

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

February—March 2013

\$2.00

*Condolences to the family
of our friend and neighbour
Garth Barnesdale.*

Happy 25th Birthday to the Ringaringa Golf Course! More on its celebrations next month.

Some issues have arisen regarding our pool, please see page 6 for some important reminders and news. And...What do you think of building a NEW community pool? Meeting to discuss this on 28th Feb (details p16).

Waitangi Day was a great day thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and contributions. The shop generously donated vegetables and other food to the Traill Park sausage sizzle and hangi; the South Sea Hotel and fish-shed helped with the beer and ice; and Lurch and mates organised the hangi. Thanks to Friday for reffing the game and to Stefan McGrath for mustering up enough people to play. Too many people to be named donated meat, time, and energy to make it an awesome day. The hangi was amazing as usual and the total money raised on the day was over \$1300 all donated to the School.

After a spate of nasty weather in the beginning of the year, we were treated



Horse-whispering on Ruapuke Island. Steve Lawrence joined a party of sixteen Stewart Islanders on a recent visit to Ruapuke...a highlight of the visit was an encounter with wild horses. Page 14

to another round of glorious summer days. Sunburnt Islanders have been floundering and scalloping up the inlet, boogie boarding at Butterfields, and horsing around in Horseshoe Bay. Halfmoon Bay has been bustling as the Island is a popular venue for weddings and stag dos. A recent visitor creating a buzz has been the *Octopus*, a mega-yacht owned by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen (p8). If you want to earn your fortune and get your own little *Octopus*, consider heading to Russia and hunting down chunks of the meteorite...sizeable pieces could fetch sizeable piles of cash.



For more photos from the annual Waitangi Day Maori v Pakeha rugby game see p10.

Don't miss the kiwi release at Acker's Point on 22nd Feb—details page 7. There's a heap more events on our horizon including an opportunity to play Indiana Jones up the Inlet and participate in an archaeological project at Whaler's Base on 10th March (p8). The Ball is 29th March (p8) and on 30th March check out the exhibition of historic photographs at the Community Centre (p9). Easter Quiz (31st March) will be at the Community Centre (p2).

Debs has shared a new website which many of you might like — www.theislandreview.com — “Launched in February 2013, the editors hope to provide an on-line home for islanders and island lovers everywhere.” They are seeking submissions of prose and art.

Census 2013 – 5 March

Your census collectors are Kirsten Hicks and Bruce Ford. Expect to have one or the other of them knocking on your door in the next few days. They have an official plan to follow and are being trained to assist.

There is a set of forms to fill in that are clearly explained and will make a comprehensive mass of data for Statistics NZ.

Please make a conscientious attempt to complete these forms accurately as the results do have an impact on the way the country – and our community – is managed and resourced for health, schools, roads and all the other considerations of the future of our

country's infrastructure.

It is possible and even preferred for you to complete the census on-line, and that would save collecting the forms, arranging for you to be at home, etc. In the meantime, don't be afraid to ask question from the collectors or ask online. Look out for ads on TV and radio too. Don't forget that all details are Strictly Confidential and the results of the census on an individual basis are not available to anyone, including to any prying Government agencies!

Kirsten and Bruce look forward to seeing you and to hearing from you if you have any queries and if you don't hear from us before the beginning of March, give us a call and we'll sort out your forms for you.

The SIN website has recently been updated to include all 2012 issues.
www.stewart-island-news.com



A leopard seal spent a day resting on Horseshoe Bay Beach earlier this month. Many observed that he did not look or smell particularly healthy. *Photo from Jules Retberg.*



WISE UP TO WEEDS

with Amy



BOMAREA (*Bomarea multiflora*)

Bomarea is found in Oban only in low numbers as far as we know, but every season it spreads further from the garden. You can help stop the spread.

What is it?

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

What is the problem?

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

How to control it?

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

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



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

New Lease of Life for the Kai Kart

A bright idea from a friend has turned into a bright opportunity for us at Rakiura Charters & Water Taxi; Stewart Island's once busy little Kai Kart, which has remained empty this season, has been converted into a booking office for our tours and water taxi services. We have temporarily taken over the lease of the property, and are very excited about having a more central base from which to offer visitors a friendly, face-to-face and more convenient booking service. We offer an on-demand water taxi service to the Ulva Island Bird Sanctuary, Freshwater River and the Coast to Coast

package, hunting blocks and tramping destinations such as Port William, as well as scenic, fishing, historic and birding tours. I'm loving all the visitors, both local and visiting so please feel free to pop in for a cuppa! We're also displaying brochures for other island services and experiences if you would like to drop them in. Office hours are generally 8am to 1pm, and our Kaka Ridge office is open 1pm - 7pm, 7 days.

Our contact details have remained the same (03 219 1487, or Free phone 0800 725 487), however we can also be reached directly at the Kai Kart on 225.
Alina & Matt Atkins



I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who made me so welcome during my stay. I have fond memories of all the friends I've made and of course, your beautiful special island.
Jill Jones
(Matt's Mum!)

The Easter quiz is being held in the Community Centre to raise funds for Stewart Island Community Centre and the Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust. After the success of the raffle table for the Travelling Quiz, we have decided to hold another one this time too! Any raffle prizes gratefully received; from home baking and produce, to wine or chocolates or any item (as long as it is new and in it's original packaging). Hope to see you there for a fun night! *Vicki*

MUSEUM MATTERS

by Jo Riksem

This is the start of a column regarding what’s happening at the museum each month. We’re here to preserve Stewart Island history old and new and we’ve got a fascinating history to tell. For more in-depth information join Friends of Rakiura Museum with twice yearly newsletters. Just email us at stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz Hope you’ll enjoy these monthly updates.



*100 Years ago, Halfmoon Bay 1913.
Can you notice some of the differences?*

We’ve been pleased to receive lately in our **new acquisitions**:

Photograph of Cedric Smith as a boy. Cedric Smith was our first museum curator. His wife Elsie and daughter Judith were both artists and we have a small book on sale of some of their work on orchids.

