

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

DECEMBER 2009—JANUARY 2010

\$2.50

It's been a month for play. Our very own Players outshone themselves in a never-before-seen *Finderella* (see pg6); the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra visited and spent a morning performing at the school, showing the students how each instrument works and blends with the orchestra, before the kids and musicians

teamed up to play for the community (see pg 3); Anika Moa played up on stage during a concert as a part of her Aroha Tour, much to the enjoyment of islanders, who sang and danced along (pg 3); and the brand new school playground is AWESOME, thanks to everyone who played a part in bringing that together (photos and article pg 10).

We have had an enormous month for *Celebrating Rakiura*. With so much happening on the island, SIN has expanded to an extra four pages. The colour SIN experiment was a hit, thanks for your feedback. Unfortunately if we continued it



every month we'd have to go to plain 'red' to reflect the new bank balance. We hope to publish special issues now and again in colour.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has sent me photos and articles this month. Experienced mums laugh if you will, but it's not always that easy walking out the door at a moment's notice these days. To keep SIN exciting for everyone and to cover the awesome events happening on the island each month, I need your help. Please keep sending them!

*Have a great Christmas.*

### The Rakiura Information and Heritage Centre Trust

by Kari Beaven



Around 50 people attended a public meeting to discuss the Rakiura Information and Heritage Centre, which is being proposed for the grassy site alongside the Fire Station and the Dept. of Conservation (DOC) building. Rex Capil facilitated the meeting, with representatives from the Fire Brigade, Southland District Council, Venture Southland, DOC and the Rakiura Museum Trust fronting a panel for questions. John Coster, Heritage Consultant, presented his findings from the feasibility study into the endeavour and

answered many questions about income, co-management of the building and the anticipated operating costs.

The use of funding, granted by central government to assist the Halfmoon Bay community with infrastructural costs arising from being the gateway to Rakiura National Park, has been approved by the administrators of this grant: DOC and the SDC.

The current proposal requires that part of the existing road verge is absorbed into land sections. The road reserve is currently 10m wider than is legally required and there would still be space for a footpath and verge without this land.

...continued pg 5

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# Now and Then

by Margaret Hopkins

## Bragg Bay - "Louis Point"

This month's point of interest is a long gone house which used to be situated on leasehold land (Queen's Chain) on the seaward side of the Bragg's Bay Road just below Elaine and Bill Hamilton's house. The small wooden cottage was built for a French couple Louis and Marie Robert around 1896 and the Point is referred to as Louis Point in earlier publications. Marie Robert (previously Mrs Marie Le Gros) and her first husband had been immigrant passengers on the vessel *Surat* which was wrecked on the Catlins coast in 1874.

The Robert house was pulled down in the mid 1940s by the Robert's grandson George Bragg who used the materials to build his boat shed at Mill Creek between Bathing Beach and the concrete bridge.



## Nancy Schofield Retires from Rakiura Museum

Members of the Rakiura Heritage Trust recently held an afternoon tea to farewell and thank Nancy Schofield for her many years of dedicated service to the Rakiura Museum.



For many years Nancy worked as a volunteer helping the late Mrs Eileen Willa. When Mrs Willa retired in February 1985 Nancy took over as curator, a position she held until 1999. During that time Nancy helped with arranging displays and the careful storing and cataloguing of the museum's thousands of exhibits and treasures. Nancy's credentials as a local historian rate very highly, with her family having a long Stewart Island association through the Leask and Traill families and back to Rev. J.F.H. Wohlers. Nancy has painstakingly transcribed early family diaries and notebooks as well as other important historic documents for the Rakiura Museum.

Chairperson of the Rakiura Heritage Trust, Loraine Hansen, presented Nancy with a gift in appreciation of the many hours of volunteer service she has given to this community through her work at the Museum.

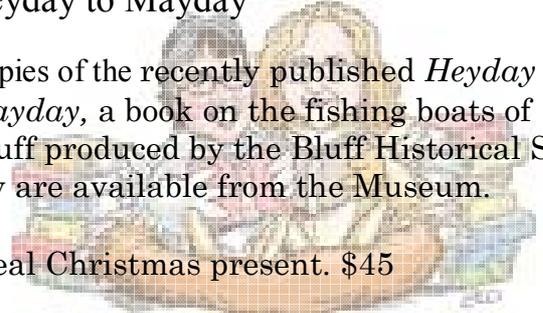
"Nancy you will be missed for the thorough research you did and your local knowledge of families, boats, places and events. We hope you enjoy your 'retirement' from museum tasks but we would still like to pick your brains from time to time", said Mrs Hansen.

by Margaret Hopkins

## Heyday to Mayday

Copies of the recently published *Heyday to Mayday*, a book on the fishing boats of Bluff produced by the Bluff Historical Society are available from the Museum.

Ideal Christmas present. \$45



## It's Christmas Time Again!

Put your problems on probation  
Run your troubles off the track,  
Throw your worries out the window  
Get the monkeys off your back.  
Silence all your inner critics  
With your conscience make amends,  
And allow yourself some happiness  
It's Christmas time again!

Call a truce with those who bother you  
Let all the fighting cease,  
Give your differences a breather  
And declare a time of peace,  
Don't let angry feelings taint  
The precious time you have to spend,  
And allow yourself some happiness  
It's Christmas time again!

Like some cool refreshing water  
Or a gentle summer breeze,  
Like a fresh bouquet of flowers  
Or the smell of autumn leaves,  
It's a banquet for the spirit  
Filled with family, food and friends,  
So allow yourself some happiness  
It's Christmas time again!

