

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

December 2014—January 2015

\$3.00

Much thanks to Fluff who let me tag along with the mustering/shearing gang out at the Neck this month. It was an eye-opening experience. I've never been on a muster before so I tried to stay out of everyone's way, I kept going through gates into smaller and smaller paddocks and at one point I ended up stuck in a wee box with a bunch of sheep. (I feel like there's an analogy about life somewhere in this...) Anyway one of the musterers seemed unimpressed to find me there. The Neck is a fascinating part of the Island and it was a privilege walking around there with Fluff who is a treasure trove of knowledge about the area. I want to do the story justice so stay tuned: more on the Neck Muster in the next issue.

Sharks have kept the island in the media but I think the best portrayal I've seen of this place is the Season Finale of TV One's *Our Big Blue Backyard* which features Stewart Island. It's a must-see so if you missed it go to tvnz.co.nz/our-big-blue-backyard and watch Episode 6. This is an outstanding documentary: we are so fortunate to live in such an extraordinary part of the world and this program showcases our home beautifully. I'll never look at a seahorse, kiwi, cod or penguin the same! One interesting fact I learned is the Stewart Island kiwi is unique in that they tend the nest as a whanau, with birds other than the parents pitching in to sit on the eggs. Typical Island behaviour: look around this community and see how people are always offering to lend a hand, share their knowledge, bake you a cake, give you some fish, offer advice, offer comfort, give support, and help each other. On that note thank you to Pauline and the team at Quantum Print; Margaret H, the Shop, the Flight Centre, Jules, Lania, Sue, Vicki, all of our contributors and readers, and everyone who helps support the *SIN* throughout the year.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year everyone!—Jess



Bella with Pinky Pie, Rosie Posie and Lucky, the Rugrats chickens. "Merry Chickmas!" (Thanks to Sue Lind for the incubator and eggs.) Photo from Letitia.



Skippers Tim, Chris, Luke and Matt at Boat Launch party for *Henerata*. See page 11.

**SIRCET Community
Nursery Work Days**
Saturday 13th and
Wednesday 17th
December

Meet at the noticeboard
at 10 am if you need a
ride, otherwise see
you at the nursery from
10am on.



Tae kwon do!
Pages 7 & 17

HOLIDAY SHOP HOURS for Ship to Shore
22, 23, 24 December 7.30am to 7.00pm

25 December 10.00am to 12 noon

26 December 9.00am to 7.00pm

27, 28, 29, 30, 31 December 7.30am to 7.00pm

1st January 9.00am to 7.00pm

2nd January and thereafter 7.30am to 7.00pm



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COMMUNITY BOARD NEWS *from Jon Spraggon*

Alternative power sources monitoring progressing slowly, but by the end of this week all the equipment should be in place and sending data away to be collated.

New picnic tables jointly funded by the local Lions and Rakiura Visitor Levy money have been

installed at Butterfields and beside the Kai Kart. Soil to be placed around the concrete pads so as to allow for ease of maintenance.

Your Community Board wishes everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to a prosperous 2015.

WISE UP TO WEEDS



BOMAREA

(Bomarea multiflora)

Bomarea is found in Oban, but only in low numbers as far as we are aware. But every season it spreads further – you can help to stop the spread.

What is it?

Bomarea is a vine with stunning red to orange flowers arranged in bunches that 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 restrict the light to other plants.

How to control it?

- Cut and paste the stems at the base of the plant and paste with a herbicide gel immediately. Check regularly for regrowth and repeat if necessary.

Please contact Shawn Johnson, Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer, at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115

STEWART ISLAND
COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 20th December 4pm

Stewart Island Community Centre



All welcome; locals and visitors alike!

BYO drinks, tea and coffee provided

Please bring a plate to share for dinner,
served 6pm ish!

(please bring some nibbles if you want to eat something earlier!)

Fancy Dress Prize for the kids (or any adults!) too!

Any questions or suggestions please get in touch with Vicki

0275 211 895 stewartisland@extra.co.nz 2191 498

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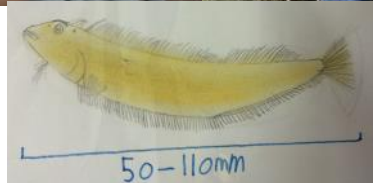
Noticeboard silliness. Photo from Vicki Coats



CAPTION CONTEST. Photo from Jeanette Mackay



Marine science



On Friday 7th November the whole school and the Marine scientists from Otago University went to Ringaringa beach to investigate the seaweed and the animals in the rock pools.

We had to get into groups and each group got a scientist, and a camera to photograph all the different types of seaweed and creatures. We also got a square metre. Some were white plastic pipe and one was made of rope. Each group also got an ice cream container lid which counted 1% of the metre square.

It's fascinating how many species you can find in a rock pool and on the rocks. We found: rag worms, barnacles, chitons, sea squirts, tube worms, half crabs, anemones, sea slaters and heaps of other marine life. If you didn't know what the creature or plant was then you put it into a old empty ice cream container and asked one of the scientists.

Each group also got a recording sheet. We counted and estimated and recorded all the creatures in our square metre. When we got back to school we went on to the mm2 website and put all the information from our recording sheet on to the website's data base.

After we entered the data the computer automatically made graphs of all the animals and all the plants in our square metre. We printed the graphs out and showed the scientists.

Back at school we also learnt to make scientific drawings of the sea life that we saw and we wrote some questions for the scientists to answer.

While we were entering the data the little kids pressed some seaweed samples and now that they are dried they look amazing.

