

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2009

\$2.50



Zoe loves books. For library news see page 9.

Some swear they could taste the Australia bushfires in our water; we could certainly see it in the evening skies. Our hearts go out to our

neighbours across the Tasman who lost everything. If you'd like to help go to www.redcross.org.au

Oyster season is about to open and things are looking good. All reports about the Foveaux beds have been promising so far. The locally farmed oysters have made the news recently so more visitors are asking after them: Kai Kart's been doing a brisk business!

Waitangi weekend brought some old friends back to the Island including Lurch, Ben, Jeff and Suzie, Dion, and Dion.

Some new boats are gracing our waters, and new homes are sprouting up like mushrooms. Freshly painted lines mark our newly tar-sealed streets, some visitors seem to think this marks a pedestrian route down the middle of the road! See page 10 for some observations about this strange phenomenon.

Speaking of strange phenomenon, something happened here that's really not the *norm*...a local fisherman won BIG



The Maoris won this Waitangi Day game with a score of 56 (or 58) points to 14 Team Pakeha. For more see pages 4-5.



Sei whale, Mason Bay. For more see Doc Spot on page 6.

in Lotto! Congratulations to him on such an exciting windfall!

Tune in to TV3's *Million Dollar Catch* series which starts at 730pm on 25th February, it features Bluff's Vaughan, John

Hawkless, and Rewi Bull, and our very own Colin Hopkins.

Last month I printed a story about the Gomez night of music and it was peppered with misspellings! Sorry for being so sloppy, and please see page 3 for take two.

—Jess

Inside:

Garden Circle	16
HMB Police Beat	11
Museum	12
Nurse's News	15
Obituary	11
Promotions	14
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust	8

And much more!!

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Stewart Island Club Closes

by Jan Manson

The twenty five-year history of the Stewart Island club came to a close in December and was marked by the holding of their club championships. Twenty shooters attended the shoot, which was tinged with a note of sadness because of the closure.

The club started on the Island in 1983 with the enthusiastic input of Joe Cave and Ron Dennis. An island identity, Herbie Hansen senior made land available for the clubs use. The site near the airport was cleared and the opening shoot was very notable with tents providing shelter for the office and clubrooms. Over the years the members worked very hard to develop the facilities and at it's closure it boasted two DTL layouts and a skeet field all equipped with automatic traps and voice release systems and a comfortable clubrooms and office. Power for the grounds was by way of a generator.

Each year the club held two major shoots, a trophy shoot in April and the club championships in December. These events were an integral part of the Southland circuit and were well attended by shooters from through out the region. There were those who made the Stewart Island trip an annual pilgrimage as well as those who attended not only for the shooting but also for the uniqueness and beauty of the location.

The Championship programme was not for the faint hearted. Joe Cave's notorious Ball Trap held a certain prestige. For most it was a fearsome event. The excesses of a very social Friday night and the challenge of Joe's extreme target settings were a combination many could not handle first thing on a Saturday morning. The remaining events, all of which were twenty five targets with the Double Rise being twenty pairs, appeared very 'shootable' after the Ball Trap experience. The programme was also enhanced with the addition of the Hansen and Halligan trophies.

The support from the community was impressive. The island's location made freight and transportation just that little bit more difficult but the consideration given to those who crossed the water by the Ferry and Air companies was much appreciated. Visitors were warmly welcomed and their island experience enhanced by the generous quantities of crayfish, mussels, blue cod and venison which were so much part of the weekend. Usually the shoots were held over two days with the prize giving dinner on the Sunday evening. The South Seas Hotel was the venue for the dinners and the scrumptious meal of local delicacies, many of which were donated by the locals, was a highlight of the weekends. There will be few clubs in New Zealand who could equal the silverware display at the presentations. The trophies, all donated by Stewart Island residents, would be the envy of many. Every discipline and every grade had a trophy and when set up for the presentation the display was spectacular. The presentation table has been the subject of many tourist holiday snaps.

In the mid nineties, the club had at times ten or twelve members. This, in recent years has declined to the stage now where only Russell Squires, the clubs longest serving secretary, resides on the island. Ron and Irene Dennis are moving to Invercargill and it is no longer viable for the club to remain functioning. While this is sad it is understandable. We have over the years enjoyed our times on the Island and thank very sincerely those who have contributed to making our visits such a pleasurable experience.

The bush will no doubt reclaim the site long before the memories and stories are forgotten.



Gomez Family Treats Island to Wonderful Evening

Families are a braid of experience: some particularly complex and fascinating. The Gomez family recently gave a concert called *You Don't Know Me But* and brought their various experiences to the Community Centre stage. Their lyrics are often autobiographical, and the more you hear the more you realize it's just the tip of the iceberg...

You Don't Know Me But describes the telephone conversation Simon had about two years ago with Lou Days, a daughter he'd never met (she was born when Simon was nineteen and adopted at birth) and who tracked him down as an adult. Lou inherited her father's musical talent, and also grew up in a wonderful and musically supportive family. She is half of the Funky Hot Mamas from Christchurch, but she made the journey south and has now met all the Stewart Island whanau, and visited her great great grandparents' home site at Bravo Island.



Emmanuelle Gomez, Simon's other daughter, is also a musician. Her song *Four Month Girlfriend Three Week Wife* describes meeting her new husband, but there's much more story behind the lyrics. The end of her last marriage coincided with the big iceberg that floated off Dunedin, and Simon thought a trip to see it would

lift his daughter's spirits. On the iceberg trip she met the son of the man who would, in a matter of months, become her next husband! He has muttonbirding rights on Poutama Island, so the club-playing city musician ended up honeymooning down there. She has set up a recording studio on the island so she can combine muttonbirding with music making which might be a first.

The Gomez concert was the very first time that Simon and his daughters had played publicly together, and it was a lively and thoroughly entertaining evening, as their background stories became music center stage. Simon is Wendy (Hallett), Peter, Rosemary, and Michael Goomes' youngest brother (he changed the spelling of his name to Gomez). He grew up on Stewart Island and his songs had local flavour, referencing Port Adventure, sailing, and boatbuilding. He composed a particularly lovely song about the family boat *Ngahauranga* (the wind blows gently). The drink of the evening had plenty of local flavour too: it was Lemoncello Gomez-style — according to the funny labels Simon made, great grandad Manuel's recipe was to soak it in gorse flowers.

