

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

December 2013—January 2014

\$2.00

The community lost a dear friend at the end of November. Nigel Philp was appreciated for many things: his great hangi stuffing, his on-going help and creative contributions at the school; and his loyal friendships. Nigel was most known for being a wonderful and devoted dad. The Island offers condolences and love to his daughter Maria. *Obituary Page 7*

Dat Boyze?! That's how Charlie says What's that noise?! No fierce electrical storms recently but there's still been some big noises around the place. The Rakiura Rockers rocking their way to FIRST PRIZE NATION-WIDE in the online category (check out their awesome performance on YouTube). The pop of firecrackers at a twenty-first. The rattle of coins raining into the bake stall box to raise over \$1,000 for the victims of Typhoon Halyan. Whaling day bomb lances blown up by the bomb squad (you read that right...see Museum article below). Thunderous applause and a standing ovation when the Royal New Zealand Ballet performed at the Community

Centre. The crash of bums hitting the floor as we don imaginary tutus and attempt perilous pirouettes at home.

The ballet was so awesome I don't think plain ink will do it justice. True, *SIN* finally got fancy colour ink in April but now I yearn for something more...I'm thinking one of those new-fangled 3D printers so I can fashion big pretty tutus around every issue. But then they wouldn't fit in the post boxes... and I'd have to raise the newsletter price from \$2 to \$89. Hmm. Back to the writing board (p9).



Photo by Carolyn Squires

Not exactly a partridge in a pear tree but these pigeons do look festive...
Merry Christmas Happy Holidays Happy New Year Joy to the Island



RNZB dancers Loughlan Prior and Maree White in Charlie TOWER Tutus on Tour. See what Maree thought about her experience on Stewart Island on page 11.

Photo by Evan Li

In nature news: remember the deer bouncing along Horseshoe Bay mid-day? Well a few weeks ago THREE deer went running along the tideline mid-day, I'm not making this up, Sandra Whipp saw them too.

Chris Dillon observed a large kiwi in his yard who appeared to be interested in a hedgehog. When a kiwi sees a hedgehog does he think it's some weird unfortunate cousin? Margaret Fairhall has had kiwi in her garden, so these birds are definitely hanging around the township.

Shhh, do you hear that? A strange yet familiar moan... a creaking squeak, a suck of wind and a thunderous THUD. *Dat boyze!?* It's the sound of the door closing on another year.

Santa Claus will be at the shop on Friday 20th December after school to give all local children presents. Santa will also be at the Community Christmas party at 4.30pm on Saturday 21st December.

Safe and happy holidays to everyone. May the New Year bring you JOY.

—Jess

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS

by Jo Riksem

Mason Bay – Has always been a great place for visitors and locals during the holidays and there's always been a

variety of transport of getting there, boat, air and a person's two legs. Then there's also transport while you're there like the picture of below. If anyone can shed light on the

identity of the people in the picture we'd be grateful.



Traill Family at Mason Bay

This is one of a delightful lot of digital images and photographs that have been received by the museum lately. Enquires have been coming in thick and fast on such subjects as Von Tunzlemann's dinghies, the naming of Bulling Bay, "London's Glory" ship's bell, history of Thule, John Nicholson Talbot, Pat & Owen Randell (Owen was our local policeman in 1959 for several years).

Everybody seems to have had a theory about "the big bang!" Was it a gust of wind and a slam of a door, somebody hunting too close to the township, guns being made with a higher calibre and sounding so much louder? All possible,

(Continued on page 2)



WISE UP TO WEEDS

with Amy



BOMAREA

(*Bomarea multiflora*)

Keep an eye out for bomarea, it's starting to spread to all sorts of places on the Island. Every time I come there seems to be more. I'll be in Oban next from the 16th -19th of December, so give me a call if you're worried about any weeds in your garden and would like me to pop over.

What is it?

Bomarea is a vine that has stunning red to orange flowers arranged in bunches. The flowers attract bumble bees in particular, the leaves are long and smooth.

What is the problem?

This plant grows quickly and forms large dense masses that strangle trees and shrubs. It is highly shade tolerant. The stems form huge curtains that reduce the light to other plants.

How to control it?

- Cut and paste the stems, this will need to be repeated and checked annually.

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

For more information see www.es.govt.nz/environment/pests/plants

(MUSEUM MATTERS *Continued from page 1*)

but no it was two old bomb lances used in the whaling days from our museum which had to be inspected because they might have become unstable if there were a fire. They then had to be destroyed by the official "squad" (two experts from Christchurch), hence "the big bang."

We've also had several school parties visiting; Fairfield, Limehills, Mataura, and Drummond. Nice to see the younger generation interested in our fascinating history. We do appreciate all the volunteers that have helped to make these school visits interesting by some fun talks for the kids.

After nine years in the roll of chairman for our museum Loraine Hansen has stepped down from the position. We do appreciate all the work she has contributed to the museum over those years. She has agreed to be part of our volunteer group so you will still see her smiling face behind the desk from time to time. Into the position of chairman has now stepped Allan Wadds who will prove a great asset to the team.



You've all received the final registration forms for our Norsk Feiring (Norwegian Celebration) on 4, 5 and 6 April 2014 so please get them in soon so no one misses out. Contact Bev or Jo at Rakiura Museum (2191-221) or email stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz if we can be of assistance, you have any queries or need more forms.

Looking for something for that special someone; Dorothy Jenkin orchid cards, Halfmoon Bay painting by Margaret Fairhall card, Memories 2014 calendar (with lovely old photographs including one of our boat in the Sanders Cup Race) and some very special books; Stewart Island Boats, Diary of M.E. Wiig on board the *Sir James Clark Ross*, Rakiura Heritage by Neville Peat, and Elsie Smith's Stewart Island Orchids (this book in very limited supply)

Museum hours are now October thru April Monday thru Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm and Sunday Noon-2 pm Contact us at PO Box 114, Stewart Island, 9846 or email: stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Ship to Shore

Jill, Richard, Fern, Rod, Karen, Carol, Natalia, Lania & Jules



Access

Support Workers

Access is one of New Zealand's leading healthcare organisations, specialising in home-based healthcare and support.