BIG thanks to the Otago Marine scientists who came down to Stewart Island and we hope you come down again to work with us.

By Keisha
Year 5
Halfmoon Bay School

Andrew (Andy) Jacob Riksem*28 November, 1947 – 11 November, 2014*

Andrew Riksem was a nice guy. He was always most helpful to me and very patient and loving.

He did my shopping. He cut my toenails. He mowed the lawn. He took out the garbage, and brought the mail. And whenever I tried out a new recipe he was right there to willingly try it. He and Jo drove me to Church on Sunday and brought me home again. He had healing hands and his smoked salmon may have been the best in the world.

It'll be a sad old day trying to manage without you Andy. But I know you've gone to a better place, to be with the Lord.

Goodbye Andy.

For now.

I'll be along soon.

From your favourite mother-in-law, Coral

My brother in-law Andy loved my sister Jo. He loved his daughter Rene. He even loved his mother-in-law Coral. I also know he loved all his family & friends. That was the kind of person Andy was...In fact I never heard Andy say he didn't like anybody.

I told my sis Jo, Andy had a lot of great attributes but I thought one of the best was what a terrific listener he was. Listening can be a pretty rare quality in this fast paced socially media driven world.

It seems like a lot of people spend a lot of time talking about them selves these days. Andy was different in that way. Andy loved finding out about people. He loved talking about your life and what made you tick. He loved listening to and discussing peoples everyday stories.

Now that I think about it. I'm pretty sure right now Andy would much rather have everyone get up & say something about them selves than be talking about him.

Did I mention Andy had a terrific sense of humor. He loved loved loved a good joke, a funny movie, a great book. He had a big infectious laugh and wasn't afraid to use it.

Andy loved the simple things and he lived in the moment.

I think if Andy had a request, he would tell everyone to just spend a little time talking and really listening to each other for a few minutes today....

He would also want you to think of him and just smile...

From Janet Allcott

Research being undertaken on Whitetail Deer. Deer Livers wanted.

by John DeLury

Kaylyn McBrearty is completing a Doctoral degree at Lincoln University on the white-tailed deer of the Wakatipu. Kaylyn currently lives in Queenstown and is a keen hunter herself.

The purpose of the research is to determine if the following factors are limiting the health, performance or habitat range of the Wakatipu white-tailed deer herd and attempt to quantify the impact each has on herd success.

Determine the genetic heterogeneity in New Zealand white-tailed deer and the level of their divergence from the origin herd.

Investigate and compare mineral deficiencies in soil and white-tailed deer within the Wakatipu habitat and surrounding range.

Assess the impact of aerial 1080 dispersal in terms of survivability of white-tailed deer in the Wakatipu. (Currently in progress).

Assess the impact of hunting on the Wakatipu white-tailed deer and hunter interest in the herd.

Determine the presence or absence of the agents causing malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) in white-tailed deer of the Wakatipu.

For objective 1, DNA samples will be obtained from the white-tailed deer of the Wakatipu, Stewart Island and New Hampshire (origin herd). Comparative analysis of DNA samples will be conducted to identify how the Wakatipu herd differs from the origin population and the animals released on Stewart Island. In addition efforts will be made to obtain DNA from the remains of whitetail deer which were killed close to the time of release in the Wakatipu to provide a direct estimate of the original colonising variation.

For objective 2, Liver samples will be analysed for mineral content in order to identify deficiencies or differences in the available minerals between the Wakatipu herd and the Stewart Island herd. Differences in diet may explain physiological differences, impact reproductive success and disease susceptibility of the two herds differently.

Kaylyn has asked for help in obtaining samples from the Stewart Island White-tail. She needs approximately one third liver. Tim Dawson has agreed to co-ordinate collection on Stewart Island. A small section will be placed in a vial containing ethanol and stored in a fridge and used to extract DNA. The larger section will be used to assess nutritional health via mineral composition and are to be stored frozen pending sending to Kaylyn.

John DeLury has tracked down a whitetail deer shot at Pegasus in 1922 which is probably the first whitetail shot on the Island after protection was lifted in 1920 after they were released in 1905. John says that he is enthusiastic about the DNA aspect as there is some suspicion over the origin of whitetail in New Zealand. They are recorded as coming from New Hampshire and importation was arranged by T E Donne who was New Zealand Tourism Superintendent. He attended the St Louis Exposition in 1904 as NZ Commissioner and arranged for a number of live game exhibits there to come to New Zealand. Live whitetail deer were on display at the Exposition. It is possible our deer came from there and DNA evidence will confirm or refute the record.

This appeal is for the local hunters to bring home the section of liver from deer they shoot and pass on to Tim Dawson. We need to know the sex and rough location (GPS would be great) of where the deer was shot. It would also be very helpful to get one side of the jawbone for aging of the deer.



Photo from Greg Northe

Our daughter Tracey married Gerald Taffs (who was a pilot with Stewart Island Flights for about 4 years) a few weeks ago at The Heritage, Hanmer Springs. They have lived in Australia for 3 years where Gerald has been flying. He flies now for the Victorian Air Ambulance in Melbourne and just loves his job. It's a very much hands-on job with having patients and paramedics on board. Gerald met Tracey about 3 or 4 years ago when he flew her over. The romance blossomed ever since and now Tracey has become Mrs Taffs. It's a really nice story as my mum met my dad down on the Island while she was holidaying many, many years ago – dad was the Head Teacher at the school here (it was during the late war years) and actually taught John Leask and his sister Marion - the rest is history. So the Island remains the most romantic little island in the world for me, what with my parents meeting here and then now Tracey meeting Gerald. Of course this lovely Stewart Island romantic link was mentioned in speeches at the reception!

