

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January - February 2008

\$2

This time of year always seems to be jam-packed and 2008 has been no exception. The Christmas period was packed with parties and celebrations, including our own Stewart Island community Christmas party (*photos on pg 7*); our days were packed with sunshine, and consequently so were our shores with beach-lovers (make sure you pack the sunscreen); it sounds as though the final school term was packed with adventure, with the senior kids tramping off to Mason Bay (*see article on pg 6*); and the Paintball tournament really packed a punch last month with organisers so pleased that it's going to be held again (*see pg 7 for details*).

With so much going on, occasional accidents and incidents will happen. Two such ones will remain untold in this News; however, thankfully on both occasions no one was injured and help was close at hand. Take care of yourselves and your friends this summer!

There has also been some sad news this month, with Islanders joining the world in remembering Sir Edmund Hillary and Hone Tuwhare's influences on our lives. There is a tribute to these men on page 3. Sadly also, the yellow-eyed penguin breeding season along the Anglem coast has again not fared well, with details on pg 8. Thankfully it seems there are some 'big fluffies' doing well on the Bravo Islands and we watch with baited breath to hear more about the final weeks in these breeding colonies.

Welcome to 2008 everyone, here's to a fantastic year ahead!



Photo by Chris Andrews

"Kerri" the Stewart Island Great White Shark became a celebrity this month. Read about her adventures in the 'Globetrotter' on pg 4



No 'Ugly Ducklings' in this Horseshoe gang. The antics of this group has been a source of amusement for beach-goers this summer. Photo by Liz Cave

Stewart Island News would like to apologise to all our contributors, advertisers and readers for last month's photographs.

There was a malfunction with the printing which has now been sorted out.

Cheers, the SIN team.



The Stewart Island Flights crew were inundated with planes last week when 39 light aircraft descended on New Zealand's southern-most airstrip. Barry and his trusty hand-held radio became 'Chief Air Traffic Control', skilfully guiding the pilots in, whilst on the ground 'parking' took some arranging!

Asked if he was worried about where they'd

all fit, Barry commented "Nah, it was a little more interesting parking 30 aircraft before the runway extension went in but this should be a piece of cake".

The pilots all stayed on the Island for the day and headed off again before nightfall.

All in [addition to] a day's work! Photo pg 12

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And much more!!

Boat of the Month: **ENCORE**



Photo: Olga Sansom.

One of the fleet which came south from Picton with the McManaway family during the 1965-66 period. She was probably built in Picton, but this is not definitely known at this stage.

Her owner / skipper was Oliver ("Cobbler") McManaway, who crayfished the Broad Bay area in company with his brothers Rex (who had the **MAUREEN** later named **VY**) and Dennis (who had the **MONARCH**).

ENCORE was later sold to Peter Carstensen, who fished her from Lords River before selling her to Claude Taylor, who took her back to the Broad Bay area for a time.

Ewan Bethune bought her in 1970 and set her up on stocks at Golden Bay to alter and rebuild her, but after getting so far on the project work stopped for a long period. However, the work has since carried on, as the photo below (taken recently) shows.



ENCORE at Golden Bay, 2002

Photo: Elaine Hamilton.

Hudson & Chris Andrews would like to thank the Stewart Island community for making Rakiura such a great place for them while they lived here. Special thanks go to so many people who have looked out for them and gone out of their way to give them both cool and amazing experiences over the past few years.

Chris and Hudson are living now in Bluff and travel back for visits from time to time. They both hope life will lead them back to the Island someday, but in the meantime they are enjoying the view from Bluff hill.

Love, Chris & Hudson

New Zealand mourns the loss of two of our great inspirations this month. Sir Edmund Hillary and Hone Tuwhare both gave of themselves to the world, inspiring millions, yet both men were surprised to think of themselves as anything out of the ordinary.

Sir Edmund Hillary reached the giddy heights of Mt Everest in 1953, the first person to reach this tallest of the world's peaks, drawing with him the dreams of children and would-be explorers from around the globe. He went on to explore other untravellered roads, yet his greatest

On life's eternal river we float on ... and on, forever -- like a stream of light enhancing our understanding of human love, and life! Kia ora! --Hone Tuwhare

Photo: Elaine Hamilton



Sir Edmund Hillary & Helen Clark with the new Lee Bay sculpture

Hone Tuwhare also drew the dreams of New Zealanders into his world, inspiring through his writings of people, love, of the environment and great events. Hone adhered that poetry was living and must be spoken out loud, and many islanders have told of the privilege it is to hear his emotive retelling. Sadly his health didn't allow him to make it to Rakiura for recitations in the last ten years; however islanders fondly tell of his humour, the mischievous glint in his eye and the power of meeting such a great and humble man.