**Anika Moa & Friends Rock Stewart Island!**

As part of her *Aroha* Tour, Anika Moa accompanied by two of New Zealand’s finest musicians: bass player Chip Matthews and drummer Nick Gaffaney, made it all the way to Stewart Island to put on a great show on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Julia Deans, lead singer of Wellington band Fur Patrol played support, mesmerising the crowd with her enchanting voice before Anika got everyone up and dancing...the girls at least!



They played a few classics, such as *Dreams In My Head*, and shared a few new numbers that Anika has been working on over winter, “I’m a writing factory right now,” she says. “So it’s all fun and roses.”

Leaving for Dunedin the next day to continue the tour, Anika and her crew said they’d loved their Rakiura experience and southern hospitality, and we hope to see them down our way again sometime soon!



*By Alina Thiebes  
Photos by Craig Stonyer and Alina Thiebes.*

Anika is a gifted performer and shared a few stories with the crowd, telling of the journey the electric guitar that her mum had leant her for the tour had taken: Anika’s mum performed with the guitar when Anika and her siblings were growing up, “This guitar fed us for a few years”, she laughed.

**Christchurch Symphony Orchestra visits Stewart Island**

*By Kari Beaven*

Just over a year after the Christchurch Youth Orchestra sent a collective shiver down the island’s spine with their beautiful music, the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra arrived on our shores and brought alive the magic of live music once again.



They began the day at the Halfmoon Bay School, demonstrating their various sounds and the way the orchestra works together, and then gifting the students a hands-on experience with their instruments. After some rehearsals, the two teamed up to play for the HMB community. The night began with a few instrumental pieces, followed by a combined piece featuring the students and vocalists and dancers.

The orchestra continues to inspire, and it appears there are a few natural entertainers amongst the students.

The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra’s would like to thanks Solid Energy and the Community Trust of Southland, who sponsored their visit to Stewart Island.





### Oban Presbyterian Church

“Love Came Down at Christmas...”

The congregation of Oban Presbyterian Church invites the Stewart Island Community to give thanks for and celebrate the love that manifests itself throughout the year on our island.

We hope to set up in our church the following displays for the period 15-27 December:-

- ✧ A Christmas Tree of Thankful Memories, where people hang a card, photo or other reminder of an absent loved one,
- ✧ Examples of handcraft made by members of the community for those in need,
- ✧ A crèche of Jenny Gell’s “knitted folk”. We would love some animal figurines to add to this - any offers?
- ✧ Floral Tributes

There will be a Community Carol Sing-Along one evening sometime within these dates.

*Lorraine Squires, Session Clerk*

**Another Successful** Southland Cancer Society Fundraising Boat Trip to Stewart Island was held on Saturday 14th November.

*I would like to thank everyone involved in making it a great day for all. Your support to this worthy cause was most appreciated.*

*31 names are already on the list for next time!*

*Many thanks, Lorraine Bowen*



### AN AUDIENCE WITH SIROCCO

*by Andre and Timu*

Last week the Stewart Island school kids and four year old Rugrats went to Ulva Island to see the famous Sirocco. His feathers are like camouflage: green, brown, white and black. He is a beautiful nocturnal parrot. At Ulva,

nuts. Sirocco runs around with a sparkle in his eye. Sirocco was hand raised as a chick so he is imprinted (he thinks he’s a human).

Sirocco stays in an enclosure. The Kakapo chomps on kumara, grapes, apple and

A massive thank you from the students to DOC and the Ulva Island Trust for giving us this amazing opportunity.



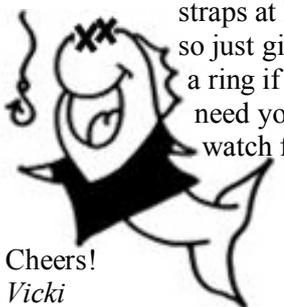
### The Craftee Cod

has now closed.

Thanks to everyone for their support, especially Mel, Jack & Kirsten!

Stewart Island Tees are available from the Flight Centre and Jill & Richard will be stocking memory sticks and cards in Ship to Shore.

I still have watch batteries and straps at home, so just give me a ring if you need your watch fixing.



Cheers!  
*Vicki*

## Rakiura Museum Exhibition Workshop

Members of the Rakiura Museum Trust, Department of Conservation Field Centre Supervisor, Sharon Pasco and SDC Roving Museum Officer Johanna Massey recently attended a full day workshop conducted by Heritage Management Consultant John Coster from Tauranga. The workshop focussed on planning for displays in the proposed new Heritage Building. Attendees discussed current and future resources; the important objects in the museum's collection; stories that need to be told about significant Stewart Island places, events, people and families.

Mr Coster anticipates finishing a final brief toward the end of January and will compile an outline of proposals and some preliminary ideas, which will be forwarded to the Rakiura Heritage Trust for discussion.



## Website-of-the-Month

Halfmoon Bay School have taken up blogging... because we want to share all the cool stuff we do with the world. We also want feedback so check out any of our new blogs and don't forget to leave us a comment.

<http://hmbyeeps.blogspot.com>  
<http://halfmoonbayschoolmaxis.blogspot.com>  
 and  
<http://hmbstarfish.blogspot.com>

*Continued from pg 1...*

To do so requires consultation with the community, so it was logical that this be the first step, rather than an expensive investment in building plans with the risk that they would be for naught if the community did not agree to making that land available. The proposal suggests that this land be placed temporarily in SDC ownership, and transferred to New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) ownership should the centre itself go ahead.