We are urgently looking for people in Stewart Island with a desire to make a valuable and rewarding contribution to their community. This critically important role will assist our clients to live independently in their homes.

Various hours available.

Support worker responsibilities include personal care (showering, dressing, grooming) and household assistance (cleaning).

Please contact Leanne on 03 211 3068 or leanne_fox@access.org.nz or apply online at Trademe or MyJobSpace

Stewart Island Community Christmas Party

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2013
COMMUNITY CENTRE



- Doors Open 2.30pm
- The Magic Guy show at 3.30pm
- Santa at 4.30pm
- Dinner at 5pm



(all times approx)

Please bring:

Your own drinks, a plate to share for dinner (that does not require re-heating or preparing please), some nibbles or snacks for during the show and some change to buy a ticket from the raffle table!

Everyone welcome, including visitors!!

Ring Vicki 498 or 0275211895

Please advise Vicki of children's names and ages attending for Santa purposes!

If you would like to donate something for the raffle table, that would be great!

Vouchers for Island Activities, homemade stuff, chocolate, wine, in fact anything new you have lying around the house and wish to re-gift! Money raised will be helping to pay for this function and any extra will go to the Community Centre!

Proudly Supported by:



Stewart Island Quiz Night



S' ANDREWS ANGLICAN CHURCH
STEWART ISLAND
(10 Excelsior Rd)



Community Christmas Eve
Carol Service

Venue: Halfmoon Bay School
7pm, Tuesday
arranged by the Oban Presbyteri-
an Church and
community organisations.

.....
Christmas Day Service
St Andrews Anglican Church
10 Excelsior Rd
(or take path by the Museum)
Wednesday 25th December
10.30 AM

Voluntary offering this year to:
Anglican Mission Fund
(comfort in Crisis)
Transport can be arranged
Rev. Judy Johnston,
Officiating Priest.
Contact: Iris Tait
phone 219 1151

CORRECTION Apologies to Humphrey Bogart and Carey Grant. Apologies extended to any movie-goer who attended *North by Northwest* expecting to see Katherine Hepburn in a romantic comedy set on a riverboat. Apologies also to moviegoers who attended *The African Queen* and thought they were in for a suspenseful Hitchcock masterpiece. (Last month's Bunkhouse Theatre announcement got mixed up.) And apologies to Ozzy Pete and Penny because when they told me about the goof I laughed.

RNZB dancers Bronte Kelly and Helio Lima in Don Quixote pas de deux TOWER Tutus on tour - Photo by Evan Li



LOST

at Horseshoe Bay:

SONY camera. If you find anything that looks like this on the beach please give to Grim (ask for him at the Pub). Thank you!



Did you know...
the world record for
cherry pip spitting is
29 meters!

If you're at a loose end on Christmas Day,
 Why not come visit us at Lee Bay?
 We can teach you a game of Kubb to play,
 It's a very relaxed kind of soiree,
 Designed for all us waifs and strays,
 Bring some drink and food to keep hunger at bay,
 Something to sit on, a good idea by the way,
 There's a barbie to cook on right away,
 And even a billy for a cup of tea!
 (I ran out of rhymes!)

From about midday until we get bored!
 At the picnic area just beyond the chain.



Debs Dillon has shared these island-lover sites with us: www.globalislands.net and www.lovescottishislands.com



Stewart Island – a Healthy Island

by Deb Dillon

The WHO says a “Healthy Island” is a place where; children are nurtured in mind and body, environments invite learning and leisure, people work and age with dignity and ecological balance is a source of pride.

The Dental Nurses have recently been to Stewart Island to work on the children’s teeth. They found that not one of the preschoolers needed fillings which is awesome when statistics say over 20% of New Zealand preschoolers needed general anesthetic to repair damaged teeth.

This could be related to nearly 100% of our babies being breast fed when the national average is nearer 80% at birth.

The community support for preschoolers includes; the great initiative at the Ship to Shore Shop where preschoolers can choose a piece of fruit at the shop so they don’t even think about lollies, the Knit and Knatter group and Quilters making gifts for the new born, volunteers and teachers at the preschool RugRats, 24 hour/day access to health care and parenting support from the Nurses Clinic and the genuine love for the children from the whole community. Stewart Island families are awesome! And Stewart Island is a great place to raise children!

Thank you to all who have helped the Nurses out over the Year, and especially the St John volunteers, Health Committee, Gail our home help and Brenda who keeps the clinic spic and span. The Fire Brigade and SAR group are always there to help out too along with the Police, Dale and his team, and Marine Radio operator Maureen. Thanks heaps.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for the Festive Season.

Services

In EMERGENCY dial 111

Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 426 285 (Nurses Bleeper).

General Primary Health Care Clinic; Daily 10am-12.30pm-(no appointment necessary).

**Clinic Number- Phone; 2191 098
 Fax; 2191 072.**

**Womens Health/ Cervical Screening; Please phone clinic for an appointment with Deb Dillon.
 Well Child/Tamariki Ora /B4 School Checks; Please phone clinic for an appointment with Deb Dillon.**

LETTERS ☒ ☒ ☒

Recently I have been reliably informed by quite a few 'experts' that I have, or have had, kiwi in my garden. I know that's now not a big deal to many people on the edge of the village but I've always considered myself to be a bit too 'residential' for them to visit so I'm naturally surprised and delighted. I'm wondering if it might be a consideration to have a small inclusion in each SIN, asking residents to look out for and report kiwi sightings also advising/informing residents of the current extension of their range each issue. For instance, it might be important for folk with dogs to be aware that kiwi are in their vicinity especially at night, when they might let their animals out. It's just a thought....The kiwi signage may need to be upgraded to include the village as well. SIRCET might want to co-ordinate this. I see they already report kiwi movements but not as they relate to residents.