Sir Edmund Hillary and Hone Tuwhare were living legends. In the public eye it is easy to be caught out as 'human' or fallible, yet in their lifetimes the mana of each of these men only ever grew stronger.



Sir Edmund Hillary at the opening of Rakiura National Park

Sir Edmund Hillary came to the Island in March 2003, as we poised to open Rakiura National Park. He made an impression on many people present; for most this was the pinnacle of a lifetime's admiration.

On hearing he would be present at the ceremony, people flocked to the island to see him. DOC staff were posted a \$5 note from one fan who couldn't make the ceremony, with a request that Sir Ed sign his picture! He did, of course, over a cup of tea and later staff realised they had carried

out the woman's wishes without thinking of getting a signature for themselves.

Bid Hopkins said the highlight of the day for her was being pushed through the door into the last remaining seat on the bus with Sir Ed, returning from Lee bay. The conversation was necessarily functional but the event a complete thrill.

Elaine Hamilton and Margaret Hopkins recounted what it was like to listen to him speak. He gave his time to many engagements, even in poor health and

produced stories in a voice at once familiar and fascinating.

Margaret Rooney was surprised at her daughter's wedding when her son-in-law's friends announced a telegram from Sir Ed. A keen climber and trumper, his friends had sent the request without high expectations of a reply but were happily surprised when they received well wishes from the great man himself!

Sir Edmund's personality and unselfish spirit drew people to him and have drawn him up to the status of a world legend.



ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

Globetrotter this month takes in an 'international oceanic cruise' of a different kind...

A Stewart Island female Great White Shark, nicknamed 'Kerri', recently made a record journey (well, perhaps just the first 'recorded' journey) to the Great Barrier Reef on the North East Australian coast.

Great whites were being tagged off Bench and other local islands with transmitters designed to 'pop off' after a pre-determined time. The transmitter floats to the surface, sending all the data it recorded about depths, locations and temperatures to a satellite for retrieval and the long process of interpretation.

Until now it was unknown that a great white would swim to Australia, a distance of at least 3000km, though there had been records of Great Whites swimming in our direction. There is still a lot of data to



Sharks make light work of the burley

interpret, including what route Kerri took, the depths of her dives and more. The research is proving valuable, as previously it was thought that in-shore shark populations were quite separate. Now that shark traffic is known to travel in both directions across the Tasman, it is speculated there may be just one population covering the south-Pacific.

Kerri's transmitter still has more secrets to tell, downloading and interpreting of all the data captured during the months between Bench Island and the sun-burnt country will take some time yet; however just discovering where her transmitter popped up was news to the team.

Locals who were with the researchers attaching the tags said the views were awesome. 'Sharks would come up to the salmon lures and have the transmitters popped just under the skin. It was very precise.' Bench island seemed to be a real hot-spot for the sharks.

Great Whites are protected in Australian and



Researchers line up to make the delicate approach

New Zealand waters; however there is no current protection in the international waters between.

Unfortunately 'Kerri' was not available for comment...



Seagulls take off as the shark surfaces

'Clinton Duffy's work continues' ...see pg 11 for details about further work to be done around Stewart Island waters, and cool shark websites.

Thank You

Joy, Andrew, Robert, Martin, Lisa, Paul, Leeann and families would like to thank everybody for their love and support at the loss of a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Myra Leask.

We wish to thank all those who came to her service, some from a long way away. For those who helped in every way; for transport, music, readings, flowers, photos, ringing of the church bell and for supplying and organising the food and cuppa. A special thanks to Beverly Osborn and Wilson Fraser for organising her service. Thanks also for all the many cards, letters and phone calls and for just being there for us all the time.

Joy and Andrew Knowles and Family

Mason Bay Trip

A quote from DOC manager Sharon Pascoe really summed up this trip, "You're the best group of kids I've ever taken anywhere." The kids were perfectly behaved and gave it their all. They trekked through 70km of mud, sun, sand, wind and rain over four action-packed days.