The centre would be built on land belonging to the NZFS. NZFS is supportive of the community in this, and would agree to impart a 100 year lease for a nominal sum. The council had earlier tried to purchase the land; however it was not possible.

The Rakiura Information and Heritage Centre Trust would run the centre, as it would be able to apply for fundraising which is not open to the SDC. Training in governance issues was being considered for trustees to empower them with skills to succeed in the venture. The panel noted that they need more trustees to represent the variety within the island community.

Members of the community present ranged questions to the panel, and noted areas of concern about the proposal. Issues raised included whether or not islanders' need for parking on that roadside area would be accommodated and what the changes to the road would look like in actuality. The local fire chief raised his concern for the use of Fire Service land, as the brigade here would like space for training and hanging their hoses. He suggested there would be an increase in traffic which would be a risk to emergency vehicles. Some present raised concerns about the viability of an information centre on Stewart Island. It was suggested that any increase in visitor numbers was for day visitors,

who have their itinerary planned out before reaching the island. Mr Coster noted that the centre had strong SDC support, and that this in itself was a factor in the success of many information centres around the country. He outlined that there would need to be a detailed business plan and careful financial management; however with these the project stands an excellent chance of success.

Margaret Hopkins noted that the current museum and district council office building was costing a lot of money at present. It was difficult to heat and exhibitions were not properly protected due to the conditions inside. There was not enough adequate storage for precious historical items. Margaret reminded those present of the story of the community centre, and how at the time many people knocked the idea of launching such a massive project, sharing space between the community and the council library. Now that it has worked, we couldn't imagine being in this community without the centre for our weddings and shows. This community bands together well on the big projects and if we want to, we can make this project a success. It was worth noting, she said, that one of the biggest growth industries in tourism around the world is in people looking up their history. In the council office and museum there are a lot of enquiries about the cemetery and family records. With so many people living here for only a few years before moving on, we have a lot of people who will one day want to trace back their family connection to the island. Building this centre was about future-proofing ourselves. It was not about the next 5 years but rather what it will mean to us 50 years' time that we should be thinking.

*At the close of the night, a show of hands overwhelming displayed support for further development of the proposal.*



## The Island Beat

The Christmas work celebrations and parties have started. To avoid some of the problems we had last Christmas, if you are hosting a Christmas/New year event, please be a good host and ensure there is food available and a sober driver to take guests home.

This year there will again be an extra police officer working on the island from the 30<sup>th</sup> of December to the 4<sup>th</sup> of January to assist with the New Year celebrations and increase in population.

## Reported Crime in the last month:

- Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and the 16th of September Approx 450 litres of diesel has been stolen from a house in Ayr Street.

Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009 a Dundee Street house was entered and a Makita electric plane valued at \$500.00 and a Hitachi Battery Drill valued at \$800.00 were stolen.

## Traffic:

- December/January sees an increase in tourist, crib owners, holiday makers and freight arriving on the Island. Most of

this increased traffic has to go through the bottleneck of the Wharf. The 12 Wharf rules have decreased problems associated with the bottleneck. (Rules posted on community notice board and at the Wharf). Now that the Wharf has been repaired Jon Spraggon and I will be enforcing the wharf rules.

Don't drink and drive.

Cath and I wish you a happy and safe time over the Christmas and the New Year.

Dale JENKINS



**Stewart Island Players brings you...**

**Finderella:** *the story of a poor fish shed worker, beaten up by her two ugly step sisters and worked to the bone by her domineering step mother, and a bit of a pretty-boy, the misunderstood "Captain Charming" who is searching for a bride but unable to commit when no women he meets stack up to the 'girl next door' of his childhood.*

The Players family once again rose to the challenge, performing a locally-written pantomime to eager crowds. Local faces were sneakily disguised (we never knew it was you Vicki!) and local names woven craftily into the text.

The panto made great use of some beautiful voices and outstanding dancers, not to mention a multi-talented pianist, to be quite the musical number.

Well done to everyone involved, both in front of and behind the curtains.

*by Kari Beaven*



**CONTRATULATIONS SIRCET!**

Trust Power Southland Community Awards 2009 has awarded everyone's great efforts this year with the runner-up prize of \$250 to the Habitat Restoration Project in the Heritage and Environment Category. Fantastic!!



*Thank you card given to volunteers*

The prize was awarded to SIRECT because of the great community support and significant contributions towards the project. Up to 102 volunteers from dedicated locals, visiting international helpers and school groups have contributed over the last year in trapping rats, possums and cats, the contingency plan, keeping track of the weka, planting at the community nursery and the Lonnekers planting. Busy, busy!

We want to thank everyone involved who have contributed to the 190 hours a month donated to the SIRCET projects. Well done!! Thanks also to Di Morris for representing us all at the awards ceremony.  
*by Jessi Nichols*

**Card Making Day** *by Sue Munro*

On Saturday the 21st November a card making day was held at the Pavilion. A group of 10 very enthusiastic card makers took part.

Our guest demonstrator was Jacqui Mitchell from Invercargill. Jacqui is an independent Stampin Up demonstrator and she travels to lots of craft shows and demonstrates to groups throughout Southland.

During the day Jacqui showed us many little tricks of the trade and we made 6 different cards.