Margaret Fairhall

☒ ☒ ☒

Hi, and thank you for the latest *SIN*, so full of interesting articles and illustrations.

But the paua innards guzzling, followed by boozing contest seems a bit wasteful to me up here, where it's hard to get hold of a paua, let alone eat it. Paua innards are wholesome when properly cooked (apart from the radula under the head—the short length of toothy substance).

I put the whole shellfish, still in its shell, in a pressure-cooker, and after a quick burst of steam the paua can be fork-lifted out of its shell, and given a quick sizzle in the pan. No more paua-bashing!

It takes a good deal to make me queasy nowadays — the *Tamatea* years over, I was and still am OK in any form of transport — but the sight of grown men slurping stuff down and regurgitating it up would finish me off, I imagine. I suppose I've become a fussy spot in my old age, but wouldn't a whole paua cook-up be a shade NICER? —ie more *refined*?

Good for you for keeping head up and heart strong on The Track — another strange, innovative local custom. But do watch out for hypothermia! And frostbite!!

I've just remembered — when I was at HMB in the 1930s Mr. Jordan, one of the bakers, cut his throat, poor man. The Slump was in full swing, but I don't think that would have got to him, we had to have our bread!

Cheers,

Sheila Natusch
Wellington

☒ ☒ ☒

Hi I have just been given this very old Clinker sailing dinghy to restore she was taken off Stewart Island in the

1960s and taken to the Nelson area. She appears to be built of American yellow pine yet to be confirmed all the knees and stem and stern timbers are natural crooks.

...It turns out the Atkins Family brought Ronnie Von Tunzelmann's house not sure on date it came with 3 of Ronnie's boats. When they sold the house and moved up to Nelson they took two of the boats with them and gave the 3rd to Herbie Hanson about 15-20 years ago. This looks like a very early one of his boats. We would like to put some dates to this boat's history — when did Ronnie start building boats on Stewart Island; are there any dated photos of his boats around; what timbers did he use? etc.



Someone on the Island must know something about her ... we would love to know how she got here and who owned her. More photos can be found on Facebook Murtons Timbercraft.

Regards

Peter and Angela Murton
Murton's Timbercraft
Richmond
info@murtons.co.nz

☒ ☒ ☒

The Christmas Party is all go! Had a few RSVPs from the kiddlywinks; if you are definitely coming or if you are away, please let me know, if you're still not sure no sweat either! Dinner isn't until 5pm so if you're going to get peckish it may pay to bring some snacks along as well as a plate for dinner!

I've had some awesome prizes donated for the raffle, some from as far as Queenstown and Dunedin (thanks to the magic of Facebook!). Any items/services etc gratefully received, all the proceeds will go to the Community Centre.

The Magic Guy is looking forward to his visit, it should be a great show for all ages!

I've also been nabbed by Dusty to sell raffle tickets for the Coastguard. They're \$10 each and \$7 out of that \$10 goes directly to Riverton Coastguard. Give me a shout if you'd like to support this worthy cause. There is also a collection jar on the bar of the pub if you have any small change you want rid of! And tickets are also being sold at Ian and Phillipa's office next to the Post Office.

I've started printing out the weekly events for the Noticeboard. Please email me any happenings and I'll add them to the list and the Facebook page. (I need emails so I can cut and paste, takes far too long to stand at the board, write them down, type them up...!)

Vicki

The project of eradicating rats, feral cats and possums from Stewart Island is bigger than any one individual or organisation, therefore a broad mix of the groups that have a stake in the island have been assembled to govern this project.

The governance group will be the ones driving this project along and is one of the key ways of communicating what is going on to and from the people they are representing. The group will also make the decisions on how the project will progress and what methods will be used.

It is worth reiterating that, at this stage, no method has been chosen about how to remove any of these predators - this is a decision for the governance group after considering all of the technical advice available.

The Governance Group for the Predator-free Rakiura/Stewart Island project has been confirmed. The members are:

Sandy King and **Jill Skerrett** – representing the Stewart Island community

Gail Thompson – representing iwi interests

Stewart Bull – representing iwi (Titi Islands) interests

Leon Fife – representing Rakiura Maori Land Trust

Ali Timms – representing Environment Southland

Bruce Halligan – representing Southland District Council

Paul Norris – representing business interests

Steve Long – representing hunting interests (Southland NZDA)

Garry Neave – representing fishing interests

Gareth Morgan – representing funders

Allan Munn – representing DOC

The Group will be meeting for the first time in Invercargill on Thursday 23 January. This will be an opportunity for the members to get to know each other, establish the working dynamics for the Group, and discuss the economic and social assessment for the project.

—from Philip Bell on behalf of the Morgan Foundation and DoC

Situated @ 44 Elgin Terrace (right next door to Stewart Island Flights) is the new booking office for

Stewart Island Water Taxi & Eco-Guiding and retail area for Philippa Fraser-Wilson & Ian Wilson.

Stewart Island Water Taxi & Eco Guiding have now been operating for over 22 years here on Stewart Island providing water taxi services to Ulva Island and many of the other tramping destinations. We are proud to be Qualmark endorsed and have recently received an Enviro Silver award.

We are open daily and available for all your water taxi requirements and tour bookings for selected island tourist operators.

After an absent since the mid 1990s when The Shoppe was trading out of the Black House frontage (now the vacant section next door to South Sea Hotel) Philippa is proud to be able to offer again another retail outlet for locals and tourists alike. Come and view Philippa's own jewellery designs along with gift lines and speciality foods.