The students won the hearts of all the trampers they met, carrying their packs from Freshwater hut through to Mason Bay. They even put on an impromptu performance of our new favourite Toia Mai.

There were heaps of highlights from this trip, with mine being the walk to the gutter. With the only negative being a mechanical fault with the plane meant Jess and Hudson couldn't join us. A HUGE thank you must go to Sharon Pascoe, Matt Hare and Lachie (Kiwican) Morton for accompanying the kids and sharing their knowledge and skills, and to Stewart Island Flights for flying in our food.



Learning about sand-dune species and protection



Peggy Wilson and friends enjoyed a fine afternoon celebration last month, following a week of dinners, parties and Christmas celebrations. Peggy is now living in Rose Lodge, Tweed st in Invercargill. She has retired to put her feet up and be pampered!

Family, friends and neighbours gathered at The Pavilion on Saturday, January 12th, to celebrate Lindsay Lord's 80th birthday. Among the amusing anecdotes shared with guests was this amusing poem penned by Lindsay's son-in-law, Andy:

*If Lindsay Alfred Cecil Lord
had had his way, it'd be ignored;
No family, friends, no cake or tea.
"I want no fuss made over me!"*

*he cried, when we informed him through
the phone, he was expected too!
But when a chap reaches such age,
it's only right we mark the page,
and celebrate the passing year.
My word! It's great that he is here!*

*Theodolite and book in hand
he's fascinated by the land.
Spent a lifetime mapping it,
shoelaces trailing in the grit.
Trig stations balanced on his shoulder
scampering over rock and boulder
leaving all us younger chaps
gasping for breath back down the track.
And when a problem faces him
he stubbornly will not give in
not even things like, (if you please)
Moving 4 Macrocarpa trees!*

*Still drives us, in some old contraption
up the hill, towards distraction,
freewheeling down the other side
(like skiing down a mountainside),
wing mirrors trimming all the trees
(the District Council would be pleased).
Arrives at last upon the wharf
amidst the people getting off
executes a ten point turn
(a technique that I'd love to learn).
He barely moves the steering wheel,
and in reverse, relies on feel
to tell him he is up against*

*that lovely wooden railing fence,
placed there to stop folks falling in
while waiting for their cargo bin.
But never mind! And have no fear,
nobody's bothered by that here.
There's more important things to say
on this auspish, auspicious day.*

*The wisdom of this gentle man
always with time to hear your plan,
when asked advice about your plight -
"Absolutely! You could be right!"
He utters with no hint of guile,
and with his lovely twinkling smile,
he will not tell you what to do,
just pose more questions for thinking
through
and if you want the answer straight,
I tell you - be prepared to wait!*

*Often stopping for a chat
on world affairs of this and that,
asking strangers where they're from
and often saying, "Why don't you come
on up to have a cup of tea?
There's only my wife Joy, and me."
His knowledge of things far and wide,
the facts which in his head reside
extensively through life's hard toil
have grown, like mushrooms in the soil.
And what he hasn't learned from life
he's learned from books. Great Scott, Gad-
zooks!*



*He reads them at the Rotary sale
and only buys them when he's failed
to finish them before they shut
(They're sent to Avenal Street by truck)*

*Occasionally he gets in strife
for not co-operating with his wife,
who has for many a good long year
lavished on him, patient care.
Cooking tea, and washing socks
cutting tracks, finding dry socks
lifting dirty heavy beams,
keeping coal stoves full of steam.
Helping lug the survey gear
up and down, and here and there.
Finding things he's put away
(I'm sure I saw it yesterday!)
Not to mention, paying bills
and making sure he takes his pills.
I hope you realise, Lindsay Lord
without your good mate, you'd be flooded!*

*We've tried to tell Lin - he's not young!
I found him, last week, in a drum
800 gallons, full of sludge,
a bit like chocolate mudcake fudge
and he was right up top the ladder.
(My God, I thought, he's getting madder!)
Joy was watching with a frown
and muttering "Stupid bloody clown".
He was cleaning out this stinking stuff
until he thought he'd had enough.*

...Continued pg 8



Starfish have been getting out and learning first hand about the laws of gravity, friction and navigation!

