

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

August—September 2013

\$2.00

It's been a busy little month what with one thing or another; offering to look after the SIN while Jess is away coincided with my first month of being secretary for Lions which made sure my poor inbox was bursting at the seams. The good news is though that means this month's edition is also a porker; as one of our school kids was overheard to say after the pub buffet, as stuffed as a chooks bum!

Winter hasn't stopped the merriment here on the Island as evidenced by the rogues gallery in the centrespread (pg 12 & 13)



Ian, Sue & Co at the Midwinter Buffet

from the two midwinter celebrations held at the pub and a gggreat party held at the Goomes' place.(pg14), but you know Spring is round the corner when the boats start loading up with pots to go catch the LFFs. (Little Flappy Feckers).

But if you'd really like to get away from those Winter blues, read about Josephine and Riki's adventures in the sun. (pg17)

I cut my editorial teeth, so to speak, when Jess passed on a photo and brief description for this month's edition. Deciding it needed a bit more background, I

hit the internet hard and did some proper research. I'm quite fancying myself as a proper journalist; drinking, chain-smoking, swearing...oh, hang on! Anyway, the full story is on pages 8 to 11.

Talking about smoking, there's a competition being organised in partnership with the University of Auckland where teams of ten can win \$5000 for a community project or charity by giving up. See page 6 for more, or pop in and have a chat to Debs or Marty.

Bay Audiology are also coming to the Island in August and conducting free hearing checks, so if you are hard of hearing now would be a good time to get checked out (Pg23).

There's plenty of upcoming events including the Pensioner's Party and a slightly nutty guy who's planning to *run* all of New Zealand's Great Walks, starting here on Rakiura. More about Julian Bee's project for Cure Kids in next month's edition, but if you want to do your charitable bit now, get drinking some moo juice. Meadowfresh are running a promotion to share \$500,000



Jan, Ben & Jules after the Midwinter Buffet

of sports and arts gear to schools; simply collect the stickers on your bottles and hand them in to the school. The shop will even take them off you before you leave the door!

If you have an opinion about shark cage diving, let DoC know by 23rd August. See page 2 for details.

On a sadder note it's Sharon's last DOC Spot and also the end of a few more DOC workers time on Stewart Island as the restructuring of positions takes effect in September. (Pg21)

Thanks everyone who contributed this month; Jess always does an awesome job of this little paper and hopefully I haven't boded it too much!
Vicki



Freaky Fish from Riki Rudin-Jones

Feedback Sought: Interim Guidelines for Commercial Cage Diving with Great White Sharks

DOC is to release, for a 6-week public consultation, interim guidelines for commercial great white shark cage diving. The guidelines will be available on the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz) under the “consultations” link.

Great white sharks are protected under the Wildlife Act 1953. The guidelines were developed to assist commercial cage diver operators understand the relevance of the Wildlife Act to their operation and the important role they can play in promoting the conservation of these sharks.

The guidelines set out the risks that cage diving can pose to great white sharks. They also set out options to mitigate, or reduce, these risks. As commercial cage diving with sharks is a relative new, developing industry within NZ, DOC is keen to hear from stakeholders on any risks (and mitigation options) to great white sharks that may be missing.

DOC is seeking feedback on the interim guidelines by 23 August 2013. Written comments should be submitted by this date to:

marine@doc.govt.nz

Maritime NZ has produced interim guidance on safety aspects of commercial cage diving with sharks. Interested parties are encouraged to review both the DOC and Maritime NZ interim guidelines together. Further information is available through the Maritime NZ website (www.MaritimeNZ.govt.nz).



WISE UP TO WEEDS
with Amy



DARWIN'S BARBERRY
(*Berberis darwinii*)

Everyone on the Stewart Island will have heard about the DOC programme to get rid of Darwin's barberry. How can you help? Remove it from your garden as soon as you see new plants popping up.

What is it?

Darwin's barberry is a shrub with small shiny prickly leaves. It has bright orange flowers in October and purple berries in late spring and summer.

What is the problem?

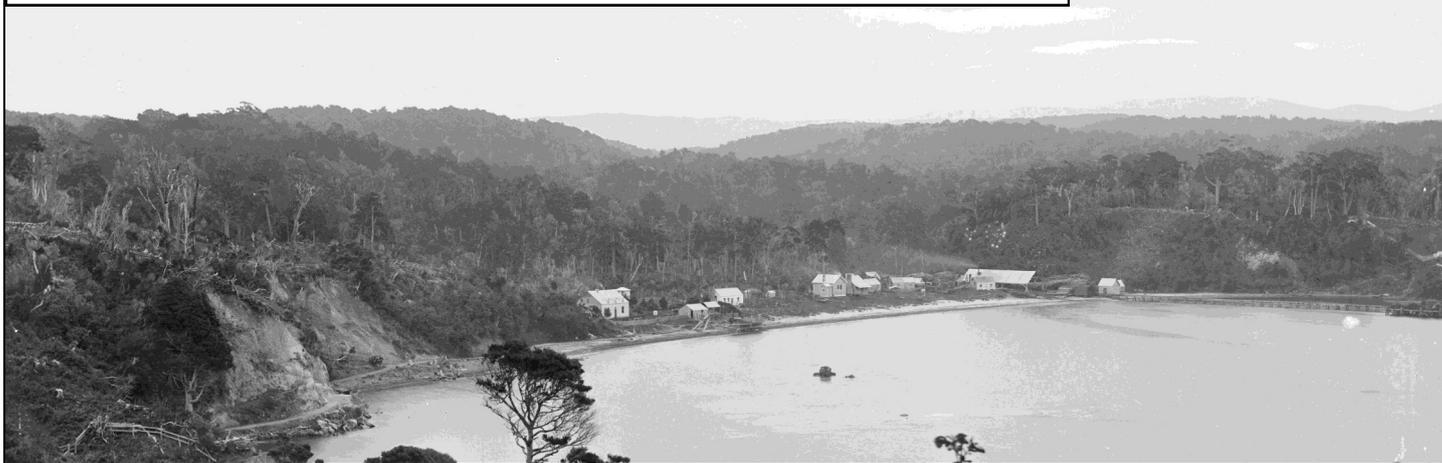
This woody shrub produces lots of small berries that are spread by birds. It creates dense thickets, preventing other plants from growing.

How to control it?

- Pull out seedlings by hand.
- Cut and paste the stems with a herbicide gel, it may require follow up control.
- For larger trees drill 10mm holes sloping downward at regular intervals around the base. Pour 25mm of neat Roundup into each hole.

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

Halfmoon Bay 1800s showing Murdoch's saw mill (long building) at far right end



RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem

The above photograph was part of our **acquisitions** this last month. We're always grateful for the wonderful photographs and digital images that are given to the museum especially early Stewart Island scenes.

Other acquisitions included black and white digital images of Mason Bay, Whalers Base, Freshwater Landing, whale chaser "Pagodroma", Bill Phillips and Teddy Church on board the "C.A. Larsen" and a photograph of Ayr Street taken between 1902-1904 with Gordon Traill and Ida Cox as small children standing on the roadside. Watch out for the Friends of the Museum newsletter which will have the latter photograph in it's next edition. A very well loved teddy belonging to Gay and Diana Simmer back in the 1930s and a bottle celebrating the Roaring 48ers 60th birthdays with it's special label. Many thanks to all our donors.

A copy of the diary kept by Mathias Eriksen Wiig of his voyage from New Zealand to Norway on board the "Sir James Clark Ross" (1) returning Captain Larsen's body home in 1925 is now available from the museum at \$15 per copy. This is a wonderful history of a voyage giving details of weather conditions, activities on board, special reception on arriving in Norway, etc. Only a few of these have been printed so be sure to get a copy. These can be mailed to you, postage extra.

One of our most asked for **enquiries** is for the family of John "Jacky" Lee and sure enough another one came in this last month. It's amazing the extent of this family and their interest. It's been great how many of them have come back to us with extra information to add to our file on this interesting person which is very much appreciated. Also an enquiry as to when the old school building was demolished. This was in 1961.



It was good to have Jim Watt on the island for a few days and many of you enjoyed his talk on "Stewart Island Ferries and Skippers" which was held in the community hall at the end of July. With the help of Jim we're bit by bit starting to finalise the programme for the Norwegian Weekend on the 4, 5 and 6 April 2014. A final programme and registration form will be out in November of this year.

The visit from Jo Massey our Roving Museum Officer came to an end on the 17th of August but she has promised to be back next year and we look forward to that. We've accomplished a lot, with more housing of items that will be protected for years to come and cataloguing of items that had not been previously entered into our system. With the advent of a new museum in the future it's a great benefit to know exactly what we have and where it is. There's still many things to be done yet, but it's nice to see year by year the "to do" list is getting a bit smaller.

