are distinct connections to what has gone on in Christchurch and what has gone on in Timaru regarding SCF and the late Allan Hubbard—"

Then the thread *itself* became a conspiracy. Vicki was accused of hiring a GP-paid rent-a-crowd and all Islanders' opinions were purported to be manufactured "average Joes"; then it was removed from their site and re-posted *without* everyone's comments and *another* conspiracy theory explaining that news of a Chevron fire in California so frightened and shamed Islanders that they conspired to remove their own comments from FB. Does your neck hurt? It's because your HEAD IS SPINNING. The on-line skirmishes continue as I type. People on both sides like to have the last word, so the cyber-stoush has been raging for days and could continue for weeks. Call the fire brigade, it's another peat fire!

The conspiracy theorists on the internet do some Olympic acrobatics connecting seemingly innocuous, unrelated objects and spinning them into an ALLCAPS online blueprint for evildoing and Armageddon. These zealots are so doggedly righteous and certain of these ideas that if you point to a science book or news article stating otherwise, they just cackle and crow about how all the science books and media are *in on* the plot, that they are awake to the TRUTH and the rest of us are likened to sleeping babies. (Not nice babies, mind you, but gluttonous disgusting piggy ones who have sold out New Zealand for a quick buck, all to the tune of wailing ancestors and the death-cries of pukeko who have been vibrated to death by the lying oil rats at Horseshoe Bay.) (Yes, pukeko. I know they're not here...the drillers KILLED THEM ALL.)

(Nagging question once I start reading this stuff: Many of the conspiracy theorists believe that the world is ending in the next year or so. I'm not being facetious when I ask: if they *really* believe the end is so nigh, what do they care if someone rocked down here and built a massive refinery and a four story waterfront KFC and served buckets of fried kiwi so we could fill our "fat uneducated redneck" guts?)

Some of these sites pander to fear and paranoia. Misinformation, exaggeration and hysteria are mixed up with bona-fide facts, cherry-picked to suit a story. (This brand of journalism is known as *American*.) Some readers are terrified; others roll their eyes. It's Crying Wolf and it doesn't do anyone any good. A crane fell over in Milford Sound and within minutes the Occupy sites were proclaiming an oil spill in Milford Sound (in a weirdly triumphant way) and a cover-up. Visitors to their site copy the link to all of their friends and the story spreads virally and it's NOT TRUE. (Or is it... says the conspiracy theorist, citing no-fly zones and cover-ups and the ever-evil government and media telling us lies.) Someone posted an on-line message headed "THIS IS CATASTROPHIC... HELP NEEDED FROM EVERYWHERE" claiming "It looks like the oil rats have been scoping out Deep Bay as an entry point to unload their next lot of gear ... I am inspired by Te Whanau Apanui to protect our waterways from these lying deceitful mongrels"

and he is organizing a boat blockade. I asked two people at Greymouth Petroleum if there is truth to this and the answer was "None whatsoever." So are the oil guys telling mince pies? Or is this guy fabricating stories? The mode of telling is so so passionate, has such zealous conviction. But what about the content? Is it TRUE?

As I was reading through these sites, I kept thinking: *their heads would explode in this place*. A paranoid conspiracy lover would have a field day in Halfmoon Bay! It's like someone who gets super excited at the glimpse of a blueberry stumbles over a bank into a blueberry patch. I'm reading about how Ben and I are colluding to promote the oil industry and I'm thinking: *these people are going to have an orgasm when they realizes the full extent of the connections here*. Should I ruin it for them now or let them "find out" through google-snooping, Facebook trolling, and their "sources" on the Island (how paranoid is that?)

Oh, I've got space to kill, I'll tell them: Dear Occupy New Zealand Facebook people: you think it's a conspiracy because I published a letter by a guy connected with the oil industry? You don't know the half of it! Hold onto your hat... The Editor of the Stewart Island Propaganda is *related* to the quarry owner!!! She shops at the *same store* that the drillers shop at! She eats bagels!!!! The Olympics logo spelled backwards is ZION!!! She likes to run and so does Usain Bolt and she cheered for him in her favourite TV show the OLYMPICS!!!! OH MY GOD IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW!!!

