

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA



DECEMBER 2008—JANUARY 2009

\$2.50

HAPPY HOLIDAYS STEWART ISLAND

Jump into the New Year!



PHOTO: LIZ CAVE

Winiata and Georgie kayaking in Paterson Inlet (p14)

Two thousand Eight saw some great cultural events on the Island: the New Zealand Royal Ballet graced our shores, the HMB students created a wonderful Wearable Art exhibit, and the Christchurch Youth Symphony wowed a big crowd at the Hall this month.

It was a huge year for travel: Islanders represented on every continent and in more than a dozen countries. And we had a *true* Oban Globetrotter visit us from the other Oban (p2)!

The year ends with a flurry of activity including the pigeon race from the Gray property, Christmas parties, an Island wedding (congratulations Simone and Tim!), and the Gun Club's end-of-year shoot (sorry, no pictures this month, your dingdong editor tried to access the Club the wrong way and chickened out due to gunfire).

If your New Year resolutions include working on your "guns" or just getting fit, now is the time and this is the place! Casey organized new equipment for our

gym and the facility is truly state-of-the art. No excuses: get down there, introduce yourself to our lovely leggy manager, and check out the new gym (p3).

The plane did an extra loop round the Bay on 9th December: that was Sam Sampson's final flyby. Islanders bade him farewell with a service full of moving and hilarious stories, capped off by an evening on the Wilson's. Sam wore many hats on the Island, and one of them was the first and best Editor of the *Stewart Island News*. This issue is

dedicated to Sam, and the inside four pages (7-10) are devoted to his memory.
RIP Sam Sampson 1943 - 2008



Christchurch Youth Orchestra

by Margaret Hopkins

The sound of orchestral instruments warming up provided an air of anticipation at the Stewart Island Community Centre on 9th December as the audience filed in. 47 members

of the Christchurch Youth Orchestra formally dressed for their southernmost concert proved to be an impressive sight and sound. The first full symphony orchestra ever to play on Stewart Island didn't disappoint the 130 residents and visitors who came along for an entertaining evening. The CYO is the Christchurch School of Music's premier orchestra and they

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How many kakas have you had on your porch at one time? This Ob Rock patch has seen up to 15!



Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre Hours during Public Holidays:

Thursday, 25 December 2008	Closed
Friday, 26 December 2008	Closed
Saturday, 27 December 2008	Open as usual
Monday, 29 December 2008	Open as usual
Tuesday, 30 December 2008	Closed
Wednesday 31 December 2008	Open
Thursday, 1 January 2009	Closed
Friday, 2 January 2009	Closed
Saturday 3 January 2009	Open as usual
Monday, 5 January 2009	Re-open

KERBSIDE COLLECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2008
TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2008
TUESDAY 06TH JANUARY 2009

Hello. My wife & I celebrated our silver wedding in October by enjoying a holiday in New Zealand & one of the highlights was a visit to Stewart Island. One of our local newspa-

pers, the *Oban Times*, regularly features a picture of people who are reading a copy of the paper in far flung places. When I was planning the trip I thought a picture in Oban, Stewart Island might be interesting for readers back home as I suspect most don't realise that another Oban exists. The editor of the *Oban Times* obviously thought so too & rather than print the photo in the usual spot at the head of the letters page it was promoted to the dizzy heights of page 5. I've attached a scanned copy of the piece & to complete the story we returned home with a copy of your excellent publication & a photograph was taken of it being read by yours truly outside the ferry terminal at Oban, Argyll. If you're short of news sometime you could perhaps use the story. I promised the lady in the Visitor Centre (who was acting as relief as I recall) that I would send a copy of the paper if the photograph was used. That is on its way with a copy of the

other photograph so if you give it a couple of weeks you could pop down & have a read at what excitement there is in Oban, Argyll.

With best wishes, Malcolm
Malcolm & Sue Chattwood
Lochgilphead Argyll



4 December, 2008 - www.obantimes.co.uk

Artist trail planned for waterfront

Community Council has planning permission for six signs and, if approved, they will be in place next year. Kenny MacIntyre give visitors a taste of Oban's future, history, nature and biodiversity. Text and design are being finalised but might include details of local birds, the town's most famous people and Gaelic culture in the area.

There are also plans to produce an information leaflet to promote the new town trail. The project plan states it aims to allow visitors to delve deeper into Oban and 'take away with them a sense of really knowing the place, rather than simply using Oban as a jumping off point for the islands.'

YOUR VIEW
What more should Oban be doing to encourage and assist tourism in the area? Are you a visitor? What do you want from Oban? Pass your ideas and thoughts to The Oban Times via www.obantimes.co.uk or by writing to The Oban Times PO Box 1, Oban

Malcolm and Sue Chattwood made sure they packed a copy of *The Oban Times* for their visit to Oban, New Zealand.

It's Oban – but not as we know it

WHILE the name may be familiar, the location is just about as far flung as readers of *The Oban Times* can get. Sue Chattwood of Kilmichael Glassary, near Lochgilphead, snapped her husband Malcolm's photograph while he read his *Oban Times* outside Oban Visitor Centre in New Zealand. Malcolm said: 'When I included Stewart Island in the itinerary, I couldn't resist the temptation to carry paper for 12,000 miles for a photograph. In fact, as we flew out via Hong Kong and returned via Los Angeles, the paper has circumnavigated the globe!' The town of Oban is the only big settlement on Stewart Island, a granite island covered in rain forest off New Zealand's southern coast. Close by are the islands of Iona and Ulva. The three-week trip, the couple's second to New Zealand, was to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary.

NEW GYM EQUIPMENT!!

by Casey Lockwood

Hi Everyone~ The latest project at the Community Centre was revamping the gym, which took place on December 5th and 6th. After much hard work (physical *and* mental—you should have seen the “instructions” that came with the equipment!!) the new gym equipment has been installed and the old has been removed. We still have the old exercise bike and would love to sell it (all offers are serious offers!).

FIRST AND FOREMOST:

A HUUUUUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND MONEY TO HELP OUT. IT HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED!!

The new gym consists of:

Cardio:

- .. Treadmills (one new, one old)
- .. Elliptical (cross-trainer)
- .. Spin Bike
- .. Rowing machine (the screen now works)

Weights:

- .. Bench Press/Squat Rack (from the old gym)
- .. A Four-Station Multi-Gym (with four weight stacks so multiple users can lift at the same time)
- .. An assisted chin-up and dip machine (if you can't do a chin-up on your own, this machine can help you get there)
- .. A greater variety of free weights
- .. Medicine balls and Swiss Balls

***One thing to note is that a few pieces were missing from the assisted chin/dip machine so it will be completed upon arrival of the correct parts. We are also replacing a few pieces on the Multi-Gym but it is currently operable and works great.*

If you are a current member, a member who hasn't renewed, or have never been a member, let this inspire you. Come down and check out our new facility during my office hours, or schedule a time with me.

Membership	Annual	6 Mths	3 Mths	1 Mth	2 Wks	1 day
Individual	\$160	\$100	\$60	\$35	\$25	\$5
Family	\$240	\$150	\$80	\$50	\$35	\$5/pp

I was at the Library the other day while a couple of guys helped me move a shelf, and a group of young boys approached and asked for the key to get into the Community Centre. “Our dad’s in there,” said one. Poor puppies! I went to find a key when I noticed my shelf-shifting guys

raising their eyebrows and shaking their heads. The boys suddenly mumbled “Forget it” and ran off laughing, and one guy said “Jess, their Dad’s not in there, they’re just trying to get into the gym because they’re bored.” I know this sounds a bit mean but our gym equipment has

suffered from bored kids in the past and now that we have nice new expensive equipment it’s more important than ever to be cautious about letting unchaperoned packs of kids into the Centre. If they don’t have a parent with them, be a meanie and don’t let them in!
—Ed

This project was costly, but we feel it was worth it

to have a quality gym for the community. Let us know you think it was worth it too either by joining or donating to the cause. A Donation Box will be left outside the gym at all times.