She is very keen to come back next year and I know we are very keen to have her back. In all a great day  
Thanks Jacqui



On Saturday, 5 December, SIRCET celebrated the year's successes with a planting morning and BBQ at Lonnekers. Thanks to everyone who came for their help and company in celebrating. Thanks also to those who are a big part of the project but couldn't make it. I also want to extend warmest thanks to Megan and The Fernery for donating gifts to acknowledge dedicated volunteers. Thank you also to Ship to Shore for help with tucker for the BBQ. The weather really turned it on and the plantings are going to look great once they are established.

The newest SIRCET news is now in print, you can download it from our website, [www.sircet.org.nz](http://www.sircet.org.nz). If you want extra information or want to be involved with anything that's been going on – please contact [info@sircet.org.nz](mailto:info@sircet.org.nz) or ph Jessi on 291 or Claire on 418.

**WELL DONE EVRYONE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT- THIS IS ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!! THANK YOU**



# Magic for Sail: Just Add Water



The older HMB students spent a magical three days sailing with Arthur and Elwing his yacht this month. The trip was launched with a haka on board and flowed from one experience to the next.

The first day saw them learning about sailing, then stepping up to experience the boat on a real heel. Each point saw them linking what they were doing now to their own nautical history. They explored Harry West Bay from the plants and birdlife they could see now, the sign of animals just recently passed through, down to the historical signs of families who had lived there many years ago. Timu found an awesome piece of china linking him to the past, especially as he and Jahdan have a strong family connection to that area.



Sawdust Bay, Price's Inlet and Kidney Fern found them reliving Roy Traill's life and explorations. They walked in his footsteps, collected cockles from the same mudflats and looked out on virtually unaltered views above Dynamite Point. That night Marley borrowed Arthur's guitar and led everyone in a sing-along - WOW!



Interspersed through many conversations about Stewart Island wildlife and the wild life of the 'old days' were chances to stretch the rowing and kayaking skills learned on *Starfish* afternoons, taking in 'man-overboard' exercises and other gnarly missions. Everyone geared up to paddle solo, some for the first time, through slightly choppy conditions to Whaler's Base, bringing out real perseverance and courage from some of the less experienced paddlers, which was so great to see.



The trip challenged each student at their own levels. Leadership and togetherness came out at every turn, and Arthur, Kyle and Darren were all brilliant role models.



The students bound their magical experience together with a haka of thanks on the wharf.



By Kari Beaven,  
information  
and photos  
from Kath Johnson



Anyone here feel like you are 'just a bit clumsy'? or that anxiety is a part of your everyday life, or find that you are likely to steer sideways when you check your blind spot while driving? It could be that you need to get back on the floor.

In September Belinda Dobbins participated in some courses in Wellington, on Rhythmic Movement Training - developed by Dr Harald Blomberg and Moira Dempsey. The courses focussed on early (primitive) reflex movements, the 'building blocks' that help the brain to make connections, essential for 'wiring' of the brain, innate in all of us from birth, and how they mature into purposeful, controlled actions by about the age of 3 years. That is, that's what should happen. In (actually quite a few) of us, that pattern met a hiccup.

Belinda held a presentation on the island this month, on "Primitive Reflexes and their effect on Learning, Behaviour and Emotions" giving a brief overview of some of the early reflexes, what they look like, why they're very important at the time, and what happens around the time they give way to purposeful move-

ment. She ran through some of the signs that older children or adults show, when they retain "leftovers" of these early reflexes, including learning difficulties, anxiety, patterns of walking and sitting, muteness in public (when they can talk perfectly well at home), even some bed wetting (after 5 years of age). Of course not all of these signs are a direct result of primitive reflexes, life is far more complex than that!!

The good news is that it doesn't mean you, your children or your friends are "broken". It also doesn't mean you did anything wrong, but it does (sometimes) mean your poor concentration, anxiety or clumsiness can be fixed. She has a range of exercises which focus on the movements which naturally integrate these early reflexes, and while the earlier you start on them the better, it's not ever too late.

For the new mums, Belinda had some great advice. Give your babies plenty of time lying on the floor, on their tummies and on their backs, for as long as they are not able to sit up by themselves. Get down with them and stretch their learning by rolling balls or playing with other

toys with them. Vision is a learnt skill and is dependent on inborn baby movements, eg grasping and crawling, so let them have their time focussing on objects at close range and with both eyes. Progressing quickly to walking (or through any of the key stages) is not always a great thing; get down with them and play crawling games if you think they'll be a bum-shuffler or they walk before 12 months old, and if you think there is something not quite right in their level of shyness, bed wetting or other concern of the day, believe in yourself and check it out.

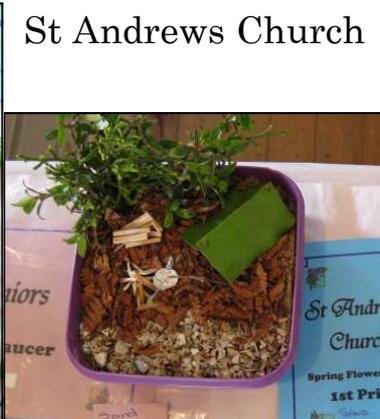
There were many more great tips from Belinda's presentation. The library and Rugrats now have a copy of "Active Movement", a video resource of using movement for learning, and Belinda is very happy to talk to any mums. Check out [www.sparc.org.nz](http://www.sparc.org.nz) and click on the "active movement" link at the bottom of the page.

Belinda is extremely grateful to the Rakiura Education Trust for their support and grant enabling her to attend the Rhythmic Movement Training Courses in Wellington in September.