How do you make a paranoid person stop being paranoid? How do you convince someone espousing conspiracies about you that those conspiracies are false? I have no idea. This is the first time to my knowledge I've been swept up in such a ludicrous wave of lies. Maybe I just need to feed them a diversion: there's got to be something more sinister than *SIN* for them. I mean, everybody knows the "Garden Circle" is really a front for the Illuminati...

Obviously the paranoia has gotten to me. It's like a nasty bug. I'm worried someone will notice my little boy's lunchbox has cartoon vehicles on it. Will that get reported to the Occupy Thingybob people? Will they say I am part of the entertainment industry's plot to get toddlers hooked on oil-thirsty machines? Or will they just nod and say *Oh, the lunchbox? We already knew about that*.

All silliness aside, the *SIN* is intended for the enjoyment and light enlightenment of Stewart Islanders. Occupy FB pages: if you aim to be a watchdog for social and environmental horrors and an agent of change for the better, you might consider a saner on-line spokesperson. Attacking the *SIN* is absurd, undermines your mission, and does a disservice to your loyal readers. Also, you do not have permission to re-post the *Stewart Island News* on your pages. And you owe me \$2.

Note: I realize that some of our dear readers don't use Facebook and don't know what these on-line groups are or what on earth I'm referring to. Get in touch and I'll give you a run-down. And a free I♥the Oil Industry shopping bag —Jess

Do you know what's REALLY going on?

Take this quiz and find out.

TRUE or FALSE

Jess, Ben, and Greymouth Petroleum are conspiring to advocate oil drilling through these pages. FALSE. I've occasionally chatted with his granny, mum, sister and dad, but I've only had one conversation with Ben, it was about double glazed windows. And I swear to you the Oban Globetrotter is not a front! It's an innocent, genuine column for Stewart Islanders to share their "off-island adventures." (*What Is This World Coming To* moment: Never in a million years did I ever imagine I'd have to put that in writing.) (Yuck! Yikes!)

The administrators of the Occupy Dunedin and Occupy New Zealand FB community pages represent the views of all people opposed to oil drilling on Stewart Island. FALSE.

If a group has a page on the web they must be a well-organized respectable operation. FALSE. Anyone can create a page on Facebook, you could skull a bottle of Drambuie and do it. Call it Occupy Floating Pumice Island and attract 4,000 curious viewers and post whatever you like and generate nutty comments.

If you use diesel in your car and burn coal and enjoy library books transported across the globe and Foveaux Strait by planes and use diesel-fuelled power and all your food has extra fuel miles because you live here, don't feel bad: you can go on-line, proclaim you are here to save Rakiura, refer to your neighbours as greedy pigs and "scumbags", and by virtue of doing that you are morally superior to others *and* you truly care about the Island. FALSE.

Mo's lunchbox is part of a Hollywood plot to get toddlers hooked on oil-thirsty machinery. Actually, that one's probably TRUE.

The drillers found diamonds. MAYBE. (They're not telling.)

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

Responsible Trapping

With possum fur currently fetching \$130 per kilo (about \$10 per possum) now is a great time to earn some pocket money by setting a few traps about the place. However please be aware that any trapping needs to be undertaken responsibly and safely and that you need to have the landowners' permission before commencing trapping. If you intend to trap on Public Conservation Land you will need to pop into the DOC office and get a possum permit. Issuing a permit is a very simple process, it costs nothing and it will ensure that you are aware of all the conditions that legally you must comply with. We can also provide you with handy hints on how to increase your catch rate and as well as information on where the higher densities of possums can be found.

The permits outline some requirements that ensure that the trapping is completed in a manner that minimises the chances of hurting wildlife or people. Firstly traps need to be raised off the ground in areas where ground birds such as kiwi may be present. If traps are raised 70cm, then ground birds don't get caught. Records from around the country show that kiwi are regularly caught in traps that are set on the ground. Kiwi will go up to traps to investigate them when they are set in their territories. This can result in broken bills (and then death), broken toes or broken legs. Even if the kiwi appears unharmed, a night in a trap may have caused its nest to fail. It should be noted that raising traps in ground bird areas is a legal requirement everywhere that you trap – even on private land.