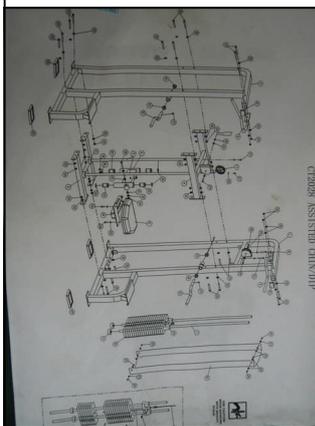
There will be a FREE Open Gym day after the New Year TBA. That means anyone can come and use the facility for the day to see if they want to become a member. I will be there during that time to explain how the machines work and to answer any questions. Feel free to contact me at any time to set up an appointment before that date at 226.

Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you then! Also come to the Community Xmas Party on the 20th at 3pm.

Have a Happy Holiday!
Your hall manager,
Casey Lockwood

Office Hours:
3:00pm-5:00pm **Wednesday**
and 11:30am-12:30pm **Saturday**

Blueprint for the Starship Enterprise? No...the assembly directions for the new weight machine! With Chilean Jorge, Becca Parry, Debbie Barry and numerous other helpers all trying to build the equipment from hundreds of pieces and dozens of bolts and washers, it was a lively afternoon!





Ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

Bev Cowie

recently returned from a big Northern Hemisphere tour.

When Grace Ella Cowie

well, as she had lived in Victoria on Vancouver Island, so I was privy to first hand knowledge of different activities and shops.

ing for the day turned into a gamble. Jandals and summer clothes are hardly the appropriate clothing on a glacier but I did survive. The rafting was great and I'm ready for class 3 or 4 rapids now.

was born in New York arrangements were already in place for me to meet her. And so it was that I left August 1st for the biggest and best overseas trip I have ever undertaken. Travelling alone was also a bit scary, but thankfully nothing too major went wrong.

A visit to Grouse Mountain is a must! The Screaming Eagle chair lift



takes you up 4100 feet above Vancouver to a spectacular view and plenty of activities. Among these are the Lumberjack Show, Birds in Motion demon-

A scenic flight at Whistler, whale watching at Victoria, The Butchart Gardens and the Vancouver aquarium are also memorable activities and the people on this tour will be remembered for some time.

Firstly I flew to San Francisco and amazingly the couple checking in at Invercargill were also going there, so we swapped cell numbers and kept in touch. My hotel was extremely central with the cablecar at the corner of my street. Of course, the Hop On Hop Off bus also gets you around the top spots! Fisherman's Wharf, the action spot of San Fran was very accessible and particularly busy. After walking over the Golden Gate bridge on day one I realized I needed to take better care of the feet, especially when you are wearing jandals!!

stration, grizzly bears and grey wolves at close range, chairlift & helicopter rides etc. A great place to spend a whole afternoon.

Next stop New York, via Calgary. Here, I had the only hiccup of my time away. I missed my connecting flight, through no fault of mine, and after getting re-routed through Toronto managed to get to NY about 3 hours later than intended. Thankfully Bevan (son) still came to meet me about 10.30pm. A cuppa at Park Ave, where they live, was more than welcome!!

A visit to Alcatraz Island Penitentiary was also great, but needs to be booked well in advance – I was lucky in that I managed to locate an agent with a spare ticket. Alcatraz, a 12 acre rock island, has become one of the main tourist spots since closing in 1963. A number of proposals were put forward as to its future use, among them a theme park in celebration of space travel, but Native US Indian activists occupied the island in opposition to all proposals a total of 3 times during the next 6 years. Congress finally created Alcatraz Island as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1972, and to my mind was the only solution.

On to the tour through the Rockies with awesome views virtually around every corner. A great team of varying nationalities - 45 in total - were on board the tour, and we had a lot of laughs during our time together.

Meeting Grace at 6 weeks old the following day was truly special, and we had a lot of fun together during my different times with her. Watching her develop over the time I had with her will be special memories.

From there I flew to Vancouver, to meet up with my first Cosmos bus tour through the Rockies. My room-mate Angela from England had lost her husband about a year prior so we had something in common. She also knew Vancouver

Keith, our bus driver let us know that he would stop and back up if anyone actually saw a bear in the wild. We still haven't seen one, even though he backed up for a... stump!!

The Trans Canada highway and Canada Pacific railway are an amazing engineering feat and fascinated me. The railway was initially finished in 1885, with the first service in 1886 and at that stage had already cost \$6.2 million!! Trains can get up to 1 mile long and need at least 3 engines to get them up the inclines.

New York was full on, and the sirens and horn blasts hard to get used to. There is great shopping virtually around every corner, and walking is the main form of transport. The heat was also hard to get used to – thank goodness for air conditioning. Central Park is huge and has plenty of activities for something different every day. Ground Zero was a very sobering place, and the construction taking place now is immense.



Interesting visits during this tour would have to be Banff, Lake Louise, a grand five star plus hotel beside a glacial lake in the middle of nowhere, Jasper, Sun Peaks, and Victoria on

The Natural History Museum was well worth the visit. Displays were amazing and it was here that I met Anne from the Rockies tour. 8 million people in NY and here we meet – unbelievable. During this NY stop-over I went to see the Broadway stage show Mama Mia which Bevan had earlier secured very good seats. A real NY experience.

Vancouver Island. Activities included going onto the Athabasca glacier which also happened to be the same day we were going rafting, so cloth-

Next stop was New Orleans , where I stayed with Al & Dolores, both in their early 70's. I had never met Dolores and had not seen Al for 45 years. He was a sailor on the Antarctica deployment and Dunedin was the base for their ships departure to the ice. My father welcomed some of the sailors to our home and took them deerstalking in the Blue Mountains . Al kept in touch with my mother, but when she passed away we lost touch until he advertised in the ODT about 10 years ago looking for us, so since then I have stayed in contact with him.

Al & Dolores live in Mandeville which is on the inland coast of Lake Pontchartrain which has a bridge of 2 separate spans of 24 miles long, and holds the distinction of being the longest over water highway, but the scenery for 30 minutes is rather boring!



New Orleans was “dripping hot”, almost unbearable during the midday sun. The French Quarter proved to be everything I imagined it would be. Jazz singers entertaining us over lunch and the Mississippi wide and dirty. There was still some sign of Katrina which had passed through 3 years prior, but they have done an amazing job getting the town back to normal, and Al actually felt it was cleaner than before the storm.

Highlights of my stay there would be the Mardi Gras World, where the floats are repaired or altered, Bread pudding

New Orleans style, a visit to the Cajun country to visit the Tabasco plant, and the Audobon Zoo. This zoo would have to be the best I have visited.



The huge variety of animals were in massive enclosures, and obviously happy and well cared for.

Back to New York 3 days before Hurricane Gustav hit the area so my visit was well timed. During the next 10 days I did all the touristy things - Times Square , Grand Central Station, Rockefeller building etc. Particularly enjoyable was Brooklyn where the wide open pedestrian areas were quite a contrast to Manhattan . Also great value was the boat trip with Bevan, Liz & Grace to see the Statue and Ellis Island , and another round Manhattan boat trip. Views from Empire State building and ‘The Rock’ (Rockefeller Building) were spectacular despite the heat haze.