### Spring Flower Show

### St Andrews Church





### A BIG THANK YOU FROM HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL

By Sue (Diddle) Graham

The Halfmoon Bay School students, teachers and board of trustees are truly grateful for the amazing effort in completing the upgrade of our playground. What a big job and thank you so much to all who came to help, special mention to all the community members who gave up their Saturday to help, thanks to:

- Ian Munro for the digger and your hours
- Sue Munro , Helen Cave, and Tanya Check for providing food
- Jack Frew for doing freight on Sunday
- Bonnie for child minding
- Doug Mc Grath
- Brett Twaddle for timber
- And all the busy workers Ian Edgar, Al Check and his friend, Greg Everest, Phred and Belinda, Dale Jenkins, Rex Jones, Heath and Liz, Stu Cave, Steve Lawrence, Jeanette McKay Brett, Kate and Morgan, Dave Moyle, Andy Hamilton, Steve Kenny, Christine Pullen, Kylie Moxham, KerriLee, Dale and Mary Chittenden, Holger Lachman, Jennifer Skinner, Gary Skinner, Jan Lequesne, Clint and Paula Brown

It is the best playground yippee!!!!



### Lloyd Young: a remarkable man

Lloyd Fredrick Young was born in September 1921, the second son of local butcher Charles and Mary (nee Thompson) Young of Stewart Island. Lloyd’s older brother was known as Bunion senior and Lloyd acquired the name of Bunion junior for obvious reasons. In later years he was nicknamed “Flying Cloud” gained from his daily inspection and remarks on passing cloud.

Lloyd was raised at Halfmoon Bay and at 14 gained his proficiency certificate at Oban School before he started work fishing for cod, and shearing/ rousing at Masons Bay. Working at Masons meant a boat ride to the top of the inlet and up Freshwater river before walking through the track. At around the age of 16, Lloyd went deer culling for the government with Frank Woodrow. They were asked to build a hut at the top of the Island hill, immediately before going down to Big Hellfire. The timber was duly delivered to Freshwater River landing and from here Lloyd and Frank carried the 12 foot, 8” x 1” planks a distance of approximately 7 miles to the hut site, returning each night for an

early morning start. The hut took three weeks to complete. The land was all manuka and tussock and had been burnt off. Lloyd notes that it was common to see up to 30-40 red deer at a time.

Lloyd loved the work, it was a great life. He was paid 4 pound a week with food supplied. He and Frank had an allowance of 3 bullets per deer. All that was taken from the carcass was the tail. After practically walking the whole of Stewart island and to the top of both mountains – Lloyd was fit as a buck rabbit!!

Lloyd’s fishing career started with Arthur Traill on the Moata, a standard 5hp petrol engine vessel. He recalls petrol taste and smell permeating everything on board, including the ‘tucker’; seasickness was unavoidable. At 18 years of age, Lloyd skippered his first boat ‘Angela’. In the old days Sisal rope was used as line and it was all hand hauled. The rope was extremely prickly, so Lloyd wore socks on his hands to haul it in. No darn-ing was needed, they were just tossed overboard.

...continued next page

From the Angela he was employed by Guy Waddell on the Val-mai and then quickly promoted to the Marinui where he started crayfishing. The Marinui was the first boat to land live crayfish on the island.

“Craying was in its infancy then and as there was no freezers on board it was all caught on a daily basis around the coast.” Half-moon Bay had 3 fish factories at that time, all sited on the wharf.

Lloyd married Elva (nee West) of Stewart island in August 1941. Together they have raised 12 children. The first 5 were born at Stewart Island and the next 7 in Queenstown, Invercargill and Bluff.

Stewart Islanders were great entertainers, from the usual Friday night cards to ‘First Footing’ on New Years Eve, where people went from house to house wishing all a Happy New Year on the way. “Often you would gather up as you went and others would drop away”. Lloyd fondly recalls First Footing with a bucket of brew and a boiler pot of pigeon stew tucked under his arm, which gives the proverbial ‘plate and crate’ new meaning.

Lloyd left the bay in 1952 moving to Queenstown, at the time just a small settlement, to work in friends Frank and Eva Green’s sawmill, where the bitter cold winter would freeze the water lines 18 inches deep and ice would fly off the saw.

...continued pg 14

### Maritime Crew and Catlin’s Bound book launch

Sea Shanties are probably quite appropriate for Stewart Island. They certainly found a warm reception here on the 18th of November, when the Maritime Crew performed to, or maybe with, a good crew of Islanders at the community centre. The group were down to launch Mike McPhee’s book *Catlin’s Bound* – a well researched history of the boats built by Mike’s grandfather on Stewart Island and in the Catlins. The Maritime



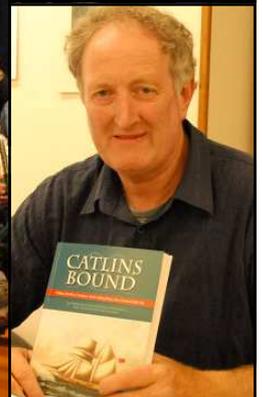
Crew had taken the stories and poems from Mike’s book and put them to music....sea shanty style.

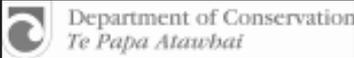
The Crew had warmed up with a visit to the school earlier in the day, which gave the school children an advantage when it came to the, many it seemed, shanties that required audience participation. A very entertaining night, enjoyed by the 30ish people who attended.