Museum winter opening hours are Monday thru Friday 10 am – Noon, Saturday 10 am – 1:30 pm and Sunday Noon – 2 pm.

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.

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER

by Jo Riksem

One never knows what's going to appear in the mail and sometimes it brings little blessings instead of bills. A copy of this painting came in a beautiful handmade green envelope the other day with a message that read, "You probably know my grandmother Emily Moffett's "Morning Mist" watercolour from my "Edge of the Bush". I thought you might like this copy for your Oban Presbyterian Church records. Granny Moffett painted it some time in the late 1930s. I love the way the mist drifts under the gum tree at Lonneker's Point and the way the church stands out in the wet." signed Sheila Natusch. I couldn't of said it better myself and we thank you very much Sheila for sharing this with us.



Morning Mist Painting by Emily Moffett

September 1st & 8th - Eric Mattock - Eric has been a Parish Minister since 1979. Prior to this he served with the NZ Army followed by 9 years as an Enforcement Officer. He grew up in the Taranaki - King Country on farms. He has served in one City Parish - Wellington, has always been drawn to country areas, and particularly to isolated regions who have considerable difficulty obtaining good services including Ministry. The produce of our rural areas, including harvest of the sea are the economic pillars upon which our economy rests. Eric believes that these areas have much to contribute to the Church & endeavours to serve the Mission of God. He is currently serving in the Maniototo Parish after finishing in Kurow at the beginning of May.

September 15th - Rev. Beverley Osborn - Beverley is our home-grown minister, making her first visit to the Island when she was two years old, as did her mother before her. From that time on there have been very few years when she has not spent time here. "Rev Bev" gained her primary and secondary education in Invercargill and then went to Otago University. She was a secondary school teacher for five years in Dunedin and Winton before marrying Jim, a Londoner who had made the Island his home. They raised their 4 children here until the oldest was high school age. The family then shifted to Otatara - with annual excursions "back home" to the Bay or, more frequently, to Mason Bay.

September 22 - Ian Crawford - Ian Crawford is married with three children and four grandchildren. He spent 25 years as a teacher of children and then graduated from Carey Baptist College Auckland, to go to Ashburton Baptist Church where he ministered for ten years. As he says, "I have spent the following ten years in PCANZ in two Southland parishes, and presently walk alongside ten small parishes helping them to walk the walk of faith in Jesus, and keep the light of a Gospel burning in their communities."

September 29 - Peter Carter - Peter and his wife Olive spent many happy weeks here on the Island, coming several times for stays of up to 3 months and in particular helping us when we celebrated the centennial of our church.. He now returns to us and will spend four weeks with us. It will be a delight to have him in the community again.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.
 Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.
 Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 - 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

110th Anniversary

Start digging through the old photographs and see if you can find anything that might be of interest to us to help celebrate our 110th Anniversary next year. If I can have a loan of anything one might have we can scan them and then get the originals back to you or if you want to do the scanning we need them to be done at 300 dpi and .tif files. Don't hesitate to phone me at 03 2191-230 if you have any questions. Also memories and stories would be great too.

September will have some special return ministers to our church so watch out for them around the town.

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Next meeting will be at Stewart Island Backpackers at 2 o'clock on Thursday 12th September.





Something is coming up at Stewart Island / Rakiura

A NORSK FEIRING

A Norwegian Celebration

April 4 - 6, 2014

Community Centre, Oban / Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, New Zealand.

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of the ship SIR JAMES CLARK ROSS (Captain C.A. Larsen) first entering Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island in April 1924.

Recognising 'The Whalers' Base' ("Kaipipi Shipyard") in Paterson Inlet as a significant, post 1900 maritime (archaeological) site under the Historic Places Act 1993. (NZ Historic Places Trust).

Appreciating the enduring footprint of the Norwegian presence on Stewart Island through the 1920's and 1930's, and warmly embracing the kinships and friendships.



TELLING AND SHARING the whole story of the Norwegian presence on Stewart Island;

"The WHEN, the WHY, the WHAT, the HOW and the WHO!"

- The early (pre 1920) families;
- The Rosshavet Company of Sandefjord, Norway, from 1924 to 1936, at Little Glory, Bravo and most significantly, at Price's Inlet where they built a coal-fired steam-driven repair base /shipyard for their 100ft whale catchers;
- The annual expeditions to the Ross Sea area, which included a 'coal gang' of Stewart Island and Southland men.

We have the following intentions for the weekend:

Exhibits, photographic displays and sales; Short talks from invited speakers; Examples of Norwegian tradition and culture - food, crafts, music - etc (as able); Guided visits to sites of special interest; Opportunities for reminiscence and anecdote; Gathering of Norwegian descendants.

A detailed programme will be available by November 2013. To ensure you get both this and registration information, please complete and send the form below. No obligation.



The Feiring Committee, Stewart Island / Rakiura Museum,
 P.O.Box 114, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island 9846, New Zealand
 Phone +64 3 219 1221.
 stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

PLEASE CUT HERE TO POST OR (better still) EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO THE ABOVE

YES, I am interested in the **NORSK FEIRING (Norwegian Celebration)**, April 4-6, 2014.
 Please send the Programme and Registration information when it is available.

1. NAME (Please print)

2. POSTAL ADDRESS:

3. PHONE NUMBER:

4. EMAIL address: (VERY helpful!).....

I have a suggestion:.....

I can offer the following for display:.....

I/we are descendants. YES/NO. Relatives went south (1924-1930) as members of the Coal Gang, etc: YES/NO



“WERO brings smokers together to support each other with quitting,” says Dr Marewa Glover, Director of the Centre for Tobacco Control Research. “It is almost like a do-it-yourself or do-it-together approach although plenty of expert stop smoking support is offered by WERO and existing stop smoking services if teams want it.”

The highly successful group stop smoking contest **WERO** has just been funded for 3 years, enabling the first national competition to start on 1 September. Otago and Southland smokers will, for the first time, have the opportunity to put together teams and enter the competition.

Whanau End Smoking Regional Whanau Ora challenge (WERO) involves teams of 10 smokers, who compete to have the most quitters after 3 months and win \$5,000 cash for a charity or community group of their choice.

Trish Fraser, WERO Regional Coordinator for Otago and Southland is urging smokers to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to quit for good. She says ‘Smokers should either create their own team or register on the website www.wero.me to join a team.’

The competition was developed by the Centre for Tobacco Control Research at The University of Auckland as part of a new research programme, the Tobacco Control Research Tūrangā. It has been piloted in Northland and Hawkes Bay with very good results – 41.2% quit after 3 months.

Social media and mobile technologies are part of the programme, such as a website, iPad and iPhone apps to display how teams are doing, and the WERO Facebook page keeps teams and supporters updated. Team members can stay in touch with each other online, ask questions about their withdrawal symptoms and receive expert advice to help them win.

Trish Fraser says “we are looking for proactive people who could support and motivate teams to quit smoking and win for their community”.

Smokers keen to take up the WERO challenge should contact Trish Fraser at trish@wero.me or on 0274 435 241 or see Debs or Marty



Meet the new Recycler on the Block!

There’s a few new faces hanging off the back of the blue truck as it winds it’s way around the Island on Tuesdays and also at the Horseshoe base too. I caught up with Alistair Faulknor to see what brought him to Stewart Island.

So the first question has to be; what made you apply for a job here?

Well, I’ve never been here before but I love working and living in small communities. For the last 45 years I’ve worked all over NZ, but mainly in the North Island, and so it seemed time to give the South a go! Plus I was fed up of the pressures or working in town and wanted to slow down the pace a bit.

Is recycling your line of work then?

I class myself as a driver and operator of machinery. I’ve had lots of different jobs including working for AB Lime

Landfill for about four years, but I actually started out doing an apprenticeship as a Linesman at the Post Office!

Don’t tell Chris Dillon that; you’ll get roped in! Do you have any family you’ll be bringing with you?



Hehe, I’ve got three ex-wives so they won’t be coming but I have two daughters who are keen for a visit. Trudy is

a registered nurse in Australia and Kelly’s a sports therapist in Auckland.

So what do you think of the Island so far?

I love it! I should have come here forty years ago! I love the beautiful scenery and the peace and tranquillity and of course the friendly people. And the job and the people at work are excellent. I’m seriously thinking about buying a property here, but I’ll wait a wee while until the honeymoon period is over and I’m sure I want to stay.