While in Times Square I was fortunate to meet the ‘Naked Cowboy’ a NY icon. Naked except for his speedos and guitar – never actually heard him sing though!!

Security in NY was very nearly over the top with x-ray machines in place everywhere there was a large public gathering – Empire State building, The Rock, Statue of Liberty etc.



Sept 8 saw me on my next Cosmos tour through Eastern US & Canada with the first hiccup of this tour happening before we even got out of NY.

Just outside the United Nations Building a side window on the bus shattered, so we had to wait 2 hours for a replacement bus to arrive. We all got an unexpected chance to go through this building.

Boston was our first stopover where I went to the “Cheers’ bar with another couple of Aussies for lunch. Aussies

proved to be the best friends on both tours and seemed to take me, the only Kiwi, under their wing. Hopefully I will catch up with them again.

Quebec , a UNESCO World Heritage site was a fascinating town and this



was the first day of rain of any consequence since I left home. But the crepes were ‘to die for’ and at least it was dry in the restaurant. A guided walk through the Chateau Frontenac was interesting and we all partook of the free cocktail.

The tour took us through Montreal , with its full underground city which comes into its own during winter, even though it operates all year, and Ottawa , Canada ’s capitol with plenty

of statues and amazing Government buildings. From here we followed the St Lawrence River and enjoyed a boat ride among an area no bigger then the inlet which had probably up to 1000 small islands which had a building of some sorts on every one. Some simple and some simply opulent. Toronto was our next stop with memories of the CN Tower, a NZ shop, and the best Chinese meal I have ever had. Good Aussie company helped as well!!

Niagara Falls will be a lasting memory – the sheer volume of water is amazing and the size unbelievable. The Maid of the Mist gave us great close-up shots, but cameras definitely do get wet. Niagara also saw us getting bus number 3 for the trip. Engine trouble this time!!

Next we visited the Amish country which I found fascinating having

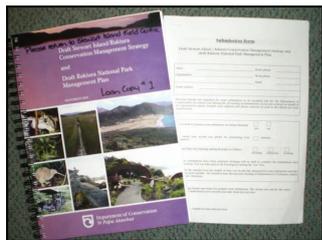
(Continued on page 12)



DoC Spot

Draft Plans released

The draft Stewart Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and the draft Rakiura National Park Management plan were publicly notified on Saturday 22 November 2008. The period for receiving public submissions on these documents is open until 5pm, 11 March 2009. The Department of Conservation has opted to run with a long submission period as the draft planning documents have been notified close to the busy holiday season. We would like to stress to the public that it is equally important to submit on aspects of the draft plans that they approve of, as well as those aspects that they would wish to see changed. Limited copies of the draft planning documents have been printed; however the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre has three copies which may be borrowed on short-term loan. The document can also be downloaded from the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz and CDs of the document are also freely available from the RNPVC.



Taonga relocated

The Visitor Centre information upgrade is finally underway – new retail joinery was fitted during the first week in December and the Taonga carving, depicting the story of how Rakiura became separated from the South Island, has been relocated in its own casing outside the front of the building. We are just awaiting the arrival of the track and recreational information panels to complete this upgrade.

Fire Permits

The Southern Rural Fire Committee as Fire Authority for Southern Rural Fire District has imposed a Restricted Fire Season across all land within Southern Rural Fire District, including Stewart Island, until further notice. This means permits are required for all fires except for incinerators and BBQ/cooking fires. Fire permits for Stewart Island are issued by DOC on behalf of the SRFA, but please heed the fact that there are only two Rural Fire Officers on staff who have been authorised to issue permits – if you want a fire permit please don't leave it until the last minute to apply for one.

Permits may take up to five working days to process and no permits will be issued over the period 24 December 2008 – 5 January 2009.

YEP Survey underway

The yellow eyed penguin survey is underway. This is in conjunction with the YEP Trust and is a resurvey of the whole island - last done in 1999/2000. After experiencing a 50% decline along the Anglem coast over the last ten years, this survey is to determine if the same level of decline is happening across the rest of the island. It will be completed by February 2009.

Pegasus possum control completed

Possum control has been completed for the season. This year's control was around Port Pegasus. After control, monitoring only caught 3 possums for over 1000 trap nights – a very good result.

Hut rangers in residence

Two hut rangers have been appointed and will be based at Port William and Mason Bay huts until the end of March 2009.

DOC wishes everyone a safe and happy festive season.

The Habitat Restoration Project

in Halfmoon Bay has had some outstanding results in the last few years. The increasing number of birds in and around the bay is just awesome. This has been made possible by people dedicating small & large amounts of their time to trapping pests in the area, with great success. The old adage 'many hands make light work' is most appropriate. This coming year '09 is forecast to be a great fruiting season for the trees, however unfortunately, this

means that the rodents start breeding fast and furiously to make use of the extra food around, thus producing a potential spike in rat numbers. Not a good situation for the birdies... Therefore we are hoping that if you are enjoying the birds, dislike rodents/pests, like walking and have some time you can contribute to continuing the great work already underway please contact Diana Morris on 2191515. Don't forget the Christmas party on Sunday 21st December!

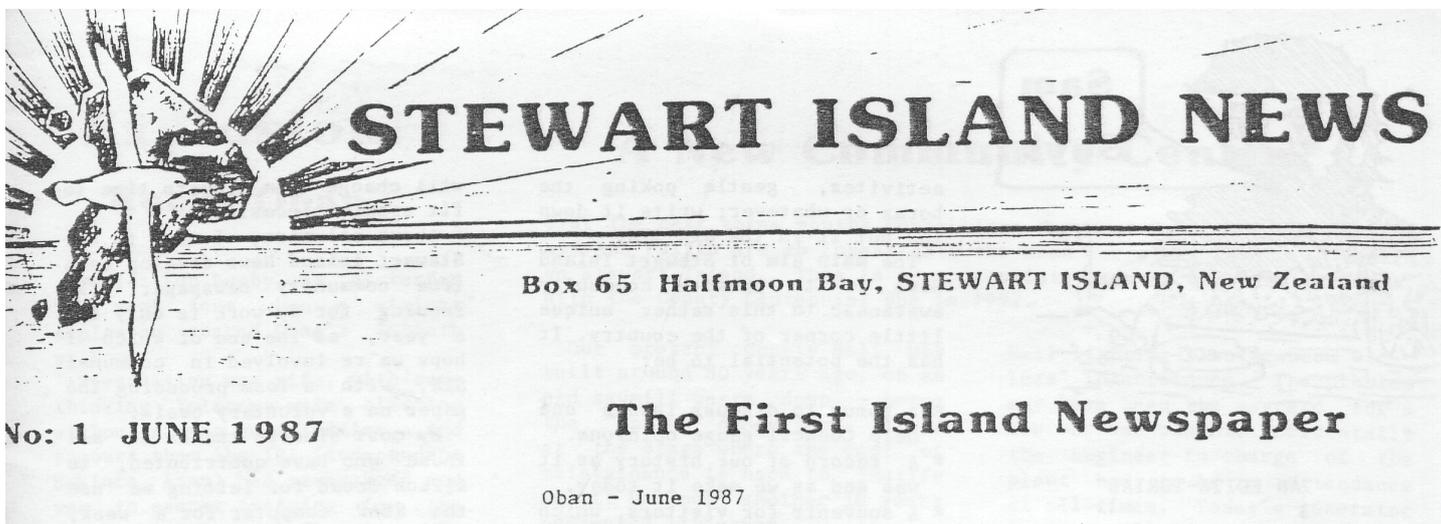
—Diana Morris

SIRCET CHRISTMAS PARTY

21st December
Join us at 10:30am to help with the native planting along the Harrold Bay walking track, or at 12:30pm for BBQ lunch and the 2008 Volun*Emmy* Awards

Everyone Welcome!