Thanks to Toi Raki-ura and Stewart Island Experience for helping make this event happen. *Catlin’s Bound* is available from The Fernery.

by Brent Beaven





**DOC Spot**

**The year in review**

We've had another year with quite a few staff changes, we have a core of staff who have lived on the island for between 10 and 20+ years and then a number who are here for a year or two and move on. That's not a lot different from the rest of the Stewart Island population; a lot of people come and try life here; a few stay for quite a while. Stewart Island is a very attractive place for DOC staff to come, the lifestyle is great, the work is challenging and the range of work is pretty well unrivalled in New Zealand. We have work across the whole spectrum of what DOC actually does.

In the last year we have completed on the ground possum control in the south of Mason Bay and the Rakeahua Valley. We've upgraded tracks at Ulva, rebuilt bridges on the NW and Southern circuits, and got a big upgrade of the Rakiura track out to the contractor to start soon. We've had great success with our kakapo programme and the dotterel work. Our dune restoration programmes and other weed control work are in a consolidation phase rather than rapidly expanding. We are getting a book on the historic heritage of Rakiura written with the assistance of a few of the long-term residents on the island. All things considered, we've achieved all of our top priority work this year and I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of my staff over the year.

On a final note, I'm very happy with the progress that we have made in developing the Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and Rakiura National Park Management Plan. We have listened hard to what submitters have said and tried to come up with a balance between the legislation that we work to and what the submitters have asked for across the board. Hopefully it's a robust plan for the publicly owned land on Stewart Island that protects what is there, allows for a range of uses and ties in with the way of life for residents.

Have a very good break over the festive season.

**Andy Roberts**  
*Southern Islands Area Manager*

*DOC Spot continued*

**Santa Claus is coming**

The Visitor Centre's long awaited Digital Story System is finally about to be installed. We have been promised that it will be in place by the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, at the very latest – so maybe there really is a Santa Claus! This will mark the final stage of our visitor information upgrade. When the upgrade was first mooted, we had planned a little celebration on completion to unveil it to the community – however that now seems a little silly, given some parts of it have been in place for nearly a year. But if you haven't been in the centre recently please come in for a look around - we've revamped our retail area, so you may even get a few ideas for Christmas presents.

This upgrade has been contracted out and work will begin in early December. Keep in mind that, although the Rakiura Track will remain open during construction, it will be a bit muddier than usual as we make the transition from the old track alignment to the new one. The work is scheduled to be completed within a year – so be sure to have a look once it's done! The Ryans Creek Track will also be

With our upgrade the contractor will remove the majority of the old boardwalk, level the track and put down gravel where needed. This work will start mid-January through April during which time the track will be closed.



**Track improvements underway**

This summer is looking like a busy one from the visitor asset side of things. The biggest project in line is an upgrade of the Rakiura Track from Maori Beach Hill to North Arm Hut. This is a significant improvement to our Great Walk involving removal of the old boardwalk and graveling and realigning the track. The new alignment will be less steep, a wee bit longer and will follow some historic tramlines, taking walkers past the old haulers used to get logs to the Maori Beach Mill.

getting a face lift this summer. This is a nice loop track next to the inlet and great for access to Vaila Voe and the old mill site at Ryans Creek but the mud has been a major deterrent lately.

**Stewart Island Community**

**Christmas Party!**



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December 4pm**

**At the Community Centre**

**Everyone welcome!**



Locals to Loopies!

Baby to Grandma!

**BBQ Meat Provided**

**BYO tippie & plate**

(salad/dessert/etc would be good!)

**Free Tea & Coffee & Juice**

**Santa will be there with pressies for the kids and watch your favourite Stewart Island Locals live on TV2!**

Ring Vicki with any queries/suggestions 498 or 0275211895

*RSVP appreciated for food and Santa*



**'Most Valuable Players' Award**

*Southland Community Awards*

The **Stewart Island Players** won the Arts and Culture section of these awards for 2009. Congratulations to the Players 'family'!

*Excerpt:* The Stewart island Players aim to preserve the arts on Stewart Island. The group's main show last year was "Wizard of Oz". This two-show production involved around thirty people, including a principle cast of nine, a chorus of fifteen, with another six to eight volunteers involved in back-stage, set design, sound and lighting.

Many members of the Stewart Island Players were also involved in a Charity benefit concert, entitled 'One Night Only'

raising \$4300 for their local Search and Rescue group. A small team of five Players also took part in a TVNZ production, travelling to Hutt to film a competition with another team. This talented group won their night, earning a further \$5000 for their nominated charity, Search and Rescue.

Stewart island Players bring together people from all walks of life. Quite a few members work in the area for a year or two and then move on. Through this group they are able to meet new people, and get involved in the community. Quite a few local references are worked into each show, which really adds to the community feel.

As a testament to the success of this group, ex-Islanders often travel back to participate in or to enjoy the shows. Congratulations!

**Biodiversity projects in full swing**

The Mason Bay dune restoration project got off to a windy start for the season, with the first trip heading out there on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. Hopefully the weather will start being a bit more settled and the team won't have to contend with quite so much howling sand! Marram, gorse and hieracium have taken a hit on the Ruggedy and Hellfire beaches with weed control on our Northern Beaches also kicking off in

November. The beaches from Smoky south will have their weeds targeted in January and February. On the local weed front, the team take a break from Barberry and the focus shifts to Selaginella and Chilean Flame Creeper. CFC is proving very pesky to control as the plant grows from a tuber and happily resprouts after being pulled up or sprayed. We are trying a containment approach for the next few years, in an effort to stop the weed getting into the Na-

tional Park. So the weed team will be focussing on CFC sites on the far side of Mill Creek and along Ryans Creek and Fern Gully. If you live in town and have CFC on your property, we ask you to help control this nasty plant. Repeat spraying or simply pulling the vine out will reduce the chance of the plant fruiting and the birds spreading those tasty fruits far and wide. If you are unsure what it looks like, come in and we can give you some information.