Have you got enough hobbies to keep you occupied whilst you’re here?

I love tramping and I’ve been for a lot of walks already, plus I’m going to take over some ratlines so that will get me out and about. I was a member of Wai-kiwi Lions and so I’ve transferred to the Stewart Island Lions. I also have some radio-controlled boats and planes I want to bring over, and I like the usual things like reading, watching

(Continued on page 18)

SIRCET NEEDS YOU!!!!!!

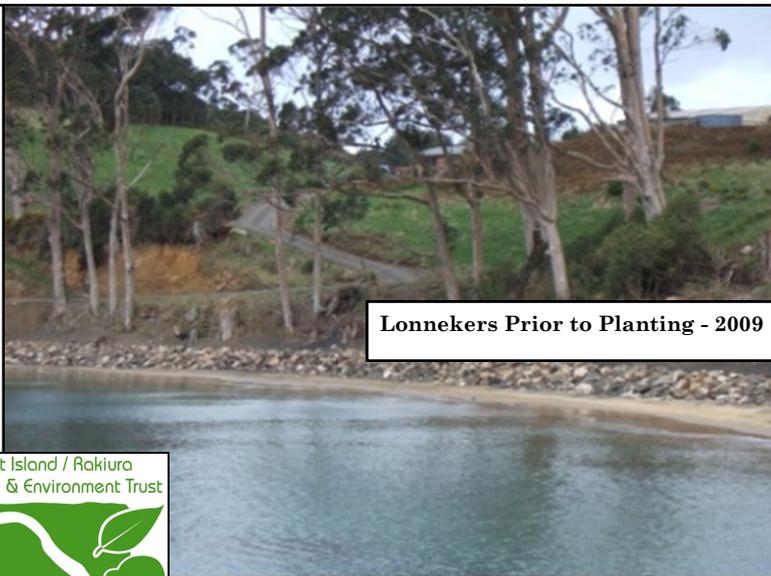
Upcoming Workshop:

A hands-on planting and weeding workshop is being planned for **Saturday 13 September from 10am – 1pm** at Lonnekers Beach.

Come and be part of this amazing community project and at the same time learn about planting to prevent weed growth and native plant alternatives for your own garden.

(BYO gardening tools).

For further information contact Mandy on Shirty1@extra.co.nz or (03) 2191594.



Lonnekers Prior to Planting - 2009



Lonnekers August 2013



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Essential 1st Aid:

Sat 5th Oct 2013

1st Aid revalidation:

Sun 6th Oct 2013

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Globe-bottler! A tale of one man and two bottles....

Messages in bottles!

When I said I'd do the SIN for Jess while she was away, she forwarded me a photo of a bottle Si Taylor had found at Masons Bay. Little did she know what she'd started....

Over Easter 2013, Si and the Check family were holidaying at Masons. As he does, Si was checking out the flotsam and jetsam on the beach and scored himself a small piece of ambergris! He also spotted an empty wine bottle, not so unusual, but then he realised it had a note in it!

Two weeks later whilst gorse spraying for DoC on Bravo Island, he found another one! Starting to get a bit freaked out he unrolled the messages and

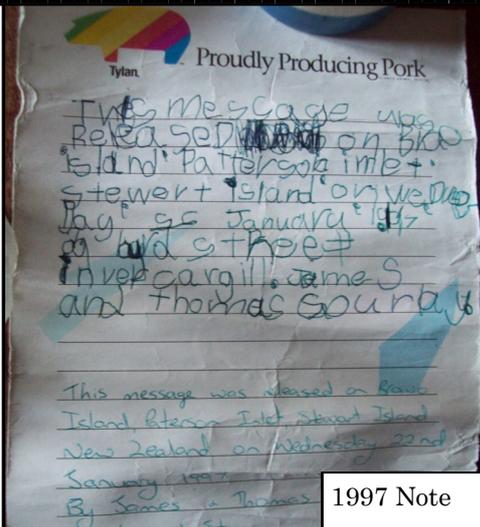
started the story.

The Bravo bottle was just your normal kids fizz bottle. It had been launched in 1997 by brothers James and Thomas Gourlay from Invercargill. Through the wonder that is t'internet, I had a search and found the brothers, James in Queenstown and Tom in Dunedin.

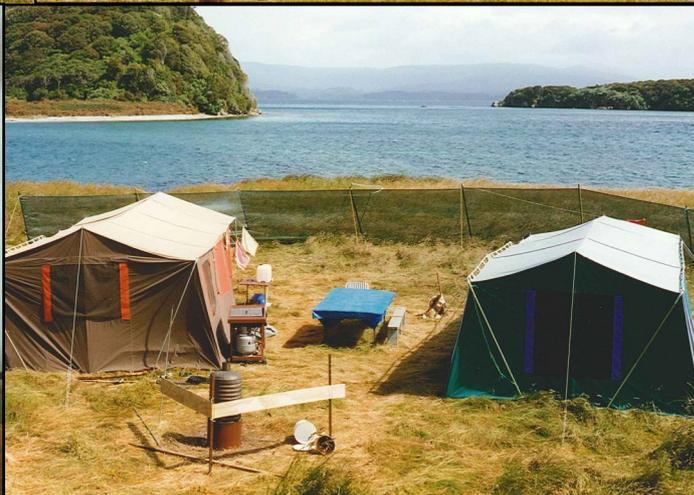
James replied, "Could you please send a picture of the bottle and the note through to me so I can remember what a five and seven year old boy thought they needed to send a message in a bottle about? Hoping you can forgive us for littering your beautiful island haha!"

And his thoughts on seeing the note?

"Not a very exciting message. I had hoped it would be full of lies



1997 Note



Some photos from Jame's and Tom's 1997 holiday at Bravo. "In the photo in the house, I am the one with my thumbs up, and Tom is the one with the stripy jersey kneeling on the drawers. We abandoned our tents in favour of the homestead because of storms, and then evacuated back to Oban to shelter from the storm with Joe and Helen Cave." James Gourlay



Si and his first bottle

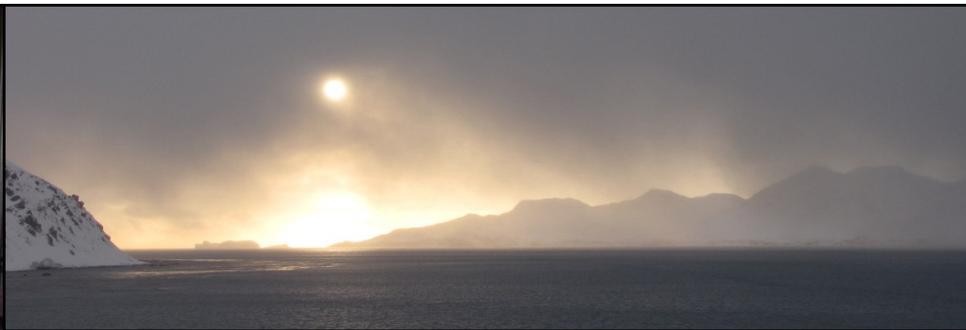


Photo Sarah Lurcock Photo looking out of Cumberland Bay West just off where Luke used to live and work at King Edward Point.

about us being pirates or something. Most likely we had a bit of assistance and censorship from mum.”

The bottle was found on a little beach just round the corner from the main beach on Bravo. Did they release it and it stayed there for sixteen years? Or had it been for a wee tiki tour of the Inlet? The next bottle had travelled that little bit further...



Photo Jerry Gillham.

Wandering albatross chick on the nest at Bird Island, closet point of South Georgia to where the bottle was thrown in.

Have you ever heard of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current? Well, it’s an ocean current that flows clockwise from west to east around Antarctica. Sailors have known about it for ages and it is the quickest way to sail around the world, going past South Africa, Australia and South America.

It’s because of this current that

Si’s screw-top Yalumba wine bottle ended up on little old Stewart Island, approximately 8,500 km from where it started!

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is a British overseas territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. With a population of just thirty people, mainly scientists and support staff it is also considerably smaller than here. Mainly known as the final resting place of Ernest Shackleton and collectable postage stamps, it was also where Irishman Luke Kenny had a two year posting.

Si had dutifully written a letter to Luke, but he was still awaiting a reply when I took up the trail. I found Luke’s name in connection with a cruise ship company and emailed them and I also emailed South Georgia, as being such a small place I thought someone would have contact details for him. I got this reply from Sarah Lurcock, who writes the newsletter for the South Georgia website.

