

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2008

\$2

The bad news about living here is when you mess up, everyone knows. The dubious upside: it's not long before everyone's buzzing about the next thing. For example, a certain librarian had a run-in with Shrek (*not* the nice woolly one), but the story has since been replaced with tales of a kiwi park at the Neck, a kayak kerfuffle in Deadman's, a smash at Horseshoe (p11), the sexual escapades of kakapo (p3), and so on and so on.

Despite rumours, deer have not been targeted for eradication— but rats will hopefully get sorted out (p3).

Waitangi Day marked the beginning of the Year of the Rat (Chinese Calendar) and was a dark New Moon on the Lunar Calendar. Never-



She's a happy Summer.

theless, several post-game hangi-revellers did manage to get lit with some moonshine.

Don't bother tuning into Discovery Channel, just look out the window—we're living it! Dorry recently pulled an unhealthy buoy aboard—rattling around inside the deflated float was a sharp triangular object (hint: it wasn't a guitar pick). Kina and the shark team are back in the Bay to tag white pointers—they also plan on doing some cage diving amongst their finned friends. Hopefully the good old Jester will hold it together for the outing.



The cop takes Luke down. For more Waitangi Game photos see pages 6-7.

summer in a decade, any given hot sunny day has found locals and visitors BBQing, swimming, playing croquet, beach volleyball, golf, the big chess set (which has nice new pieces!) and lots of other outdoor activities.

It was nice to see Troy back on the island for a wee while. The Island farewells Matty and Jolene and family, we wish them all the best. And goodbye to Allen the cop.

The gumtrees at Lonnekers have been issued a death

sentence (p3). Maybe Pihi can use some of the timber to do some rebuilding along there...

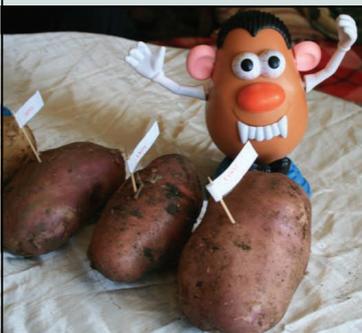
The rimu is blooming, the kakapo booming, the elephant seal is moulting up the Inlet, and the yellow-eyed penguin chicks are poised to fledge.

Meanwhile, the librarian hopes to close the book on her stuff-up and quietly shelve it under 364.993 (that's Dewey Decimal classification for New Zealand crime). Check Library News (p14) for party info!

MURPHYS DAY 2008

by Vicki Coats

Poor Billy the Bus has been retired. Luckily, Barry and the green Island



Xplorer bus were on hand to cart the Murphys and various groupies around the island.

The Murphys is a serious business. Since it's inception in

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This has been the best



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And much more!!

Boat-of-the-Month: **KEREKINI**



Photo: Euan Macdonald.

Originally the surf-boat for the S.S.HINEMOA, she was converted for fishing in 1947-8 by Miller & Tunnage. She was a double ended kauri clinker hull, 25' x 7'6" x 2' with a 5 hp Standard petrol engine, later replaced with a 10 hp Simplex petrol.

Her history prior to conversion is not known, but her subsequent owner was A.S.Macdonald -- "Tui" as he was known locally -- who fished with her from Halfmoon Bay before selling her to Sam Dawson of Bluff.

It is believed she later became one of the dory fleet operated by Johnson & deRijk out of Blanket Bay in Doubtful Sound, but this has not been confirmed. Her present whereabouts and / or fate are not known.

The name "**KEREKINI**" was the Maori name for the Revd. Wohlers' daughter Gretchen.

Café Catch-up

Volunteers and supporters of the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project met last Saturday afternoon for a catch-up over coffee at the Wharfside Café. We would like to thank Stewart Island Experience for sponsoring the venue, muffins and coffee, and allowing us the chance to have a quick get together in an easy, central location.

Bevan, the new staff person working for the project was there and though he has met most of the volunteers already, said it was a good chance to talk with everyone together. While this first meeting was on relatively short notice, we hope to make it a regular opportunity for people involved in the project to get together and share experiences, without taking too much of an afternoon.

Kari had the latest monitoring figures from what looks to be the start of a good season again for the tītī/ muttonbirds in the protected colony at Ackers Point. Walking out to Ackers in the evenings still offers a good reward for people interested in watching the parents come in to feed what are

now young chicks, and many of those present said they'd be heading out that way for a look over the coming days and evenings. Little Blue Penguins are finished for the season. Nest camera footage taken from the area was also a big hit, with chicks being monitored full-time in their nest burrows, by way of a secluded, infra-red camera. Footage will be up-loaded to the SIRCET website as soon as possible, so keep an eye on www.sircet.org.nz. It is neat to be able to see what we are protecting out there, and more footage will come in time of other species, like little blue penguins, tui and weka.

Thanks to everyone who came. For those who put in apologies or were otherwise tied up, we're hoping to hold a brief get-together every one to two months, for the chance to meet other volunteers and organise opportunities in the project. If we missed inviting anyone, we're very sorry. Please let us know and we'll make doubly sure you're the first to know for the next one. Thanks to everyone who gets involved in this project, and to Stewart Island Experience for their contribution.

You may have read about Alice and Denis in the *Southland Times*: they are two mad trampers who walked 2,813km from Cape Reinga to Bluff, and then to unwind from their endeavour they came over here and hit the Northwest and Southern Circuits!

They've been raising awareness for Project K Youth Development. If you'd like to say *good on you*, do it with a donation to Project K—all the information is on their website and donations may be made there as well.

Go to www.nzunderfoot.com to read more about these guys.



The hut at Fred's Camp. Photo sent by Richie Afford.

Rat Free Rakiura

Brent Beaven has taken a year off his normal DOC job to study the feasibility of eradicating rats, cats and possums from the whole of Stewart Island. The study has been commissioned by SIRCET and funded by the Tindall Foundation.

While it seems that all has been quiet on the

rat free Rakiura front for the previous three months, I have been busy writing all of your comments into a draft plan. The big news is that this draft is now available for you to look at and make comments. If you haven't already received a copy, then get in touch with me and I'll make sure that you do.

This is your opportu-

nity to help me ensure that this document reflects the community's views. None of it is set in concrete and I would appreciate the feedback on what bits you like and dislike, if you think the overall direction is sound or if I have lost the plot and should start again.