Stewart Island Community Xmas Party 2007

by Vicki Coats

What better way to start than a blazing hot summer day? Lorraine and Raylene snuck in and made the most beautiful flower arrangements to grace the stage and front hall.

Then people started arriving, bringing enough food (and booze) to feed a small island (*wink*).



The heavily laden Christmas table

People caught up with folks they hadn't seen for a while, others met cribbies and even the occasional loopie stopped in for a chat and a beer.

The next highlight was the high-kickin' Santa who, despite being a bit hot and sweaty, sent Seasons Greetings to everyone and ended up having to kill Nigel's unbreakable piñata with a cricket bat. Finally the



kids got their lollies! He couldn't stay for too long though, his reindeer had already turned into a small red ute!

The most amazing dinner was served, preceded by Grace from our visiting minister, Malcolm. After we had all eaten our fill, Gwen, Ulva and the Stewart Island choir got everybody involved in singing some beautiful hymns. We never knew what fabulous voices some people had: watch out, there might be a recruitment drive!

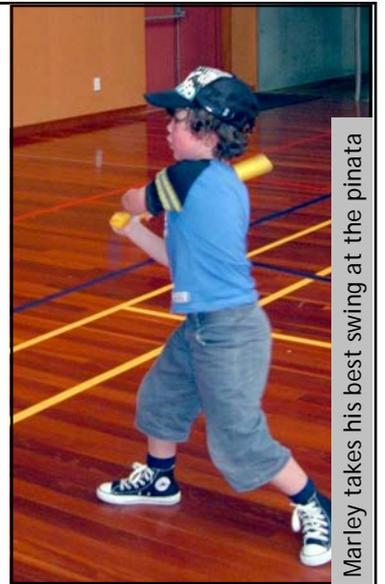
The evening slowly drew to a close, everyone replete and full of good cheer.

A big thank-you goes to all the quiz-goers for allowing me to

appropriate the quiz money for hiring the hall and buying

food, and to all the people who kindly donated food and time and all the people who helped clean

up, especially Tracey Baker, who wore not only a pair of singing antlers, but the washing up and waitress hats too.



Marley takes his best swing at the piñata



The piñata proved a bit 'thick skinned', eventually being burst by Santa to give access to the Christmas lollies

Paintball

was an awesome success this month, with the Gun Club's bush section transformed to a battlefield - in colour.

Young and the not-so-young showed up to splat each other with thinly

sealed balls of paint, shot out of specially designed guns.

The day was so much fun, organisers have decided to run it again. This time Traill Park will be converted with mussel-buoy shelters and other make-shift barricades (with 'shift' being the order of the next morning, ready for the Waitangi Day Rugby match!).

Strike February 5th on your calendars if this sounds like you. Registration isn't necessary but it'd be helpful to know how many guns to order, so if you think you're coming, get in touch with Kim McNally.

It's a good idea to grab an old pair of overalls (and shove several phone books down your pants & shirt!)



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news

Déjà vu - the feeling I had when I picked up the last dead penguin chick at Yankee River; 363 days earlier I had done the same at Long Harry. A couple of phone calls, and Clint and Phred arrived in "Jester" later that afternoon to collect me and all my field gear. Ten chicks had hatched in the area I was monitoring, all 10 were now dead. Most of these chicks appeared to have starved; they were small and skinny with short sparse down, and appeared weak and lethargic in the days prior to their death. Two chicks showed symptoms of diphtheritic stomatitis, the diphtheria-like disease which we believe has killed some chicks in past seasons. These two chicks also seemed to be starving. In general, (but prior to any official autopsy results from the vets at Massey) the signs and symptoms seemed to be a repeat of last season.

Although this meant the premature end to another season of field work for me, further down the coast things were a little better. At that time, around mid-December, 8 fat fluffy chicks were apparently thriving north of Bungaree. Therefore it was a bemused Joanna who called one evening to tell me that one of these chicks had died suddenly, for no apparent reason. Less than a week later its sibling was also found dead. Both chicks were autopsied and we await word from the vets at Massey who we hope will be able to tell us why these chicks died. One thing we do know is that they were not starving. Joanna's comment after autopsying one chick was that it was the first time she had autopsied a chick with a fatty lining under its skin, and with a full stomach.