Blue print of the “Ranui” rigging and sails at Port Pegasus. The blue print was used by Hans Christian Nielsen while making/stitching the “Ranui” sails. Hans had previously worked on a German sailing ship as a sailmaker. Check out your copy of the book ‘Stewart Island Boats’ for more history of this boat and if you don’t have a copy there’s still some available at the museum. Don’t miss out. They won’t be reprinted.

Speaking of the boat book it’s now five years since it was published and we’d like people to go through it and let us know of any alterations to information on any of the boats that are listed here. We want to keep our boat data base up to date and would appreciate any information that can be provided.

Panoramic photograph of 85th Anniversary of Halfmoon Bay School with many of the names. There are a few names missing and if you want to come in and see if you can identify some we’d appreciate your help.

An old copy of the Stewart Island Chronicle Jan. 1920. An amazing slice of history.

Photographs of the Penrod 74 oil rig and service boats, “Grizzly Bear” and “Polar Bear.” Merv King was the pilot on the “Grizzly Bear.” Thanks to Neil Conner and Herbie Hansen for filling me in on some of Penrod’s history.

Photographs of Horseshoe Bay and Butterfield Beach after road damage. Photographs of the bulldozer that came over, T-REX by name (and you thought that was only a name of a dinosaur), to help create the air strip we have today.

Two books on shells and a lovely shell collection. It’s amazing the shells that turn up on our beaches. Many items that came from the home of Cedric Smith which than became the home of the Turnbulls who once farmed here. An old gramophone of Cedric Smith’s that was used for local community dances.

A lovely sketch of a special breed of Stewart Island sheep drawn by Robina Peterson in 1889. Robina later married Charles B. Rout along with a great photograph of the Rout family.

Many thanks to all our donors.

One of the many services we offer to all, is **research** on Stewart Island families and other Stewart Island interests. These are just some of the queries that have come in lately: Dorothy Jenkin and her famous paintings of orchids and fungi, boats built on Stewart Island, muttonbirding, the whaling boat, “Pacific.” Also the families of Malcolm Adamson the ‘ambergris king’, Coventry (he was a canner with the Leasks), Widdowson family, Norman, Ethel and Edith Double, Christian Hansen and the Eadie family from Port Pegasus to name a few. It’s always great to see people happy with the information we find for them and we continue to be interested in any other information people might have. Nothing is too small to be considered.

Then there’s the **interesting people** that come through our door. Just lately we’ve had: A couple from Australia who are retired chemists and had a great interest in apothecary jars, being very interested in ours with it’s coat of arms. It was great to welcome the relatives of Captain Sherburd and his wife Waimea.

We always have **projects** on the go and are in the midst of cataloguing hundreds of photographs so they’ll become more accessible as well as all the items stored in the museum. Don’t forget to come along to the photographic exhibition at the community hall Easter weekend.

Cruise Liners have kept us busy and we’re staying open till 3 pm on those days. The cruise liners this year are; Orion, Silver Shadow and Seabourn Odyssey, Caladonian Sky, Europa and Bremen. All have been impressed with the friendliness of the locals and thrilled with their trip to Stewart Island.

Watch out for the **changing photograph** up at the front desk as you come into to do council matters. This is our way of sharing many of our fabulous images that we have in storage.



Island Beat

Reported Crime:

Nil reported crime for January.

Traffic:

Over the last few months I have issued infringement notices to vehicle owners who have parked their vehicles for extended periods of time in the 30 minute time limit parking directly outside Ship to

Shore. Some vehicles have been left parked outside the shop for 5 to 6 hours.

Found Property:

Police are currently holding the following items of found property:

- A Rain Jacket found Maori Beach 17/01/13
- A pendant on a cord found Halfmoon Bay 18/01/13

- A pendant on a chain found Halfmoon Bay 24/01/13
- 1 x childs scooter and a childs life jacket Found Halfmoon Bay 28/11/13
- 1 sleeping bag in a stuff sack found Halfmoon Bay 07/02/13

If you have lost property recently give me a call.

Senior Constable Dale JENKINS



ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

Campbell Island revisited. by Sandy King

In November I revisited Campbell Island for the first time in nine years. The purpose of the trip was to check on the progress and status of some of the wildlife, and to check whether the island is still rodent free. Rats were eradicated in 2001 following aerial poisoning using brodifacoum, and of course it is important to check at regular intervals to see if any rodents (rats and / or mice) have reinvaded. At the same time we were able to see and measure some of the changes that have resulted since the rats have been gone.

A team of eight people and two dogs left Bluff on a relatively calm sunny day in mid-November on the 15m yacht *Tiama*.

Tiama and her owner / skipper Henk are veterans of the sub-antarctic and do several trips to the islands each summer. The trip down was pleasant enough in light conditions, so light that we had to motor a lot of the way. A little over two days after leaving Bluff we were gazing at the spectacle of

thousands of mollymawks nesting on the steep slopes at the northern tip of Campbell Island, and steaming into Perseverance Harbour a couple of hours later. Having had such a good trip everyone was fit and well so we were able to get straight into unloading and settling in.

Two of the team were particularly pleased to get ashore; Moss the terrier cross rodent detector dog and Percy the English setter waterfowl detector hadn't been to the toilet during the voyage and their relief at being able to lift their legs against the old wharf derrick was obvious. This was Percy's third trip to Campbell Island; on a previous trip he helped confirm the presence of Campbell Island snipe which were able to recolonise the main island from a nearby islet after rats were removed. On this trip his job was to help his handler

James with a survey of Campbell Island teal – a small flightless duck that was reintroduced after the rat eradication. Of course as their names suggest, both of these species are endemic to the Campbell Island group.

Moss, on the other hand, had never been further south than Stewart Island before. He had spent a few days on Ulva Island checking for rodents there before coming down, so had been slowly adjusting to southern climates which are a bit cooler than his home base in Whangarei. Moss and his handler Miriam checked out all the buildings and field huts on the island, and probably got the best look around. He took it all in his stride, even the sea lions, and did some really big days for the team member with the shortest legs.



Bulbinella in flower.



Field of megaherbs.



Early flowers.