I have already heard some fourth-hand rumours that we are also

looking at eradicating deer. The document suggests an approach that doesn't target deer, even suggesting that deer repellent would be a useful bait additive. If you do have questions, comments or concerns, then please let me know. My ESP has been on the blink lately, so sorry but it's going to have to rely on old fashioned talking.

—B. Beaven

Your Community Board

While the by-election has just been conducted, your smaller board has continued to meet and progress discussion on local issues with the Southland District Council. At our last meeting we discussed the residents' Satisfaction Survey results. It seems that us Stewart Islanders are a dissatisfied bunch, probably with just cause. This has led to a commitment from the board to keep you better informed of its activities via Stewart Island News. So here goes....

Some issues that Stewart Islanders should be aware of:

1. There are some small changes occurring to the dog control by-laws for Stewart Island, mainly in regard to the area the laws cover. Bruce will be putting a map of the proposed new area on the community notice board and we encourage you to submit your views by the 7th March.

2. A resource consent has been notified recently by Environment Southland about foreshore protection works (yes, there has been some progress on this). Part of the work to stabilise the Lonnekens Beach section of road requires the removal of some of the gums that are growing at beach level. These gums would perish anyway as a result of the stabilisation work. The board supports the removal of these gums as it has come down to a clear cut choice between either keeping the road or the gum trees.

3. Our roads are finally going to be fixed up!!!! A team from Works Infrastructure should be on the island during February/March to complete all of the repair work. These works will need six months to settle and then we will get a full re-seal in October. These works also include re-grading a number of the metal roads, but unfortunately will not fix the slips. The slip repairs may still be

another six months away.

4. Be warned - the council is going to start enforcing the parking restrictions on the wharf. Too many people have been leaving their cars there for days on end, restricting the use for other people.

5. Be warned - the council is going to start enforcing a tidy up of road side rubbish. The island has started to look a bit messy again in recent years with old cars and other bits of junk being dumped on the edge of the road. If it belongs to you, remove it now before you get charged for its removal.

If you have any questions, then any of the board will be happy to talk to you. We would also like to invite you to attend the meetings held on the second Monday of every second month.

All the best, Your Community Board
—working for you.



This has been the warmest summer folks can remember in a decade. We've been swimming in the sea without wetsuits! Don Dickens sent us this picture of Mona taking a dip.

Kakapo update: What's the strangest job description on *your* CV?

To assist with the kakapo breeding program this season, international avian artificial insemination expert (aka professional bird w - -ker) Juan Blanco has flown from Spain to show the folks at Codfish how to properly and successfully massage male kakapos. If all goes well, there will be a happy ending and female kakapo will soon be as fruitful as the rimu trees. Speaking of kakapo, Sirocco the gumboot-lovin' parrot is returning to Ulva Island this year for *Kakapo Encounter 2008*. (see www.kakapoencounter.com)



ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

The Beavens recently travelled to Alaska. Following is Kari's account of their adventures in the US's extreme state (biggest, northernmost, and grizzliest).



The American bald eagle builds the biggest nest in North America: 4m deep, 2.5m across, and weighing one tonne! One unusually large nest was measured at 6m deep and weighed 3 tonnes!

of dogs) when surprise burst through its skull or chest, preparing it for its new airport role of fear advocate. Skilled hands had shaped the bear's

Touchdown after dark in Anchorage, Alaska, had followed two weeks in the warmth of a Canadian autumn. Stepping out through the airline doors, a strong chill soaked my skin, yet it wasn't the cold Arctic air which had chased the goose bumps through my nervous system and onto the back of my neck; the airport walls were lined with bears in glass boxes and the antlered heads of moose staring out vacant-eyed from their individual trophy plaques. Excitement pulsed, even at that late hour as I stepped up in true tourist fashion to read all about the habits of one fascinatingly alternative morph of a black bear, called, quite appropriately, the 'cinnamon bear'. Proudly displaying a jaw full of sharp fangs and two paws held up with claws ready to rip any stalker to shreds, a bemused little voice in my head told me this bear was more likely sleeping peacefully or lapping at a forest pond, perhaps even inquisitively sniffing the air for the source of a foreign smell (bears have a sense of smell up to several hundred times more sensitive than that

body into a position befitting one of such a fearsome reputation. Ahem. Conscience aside, what did this bear have to tell me and other travellers about it's habits, what does it eat, why did the cinnamon colouring develop to suit this sub-species, how many are left and what is being done in their niche habitat these days...? In short, what learning might give worth to the bear's remaining siblings? It was a short lesson: Shot by G. W. Hunter using a [bleeding big] rifle in a patch of bush not far from the middle of nowhere. Mounted by B. S. Taxidermist. I was to learn over the next two weeks that this hunting culture is much different from any I had known in New Zealand and Australia.

We walked the short distance to a friend's house, hoping to see moose or bears on the way. With our bags safely on a plane to a different airport altogether, it was an easy stroll. Another short lesson: always travel with a spare set of anything you may need in your hand luggage. Alaskans are fantastic people, if the ones we met are anything to go by: welcoming, generous and as ready for a laugh as they are an in-depth discussion on the development of wind energy. And no-one knows who voted for Bush.

Many towns in Alaska are accessible only by air or sea, so it's not unusual for a family to have their own light air-

craft to fly to their holiday homes (as well as mum's Hummer and dad's Dodge). Anchorage airport has a parking area for hundreds of Cessnas, Cherokees and Amphibian planes. Other towns are much more accessible in winter, when the rivers freeze and the air is so cold and dry that oil companies mining in the northern Barrow area can drive large tankers, spraying jets of water, which freeze when they hit the outside air to create ice roads. We witnessed cross-country skiing and dog skijoring - two dogs tied to your waist who are trained to 'hee' (go left), 'haw' (go right) and 'mush' (run like the clappers!).

The size of Alaska surprised us, being as large as the rest of the 'lower 48' (remaining US states) in width and height, yet home to only 600,000 people, the majority of whom live in Anchorage. Outlying islands to the south-west are avian dominated with migratory sea birds making up the majority of species, similar to many islands around New Zealand and sub-Antarctic waters. Alaskans are at a similar stage with moves to eradicate introduced rats from these systems, and allow fragile populations to rejuvenate. New Zealand Islands eradication advisors are helping with the process.