The second permit requirement is to ensure that traps are set away from public tracks. This ensures that anyone walking those tracks with young children won't be exposing them to the risk of putting their hands or feet in a trap or running up to an angry possum sitting in the trap. If you have any questions, feel free to either give Paul or Brent a call at the DOC office.

Self re-setting traps to be trialled at Mason Bay

This month we will begin trialling 80 gas

powered self re-setting possum traps at Mason Bay. These traps, designed and built by Wellington company "Goodnature", are able to re-set immediately after killing a possum. One trap can kill twelve possums before the small CO2 gas canister needs to be replaced. SIRCET have ten of these traps around Halfmoon Bay, and have recorded up to seven kills off one trap. At Mason Bay the traps will go out at one-hundred metre spacing along rat trap lines that are checked and maintained during the bird breeding season by teams from the NZ Deerstalkers Association. The NZDA teams will help us out by ensuring the traps have sufficient lure and



Investigations are currently underway into the prevalence of illegal trapping, following the recent discovery of ground set possum traps alongside a popular walking track. This picture illustrates just how close many of these traps were to the track, making them a potential hazard for curious children and kiwi. DOC staff are keen ensure that trapping is carried out responsibly – please come and talk to us if you are trapping on private land or would like a permit to trap on public conservation land.

carrying out the "body count" during the summer season. Before we deploy the traps we will run a pre-monitor during mid-August to establish possum abundance in the block, and at the end of the summer season we will repeat this monitor to determine how effective the traps have been at reducing possum abundance across the block – watch this space for an update later on in the season.

Deerstalkers to monitor forest birds at Mason Bay

This season trapping teams from the NZDA will also carry out bird monitoring at Mason Bay. As trappers make their way around the rat & possum lines they will record the presence or absence of four species at or around each trap. The species to be monitored are miromiro/tomtit, kakaruai/robin, korimako/bellbird and the red crowned kakariki, chosen because they are the four most likely species at Mason Bay to respond positively to sustained rat control. Over time changes in how frequently trappers encounter these species will tell us if our pest control programme is effective enough to increase forest bird populations at Mason Bay.

Conservation Week 9 – 16 September 2012

A full programme of events has been

planned to mark this year's Conservation Week here on Stewart Island, starting with a Conservation themed quiz as part of the regular Sunday Night Quiz at the South Sea Hotel on the 9th of September. Vicki has promised some curly questions, that won't necessarily favour any DOC staff teams who may be competing for the weekly prize. Details of events will be released nearer to the time, but include: a 'Catch of the Week' and 'Trapping Tales' competition, and Weed ID day, organised in conjunction with SIRCET, as well as a competition to design a new Tee-shirt for Rakiura National Park and a visitor centre presentation on why you should love our park!

Celebration planned

As mentioned in previous issues of SIN, this year marks the 10th anniversary of Rakiura National Park, officially opened on the 9th March 2002, by the Prime Minister of the day, the Rt Hon Helen Clark. A decision to delay a celebration of this milestone was made so the event could coincide with the completion of the Rakiura Track upgrade and also mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Rakiura Great Walk, which opened to the public on the 21st November 1992. An excursion to Port William on Saturday, October 13 is being planned to mark these events. Details are being finalised and will be made public over the coming weeks.

Other items in brief:

- Barberry - The team have finished current work around the township and west up Fern Gully. The next areas to be worked on will be east of the township, toward Ackers Point.
- Monthly rat checks on Ulva Island continue to be clear.
- Rat genetic sampling is continuing, with 20 traps set every 100m along the banks either side of the Freshwater river below the hut and another 24 traps set at 200m spacing from North of Papatiki to the south end of the Sand Neck. These traps are set to catch Norway rats and compare their genetic profiles with the rats that invaded Ulva Island in 2010 so we can identify where the rats came from and come up with a strategy to reduce the risk of it happening again.
- The biodiversity team is planning a trip to Port Pegasus in September to carry out weed work, hut maintenance and retrieve GPS data loggers put on female sea lions in the area in March this year.
- Resurfacing of the Golden Bay Track will be undertaken in September. The Visitor Asset team will be carrying out a track trim on the Rakiura Track prior to summer and hardening any areas already starting to show signs of wear.