—Jill Cox



TALKING TAE KWON DO

Sue "Diddle" Graham has been teaching Tae kwon do to Halfmoon Bay School students this year. Her class culminated in a session at the Community Centre in front of the community and Coach Kesi O'Neill, in which the children earned their yellow belts. Tae kwon do is a Korean martial art which combines combat and self-defense techniques with sport and exercise. I chatted with Diddle about her experience with this sport.

How do you know Kesi O'Neill?

Kesi O'Neill is my coach, I have known and trained with him for over 26 years. He coached me for both 1988 and 1992 Olympics where I won a silver medal. The Olympics were amazing both times such an awesome experience and tough competition and so worth all the training.

When did you start teaching the kids?

The kids have been training for approximately a year for one hour a week during school term. Initially Marley asked me if I would teach him for his William Pike challenge and I decided I would open it up to 7 yrs + and I would want them to grade and take part in a tournament – that's next year's mission.



What do you like about this sport?

Tae kwon do is great for discipline, commitment, respect, fitness and so much more, it has taught me so much.

It's exciting the kids got their yellow belts!

Yes, all kids achieved yellow 2 grade which was great. They all achieved their best and it made me so proud to see how hard they tried and they put everything into it. Soph and George graded in Tauranga in July this year.

What's next?

Kesi is working on a club for the boys in Invercargill when they move there next year and a club for Soph in Dunedin.

I hear you're going to teach sparring, what's that about?

Free sparring is the fighting side of tae kwon do, competitors are matched by height and age and wear protective head, body and other protective gear and mostly kick to the body and head and punch to the body. This happens over 3 rounds for 2 minutes, they try and score points to win fight. I will be starting to show kids this so I can take them to a tournament next year.

Update on the Detailed Feasibility studies *from the Governance Group*

The detailed feasibility study (covering the various options on how it would be possible to make Halfmoon Bay predator free) is on track for completion in the first half of 2015. The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group will review the next draft at their meeting in February 2015, after which further work may be required depending on the feedback.

As always people can stay connected with the project through the Stewart Island News, the website (www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz) and any of the Governance Group members.

Information Flyer

The Governance Group has designed a flyer about the project and Southland District Council will be sending this out as part of a forthcoming mail out. The purpose of this is to ensure that as many ratepayers as possible know about the project – particularly non resident ratepayers who might have missed the town meetings, discussions with Governance Group members, SIN updates and web-site.

Invercargill ‘Just Imagine’ visit

As previously mentioned, the Governance Group wishes to raise awareness about the possibility of a Predator Free Rakiura around the rest of the country. From 10-14 November the Morgan Foundation ran a series of events in schools, the Bluff Marae, and held a public meeting at the Southern Institute of Technology.

The presentation to schools was fun and interactive. It reached 9 schools and 1900 children, from 5 to 12 years old. The message was simple: ‘Just Imagine’ a Predator Free Rakiura. The children learned that New Zealand was a world leader in predator control and eradication, that huge advances were likely during their lifetime (including the possibility of a Predator Free Rakiura) and that this would benefit our native wildlife.

Five Southern Institute of Technology students canvassed the streets to raise awareness about the project. During this time they also conducted a survey of 56 Invercargill residents. Two thirds of them had been to the island, and half of them either owned a property or knew someone who did. The majority had heard of the project (86%) and strongly agreed with it (82%). The Bluff Marae meeting was very successful with attendees backing the proposal for a Predator Free Rakiura.

There was a crowd of around 50 people at the public meeting. A range of views were expressed but overall the feedback was positive about the environmental, social and economic potential of this project. Governance Group members Bruce Halligan (Southland District Council) and Stewart Bull (Titi Islanders) as well as Brent Beaven (Department of Conservation) were all in attendance and gave fantastic input.

The most surprising message from attendees was that people were unaware of the decline of bird populations, and may have an unrealistic perspective of Rakiura bird life from experiencing Oban. This may be due to the predator free areas close to Oban (i.e. Dancing Star and Ulva Island) and the excellent work on predator control around the township by SIRCET, or it may be simply due to the lack of birdlife on New Zealand’s other islands. Those with experience outside the township mentioned that the situation was not so positive on the rest of the island. This message is reinforced by what data we have (see below). More work is being done by the Department of Conservation to improve our understanding of this issue. They are using remote recorders to collect data on bird counts from a variety of locations across the island.

Would a Predator Free Rakiura help our native wildlife?

The short answer is yes. The good news is that on Stewart Island/Rakiura and surrounding islands only possums, rats, feral cats and potentially hedgehogs are problem predators. The absence of mustelids (e.g. stoats) in particular is credited with enabling the relatively high kiwi population on Rakiura and surrounding islands.

Nevertheless, rats, cats and possums still take an immense toll on the native species (reference 1):

Brown teal, rifleman, mohua, South Island kokako, falcon, Stewart Island weka and probably yellow-crown parakeets, have gone extinct on Stewart Island/Rakiura within the past 50 years. Birds showing dramatic declines in the past 100 years include kereru, kaka, kakapo, and robin. Populations of native birds on Stewart Island/Rakiura showed similar patterns of extinctions and declines as the South Island despite fewer agents of decline.