We spent a week driving with a friend through the Denali Na-

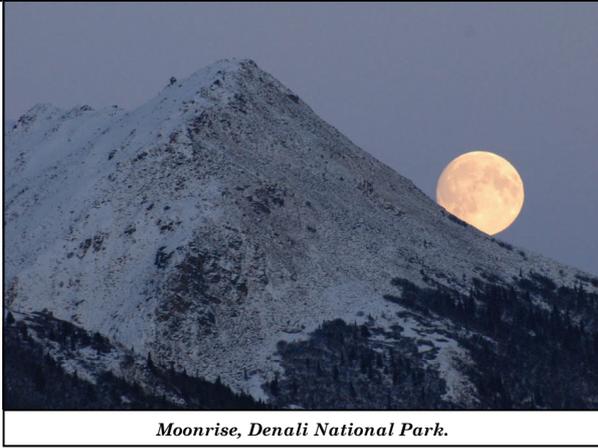


Sled dog. Dogs have roles other than sledding in Alaskan life: they are used for dog skijoring and as barking bear alarms (locals regularly need to replace these alarms which tend to go missing).



Frozen rivers. "Other towns are much more accessible in winter, when the rivers freeze and the air is so cold and dry that oil companies mining in the northern Barrow area can drive large tankers, spraying jets of water, which freeze when they hit the outside air to create ice roads—"

tional Park to Fairbanks. Denali means 'the great one' and its height above the surrounding ridges and val-



Moonrise, Denali National Park.

leys is greater than that of Everest above its surrounds. The moon was full on our first night and rose in grandeur above the peaks as we walked the local tracks - snow reflecting plenty of light so that we arrived quite safely back, hours after sunset. For me, it was a paradox in appreciating native spruce which struggles to survive in its own land - I reminded myself continuously that this was not a plantation nor wilding pines, as it would be in all the places I have lived, but an important food source and shelter. Four inches of snow lay across the ground, trees and rocks like marshmallow puff; dry and cold so that it sucked the moisture from your nostrils into ice crystals creeping brain-wards with every breath. Minus ten degrees Celsius can burn more than freeze and the forward points of your face (nose, cheek bones, chin) feel it the most. Back home at the superintendent's cottage, we ate late and, realising the cold had also sucked the wakefulness from our brains, collapsed into sleep.

We spent the next day with the staff of the National Parks Service, discussing their work and research projects in Alaska's second-largest national park (measured in millions of acres). In the area of climate change, those living at the extremes of habitat are affected first. Denali National Park researchers are collating data which will lead

the world in understanding how climate changes are affecting weather patterns and the proportions of differing habitats available to spe-

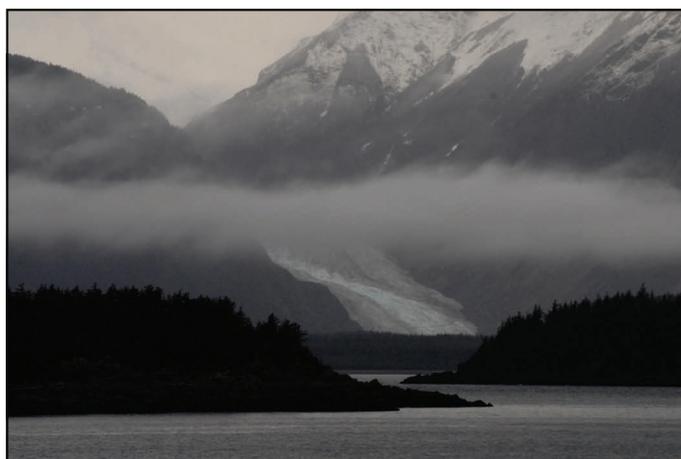
cies. Places, such as the 'tundra' (a swamp-like area underlined with permafrost, so devoid of useful nutrients that only the most hardy survive, and as such being a valuable area for plants and creatures which have specialised to this area, as well as an important dividing area, protecting the herds of alpine species from predators living in forested areas) are, quite literally, melting. Researchers are faced with questions such as 'do we prevent the invasion of these areas with spruce, thus falsely allowing the survival of species, or are we to allow a new 'balance' to be found with the warming, potentially leading to major crashes in a number of species formerly relying on the division?'

National Parks in Alaska and the US are also very differently managed from those in New Zealand. Crossing their borders effectively leaves the jurisdiction of state police and enters an area governed by National law

enforcement. National Parks staff carry guns and batons and are charged with arresting criminals who enter or carry out criminal activities within their boundaries. On the run from the law, a criminal can quite literally step over the boundary of a national park and the police, no matter how closely on their tail have no legal capacity to arrest them, except to contact their parks allies. Where DOC staff in NZ are charged with pest control work and weeds programmes, as well as maintenance of tracks and huts, and have their own dispensation for helicopter landings, vehicle use and other allowances to carry out their management work; Parks staff in the states are bound by the regulations which govern any person entering that area. There are some areas in which no motorised form of transport may be used, nor any mechanical equipment. As such, parks staff employ huskies and sleds to investigate illegal activities or track down poachers (who often do not have the same respect for these rules) and are bound to use hand saws instead of motorised chainsaws, even in case of emergencies such as bushfire.

There were also many similarities. Denali National Park has one road leading into the park, with vehicles travelling in and out along this same road, which begins between the two major cities in Alaska.

Like Milford Sound, politicians and businesses have been discussing creating alternative roads into and out of the area, opening it up to more people, or to a loop by which people can go in along one arm, through and out on



Glacier in Gondwanaland. The Alaskan panhandle was once part of New Zealand and Australia.

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WAITANGI DAY 2008

A brilliant day at Traill Park. After years of defeat, the Pakehas beat the Maoris for the second year in a row (42-36). The action-packed game was refereed by Jack and Friday. The boys played hard through a variety grievous bodily harms, including bruised ribs, torn arm, busted lips, a popped shoulder and a bunch of other booboos. We saw great plays from all the guys including Allen the cop, Matt, and "Three-Try Lumpy." Kim got thrown down hard but bounced back like a weeble-wobble. Young Harvey made a valiant tackle, and Luke was often spotted in piles of people around the field. MVPs were George, Lurch, Chilean George, Nigel, Kooze, Grim and the rest of the Hangi Team who organized a post-game feast for the whole community at Butterfields.



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For more Waitangi Day photos (in colour) go to stewart-island-news.com
 If you've got some goodies from the day send them and we'll put them on the site!