(Bring a plate, sunscreen, beach games and garden tools)



"AN EDITA-TORIAL"

Would you believe it? After a year of false starts, hiccups and procrastination, here it is, STEWART ISLAND NEWS - known affectionately as SIN to its friends, cursed as a sin by its enemies [hopefully none yet]!

Why have a monthly Island paper, when the SOUTHLAND TIMES already covers our major news as it happens? The role of SIN is entirely different to that of the TIMES. If you have something important to say now, contact our local TIMES correspondent, Helen Bissland, send them a press release, or write a letter to the Editor.

If it's got an Island flavour and isn't too urgent - your views on local issues, club

activities, gentle poking the borax or whatever; write it down and put it in the SIN-BIN.

The main aim of Stewart Island News is to promote community awareness in this rather unique little corner of the country. It has the potential to be:

- * A forum to discuss issues and help Council gauge opinions.
- * A record of our history as it was and as we make it today.
- * A souvenir for visitors, which can help promote our Island.
- * A way to help language, art & computer skills, by involving school pupils [& adults] in all phases of production.
- * An outlet for local humourists artists and writers to show their talents.
- * A heap of fun and a barrel of laughs. Let's not take life too seriously - it's bound to get worse!

We'll produce SIN by Island rules. Every effort will be made to keep a regular end-of-month publication, but it's a part-time effort, so some delays will be inevitable. Layout and production will change as we learn and grow [I trust], and it's quite possible even the name

will change from time to time to fit special occasions.

Above all else, I want to see Stewart Island News develop as a true community newspaper. The funding for my work is only for a year, at the end of which I hope we're involved in communal SIN, with a team producing the paper on a voluntary basis.

My most sincere thanks to all those who have contributed, to Alison Broad for letting me use the REAP computer for a week, to Neville Cheyne of the Community College printery for all his guidance, to "Flying Phil" for providing a bed and taxi service, to the County Council, Lions Club, Promotion Assn and others who supported my application for a Community Assistance Scheme Grant, and most of all to Margaret Sykes for obtaining it.

Barrels of midnight oil [roll on the power scheme], a mountain of fag-ends, and a few whiskeys [best NZ Wilsons of course] lubricated this issue. There'll be "typos" and other boo-boos I haven't picked up - what the hell - hope you like it!

**Letter from Sam,
December 2008**

This is a message to all of you
woodchuckers,

Pill pushers, young scrubbers
and the old suckers,

The DVD pirates and the
cutter runners,

Some of you I've known half
me years,
Some of you have only recently
visited here,

You all know who you are,
with coffee, wine & beers,

I'd like to say thanks and
I love you to bits,
But if I said that aloud
you'd all be in fits
So bugga you all, you
bloody good gits.



Beryl Wilcox has kindly shared her words from Sam's service:

Gwen has asked me to talk about Sam in his working life with Lloyd and I at Stewart Island Travel. It is a privilege to remember these times with Sam.

It occurred to me that I needed to talk about how things were in former times. There are some among you that will remember, others that have forgotten, and those who were not on the Island during those days.

Our first recollections are of Sam on his blue Greek prototype three wheeler bike driving around the foreshore. Then, of course, his hair and beard was jet black, wild and untamed. The local kids thought he looked very scary like a prehistoric cave man but they soon found out his exceptionally kind nature. Children related to Sam and he took extra time with them. He regularly tolerated them playing with his whiskery beard.

The other striking part of Sam's appearance, at that time, was the brown leather shorts that he wore – when I say shorts I mean short shorts that were both dirty and often indecent! He did have good legs though! I can't remember for sure, but it was probably a catalyst for Lloyd to purchase staff uniforms. And in Sam's case it was brown nylon trousers and shirt. Horrid maybe, but more appropriate to greet the public in.

Stewart Island Travel, sited on the Main Road was established in 1977. This was during the change-over in the airline operations from the amphibian service landing in Halfmoon Bay to the Ryans Creek airstrip. The Wairua ferry came three times per week in summer and twice a week in winter.



Sam joined our team in the early 1980s. Over the

years as our travel centre operations changed and expanded, his work requirements also varied radically. It is lucky that we lived in an era of no job descriptions (not that he would have wanted one). Sam adapted to these changes readily.

In the early days he would park the bus down at the wharf entrance to meet the ferry, bus tour sign out, with his amiable relaxed style to greet the visitors of the day.

Then there were the planes to meet at the airstrip and Sam would be there in all weathers, ticketing, completing load sheets, and the endless loading and unloading again. In these times not only did the planes (Islanders, Aztecs, and Nomad to name only some) arrive and leave with passengers. There were groceries (papers, milk in bottles, bread to be delivered to the shop first thing to satisfy the waiting locals), fish (cod, paua, crayfish frozen and later times live), boat parts, produce, animals, and more. Sam was pretty fit in those times. He talked fondly about the day there was 27 Islander flights to the Island, three planes every hour. It was all go.

In the tearooms, Sam was known for his black coffees, so thick and strong you could stand a spoon up in it. When there was a busy rush, Sam would wash dishes or clear some tables to help out. I don't remember a favourite food, although he liked the deep fryer with battered blue cod and chips (no salt but lots of vinegar). Black jelly beans were a luxury for his occasional sweet tooth.

Through the eighties and early nineties there were scenic tourist trips, accommodation to arrange, taxis to transfer the multitudes (thousands over the years) to their holiday homes, loading, unloading again, as well as rental cars and little motor scooters to prepare for their next trip out.

The petrol pumps ensured a steady stream of vehicles to serve fuel to and Sam was even known to retreat to the garage to fix a tyre, or make minor repairs and adjustments. I know all these task still happen but Sam did it all and plus.

Without a doubt, I'm positive, the worst job of all would have been emptying the toilet can (pre-sewerage days) over at our rental houses. One of these houses Sam himself eventually bought. But he didn't even seem to mind this task and certainly no one can ever remember him complaining.

A more enjoyable aspect for Sam was when Lloyd built the Roaring 40's Brewery in the old butcher shop. This building was also where Sam set up his computer for a time to write, format and edit the Stewart Island News or SIN as it was more commonly known. The smell of malt filled the air as Sam filled the riggers and wheel barrowed the kegs over to the South Seas Hotel for the bar. He did however prefer Monteiths Old Dark when it came to beer consumption but wouldn't say no to a test sample or two.

Sam was regarded as a great colleague by those he worked alongside. I have spoken to many of the former long term staff and reminisced with Lloyd - Sam is remembered by all with great affection, admiration for his extensive knowledge and creativity, his obliging nature, his enjoyment of people, and his willingness for both the chores and the adventures. It was fun times.

He in turn appreciated people – workmates, friends, and new acquaintances - Sam enjoyed their company

There was one occasion recalled when Sam went on Train About – a combined promotional event by rail between Southland and Stewart Is-

Billy the Bus

by Sam Sampson

Chorus:

*Away, away in Billy the Bus,
Over the hills always making a fuss,
Billy coughs and farts,
Sam cheeks the tarts
Round the roads of Rakiura.*

Now Arkright used to run the shop,
Didn't make much, but it wasn't a flop.
Now, what a shock, he is quarrying rock
For the roads of Stewart Island.

There's "Sinky" in the South Roads ute,
Getting on now, but he works like a
beaut. He paints marker poles,
and fills the potholes,
In the roads of Rakiura.