Possum control has finished for the year, although the caution period is still in effect. Once again it has been very successful with some blocks going from a pre-control possum population of 13% to an after-control population of 0.6%. Cat control in the dotterel breeding sites has also been ongoing for the last couple of months.

**Fire Permit time**

A Restricted Fire Season has been declared for all of Southland, including Stewart Island/Rakiura by the Southern Rural Fire Authority (SRFA) until further notice. During a restricted fire season, any person who wants to light a fire must first obtain a written fire permit. The only fires that are exempt from permits are incinerators and barbecue/cooking fires, provided certain criteria are met. Fire permits for Stewart Island / Rakiura are issued by the Department of Conservation on behalf of the SRFA. Please note that it may take up to five working days to process a permit application and undertake any inspections that are necessary.

**Keeping the overheads down**

As any business will know balancing the budget is not always easy, especially when overheads continue to rise. Faced with a shrinking budget, DOC recently made the decision to rationalise the number of vehicles it has on the island. Going from four vehicles down to three means it is no longer feasible for staff to leave a vehicle at a road end all day while they trim a track or head off up the inlet, as inevitably it will be needed to collect freight from the wharf, launch a boat at Lee Bay, transport equipment to Ackers Point, or whatever the work task a particular team has on any given day. Consequently we have copped a bit of criticism lately for the constant stream of traffic to and from our yard. Please be assured we keep trips to a minimum but with a large workforce it is crucial that staff are not hampered from getting their work done because they don't have access to a vehicle. The cost of a few extra trips is easily outweighed by the savings made keeping everyone busy and also by having one less vehicle to register and keep road worthy.

New Puzzle from Bev Osbourne				
<b>Aromatic plants</b>				
<b>Banish</b>			L	
<b>Mature</b>				N
<b>Consecrate</b>	L			
<b>Reason</b>		N		

Answers to last month's puzzle from Bev Osbourne				
<b>Lizard</b>	G	E	C	K O
<b>Antelope</b>	E	L	A	N D
<b>Beaten</b>	C	A	N	E D
<b>Doom</b>	K	N	E	L L
<b>Strangely</b>	O	D	D	L y

**VOLLEYBALL - 7.30pm Thursdays**  
 At the community centre  
 \$2 per person  
 We have lots of fun  
 Come along and have a go  
 Any question phone diddle 2191166

**TAE BO is still going**  
 At the community centre  
 \$2 per person  
  
 Monday 9.30am & 5.30pm  
 Thursday 6.45pm  
 Friday 9.15am  
 Sunday 9.30am  
  
 Also some afternoons 2.30pm  
 contact me and will try to suit you  
 Lots of fun  
 Ph diddle 2191166

*Continued from pg 11...*

One winter was enough and the family moved to Makarewa where Lloyd worked in the freezing works for a year before finally settling in Parrett st, Bluff almost 50 years ago, where they still live today.

On settling in Bluff, Lloyd started fishing for cray up the west coast with Ted Wilkey on the 'Scout', the first boat to have a freezer. He then moved onto craying for the National Mortgage company. With an exemplary record and good catch history Lloyd was given a new boat each year. Lloyd tells the story of how he had only had the brand new vessel the 'Kutere' for one month when she was stolen from the wharf.

The culprit obviously had no experience and steamed out with the anchor still down. The anchor eventually hooked onto the bottom and swung Kutere around and onto 'Hellsgate' rocks. The armed police boarded her and found the poor bloke shivering in his boots.

Lloyd partnered with Peter Topi and Bob Asher to build the Emerald Isle, continuing to cray before retiring in 1980 at age 60.

Lloyd and Elva's children are all well known Bluffies and with thirty three grandchildren and twenty five great grandchildren their home is a steady stream of family and friends.

Retirement has meant spending quality time with them all and enjoying life to the full, including travel through America, England and Europe.

As a reserved humble man, Lloyd was reticent to talk about himself but his obvious dignity, strength of character and natural skills showed credit to his generation and family.

Farewell 'Flying Cloud', unquestionably a remarkable man.

### Community Centre News

Hi all, most of you know me as Diddle (Sue Graham) I have just been appointed to be the centre manager, starting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

I will be sorting out the times I will be available at the hall and a notice will be at the hall, but feel free to ring me. Either leave a message on the centre phone or on 2191166, or text me 0272316305 to arrange a time to meet and sort out membership.

Remember, we have swiss ball and Tae Bo classes, as well as volleyball at 7.30pm on a Thursday and a lot of great equipment in the gym.