Simon wanted to give something to the community, so all proceeds from the concert (and two auctioned bottles of Lemoncello which went for a couple hundred dollars each) were donated to Toi Rakiura Arts Trust to bring more music and cultural events to the Island in the future. Many thanks to Simon and his daughters for a great evening sharing music and stories, and for their generous donation of funds for future events on the Island.

Stewart Island Championship Results 2008

Skeet	A grade	G Jukes (Central Southland)
	B grade	M Smith (Mataura)
	C grade	J Straith (Gorge Road)
Double Rise	A grade	G Jukes (Central Southland)
	B grade	D Dickie (Nightcaps)
	C grade	J King (Gorge Road)
Minis	A grade	G Jukes (Central Southland)
	B grade	P Shuker (Wakatipu)
	C grade	J king (Gorge Road)
Single Rise	A grade	M Williams (Mataura)
	B grade	P Chatfield (Wakatipu)
	C grade	J King (Gorge Road)
Points Score	A grade	A Booth (Timaru)
	B grade	P Chatfield (Wakatipu)
	C grade	J King (Gorge Road)
Single Barrel	A grade	M Smith (Mataura)
	B grade	P Chatfield (Wakatipu)
	C grade	J king (Gorge Road)
High Gun	A grade	G Jukes (Central Southland)
	B grade	P Chatfield (Wakatipu)
	C grade	J King (Gorge Road)
H H Hansen Memorial		G Jukes (Central Southland)

SIESA RRR RECYCLING BINS

We are having continuing problems with people presenting their recycling bins for collection incorrectly. They are to be put out in the following manner:

- (1) GLASS BOTTLES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BIN.
- (2) PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CANS IN PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS ON TOP OF GLASS.
- (3) PAPER & CARDBOARD IN SHOPPING BAGS ON TOP.

They may also be put out in the following manner.

- (1) GLASS BOTTLES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BIN.
- (2) PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CANS LOOSE ON TOP OF BOTTLES.
- (3) PAPER & CARDBOARD IN SHOPPING BAGS ON TOP.

All Plastic Bottles and Cans must be CLEAN when put out for collection. If the above is not adhered to your recycling bin will be REJECTED.

David Squire, Supervisor



Waitangi Day 2009

This year we had a haka, a staker, *and* a shield! Game MVPs include Dion, Harvey, Heath, Glen and Brett; Thanks to the usual gang for a great hangi; Greg

Northe carved a beautiful shield for the event; Jack, Friday and Phil reffed; Matt the Lumberjack supplied a wheelbarrow of beer to the winners; Carrie's boy (no, not Tom) entertained us with a streak;

Eamonn loaned me his camera in a pinch; and Rod filmed the whole thing. Oldies included Pihī, Brett H, Dion G, Glen W and Jeff B. A few mishaps occurred but nothing severe: Brett was busy packing the

beer ice round his knee at game's end; Lumpy choked on a clod of grass; a swimmer at the hangi suffered shrinkage; and after two nights of post-game celebrations Dion G regained consciousness when an





Air NZ flight attendant poked him on the plane back to Oz—he noticed cuts and scratches all over his body which turned out to be Pihī's fault.

PHOTOS: J KANY & E GANLEY



DOC Spot

Last few weeks for submissions

The Department of Conservation is reminding people to get involved in the Stewart Island/Rakiura planning process by sending in their submission, or submissions, on the draft Stewart Island /Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan. Submissions close at 5pm on March 11 2009.

You can post your submission to:
**Department of Conservation
 Rakiura Planning Team
 Southland Conservancy
 PO Box 743
 Invercargill 9840**

Submissions can also be hand delivered to:

**Department of Conservation
 Rakiura Planning Team
 Level 7 – Cue on Don Building
 33 Don Street, Invercargill**

Or faxed to:

**Attention: Rakiura Planning Team
 (03) 214 4486**

Submissions can also be made online at: www.doc.govt.nz/rakiurareview

The Rakiura planning team has recently been boosted by the arrival of two new members:

Stewart Genery

– has recently returned to the Department of Conservation. Stewart was involved in the latter stages of the Fiordland National Park Plan and he is familiar with Stewart Island/Rakiura after working with the Darwins Barberry Team for three months. He is looking forward to working with the community as part of the Rakiura planning team.



Rebecca Heenan

– has just joined the Department of Conservation after graduating from Lincoln University in Canterbury. Rebecca will be working with Stewart



on the next stages of the Rakiura planning process.

For further information about the Rakiura planning process to date or how to make a submission please do not hesitate to contact the Rakiura Planning Team: Anke de Jong,, Stewart Genery or Rebecca Heenan, phone (03) 2112400 / Email rakiura@doc.govt.nz; or Sharon Pasco phone (03) 219 0002.

Water Tank auction

Each year, for the past seven years, a willing band of Winton Rotary Club members has travelled to Stewart Island to enjoy a week of fellowship and assist DOC with maintenance of visitor facilities. This year, instead of painting huts, the team of eight Rotarians helped replace a number of water tanks, tank stands and guttering at various huts and camp sites around the island. A task they tackled with gusto and which has seen a stockpile of old tanks deposited in the fenced off area between the DOC office and the firestation.

There have been a number of inquiries about how the department intends to dispose of these tanks. So much so, that it has been decided they should be auctioned off individually to the highest bidder. A time and date for this auction has yet to be arranged, but watch the public notice boards, or register your interest at the DOC office so we can notify you when this date has been set. Most of the tanks are still sound, the reason they have been replaced is because their tops have collapsed, allowing the accumulation of leaf litter and water which over time can ferment and taint the water supply. Not an issue if sited where they can be regularly checked but a problem when they are at a more remote location.