Stewart Island Water Taxi & Eco Guiding

44 Elgin Terrace

Oban

Ph 027 2289388

Freephone 0800 469 283

E info@stewartislandwatertaxi.co.nz

THANK YOU to

Margaret Hopkins
Ship to Shore
Stewart Island Flights
Mike Allison and his team at ProCopy
Vicki Coats
Sue Ford
Jules Rethberg
Carolyn Squires

All of our contributors, subscribers, readers

Everyone who places ads and in any way helps to support this little newsletter.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From Jess Kany

Editor, *Stewart Island News*



Parrot orchids from Carolyn Squires.

Nigel Brent Philp

10 November 1963 — 29 November 2013



Nigel Philp was a great friend to many of us since his arrival on the Island 13 years ago, with his beautiful daughter Maria in tow. The doting Dad from Cromwell quickly became involved in school life once Maria started at Halfmoon Bay. Whether it



was using his artistic skills to help kids create the creatures on the fence or coaching long jump on the beach, he was always happy to help out. That even extended to more recent times after Maria had finished her schooling here. Nigel managed to co-ordinate some of our senior boys to prepare all the hangi food for Matariki this year and then of course added his signature homemade stuffing. We know how delicious all of that turned out! The school show a few months ago had the most spectacularly colourful set and backdrop carefully painted by Nigel taking days! The kids and teachers loved it so much it now hangs permanently in pride of place in their music room.



For my family and I, our fondest memories of Nige are on our New



Year camping missions. The little green pup tent he slept in that survived all storms and sometimes he didn't surface from all day! It was even moved around with him in it on our jaunt to the mainland! He was usually involved in creating the camp shower since he knew Maria and the kids would need to rinse the sand off and one year at Doughboy he surprised the camp kids with a handmade piñata full of treats for New Years Eve! He especially loved our Doughboy camps and painstakingly carved an awesome sign with all our names on it, ceremoniously naming our favourite spot "Shitface Creek". He had a huge love of fireworks and put on some amazing displays for us over the years. Some under safer conditions than others! Nigel also loved to fish whether it was here on the Owenga VIII, out of a dinghy on camp, or in the lakes and rivers of Central Otago where he was from. He loved introducing Maria to his passion and it's a shame he won't be able to with his wee grandson Cartel.



In his brother's words, Nige was generous with a big heart and didn't suffer fools lightly. He was a "good bugger" and we'll miss him, his good humour and his dart nights. No hangi will be the same without your stuffing Nige.

RIP Bro



—from Nicolette Thompson



SIRCET Kiwi advocacy update

By Cherie Hemsley

Monitoring this month of the kiwis that were released into the Ackers project area in February has shown some kiwi doing disappearing acts!!

TX12 may have moved into some new territory with a potential new mate number 3! She has officially packed her bags and left Leask Bay heading toward the city, she was last located from the golf course. Was she 'wooded' by a golfing townie? Hopefully we find out next month. And what of her ex TX87? Will the bush boy follow her to the city? Or has he already meet a new bird who likes the easy pace of bush living? I can't wait to see where he ends up!

Further towards Ackers point we have a male bird TX18 that has popped back on the radar after an almost 3 month sabbatical! Without disturbing him, I managed to track him to a possible burrow in a dead tree hollow. Next month I will check to see if he is the same place, a good indication he is nesting. I'll be keeping a close eye on who he's trying to court! Is he looking for a fellow 'releasee'? Or a local Ackers bird? I will let you know who I find!

Also out at Ackers we managed to get a peek at TX22! He was having a moi under some crown fern! It was quite a highlight for Claire who had come along with me for the day as a volunteer. We also located another transmitter from the Trail Park area, off TX16. At Harolds Bay, the transmitter from TX10 was also located on the ground. These were all supposed to come off and, it's good to know that these transmitters fall off like they are supposed to.



Claire finding a transmitter. Like a needle in a haystack!

Like sands through the hour glass.....
These were the days of Ackers kiwi.....

Until next month, Ka Kete.
Cherie

SIRCET Trustees and staff would like to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

'May the best of your past be the worst of your future.'



Visitor Marc Riedi visits with a leopard seal at Horseshoe Bay.
Photo from John Foley



Spider orchids from Carolyn Squires.

The Royal New Zealand Ballet Tutus on Tour was always going to be a pared-down affair on Stewart Island, as there was no way the company could transport their 30-tonne truck stocked with lighting and set equipment across Foveaux Strait. So the truck and half the company went to put on a show in Queenstown and the other half came over here on the ferry and brought their tutus and necessities in the ferry bins. The visiting cop Helen Todd helped to transport their gear in the back of the police wagon, and local volunteers set up the black mats and seating at the gymnasium in the Community Centre.

The Hall foyer was decorated with ballet-themed artwork from HMB School students, and almost all of the students, along with a dozen rugrats were in attendance along with the entire visiting Fairfield School. The children sat on pillows, mats and laps, the younger ones wore pajamas or tutus. (It's a telling tribute to the mesmeric and magical quality of the performance that despite over 70 children in the audience, many out well past their bedtimes, there wasn't a single incident of shenanigans: along with the adults, they were all simply spellbound.)



regularly attend ballet and I'm not an official reviewer of any kind of dance so excuse me for gushing like a teenager: they were SO TOTALLY AWESOME!

And more was in store... Right before the music for the third dance *Through to You* began, the screeches of kaka flying past filtered into the gym. It's a bit of a paradox but I'm not the only audience member who felt the pared-down set somehow added to the whole performance. The lighting was just the gym bulbs combined with the day's last sunlight streaming through the Exit doors and the sky-lights. The backdrop was the basketball hoop. The shadow lifters, all in black, are normally not observed due to black backgrounds and special lighting, but in the gym they were starkly creeping around like those death creatures that grabbed Patrick Swayze's killer in *Ghost*. It added a surreal quality to the evening and it's a testament to the dancers that despite the basketball hoop and the exposed shadow men and the utter banality of the venue, we were transported anyway. As one audience member said later "It was so stripped down it just made it more powerful...it felt more raw."