*Cheers, Diddle*

### **Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete Christmas Greetings**



#### **Stewart Island Senior Citizens**

**(SISC) Christmas**

Luncheon will be held at the South Seas Hotel on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00  
*Numbers limited.*



#### **KNIT, KNATTER & KOFFEE GROUP**

look forward to another twelve months of SIN!!! and wish all readers an enjoyable Christmas

**End of year Christmas break up at the RingaRinga Heights Golf Club  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 12pm  
Bring a plate**



### STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

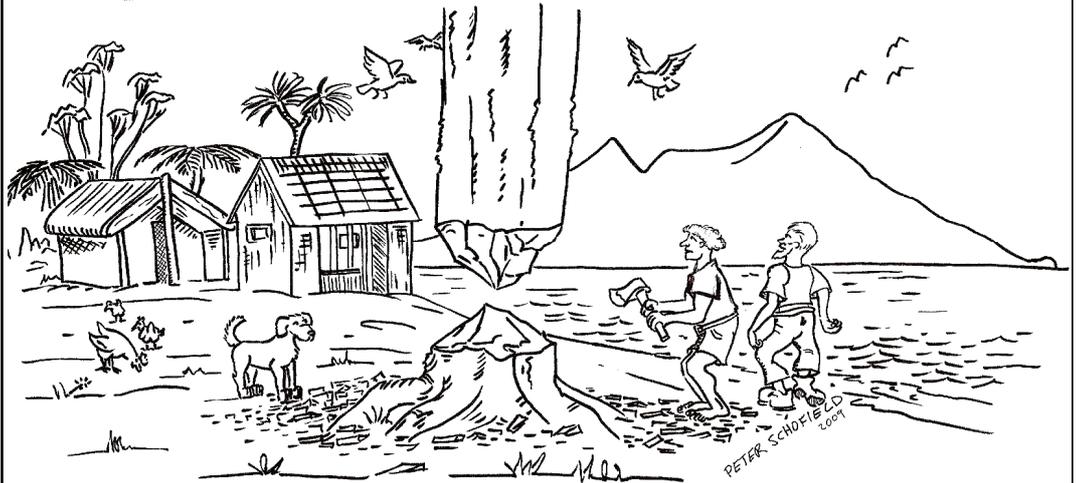
Garden Circle would like to thank Jess (and Kari) for the Stewart Island News and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas

The next Meeting of the Garden Circle will be held at the home of Anita Geeson at 2pm on 11<sup>th</sup> February.



Competition: A small posy

### Johann & Jonas



"For a hardwood it seems pretty light"

### Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre: Xmas Holiday opening hours

- Friday 25 December Closed
- Saturday 26 December Closed
- Monday 28 December open 1-30 til 4.30
- Tuesday 29 December Closed for Rubbish Collection
- Wednesday 30 December Open 1.30 - 4.30
- Thursday 31 December Open 1.30 - 4.30
  
- Friday 01 January Closed
- Saturday 02 January Closed
- Monday 04 January Open 1.30 - 4.30
- Tuesday 05 January Closed for Rubbish Collection
- Wednesday 06 January reopen for normal business

On Behalf of all the team at the Centre we wish everyone a very merry xmas and a prosperous new year. David, Doug, Bryan, Rod



### Congratulations Ben!!

Ben was recently awarded New Zealand Maritime School's Top Mate / Master Student of 2009. He has completed his final year of study and is now qualified as First Mate of a Foreign-Going ship (and can't wait to get back out to sea after a long "dry" spell!!)

### Finderella II

*Brent, Kari and Lyall Beaven thank everyone who helped us come home to a whole boat last month, rather than 'splinters' on Golden Bay rocks. From Bev, who first spotted her drifting to Phred, Clint, Pete, Ken and Dale who lasso'd her and brought her back, and Jan, who kept us up-to-date on how the rescue was going.*

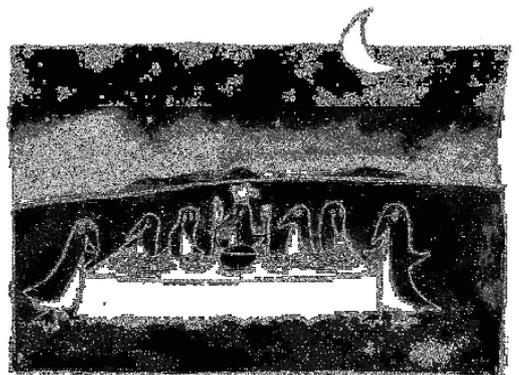
*Thank You Very Very Much!!*



### The Perfect Dinner

Stewart Island Moveable Feast

Whole menus or gourmet platters, at your accommodation or location of your choice. Any place - any time.



Call/text Annett 0274441502 or ph.2191492

Such more than a meal - a dinner to remember.



**The Ulva Island Trust**  
 The trustees would like to express our gratitude to members of the community and the businesses who have supported us over the past year.  
 In particular, we would like to thank everyone who helped toward our successful Kakapo Encounter 2009.  
 Thank You!  
 Peter, Ann, Ian, Kari & Megan

**Get ready to get snapping**  
 Stewart Islanders are pretty professional when it comes to photography, judging by the annual Halfmoon Bay School calendar. So here's another chance to keep snapping this summer. To celebrate Seaweeek 2010, DOC is running a Southland-wide photo competition, giving you the opportunity to win great prizes. With three categories, *Marine Life - Coastlines - Fishing and People*, and prizes for both juniors and adults, everyone's in with a chance to win. Watch the notice boards around the village or pop into the DOC office for more information on how to enter. The competition closes on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and the entries will be exhibited in Invercargill, Te Anau and Stewart Island during Seaweeek and over the following weeks.



*Above: HMB School collect shellfish for dinner; kayaking to Whaler's Base.*  
*Left: Kari & Brent's own Finderella the 'Sanctuary' is towed back to safety*  
*Far left: the BaRon Mum consoles Maxi Mum in Finderella the original.*

[www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com)

*Stewart Island News* is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Kari Beaven at Box 27, or to karibeaven@callsouth.net.nz**  
**The next deadline will be 7th January 2010**



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

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

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