Rare whale washes ashore

Trampers returning from Mason Bay recently reported finding a dead whale washed up at the north end of Mason Bay. The photographs they provided showed it was it was an 11m long baleen whale and when sent to experts it was identified as a Sei whale. Sei whales are not often seen in the waters surrounding New Zealand, but inter-

estingly Gary Neave has reported a number of sightings off the coast of Stewart Island to DOC in recent years. A small skin sample has been removed for DNA purposes and the whale will be allowed to decompose naturally. Dead whales decompose quite quickly, however they do constitute a health hazard and so anyone venturing over to Mason Bay should keep their distance and also be aware that under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, it is an offence to remove any part of a whale carcass

There has also been a number of Southern Right Whale sightings reported in recent weeks. The department has a continuing national focus on Southern Right Whale sightings. This focus stems from a concern that Southern Right Whales sighted around coastal New Zealand perhaps form a genetically distinct population. Numbers of mainland Southern Right Whales have been seriously depleted and recovery appears to be very slow for this population. For this reason we urge people to report every sighting immediately, as we are keen to obtain good quality identification (head) photographs and/or biopsy samples if possible.

Finishing on a marine note – Seaweek this year is being celebrated from March 1 – 8, with the theme: *One Ocean - It starts with me / Kotahi Moana, Ka timata mai i ahau.* This Seaweek DOC is encouraging all New Zealanders to take a closer look at our marine environment. New Zealand has 33 marine reserves with stunning natural features and unique marine life and we have one of the best right here on our doorstep. There are lots of ways for you to enjoy Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve, such as diving, snorkelling, taking photos, swimming, kayaking and exploring rock pools. But if being out on, or in, the water is too energetic; there are other ways of exploring the wonders of the underwater world. Perhaps one of the easiest ways of all is by popping into the Rakiura Visitor Centre to view one of the many superb marine-themed DVDs and videos on offer – you don't have to be a visitor to Stewart Island to visit the visitor centre!

Solar hot water

by Sandy King

We've all heard the reasons why we should be considering alternate forms of energy: how much money we'd save, how the planet would be better off and future generations would thank us for it etc, etc, etc. We've probably all seen the panels on the roof of the DOC building and the wind turbine overlooking Traill Bay, put there to trial the efficiency of various forms of alternative energy generation for Stewart Island, but as yet no results that I'm aware of. Trials take a while to complete, so we wait.

Not being the most patient of people, I couldn't wait and had a solar hot water heating system installed in July last year. Who knows how old the leaky copper hot water cylinder attached to my coal range wet back system was, but when I pointed out the leaks to Rex he backed away and said "Just don't touch it". Apparently a new cylinder was required, pronto. I'd been thinking about a solar system for a while, and when some kitchen / living room renovations were also in the pipeline the time seemed right. After a bit of research and asking around I found a system that I thought would suit my individual needs and lifestyle, and which should survive in the maritime environment of Stewart Island.

Previously I relied solely on a coal range with wet back for all my water heating, cooking and house heating. At times over summer the only reason I would have the fire going was to heat water, which seemed wasteful. Coming back from a 3-4 week penguin field trip with a hot shower first and foremost on my mind, the first job would be to clean out and light the range then wait 4-5 hours for the water to heat up. Tedious. (In case

you're wondering, I did wash during those field trips but it's *just not the same* as a long hot shower!). I was pretty sure life could be easier.

I now have a 180 liter stainless hot water cylinder, all nicely encased in its own modern insulation. Choosing a stainless cylinder over a copper one effectively doubled the cost of the cylinder, but with numerous tales of new copper cylinders needing to be replaced after only a few years, stainless seemed like the cheaper option in the long run. I still have the old faithful coal range for cooking and heating, so had a heat exchanger coil for a wet back system added to the cylinder. This means that in the winter when the sun doesn't shine as much and I have the fire going anyway for heating I can still be heating my water for little extra cost, and when I use it for cooking in summer it only needs to be kept going until the cooking is done. The heat exchanger coil is also known as a "closed" system which means that the water in the wetback doesn't mix with the water I'm using from the cylinder. This also will allow me to legally install radiators in other parts of the house sometime in the future.

All new cylinders come with an electric heating element, usually at the bottom of the cylinder. I chose an additional top element which is situated about half way up the cylinder and heats the top section of water, which is the water that is being used. Being a household of just one person I don't need 180 liters of hot water, so when I do use electricity for water heating it is this top element that I use.



Finally, I have a second heat exchanger coil in the cylinder for the solar system. This is also a closed system which circulates glycol through the panels on the roof and through the coil in the cylinder, and doesn't mix with the water in the cylinder. Glycol is also used as antifreeze, so I don't need an additional frost protection system to stop the pipes freezing and bursting during those winter frosts, which seem to affect my place. The panels themselves sit on the roof, which conveniently is north facing and at about the right pitch, on a powder coated frame matched to the colour of the roof. I have 4 panels, which is a relatively small system but more than adequate for the needs of one person, and would apparently meet the requirements of a household of 2-3. Larger households would need more panels and a bigger cylinder. When the temperature of the panels rises to 12°C above the temperature at the bottom of the cylinder a pump kicks in and circulates the glycol through the panels and coil in the cylinder. The cold water in the cylinder cools the glycol, and when the temperature difference drops to 6°C the pump stops, restarting when the glycol heats up again.