“What a wonderful result, Luke’s bottle arriving from one exceptionally lovely island to another. ... Luke has continued his link with South Georgia through his work aboard cruise ships. He normally visits on a vessel called Silver Explorer a couple of times a year. I guess he found a way to avoid going permanently back to the crowded polluted world he was imagining in his bottle letter.”

Sarah kindly forwarded the message on to Luke and also decided

to write an article for her newsletter on the bottle’s journey!

Luke got the email and promptly replied:

“I was of course delighted to hear that my message in a bottle was found washed up and intact. That



Photo Jerry Gillham. People from the four person Bird Island British Antarctic Survey science station out for a stroll.

is of course the whole reason for sending them, that they might be discovered in some far away part of the world, otherwise it might be considered littering! Quite the long shot, but that is what makes it all the more interesting. The never knowing if it’s still out there, still bobbing away avoiding the potentially fatal encounter with land, how close it has come to making a landfall only to be swept past the refuge.

It was quite a surprise to receive a letter from Stewart Island from the bottle’s finder, Simon Taylor, who works with the Conservation Department there. I was away briefly from home when the letter arrived (18th May 2013) and when my parents informed me about the letter I couldn’t for the life of me figure out who might be contacting me. Obviously I never considered the possibility of suc-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



Luke Kenny working on a fish 2012

cess of the bottle's launch three years before on 24th May 2010.

It was in fact the very first message in a bottle I had ever sent. It would have been a remarkable record had I not sent another bottle the very next day from a similar location, which with each passing day strengthens the blemish on what would have otherwise been a 100% success rate. Though perhaps it is yet to wash up. A third was deployed on 16th October 2010 but from much closer to the coast of South Georgia, from as I noted "...a place called the Bay of Islands[sic] Honestly I'm not sure it will escape...I fear it will be smashed against the rocks..." I wasn't sending that one on its way with much confidence that day!!! And a careless mistake to write Bay of Islands when I was actually releasing it from the Bay of Isles. Was there a subconscious thought of the bottles turning up in New Zealand?!

I sent two more in December when en route to the Falkland Islands, having said my goodbyes

to South Georgia upon completion of my contract there. They probably took a much different voyage, given they were released on the northern side of the Antarctic Convergence/Polar Front. One wonders where if at all they will turn up. As I mentioned in the letter (in the bottle) I was out at sea conducting plankton trawls to monitor the presence and abundance of fish larvae in Antarctic krill fishing grounds. The presence and abundance of higher predators such as seals, penguins and other seabirds was also being recorded as part of the project by my colleague. I come from the middle of Ireland, near a town called Birr, County Offaly. In much of the area, were you to launch a bottle, you would watch it slowly sink into the peat bog. I however, avoided that fate and took to the seas working as a scientist on commercial fishing boats. My position at the time was that of Marine Biological Assistant, employed by British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and based at the research station of King Edward Point, South Georgia. The station is run by BAS on behalf of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Island. The station's role is essentially twofold. It contributes scientific research that is used to manage the South Georgia fishery and ecosystem, as well as supporting the work of the government, whose "duties include those of Harbour Master, Customs and Immigration Officer, Fisheries Officer and Tourism manager."

The bottle(s) were deployed in the last seven months of my two-year contract – not as that might imply as a Robinson Crusoe cry for rescue – but as much for curiosity as for anything else. To see where it might turn up, and should it withstand the stormy Southern Ocean. Quite honestly I didn't even begin to speculate where that might be. It is somewhat of an idealistic notion, to pit the in-

significance of a lonely bottle against all the odds of the mighty ocean and to see it triumph. Perhaps it can teach us a lesson. Even the smallest act can triumph.

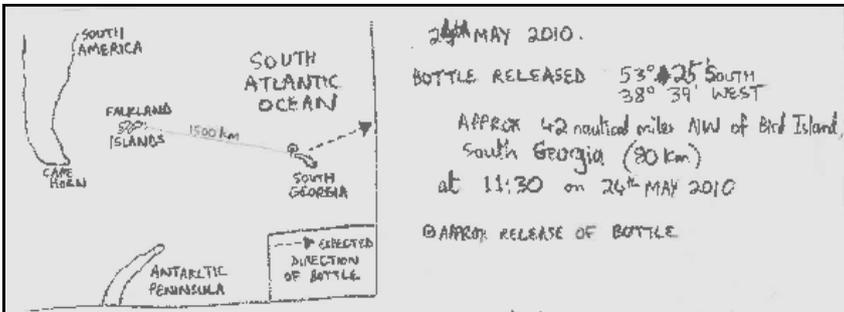
Oh the stories it could tell. Actually they would indubitably be quite boring – Day 467. Continued in a generally easterly direction, ever-so-slowly. Overcast, heavy swell from the west and with a cold spitting sleet around noon. At four o'clock had a brief sighting of what I momentarily mistook for land in the distance. When I again surmounted a crest I realised it was only a giant petrel surmounting a crest at the same time. I should not be disappointed, it is the closest company I have had for weeks. It appears I have lost all sense of distance perception, relativity, not to mention concept of time. This seems to be lasting an eternity. Why did he throw me overboard? Why why why...

Having now thought a bit more about this particular bottle, given its success and the "media frenzy" (!!!) it has generated, I am hit by a sudden wave of disappointment. For looking at the globe I realise that Stewart Island has in fact stood in the way of a complete circumnavigation; surely every message in a bottle's childhood dream. Instead it's voyage came to a premature end just after the halfway stage. I shall be on tender hooks for the new three years to see of the bottle launched the day after will make it!

That said, three years is quite impressive for the little guy. However, about a year ago while working in the Shetland Islands I came across the story of the longest ever bottle voyage. (98 years, Google it! V)

Scientific research has since out-

(Continued on page 11)



If you have made it this far, I suppose I should tell you something about myself. I am 30 years old and from Ireland. However, for the last 8 years I have spent little time there. Instead I have kept moving, working in the Falkland Islands or in Ireland and travelling mostly around South America. I am a biologist, working mostly with fish. In December 2010 I finish my 2 year contract with British Antarctic Survey on South Georgia and I must return to the "real" world, with lots of people, noise, pollution and the ever-advancing tide of commercialism. I am not looking forward to that.

Why am I writing this letter in a bottle? I suppose just curiosity; to see where it goes and what happens. I do not know if the bottle will even survive its first few days and not end up smashed on the harsh and unforgiving coastline. Obviously I would be very interested to know if it arrives somewhere, so please contact me at the following address:

LUKE KENNY
BRUMAKENAN
BROSNA
BIRR
COUNTY OFFALY
IRELAND

It is a rather wonderful thought, that a bottle might bob and drift around an ocean for a length of time on a lonely journey to deliver a message when it is ready. I wish it well on its voyage, I would like to go with it. I wish you well too for finding it.

Looking forward to hearing from you sometime. All the best,

Luke Kenny

Greetings from South Georgia. My name is Luke Kenny. As I write I am on a ship just off the northeast coast as part of a scientific trip to sample plankton and to count birds and marine mammals. The sun is out, the sea calm and the snow-capped peaks of South Georgia revealed before me in all their splendour. The low coastal hills and peaks remain free of snow, a brown rocky barrier attempting to hold the snow and ice of the interior back from the sea. Seals and penguins breed on the island in their thousands, feeding mostly on Krill, a shrimp-like creature, in the productive waters. In the last year or two however, not enough Krill has come up from the Antarctic Peninsula, perhaps due to a weakened ocean current, in turn a result of climate change in all likelihood. The birds & the seals might go hungry again this winter.

This time last year we were all out skiing in the low hills around the base. The base is operated by British Antarctic Survey on behalf of the government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The base is situated on King Edward Point, in Cumberland East Bay (on the northeast coast), 56°17' S 36°24' W.

South Georgia lies to the south of the Antarctic-like conditions during the winter is warmer. However it can snow on so far this winter we have had little snow. Any snow we get this winter is impatiently. Any snow we get this winter is impatiently. Any snow we get this winter is impatiently.



Where the bottle travelled

(Continued from page 10)

stretched its humble beginnings and the idealistic notion of where and when the bottle might turn up has been replaced by the burning desire to learn all about the direction and strengths of the ocean currents. It is well worth looking up about the Argo buoys that are constantly deployed nowadays and responsible for much of our knowledge of ocean currents. Wikipedia usually has a relatively up-to-date map of their presence in the oceans.

Anyway, I hoped by rambling on and on that I would finally get to some profound and moving statement that unlocked the meaning of this enterprise, this work. All I

can conclude is that in many ways the journey of the bottle was a work of art, serving no real purpose other than to imitate or represent a journey that is taken by an innumerable quantity of water and dissolved molecules on a constant basis. As was the journey of the bottle "all art is at once surface and symbol. Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril." Oscar Wilde (The Picture of Dorian Gray).