SIRCET are looking for more volunteers.

SIRCET have been conducting pest control within the 210ha Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project area since 2003/04. Over this time, we have trapped and removed at least 9,500 rats, 417 possums and at least 16 feral cats. This is all good news for our native fauna and flora that have a much better chance of survival with the reduction of these predatory pests.

Of course, these great results could not have been achieved without the huge amount of time and effort put into the project by our many dedicated volunteers – a big thank you to everyone involved and well done!

We are always keen for more volunteers to help keep the project running smoothly and if you'd like to become involved we have a range of volunteer opportunities available – **it's not always about trapping!** Some of the current volunteer tasks include:

Maintaining Possum Traps – we are currently in the process of maintaining the possum traps across the entire area. This involves scrubbing and then oiling the traps out in the field, removing them from the trees, mounting them on white boards and then re-installing them back onto the tree. This is a large task and I would really appreciate any help.

Rat & Possum trap lines – this involves walking along well marked tracks checking, clearing and re-baiting rat and/or possum traps.

We have a variety of trap lines to suit all levels of fitness – some are in the bush, others follow walking tracks and roads such as the Golden Bay and Lighthouse tracks and Wilsons Road so you needn't be super-fit. The traps are easy to set but you do need to be comfortable handling small dead animals (gloves, bait and other materials required are supplied along with full training regarding trap setting, species id and so on).

This needn't take up a lot of your valuable time – we have lines that take from 15 minutes to 1 hour to check and they only need to be checked once a week. If you aren't able to commit to weekly checks, why not team up with a friend or family member and take turns at checking the line.

Checking Cat Traps – our live capture cat cages are opened periodically throughout the year. We have a couple of cages within the Pederson Hill area, one at Deep Bay and seven between the Harolds Bay carpark and the Ackers Lighthouse. I have just re-opened these cages and am looking for volunteers to help with the daily checking of them. It takes a little over an hour to check all the traps within the Ackers area and 10-15 minutes to check each individual trap in the other areas. Whether you are able to check one or two traps daily or even once week would be a huge help to us - (n.b. we are not targeting domestic cats and no cats are destroyed unless they are 100% identified as feral).

Rat Monitoring – we undertake

rat monitoring along six lines throughout the project area every 8 weeks. We have also just set up two new monitoring lines in the untrapped Ryans Creek area which we will start monitoring after September this year. These new lines are to act as a control to compare to our trapped area. Monitoring involves setting out pre-inked cards into each monitoring tunnel and baited with peanut butter. The cards are then collected the following day and checked for any tell-tale tracks the rats have left behind.

Track Trimming – the trap lines in the bush need to be trimmed back periodically and this could be a great alternative for those who don't wish to check traps. We have a variety of hand-tools available for this task and currently have a few lines that could do with a trim back.

Nursery – Denise holds a weekly volunteer session at the nursery every Thursday morning. Tasks at the nursery include potting up plants, setting down seeds and cuttings, dividing plants, weeding and other maintenance. Why not come along for a morning and help to keep a healthy stock of our native plants. The SIRCET truck leaves from outside the shop on Thursday mornings at 9.30am for anyone who would like a ride out there.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these tasks or would like some more information, please contact Denise Hayes (ph-2191 159, mob-0273 913 215 or email denise@sircet.org.nz). All help is greatly appreciated!

The Horseshoe Bay Beach CAUSEWAY:

You know that rubbly bit at the Hamilton end of Horseshoe Beach? That was once a causeway and it is currently being reconstructed by Greymouth Petroleum. I chatted with Arkwright and Bruce Ford to get the history of the thing. Arkwright remembers that the big rock in the middle of Horseshoe once extended much further toward the sea but was blown up for rock to use in the causeway's construction. If you look you can see the sheared-looking pieces where it was blasted off. The Port William end of Lee Bay was also blasted for pieces to use. But, over the decades, the causeway fell into disrepair.