So what I have is a choice of 3 ways to heat my water; solar, electric and wetback. I can use them in any combination or all at once. The only one I can't turn off is the solar, except at night! The whole package comes with a display panel mounted on the living room wall which tells me what are the temperatures at the top (i.e. water I'm using) and bottom of the cylinder, and of the panels. That way I know for

(Continued on page 9)



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

The field work component of the yellow-eyed penguin population census conducted this summer is now over and I've had time to sit down and look at the results. The Trust, in association with DOC, carried out a population census in November and December of 1999 and 2000 and we have the results of that census to compare with. When estimating the size of a penguin population the unit of measurement is usually the number of breeding pairs. For example the total population of yellow-eyed penguins is estimated to be between 1600-1800 breeding pairs. The total number of individual birds is obviously twice this amount, plus a few more to allow for juveniles and non-breeding adults. Until the census of 1999 and 2000 the population estimate for yellow-eyed penguins on and around Stewart Island was 470 – 600 pairs. The census found fewer than 200 pairs in total, and just 79 of these were on the Stewart Island mainland. These findings came as a bit of a shock to penguin people, and prompted the Trust and DOC to begin the five year study of factors affecting breeding success of yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island, which was completed in 2008. During this study we observed a decline in the number of breeding pairs along the Anglem coast, our study area on Stewart Island, and consistently poor breeding success – i.e. most chicks died each year before fledging. In comparison the number of breeding pairs on our small offshore island study sites remained relatively consistent, and while breeding success fluctuated the fluctuations were considered to be within normal levels. So, we had to ask the question of whether the decline had something to do with the birds being on mainland Stew-

art Island opposed to a small offshore island, or whether it was related to the particular area on Stewart Island we'd been studying, i.e. the Anglem coast. The easiest way to answer this question was obviously to repeat the previous population census to see if there had been a decline elsewhere around the coast.

Now we've finished the repeat census, and we found.....77 pairs on Stewart Island in total, just 2 pairs less than the previous census came up

with. Not much change. But, we wanted to compare the Anglem coast with everywhere else and the result is a little bit different when we look at individual areas. On the Anglem coast in 1999 there were 30 pairs. We found 22 in 2008, so there has been a decline there. Everywhere else in 1999-2000 there were 49 pairs, and we found 55 during this survey – an apparent slight increase which may or may not be significant.

That last comment sounds a bit vague, but there is a reason, which is this: in any population there are always non-breeders (just look at us humans!). In some years some penguins will choose not to breed, while in other years most adults will breed so the number of breeding pairs can fluctuate from year to year even though the number of individuals might remain the same. I can't even attempt to explain what motivates the birds to make these choices, but let's just say there are "good" and "bad" years for breeders. 2007 was a "bad" year for breeders on the Anglem coast – we found only 16 breeding pairs there, yet 2008 was a "good" year with 22 breeding

pairs. However, because we've been monitoring the Anglem coast birds over a number of years, we can say that in spite of the fluctuation in the 2008 "good" year, the general trend is downwards – the population is in decline in that area. Assuming 2008 was a "good" year all round, we would expect a few more breeding pairs everywhere else as well, but we

haven't been monitoring all those other areas regularly and don't have enough information to say whether the increase from 49 pairs in 1999-2000 to 55 pairs in 2008 really does represent an

upwards trend, or is simply a "good" year fluctuation. We'd need to do a few more surveys to get a clearer idea of what is going on. Another way to look at it is to consider the proportional increase or decrease – the difference between 30 pairs and 22 pairs is a factor of 0.73 (i.e. $30 \times 0.73 = 22$), a 27% decrease, whereas the difference between 49 pairs and 55 pairs is a factor of 1.12 ($49 \times 1.12 = 55$), a 12% increase.

Anyway, the simple conclusion from all this is that there has been a decline in numbers on the Anglem coast but not elsewhere. This suggests that we need to look more closely at all factors, including environmental and human-induced, that are different on the Anglem coast from everywhere else to help understand what is causing the decline there.

Sandy

Sandy King

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Surveying the beach at Chew Tobacco
for sign of penguins



Thanks to the School, Squiz, Myrtle Cottage, Megan, Beverley, Irene, Loraine, and all of the other generous donors to the Library:



Retiring: doll.

You may not recognize her with clothes (and her head, arms and legs attached to her body). This doll has served for many years in the children's section and now she is retiring. The Library is seeking new soft dolls and toys for the kids' section, so if you are a crafty person with some extra time a new doll (with undetachable limbs) would be much appreciated!

John Updike passed away last month. He was the winner of two Pulitzer prizes and the author of the *Rabbit Run* series which we have on shelf.

I just finished a really great book: *The Scent Trail: a Journey of the Senses* by Celia Lyttleton (668.54). She traces the ingredients of perfume and this turns into a journey around the world, from the lavender fields of France to the orange groves of Morocco, onwards through Turkey and Sri Lanka and India. She goes to the Island of Socotra to explore the world of ambergris and this venture gets its own chapter. This olfactory journey is a beautifully written and fascinating book and I recommend getting your nose into it!

We have a great collection of books about natural energy, check the shelf at 696.22 for books about solar and wind power and other renewable energy ideas.

Get psyched up for TV3s *Million Dollar Catch* by renting *Deadliest Catch*, we have seasons 1-4 on shelf, DVDs are \$2 for a week's rental.

If you haven't already come see our new computers!

Last month I mentioned seeing a bunch of dead little blues at Mason Bay. Following is an excerpt from a DoC bulletin Sharon sent me as explanation:

Little blue penguin influx along the coastline

High juvenile mortality is unfortunate but natural for little blue penguins, particularly at this time of year. From late December to March chicks are leaving the nest for the first time. Many are unable to fend for themselves and simply die of exhaustion or starvation. It's recommended that if you find a dead penguin, that you leave it on the beach.

Secondly adults go through a moult stage for approximately four weeks; where they remain in their nests. They do not feed because their new feathers become water logged when wet. If they have not built up sufficient fat reserves for the fast they may die. If you see a moulting penguin it's recommended that you leave it alone; do not put it in the water. If it is being attacked by a dog or another predator please call your local DOC office.

The korora, little blue penguin, is the world's smallest penguin and is found in both New Zealand and Southern Australia. Its main breeding sites are in the Hauraki Gulf and Northland but this protected native species can be found right around the shores of the Bay of Plenty.

Studies in the South Island have shown that typically only 30% of chicks survive to adulthood. During a difficult season, when little food is available, the mortality rate can be even higher. Some are found washed up on beaches, but the majority disappear.

(Continued from page 7)

example that using the wet-back can produce water temperatures of 60-80°C, that on a really warm sunny day the solar system alone can produce water temperatures of over 60°C, and that without any other form of heating apart from solar the cylinder will sit over a period of time at 30-40°C.