Through to You was another modern dance choreographed by a New Zealander — Andrew Simmons — and it was just as compelling, thrilling and sexy as *Charlie*.

The next piece returned to classical ballet in the "grandest Russian style" (I copied that straight out of the programme booklet) with the *Wedding Pas de Deux* from *Don Quixote*. The moves were flirty, acrobatic and fun, and the dancers themselves with their snazzy Spanish costumes made it gorgeous.

Finally, the last piece of the night was Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* with the choreographers' inner city twist on it. This piece is geared for children and had been highly anticipated by the Halfmoon Bay students: a story containing a wolf, soldiers, and a duck that gets eaten alive held particular appeal for some of

the boys. A recording of Te Radar's narration accompanied the program and explained how each instrument represented a character. Photography was not permitted during the performance and anyway I don't think any lens could have fairly captured the looks on the children's faces when the ominous three horns sounded and the wolf made his entrance. The costumes were excellent, particularly the super slinky cat, the old timey-aviator-style bird, and the soldiers all in green who looked exactly like toys come to life.

When the show ended the crowd roared and rose to their feet; the Ballet



Mistress Turid Revfeim said it was their first standing ovation of the tour (Stewart Island was the last stop).

A question-answer session followed: the boys wanted to know what the

soldier's gun was made of?; what kind of guns were they?; could they please have a closer look at the gun?

In a moving moment, Helio Lima, the Brazilian dancer who performed in the *Don Quixote* piece, announced that this was his final dance with the company and he wanted to thank them for their friendship and thank New Zealand. Afterwards, in true Island style, everyone put their chairs and benches away and left buzzing with that satisfied feeling we get when we experience the best of big city culture right here in our far flung locale. I think it's called *having your cake and eating it too*.



The ballet may have been a "pared down" affair in respect to equipment, but the dancers more than compensated by giving us their all: They gave us their time and shared their thoughts while visiting with the school; they brought enthusiasm

about being here and explored our trails and beaches; and they delivered a magnificent performance. Oh, and one ballerina even gave a little girl her pointe shoes.

From Stewart Island to the Royal New Zealand Ballet and everybody who made your visit possible: THANK YOU and BRAVO!!!

—Jess



The ballet began with *Flower Festival at Genzano*, all joyful jumps and spins and fluffy tutus, just the way one imagines classical ballet to be. We settled into our seats thinking we

knew what was what. So it was all the more disarming when the second piece *Charlie* began: utterly modern, set to the Split Enz song, it started with a couple stepping onto the black mats and *talk about pared down....* The fellow must have left his tights in the truck because all he was wearing was jocks. Not like anyone is complaining. Not at all. The dance was absolutely beautiful, utterly sensual, and yes, I know there were lots of kids present and children's pictures of fluffy ducks and things in the hallway, but I'm going to have to say there were moments in the dance that were downright erotic. The Hall which is usually freezing cold was uncharacteristically balmy that evening, and I think the temperature rose a few more degrees during this amazing piece which was choreographed by New Zealander Mark Baldwin. All very unexpected. I don't



The Royal New Zealand Ballet visited Halfmoon Bay School and answered questions from the children. It was fascinating to hear that nearly every member of the company started practicing and dreaming of becoming a ballet dancer at the age of 4 or 5. A male dancer was asked if he ever felt embarrassed. He didn't—he played

rugby as well as danced and it wasn't an issue for him. The children were asked to guess what a ballet slipper was made of...PVC, carbon fibre, and wood were some answers. The shoes are actually made the same way they were over 100 years ago: layers of paper mache and canvas with satin on top. Dancers go through 2-3 pairs a

week. They hit them with hammers and pull the insides out and tweak them with specially placed cuts to make them comfortable. A slipper was passed around and in the end the children were invited to feel a tutu. The dancers were very friendly and open it was great they made time to talk to the children.



Are you a panic-stricken Christmas shopper who hasn't had time to get to town and the e-shopping won't deliver in time by now? Don't worry, you live in Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island's *shopping mecca!* I'm being serious. Every year I do virtually all of my Christmas shopping on the island. It's convenient but it's also satisfying to know you are buying local. This place is full of talented craftspeople and their treasures are for sale here so why not support that? Not to mention many great items are fundraisers for local groups.

This year the post office is carrying large envelopes that fit the Stewart Island calendars, these make a perfect gift and raise money for HMB School.

Ship to Shore is loaded with goodies and their sale goes to good causes: Rakiura Heritage wine (for the Rakiura Heritage Centre); eco drink bottles (for Rugrats) and the community fundraiser magnets. Books include Rakiura Heritage and the Oban Presbyterian Recipe book. They just got new Stewart Island mugs too. The shop also sells SI cards, teaspoons, pens and caps.

Bunkhouse Theatre is now selling DVDs of *A Local's Tale* for \$30 (or \$25 if you attend the movie). The Museum is offering DVDs too (see page 13 for details) and they have a lovely selection of cards.

The Fernery sells items made by locals Pip Fraser Wilson, Karin Lewis, Amber Leask, Kath Kain, Bev Osborn, Tam Austin, Helen Bissland, Annett Eiselt, Matt Jones, Ulva Goodwillie, Sheila Natusch and of course beautiful paintings by Margaret Fairhall. Phillipa has her own brand new shop next to the Post Office. Pop into the Post Office for Vicki's Tshirts. There's always good old Glowing Sky for more Tshirts and merino ware and go in there anyway to see the cutest little carol-crooning puppy. Britt sells jewellery and the DoC Centre has heaps of stuff for sale too. The Pub sells South Sea Hotel shirts and hoodies and Quiz night Ts.