Says Bruce: "As I recall, the causeway was constructed mid-1970's when our roading system was being upgraded by The Ministry of Works (i.e. central Government). There was a perceived opinion then that there was no suitable 'hard rock' for roading here on the Island, so the engineers of the day, with

Government money, employed a small tug and barge to bring road-making materials. This turned into a considerable number of trips, and due to the inability to unload the barge at times when the tide was unsuitable, the causeway was built to enable 'anytime unloading'. There was also another unloading place at Lonnekers Corner, just below Lindsay & Lorraine Squires' house – this was to reduce the cartage around town. The current re-instatement at Horseshoe comes as a result of the goodwill of Greymouth Petroleum, and at their cost! Of course, they will find it very handy for re-loading their drill gear when they leave.

The causeway facility has been 'wanting' for some time but money wasn't available. I can foresee the on-going use and need for this landing being invaluable for the future movement of heavy machinery, especially with the possibility of energy developments!"

THE FUTURE OF STEWART ISLAND ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

AERIAL VIEW

PAST AND PRESENT



COMMUNITY VISIONING EVENT

SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2012

COMMUNITY HALL

2 PM (just after Gala Day)

EVERYONE WELCOME

*How do you see Stewart Island in 5 years? In 10?

*What changes if any need to take place for the island to reach its full potential?

*If money were no object, what would you like to have available on the island?

- More Businesses & Jobs
- Inexpensive Power & Services
- High School
- Retirement Home
- ?

Bring your ideas, and join the Stewart Island community for a fun evening that will leave you inspired.

* Guest Speakers

*Table Talk Sessions 'Cafe Style', with Scribes

Stewart Island Steptoe Auction at Labour Weekend

Sunday October 21st 2012

Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust plans to hold a 'Steptoe' Auction to raise funds for our new museum. We are seeking donations of antique / old / interesting items, particularly with a Stewart Island theme or connection. Stewart Island books, postcards, old maps, bottles etc all gratefully received.

If you have an item to donate please contact any of the following Trust members to arrange for pick-up:

Margaret Hopkins - 2191126
Sharon Pasco – 2190002 (daytime)
2191009 (evening)
Bruce Ford – 2191282
Jon Spraggon – 2190034 (daytime)
2191449

2nd Hand Tanalised Posts

For sale by tender

10 posts	2400mm x 200mm
25 posts	2800mm x 200mm
8 posts	2000mm x 120mm

Plus

Rolls of 2nd hand netting
Small roofed shelter

The above items can be inspected on-site beside the Fire station (the old deer pen)

This is a fundraiser for our new museum.

Tenders in writing to:
Chairperson
Rakiura Information & Heritage
Centre Trust
P.O. Box 86
Halfmoon Bay
Tenders close 31st August 5p.m.

Obviously we all love islands. But did you know we have a hard-core isle-ophile in our midst? Nurse Debs Dillon is fascinated by island culture and "islandness," so much so that she and hubby Chris are hoping to attend the Islands of the World Conference in 2014 in the Jersey Isles. Through her research she has found several interesting reads for us including:

Island Studies Journal www.islandstudies.ca (Launched in 2006, *Island Studies Journal* has established itself as a reputable, peer-reviewed, inter-disciplinary, scholarly journal for publishing articles, review essays and book reviews dealing with the study of islands. It is electronic and freely downloadable, published on-line every May and November.)

and the *Journal of Marine and Island Cultures*

www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22126821/1

and *Shima: the International Journal of Research into island Cultures*

www.shimajournal.org If you're interested, ask Debs for more information.

STEWART ISLAND BROCHURE

The attractive new Stewart Island brochure produced by Stewart Island Promotion Assoc. is now in circulation.

Please take time to leaf through a copy...see what local businesses are up to, and enjoy some spectacular photography.

Apologies to Leah Rudin-Jones, whose credit for many photos was omitted.