While the result so far seems much better than what we had this time last year (i.e. one chick surviving until the end of February), 25 chicks hatched along the Anglem coast and only 6 of these remain. That isn't a brilliantly successful breeding season by any means. Last year we learnt not to count our chicks before they swim, and there is still another 7-8 weeks to go before we can expect this year's cohort to take to the water in late February or early March.

News from the small islands we are monitoring is significantly better. Thirty one chicks hatched on

the Bravo islands and 28 of these survive so far. They are all plump, pear-shaped, mounds of fluff with disproportionately large flat feet, which are the first part of them to attain full size. At this stage in their growth the chicks look quite comical, especially when they move. With their large feet they remind me of a diver trying to walk around wearing fins, and "feeding chases" (when the chicks chase after a parent while begging for food) conjure up scenes from the Keystone Cops. When not harassing their parents, who are now mostly absent during the day in search of food for their growing off-spring, the chicks are sleeping, pestering their sibling, or preening. Their real feathers are starting to grow beneath their thick down and preening must be an important part of ensuring these feathers come through in top condition. Some chicks already have a few stumpy tail feathers and feathered flippers showing.



Above: Some chicks from the islands

The team on Codfish has reported similar results, with at least 44 chicks in our 36 monitored nests there. Most of these chicks have a sibling, which shows that the food supply is sufficient for both chicks in a nest to survive. The results from the islands highlight the questions about what are the factors affecting the birds along the north east coast of Stewart Island, and how far beyond our monitored area the problem extends.

Sandy
Sandy King
Projects Officer Southern Islands
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust
 Email: sdk@callsouth.net.nz
www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

From pg 5....

Before "Strategic Plan" was coined
Lin had foreseen that land was joined -
to future wealth, and therefore he
acquired land discerningly.
Thus giving his extended clan
experiences you couldn't plan.
Millers is awesome, as you all know
(though most of us choose not to row.)

The tendency to buy old stuff
which other people deem too rough
to be of use for anything -
Joy may protest, scream, shout, sing -
it makes no difference what you say
acquired it is for another day.
Holiday houses with it grew
in pioneering style, nothing new.
Massive beams from God knows where,
Turfer blocked up in the air
generators (more than one)
kero fridges (they weigh a ton)
Bison board and concrete piles
Pinex, carpet, ceiling tiles.
And if Joy's thrown the odd wee titch
at least its made Bill Todd grow rich.

And when something has broken down
instead of going off to town
take it to bits on the kitchen table
as far as you are possibly able.

Paint all the parts the colour green,
then put it back together again.
If by some chance it still won't run
then buy an even older one
for parts - then start it all again!
Dead green mowers? - I've counted 10

But as you mostly all have known
the bargains "stock in hand" have grown
in excess of obvious need
(and paying not a jot of heed)
to the point where sheds are full,
Nay, houses nay, whole sections, 'till
the city council, in they pop
"Look here", they say, "this has to stop".
Recycling firms, scrap-metal yards
have all complained, they're doing it hard.

Some things he did produce, of course
without the second-handed force,
a lovely daughter, Jenni here
whose fine good looks still bring a tear ...
And, what's that I'm hearing? Oh! You
too?
Of course - there's also daughter Sue.
And ... Beg pardon? What's that you say?
Oh yes - Fiona - just dropped in from USA
And as I's saying .. what? One more?
My God, you won't believe the score
there's also Murray - he's running late,
won't be here 'til half-past eight
on March the 31st, I think.

But shut your eyes, just take one blink:
Grandkids! 16 - my giddy aunt!
The produce dripping off the plant!
But wait a tic! Just one blink more
Great-grandkids! Already he's got four
My goodness, soon at Millers' Beach
there'll be a town, you'll have to reach
by carefully weaving through the fleet
of boats all moored, all sitting sweet
all owned and crewed by offspring of
descendants of THE Lindsay Lord,
whose reaching 80 we applaud
and recognise now all the fun
(and dodgy things that he has done)

But anyway, enough of such,
this speech is going on much too much
and if I don't sit down quite soon
I'll prob'ly quietly be marooned
on one small island with no books
or food, or even fishing hooks ...

So Lindsay Alfred Cecil Lord
of memories, we haven't stored
nearly enough to fill a book.
Go on! Be strong! There's much to do
and much to see and much to say
to fill up many more a day.
It isn't time yet for a rest -
Congratulations! All the best!