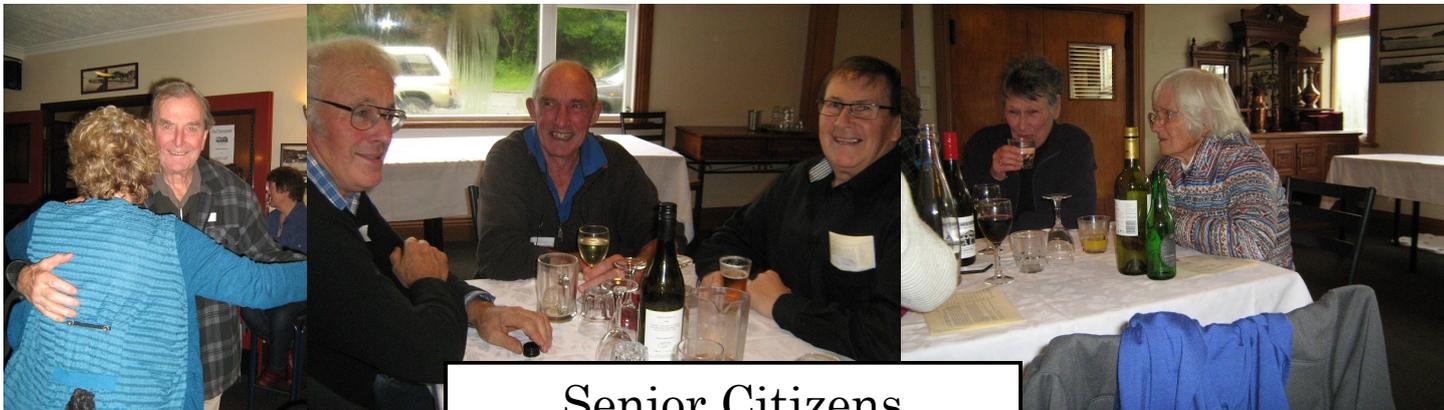
Though perhaps I should have quoted Jean Cocteau, "An artist cannot speak about his art any more than a plant can discuss horticulture."

I conclude, the purpose of my action was clearly to create this reaction to the success of my action,



Si's bottles

All the best
Luke



Senior Citizens
Midwinter Buffet
18th June 2013
Photos from the pub camera!





Looking for a reason to get out, get dressed up and mingle during the cold, grey winter? You could take a leaf out of the Goomes' book – on Sat 13th July Wendy Hallett hosted a “Goomes Gully Geriatric Garden Growing” party, complete with the new Garden Shed’s ribbon cutting ceremony, as an excuse to catch up with the neighbours (and have a few champagnes)!

The Goomes' Garden is a real whanau affair; established in 2006 on Wendy's land, with Rosemary's soil and Peter's hard work. Wendy says: “Like a lot of Peter's work, the new Garden Shed was built with recycled materials, just like the Goomes' Gazebo in the memorial garden – made from recycled pieces with a history - not just our own family history”. The floor was made with the backboard of an old basketball hoop and it still sports the painted lines; the back wall is built from the base of an old double bed; the frame



crib (1950) at Observation Rock, renovated by Peter around 1980, then stored away for another day; and, the garden shed sink is one of several Peter salvaged

Thank you Wendy and family for a fun afternoon, a good giggle and great company!

Alina Atkins



from an old Invercargill house that matches the sinks in the holiday homes Te Rua and our own Te Tahi, just in case one broke! A handsome Scarecrow (aka Pater Goomes) and a smartly dressed Mud Guard, ‘Captain Taiaroa of the Royal Rakiura



and cladding was created from some Macrocarpa planted long ago by the Thompson's on their old property (the Thomsons were the owners of the original Greenvale Guest house from latter part of 1800's until it burned down in 1943); all the nails and iron are second hand; the door is made up of Baltic pine from a 1948 Austin car box, which also had a life as part of a

Garden Corps', (aka Rosemary Taiaroa) oversaw proceedings while an esteemed guest from a Russian Spy Agency (aka Simon Gomez), sporting a fur hat declared to be made from his “grandmother's beaver”... (ahem), shared a speech. Wendy then cut the ribbon with a fitting gardening tool and the party was away.

Wendy put on a lovely afternoon, with champagne, muttonbird, smoked salmon roulade, and a delicious crayfish from Phil Smith. Di Smith gifted the garden a hefty wheelbarrow of compost and fresh seaweed harvested from the beach. Guests dressed up in garden finery such as gumboots, garden gloves, lettuce-leaf hats and carrot necklaces. Ulva Goodwillie looked elegant in a faux fur coat, red gumboots and flowered hat and Donni Goomes sported a lovely tanning dress over her green overalls - ever prepared for that sunbaking opportunity!





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

From Josephine Shepard

In April this year, after much anticipation, my partner Riki and I set off on an adventure through South East Asia. Having both traveled before we wanted to do things a little differently so we bought a one way ticket to Thailand and boarded the plane with only our first night's accommodation booked.

We flew into Phuket and were instantly assaulted by foreign smells and sights. The locals spoke a language we didn't understand and neon signs greeted us wherever we looked. It was impossible to stand still and take it all in however because at every moment merchandise was thrust in our faces in an attempt at sales. Boards of sunglasses, baskets filled with bracelets, books and suitcases of lighters and postcards. There was rubbish everywhere; being thrown into the streets and piled high in the gutters. Our new experience had begun.

We spent two weeks in the South of Thailand exploring their beautiful islands. Ko Phi Phi for 'The Beach' made famous by Leonardo De Caprio, Ko Phangan for the Full Moon Party and Ko Tao for a bit of tropical scuba diving.



Cua Dai beach in Hoi An, Vietnam

ing. We swam everyday in turquoise water and basked in 30 degree heat. We feasted on noodles and curry and drunk numerous fruit shakes filled with melon, mango and pineapple.

Next were floating houses on Lake Chiaw Lan in the midst of the Koh Sok National Park. Here the bugs were huge; a spider the size of my hand, mosquitoes and even a frog sleeping in amongst our breakfast. We finished off almost a month in Thailand by briefly stopping in Bangkok on our

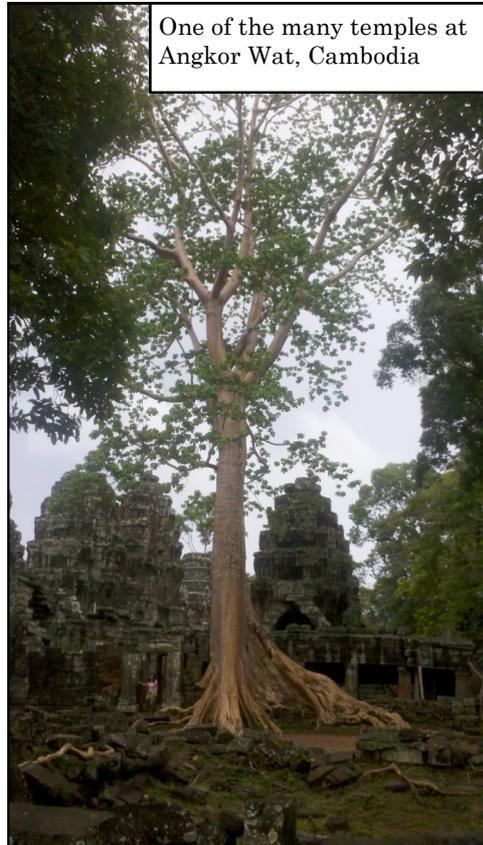


Koh San Rd in Bangkok, backpacker ghetto!

way through to Chiang Mai in the North. We rode elephants, took a Thai cooking class and ziplined through the jungle on 19 different wires. We experience ice blocks with pieces of corn in them, tuk tuks that drove an incomprehensible speed, markets with hundreds of stalls all selling the same thing, 10 hour overnight bus rides and wandering the streets looking for places to stay. Luckily it wasn't peak season so it never took long to find a decent bed for the night. Sometimes we would stay one-two nights, other times five or six depending on how much we enjoyed it.

After a land border crossing, which is an experience in its self, we made it into Laos where we spent two days cruising down the Mekong River on a

long boat to Luang Prabang. We ended up spending only a week in Laos which was enough time to see Vientiane as well before we opted to fly onto Vietnam rather than spend 24 hours in a bus. We did see an amazing thunderstorm on the bank of the Mekong, in a tiny town called Pak Beng



One of the many temples at Angkor Wat, Cambodia

where children still run hoops down a dirt road and people wait for your scraps at breakfast.