So does it work and am I satisfied? So far, yes, it does what I was hoping for. I never expected the solar system alone to provide all my hot water all of the time, and obviously in the winter it won't do much more than raise the temperature of the water from pretty cold to about 30°C. But in the winter I'm using the

range anyway so the wetback does most of the water heating. If I've been away for a few days and want hot water quickly, I flick on the top electric element and, because the water is already luke warm, it takes about 30min to get water warm enough for a shower and about 1 hour for the temperature to reach 64°C. Once this hot the well insulated cylinder keeps the water warm enough for use for a day or two. The addition of a small electric pump to circulate the glycol and the occasional use of the electric element has made almost no difference to my power bill. Previously, burning a combination of coal and wood, I would spend (at today's prices) about \$136 every 4-6 weeks on coal. Since the solar system was installed I've bought coal twice, once in August and again in De-

cember – I save, but Jack is losing business! (Having insulated and double glazed over half the house also saves on heating costs).

The cost – around \$12K, so it is not cheap and will take a few years to pay its way, even considering local coal and electricity prices. But there are other, less quantifiable, savings too - less burning of fossil fuels and less ash to dispose of (appeals to my greenie streak), less time spent cleaning a dirty coal range, and the convenience of plenty of hot water whenever I want it. It suits my lifestyle and I'm pleased that I ignored the skeptics who thought it could never work on Stewart Island. If anyone wants to know more, or have a look at the set up, give me a call.—Sandy

What to do about rat plagues?

PLEASE READ BEFORE MAKING YOUR CHOICE.

This year may potentially be another rat plague year, like the one in 2002. Hands up those who were here during the last one? Many boats in Halfmoon Bay lost wiring and mattresses to rats, which swum out from the wharf or rocks, houses had pipes chewed through, wires, stoves, wooden doors, walls and any food left within reach. It wasn't pretty. All because of the cyclic fruiting system of our native trees (the same system that gets kakapo hot under the feathers).

What can you do to protect your home? There are a number of humane options, and not all rat options are created equal. There is the choice of a) trapping, b) over-the-counter rat baits or c) a combination of both.

Firstly, do you live on the island, or is someone nearby who can check your traps regularly? Traps are great because you can position them exactly where the rat will go and you know when you've caught your beast (and you can plant him under the rose-bushes, instead of wondering if he is what's causing that smell

down in the walls...). What if you're not here to check traps?

The next option is using rat baits. But NOT ALL BAITs ARE CREATED EQUAL.

Two main types dominate the market: instant/ fast-acting poisons and ones which build up in the liver before the rat feels its effect. Placing fast-acting toxin baits in a safe place around the house (eg in the roof, in a locked over-the-counter bait station) will protect the local native wildlife, your pet cat and your neighbour's pet dog far more than the slow-acting ones. This is because the slow-acting ones allow concentrated poison to build up in the rat's liver. When morepork, cats or dogs eat the carcass or catch the rat (slowed down because it feels a bit sick now), they can swallow enough poison to also kill themselves.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAPPENS MOST YEARS.

DON'T get me wrong, slow-acting

Handy Tips:

1. Before you go to bed, sprinkle a little baking flour where you think the rat may be getting in (eg in the roof, bathroom, laundry etc). The floury footprints will show you exactly where to place your trap the next night!
2. Rats keep to edges, so put traps with the pedal against a wall or edge.
3. Protect any traps which are outside - I've found too many weka with one leg or a broken bill. Kiwi are at risk too.

toxins are perfect for some situations, eg eradicating rats from Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington city or more recently, from some of the tītī islands around here. They are just not desirable to use in others.

Useful websites for more info are: www.connovation.co.nz and click on "Rats" or "Rat Abate" www.kiwicare.co.nz and look up rats under pest control

Even better, if we all mucked in on this, we could keep this fruiting phenomenon for those who need it most – local native birds.

SIRCET make trapping tunnels, which keep birdlife safe when placed outside. If you would like to buy some for your home or property this year, please get in touch with anyone from SIRCET info@sircet.org.nz; 2191533.

—Kari Beaven

For advice on how different control methods work, please contact:

Di Morris: di@sircet.org.nz

Kari Beaven: kari@sircet.org.nz

DOC, Stewart Island

SHARON PASCO AND MAUREEN JONES WERE THE FIRST TO SOLVE LAST MONTH'S RIDDLE!

RIDDLE-OF-THE-MONTH

MY BOX HERE'S NUMBERED 64
BUT DON'T KNOCK ON BID AND ERNIE'S DOOR

THE WATERFRONT'S WHERE I RESIDE
A CHURCHY FELLA'S AT MY SIDE

BUT I'M NOT PRAYING, I'M JUST LOYAL
TO MY MATE: GOOD OLD CROWN ROYAL

SOMETIMES IT'S SAID THAT I'M A LOSER
I'M ALWAYS SPOTTED NEAR THE BOOZER

I'M LEGLESS AND MY BIG NOSE SHINES
I CAN'T EVER MOVE IN A STRAIGHT LINE

THINK I'M A SOT HERE IN THE SOUTH?
I'M NOT, STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

GUESSED WHO I AM? NEED ONE MORE CLUE?
SWINGERS ARE OFTEN IN MY VIEW

Road-iotis

My sister once had a flatmate who added the suffix "-iotis" to a word if he was trying to describe an ailment and sound like a real doctor. This makes sense, so I'll borrow his tactic when describing the phenomenon of visitors who walk down the middle of the road with no apparent awareness or concern about approaching cars. I call this road-iotis. It comes in many forms. There is the Canadian Goose road-iotis, where a group of tourists fan out in a vee pattern across the road, making it impossible to get around them. There's the

Cat, when a visitor (this often occurs fresh off the boat) suddenly zooms in a diagonal off the footpath into the middle of the road for a totally mysterious urgent reason causing you to slam on the brakes. Have you encountered the Terminator? That's the visitor who walks slowly toward your approaching vehicle down the middle of the road and glares at you all the while. The Mad Ram is the Terminator except unmoving, just standing there, in the middle of the road, staring. In severe cases of road-iotis, people wander up the road on steep hills on

sharp curves where footpaths are available, but they don't use the footpaths. If you're leaving the shop and coming up the hill behind them you may be forced to brake hard and then start again, thus their name the Road-iotis Hill-starters. There's the Nutty Hitchhikers who jump in front of a moving vehicle to make it stop. The ferry crew ask visitors to use our footpaths, and caution them to stay on the sides of the roads here. What more can we do to curb the scourge of road-iotis? Any ideas?