There's more but I hope this gives you an idea of what's available.

(And of course if you really truly love your friends and family you'd buy them a subscription to the *Stewart Island News*....)

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. —Nelson Mandela

Q&A with Royal New Zealand Ballet dancer Maree White

What did you think of Stewart Island? How did you spend your free time down here? Did you get a nibble of our seafood?

Stewart Island was amazing...such a treat for us to come here! A few other dancers and I chose to spend our two free days here. I think we lucked out with the weather and had many "wow" moments on the walking tracks around Oban, spent a few hours on Ulva Island and went kiwi and penguin spotting at night. To top it all off we had a most delightful "nibble" of your seafood at Church Hill restaurant. Thanks Chris and Deanne!

Did it feel strange or exposed performing without scenery and lighting?

Totally!! That was what we all commented on and randomly we felt a few extra nerves. It all added together for a more exciting show

Besides the lack of sets, what made the Stewart Island performance different from other performances?

The people and the place...and the fact that the whole town closed up shop to come to see us.

Would you like to come back here?

Definitely! I made many friends jealous, posting the stunning pictures I took here on Facebook.

What would you say to the wee islanders who dream of being a ballerina but don't have regular access to dance instructors?

Don't stop dreaming...dance and be active - and if you love it so much practice what ever you have learnt!

Describe your biggest goof on-stage.

Ahh Haa - as a seasoned performer there are so many. Mostly the audience isn't aware — but that's where it gets quite hilarious as whatever happens we have to make it look as if it was completely intentional...can lead to fits of laughter in the dressing room...

Are some venues more intimidating than others to perform at?

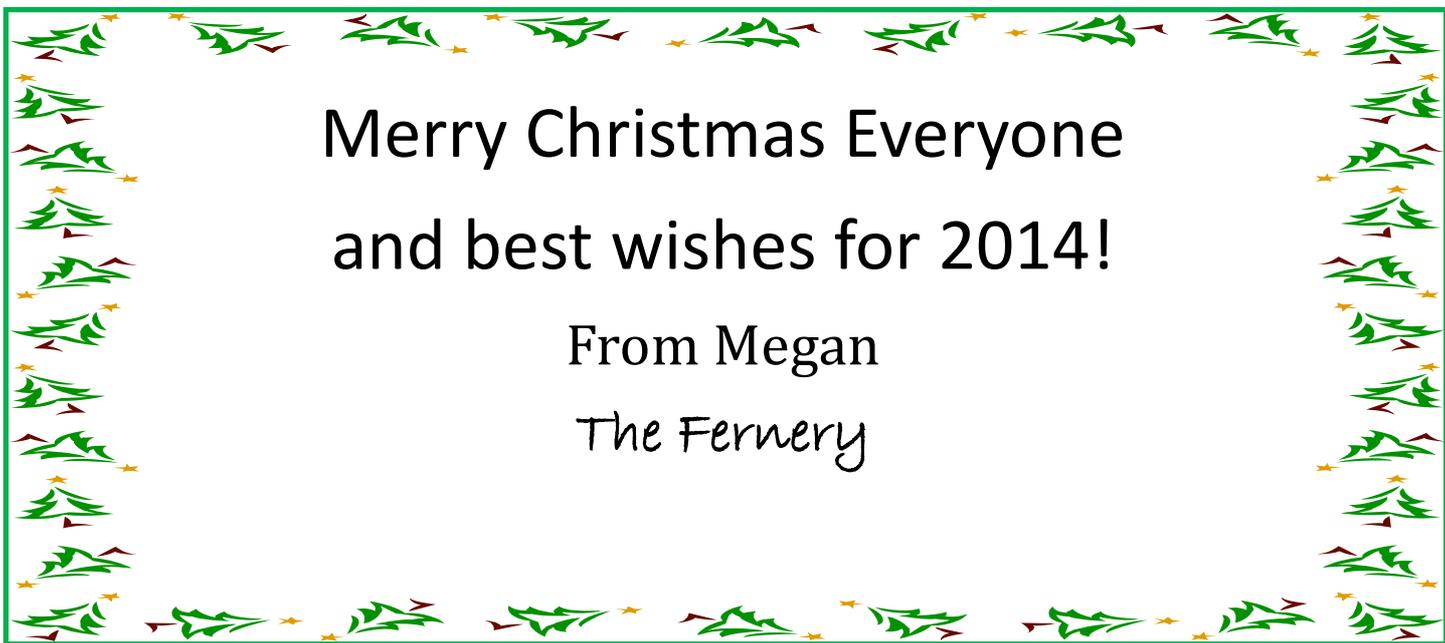
Not really - although Auckland and Wellington tend to have more VIPs and dance critics in the audience. Other than that I go into every show giving 100% and perhaps finding/achieving something special for that night.

Anything you'd like to add or share about your experience on the island or your experience as a dancer is welcome, we loved having you visit and we'd love to hear your thoughts!

Nature, birds and raw beauty... that's what I'll take away with me. Also chatting to the kids at the school amazed us... they asked the most intelligent questions. It was clear that growing up here they are taught to find solutions and are actively curious about the broader world. Something to be valued I think. Thanks for having us and invite me back again any time!



Photo from RNZB website



Merry Christmas Everyone and best wishes for 2014!

From Megan
The Fernery

The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. —Nelson Mandela

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OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem

Wow a brand new year and our 110th birthday which we'll celebrate in October. How time flies. Some of you will remember these folks in the picture above but I have not been able to find anything about the third person on the right who is named Mrs A. Robertson. Can anyone give me more information? It's nice to have a blessing jar in your home. Everytime you think of a blessing (something nice that has happened to you big or small), you write it on a piece of paper and drop it in the jar. At the end of the year it's a timeline of the many blessings you've had over the year. You'll be amazed at the way they mount up.