Has this issue piqued your interest in sharks? Your Library has a heap of shark books—check 597.3 on the shelf for some beautiful reference books about sharks, and *The Devil's Teeth* is an excellent account of white pointer behaviour.

Thanks to Loraine Hansen we now have *Word Without End*, the much-anticipated sequel to Ken Follett's *Pillars of the Earth*; and we have the new Bernard Cornwell.

For fantasy fans we have the *Tir Alainn* trilogy by Ann Bishop, and old-school sci-fi fans might want to check out the classic post-apocalyptic *A Canticle for Liebowitz* by Walter Miller.

Hunters: we've recently added four new books to our ever-growing hunting collection.

If you have followed the news you will have noticed that the poet Hone Tuwhare passed away. If you're curious about his writing we have a volume of his poems entitled *Ooooooh*.

A new collection of books features *Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know* by Ranulf Fiennes, and the latest collection of *New Zealand Shipwrecks*.

I have been busy spending last year's fundraiser money on heaps of new books. We have some beauties: books about pearls, spearfishing, free diving, pirates, the new Trevor

Corson (author of *Secret Life of Lobsters*), histories of Venice and Newfoundland, lots of great fiction, and classics too. Not to mention the *Deadliest Catch* DVDs. These items and heaps more wonderful additions to the library are being dressed up with their covers and labels and will be ready for checkout in a matter of weeks. A new year's party for new books ...to be announced!

Happy Reading, Jess

The Fernery - Gallery & Gift shop

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Phone us on (03) 2191 453, or
E-mail: thefernery@xtra.co.nz

One of a kind camera arrives in Dunedin

A special package arrived in Dunedin this month; so special that a qualified operator arrived with it.

The package is a High Definition Infrared Camera provided by NHK Japan and it is accompanied by Toshi Muta, a senior cameraman with NHK's Production Engineering Centre.

The camera is the only one of its kind in the world and has been loaned to natural history filmmaker Scott Mouat for one month.

Mouat's project is Code of the Kakapo, a 90 minute feature film co-produced by ELWIN Productions in Dunedin and Huntaway Homestead Films in Queenstown. The film documents the remarkable work that has gone into bringing the world's rarest wild parrot back from the brink of extinction.

This season will be the third Mouat has spent film-

ing the Department of Conservation's (DoC) cutting edge Kakapo breeding programme on Codfish Island/ Whenua Hou. He plans to capture DoC's first attempt to artificially inseminate a female Kakapo. If successful, the infertility that plagues the species could be cured.

Due to the shy nature and nocturnal behavior of the Kakapo, an infrared camera is the only option for filming them unawares. Infrared is a specialist feature and the NHK camera with full High Definition will allow the best possible picture.

Scott Mouat is known for his production of *Primeval Paradise: the story of Ulva Island*.

For more information:
Kakapo - www.doc.govt.nz (search: kakapo)
Scott's work - www.elwin.co.nz
scott@elwin.co.nz
Distribution rights - www.astronought.com.au

Southland Cancer Society

On behalf of the Southland Cancer Society Fundraising Committee, I would sincerely like to thank the people and businesses of Stewart Island for their kind donations and giving of their time, free



of charge in support of our bi-annual trip to Stewart Island on the 13th November 2007.

We had a terrific day with entertainment on board the Ferry, a visit to Ulva Island, Salmon farm and a Beautiful Gourmet

Lunch and Nibbles supplied by Ship to Shore.

The amount raised was \$7301.75

Well done and many thanks.

Lorraine Bowen
Fundraising Committee member
Southland Cancer Society



DOC Spot Port William Hut Closure

Total Fire Ban

A total fire ban has been declared for all of Southland, including Stewart Island by the Southern Rural Fire District until further notice. The ban means that no one can light any fires in the open and also suspends all existing fire permits.

The fire ban includes burning rubbish, using incinerators or cooking outdoors with open braziers. The only exception to the ban is for gas barbeques and cookers in properly constructed containers and in safe areas.

The southern rural fire authority will notify any change of the situation by radio announcement or newspaper advertisements but here on Stewart Island it will also be posted on the public, DOC and SDC notice boards. If in any doubt as to whether or not you are permitted opt have a fire, please contact the DOC office.

DOC issues fire permits on behalf of the SRFA for Stewart Island including the township area.