—Ed

Ida Collet

1st July 1914 — 1st February 2009

Some of you may remember Ida Collett who with her husband Kem lived on Stewart Island from 1975 to about 1983. Ida was involved in many community groups while living on Stewart Island and was instrumental in establishing a Forest and Bird Protection Society Branch here. Ida was a relieving teacher at the Halfmoon Bay School for several years and also took local children and adults for remedial reading, as well as teaching typing and shorthand lessons. Ida was an avid reader and enjoyed the local book discussion group, which met here monthly. It was also thanks to Ida that the first Stewart Island cookbook was published.

Ida had a passion for the outdoors and for conservation, which she shared with many locals both young and old. She set up an annual conservation

project award for the pupils of Halfmoon Bay School, which carried on for several years. Ida was also secretary of the Rakiura Museum committee for a number of years.

The Colletts moved several times after leaving the Island. Ida suffered a major stroke in the late 1980s but went on to recover and eventually published a book 'A Parcel of Land' which was the story about her ancestors. In recent years Ida and Kem have been living at Selwyn Village Resthome in Auckland where Ida was involved in a resident advocacy group, wrote murder mysteries and plays for the residents and maintained an interest in the issues of the day. She was a bright and positive 94 year old despite her failing eyesight in recent times.

Ida passed away after a short illness. She is survived by her husband Kem and her sons Ron and Paul Left and their families.

—M. Hopkins

<p>Southland Residents being surveyed</p> <p>Southland residents are to be asked their opinions on Southland District Council services and activities in the next three weeks.</p> <p>Council assistant corporate planner Yvette Paterson said the Annual Residents' Survey was sent out to 3000 randomly picked residents</p>	<p>last week.</p> <p>“The survey results help us to know where we are doing well and where we can improve,” Mrs Paterson said. Council has contracted Key Research to carry out the survey</p> <p>Those being asked to complete the survey were picked randomly out the electoral role and are in to win a prize.</p>	<p>The winner, who will be randomly drawn out of respondents, will be able to pick one prize out of a Stewart Island overnight trip, an H and J Smith voucher or a Milford Sound overnight cruise.</p> <p>“Information we receive through this annual survey is really useful to us and enables us to address issues we might not have been aware of,” she said.</p>	<p>The survey forms are sent out with return address envelopes and residents have three weeks to complete and return them.</p> <p>For further information please contact: Yvette Paterson Assistant Corporate Planner Southland District Council. Phone: 0800 732 732</p> 
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The Island Beat

Over the last couple of months goods ordered by residents of the island has gone missing in transit. The property has disappeared somewhere between the supplier and Stewart Island. If you have ordered items which go missing in Transit report it promptly to police. The early reporting may make it easier to identify exactly where the problem is in the delivery chain.

Found Property held at Halfmoon Bay station wanting owner to uplift.

- 1 x black jacket, named 'Max Kelly' handed to Police 04/01/2009.
- 1 x Vimosia or Vimora females

- watch, Found South Seas Hotel 10/12/2009.
- 1 x Konica Minolta digital camera, Found South Seas Hotel 10/12/2009.
- 1 x Metal Fish hook design necklace, Found Bathing Beach 14/01/2009.
- 1 x Childs Booster car seat found Elgin terrace 01/02/2009
- 1 x Bead bracelet Found 09/02/2009

Congestion at the Wharf is again causing problems. Late last year a meeting between Stewart Island experience, Council, South Port, Island Transport, Helen Cave and Police was held to discuss the key problems and responsibilities. The lack of rules for wharf users was discussed. A draft set of rules for Wharf users

will be put in the next SIN for Island residents to view. With the increase in both passenger and freight traffic on the wharf rules will make the wharf more user friendly. Road marking for pedestrian traffic has been completed.

Traffic:
It is good to see the resurfacing and marking of island roads is now complete.

With better road conditions average speeds will increase. The maximum speed limit on the island is 50 kilometres an hour. This equates to a possible 100 km head on crash speed so wear your seatbelts.

Senior Constable Dale JENKINS

Willie Johnson's Silver Watch

by Margaret Hopkins

Rakiura Museum has just received a special acquisition from Sonny Johnson of Bluff. Curator Elaine Hamilton said 'the Rakiura Museum is very pleased to receive a silver watch Mr Johnson was awarded as a 9 year old child for his part in salvaging the vessel Hiawatha at Stewart Island'. Copies of two newspaper cuttings describing the gallant rescue and the part young Willie Johnson played in it were also donated to the Museum.

Extracts from the article in the Christchurch Sun:

Young Willie Earns an Inscribed Watch

Child's Part In Salvage of Launch Adrift at Sea

Young Willie Johnson, whose age is a whole nine years, will soon be the proud owner of an inscribed watch given him for a piece of work no less meritorious in its own way than many exploits of seamen who have been similarly rewarded by grateful ship owners and underwriters. For young Willie has played a big part in the saving of a valuable cruising launch from destruction.

Willie lives in Bluff, where he goes – rather unwillingly, it seems – to school. His grandfather, Bill Johnson, owns the auxiliary fishing ketch Secret, and the seafaring touch seems to run strongly in the family, for young Willie, when he is not taking a holiday from school to spend a few days at sea with his grandfather,

is taking a holiday from school to lend Capt. R.J. Hamilton a hand with the running of the little steamer Tamatea, in which on one self-awarded holiday, he even went to Lyttleton. In the course of knocking about he has acquired resource and self-reliance amazing in a child of his age.