DOC Spot

Shark talk for Seaweek

We have an interesting talk lined up for Seaweek this year, which runs from March 2- 9. Clinton Duffy who is a DOC marine ecology scientist based in the marine conservation unit in Auckland, is returning to satellite tag more Great White Sharks around the coast of Stewart Island towards the end of February and has agreed to give a public talk in the Stewart Island Community Centre at 8pm on the evening of the 6th of March. (There will be posters advertising the talk displayed around the village nearer to the time.) The waters around Stewart Island have long been recognised as a hot spot for great whites in New Zealand and in March 2007 Clinton led a combined DOC, Niwa and Shark-Tracker (www.sharktracker.com) team which managed to tag two great whites just out from Halfmoon Bay around Bench and the titi islands. The tag from one of these sharks (a 4.4m female), popped up and started transmitting on the 18th December 2007 from the Great Barrier Reef, off Rockhampton, Australia. Clinton's talk should be fascinating - so be sure to mark it in your diaries as one not to miss!

Grace period over

The seriousness and consequences of illegal fishing in marine reserves has been highlighted after a Stewart Island man was convicted for such an offence in the Invercargill District Court (February 5, 2008). This was the first prosecution brought about by the Department of Conservation against someone fishing in one of Southland's 12 marine reserves. The charge, of which the offender pleaded guilty, was laid after a DOC ranger saw the offender catching fish in the Ulva Island/ Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve, off Stewart Island, in December 2007. Alan Christie, compliance officer for DOC, said the outcome was appropriate given the seriousness of the offence. Marine reserves are established for the protection of marine life for present and future generations to enjoy. "Offending of this nature goes against the very purpose of the marine reserves legislation and the species it is designed to protect," Mr Christie

said. Over the years several people have had written warnings for breaking marine reserve regulations, but that grace period is now over. "If you go freshwater fishing people know you need a licence. If you are going fishing or boating in Paterson Inlet/ Te Whaka ā Te Wera or in Fiordland, you need to know there are marine reserves and where their boundaries are. Ignorance is no defence." Information about the Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve, including boundary information, is available from the Rakirua National Park Visitor Centre or online on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz

Shy kiwi reappears

Mason Bay was invaded earlier this month by a very determined kiwi monitoring team. Three of the Stewart Island DOC staff (Letitia McRitchie, Eamonn Ganley and Paul Graham).each spent a few days with the Kiwi Recovery Team who were at Mason Bay on a 10 day trip to track down as many kiwis as possible. The kiwi population at Mason Bay has been studied since 1988 and provides an indication of how the species is doing on Stewart Island / Rakiura as well as providing information on their ecology and social behaviour. Surveys are carried out every five years, with funding this year provided by the BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust. The team was assisted by three trusty kiwi dogs, Percy, Breeze and Jade. These highly trained and certified helpers sniffed out and pointed many a bird. It was a successful trip with 33 kiwi found, six of which were first caught in 1988 and

another that hadn't been seen in 18 years. The warm days and dry nights didn't give the team much of a break and the one rainy night was very welcome. The team all struggled with bidi-bids stuck to their socks – but just imagine how the kiwi felt, they were covered in them!



Eamonn with a kiwi.

Changes afoot in VC

Although visitor numbers through the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre during July to October 2007 were down significantly on the same period the previous year, the past three months have actually seen a slight increase on the corresponding period. - perhaps due to the 'long, hot summer'. Almost two months of warm sunny weather has certainly helped dry some areas of track,

but a little rain wouldn't go astray as the tanks at some of the huts are running very low. On another track ... changes are afoot in the visitor centre. We are preparing to carry out a small upgrade of the area previously used to accommodate the VIN service (now relocated down in the Red Shed and operating as the Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre), focussing more on recreational opportunities within the national park and Paterson Inlet area. Some minor changes will be carried out in the near future and we hope to have the more comprehensive alterations completed before next summer. In the meantime it's business as usual with the team now up to its full complement of staff - Jan, Jenny and Gary, with assistance from Tam, Kate and Ann. So call in and browse or have a look at some of our choice DVDs – Primeval Paradise, is proving to be a real hit.

(Continued on page 14)

HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL News

“A choppy sea can be navigated”

PHONICS From today onwards the whole school will do phonics based spelling each day Monday to Thursday. The students will be ability grouped in groups of four. Some students will have ‘mapping’ to do each night Monday to Thursday. ‘Mapping’ is simply saying the sound as they write it then saying the whole word. This is painless, quick homework which has lifted reading and spelling achievement in hundreds of Southland children over the past six years. If it is taking too long or causing family chaos please see Kath - these problems are usually quickly fixed. On Thursday each child will have a test in the back of their homework book. They can then map any incorrect attempts for homework that night.

200m SWIMMING CHALLENGE We plan to enter some senior students (Y5-8) in this nationwide competition. The students will have to swim (any stroke) 200m in the sea —approximately the wharf to the slip. Unfortunately because it’s a competition they won’t be able to wear lifejackets or wetsuits as these are deemed to be ‘swimming aids’. Kath will swim with the students and we will have a rescue vessel on hand. We hope to have the swim within the next week so some after school training in either the pool or the sea would be a good idea for those wishing to enter.

SWIMMING Reminder: swimming gear needs to be at school EVERYDAY! Everyone made amazing progress with Mrs Dooley in week one. If you haven’t yet seen your child’s swimming since these lessons make sure you make time to take them to the pool or pop in during school swimming - check with Bonnie for times.

KAYAKING Liz is happy for us to use her kayaks so if you could spare a couple of hours one morning this week. Let Kath know and we’ll get the Seniors out for a paddle.

WAITING DAY Thanks to all those who helped with the sausage sizzle on Wednesday and special thanks to Amber for her organization and to Ship to Shore for donating the bread. We have some bread and sausages left over so are planning to hold a few fundraising sausage sizzle lunches at school over the next couple of months. If you think you could spare us an hour and/ or your BBQ please Kath know. remember when it comes to fundraising ‘many hands make light work’.

REMINDERS

- Please ensure your child brings a named sun hat to school every day.
- We are aiming to have athletics training in the morn-

ings this year while the classes are split. Students will need shorts and running shoes every day from tomorrow onwards. We head to town for the Southern Zone sports on Monday 10th March.

- Please sign and return the attached permission slip for EOTC & ICT.
- Library day is Thursday. It makes every thing simpler if students can bring their books back every Thursday to be renewed or exchanged.