Watch it, here comes Mrs Tait, Going
slow, and she's running late. She drives
by feel, can't see over the wheel,
To the roads of Rakiura.

Here comes "Spragg" in the rubbish
truck, Headmaster once, now to change
his luck, He serves in the Bar,
and scatters junk far
Round the roads of Rakiura.

Here comes Jack with a load of pots,
Travelling at a rate of knots, He sells the
juice, that lets us loose
Round the roads of Rakiura.

That one there is "Powerhouse Pete",
You seldom see him on his feet, He'll be
down a hole, or right up the pole,
By the roads of Rakiura.

Now, "Father Bernard" is our Cop,
Not enough work to make him hop,
He sits in his shack, and turns his back,
To the roads of Rakiura.

Well, there you go folks, the tour is done,
Hope you learned something and had some
fun. But, think as you do -
"all my lies were true"
Of the roads of Rakiura.

(Continued from page 8)

land Promotions touring the
North Island and this was a trip
that he really enjoyed and ex-
celled in.

Before we raise the pedestal too
high, he could be forgetful; he
got the shakes after some of his
sessions; sometimes his hygiene
wasn't very good at all. Lloyd,
not a man to mince words
would say "Sam You stink. Go
and have a shower!" And Sam
would cheerfully respond with a
"Tell me because I just forget. I
can't smell me" His lack of
smell was possibly from the
many years that Sam was al-
ways to be seen with a pipe
(Tasman Dark was his 'baccy')
or cigarettes as his nicotine
stained fingers would attest.

There was also the winter time
'episodes' where Sam would at
times disappear into his own
world, but that seemed to lessen
over time.

Lloyd remembers an incident of
great frustration when he had
just completed a major overhaul
of Billy the Bus with extensive
panel beating, painting and sign
writing. The refurbished vehicle
set off on its first trip with Sam
at the wheel, so busy yapping
on about such things as the slip-
per fern or the native wood pi-
geon eating the kotukutuku ber-
ries that he forgot to shut the
hydraulic passenger door. As a
result he swiped the whole door
off the hinges. Lloyd could not
believe it but he said later that
he appreciated the way that Sam
did say he was sorry.

Most of all in his working life at
Stewart Island Travel, Sam is
remembered for two key
strengths – his bus tours and his
twilight trips.

His bus tours were famous

world wide. Sam enjoyed the
opportunity to share his love of
the Island. He knew all the
proper names of the flora and
fauna (he probably forgot more
that the rest of us ever knew),
had an impressive knowledge of
the Island's history and would
often include the locals in a bit
of friendly 'lip,' slowing down
to add some fictitious complaint
to his tour performance or yell-
ing and shaking his fist as he
drove by. He could often be
sidetracked with visitors to dis-
cuss the birdlife, examine some
of the ferns, or investigate the
rock pools at Ringaringa (in the
days when the road was along-
side the beach). His background
education and knowledge was
invaluable.

Sam would often would often
do bus tours "back to back" in
the peak tourist times (pausing
only to grab a sandwich through
the drivers window as he went
past) and he seemed to relish
the challenge of these days.
Sam was a lover of words and
he also had a very dry sense of
humour. I mean 'dry' in the
broadest possible sense of the
word because Sam's love of
Wilson's whiskey was legen-
dary. There was a long term
'rivalry' between the Wizard
and Sam (who loved to portray
himself as something of a com-
bination of Merlin, Neptune, a
cross between Dumbledore and
Hagrid, and finally as the Fluid
Druid). There was an occasion
when the Wizard came south to
the Island to visit. The pair set-
tled down to partake of Sam's
home brewed honey mead –
Sam emerged the victor of that
unspoken challenge.

The other 'specialty' of
Sam's work was his Twi-
light Tours in the summer
months. He would take an
excited and expectant



(Continued from page 9)

group out by bus in the evening to the end of the Leask's Bay road. There they would stroll down to Harrolds Bay to watch the little blue penguins coming ashore and view Ackers Cottage. Then the walk out to the lighthouse in the fading light to await the ungainly arrival of the sooty shearwater birds as they splattered in to land among the bushes. The return back along the track was by torchlight with the nightly sounds of the morepork, possums and weka and glimpses of the starry skies through the trees. These trips were always wonderful adventures and all tribute to this success goes to Sam.

There were many occasions where our work life flowed over into our social life. It is just part of living on this Island. Sam was always willing to become involved. Many grandiose schemes were plotted for the comings and goings of locals, fundraising ideas, and celebratory events usually meant the decorating of Billy the Bus. Fun abounded and pranks were played. There were quite a few impromptu parties held at the airstrip too.

In the Stewart Island community, people participate and step up to the mark in many ways and Sam was no exception.

He was prepared to contribute to the community and he did so consistently through the years.

One area of service was with the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade and he was a member for almost five years. His 3 year service certificate, achieved in 1983 hangs on the fire station wall alongside others. Most of his service was in the old shed open to the elements that passed as a fire depot prior to the current building.

To add to his response to need, Sam did his share of many emergency flights, including setting out the night lanterns along the edges of the strip in the

dark of night, and assisting and supporting others in difficult times.

When our involvement in Stewart Island Travel ended in 1995 and we shifted to the mainland, Sam and Billy the Bus continued their partnership for a considerable period of time but the days, as we had known it, had changed

Still Sam remained a vital part of the Island's history up until his death. With our memories and future tales of folklore, Sam will be remembered as one of the notable icons of this era, just as much as we remember him now.

—B. Wilcox

Before I ever stepped foot on the ferry, I was touring around the South Island and naturally found myself at the Speights Brewery in Dunedin. When I mentioned my itinerary might include Stewart Island, the tour guide brightened and said "You'll meet Sam Sampson!" Sam's reputation preceded him, and sure enough, within 24 hours of arriving here I found myself sitting next to the man at the Pub. He was smoking a pipe, and telling yarns. He had a classic storyteller's voice: a resonant baritone with a knack for the dramatic pause and pipe puff. I wasn't one of those LOTR nuts who come to NZ to find Gandolf, but Holy Hobbit, here he sat! I'd just returned from a bike trip round Horseshoe, and he seemed to be a wealth of island information, so I asked him the classic loopy question: "What's that phone on the rimu tree for?" He stared at me like a mad owl for a while, and puffed on his pipe. Finally he spoke. "That, my dear, is so you can talk to the Sap on the Other Side."



Sometime in the last year or two I was on the van when it stopped at the Pub to pick up Sam, who opted for the seat next to the pilot

when we got to the airstrip. His aroma filled the plane like a strange whisky air-freshener.

There were a couple of non-Islanders on board, which made it all the more amusing when Sam took over the safety riff from the pilot, who was trying to tell us about seatbelts and lifejackets. Sam twisted round in his seat and addressed all onboard: "If things go pear shaped, then GOD HELP US ALL," he intoned and faced the front. The tourists gasped, I think they thought he was the co-pilot.

Life is a funny duck, and little did the loopy at the Pub all those years ago guess that someday she'd be following Sam's legacy as editor of the *Stewart Island News*. Perusing through old issues (some an impressive 28 pages long!) is humbling and inspiring: Sam crafted *SINs* chock full of island lore, humour, poems, musings and rambles. (*SIN* archives are at Library and worth a look, they're a real treat!)

Sam was lucky to have such dear friends here, and the Island was fortunate to have him. You're on the other side now Sam, and the saps over there are richer for it. —Ed.