Kiwi are a good example. We have approximately 70,000 kiwi left in the country, and we are losing them at a rate of 2% per annum (reference 2). Despite the comparatively higher density of kiwi on Stewart Island/ Rakiura (thanks to the lack of stoats), numbers appear to be falling at a similar rate to the rest of the country (although this was one survey and could be due to habitat change in that area) (reference 3).

Studies on the Stewart Island robin also show a declining trend, with over half of nest failures on Rakiura due to predators (reference 4). Meanwhile the robin population on Ulva Island is bursting at the seams – they have expanded to fill the capacity of the island (reference 5).

There are 62 threatened native species on Stewart Island/ Rakiura and surrounding islands that would benefit from getting rid of predators. These include endangered birds (such as the rare New Zealand dotterels), bats, lizards (e.g. jewelled gecko, green skink), plants, and insects. Eight of these species exist nowhere else in the world (reference 6).

So a Predator Free Rakiura would certainly help protect many of our native species, but the most studied impacts for removing pred-

The Stewart Island Community Centre Trustees send a very big thank you to all past & present staff, volunteers & Trustees who maintain care for this wonderful Island facility. After 14 years the Centre's exterior is having a 'tidy-up' - special thanks to Tim, Jarrod, Stu & Stacey (among many others) for their voluntary efforts. Early in the New Year we will be having an interior cleaning bee too - with such a large facility the saying "many hands make light work" really



Tim Dawson water-blasting

rings true, so please come along and join the trustees for this (the date will be put up on the Community notice-board).

As always, please 'make yourself financial' & continue to enjoy the Centre's

facilities - there's a few people regularly playing squash now which is great! Centre Manager: Ph. 03 2191 477

Stewart Island Community Centre Trustees are: Becca Parry, Chris Sara, Debbie Barry, Karin Dawson, Kath Johnson, Phil Dove, Stacey Wilford & Stu Cave.

STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Well, Santa is on his way, and there's presents to wrap, mistletoe to locate, and cake to decorate. But one easy thing to do to ensure you are prepared for the (hopefully) lazy hazy days of summer is to stock up on holiday reading.

Thanks to generous donations from the Quiz, Friends of the library, and a new SDC fiction exchange our shelves are well laden with essential summer time reading.

Our last session for 2014 will be Monday 22 December (12.30 – 1.30). We will reopen Monday 5 January (12.30 – 1.30).

Remember books can be returned any time through the slot located on the school side of the Community Centre. The free wifi should be available 24/7.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and we'll see you again in the New Year.

(Continued from page 8)

ators are for bird populations. Predators reduce the populations of most native birds, and can cause local extinctions of certain species. Eliminating predators dramatically alters the survival rates of many species of native birds.

Here are some examples:

The nesting survival rates of robins double in predator controlled areas (reference 7).

When populations of rats and possums are reduced below 4%, kukupa (New Zealand wood pigeon) nest success rates went from zero to 100% (reference 8).

Since becoming predator-free, the valley where Zealandia is situated now has twice as many native species of birds resident there. Bird call numbers inside the Dancing Star fence are on average 2-3 times higher than outside. For certain species these improvements are much higher – tui in particular benefits greatly from possum control.

The size of the potential predator free area is large enough to allow the relocation of some key species. Even the proposed first phase of eradication - 5,000 hectares around Halfmoon Bay - is 2 ½ times bigger than Kapiti Island. This includes iconic species such as the kakapo – recently voted the world's most loved species – and the kokako – the hauntingly beautiful songbird of the New Zealand forest.

References are set out below:

- (1) Harper, G. A. (2009). The native forest birds of Stewart Island/Rakiura: patterns of recent declines and extinctions. *Notornis* 56:63-81
- (2) <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/kiwi/facts/>
- (3) Colbourne, R.M. & Robertson, H.A. (2013) Status of Stewart Island Tokoeka (*Apteryx australis lawryi*) at Mason Bay, Stewart Island, February 2013. Department of Conservation.
- (4) Alexander, C.; Beaven, B. 2002. (unpublished) Can Stewart Island robins survive on Stewart Island? Department of Conservation report. Southland Conservancy, Invercargill, New Zealand.
- (5) Berard, L. (2013) Influence of population density on breeding parameters of reintroduced Stewart Island robins on Ulva Island, New Zealand. University of Otago
- (6) Beaven, B. (2008). Scoping the potential to eradicate rats, wild cats and possums from Stewart Island/Rakiura. *New Zealand Department of Conservation, Invercargill*.
- (7) Armstrong, D. P., Raeburn, E. H., Powlesland, R. G., Howard, M., Christensen, B., & Ewen, J. G. (2002). Obtaining meaningful comparisons of nest success: data from New Zealand robin (*Petroica australis*) populations. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 26(1), 1-14.
- (8) Innes, J., Nugent, G., Prime, K., Spurr, E. B. (2004). Responses of kukupa (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) and other birds to mammal pest control at Motatau, Northland. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 28(1):73-81

Hunters' Hut Competition

Prize: \$50 voucher to Invercargill Hunting & Fishing store

How well do you know your hunters' huts on Stewart Island? The first person to send all (or the most) correct answers to editor@stewart-island-news.com wins. Competition deadline is 16th December 2014.

Thanks to John DeLury for photos. And no, don't call him for the answers, he won't tell!



On Sunday 7th of December Matt and Alina Atkins of Rakiura Charters & Water Taxi welcomed their new water taxi 'Henerata' to Stewart Island/ Rakiura, with a celebration at Halfmoon Bay beach.