SAILING The following is from Yachting New Zealand’s latest newsletter regarding their trip to the Island next month - just to get everyone excited. We’d love as many parents as possible to take up the opportunity of sailing lessons during the weekend - see below.

Sailing... Have a Go! to visit Stewart Island

Children and community members of Stewart Island will get a rare opportunity to try sailing late this summer thanks to Yachting New Zealand’s Sailing... Have a Go! The programme will reach its southern most destination ever crossing Foveaux Straight on 11th March 2008 and staying on the island for a full week. All of Halfmoon Bay School’s 20 students will try sailing as well as many students from Clinton School who will be on the island for school camp. Over the weekend of 15th and 16th March Yachting New Zealand Instructor, Darren Field will also run the sailing sessions for community members, with assistance from the Bluff Yacht Club. Sailing... Have a Go! is a mobile programme which has three units travelling throughout New Zealand. Each trailer unit contains nine beginner sailing dinghies including Optimists and Topper Tazs providing children the chance to sail single-handed or with a friend. A qualified instructor manages each Sailing... Have a Go! trailer teaching a variety of customised programmes most suited to Year 6, 7 & 8 children. The one day challenge allows for twelve children to have a fun day at a local yacht club learning a few basics ashore before taking to the water under the watchful eye of the instructor. Those keen to go further after the Sailing... Have a Go! day are introduced to the local yacht club, or learn to sail programme. Since the launch of Sailing... Have a Go! in early 2006 more than 5000 children from all around New Zealand have taken part. Yachting New Zealand acknowledges the generous support of the Lion Foundation and the Team New Zealand 2000 Trust. For this event, the Rakiura Shipping Company will be generously transporting the trailer across Foveaux Straight free of charge. —Kath Johnson

Up coming events:

- **28-29th Feb** Bonnie away
- **3rd -7th March** Walk to school week
- **6th March** Bonnie away
- **7th March** Kiwican
- **10th March** Southern Zone Athletics - Invercargill
- **11th -14th March** Yachting NZ sailing sessions—whole school
- **12th March** Southern Zone Athletics — postponement day•
- **21st - 25th March** Easter
- **4th April** Kiwican
- **18th April** Kiwican
- **18th April** Term one ends

Loopies' Guide to Stewart Island

Warning: Vicki Coats provided this list so naturally it contains some items that may will definitely offend.

Save luggage allowance and leave your sticks at home. We have no skiing and frankly you look ridiculous using them to tramp with.

A stubbie of Speights, Chicken Ripples and an FHM magazine does not constitute appropriate tramping gear.

Do not walk in the middle of the road. We may not

have many roads, but we have lots of cars, most of which are so decrepit, we don't actually care if you dent it when we hit you.

The shop does not have a sale or return policy. If you decide you no longer need something; tough. Try taking the stuff back to your local New World .

The pub still operates under NZ Licensing laws. You may be on holiday, it would also appear that your brain is too.

Use the footpaths provided. Presumably they have pavement where you come from too and ours cost lots.

Yes, locals do generally wear gumboots. We'd look pretty stupid going about our everyday lives in stilettos now wouldn't we.

No we don't have an ATM, 24hr shopping or a McDonalds. If you need these on a regular basis we suggest holidaying in Auckland next year.

And finally....
Do not toot your horn while riding scooters. We are fully aware there is a tosser on two wheels approaching.

Just a bit of fun—we love our visitors! (Seriously, though, please walk on the side of the road.)

Really cool bird footage
Kari's got some really cool bird footage she captured with her spy-camera which has been filming mutton-bird and weka on their nests. One creepy episode shows a mama weka sitting on an egg on her nest. The footage is shadowy and grainy black-and-white...suddenly a rogue male weka appears and looks around furtively, even briefly peering into the camera lens, and then he bullies the mama aside and grabs her egg with his beak and scuttles away! The whole thing smacks of video surveillance collected after a corner dairy robbery. Who says nature films are boring? Ask Kari nicely and she might show you —*Jess*

(GLOBETROTTER Continued from page 5)

another. Brent was able to put Parks staff in touch with Department staff here, to see if each could share lessons learned in the process with the other.

A few days later we flew into Juneau, on the 'Pan Handle' of Alaska. For anyone interested in geomorphology, this area was once a part of Gondwanaland, the ancient land which also carried the beginnings of New Zealand and Australia in it's girth. Juneau is the state's capital and houses the state's legislature, despite being only accessible by air or water. Any roads into and out of Juneau, though hotly contested for years, would be far too dangerous to build, let alone traversed.

The capital resides on the coast of the 'Inside Passage', and thus is on a very steep bit of land, resembling the fjords of Fiordland. Travelling by 'marine highway' up this passage of water to Haines was absolutely stunning. From a distance, the spruce and birch forests resembled the beech-covered slopes of Fiordland, and the glaciers running down through valleys were reminders of those which carved the shape of Mitre

Peak thousands of years ago.

The area is a sanctuary to whales, with humpbacks and orca whales often seen breaching the surface. Being the slow season, we weren't able to time our connections into the marine sanctuary of Glacier Bay, but I heard of sea otters, whales and seals through the water, and bears safely lining the shores waiting to feed on surplus (or careless) fish.

Haines was another Alaskan gem. 1000 people at the 'end of the [marine highway] line', you only get there if you're going there. In other words, it's not on the way to anywhere else.

Haines is at the base of the Chugach Mountains and between two braided river valleys: the Chinoook (meaning hauls of big fish) and Chilkut (meaning big hauls of little fish). It is also the current base for two clans of native Americans: the Eagle clan and the Raven clan. Both birds are highly respected and are often chosen as the totem for a clan. The clans were allies and had their own long-standing tradition of maintaining strong links, following matriarchal

lines. Sons of the Eagle clan would be chosen a bride from the Raven clan, and go to live with their people. In turn, Ravens would offer their sons to the Eagle daughters, so that each male lived in the clan of his grandparents, and daughters formed a strong matriarchal line throughout the generations. Both clans relied heavily on marine life, and both had traditional practices which allowed for the sustainable harvest of their livelihood. No matter the severity of the season, each year the first third of the salmon and chilluk runs would be allowed to pass unheeded through the river system, and harvest would start only once this was completed. This offering allowed for safe spawning of a third of the population and protected harvests for future generations.

We were lucky enough to be present for the salmon runs, which was nothing short of mind-blowing. Salmon, waiting out their last days after spawning, were literally knocking fins there were so many of them. The reason we had chosen Haines was to see

the gathering of bald eagles which happens at

(Continued on page 11)



The pier at Haines.