Hebe in flower

Another of the tasks we had was to count yellow-eyed penguins at various sites. To assist with this the *Tiama* stayed with us and we used her as a floating observation point, anchoring in a

different place most nights. Two of us would be up and ready to count penguins entering the water at 5.30am each morning. We would count until 9.00am then go and map and mark the area we'd counted and sites where

penguins were seen so that the same sites can be counted again for future comparisons.

The last time I visited Campbell was in 2003, just two years after the rat eradication. I was really keen to see the changes that had occurred as a result of the eradication, and it didn't take long to spot them. As



Percy, not impressed.

we were carrying supplies up to the hut just after we arrived I saw a couple of pipits fossicking around in tussock near the buildings. Pipits are smallish fawn grey-streaked birds, a bit smaller than a thrush and are common in certain parts of NZ. The Campbell Island version (another endemic species) was rarely seen on the main island during the rat era, but like the snipe recolonised from nearby islets after the rats went. In 2003 we saw a few and each observation was noteworthy – I recorded each in my diary. Now it would be like reporting a duck at Mill Creek or a seagull in front of the pub - pointless. They were everywhere and seen every day. They were probably the most common bird seen on the island, if you discount the thousands of mollymawks.

The presence of snipe was another really obvious change for me. I had never seen one before, but after flushing them from beside the tracks most days, including one that seemed to be living about 50m from the hut, and seeing their footprints and probe marks in most mud patches along the tracks I decided they too were reasonably common. Campbell Island teal seemed to be doing reasonably well, and we saw them most days along the shoreline in the head of Perseverance Harbour, and in Northeast Harbour.

Bird life wasn't the only obvious change.



Moss relaxing in Mum's bunk.



One of the locals, a NZ sea lion.

found in mainland NZ, i.e. predators and habitat destruction, aren't present on Campbell so unless there is something going on in the ocean that we can't easily quantify, in theory the population should be just fine.

All too soon our 10 days at the island were up and it was time to head home. Conditions on the return voyage were a little different - "a bit draughty but strong sailing" were words used by *Tiama's* crew. The mainsail was replaced with a storm tri-sail and the genoa with a storm jib. These handkerchief-sized sails alone had us making 8 knots at times. We still had to motor-sail for a day or so because the wind was right on the nose - coming from the direction we wanted to go in and you can't sail straight into the wind. It took a little longer than the voyage out, some of the team a little worse for wear, but all happy to be back (especially Moss and Percy!) and buzzing about the trip.

The only not-so-positive observation was that numbers of yellow-eyed penguins seemed to be down in relation to comparable counts in the 1980's and 1990's. This could be just the low end of a natural fluctuation, and some counts in the early 1990's were even lower than this one but the population recovered from whatever caused it to decline for a while. Hopefully this is the case this time but it will take more than one season's count to know that for sure. The usual threats to penguins

There must have been many other, more subtle, changes to the island since the removal of rats, but the ones I've mentioned were the really obvious "in your face" ones that even a non-scientist could spot a mile away. I'd love to go



Royal albatross, Dent Island in background.

back again sometime, especially a bit later in the season when the magnificent megaherbs are in full bloom. We were about 6 weeks too early to witness this spectacle, but the leafy herb fields, and some early bloomers, hinted at what it would be like. The famed megaherb spectacle (I've seen photos) probably has as much to do with the removal of sheep in the early 1990's as with the removal of rats. However, I've never seen it before - perhaps because my previous visits have been in winter when everything has died off, and doing so is on my bucket list.

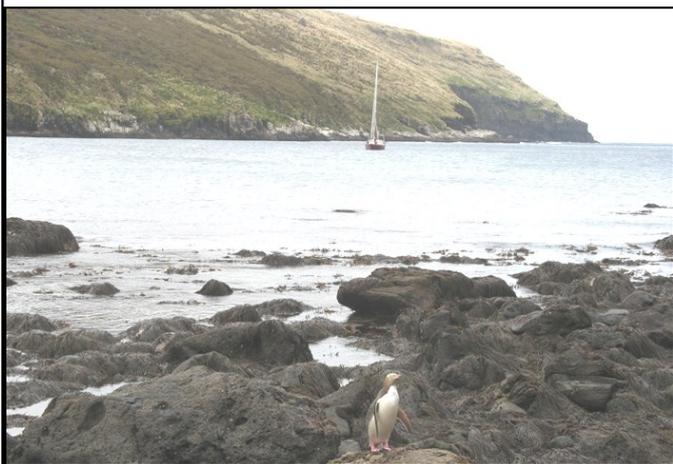
ALL PHOTOS FROM SANDY KING



Sea cave.



Sunset, Perseverance Harbor



Yellow-eyed penguin and *Tiama*



Sailor Moss leaving Bluff

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER

by Jo Riksem



This is to keep you up to speed with what's going on up on the hill at our church. We're not just "once a weekers" but part of what's happening in the community. With visiting ministers coming to do our services we get a wide variety of input with a good sprinkling of laughter followed by a nice cup of tea and goodies after the service. Many of our ministers return on a regular basis and look forward to their time on the island, many having a lot of fun at Vicki's Quiz Night.

This coming month March sees us welcome three cool ministers and they'll be with us for three Sundays each. First are **Lionel & Rachelle Brown** from Sunday 24 February through Sunday 10th March. Also on 10th March we'll be celebrating **Holy Communion**.

A "little" bit about Lionel and Rachelle:
Lionel was born at Waipiro Bay on the East Coast of the North Island and went to school at Ruatoria Brought up on a high country sheep station where his father was a shepherd and his mother the cook.
After being converted at a Billy Graham Crusade he felt the call to Ministry and studied at University in Wellington and then at the Theological Hall in Dunedin and was ordained as an assistant minister in St Andrews, Hastings February 1968. Had further parishes at Hokitika, Darfield and Balclutha.

Rachelle was born in Rotorua. Her father bought a store at Maketu but about a year later felt called to ordained ministry. On leaving school Rachelle went to Teacher's Training College in Palmerston North and taught for three years in Waitara. While there Rachelle felt the call to Deaconess College in Dunedin. They met in Dunedin and two years later were married.
While in Balclutha Rachelle felt the call again to serve officially in the Church and in December 1999 was Ordained. She shared ministry there with Lionel until he retired in 2003.