In Vietnam we learnt the best way to cross the road is to simply start walking, the hundreds of people on scooters simply swerve around you. We visited Hanoi, the World Heritage sight of Halong Bay and got clothes made in Hoi An. One memorable experience was riding on the back of a scooter to one of our bus depots, no helmet and hanging on for dear life. We bused down to Nha Trang on the coast of Thailand for five days of serious beach time and a top up of the tan. In total we spent almost two and a half weeks in Vietnam, the last portion in Ho Chi Min City where we visited the War Museum and came away with tears in our eyes. It was a moving sight with very graphic images of a brutal

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

time. We also managed to watch the All Blacks vs France game with a bunch of other kiwis which was a lot of fun.

Our last country was Cambodia and we spent a week visiting Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. We witnessed young children with their baby brothers begging for money and others so hungry they would follow us asking for food. We saw the temples of Angkor in all their glory, something I would recommend to everybody. The detail is incredible; the ruins so large and symmetrical it is easy to get lost. We saw monkeys and even a snake which dropped in from the roof. Cambodia use mainly US dollars, our fifth currency after Baht, Kip, Dong and Riel. The rainy season was beginning and when it rains in South East Asia it buckets down. The streets flood and there's no going anywhere! We managed to watch the Cambodian circus and even saw Graham Henry on Pub Street, accurately named for all the bars and restaurant selling 50cent



A woman collecting rubbish in Laos

pints of beer. No joke.

Unfortunately our trip was coming to an end as we had booked a flight home a little while ago so we headed back to Bangkok for our last few days. We 'splashed out' and spent \$20 on a room on Koh San Road with a roof top pool. Once again there were neon lights, trays of scorpions to eat, and 7-11's on every corner. After nine weeks,

four countries, countless pairs of sunglasses, beaches, jungles, skyscrapers, language barriers and currency confusion, Stewart Island was calling. We returned to New Zealand and ankle deep snow. It was a little bit of a temperature shock stepping off the plane in jandals! We had such an incredible adventure, meeting some amazing people and experiencing a culture so different from our own.

Ann McDonald, Mary Hosie and Jan Keen are the Rogers Yamaha Team in the Southern Scooter Challenge fundraising for Prostate Cancer. We will be riding our scooters from Bluff to Queenstown with lots of other like minded people. Check out their fundraising page on www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/RogersYamahaTeam/

“Please support us as we participate in the PlaceMakers Southern Scooter Challenge. This is the start of our fundraising to do our bit for our boy's.

Jan Keen from Stewart Island a good Yamaha girl, Mary Hosie from Rogers Yamaha and Ann McDonald also from Rogers Yamaha have decided to take up the challenge of riding our scooters from Bluff to Queenstown.



We hope to raise a huge amount of money for this very worthy cause. Its not all about boobs, men's bits and bobs count too. So dig into your pockets and help us along. We set off on Saturday September 7th, riding over 200km from Bluff to Queenstown in wintry conditions raising funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand. This is a great cause and we are doing our part. Any financial support you are able to offer will be greatly appreciated. That's all folks from Hooters on scooters“



From Sea to Mountains

Black Tie Seafood Dinner

Auctions and Music

21st September 2013 7:30

Queenstown Memorial Centre

\$125 per person

Tickets available from
hensman@stra.co.nz

A joint venture between Rakiura Information and Heritage Centre Trust and Branches Charitable Trust to raise money for each of their respective projects.



Branches Charitable Trust

The Wakatipu High School, annual year 10 Branches camp, which goes for 12 days, has been running for 46 years. The camp has become a 'right of passage' for students and pushes many out of their comfort zones. The students participate in rafting, abseiling, hiking, target shooting, and kayaking to name a few activities and this is one of the only camps of its kind still in existence in New Zealand. The Branches Trust was established in 2009 to ensure the on going viability of the camp so that our students of the future would still be able to participate in this unique, amazing and life changing opportunity.

Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust

A new Heritage Centre to replace the old Rakiura Museum is an exciting development for Stewart Island being driven by the Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust. The proposed multi-million dollar building will provide a new exhibition gallery, purpose built storage for heritage items, audio visual and education areas as well as research facilities. With major funders continually reducing their level of support the RI&HCT is looking to raise as much money as possible for what will become an iconic tourist attraction and valuable treasure house for Stewart Island's rich and varied history. www.stewartislandmuseum.co.nz

Marilyn Jill MacDonald

22nd April 1945
— 12 May 2013

Jill loved Stewart Island and spent many holidays in Horseshoe Bay.

She had relatives and friends here, and she will be greatly missed by her loved ones.

Condolences to her husband Ian and family.

Together forever and ever



Conservation Week 8th – 15th September 2013

“What’s your whānau doing?”

What are WE doing?

When? Sunday 8th September

What? A sausage sizzle to mix, mingle and meander in Horseshoe Bay

Who? The following groups invite everyone in the community to a conservation celebration: DOC, The Ulva Island Trust, Half-moon Bay School, Rugrats, Southland District Council, SIRCET, Dancing Star Foundation, Rakiura Maori Land Trust, Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust, NZ Deer Association.

Where? Native Plant Nursery, corner of Lee Bay and Horseshoe Bay Roads.

Why? Celebrate our wide and diverse range of conservation initiatives on Rakiura / Stewart Island, learn what others are achieving, where

and how?

Time: 10.30 am – 2.00pm

Robert Henry "Roy" Traill

Wednesday 11th September 2013

7pm – 8.30pm at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre

“In 1925, Traill began working for the State Forest Service and the Department of Lands and Survey on Stewart Island. He travelled by foot across most parts of the island and was

primarily responsible for preventing people from hunting the native bird species....”

Join us to learn more about Roy and the legacy he has left for future generations.

Conservation Quiz

Sunday 15th September 2013

Test your talent and pit your wit against Vicki and her brain teasing, thought stretching, memory teasing quiz questions! Teams join at the South Sea Hotel 6pm, donations welcome.



(Continued from page 6)

movies, computing and listening to music. I'm tone deaf though when it comes to singing. (Sorry, Gwen! V). And of course, going to the pub for a Speights or two!

So how do Stewart Islanders do at recycling? We've had all kinds of weird directives in the past as what we should and shouldn't do!

It's 100% better than most other places I have been! Well over half the Island recycles which is great. There aren't really too many 'do's and don'ts', the main thing is that your recyclables are clean. If they're not clean, they can't be recycled and so go into the rubbish. We're working hard to recycle as much as possible because that way it will actually save money.

How does that work then?

Each skip we send off the Island costs money to send away; say it costs \$100 per bin and it's full of rubbish to go to the tip, that's \$100 cost. But if we send it over with recyclables, and we got \$50 for those items, that means the skip effectively only costs \$50 to send over. Plus with crushing the glass ourselves and keeping it for use as a building material eliminates the need to send another skip away.

And to finish, give us one fact about you others might not know!

Umm, I've been a member of St John's since third form in school and was a Divisional officer for a long time!

So welcome to the Island, Alistair and when you see the guys on the truck, don't forget to give them a wave!



Photo by Eammon Ganley

Quirky Habits #1

Do you remember the days when CDS hadn't been invented and vinyl was king? You spent months saving up your pocket money to get the new release from your favourite band, ran to the record shop and picked up your new album. Well, the correct procedure to follow was, apparently, to put the album cover on your head, whilst listening to your new tunes. Personally, it wasn't something I ever partook in, but Steve Kenny insists he can't be the only person on the planet who did. Answers on a post-card....

If you have any odd traits you wish to share (photo optional but preferred) send them along; this could be the new monthly column!



Crayfish season from Nathan Smith

How's the garden & section looking?
Need stuff done?

- Lawnmowing
- Gardening
- Hedge trimming or Pruning
- Section cleared

Then call Mandy or Lawrie for reliable and friendly service

LOCAL PROPERTY CARE
03 2191 594 OR 0275 500 004

Books Review from *Sue Ford*

I'm having a bad time of it – read a lot of mediocrity recently, and even done the unthinkable and stopped reading books half-way through! That's a very rare occurrence in the past. Am wondering if my palate is jaded after "Hunger Games", the Stieg Larzen trilogy and then the "A Song of Ice & Fire" books – such strength of writing may take the sting out of more regular drama. So I read "**Chasing Darkness**" by **Danielle Giraud** – billed as a taut psychological thriller. Yeah, right! Sam – from an abusive background – works with abused youth, but has "inherited" her twin nephews on the death of her sister. The boys were abused too. Nick is the police presence and necessary love interest. None of this background seems, at first, to have anything to do with the murder and mayhem of the story. However, a clever twist towards the end means that this book isn't all a waste of time. One to have a go at if the Library clock stands at five-minutes-to-closing and you still haven't found anything to read

"**A Dream of Death**" by **Harrison Drake** falls into a similar category. There's nothing stand-out about this, but it's not one of those I gave up on. It features Det. Lincoln Munroe – a very confused and bewildered feller, and as it is the first book in a series, may well just be the scene-setter. I'll let you know if Book 1 is worth the read when I've read Book 2 – I nearly made that mistake with "Girl with the Dragon Tattoo".