LOST CAMERA. On 2nd Feb in the afternoon I lost my camera somewhere between the rock overlooking the bathing beach (beyond the Presbyterian church) and the dock opposite the tourist information centre. I reported this to the shop, the information office, the Just Cafe, Sails (with whom I went on a trip that afternoon) and the police but so far have not heard that it has been found.

It is a Casio black camera in a black leather case and is of great sentimental value as it is the last thing my husband and I bought before he died last year.

If it is found could you please telephone my cousin Jane Halliday in Christchurch. Her telephone numbers are: Landline 0385 8191 or Cellphone 0211367154

The policeman in Oban has her address and I will happily pay any expenses incurred. I live in London, England. I hope and pray that it will be found.

Thank you for any assistance you can give me. I would be grateful for an acknowledgement of this message.

Yours sincerely,
Alexandra Sherman



Teenagers + VB + stolen car + high speed = this
Without power for a hot summer day, Horseshoe Bay residents scrambled for generators to keep their freezers going, while Chris Dillon spent his birthday alongside repair crew fixing the lines and cleaning up the mess. One of the boys, who ended up in hospital, has made an apology to those affected.

the confluence of two braided river systems. 4000 bald eagles converge on this place every year; more so when the rest of the rivers freeze, leaving this place unfrozen due to the fact that the two systems meet here, maintaining a high flow.

4000 bald eagles is an awesome sight. They sit, fat with salmon, alongside the rivers watching and waiting for their food to digest. Smaller ravens, which are huge when seen on their own but dwarfed by these goliaths, and even smaller, likely prey are safe to sit beside the eagles, as the easiest catch of salmon fills them all to sluggish apathy. Those that can still gain altitude sit above, in the branches, so that everywhere you look there are giant birds of prey. We had with us a botanist, employed by a local guiding company of the Eagle clan, who talked about the runs and seasonal changes, as well as the interaction of the township with bears, who in a place as remote as this, are often heard walking through people's yards to collect the bounty from their fruit trees.

Haines held a special place in our hearts, not just because of the friendliness of people inviting us

to a local party, as well as to learn traditional dances or come to language classes at the local community centre open to anyone with an interest, but also because it was the first, real coffee we had found in over 3 1/2 weeks!! 'The Market' began as a small, family-run business which brought organic produce into the town, and grew substantially until it is now *the* place to be. Locals come daily for the rich, quality coffee, the organic soups and affordable, healthy lunches offered. Supplies are picked up here and few see any need to order sub-quality food from neighbouring supermarkets along the marine highway.

One evening we were engrossed in a conversation with the local brewer and some of his friends, when they invited us to a party at a nearby house. We realised the importance of bear dogs when, full of courage, I coaxed Brent along the darkened forested lanes where bears are more at home than people. Well, it went something like that anyway...! People in Haines allow their

dogs to roam, yet it's not the local wildlife which needs to look out for over-excited dogs. These pets are kept to warn people that bears are about, and will sense one close by, often frightening it off with a sharp burst of barks. Unfortunately, people need to replace their bear-dogs with unrewarding regularity.

After only a few days, Brent and I had decided one day in our future we would return to Haines, perhaps with the opportunity to contribute back to the area with work in conservation, while learning from the people and wildlife staff things which may be brought home. It was a mixed excitement, struggling to take off in the 'Cessna Caravan' from the long runway alongside the river valley. The larger Cessna seats only two more people than our Britain Norman Islanders but is much bigger and heavier. One final look over Haines, and the beautiful fjords and glaciers guided us back through the low cloud to Juneau, and the rest of our journey southwards.



Eagles have structures on their toes that allow them to grasp fish. These are called *spicules*.

—K. Beaven



(MURPHYS DAY Continued from page 1)

2004 there have only been two presidents. Matty Murphy managed to snatch the 06 title from President Kooza Murphy, but Wayne's spuds normally top the table.

Points are given for weight, number of potatoes and various other secret attributes that can't be printed in a public newsletter. The person with the most points is President, number two is a Treasure



(which has morphed into treasurer) and three is drinking captain (probably the best job!). Fourth was originally titled Matty, nowadays there are more members to come last!

It's also worth noting that it is a boys-only club, no girls allowed. Also, no new members are being taken so it doesn't matter how good you think your spuds are—you ain't getting in!

Thanks this year go to Barry for chauffeuring duties; Sue being paparazzi (not sure what the sign on her head saying "PRESS" was for; I pressed it and nothing happened!); Friday



and Jill for being awesome judges; and all the various Murphies' groupies and hangers-on for supporting the boys.

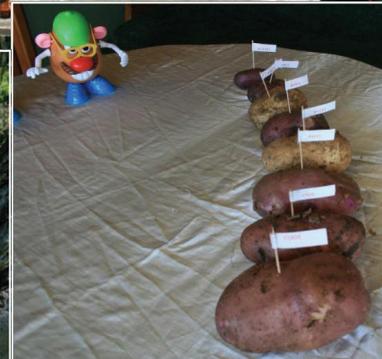


All the Murphys would like to wish Matty and Jolene and family all the best for their move abroad, come back soon guys!



But for the rest of you, same time, same place next year, don't forget to give them a wave!

—V. Coats

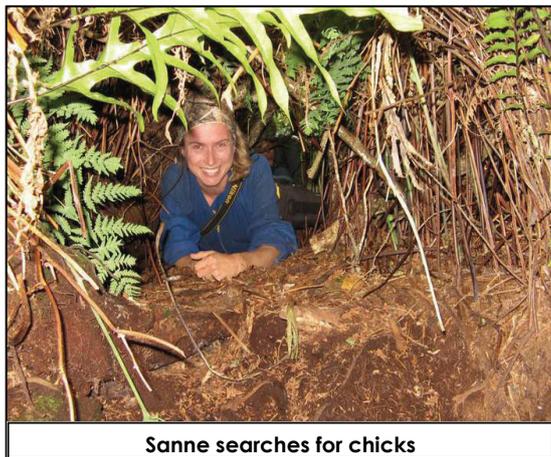




Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

Fat chicks rock. Fat penguin chicks really rock!