A supply of brochures is available from Halfmoon Bay Wharf.

SHOP TALK

by Jules Retberg

Holding a torch for London!

If chasing an ice-cream van was an olympic sport then I possibly would have been more sporty as a child. Getting up early in the morning does not come naturally to me either, so no-one was more surprised than me when I leapt out of bed at 7am to watch the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Games live on TV!

Prior to this, the Olympic Flame had travelled around the UK by train, car, bike, on foot, on (Royal!) horseback, the London Underground, the London Eye, even zip wire, thanks to a series of 8,000 Torch Bearers. Finally we saw it coming up the River Thames on a speedboat with David Beckham handing it to none other than Britain's top Olympic Rower, Sir Steve Redgrave. That surely could only have been bettered by the Queen sneaking an Olympic Torch out of the royal handbag, but she was busy disrobing from her parachute jump out of a helicopter!

I will admit to being among the cynics who didn't think London could pull off such an event, but they did - and in spectacular fashion! Riding a wave of excitement through breakfast and lunch in front of the TV I almost forgot that we still had two weeks of the Games to watch as well. Could it get any better? Hell yes!

The rowing and sailing were perfectly timed for us to watch live in the evenings and our TV was uncharacteristically switched on at lunchtime to catch up with events in London from the previous day. There were a few crises of patriotism in regard to who I should cheer for - Team GB or NZ - particularly in the Men's Single Sculls. As I screamed at Mahe Drysdale to get the Gold, I had a momentary pang of guilt about GB athlete Campbell getting the Bronze ...

More heart-pounding-stomach-churning events came with the equestrian, sailing, athletics, cycling and who could forget New Zealand's first women's Olympic gold medal in the canoe sprint from Lisa Carrington in the K1 200 metres?!

At the time of writing New Zealand has a total of 13 Medals and more than half of those were won on the water. Ranked 15th in the medal table, I reckon New Zealand should be proud of its five gold, three silver and five bronze medals and all of its 184 Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Yes we still have the Paralympics to come!

London too should be proud of its achievements. Not least because it is the only city to have hosted the summer Games three times. For all you trivia nuts, yes I know the USA has hosted more than that, but in **different** cities! An amazing 14,700 athletes will have competed in 46 sports at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

My endurance training does not even begin to compare with these fantastic athletes, but it has taken years of practice to be able to sit on the sofa all day and stay up late at night with nothing but a chocolate bar and whatever's left in the fridge to boost my drained energy reserves!

So what has all this got to do with Shop Talk? How can I tie the Olympics into an article about the Ship to Shore? Olympic pineapple rings, onion rings, squid rings? I don't think so. Perhaps it's enough to say that all athletes and armchair experts need food to fuel our bodies!

Latest latest latest news is that New Zealand now has SIX gold medals, TWO silver and five bronze and are ranked 15th in the medals table! Nadzeya Ostapchuk of Belarus has been exposed as a drug cheat which means Val Adams gets the gold she worked so hard for. Great that a cheat has been found out but a shame for Val that she didn't get to stand on the podium with a gold around her neck."



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Former Pub barmaid Lucy Gibson performs with Japanese drumming band *Tai-ko Meantime* at the Olympic Men's marathon in London.

www.stewart-island-news.com

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Step Two of wine making was completed on 3 August with what we consider good results, (well the sampling went down well!) It now has to rest till December when we are expecting good results.

Our August meeting took place at the changed date of 15th August, when we visited Ann Pullen's to watch a video and look at her lovely garden.

September meeting is at "Bird on the Wharf" where Jo has invited us to sample the "High Tea"
Thursday 13th September 2.0 o'clock
"Bird on the Wharf"



Cemetery Information

The Southland District Council is in the process of creating Cemetery Information Boards for the main Island cemetery at Mill Creek.

In order to ensure we have the most accurate information possible, we are asking the community for any records or knowledge they might have on this, and other Island graveyards and burial sites.

Please contact Kirsten Hicks at the SDC office weekday mornings, (ph 0800 732 732).

Your help would be appreciated

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

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