Celebrations began with a small traditional blessing (Karakia) conducted by Kylie Moxham, to welcome the new vessel to Rakiura shores, to acknowledge the origins of her name and to protect the skippers during their time on the sea. Thank you Kylie for all your personal touches and for helping us start *Henerata's* time in such a lovely way.

After the blessing the community were welcomed to Halfmoon Bay beach to climb in and check out the interior of the water taxi. Big kids and little kids alike had a ball climbing over the bow and through the cabin, and Matt enjoyed telling friends and colleagues all about the long design and build process. *Henerata* was 'blessed' again with half a bottle of champagne, and the other half went over the tractor newly named the *Lady Alina*.

Henerata was named fondly after Matt's late paternal grandmother Henerata (Hetti) Atkins, who lived on the island with her husband Trevor between around 1968 and 2004. Hetti was a loving and incredibly caring wife, mother and grandmother who cherished Stewart Island and it's an honour to treasure her memory this way.

The water taxi was completed in November 2014, custom built by Osprey Boats in Nelson. She is 7.5m long and seats up to 19 passengers as well as a skipper. 10 can be seated inside the raised, heated cabin, and a further five seats are located on the back deck. Many hours of design and forethought have been invested, with efficiency, environmental impact, and passenger comfort and viewing a priority.

Henerata begins her spell on the island operating our new Ulva Connection service with two daily scheduled departures from Halfmoon Bay each day. She'll also be running trampers up and down the Freshwater River, day visitors to Port William and Ulva Island, and hunters to and from hunting blocks.

Special thanks to Sue Atkins, Gary (Jed) Lewis, Osprey Boats, Kylie Moxham, Cutting Edge Graphic Design, Leigh Cooper Graphic Design, Ship to Shore, the Kai Kart, RC&WT Crew, friends, family and the Stewart Island Community for your unwavering support.

From Matt, Alina and the Team

*Kia mārie horapa a tawhio noa koutou
Kia iraira i te moana, ano he pounamu
Na kani kani te ārohirohi o te
Mahana haere koutou ara.*

*May calm be spread around you
May the sea glisten like Greenstone
And the shimmer of summer
Dance along your path.*



Museum matters by Bev Cowie

Christmas wishes to all our readers. It seems no time since last Christmas but a lot has taken place during that time.

Our acquisitions for the past month are photographs and copies of photographs which are always welcome. Our photograph collection is growing and is now quite extensive, but we are always on the lookout for more, especially older photos.

We have had quite a few school groups through the museum, which we try to do after hours for the benefit of our paying customers. Some groups tend to be a bit on the noisy side, so it is to everyone's benefit really. Because we have had quite a few schools just turning up on the day to come through, we ask that if you know of a school intending to visit, please get them to contact us prior to their arrival so we can arrange a date and time to suit everyone.

The Cruise ship season is also with us and so we will be staying open for them until 3.30pm on the days they are in port. Of course we welcome other visitors as well during that time.

We are now thinking about our new museum again and will be meeting our Exhibition Designer after New Year to start the ball rolling again. Chris Currie from Rotorua will hopefully be coming to the island to meet up with those involved, and will work on producing a scale model of the new building. From there it may be handed over to another overseer to complete the work. We look forward to moving on and hopefully get things moving again.

The DVD of the Norwegian weekend is on the verge of being finalised. We are hopeful of having more and different Margaret Fairhall cards on our new sales display before Christmas, so pop in and check them and the new display cabinet out.

Museum Hours for December - January are
Monday thru Saturday 10.00 am - 1.30 pm, Sunday noon - 2.00pm.
We will be closed Christmas day, Boxing Day and January 1st 2015.

Cruise ship days will be extended, so watch the outside board for details.

We can be contacted at 03 2191221.
stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

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Halfmoon Bay Beat

Found Property:

Currently holding the following **found** Items:

- Apple Ipad found on Ferry
- Bracelet found on Ulva Island
- Men's Watch found on ulva Island
- Binoculars found outside library.

If you have lost an Item give the Police station a call.

Traffic:

The new reduced alcohol drink driver level was implemented on the 1st of December. What does this mean for Stewart Island resident drivers? The same as all New Zealand drivers.

Drivers who return the new lower Blood level of 51 - 80 mg/100ml will receive a \$200 fine and 50 demerit points. Also Civil cost recovery of blood test costs, which is an extra \$500.00 approx.

If over 80 mg/100ml of blood. The law has not changed.

Any Questions about the new law give the station a call.

About 75 to 80% of islanders live within 1 km from the central business area, restaurants, café and Hotel.

The South Sea hotel has a courtesy vehicle for hotel patrons who can not walk home. There is no excuse for anyone to drink drive.

Police have had several residents express their concerns about the lack of enforcement of the 30 minute parking limit areas on Elgin Terrace.

I would like to not have to enforce the 30 minute time limit parking. So help me out and only park for less than 30 minutes.

A recent check of vehicle current Warrant of fitness, current vehicle licences and road user charges resulted in to many tickets being issued. Keep the above up to date.

Christmas is weeks away and then the New Year celebrations the week after that. Cath and I will be on leave and off the Island for the Christmas New Year period.

Constable Nigel Jack will be relieving on the Island until early January and then Constable Stewart Newton until the end of January.

Sergeant Ian Martin will be on the Island to assist with New Year celebrations.

Have a safe Christmas break.

Constable Dale Jenkins

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

Summer? It looks like rein deer ...

With the festive season almost upon us and the shop bursting at the seams with mince pies, Christmas cakes and chocolate Santas I thought I'd take a look at what other countries eat on Christmas Day.