Yesterday young Willie, in his little blue overalls and sweater and a beret with its cheeky tail sticking up like a kewpie's curl, sat listening with an air of calm detachment on his solemn little face while grown seamen and experienced yachtsmen forgot even to sip their beer as they heard from Grandfather Bill the tale of the youngster's plucky part in the struggle to save the launch.

The Secret bound from Horseshoe Bay to Paterson's Inlet yesterday morning with only Bill Johnson and his grandson on board, sighted the launch drifting at sea off the entrance to the inlet, rolling and pitching heavily in the rising gale.

At first it was thought she had had a breakdown, but on getting closer Johnson saw that the companionway doors were locked and there was no sign of life on board. The anchor chain was hanging from the bow, and it was clear that she had dragged her anchor in the blow the previous night and drifted to sea, avoiding in some miraculous manner the rocks and reefs that lay in her path during her many hours of helpless drifting down the inlet and out through the entrance to the open sea.

She had to be taken in tow, but getting a line aboard in the wind and sea that was running

Website of the Month

Each month Vicki Coats is going to recommend a fun or useful website for you to visit.

www. vouchermate.co.nz

Get vouchers and discounts for Invercargill businesses, print them at home or text them to your phone. Also win prizes in their monthly treasury chest.

Volunteers recently spent a day making rat traps at Lee's house. The island must brace itself for a plague of rats, for more information see page 10.



looked a hopeless task for a man and a child.

However young Willie manfully faced the job of handling the big ketch alone while his grandfather, launching the ship's boat, pulled across to the drifting vessel to make fast a tow-line. The handling of the fishing vessel would have called for care and skill on the part of an experienced seaman; yet this child of nine – though once as his grandfather admitted, he was near to tears – carried out the job in a way that has made him the hero of Stewart Island.

With the helpless launch yawing wildly and drifting off all the time before the wind, the Secret had to be manoeuvred so as to remain always close up to her yet not near enough to involve risk of colliding: the helm had to be tended, the engine had to be put ahead or astern, speeded up or slowed down and the towing warp had to be paid out carefully.

For two hours that youngster dashed from helm to engine room and from both to the forecastle, fighting back tears



Sonny Johnson with his daughter June and his twin sister Adeline.

of sheer exhaustion, yet grimly carrying out the shouted orders of the man labouring at the oars in the tossing dinghy. Once he called out "Grandad we can't do it! We'll have to go for help." But Bill Johnson was not the man to give up while a hope remained.

At last it was done, and with the salvaged vessel safely in tow the skipper returned on board to find his young 'crew' tired to death, and with a great lump on his temple, caused when he had slipped and fallen during his dashing about the deck, but still able to grin with pleasure that he had played a real sailor's part in a man-sized job.

It was small wonder that back at the anchorage, sitting in the snug cabin while the gale howled outside and Bill Johnson proudly told the story of his grandson's pluck, men who know the sea and its dangers sat amazed.

Young Willie has been saving up his pennies to buy himself a watch – now he will receive from a grateful owner who had given his fine vessel up for lost a watch whose splendour will exceed Willie's wildest dreams.

Willie Johnson is mentioned in a second article as having rescued a man in Bluff who had fallen overboard. Willie had been fishing off the vessel Ranui alongside the Bluff wharf when he heard a splash. Seizing a coil of rope the young sailor heaved it out to the man and making his end fast he exclaimed "Here, grab this, I can't pull you out – but I'll jolly soon get someone who can." When school broke up for the holidays, the Mayor made a further presentation to Willie Johnson who was not yet twelve.



Waitangi Day rained on us after the game. This didn't stop anyone from celebrating at the Pub and the Butterfield hangi.



Stewart Island Promotions Association update

by Chairperson, Ulva Goodwillie

The Stewart Island Promotion Association is all about promoting our Island to the rest of the world. More outstanding promotion for Stewart Island recently has been through The Sunday Star Times '36 Hours' weekly segment which featured Ulva Island Open Bird Sanctuary with Ulva's Guided Walks; the BBC in the UK requested 15min interviews with various Islanders – the first conversation taking place early January selling our wonderful Stewart Island, and a glowing recommendation letter for Stewart Island Experience in the *Southland Times*.

Since November last year, we have had 10 cruise ships in Paterson Inlet, and there are a few more to go in March. I'm not sure when we have had so many visitors from cruise ships in a summer season before.

We are now in the process of downloading the 09/10 Official Visitor Guide Brochure on to the Stewart Island website. This process will see that all listings featured on the website will be updated to be exactly the same as the brochure; therefore ensuring a consistency for visitor viewing. We again invite all members of

the Stewart Island Promotions Association that are not featured on the website to put their application into our secretary Colleen. The Executive meet on the first Thursday of each month to action these requests.

Aaron Simmonds has recently taken over as journalist at Radioworks Southland.. His role is to ensure local news gets the coverage it deserves in the local radio station. If you have a story you feel needs to be told and you would like it to be broadcast on More FM's breakfast news bulletins, please contact him at More RM Southland: 218 8025 or 021 882 892 or asimmonds@radioworks.co.nz

It will be interesting to read the submissions sent in regarding the proposed Visitor Levy which closed recently. We hope you all had your say.

Venture Southland will be hosting a seminar for small businesses on the island on 14th April 10am – 1.00pm Ph 0800 255 288 Kendyl Kennedy for further info.

An online survey on tourism on Stewart Island is currently being undertaken by Ministry of Fisheries, and NZ Tourism research through AUT University. Operators are encouraged to ask their guests to fill in the forms available

at the ferry and plane terminals.

We are encouraging all operators NOT to park on the wharf when picking up their clientele. This is purely a safety issue now. Luggage bins are to be placed directly at the road edge, making it easier for luggage to be lifted out to waiting parked vehicles. The forklift route is being constantly hindered by passengers, operators and parked cars thereby affecting their own safety procedures. The promotion of Stewart Island can start by operators being vigilant in their own safety and hospitality procedures when meeting and greeting their visitors at the main wharf.