Pre-fledging chick weighing has just been completed in our monitored areas. This is something that is done in early February in all monitored areas, not just our Stewart Island, Codfish and Bravo group areas, but on the Otago Peninsula and the Catlins coast as well. Our chicks are weighed and measured, and each chick receives a microchip which will allow us to identify that individual in future. Team Penguin 2008 consisted of Joanna and myself, plus Phred from DOC, and volunteers Annett, Jess and Ben on various days. We were also joined on Codfish and the Bravo group by Sanne Boessenkool, a PhD student from Otago University. Sanne is studying penguin genetics and took blood samples from some of the chicks that we caught. When finished, her work may be able to answer questions about migration within the yellow-eyed penguin population; for example whether there is migration between the Subantarctic islands and mainland New Zealand, or whether there are effectively two populations. The latter would have implications for the future management of the penguins. I'm also hopeful that Sanne's work will tell us something about penguin migration between more local areas, such as Stewart Island and the South Island birds, or Stewart Island and Codfish Island.



Sanne searches for chicks

It is believed by penguin researchers that chicks weighing less than about 4.5kg at this time won't survive long at sea, if they even make it that far. It is only since we have been using microchips to identify individuals that we have been able to follow their fate, and our records so far support this belief. We have relocated three of our chicks with

microchips and two of these, weighing 5.3 and 4.4kg at the time of their pre-fledging weighing, were found alive more than 12 months later. The third bird, weighing just 4.1kg, was found dead on Oreiti Beach about 3 weeks after it fledged from the Bravo group.

So how many fat chicks did we find this year? On Codfish Island we caught 50 chicks from our monitored nest sites, and a few more eluded capture by running into dense areas of vines and supplejack. The weights of chicks caught ranged from 2.3kg to 6.1kg, with only 5 chicks weighing less than 4.5kg. On the Bravo group 27 chicks were caught and weights ranged from 3.2kg to 6.15kg, with 10 chicks weighing less than 4.5kg. At our monitored sites on the Anglem coast one of the surviving 6 chicks weighed a whopping, almost obese, 6.5kg while the smallest survivor weighed 5.3kg.

This bodes well for the future of most of our monitored chicks from this season, should they make it to the water in a few weeks time. But, and there is always a "but", the experience last year makes us cautious. Remember "Big Fluffy", the only chick along the Anglem coast that survived until the early February pre-fledging weighing? He weighed 6.2kg then, but was found dead in late February before he even got his feet wet, killed by a blood parasite. Experience tells us that it's not over until the fat chicks swim.

Sandy
Sandy King
Projects Officer Southern Islands
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

 Dunedin office Ph: 03 479 0011
 Ph: 03 219 1102

 Email: yeptrust@gmail.com
 Email: sdk@callsouth.net.nz

www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz



Phred weighs a chick

CONGRATULATIONS

Proud parents
Squirt and Diddle
Welcome Molly

Proud parents
Sarah and Blair
Welcome Emma Rose

Proud parents
Kirsten and Glen
Welcome Jack!

Happy newlyweds
Tracey and Mark

the GALLEY

Nigel's hangi stuffing

Crisp bread in the oven and then crumb it up but not too fine. Pour melted butter over it, about 1/2 stick per loaf. Add onions, and a wee bit of garlic but not so much it overpowers things. Add plenty of mixed herbs and a wee bit of peas and corn for colour—not too much or it'll get soggy. Scoop out a pumpkin and fill it with stuffing, then stick it in the hangi and Bob's your uncle.

Paua kebabs from Edmond's Cookery Book (as in Edmond Heath Allen aka Lumpy)

Ingredients: bashed paua, mushrooms, onions, red and green peppers, courgettes.



Cut everything so they are sized bigger than bottle caps, about the size of corks, and season to taste with salt, pepper and a bit of all-purpose seasoning. Stick on kebab sticks. (Soak wooden sticks in water beforehand). Cook on high heat with plenty of oil, be careful not to overcook.

Your Library has a dozen of the *New Zealand Listener* Year's Best Books including *Cheating at Canasta* by William Trevor, *Falling Man* by Don DeLillo, *Exit Ghost* by Philip Roth, *What is the What* by Eggers, *Restless* by William Boyd, *Run* by Ann Patchett, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Hosseini, and *On Chesil Beach* by McEwan.



We also have the many of the Best Books of 2007 according to the *New York Times* and *amazon*. Fiction: *Then We Came to the End* by Joshua Ferris, *Matrimony* by Joshua Henkin, *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson, *The Abstinence Teacher* by Tom Perrotta, *Bridge of Sighs* by Richard Russo, *Later, at the Bar* by Rebecca Barry, *The View From Castle Rock* by Alice Munro, *The Great Man* by Kate Christensen, *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, and *The Gathering* by Ann Enright (*Booker prize*). Non-fiction: *The World Without Us* by Weisman, *Agent Zigzag: a True Story of Nazi Espionage, Love and Betrayal* by MacIntyre.

I've been on a spending spree and we have heaps of wonderful new books. To celebrate, **we're having a party on Monday 24th March at 6:30pm.**

Thanks to Ann Hennessy and my sister Miranda. Ann transported a bunch of books from where I had them shipped to her home in Galianos Island, BC, to her second home here. This took up valuable space in Ann's suitcase, and saved the library considerably on shipping costs. I also had books shipped to Mirn in the US who repacked them and mailed them via the less expensive M-bag (international media). Her local post office happens to be staffed by bullies, so this wasn't a small favour. Thanks to Heath for assembling a new shelf for the Library. Long overdue thanks to Chris Dillon for fixing our telephone.

(DoC Spot Continued from page 8)

Update from Planning Team

The review of the Stewart Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and preparation of the Rakiura National Park Management Plan continues to progress. The planning team has had a number of meetings with the Whenua Hou Committee and the Rakiura Maori Land Trust over the past year and an open hui was held on the 11th February 2008 to discuss the cultural and iwi-related sections of the planning documents. This was hosted by the Waihopai Runaka at the Murihiku marae in Invercargill as a follow-up to the open Hui held in June 2007. A valuable and positive discussion provided the Rakiura Planning Team with some further direction on the cultural aspects of the planning documents. The Department of Conservation will be holding the final two public workshops on Tuesday 1 April at 7.30pm in the Stewart Island Community Centre, and on Tuesday 8 April at 7.30pm at the Invercargill Public Library. These work-

shops will talk through the remaining places for the CMS and Rakiura National Park and will be focused on the northern and southern parts of the island, as well as on the area surrounding Halfmoon Bay/Oban and Paterson Inlet. If you have any questions about what has been happening, the upcoming workshops, or the Rakiura planning process in general, please do not hesitate to contact the Rakiura Planning Team, either Anke de Jong or Peter Wilson in Invercargill, or Sharon Pasco on-Island.