Arkwright's Shed... by Sam Sampson

Years ago, so 'tis said, Arkwright built a shed.
Lil Skipper was all out for slaughter,
She thought it was piss poor, she'd be living next door,
To the Island's industrial quarter.

It's a "shed" for the yarn, but it's more like a barn,
You could near fit a footie pitch in it.
Arky vowed and declared, no junk stored in this shed.
Now of course it is filled to the limit.

There's a boat that won't float, like a duck with the bloat,
Arkwright scored it in one of his deals.
There's a pukaru truck, that ran out of luck,
Brakes, clutch and a couple of wheels.

There's old dozer treads, stuff you'll find in most sheds,
But the things that astound are the tools there.
There's stuff Mr Melhop won't have in his workshop
You could damn near build a batt;eship in there.

There's a lathe in that shed, with a ten foot long bed,
Fair turns up a storm when rotating.
If my whiskers got caught, my life would be short,
I'd be spinning, there is no debating.

It was last Wed-nes-day, that OSH came our way,
To check out the Island for safety.
All tools must have guards—no junk in our yards.
I panicked for Arky, my matey.

I swore it's for sure, Arky ain't locked the door,
All the time that the shed's been erected.
Anyone can walk in, with a skinful of gin,
Use the tools there with safety neglected.

When they saw Arky's folly, OSH would go off their trolley,
And insist that his door he should lock it.
Yes, bolt up the tool... but alas the poor fools...
Lock the door? When he ain't even got it?



The Aotearoa People's Network is guiding us out of our cave dwelling and soon we will have... computers with Internet access! Details next month.

Did you know we have a great selection of magazines? We subscribe to *New Zealand Geographic* and now *Real Groove*, a publication about the latest music, films and popular culture. Thanks to Stu, Loraine, and Vicki we have *Cuisine*, *Next*, *NZ Seafood*, *Aquaculture*, *Professional Fisherman*, and *Ausmarine*.

We have dozens of new books on-shelf thanks to our circulating collection.

Thanks to Susan W. for talking books and Sue M. for games and to all the other generous donors of books, DVDs, etc.

Finally, pay homage to the Fluid Druid: ask to see *SIN* archives and enjoy the brilliant and often hilarious editions produced by Sam Sampson in the 1980s-90s. (Sorry, we won't loan those out, just for reading in the library.)

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from Team Library. —Jess

earwig corner

Recently a local overheard the following exchange on the plane between a Road Worker and a Young Lady:

YL: What have you been doing on the Island?

RW: We've been sealing.

YL: Oh! Did you get many?
and...

Our Publican has shared this reply from a visitor who ordered two pitchers and was asked to be more specific: "The brownishy one."

(CYO Continued from page 1)

are currently touring southern New Zealand playing in Invercargill, Stewart Island, Oamaru and Waimate.

An orchestral piece by Benjamin Britten introduced the various instrumental sections of the orchestra and highlighted

the talent and enthusiasm of this young group ranging in age from 13 to 25. Principal conductor Brian Buggy's introduction and explanations about the orchestra were interspersed with humorous references, including his Australian

One glassy eyed young lad told his mother that he didn't know music could make you feel like that inside!

origins. Both Brian's and Musical Director Mark Walton's commentary provided good insight to the orchestra's performance which was able to be understood by young and old. Talented 21-year-old New Zealand conductor Gemma New who also played the violin in the string section assisted Brian Buggy. The front row of children from the Halfmoon Bay School and Rugrats seemed unusually captivated by the wonderful sound of the orchestra.

One glassy eyed young lad told his mother that he didn't know music could make you feel like that inside!
In the final high-light of the eve-



ning we were treated to an amazing Artie Shaw solo performance by world-renowned clarinet player Mark Walton who is also the Musical Director of the Christchurch School of

Music.

During the afternoon and next day the orchestra held workshops at the Halfmoon Bay School, which Principal Kath Johnson described as 'amazing and wonderful for the children'.

The beautiful sound of Sibelius being performed in our very own Community Centre is not something we will forget in a hurry.

—M. Hopkins



(Continued from page 5)

come from a farming background myself. The land was very fertile and would grow most crops. Apart from the horses and buggies there were few animals to be seen. Visiting the Amish village and a working farm was very enlightening with a guide telling us of the dress code which changes for both sexes once they get married. We were all amazed that the children all went to normal schools yet still stayed on the farm and didn't rebel and leave home.



The last stop was Washington DC where there was so much to do. We managed to get to see most monuments and museums as well as the White House and parliament buildings. Most memorable would be Arlington cemetery with JFK's family graves, the Holocaust museum, the Korean and Vietnam memorials, and the ANZAC memorial.

New York again, and a chance to catch up on sleep and laundry etc. but still plenty to do during the day. The United Nations was in session so the security in the town seemed triple fold – streets blocked off with police on most corners, and police cars in front of and behind every limousine in town. I had to visit Tiffany's and Sak's just to say I had been there, and felt more at home at Tiffany's, as there were plenty of tourists doing as I was. Saks seemed a bit daunting with the 'pretty people' all done up to the nines!!



October 1st saw us all fly down to Las Vegas very early, but it was light enough to see the Grand Canyon as we flew over it. Vegas is definitely in the middle of a desert and very hot!! Once we got ourselves settled we wandered around the different casinos. The ones to stand out for me would be 'The Mirage' with its dolphin enclosure, for which they have to make their own salt-water, and the white tiger enclosures. 'New York' was also great with a rollercoaster that Bevan and I just had to ride!! Liz & I went to Cirque Du Soleil – Mystere which was quite different but very entertaining, and of course we all had to have a flutter. Didn't make a fortune, but still left with money in the pocket.

We hired a car and then drove around the Canyonlands and this was to be the most fascinating part of my trip. On



to Zion National Park with sheer rock cliffs and a lot of walks. We visited Bryce National Park the next day and this is simply outstanding and very different from anything I've ever

seen. After visiting the different viewpoints during that day we returned and all trekked to the canyon bottom, via the Navajo Trail, and were not disappointed. The Hobos [rock stacks] are stunning, all sizes and colours, and very picturesque.

The Canyonlands offers a great variety of canyons and land forms, and of these I would recommend Willis Canyon in Escalante National Monument after traveling 6 miles on very rough outback roads, and where we saw mountain lion footprints, and Antelope Canyon on the outskirts of Paige. Both very different and both great photo opportunities.

Our next stopover was in the Monument Valley where we spent the day driving around the area in awe at the size of the rock masses. A lot of western movies have been filmed here and it is easy to see why. John Wayne has plenty of exposure in museums and shops in the area!

Bevan found the road where Forrest Gump ended his marathon run, so of course we had to watch him do the same stretch. The things we do!

On the way to the Grand Canyon we visited Navajo National Monument where one can walk to see the Betatakin Ruins, ancient homes of over 900 year old. Then came the biggest canyon – The Grand Canyon - and grand it is. The sheer size of it is overpowering and is still quite hard to comprehend how it all came about. The camera had a good workout here.



The next day was the last that we all spent together and there still seemed to be so much to see on the way back to Vegas. We followed what remains of route 66 – well worth it, simply for the facilities along the way, ie the "Roadkill Café"!! We found a ghost town at Chloride, which was something to be seen, buildings made of anything really and plenty of old cars on empty sections. After crossing the Hoover dam we had our last flutter after tea. I still have money in the pocket, in fact I'm up!!