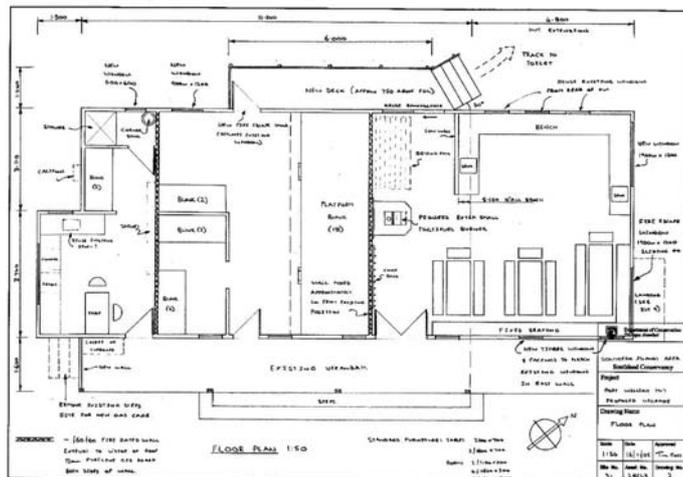
From the 1st of April this year, Port William hut will be closed to allow for a major upgrade of the hut's facilities.

Port William hut is the most popular hut on Stewart Island, used by visitors walking the Rakiura and North West Circuit tracks; by hunters and fishermen visiting the area and by locals looking for some R & R. The hut currently receives approximately 4000 visitors per year with a ratio of 50% kiwi - 50% people of other nationalities.

Overcrowding at the hut is a common issue. During the peak season, it can be over capacity by 18%. However, the greatest issue at the hut is that there just isn't enough kitchen space. Visitors have to line up to cook

their meals and then try to find somewhere to sit and eat. The planned upgrade will involve extending the length of the hut by 4.6m, increasing the number of bunks to sleep 24 people, upgrading the hut warden quarters and grey water systems and replacement of a long-drop toilet to a total containment system.

Work should take no more than 2 months and be completed by the 31st of May at which time the hut should look almost like new! We'll publish some photos on completion.



Proposed layout of new Port William Hut

Great White Shark Research

Clinton Duffy is leading a research project into Great White Sharks in New Zealand waters, in a collaborative project involving NIWA, Department of Conservation, Germany's Shark Tracker and Washington University (*Yvonne Tahana, Dec 07*).

Up to 10 more sharks are now sought from Stewart Island waters, to be tagged using Pop-up Archival Transmitting (PAT) tags, designed to gather data over several months before dislodging themselves from the shark, floating to the surface and downloading their data to satellite. Measurements include temperatures, locations and depths, and help to understand more about the sharks, where they travel and why they make the recently discovered dives of up to 900m depth. The satellite investigation will cover long-distance movements within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone, and into other range sites.

A number of sites around Stewart Island and outlying islands will be targeted between 25 February and 8 March. The main focus will be around the fur seal colonies on Bench and Edwards Islands, natural shark aggregation areas, in waters of 20-30m depth. The final decisions on work sites remain necessarily weather-dependant; however, the team will avoid Paterson Inlet, Halfmoon and Horseshoe Bays to protect other water users.

Sharks will be attracted to the research boat using a burley of minced fish (albacore tuna) and throw fish (whole albacore tuna or other large fishes). A 2.4m tagging pole is then used to place the tag beside the first dorsal fin, under the shark's skin.

The sharks will also be photographed underwater to register individual photographic identification. This can then be used to show sex ratios, study residency patterns (ie where and when they stay put) and movements between aggregation sites, as well as to estimate an overall population size.

The team will post their intentions daily with the Stewart Island DOC Field Centre. If you are planning on using this in-shore area or have any concerns, please get in touch to find out where the team is each day.

The Great White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias* belongs to a group of fishes known as the chondrichthyes, along with rays, and chimaeras. They are distinguished from all other fishes by their cartilage skeletal structure. While they are often greatly feared and have been hunted in the past for luck, food and their prized fin, or simply caught as by-catch, there is growing international concern for their safety. They are particularly vulnerable to over-fishing due to being long-lived, maturing later (they don't breed before 12-14 years of age) and generally producing low numbers of young.

'White sharks first came into protection in New Zealand waters in April 2007, but we still know little about their habitat requirements, migratory behaviour and interactions with white sharks elsewhere.'