Turkey, chicken, duck, goose and pork form the basis of many Christmas menus across the world. Fish finds its way onto a few dinner tables, barbequed or made into soup depending on whether the Christmas feast is being devoured in summer or winter.

Roasted chestnuts and chestnut stuffings feature quite a lot too as well as fruit cakes, gingerbreads and cinnamon sweet treats. Mulled wine and egg-nog are also popular, but I especially like the sound of Chile's egg-nog style drink "*Ponche a la romana*" which combines Champagne and pineapple ice-cream. I'm salivating at the thought of that one!

One or two other countries stand out from crowd although not quite for the same reasons. Japan celebrates with a bucket of Christmas chicken at KFC. Yes, you heard it right, Kentucky Fried Chicken! Given the miniscule Christian population in Japan, they don't celebrate Christmas per se, but the Japanese love American fast food and thanks to a marketing campaign in the 1970s "Kentucky

for Christmas" was born and they've been devouring Colonel Harland Sanders' special recipe ever since! Many branches of KFC in Japan take orders well in advance of Christmas day so that families don't spend hours queuing.

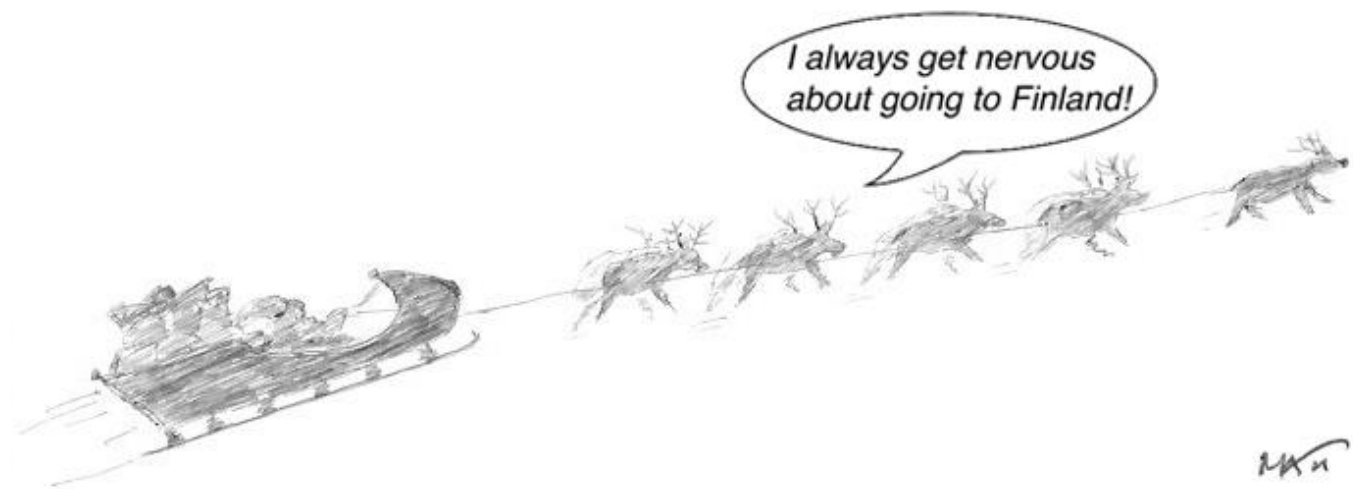
And I'm not quite sure how Santa feels about this one but in northern Finland, you might find reindeer nestling among the ham, turkey and salmon gravlax on the dinner table. It makes sense given that it's a local meat, and I suppose for a family of four at least everyone would get a leg!

We had our first Kiwi Christmas many years ago before we came to Stewart Island. As we stuffed our faces with chicken legs and mince pies, enjoyed the novelty of being on a beach in the sunshine (we were up north!) and watched a game of cricket, we overheard two girls arguing about something. They were loopies, just like us at the time: away from family, confined to a camper van for months, we well understood the frustrations. Matt went over, offered them a pile of mince pies and told them to chill out. Job done. Never under-estimate the healing power of a mince pie!

Hyvää Joulua - kuka syönyt poro?!

"Happy Christmas - who's eaten my reindeer?!" if your Finnish is not up to much!

Jules



'Small Communities' Youth Grant Fund

The Ministry of Youth Development has a fund which provides one-off partial funding assistance towards projects that support young people aged 12 to 24 residing in New Zealand's small island communities, to develop skills, knowledge, and experience to participate confidently and contribute positively in their communities. It was established to ensure young people from isolated island communities have access to similar opportunities to their peers from mainland New Zealand.

Individuals or groups of young people aged 12 to 24 years old can apply for a wide range of things; attending youth leadership programmes, or even children getting together and hosting the likes of a movie night in their community.

If you, or anyone you know of, might be interested in applying to this fund, or want to know more information, please contact; either Cr Bruce Ford, or Juanita Thornton from Venture Southland – 211 1417.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DOC issues shark cage diving permits

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has imposed strict rules to ensure great white sharks are not harmed by underwater cage diving operations around Stewart Island and the activity is confined to one location to minimise the impact on commercial paua divers.

DOC has issued two-year permits to two existing Rakiura/Stewart Island tourism businesses setting new rules around how and where they can conduct operations.

Great white sharks are a protected species and about 100 sharks frequent Foveaux Strait each year between December and June. Over the past few years, new businesses have developed allowing tourists to view sharks from a cage attached to a boat.

Concerns have been raised that sharks are being encouraged with the use of bait and decoys to attack cages, causing permanent injury or behaviour changes to the sharks.