They then returned to Christchurch where Rachelle was the minister of the Haswell Union Parish until she retired in 2008. They continue to take services from time to time around Canterbury.

They have both been involved in Christian healing in the Order of St Luke since 1980.

Rachelle is very keen on stitching. They both enjoy the garden. They enjoy the outdoors and do a lot of walking. They have 4 sons and 9 grandchildren. All the grandchildren are in Canterbury. One son is in London and is getting married in June.

Next from Sunday 17 March through Sunday 31 March is Campbell Shaw. **Campbell Shaw** attends the East Taieri Presbyterian Church in Mosgiel and has conducted services for some years in parishes around the Taieri, Strath Taieri and Dunedin areas.

If you'd like a visit from any of these ministers while they're here you can contact them at the manse at 2191-339. They're going to enjoy getting to know the community.

Every Saturday between 11:30 and 12 noon there is a **prayer meeting** at the home of Coral Hotchkiss, 2 Nichol Rd. All are welcome or if you need prayer for any reason just phone Coral at 03 2191-230 or Raylene at 03 2191-092. Prayer is powerful and we've seen many prayers answered.

The church has been going through some **renovations** and with the church open each day you can drop in and see the progress. Next "high" on the list is to get our steeple painted. Our driveway will have new paving soon and we have some old sheds needing to be demolished. Anybody interested in demolishing the sheds for free firewood?

We'd like to take the opportunity to welcome all the "new little Stewart Islanders" and the other ones coming soon. Special thoughts to the family and friends of Garth Barnsdale. A fine community member, sadly missed.

Easter Services are:
29 March Good Friday
7:30 – 8:00 pm
31 March Easter Sunday
11:00 - 12 noon

BARNSDALE, Garth Miles

Roy, Melinda, Trudy, Peter, Jo and families would like to sincerely thank everyone for their overwhelming kindness, love and support following the recent loss of our father and grandpa.

Your visits, phone calls, flowers, and cards were very much appreciated.

A special thanks to Marty & Debs and friends who dropped in regularly at Butterfields Beach.

We will all catch up for Drinks and "Have One" for Garth at a later date.



SIRECT NEWS

Planning is well underway for our ten year celebration event on the 9th March and invitations have been sent. If you have helped us out or are interested in what we are about, we would love to see you there. We will have a few drinks, some yummy nibbles, very short speeches and some fun 'themed' activities (come and have a go at Splat the Rat!!). We will have a couple of raffles running prior to this event, with one being an online auction with the prize an Ultimate Stewart Island Adventure. Thank you to the sponsors that are supporting these fundraisers

The hectare map in the Environment Centre is starting to fill up with new sponsors and renewals. Some new business sponsorships this month are Pete Ross Automotive, The Fernery and Genera Ltd. We have also recently been successful in securing a major funder for the next three years, more details in the coming months.

Little Blue Penguin monitoring has been completed for the year and while the numbers were down on the previous year, overall the results over time are positive. Denise has been working hard on a Deer Control plan and the draft for community consultation is nearly ready, we are planning to release it at our ten year event.
—*Letitia McRitchie*

HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL REPORT

Firstly I'd like to say a **MASSIVE** thanks to Bruce Ford who spends many hours of his time voluntarily running the school pool - without Bruce there would be no swimming! On this note Bruce is always keen to train up a second in command who can fill in for him if he wants to have a few days off. If you are interested please see Bruce or me.

Secondly keys! The only way we can legally make the pool available outside school hours without employing a lifeguard is through the key system. How this works is that you pay \$60 for the season - October to April. You are then issued with a numbered key. This key allows you access to the pool between 8am and 9pm (outside school hours). When you get your key you are given a sheet of pool rules that by hiring a key you agree to abide by.

It is really frustrating to be asked for 'cheap' keys "...as we only want to swim for part of the season, "...We are just here on holiday, "My grandchildren are visiting", etc. During the swimming season the school power bill dramatically increases.

From the 2013/14 season we will not be having any more cut price keys so please save Jeanette and me the embarrassment of turning you down! If you have a key which you have not paid for this season please come clean and pay up your \$60. Also if you have a key from a previous year that you are no longer using please return it!

If you buy a key at the beginning of the season and only average one swim a week for the 30 or so weeks the pool is open you are only paying \$2 per swim - cheap as!

Another problem this summer has been visitors wandering in off the street, going for a swim and then leaving. If you are there when this happens please explain to them that it is not a public pool. If you wish to invite them to swim as your guests it is up to you but they will need to abide by the rules you have been given and most importantly **leave when you leave!** It has been very disturbing to hear of several times over the holidays when people have arrived to swim (or to play in the playground) only to find the pool door/s have been left wide open. Please use your common sense! If you are last to leave **SHUT THE DOOR or someone could drown!**

Seeing so many people using the pool is fantastic and the feedback has been great. It's awesome that so many children learning to swim which is what it is all about!

Kath Johnson
Principal
Halfmoon Bay School

DOC Air NZ Biodiversity Project Launch Invitation

You are cordially invited to

The Department of Conservation Air New Zealand Biodiversity Project kiwi release

At the SIRCET project area, Acker's Point

To launch a significant partnership with Air New Zealand to enhance biodiversity nationally around DOC's 9 Great Walks



Locally, the project aims to:

- Increase the kiwi population around the local community of Halfmoon Bay and the Rakiura Great Walk
- Enhance the experience of visitors to the island

Increase opportunities for the community to see this national icon in the local environment

To manage traffic issues, a shuttle bus will be provided

When - Friday 22nd February 2013 at 1.30 pm

Where - Meet at the DOC's Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Main Road

-Shuttle to the release site at Acker's Point

To ensure a seat & for catering, RSVP by Wednesday 20th February 2013 to Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre (03) 2190009, rakiuravc@doc.govt.nz



Watch out for kiwi!