More information about Great White Sharks is available by Google search on "Great White Shark". Include words like "Tag", "Migrate" and "Protection" to get more interesting results. Alternatively go straight to:

www.niwa.co.nz/news/mr/2007/kerri_calls_home

www.shark-tracker.com allows sponsors to 'adopt' a Great White, giving you a log-in to watch where your shark has gone since you last visited the site! You can name your shark and visit it online whenever you like. Funds raised support Great White research.

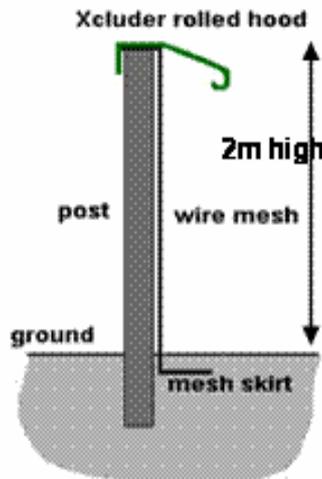


Briefly held for analysis and tagging

Giving Nature A Helping Hand:

An Update from the Dancing Star Foundation Ecological Preserve

Our Xcluder-engineered ecological fence is designed to stop non-native species from harming indigenous flora and fauna. The fence is too tall for a wild cat, possum, deer or rat to jump over. The tightly-configured fence meshing is additionally protected by the rounded 'hood' at the top and subterranean deep skirt. Both help to deter non-natives from getting in. Intensive electronic surveillance (including video and satellite alerts) adds additional protection against any attempted security breach.



The Foundation's goal is to provide breathing space for native species, so as to help them survive and flourish far into the future.

Why did we choose Stewart Island/ Rakiura for this Ecological Preserve? The Island is one of the most distinctive regions within the New Zealand hotspot for biodiversity, one of thirty-five such hotspots thus far identified worldwide. New Zealand has an important range of endemic species (species that occur here and nowhere else), and each of these is under threat from predators.

Since the Foundation's completion of the fence, native plant life within the preserve has increased significantly, enjoying a critical respite for the first time in more than a century.

Some day, we hope all of Stewart Island/Rakiura will enjoy a predator-free situation, so that local Kiwi, for example, can wander at will throughout the island, and the township. That will be a day we all can celebrate.

Dancing Star Foundation Staff

Waitangi Day Rugby Game:
Don't forget to register your name for a team!

Susan's family would like to thank all the people who passed on their good wishes, love and support while Susan was unwell.

She's now well on the road to recovery but will be taking it easy according to strict instructions. Her family appreciate your help in keeping Susan's feet off the work floor!

Chocolate award
Vicki has sponsored the chocolate award this month to thank Tracey Baker for always being there helping out, waitressing, dish-washing and tidying-up after local events.
Don't worry Tracey, 'chocolate' will apparently be in a bottle and sealed with a cork!

The Stewart Island Community extends its condolences to the family of Kenneth Wright.

The Craftee Cod



The Craftee Cod now stocks watch batteries, straps and pins so now we can fix all your non-ticking tickers!

We have all sorts of gorgeous craftee stuff, all made by genuine craftee Stewart Islanders.

You know where we are by now, in Island Transport.

Mon - Fri 10 - 4pm & Sat 11 - 3pm

Feel free to come in for a nosy and a chat, even a cup of tea if we're feeling generous!

Vicki xx



Kai Kart

PITA BREAD WRAPS are BACK by popular demand!

These Souvlaki-style wraps are a healthy choice for summer, made with lamb or fa-lafel and your choice of salad.

Introductory special this month only \$8.00 (normally \$9.50).

We're open every day - see you soon!

Above: it took a bit of organising to fit 39 planes onto the airstrip last month. Read more in the article on pg 1

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE



The next meeting of the Garden Circle will be held at 2.0 on Thursday 14th February at the home of Anita Geeson.

Competition:
a Daisy, a Rose and a Dahlia

Earthquake!!

Did your house shake on it's piles? You're not alone! An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale was based in Te Anau last Monday morning. Look it, and other recent great shakes, up on www.geonet.org.nz

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

Yes, we can arrange for international subscriptions — contact editor for rates

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Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.

Please send articles & enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com

The deadline for the next issue is 15th February.