Our next General Meeting get together will be on **Thursday 27th February at 7.30pm, RSA Pavilion** [please note change of venue]. Geoff Ensor, Chair of the NZ Tourism Industry Association has asked if he could visit tourism operators on Stewart Island and we thought it would be a perfect opportunity for him to speak at our meeting. There will probably be another meeting with TIA members around that time. Time and place is yet to be confirmed.

The promotion of our Island from your perspective is important for us and we would love to see you there.

Thanks to everyone who attends quiz night, in 2008 \$5575 was donated to SI good causes and this is where it went:

27.01.08 \$435 donated to the Stewart Island Nurses Clinic ~*~ 2.03.08 \$500 donated to the Stewart Island Rugrats ~*~ 23.03.08 \$415 donated to the Stewart Island Nurses Clinic (won on tie-break!) ~*~ 13.04.08 \$500 donated to Jess for her trip to Starship ~*~ 4.5.08 \$700 donated to the Stewart Island Players ~*~ 15.6.08 \$430 donated to the Oban Fire Brigade ~*~ 20.07.08 \$345 donated to the Stewart Island Senior Citizens ~*~ 24.08.08 \$520 donated to the School Winter Trip ~*~ 21.09.08 \$150 donated to LOUDSHIRTDAY a one-off for deaf kids ~*~ 5.10.2008 \$450 donated to Matt & Clare & Kids ~*~ 16.11.08 \$610 donated to search and rescue ~*~ 14.12.08 \$520 donated to the Community Xmas Party* —from Vicki Coats

**Stewart Island
a Healthy Island**

by Debs Dillon

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

Nurse’s News

It is great to see some fine weather at last for our gardens, visitors and general enjoyment! A sunny day really brings out the beauty of the Is-

land and the lifestyle it offers!

The hot weather can also bring tummy upsets, so help prevent these by careful food handling practice and regular hand washing.

Autumn and winter will bring the cold and flu season. To prevent influenza the “flu” vaccines will be available from the end of March. Some people qualify for free vaccination so either contact the clinic or keep a watch on the notice-board for more information.

The shorter days and

longer nights will lower our immunity so it is important to maintain health by getting enough sleep, regular exercise, healthy eating, and some fun social activities.

Thank you to the St John team for their help and support over the summer.

Thank you also to the Health Committee for their support over the year, and please remember anyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Services:
In EMERGENCY dial 111

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

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

Clinic Numbers-
Phone 2191 098
Fax 2191 072.

Women Health Clinic; Thursdays 9am-3pm. Please phone clinic for an appointment.

Well Child/ Family Clinic; Wednesdays; 9am-3pm. Please phone clinic for an appointment.

WALK FOR THE PLANET

begins HERE, on Stewart Island/Rakiura. There’s a tradition of long walks for good causes – individual ones to raise money for a particular goal and big group ones, like the Anglican-led Hikoī of Hope in 1998, that challenged poverty in New Zealand.

Walk for the Planet is an opportunity to raise awareness of our need to rethink our relationship with this wonderful planet, Earth.

Recently, the World Wildlife Fund declared that New Zealanders had the sixth worst carbon footprint [per capita] in the world, so we do need to give some thought to our life-styles. The future of our children and grandchildren and, in fact, all life on the planet, depends on the decisions we make every day. The focus of the Walk is on healing – healing of land and climate and waters, healing of the country, communities and ourselves.

Walk 4 the Planet began as a

Methodist initiative but it is for everyone who cares about the environment. The national organisers are really pleased that this Island is the starting point, because it seems a bonus to start from a community that is already doing a great job of looking after its ecological heritage.

The Walk begins on February 24th and 25th and arrives in Wellington at Easter. This is the Church season known as Lent which, traditionally, is a time for people to reflect on their lives over the past year.

Here on the Island, out in front of Ship to Shore, there will be pancakes being made and sold on Pancake Tuesday from mid-morning. People can choose their fillings and the proceeds will go to local environmental projects.

So, put pancakes for morning tea and lunch on your menus for Tuesday, 24th February.

It may also be possible to buy T-shirts with the Walk for the Planet

logo. It’s a very attractive one, don’t you think?



At 1 pm on Wednesday, 25th, we meet at the Golf course – the Wohler’s Road entrance – to begin our lap of the Walk for the Planet. We are going to burn some junk mail in an incinerator as a sign that we recognise our lack of care in allowing the slaughter of trees for mail most of us don’t want anyway. Then we’ll plant some trees ourselves.

Everyone is welcome to join in these activities and in the walk to the wharf that follows. We aim to get there in time to farewell the national organisers on the afternoon ferry and wish them well for the weeks ahead. It is hoped that there will be good media coverage, so do come along and make a good show for our Island. Join the Walk for the Planet even if you can only manage part of it.

LET’S SHOW WE CARE

—Beverley Osborne

chocolate awards

Mrs Skipper thanks **Helen Cave** for mowing her lawns on a very very hot day (and she also appreciates the gifts of "cackleberries" from Helen's friends Phyllis, Sylvia and Killa.)

and

The Community thanks **Irene Dennis** for all of the times she has created floral arrangements for celebrations and functions at the Hall, wreaths for ANZAC day and funerals, and for her longstanding membership of the Garden Circle.

Congratulations

Newlyweds
Dan and Ange

SIESA RRR
FOR SALE

**Good worm
compost**

is available at the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre Horseshoe Point Rd.
ONLY \$5.00 PER BAG.

The Library needs a desk for our new computers, so if you have an extra desk that might fit our space, or if you're handy with tools, please see Jess. Thanks.

*Are you looking to upgrade your window furnishing?
If so, let us help.*

Pam will be visiting the Island later this month and is available to do a FREE measure and quote.

So don't put it off any longer!

Give Hubbers a call to book an appointment.

03 214 2095



Sleeping well in the anchor well: Georgie Holland, Paterson Inlet.

www.stewart-island-news.com

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next meeting will be at the home of Jenny Gell on Thursday 12th March at 2pm

Competition:
an early Autumn Colour
a Vegetable
a Dahlia



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

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

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

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