Some pāua divers have also expressed concerns that the operations may put nearby commercial divers at risk of shark attack.

DOC says the two year permits it is issuing set strict new conditions that will protect the sharks and minimise potential conflict with commercial pāua operations.

Conditions include a ban on feeding of the sharks or the use of decoys, controls on commercial filming and also restrict viewing to one area off Motunui/Edwards Island, 6km from Stewart Island.

DOC's Southern Services Director Allan Munn DOC's says the activities of operators will be reviewed after a year to ensure they are meeting these conditions.

Allan Munn says shark cage diving is an established tourism business and, when well managed, can help develop a better understanding of this protected species.

DOC consulted with the Stewart Island community, pāua divers and local iwi on the decision and details of this process are available on www.doc.govt.nz

SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

Aahhhh Christmas.....does the word freak you out or make you excited!? For me it's a bit of both, the rush to do the Christmas shopping, crossing off the list of things I am forever trying to get done around the house before the 25 December rolls around. The joy it brings the children as we (Taua Fern included) decorate our Christmas tree screeching out Christmas carols in opera voices (one of my favourites, as the poor husband rocks and drinks in the corner.) Cue evil cackle...We have added ginger bread house building to our list this year...

As the kids excitedly wake at 5am on Christmas morning, we all end up squeezed in bed together like little pigs in blankets, and after 2 hours worth of trying to sleep while getting asked every 5 minutes if it's time yet. We let them loose on the lounge to the waiting stockings and haul our sleepy bodies out of bed to watch the glee unfold. We start the day eating croissants filled with Camembert, pineapple & ham toasted in the oven, glass of Moët to match, (of course coffee first to kick start the brain!)

I'm not sure what everyone's like when it comes to eating on Christmas Day but we surely have lots of left overs and a lot gets wasted too which drives me crazy! So I thought that some tips on reducing food waste and revamping leftovers might come in handy over the silly season.

Fruit salad...we always have tonnes left over and we try to eat it before it ferments.

If you have a liquidator why not make the ultimate juice for breakfast or turn the juice into a base for a naughty cocktail. Add some fresh mint and yum, or if you have a frozen dessert maker....sorbet anyone?

New potatoes.... These get turned into nice thick chips and cooked on the BBQ, or spruce them up with some garlic aioli and chives etc and make a potato salad for Boxing Day. Roast veggies make great salads with a quick dressing n some fresh spinach...

Cooked meats, always great in a sandwich, or fry some up with leftover potatoes and make a hash for breakfast/lunch. Of course ham is great as steaks on the BBQ with pineapple and diced meat is

great in fried rice. Leftover gravy reheated in a pan is an awesome way to revive leftover meat without drying it out.

Salads.... If making lettuce salad have the dressing on the side that way it lives to see another day, (the lettuce that is.) I find with pasta salads they usually need more dressing the following day as they can dry out.

My go-to crowd pleaser is a de boned leg of lamb, or hogget. Rubbed in mustard, well-seasoned, covered in herbs and garlic (I also use Moroccan seasoning too as another flavour option). Add to a hot oiled pan or BBQ, brown both sides nicely and add to an oven 180 for 15-20 mins depending on how big it is and whether you want it med/rare or medium. Resting the meat is the most important..... Keep covered and rest for at least 15 minutes.

REMEMBER WHEN COOKING MEAT, ROOM TEMP, WELL SEASONED, REST, REST REST! The resting is the most important!

Enjoy Christmas and remember it's all about spending time with the people you love and care about, not presents and money! Merry Christmas all!

LETTERS ☒☒☒☒**Shark concern**

When I first came to the Island five years ago, a sighting was so rare it was hot topic in the pub. Now we have them around the boat 1/3 of the time.

I am a recreational diver and have now reached the point of not entering the water. The morons that say their behaviour is unaltered obviously have a vested interest.... They have also never heard of "Pavlov experiment in creating conditioned response in animals".

Jamie Hopkirk

Queenstown & Stewart Island

Great white fright

In January last year while I was recovering from a bad illness, I decided to join Chris in having a day out on the "Mareno". Chris wanted to fish so we decided to go over to the Neck for a relaxing day. While he was fishing for cod, there was a gasp from him as he said he thought he saw a "dolphin" swimming just under our boat. The next minute there was a tremendous thud and a Great White came right out of the water, hit the railing on the boat. I screamed and all I remember seeing was half the shark right out of the water with its huge mouth and jagged teeth (looked just like the movie "Jaws" I would have to say!). It was really huge. Chris yelled for me to get a knife out of the cabin, which I did and on giving it to him, he dropped it in the water, so I grabbed another knife. Chris cut the line. The shark went back into the water – the time he was out of the water was probably only about 10 seconds. After about a minute or two while we just looked at each other with disbelief at what we had seen, Chris put his line down – this time the same shark caught Chris' line again (with a fish attached) and swam away with his line going "zzzzzz", so once again he cut this line of the other fishing rod he used.

Just after this happened, we warned two people in a small dingy who were diving not far away about our

shark experience, so they quickly returned to their boat.

We were really concerned about this experience – and still are very, very concerned - particularly that the shark had come right in as far as The Neck. We know this is one of many incidents involving sharks around the surrounding sea area of where we all live. If this is allowed to continue, I just know there is really going to be a terrible tragedy that will affect all of us as Stewart Islanders. It has affected me in that now each time we go out on the boat, I get quite scared and just don't want to go through this horrible and what seemed "surreal" experience again

Jill and Chris Cox

Stewart Island

"I'm Not Sure About This"

I am concerned about having a predator fence on Stewart Island

My concern is that there is nothing to compare with the Stewart Island model. The closest that I could find is the Rotoiti project. Stewart Island is a completely new idea/proposal. I think that more should be learnt from DOCs Island Projects before anything is contemplated. If the community were to pressure DOC into including this project into an Island Project then we'd be killing two birds with one stone. No Fence, ongoing research, community and government involvement/funding and a predator free, natural environment, for all to enjoy.