"**The Good Knight**" by **Sarah Woodbury** couldn't be more different. It features Gwen, the daughter of a 12th century bard, and Gareth, a Welsh knight. All the other characters, many of the events and all the politics are based

on fact in Welsh history of the period. Now this one was intriguing. On the way to a royal wedding, the bridegroom refuses to delay his departure because his bard's horse has gone lame. By the time the bard and family catch up with the bridegroom's party, they have been ambushed and slaughtered to a man – all except the bridegroom, who appears to have been murdered.... The murders then come thick and fast – including that of the stable-boy who purposely lamed a horse but picked the wrong one! Gareth is a suspect at one point, Gwen at another. Enigmatic characters like Hywel (Gareth's lord) pepper the storyline as Gwen and Gareth unravel the knots and then have to face the ramifications. Shades of Brother Cadfael but nowhere near as good; will give future Gareth & Gwen stories a read though, just because they are so different.

"**Florida Heat**" by **Rainy Kirkland & Robyn Moore** is more formulaic US detective stuff, but is proves interesting overall as Jo, who works in the child probation system witnesses a murder. Then the father of one of her

charges is murdered. Jo becomes the target of some seriously deadly pranks, ranging from a hungry 15-foot python being let loose in her house to her brakes being tampered with. Running parallel, there's the story of a new girl in school and her efforts to become accepted, preferably by the elite, rich and good-looking faction. She never dreamt it would involve shoplifting as an initiation test however. There's obviously some kind of link, but Jo's friend, police detective Kate, only knows that Jo is in danger. But why and who is to blame? I'm not telling you because there's a list of "possibles" that turns this from ho-hum into ah-ha! Given the quality of my reading this last month, even a little ah-ha! is welcome. I think it's time to track down Robert Galbraith and see if J.K. Rowling really can write adult whodunnits!



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jed.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz

202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

Stewart Island Yellow-eyed Penguin News

Results from the 2012/13 yellow-eyed penguin monitoring by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (YEPT) indicate that it was another poor season on Whenua Hou and the Bravos Islands in Paterson Inlet..



While the same number of nests (39) were found during the October nest search on Whenua Hou as in 2011, they fledged 33 chicks, two fewer than the previous season. Furthermore there was a small decline in fledging weights (4.99kg to 4.97kg) and the chicks fledged per nest, stayed well under the standard for a good season, 1.2 chicks or greater, at 0.89.

Longer term, since 2009/10 the number of chicks fledging has declined from 55 to this year's 33 chicks.

YEPT Field Manager, David McFarlane commented: "This continues a worrying decline and indicates the urgent need for a foraging study to investigate issues around the food supply to chicks on Whenua Hou, which is suspected of being involved in the decline in numbers of chicks fledged".

A foraging study was planned for the 2012/13 season but funding applications by the Trust were unsuccessful.

The Bravos Islands in Paterson Inlet were also of concern, and while nest numbers were up, from 11 to 14 nests, the number of fledging chicks (10 down from 11), fledging weights (4.58kg down from 5.19kg) and chicks fledged per nest (0.71 down from 1.0) mirrored the poor season experienced on Whenua Hou.

The Trust remains committed to maintaining the monitoring programme and in 2013/14 Sandy King will lead the team transpondering chicks on Whenua Hou and the Bravos Islands.

The Trust acknowledges the monitoring and logistical support of DOC Stewart Island and the Southern Institute of Technology, which contributed funding and the assistance of an environmental management student.

Dave McFarlane Field Manager

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

Letter to the Editor:

Stewart Island Smoked Salmon are feeling very proud and excited after winning one of the main categories at the recent NZ Farmers Market awards, we won the category 'From the Sea or River' being the only South Islanders to win one of the main awards.

We market our smoked salmon from Invercargill to Auckland mainly through farmers markets and other markets, direct to businesses and also in some retail outlets, we have recently started online ordering. We are very proud of the smoked salmon's authenticity and enjoy the direct marketing approach giving us the opportunity to promote our smoked salmon and the magic of the island.

Cheers, Nic & Gary

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

The changing face of DOC

This is the last DOC Spot I will prepare for Stewart Island News. The Department's new structure takes effect from September 2nd and this week I learnt that my application for voluntary redundancy has been accepted. My last day of work will be August 30th. It is a bittersweet experience saying goodbye to colleagues I have worked alongside for many years, but with all the management positions moving off island, for me the choice has been to either leave the island or leave the Department and having already left this island once before, this time I'm choosing to stay.

Last week we bid farewell to Andy Roberts, who has been the area manager for Southern Islands for the past seven years. Andy and his wife Robyn, who also has had a long association with the island, are moving to Christchurch where Andy will take on the new Tier 3 role of Director, Conservation Services for the Eastern South Island Region and Robyn will take on the role of Management Planner in the Department's Planning and Permissions unit.

Over the coming weeks a number of staff who have based here on the island will also start leaving to take up the new roles to which they have been appointed. These include Brent Beaven, who has been appointed to the Tier 4 role of Conservation Services Manager for the new Southern Islands Team. Brent will manage the delivery of biodiversity and visitor and historic asset programmes here on Rakiura and the Sub Antarctic Islands and for the most part will be based in Invercargill. Al Check has accepted a position with the Partnership team based in Motueka; Phil Brooks a Service ranger position in Hanmer Springs; and Paul Jacques will take on a ranger, biodiversity monitoring role based from Invercargill.

In the new structure, staff and the work they do won't be bound by location. Area and Conservancies as we have known them will cease to exist

and be replaced with Conservation Partnership Regions and Districts and Conservation Services Regions. DOC staff around the country will all work together alongside communities and across borders as needed, to deliver great conservation work.

This means new reporting lines for various streams of work and that staff at some locations (including Stewart Island) may be reporting to a variety of managers, depending on the nature of their work. For example the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre team will report to a yet to be appointed Tier 4 Conservation Partnerships Manager based in Invercargill, while the Conservation Services rangers based here will report to the Tier 4 Conservation Services Manager (Brent).

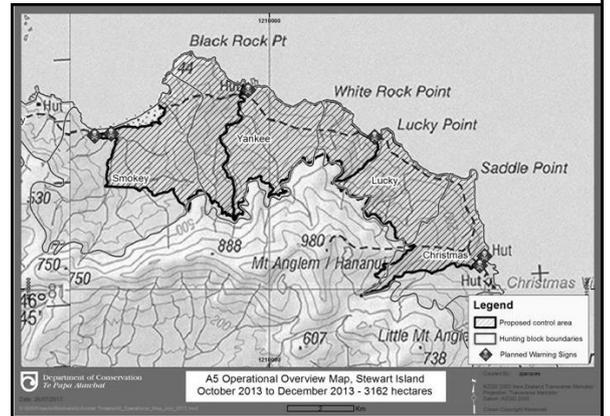
It continues to be a somewhat unsettling time for all concerned, particularly in the Southern South Island where a number of key roles have yet to be filled and it is not yet clear who will be the key contacts for various elements of the Department's work. Please be assured that staff are committed to working hard to ensure that the community is kept informed and relationships are handed over effectively, realising that DOC is changing the way it works so it can significantly grow conservation by working better in partnership with others. Don't be afraid to call into the DOC office here on the island or to give staff a call if there is an issue you need to discuss. If it transpires that they are not the right people to contact, then they will make it a priority to put you in touch with whoever that person might be.

Possum control

This season possum control is planned to take place in the R3 block, on the west coast of Stewart Island, an area of 2157 hectares, and in the A5 block, on the north coast of Stewart Island an area of 3162 hectares (see maps right). These areas also received

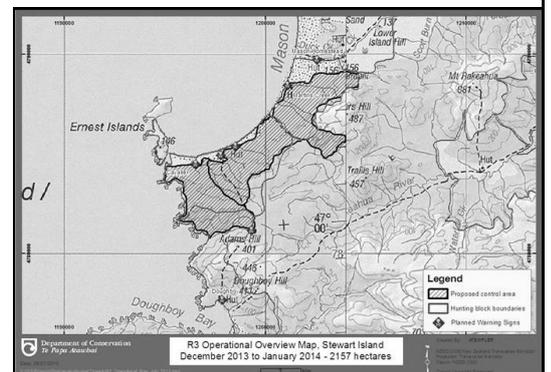
possum control in 2009-10 & 2010-11 respectively. The control areas include the following hunting blocks; Martins Creek, Cavalier, Doughboy (part of block only), Christmas Village (part of block only), Lucky Beach, Yankee River and Smokey Beach.