Bevan, Liz & Grace left early the next day and I flew to Los Angeles heading to Anaheim. While waiting for my room I found Bubba Gumps' Shrimp Factory, and was shown through the restaurant. Their retail outlet had some mementos for Bevan. Universal Studios was worth the full day trip and then Disneyland for 2 days and I still haven't seen it all. The rollercoaster was awesome and well worth the 2 rides I had. Another great ride was the Tower Of Terror, but it pays to hang onto your seat as you don't meet up with it until you hit the bottom. Great fun! I managed to meet most of the Disney characters and got their autographs for Blake & Logan.

And so on October 18 it was homeward bound after 2 & 1/2 months, where I was met by the rest of the family. Security doors meant nothing to 2 little boys as they rushed to welcome me home.

—B. Cowie



Rakiura Rugrats would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone in our community for your support throughout 2008. It has been a fantastic year of change for us. Not only did we employ a great new teacher but also as parents have achieved some wonderful additions to our outdoor environment thanks to funding grants, our own sweat and tears, and the support of the community.

As some of you are aware Rakiura Rugrats as a community run early childhood education centre runs currently on a yearly deficit of approx \$10,000 for its operations. This is due to covering a teachers salary with such a small number of children. However we as the management committee have felt our children should have the experience this service offers and so

have committed ourselves to making it work. This is why you have seen us undertake so much fundraising throughout the year. This past year has seen HUGE community support for our centre and we want to share with you our appreciation and thanks for helping our centre become a stimulating and fun place for our children to learn.

We would like to thank all the sponsors of our Gala Day at Labour Weekend where we raised a fantastic \$1690 which will go towards our operational costs. A further \$900 was raised on the day through various activities for the Langley family.

We would also like to acknowledge the support we have received from the Community Trust of Southland (CTOS) for a once off donation of \$10,000 towards our operational costs and also to Pub

Charities for their grant of \$11,581 for our new Tredsafe outdoor equipment.

If you haven't already seen the wonderful new play equipment or the fabulous painted fence at Rugrats, come and have a look. A big thank you must go to Kim who did some amazing artwork for our fence and who put up with little and big kids armed with laughs, paintbrushes and varying amounts of talent.

So a huge thanks again to the businesses out there who have offered so much throughout the year for our centre and also to those who supported our fundraising events.

from Mary Chittenden
on behalf of the
Rugrats families

the GALLEY



Christmas Cake

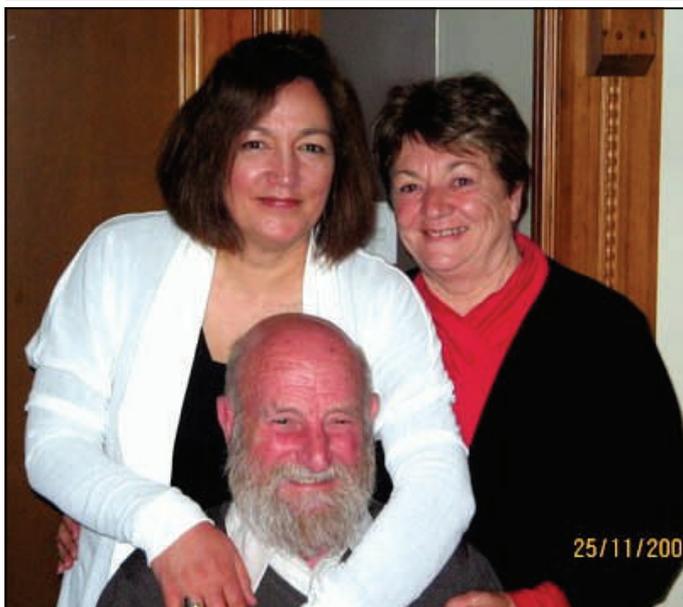
(This is a repeat from the December 2002 issue of SIN.)

- Ingredients:
1 cup water
1 cup sugar
1 cup butter
4 large eggs
2 cups dried fruit

- lemon juice
1 tsp soda
2 cups flour
1 tsp salt
1 cup brown sugar
nuts
1 bottle whisky
Sample the whisky for quality.
Take a large bowl. Check whisky again, insure it is of highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.

Repeat. Turn on beater and beat butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 Tbsp of sugar and beat again. Make sure whisky is still OK. Cry another cup. Break two eggs and add to bowl and chuck in a cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beater then prise loose with a drowsricker. Sample the whisky again to check for its tonsistency.

Next sift in 2 cups salt—or something. Who cares anyway? Check the whisky. Now sift in the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add a tsp of sugar or somethink—whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner, throw the bowl out the window, check the whisky again and go to bed.



EWAN CELEBRATING HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY AT THE HOTEL WITH BIRTHDAY GIRLS ULVA AND ISABELLE

HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT THE ANSWER TO LAST MONTHS RIDDLE? BEY COWIE WAS THE FIRST TO RESPOND CORRECTLY.

RIDDLE-OF-THE-MONTH

YOULL SPOT ME ON ULVA, AND IONA TOO
MY COLOURS CAN BE BLACK, WHITE, RED, YELLOW, BLUE

IM ROUND FERNS AND HERBS; SORELS IN THE GENUS
ON MASON AND MURRAY AND LEE YOU'D HAVE SEEN US

I WONT GO INSIDE BECAUSE IM NOT RUDE
AND I DONT PUT MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH (LIKE YOU DO)

QUEENSTOWNS NOT MY SCENE AND JAFAS NOT MY MAN
THE CAPITAL...WELL, IM A WELLINGTON FAN

IM MARRIED FOR LIFE BUT IF I EVER SPLIT
THAT MAKES ME A USELESS MATE I ADMIT

WHEN YOU GO FISHING TAKE ME AND YOUR ROD
I JUST NEED THE SOLE, MATE, YOU KEEP THE COD

GUESSED WHO I AM? LAST CLUE FOR YOU SMARTY
THERES ALL SORTS IN THIS FAMILY...MY COUSINS DOC MARTY

(SORRY TO GRAMMAR-PHILES OF THIS SOUTH SEABOARD THE APOSTROPHES MISSING FROM MY DARN KEYBOARD!)

Cool as! We went kayaking. We got to play heaps of games in our colorful kayak. It was the coolest thing I've ever done at school. *Timu*

Woosh woosh goes the water when you push. I was happy when I was kayaking. It was fun. I was excited. *Leeym*

Splash! When I jumped into the freezing water I felt like I was going to freeze like an ice cube. We had a fantastic game of water polo and an awesome game of get the chocolate off the buoy. I got two pieces of chocolate. I felt happy. When I jumped off the kayak it was like I was a swimming dog. Me and Angus lay on our backs. We were relaxing like I was in paradise. *Storm*

Thump! I landed on the beach and raced towards the kayaks. "Wait!" exclaimed Liz. I jerked to a halt. Liz explained that we had to

practice paddling techniques to make sure we remembered how to paddle. Just when I thought we could go Liz said we should play a game. Soon afterwards Liz said we could grab a kayak and head on out to Heath. I started running down the beach. I stopped beside an orange single. I started to ease the kayak into the water. I jumped in



and started to paddle *Henry*

The most exciting thing about kayaking is working as a team with my friend because I was paddling and my friend called Manoj

was shooting so that Liz couldn't get the water guns. But it was too late she snatched the guns off us and then we went back to school. *Jahdan*

Splash I jumped in. The cold water sent a shiver up my back as if someone had jumped out at me. When I was gliding through the water it felt so so cool. *Manoj*

Splash, splash went our paddles as they cut through the ocean. We were off kayaking again. The kayaks slid across the water as if they were a sleigh. The water dripped off our paddles as we sped along the sea. The sun spread its rays on my face it was as if it was filling me with light. It was a smashing day. I am never going to forget it. *Poppy*