Fire Ban

Finally, just a reminder that the fire ban imposed by the Southland Rural Fire Authority is still in place until further notice. The ban means that no-one can light any fires in the open and also suspends all existing fire permits. The fire ban includes burning rubbish, using incinerators, or cooking outdoors with open braziers. The only exception to the ban is for gas barbecues and cookers, in properly constructed containers and in safe areas.



What the heck is this? Vicki sent us this photo of a mysterious object found in someone's shed. Can you identify this thing?

Those who remember Elizabeth Pope (Jzzy) extend condolences to her family. May she rest in peace.



The Great 1993 Blistering Barnacle Foveaux Row.

Brenda Hicks shared this photo of the Stewart Island team the Bendon Seagals. These ladies were the first all-women rowing team to cross the Strait. This race raised funds for our Community Centre. Pictured are Belinda Sawyer, Jenny Jury, Jan LeQuesne, Charlie, Jane Wilson, Elaine Hamilton and Brenda Hicks.

If you have any fun photos illustrating the Island's recent history send them to Jess and share with the community (I'll scan photos and return them to you.)

Bach photos sought: Hi, I am in the process of producing a book to be published in October 2008 on iconic New Zealand Baches and Cribs. I am interested in receiving photographs from members of the public of baches, cribs and huts throughout New Zealand for inclusion in the book. The successful photographers will be fully acknowledged in the book and will receive a free copy of the book for every photograph published. I require with the photographs, the full name of the photographer, a geographical description of where the bach [or crib] is situated and if known any history of the building.

Format required is: Digital (easiest and cheapest for everyone). If you wish to provide hard-copy prints, clearly mark, on the back of each photo, your name and contact details, so that we may return all material.

Size: 184 x 260 (landscape). This is the book's size, but we can always accommodate smaller pic-

tures if need be. I would prefer the above dimensions, though, to ensure full-page use in the book. (NB. This applies to digital only; hard-copy prints can be scanned to any eventual size.)

Resolution: 300dpi (dots per inch). This is to ensure they are of printable quality (website images, for instance, are only 72dpi and cannot be reproduced in book form).

Basically, the bigger the image (and file size) the better!

As I have a contract to have the book published in October 2008 I will need all images by March 1st 2008. Please post them to the address below.

If you have any queries please contact me at phone 036886491 or email chapvers@paradise.net.nz.

Yours faithfully, *Jeff Grigor.*
Chapters and Verses,
272 Stafford Street, Timaru.

Te Whaka a Te Wera
(Paterson Inlet) Mataitai

A community-based fishing survey tool is being developed to help assess the level of fishing that is occurring within the Mataitai Reserve in Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island.

Following on from the introduction of a raft of new fishing rules introduced last year by the Mataitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and advisory committee, they are now looking at ways of monitoring their effectiveness.

“We introduced these new fishing rules to reduce the level of fishing pressure occurring within the Mataitai. We felt these rules were necessary to conserve the fisheries resources of the Inlet for future generations.” says Phillip Smith, Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki Chairman of the Mataitai Advisory Committee.

The new fishing rules include bag limit reductions for blue cod, paua and restrictions on the use of crayfish pots. The new rules also prohibit the harvesting of scallops and white-pointer sharks inside the Mataitai and the harvesting of paua from the Bravo Islands group.

Along side the fishing survey tool they are also working on a community-based fisheries monitoring tool so that the local community can monitor their own fish stocks.

“As well as these ‘do it yourself’ surveys, our committee is working with fisheries scientists to assess fish stocks inside the Mataitai. This year we will assess the health of blue cod, paua and kina stocks,” Smith says.

The committee has worked with the Ministry of Fisheries to erect signs and to develop and distribute educational pamphlets explaining the new rules and how the Mataitai tool operates. The committee has also recently supported fisheries monitoring by Biosecurity NZ and the Department of Conservation.

“In 2008 there will be an increased emphasis on educating fishers, working with the Ministry of Fisheries to conduct compliance operations in the Inlet and building relationships with Environment Southland to address issues affecting water quality,” says Smith.

If you have any further inquiries please contact:
Phil Tumataroa, Acting Communications Manager
Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu
Ph (03) 371 2803 Cell 021 248 2242
phil.tumataroa@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Check out www.yougodo.com If you operate a tourist activity you can list your information on this site for FREE.

INDOOR BOWLS

Mondays
7.30pm
at the
Community
Centre

New members
welcome.
*Come along
and test
your skills!*

A HUGE THANKYOU to Lurch, George and Team for organising the Waitangi Day Hangi. A big THANK-YOU also to the DoC team who volunteered their time to fire proof the area and enable the hangi to happen despite the total fire ban. The Hangi made a profit this year and that was donated to the Rugrats. The Rugrats families thank you all for your generosity.
—Paula Brown



Meet the locals

While many were preparing for the big rugby game on Wednesday the 6th February, a TVNZ crew quietly invaded the island. They were down here to do several mini-documentaries on Stewart Island called "Meet the Locals". Stewart Island will feature in a number of



Ann Pullen shows her skill in front of the camera.

stories including the Kakapo Encounter, Ulva Island and the Stewart Island Community and Environment Trust. These small programmes are 4min in duration and replace the ad breaks on the new free to air digital channel 6.

They can also be viewed on the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz).

FYI: Our newly elected Community Board members are Jon Spraggon and Ken Jones.

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next meeting will be held at 2.0 on Thursday 13th March at the home of Jenny Gell
Competition:
Favourite perennial
Fuchsia
Emerald green flower or leaf.



Tom
sorts
out
Kim



Do you have a website for your local accommodation or activity? Give folks a reason to visit the Island and boost your shoulder season bookings: tell prospective visitors about Kakapo Encounter 2008 which will take place this September-October. Just add www.kakapoencounter.com to your site.

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com
The deadline for the next issue is the Ides of March.

This month's **chocolate award** is from Elaine Hamilton to Graham and Cindy of Real Journeys:
Thanks for being so thoughtful.

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

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

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Name of Recipient: _____
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Vicki and Hippy, Murphys Day 2008. For story and photos see pages 1 & 12.