The method of control will be 1080 pellets in bait bags, stapled to trees in a grid pattern throughout the control blocks. All toxic baits will be dyed green. Individual 1080 baits are large, cylindrical cereal pellets about 3 cm in length, weigh 8 - 12 grams and smell strongly of cinnamon. All bait bags will be stapled to trees, at least 400 mm above the ground. Bait bags will



be removed at the end of the field operation and disposed of in an approved manner off the island. Staff from the Stewart Island Field Centre will be monitoring the performance of the contractor during this operation.

Control work in the Martins Creek and Cavalier blocks (R3) will be undertaken in the months of December 2013 and January 2014. Control work in the Anglem (A5) block will be undertaken between October 2013 and December 2013. For further details regarding these operations please contact DOC on 03 2190002.



Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in regards to the Gareth Morgan pest eradication project discussed for Stewart Island and the implications for a Governance Board.

I am rather interested to see that according to the official website, this project is ticking over fairly quickly despite what I felt was a large degree of scepticism or uncertainty at the last community meeting. It seemed to me that without even trying to delve into detail some of the big issues / concerns raised included:

- *Mass poisoning and accumulative effects of toxins
- *Affects on fish stocks/aquaculture
- *Biosecurity – can we keep it pest free
- *Deer hunting implications
- *Local pet concerns
- *Health and risks to our children and visitors
- *Implications for recreational activities
- *Costs - social, economic and environmental

So, imagine my surprise when I looked at the official website only to read the following things:

The 1st thing is straight into working out details about the predator proof fence: *“The Governance Group’s first task will be to work through the details of the predator proof fence and the manner of the eradication for the Halfmoon Bay project – as yet no decisions have been made.”* (main blurb on official website homepage accessed Aug 2013)

Gareth Morgan believes it can be done in 5yrs *“Mr Morgan says it’s a long-term plan, but he believes the whole island could be pest-free in five years, giving a huge economic boost to the tiny Southland commu-*

nity.”(Gareth Morgan: make Stewart Island pest free. TV3 article)

There are important knowledge gaps missing along with a need to develop technical innovations in order for the project to even think about proceeding. For this to happen is at significant science and research cost. *“In order to drive these innovations forward, a minimum investment of \$1 million per annum is required for the next 5 years.”* (Eliminating predators from Stewart Island, DoC scoping report 2013)

It looks to me as if we have moved from discussing ‘should’ this project happen (and working through the issues raised in the last community meetings) straight to how it can happen.

The thing is I don’t believe the community have had sufficient opportunity to even discuss what the DoC feasibility study has outlined. It was just given to us after the last meeting. Personally I would like to have the opportunity to talk with Phil Bell and Al Bramley (the authors) themselves as they are not only independent from here but supposedly to have written this document, the most currently up –to-date. I am also a bit concerned that to start discussing the fence we are already doing things backwards. Have people agreed on a fence? In my opinion there is absolutely no point starting a project unless the long-term biosecurity (reducing the likelihood of re-incursions) has at least been thought through. I do remember Andy Cox, DoC Technical Support Manager to have emphasised that point before the Ulva Island eradications. Surely education and biosecurity is but one of the first steps regardless of how, or if, the rest of the project proceeds? After all it wasn’t that long ago people didn’t recycle, now it’s the norm.

While I believe Mr Morgan’s statement about the timeframe was done in ignorance, I do ask the question of what is the rush? This project has such complicated factors and issues that it is imperative that these be

answered before progressing. We also have a lot to learn from case studies, even here already around Stewart Island.

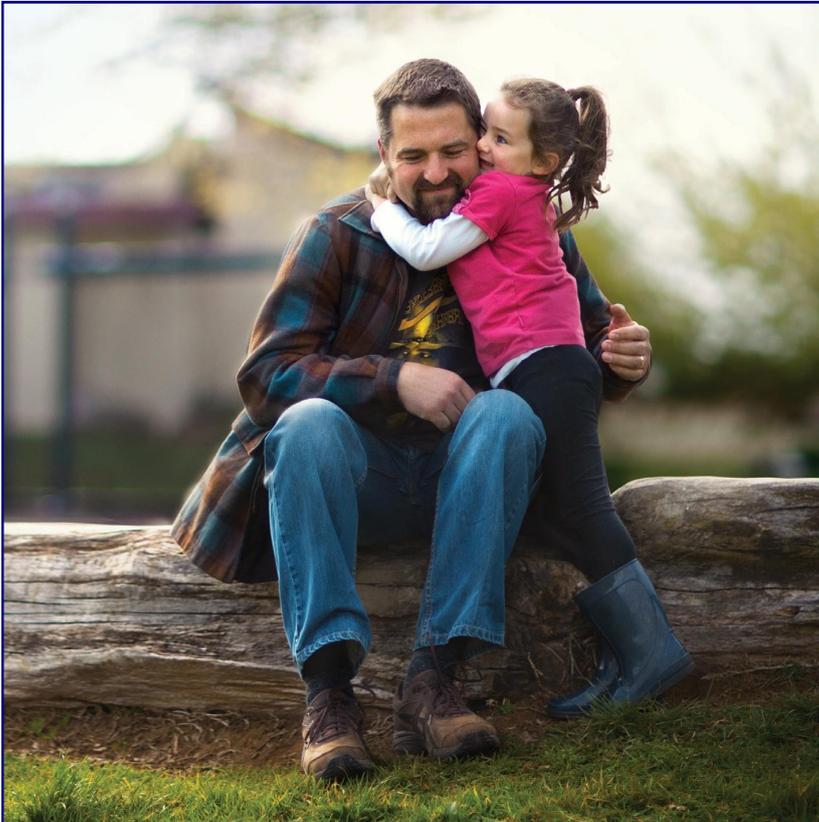
To get to the main point of this letter though, I am writing to ask that those people agreeing to be on the Governance Board are actually not just “good communicators and positive about the project”. My personal belief is that for the project and associated information to be analysed thoroughly and to get the best representative for the community then the person that is needed is actually someone who is:

- *Open minded, and willing to entertain the notion that IF the costs (social, health and environmental) to our community outweigh the benefits then the project is not supported
- *Respectful of the community
- *Able to see all the issues and be prepared to present them whether they are popular or not (everyone has valid questions)
- *Able to see through jargon, bs and be practical about it
- *Even-tempered
- *Prepared to communicate regularly with the community
- *Committed to representing the community

While I like the concept of a feral cat, rat and possum free Stewart Island, I have my concerns. It will come at a cost to us all socially, economically and environmentally and I only hope these costs are not too great.

Regards
Mary Chittenden

P.S. The fact it’s called the Gareth Morgan pest free eradication project suggests the community are yet to buy-in. Now that Andy Roberts from DoC has been transferred, who is now leading this within DoC and who is currently leading the project overall?



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- **FREE hearing checks**
- **FREE hearing health consultations**
- **Plus if we do find you could benefit from hearing aids, we have interest free payment plans available.**

Stewart Island Hearing Health Day

Where: Fire Service Rooms

When: Tuesday 27 August

Time: 10:00am - 3:30pm (appointments are essential)

Please phone our Bay Audiology Invercargill clinic on

0800 800 854

to secure your FREE hearing check appointment.

*Offers only available to people aged 18 years and over.



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Congratulations!

Kate & Brett on the birth of

Lillie Marion Grace Hamilton 6lb 15 oz 20th July 2013

Ben Hopkins took this stunning photo of our very own Jack Frew. He's not sure about the reason for the hair... has the price of Export gone up, or did someone accidentally pour cider in his glass?



Need a Resource Consent?

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Toadstool Hall

Photo from Carolyn Squires

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Web Watch

Thanks to Chris Visser for this great link to the 1968 *Looking at New Zealand* episode featuring Stewart Island.

Shot in the days of rousing title music and Kiwi narrators that spoke proper English (like wot I does), it's a real blast from the past!

<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/looking-at-new-zealand---the-third-island-1968>

Or just Google "The Third Island 1968"

P.S. Maureen Jones looks as lovely as ever!!

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