Uhoh! Poppy and I almost fell out! It was cool gliding across the seaweed. We played water polo. Our team won! We went underneath the wharf. As I paddled water sloshed against the kayak. Poppy sprayed me in the face. I had a go by myself in the kayak. It was fun! *Sophie*

Wow! The water was fabulous when I saw it. When I got in the kayak I wanted to speed away before the others. I scraped large bits of seaweed. The wind was slowing me down but I was using all my might and caught up to them. I looked at Leeym's face he was going to squirt me. This was his first time and mine but who knows what's next. *Marley*



Halfmoon Bay School Prizes

Cross Country Champion – Junior
Marley Wright

Cross Country Champion – Senior
Poppy LeQuesne

Most Improved Swimmer – Junior
Timu Moxham

Most Improved Swimmer – Senior
Jamie Adams

Junior Swimmer of the year
Storm LeQuesne

Senior Swimmer of the year
Poppy LeQuesne

Athletics Champion – Senior
Manoj Amanono

Athletics Champion – Junior
Meg Kenny

Robin Andrews Memorial Cup for Technology
Marley Wright

NZ Police Junior Citizenship Award
Timu Moxham

Nicol-Meads Citizenship Award
Henry Bayne

Waddell Cup for Academic Improvement
Henry Bayne

Academic Improvement – Junior
Jack Dobbins

Academic Achievement – Senior
Poppy LeQuesne

Academic Achievement – Junior
Sophie Conner

This month's **chocolate award** goes to **Heath and Liz** for taking the kids kayaking.

Have you been to **Bean Around?**
Visit the Island's new coffee truck for a delicious coffee or a nice baked treat. **Bean Around** can be found parked at Golden Bay or Ob Rock.

You are invited to
Midnight Mass
 11:45pm 24th Dec.
 at St. Andrew's
 Anglican Church
 Excelsior Road

Christmas Day service
 10am 25th Dec.

All Welcome

For transport phone
 Rev Airdry Dyson-Leask
 at 2191 023

Stewart Island Community Christmas Party!

Saturday 20th December
 3pm at the Community Centre

Everyone welcome!

Locals to Loopies! Baby to Grandma!
Pot Luck Dinner: Bring a plate! Bar Available!
 Santa will be coming so bring the kids!
 Come join in the festive spirit
 with your neighbours!

Any queries or suggestions please ring Vicki on 498






The Island Beat.

Catherine and I are back from our overseas holiday. A bit worldlier and a lot more appreciative of what New Zealand and Stewart Island has to offer. It is good to be home on Stewart Island.

Nick WELLS “the rent a Cop” enjoyed his stay on the island, working with the locals and the children at school. He left the island with a big smile and a full chilly bin. He stated he enjoys the support of the locals on the island.

Last month there was a boating incident where a fizz boat coming to Stewart Island from Bluff took on water and was swamped. The boat was well equipped with safety equipment and Radios and a Mayday call was put up.

The Foveaux Express and the Western Explorer were quick to respond to the Mayday and rescued the fizz boat crew, boat and most of their gear. Well done.

Overloading of the boat was the key cause of the swamping.

With the increase in the number of fizz boats on the water over the Christmas period, this is a timely reminder to boat owners and users to

check:

- lifejackets, fire extinguishers, first aid, oars, bailers, anchors, drogues, sea anchors and safety equipment on the boat.
- Ensure your flares are not out of date and suitable for your boat use.
- Check the loading certificate on your boat and don't exceed the weight limit. The weight limit is set by the designers of the boat for a 'reason' to keep you on top of the water.
- Have your primary and auxiliary motors serviced regularly.
- If you are taking a cell phone with you put it in a sealed plastic bag.
- If you have an Eperb or PLB and it is a 121.5/243Mhz it is time to replace it as it will become obsolete on the 1st of February 2009. Only Eperb's and PLB's operating on the 406 Mhz frequency will be picked up by the RCC (Rescue coordination centre). Tip: the 406 MHz beacons also GPS enabled. Will give your location to the RCC reduced down to Square meters as opposed to the standard 406 MHz beacon which will give a 20 Square Kilometre search area. The cost of the GPS enabled models is about \$200 more than the Standard 406. A small price when compared to a life. Remember to register you 406 Eperb and update any changes to your information. (A good family Christmas present)
- When going out boating tell

someone what your intentions are in detail and stick to the intended plan. Tip: leave a detailed description of your boat, motor, call sign and safety equipment attached to the fridge or by the phone to be used in an emergency by the person alerting authorities. (A test: ask your partner to describe your boat and equipment?)

If you have a marine radio or cell phone update your current location as often as possible to local fisherman's radio or someone responsible. (More calls received, smaller search area, quicker rescue)

Since arriving back home I have noted an increase in the number of tourists and trampers. The Christmas work celebrations and parties have started.

The weather has improved, there are more whitetail out and about. All good things for island residents.

For your information there will be an extra police officer working on the island from the 30th of December to the 5th of January to assist with the New Year celebrations and increase in population.

Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner. Cath and I wish you a happy and safe time.

S/Constable Dale JENKINS



Safe and Merry Christmas wishes from Jill and Richard and the staff at Ship to Shore

Stewart Island News thanks those who support this wee rag:

- Stewart Island Flights
 - Executive Car Service
 - McDowell Printing
 - Ship to Shore
 - Visitor Centre
 - Margaret Hopkins
 - Kari Beaven
 - Helen Cave
 - Invercargill Glass & Mirror
 - Our contributors
 - Our subscribers
 - All of our Readers
- THANK YOU and Happy Holidays from Jess**

The Craftee Cod will be open right up until Christmas Eve for all your last minute shopping needs! We have a stunning new range of hand-made kiwi bags in, plus great hats and neck warmers; perfect for when a scarf is too much but them easterlies are coming in! There's jewellery, cds, original Southland/Stewart Island calendars, baby stuff plus our Don't let the "cute" thing fool you kids t-shirts back for only \$20 in purple and navy. We've also got digital camera memory cards in, 1gb xd cards now \$40, 1gb sd cards \$18 and 2gb sd cards \$35 so you can take more embarrassing photos of the whanau over Christmas! Also if

you're going away over the holidays don't forget to come in and grab a free Bookcrossing book to take with you and share the love!

The Craftee Cod



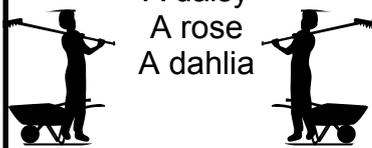
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STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Garden Circle will be at the home of Lorraine Squires at 2pm on Thursday 12th February

Competition:

- A daisy
- A rose
- A dahlia



Give the gift that keeps on giving (for 12 months) Buy your friends and family a subscription to the Stewart Island News .

Here's a great gift idea!

The first issue will come enclosed with a wee "beak-written" card. Just fill out the form below and send it to Box 156 along with a cheque (\$24 for Island; \$30 for NZ; \$54 for overseas)

Dear {your friend's name}

You now have a 12-month subscription to the Stewart Island News, compliments of {your name}, your South Seas Santa.

Enjoy these tidings from beautiful Rakiura.



YES, I would like to give my friend a great holiday gift. Please send a subscription to Recipient's Name and address:

Please sign the following name(s) to the card:

Yes, I have enclosed a cheque for the appropriate amount.

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com The next deadline is Friday, 16th January.

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

- 12 issues to an Oban address or Internet address \$24
- 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30
- 12 issues to Internet address in PDF format \$24

Yes, we can arrange for international subscriptions — contact editor for rates

Name of Recipient: _____
Address _____

*Congratulations to newlyweds
Simone and Tim*