**This photo was taken in 1954 of 5 people that were at the opening of the church in 1904
They are: Mrs Rosa Harrison (insert), Thomas Edgar Jensen, Mrs Mateen Trill,
Mrs A. Robertson and Victor Thomson.**

wife Sunmi, and 2 children; a daughter, Esther, and son, Harim. He was a minister for them for 9 years and 6 months. During that time, he also studied at the Methodist Training Unit of Trinity College in Auckland for three years. It was very helpful and challenging in understanding the NZ Church and culture. It made it possible for him to have a different faith journey at a different place. He transferred from the

January brings some new and familiar faces to our pulpit. There's nothing like variety to add spice to our lives.

January 5 – Russel Thew - Ordained at St Stephens Invercargill. Subsequently minister at Otago Peninsula, Temuka, and Columba Oamaru. Now lives at St Leonards Dunedin and working with the Otago Community Hospice in North East Valley. Married to Helen and have a grown up family. Really looking forward to a return visit to Stewart Island after too long an absence.

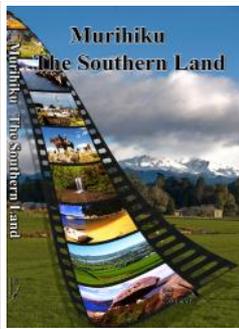
January 12 & 19 - Phil Melgren, - Phil is an Elder at Windsor Community Church in Invercargill. He works for the Inland Revenue Department. He is very interested in photography, especially lizards and skinks and has won awards at the National Photographic Competitions. With those kinds of interest it could be an interesting service. Come along and find out.

January 26 – Martin Oh – In 1997, Martin came to New Zealand for a Korean Methodist congregation in Auckland as a minister with his

Korean Methodist Church to the NZ Methodist Church. He then came down to Alexandra in 2007 for his first English speaking ministry in New Zealand at the Alexandra-Clyde-Lauder Union Parish, in which he is still carrying out his ministry. His family is very musical: Harim is a clarinetist (studying at the NZ School of Music), Esther, who is a flautist (studying Pharmacy at Otago University), and his wife who is a Church organist. They will be performing items at the Sunday service so we hope to see you there.

Remember! While you've got family and friends around check out those old photos and memories for anything we can use for the 110th Anniversary of Oban Presbyterian Church in October of this year. Funny or sad, good or bad we'd like to know your thoughts.

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



Christmas Gift Ideas

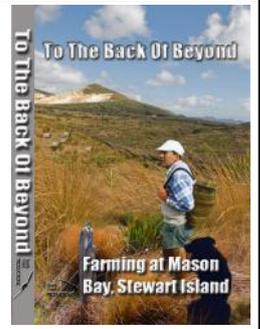
Limited supply of two great DVDs for sale at **Rakiura Museum**.

'To the Back of Beyond – the Story of Farming at Mason Bay'

One hour in length this is a wonderful story of the Traill, Leask and Te Aika families who farmed at remote Mason Bay on Stewart Island. \$35

'Murihiku The Southern Land'

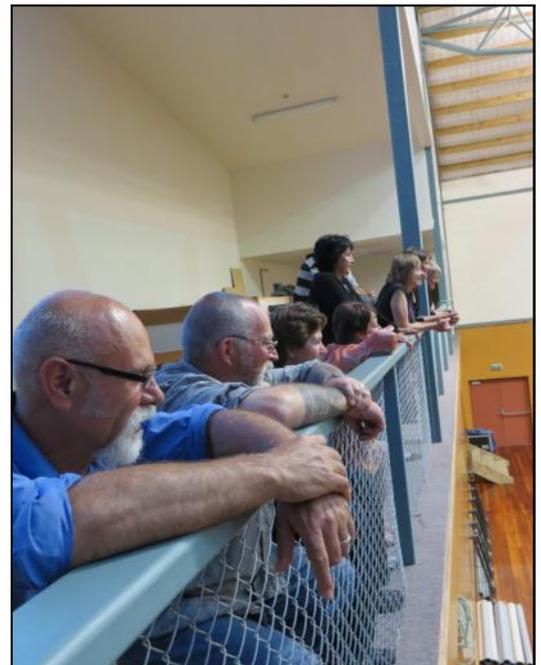
Scenes of southern New Zealand featuring Stewart Island, Fiordland & the Catlins. 30 minutes in length with no dialogue. \$30



Dave Asher of South Coast Productions has kindly offered these for sale with profits going to Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre.



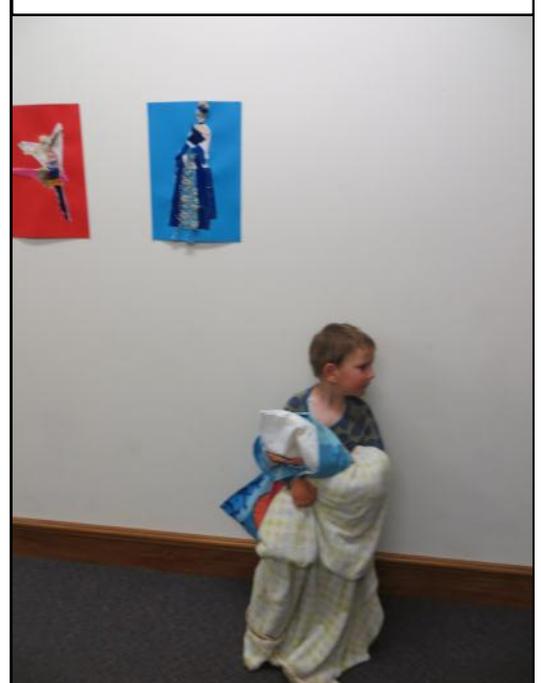
The ballet night was magic for everyone and particularly special for Zoe (in pink). After the show she went to chat with the duck from Peter and the Wolf. The lovely Bronte Kelly recalled that when she was a little girl, a ballerina had once given her a gift of her pointe shoes. Then... well, I'll let Zoe tell the story:



The rapt audience included over 70 children — the visiting Fairfield School and most local kids (many attending in tutus or jammies).