What you can do to look after our national icon on Stewart Island/Rakiura

Dog control:

Continue good dog control and encourage others to do the same

- Your dog must be under your control at all times

Please observe rules about where you can exercise your dog off-lead
www.southlanddc.govt.nz

- Report any wandering dogs around the village to the Southland District Council on 0800 732 732

Any dogs seen on public conservation land should be reported to the DOC
0800 362 468

Driver awareness:

- Slow down, especially after dark

Kiwi may appear at any time and suddenly

Kiwi viewing at Ackers Point:

- Visit in small groups only
- Keep to formed tracks to avoid damage to nests or burrows of other wildlife

- Kiwi have the right of way and must not be followed or chased

No dogs, no feeding, no touching, no crowding, no spotlights or camera flashes



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



for people for environment





Two helicopters, two submarines, a swimming pool... what *doesn't* the *Octopus* have? This 414ft (126m) mega-yacht has been in our waters this month. *Octopus* is owned by Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft and one of the wealthiest men in America (reportedly worth over 20 billion dollars!) It is the world's 13th largest superyacht; the fifth largest superyacht not owned by a head of state; and the largest expedition yacht.
 PHOTO from JULES RETBERG

Stewart Island Locals, cribbies, & friends Ball

7.30pm - Good Friday 29th March
 Stewart Island Community Centre

That 80's Band will be playing.

NB: Door sales not permitted, all tickets must be pre-purchased. Tasty Supper R.O.A.R Bar available

Tickets on sale now from the South Sea Hotel, Mona Wiig, Jon Spraggon or Vicki Coats

\$25 each includes supper and entry to the ball.

As the ball is being held on Good Friday a special license is in place, which means there are strictly NO door sales, so Island time is not an option for this ball! :)
 More info at www.singlesball.co.nz or the Stewart Island events page on Facebook

Thanks to Mona, Jon and Bugs for organising this event!

The 'Kaipipi Shipyard' or Norwegian Whalers Base ('The Base') lies in Price's Inlet in Kaipipi Bay, Paterson Inlet, Rakiura/Stewart Island. It is an enigmatic and isolated coastal cultural heritage site of high historic significance to Rakiura and New Zealand. Between 1926 and 1932 the Ross Sea Whaling Company of Sandefjord, Norway established its repair base for whale catcher vessels in Price's Inlet. The Ross Sea Whaling Company named their shipyard the 'Kaipipi Shipyard' but it is also known as 'The Base', 'Price's' or 'The Whalers' Base' (Watt 2006:3).

Historian Jim Watt (2006:3) notes that the purpose of the facility was to repair whale catchers during the southern winter while the factory ships returned to Europe with the whale oil taken during the hunting season from November to February. The yard consisted of the slipway, workshop, cookhouse, carpenters shop, bunkhouse, winch house, a tin hut and the *Othello* Wharf which was a wharf made from the hulk of the ship *Othello* (the hulk was fixed, not floating). What remains of The Base in the marine environment is unknown and the land based remains require further mapping. Between 7 and 12 March 2013 four archaeologists will conduct a terrestrial and marine archaeological survey of The Base as part of a SCHIP Partners ("Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project") Cultural Heritage Project to better understand what remnants of this important site are present.

This data will then be used to prepare a proposal to the Board of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to declare the site an archaeological site under the Historic Places Act (1993) and so increase its legal protection. The survey and protection proposal has the full support of the property owners or managers on whose land/marine environment the remains lie.

The SCHIP Partners are: Environment Southland, NZHPT, Department of Conservation, Te Ao Marama Inc, , Southland District Council, New Zealand Archaeological Assn.

On Sunday March 10, there will be an opportunity for volunteers to travel up to the Whalers Base to assist with vegetation clearance and learn more about this project. Dr Schmidt will also provide a presentation about the work later that evening.

If you are interested in attend one, or both, of these events, please watch the public noticeboard for further details, which will be posted near to the time.



**Waitangi Day Hangi
 THANK YOU Lurch,**

- Marley,
 - George,
 - Leeym,
 - Magic,
 - Ozzy Pete,
 - Manu,
 - Andy,
 - Steve M.,
 - Nigel,
 - Norman,
 - Rex,
 - Fluff,
 - Manu,
 - Iona,
 - Groveler,
 - Sam, the Shop
- and everyone else who contributed, helped make the food, helped eat the food, set up, cleaned up, showed up, and made it a stellar night.



BOOK REVIEW from *Sue Ford*
 “A Song of Ice & Fire” by George R.R. Martin and other books

It’s no good – I can’t review where I’m up to with this thrilling series without giving away the plot! I am now on the most recently published book, “A Dance with Dragons”, which in turn follows on from “A Feast for Crows”. The latter was political intrigue, less gory and a touch more romantic, but “Dance” is proving to be the one that starts to draw together loose ends. The next book – unpublished so far as I can discover from the web site – is “The Winds of Winter”, and completes the series, finishing off some of the stories-within-stories. If I do have a complaint, it is the infinite detail surrounding individual actions, complete with a host of secondary characters – with family history and personal characteristics – who promptly disappear from the story. And yet you daren’t throw the book at the wall – one of those characters, so minutely described, may well turn up in a pivotal role a book or two hence But yes, some of it is quite irritating. And I’m still so angry that the reader falls madly in love with Robb Stark, apparently the hero of the series – and he just sort of – leaves! His leaving is detailed in stories told by other

characters, but it’s still not on to dispose of a major character in such an off-hand way! Come on now! Is it? (Maybe I’m getting a bit over-involved with the storyline?)

The other books under review just don’t compare in epic setting, although Sara Donati’s “The Endless Forest” – the last of a series – did give me a different take on “backwoods” America c. 1805. The series begins with “Into the Wilderness”. The full story encompasses slavery and manumission, the rise of recognisable medical principles, and various other far-reaching historical foundations. The characters – even when you come in at the end as I did – are highly credible, and the strength of detail in the story centres around the kitchen, housekeeping, flood disaster, treachery, birth, deaths and marriages. So even if you didn’t previously have any knowledge of America in the 1700 or 1800’s, you feel connected to the period by the end of the book. Not riveting perhaps, but highly readable, well-crafted.