More information can be gathered from:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/restoration-projects/mainland-islands/rotoiti/docs-work/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maungatautari_Restoration_Project

Dion Grey BM

All Black supporter and ex salmon farm bum



Campbell Live set up shop at the Pub on 9th December to gather perceptions from locals about the shark cage issue. Their visit was sparked by a letter of complaint about shark cage dive operations sent to Conservation Minister Maggie Barry on 8th December. The letter was a bit of a rush job, circulated locally for three days before it was sent on Monday morning. Over 130 people put their name to it representing a healthy cross-section of the community.

The issue has long been portrayed in the media as a fight between the paua industry and shark cage diving. Hopefully, the letter showed the government and the country that it is more than that, and there are many people who live in this community or have Island connections who are concerned. (More names are coming in since the letter was sent, if you wanted to sign it and missed the opportunity I suggest you send an email to Maggie.barry@national.org.nz and let her know you support the Stewart Island shark cage diving

complaint of 8th December. If you want to read the letter that was sent drop me an email.)

Campbell Live aired on 10th December and it was great to see the locals speak their mind! (I was also much relieved my nervous jittery babble ended up on the cutting room floor.) News broke on the same day that DoC IS issuing permits to shark cage dive operators Peter Scott and Mike Haines.

Thanks to everyone who helped with input and edits on the letter and to those who helped to circulate it.

At the end of the day, no matter what the outcome or what people think about the issue, I would like to say that I am proud to live in a community where so many people front up and speak up.

—Jess

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Medicinal and Edible Plant Garden

Planting of this garden went ahead as planned in September. The soil seemed to consist of mostly rocks but thank you to all those who helped out and passersby who offered encouragement! The plants have settled in well, surviving the spring weather. I've been working on weedmatting the area (with the assistance of Bella!) and soon there will be barkchip covering the weedmat. In a few years the plants should have filled the area in nicely!

A long term project will be to get some signage so people can identify the plants that are growing and when they are robust enough, to sample them!



A plant that grows well here is *Arthropodium cirratum* or the Rengarenga. While not native to this area it seems to flourish in frost free gardens (not at my house!!) and will soon be in flower. Its a multi-purpose plant with the base of the leaves or the rhizome being applied as a warm poultice and it was also eaten. It may have been cultivated as it was often found around old Maori habitations and grows much larger when cultivated. A quick internet search tells me that they taste like potato, take 60min to steam and only the thickest part of the stem is tasty, the rest being fibrous

A favourite little native of mine is Horokaka or the New Zealand iceplant. This tough succulent likes to grow on rocky cliffs and grows naturally here. There is also the introduced Hottentot Fig that looks similar (but much larger) and according to Hugh Wilsons 'Stewart Island Plants', grows around the Bay (this plant is highly invasive both in NZ and in other countries). I have planted some small sections of Horokaka in the corner of the garden and it will soon spread to form a mat. It has pretty little pink flowers and the seed head is said to resemble a fig in taste, although it makes a pretty small snack. Maybe eat the introduced one first! The leaves can also be pickled and the juice was used on boils.

Letitia McRitchie



Church Chatter by Raylene Waddell

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for Andy's Memorial Service. It was a community effort and reflects the care and commitment Stewart Islanders have towards one another. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jo and her family and with all who are coping with loss at this time. *Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* Mt 5:4

Oban Presbyterian Church December and January Services

December 14 at 11 a.m. Preacher: David Murphy
December 21, 25 and 28 at 11 a.m. Preacher: Alan Richardson

On Christmas Day, there will be a combined service with St Andrew's Anglican Church at Oban Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday 23 December at 8 p.m. Community Carol Service in the school grounds.

January 4 and 11 at 11 a.m. Preacher: Brian Kenning
January 18 at 11 a.m. Preacher: Rev Lynne Baab
January 25 at 11 a.m. Preacher: Rev. Geoffrey Skilton

The congregation extends a warm welcome to all our services and wish you all a joyous Christmas.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.



With Love We Remember Andrew (Andy) Jacob Riksem
28 November, 1947 – 11 November, 2014
On the Sunday night following Andy's Memorial Service this beautiful rainbow appeared over the church.
Photo: Lisa Benson





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and a very
Happy New Year!

Megan.



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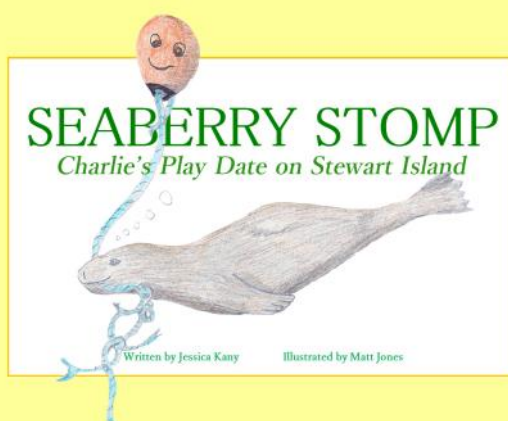
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Much thanks to Stewart Island Flights for flying it across!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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