I got some ballet shoes from a real alive ballerina who played the duck in Peter and the wolf. Her voice didn't frighten me.

by zoe Jasmine Learmonth



BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford
 “A Mayor of Two Cities” by *Tim Shadbolt*

As you will have gathered by now, my choice of reading material doesn't normally include much in the way of 'serious' reading, e.g. biographies or autobiographies, but I made an exception in this case. I'm pleased I did. As an ex-Wellingtonian, I assure you that Mayor Tim has definitely put Invercargill on the map – and in a good way. No longer do my Wellington friends assume that Invercargill is an empty township where bow-legged elderly gents take their frumpy elderly wives in the Landrover for lunch at The Copper Kettle on a Friday. They now see it as a vibrant city, full of life, colour, friendly 'southerners' and positivity. Whether either of those visions is the true one, or whether reality is somewhere in between, it's Mayor Tim that has done his best to push that envelope far enough that most of our North Island 'cousins' no longer look down their noses upon Invercargill and sneer at the term 'city' being applied to it.

This book is Tim's version of how that came about. Parts of it brought a lump to my throat, some of it made me say: “I did not know that!”, or I was thinking: “Aha! So *that's* how it came about!” And as you might expect, some of it had me giggling – even laughing till the tears fell. (The story of building the swimming pool is beyond hilarious and brilliantly told.) Ego doesn't overwhelm this tale as I'd expected – it's certainly not a list of Mayor Tim's brilliant successes for it records with sadness the steps back that he had to take when he failed miserably. Mayor Tim is no stranger to bad times. But it's the story of an ordinary Kiwi bloke with an extraordinary take on life, and how he came to be in the position he's in today. (Actually, it's the position he was in by 2008 when the book was first published –

he's achieved even more since then, of the good and the bad.) It may not be 'great art' or 'great literature', but “A Mayor of Two Cities” is well-written and a good read.

For the crime/thriller readers, try Tim Weaver's “Never Coming Back”. It has a really odd first quarter, bobbing back and forth in time and place, but then it's worth it. A family go missing – dinner is cooking, the TV and computer are on, doors and windows open, a busy family life in fact. Just no family to be seen. So it's up to David Raker, missing persons investigator, to find out what happened. And the tendrils creep back through recent history, down the decades, and right back into the present. If the beginning is a bit confusing, the middle is intriguing and the ending a stunner. Well told, believable characters, and the plot hangs together enough that you look forward to the next chapter as you finish the last one.

“Daddy's Gone A-Hunting”, the new novel by Mary Higgins Clark – one of my favourite authors, was a real let-down however. Yes, it was readable, but somehow the plot was weak so the likeable characters didn't act 'in' character in order to make it all work. And the characters did seem incredibly thick not to catch on to some of the nuances! A family-owned antiques and reproductions business blows up in the middle of the night, killing an ex-employee and putting the elder daughter of the family in hospital, in a coma. It's up to the younger daughter to find the killer/perpetrator. This works better as a romance than a thriller since all the young women finish up living happily-ever-after! Rather 'twee' and without the Higgins Clark punch or twist in the tail. So, readable, but not memorable - I'll be looking for more Weaver rather than Higgins Clark on my next trip to the Library.

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Would like to thank the Editor and sub-Editor of the SIN for producing such a great little paper and to wish everyone a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.



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Shop Talk *by Jules Retberg*

The clear voice of confusion

I was in a Dunedin backpackers a few weeks ago and saw a lady struggling with a broken arm trying to get her jacket on. I offered to help and it turned out that she hardly spoke any English. We began 'talking' using her iPad - she wrote Chinese symbols that the computer translated for me to read and vice versa. She pointed to a street map and the computer, which declared "*Just get lost!*". Had I misunderstood, did she want me to go away?! It transpired that she was frustrated about getting lost around the Octagon, phew!

So what are the chances of confusion when Kiwis and English yak? Apparently quite high ...

As you know, the shop makes lunch for the school kids here on a Friday and Jill asked me to make a sign for '*Cheerios in bread & butter*'.

"Really?", I asked in disbelief.

"Yeah, they'll love it, it's a kiwi favourite", Jill replied.

"Cheerios? Real Cheerios? That's just weird. Cheerios - the breakfast cereal? In bread and butter?", I babbled.

We didn't quite have to draw pictures, but a LOT of discussion followed; Jill explained that Cheerios were actually small saveloys and we had a good laugh about it. Thank goodness I wasn't let loose in the kitchen; could you imagine the kids opening their lunch to find circles of wheat, corn, oats and rice stuffed between two slices of bread?

When I first moved here from England there were many such confusions; not least over the sound of vowels. I cringe when I recall a chat about "powerball" when the subject was actually about a "power bill"!

Once I'd more or less mastered New Zealand phonetics I then stumbled over some word definitions. When I worked at the wharf someone remarked about a '*skivvy*'. OK, the work was varied but I didn't think of myself as a domestic servant! Much amusement over that as I explained the British definition - and learned that it means a high-necked jumper over here!

Which leads me to a word that just plain drives me crazy.

M A N C H E S T E R.

IT'S AN INDUSTRIAL CITY IN THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND WHERE IT RAINS A LOT! And they have a couple of good football teams (not soccer!). It cannot possibly have anything to do with household linen!

Merry Christmas ...

Seasons Greetings ...

Happy Holidays ...





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As a thank you to the community for all of their support throughout the year, the Rakiura Rugrats have made holiday cards. These will be available at the noticeboard.

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at
PO Box 156 Stewart Island
or email to editor@stewart-island-news.com**

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