For readers of thrillers, crime and mystery, Jonathan Kellerman and his Alex Delaware, criminal psychologist, books need no introduction. “Self-Defence” is no exception to the rule that Kellerman will deliver a well-written book. Lucy Lowell has been on the jury of a particularly hor-

rid murder trial, but since then has been the victim of recurrent nightmares. Alex soon realises that the nightmare is based on an actual memory, and so the suspense begins to build. Karin Slaughter’s “Indelible” isn’t so well-written but still delivers some suspense. Sara Linton, medical examiner, and enigmatic police chief Jeffrey Tolliver decide to have a pressure-free weekend away. Jeffrey decides to take a trip back into his awful childhood in hopes of showing Sara where he’s coming from. Then things start to happen, and Jeffrey finds out that nightmare-ish as his childhood and adolescence were, they were even worse than he knew! The past and the present become almost inextricably intertwined as 12 years later they are targeted because of that horrendous trip down Memory Lane. It does make you wonder if the past isn’t a country best left unexplored! Suspenseful and intriguing, but somewhat difficult to follow, jumping as it does from Jeffrey’s youth to his adult assault on his past accompanied by Sara, and yet another jump through a 12 year gap to the present and back again. There’s something awkward about it all. Maybe the undeniable talents of George R.R. Martin as a story-teller are spoiling me for books which I would otherwise have found exactly “my thing”! I’m still saying: give “A Song of Ice & Fire” a go.

Focus on Stewart Island
an exhibition of historic and iconic photographs of Stewart Island/Rakiura to be held in the Community Centre Easter Weekend

The Rakiura Museum Trustees will present an exhibition of photographs and film from the Museum collection. Copies of the earliest photographs on record and of scenes detailing the development of various industries – whaling, mutton-birding, oystering, saw-milling, fishing, accommodation houses, ferries – famous identities and iconic scenery will be displayed along with explanatory detail.

As with the previous exhibition of Stewart Island paintings, the Trustees welcome the loan of photos from members of the public. If you have a photo or film that could enhance the Museum collection and this exhibition, please ring the Museum: 03 2191 221 (mornings).

Saturday, March 30 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.
 Official Opening: \$10.00 (adult) \$5.00 (child)
Drinks and nibbles provided

Sunday, March 31 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
 Gold coin donation

Monday, April 1 10.00 a.m.- 12.00 p.m.



It’s double trouble at the Allen house... The stork is getting a crook neck with all the parcels recently delivered. As 1 type three new babies have already arrived in 2013, and about a half dozen more are expected, three before the next issue of *SIN*!



Wild horses amongst the flax, Ruapuke Island. *Photo from Helen Cave*

Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust



is celebrating it's
10 Year Anniversary!

We're celebrating our successes and looking forward to a bright future!



You're invited to join us from
4pm, Saturday 9th March



at our hosts' the Wilson's property
(end of Leask Bay Rd, Stewart Island, transport provided from Halfmoon Bay)

For an afternoon of:

Fun activities for kids of all ages!

2012 Award Ceremony

'Looking Back on 10 Years' display

Light refreshments and nibbles



Please RSVP by 1 March 2013 to info@sircet.org.nz or (03) 2191 535.

If you're unable to make it, please consider emailing us a message of support to be displayed on the night!



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

by Jenny Gell



Weather permitting Garden Circle will be having a look at Lucy's Garden, Pansy Cottage and a picnic lunch at Beachcombers Cottage, Bluff on Thursday 14th March. Anyone wishing to join us let Jenny know before Thursday 7th March for catering. If cancelled we will meet at Diana Bryant's. April meeting will be at "Anchorstone" on Thursday 11th April.

Our heartfelt thanks...

We would like to thank our community here on Stewart Island for the amazing support and help recently with the early arrival of Josh.

Both of us have been totally blown away by the well wishes, the people rallying around to look after the children, meals and other help! It certainly reinforces how amazing this community is! We don't think we'll ever be able to thank you all enough! It was a huge comfort for mum to know her little ones were being well looked after, and indeed having the time of their lives. I don't think they've ever had so many ice-creams! It was also a huge relief to dad to not only have some support but know that juggling between hospital and home was made easier by such wonderful caring people.

So, to everyone that helped, offered help and well wishes, thank you!! We are all doing really well and SO glad to all be home again.

They say it takes a Village to raise a child... this couldn't be more true, thanks again to such a fantastic community!



Mary & Dale



Internet dos and don'ts!

After Telecom's recent breach of security and finding out that I, along with Helen, Amy and a few others had been hacked and had sent out spam e-mails, I realised a lot of people are quite naive when it comes to spam. (Especially since I "sent" mine at 7.15pm pm on a Sunday night!).

Here's a couple of tips to protect yourself.

Always have anti-virus programs running, they don't always work as well as they should, but a good place to start. Make sure you choose strong passwords and change them often. What I do is look around me and spot an object, add some numbers, then use that as my password. It's random enough that people can't guess it like your maiden name, pets name etc, but you should be able to remember it. ie I might choose sellotape3636 at the moment. if

you want to be really random, use a bunch of letters, numbers and symbols. You'll probably have to write it down to remember it though, but the chances of someone breaking into your house and finding it are pretty remote here I suppose!

Don't click on suspicious links. How do you know if it's suspicious? The email address it's from is a good giveaway, if it's a free email address like yahoo, gmail or hotmail, it's usually bad news.

The problem comes when people get hacked and the email comes from one of your friend's addresses. If you just get a link and no personal message you can probably take it it's a scam.

The same if you get messages purporting to be from yahoo, your bank etc etc. The trick is to NEVER click on a link in an email; type in their web address in your browser and go from

there. You can actually see where these scam emails are trying to direct you though! If you hover your mouse over the link, in the bottom left of your screen you will see the web address you will go to. if you don't recognise it, don't click it.

If you get a phone call from someone, don't even go near your computer and do anything they say, that's just asking for trouble.

And above all, if the email sounds too good to be true, it surely is.

If you want any more help, there are plenty of people in the bay who are email savvy; I'm happy for people to drop around if you need any more advice, or just to see these things for yourself on the screen, just give me a call.

Vicki



Horseshoe Bay Hangi: Moby, Summer, Ngakau.

DOC Spot Submitted by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager
Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor

Trial volunteer programme going well



Louise in her work gear.

DOC biodiversity ranger Al Check is heading a new volunteer programme on the island, designed to give participants experience in a range of activities. While here, the volunteers are integrated into appropriate programmes of work alongside DOC staff doing track clearing, pest control and weed work, and assisting with community group projects. Two of this year's volunteers have come from studying Environmental Management degree courses at Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Louise Li, from China, says the highlight of her stay was undoubtedly the people she's worked with. "They've all been so friendly to me," she said, "and I think SIRCET is great, growing native plants to sell to people for their gardens." Louise hopes the experience will help her get work in conservation.

She is returning to Christchurch and will graduate in April.

Billy Arau, from Papua New Guinea says he had no idea Stewart Island / Rakiura would be like this. "I thought it was down by Antarctica and would have snow and no bush and be really cold." Having grown up in a traditional village in the forests of PNG, he found himself completely at home here, including taking part in the annual Waitangi Day rugby game. He says he's made lots of friends and feels that being part of the work done on the island has been an amazing opportunity. "I feel as though I've seen the essence of conservation and been inspired."



Bill teaches Jamie the handshake.

The objectives of the trial are to:

- establish an on-going volunteer programme based on this trial
- add value to core conservation work, allowing DOC to do more
- offer a wide range of experiences
- help extend conservation work beyond the physical boundaries of DOC's conservation land into the community
- enhance DOC's relationships with community-driven projects

Thank you Louise, Billy and the many other volunteers who have willingly given their time and enthusiasm to assist with various biodiversity and visitor asset programmes on the island over recent months.

Great Walker winners set to arrive

As mentioned in previous reports, Air New Zealand has joined forces with the Department of Conservation to protect and enhance some of New Zealand's most inspiring natural environments. A global search went underway late last year to find four adventurers to take on the challenge of completing all of New Zealand's nine famous Great Walks in just nine weeks. The adventure started last week on the Kepler Track and this week the four walkers and their entourage of media and celebrities arrive to walk the Rakiura Track and sample some of the island's other attractions. The four winners are sharing their experiences with the world via an online blog and with some excellent story tellers and an adventure-packed itinerary it is a great opportunity to showcase some of our tourism gems, including Rakiura, to a worldwide audience. You can follow their adventures on www.greatwalkernz.com. Visitors to the website can also enter the draw to win their own Great Walks experience.

Kiwi release

Another component of Air New Zealand's partnership with DOC is the commitment the airline has made to enhance biodiversity around selected Great Walks. We are lucky to be hosting the official launch of this partnership here on Rakiura later this week, with a kiwi release at Ackers Point on Friday 22 February. Details of this event appear in a full page advertisement in this edition of SIN. To avoid congestion on the roads we would ask anyone wishing to attend this event to please register by Wednesday 20 February, so we can co-ordinate transport.



Waitangi Day Hangi: Roddy, Sam, Manu. George & Jason.



Ian checks a pile.



Henrietta Bay. Lagoon to the right.

Anna perches on one of her house piles. Her home will have views of two places close to her heart: Green Island and Stewart Island. Anna has deep ties to Ruapuke Island: she is a direct descendent of Chief Tuhawaiki.

On a recent cloudless, oily calm, stinking hot summer day, 16 islanders boarded *McLachlan* and voyaged to Ruapuke Island. Although the Island is right in our Foveaux neighbourhood, and visible on our horizon most days, many islanders have never stepped foot there! We spent hours touring the place, guided by landowner Anna Brown.

We saw sheep, ducks, swans, and weka, and heard tale of fallow deer, salmon, and a wild pig. A creature notably missing (but we didn't miss it) was the sandfly. One of the highlights of the trip was an encounter with wild horses.

We visited the cemetery which has graves from the 1800s, some toppled by stock (it is now fenced and protected). It is a beautiful place.

We were shown great hospitality by some of Ruapuke's part-time residents including Colin Topi, Ricki Topi and family, and former Rakiura residents Sue and Dave Whaitiri. Ricki gave us a tour of his orchard and we snacked on plums and raspberries. We were enchanted by his garden which featured little pathways, an outdoor bar, lots of comfy seats, apple trees, blueberry bushes, and a tractor spectacularly crushed by macrocarpa trees toppled during a January storm.

We rested at the cannon on the hill and realized we'd been remiss leaving most of our food and beverages on the boat. (Moby poached Anna's entire bottle of Powerade with alarming results; Charlie got his paw into Jeanette's lolly bag and nobody saw how many he'd eaten until he turned to me, dropped his mouth open, and like a demonic Pez machine regurgitated 11 lollies onto the grass at my feet.) Steve and Jack volunteered to take the dinghy back to the boat and retrieve refreshments...we wouldn't lay eyes on them or their beer booty for two hours. They were a bit vague about where they'd left the dinghy when we all reunited and Jack mentioned something about "no need to tie it up"... fortunately the Topis rescued the dinghy an hour later which they'd spotted floating out to sea!

Anna showed us her house site and then we skirted the lagoon to the "Sugar Shack", Dave and Sue's unique and cosy abode. Everyone sat in the hot sun, slaked their thirst, yarned with old friends, got sunburnt, and had a lovely time (except one 3-year old who had a Powerade-fuelled meltdown). Festivities continued aboard *McLachlan* and at Horseshoe Bay Wharf until after dark. It was a memorable day and we are most grateful to Anna for showing us around such a magic island. —Jess



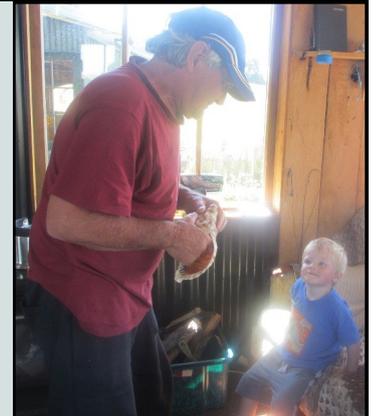
View from the "Sugar Shack."



Dramatic rock formations such as these greet visitors coming into Henrietta Bay.



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Dave Whaititi entertains a young visitor.



Left: The entrance to Ricki Topi's orchard & gardens.

Right: from the inside looking out.



SHOP TALK

by Jules Retberg

Sowing the seeds of change

Pluot. A “plu” what? When I saw “pluot” on a list of fruit and veg I thought it was a spelling mistake but Sam told us that it’s a plum and apricot hybrid. Predominantly plum with an apricoty fuzz on the skin, they are also known as apriums and plumcots and were developed more than 20 years ago.

Like many people, when I hear “hybrid” I think genetically modified. Not so. A pluot is not self-fertile and simply requires a pollinator plant so there’s no mad scientist wielding test tubes and petrie dishes anywhere in sight!

However, it got me thinking about the number of hybridised things in our lives such as cars, biscuits, fruit and even fish!

First cars; there are now diesel-electric and petrol-electric configurations on the market.

Biscuits have gone all crazy with Griffins Collisions; Toffee Pops with Mallowpuffs, Mint Treats with Mallowpuffs, Chocolate Chippies with Hokey Pokey Squiggles, and Krispies with Toffee Pops. Nothing beats a good chocolate digestive biscuits, but maybe that’s a hybrid too ...

There’s an endless (and sometimes unbelievable) list of fruit and vegetable hybrids:

grapefruit (18th century hybrid of Jamaican sweet orange + Indonesian Pomelo)

tangelo (tangerine + pomelo or grapefruit)

grapple (grape + apple) looks like an apple and tastes like a grape, great with cheese!

lemato (lemon + tomato) WHY?!

rangpur or lemandarin (mandarin orange + lemon)

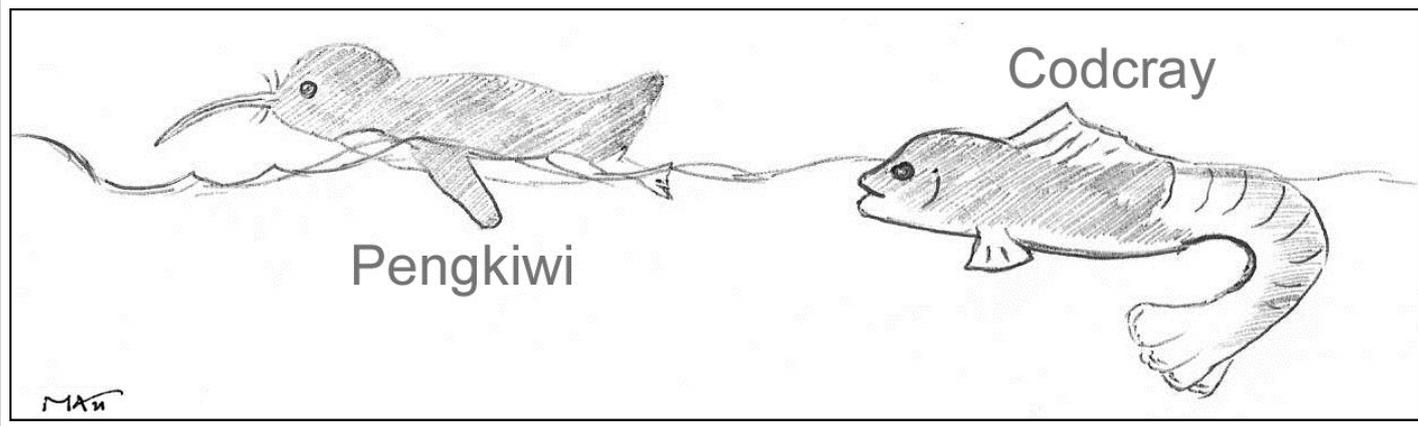
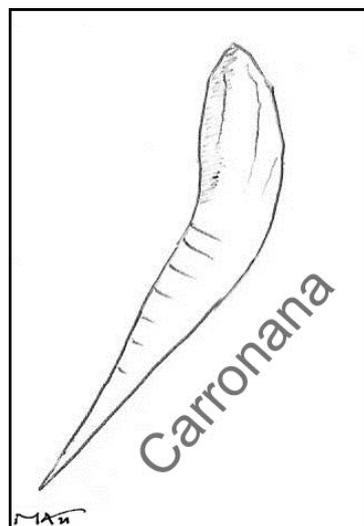
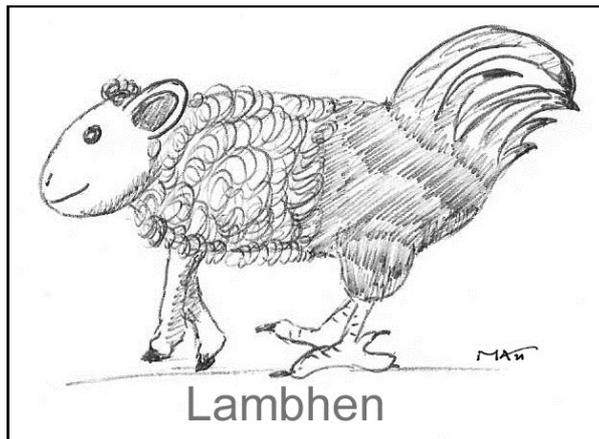
loganberry (blackberry + raspberry) developed when a grower accidentally crossed the two

boysenberry (blackberry, loganberry + raspberry)

potato (potato + tomato) the top of the plant has tomatoes and potatoes are underground!

But it doesn’t end there. A fast growing fish has been developed called the “Aquadvantage” Salmon which is produced by combining genes from a Chinook and Ocean Pout with an Atlantic Salmon. They are calling it “fusion cuisine” but I have visions of the mad scientist having a hand in that one!

And hold on to your hats, even rugby is not immune. A recent article in the New Zealand Herald reports a new hybrid game incorporating both codes including sevens. Good luck thinking of a name for that one! Seven leagues of union?!



congratulations

Parents Liz and Heath
Welcome twins Samuel Bruce
and Thomas Grant Allen!

Are you interested in attending a meeting to discuss building a **NEW COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL??**

This will be session for sharing ideas and hatching plans...

Stewart Island Community Centre, Thursday 28th February, 7.30pm

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40 years' experience in local government
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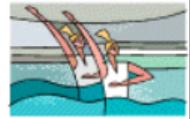
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