

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January-February 2012

\$2.00

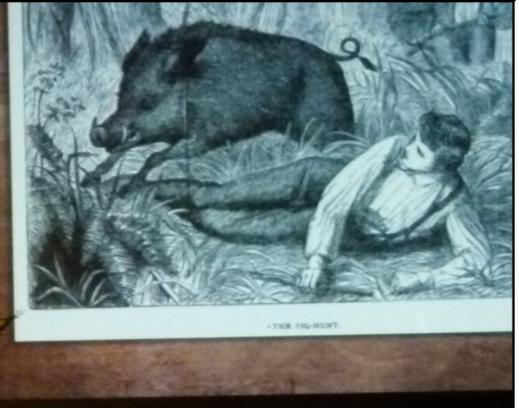
Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink; Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink. (from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*) Samuel Coleridge's longest rhyme is a bit melodramatic but it did come to mind as I gazed at the twinkling waters of Horseshoe Bay, the surrounding so-called rainforest, and worried about my depleted water tank. Historically, droughts have inspired extremely long poems, decimated villages, and brought populations to their knees. Stewart Island survived but things did get a touch awkward. The holidays were strained in some households: houseguests mean extra showers, dishes and laundry, and trying to delicately yet repeatedly explain to a visiting in-law PLEASE DON'T USE TWENTY BLEEP LITRES OF WATER TO WASH THE BLEEP LETTUCE.

You may have noticed the hum of the emergency plane at night has changed to the roar of a helicopter. See page 10 for an explanation from our nurse Debs.

To business owners of Stewart Island and Invercargill: Please support the *Stewart Island News*. Buy ad space! Only 20 cents per sq cm.

Twenty Eleven was a bumper year for tummy bumps. This issue has a record FOUR birth announcements! Congratulations to all the happy parents and brand new Stewart Islanders (p12).

Did you see the article about helium sharks escaping and startling airplane pilots at several thousand feet? My nephew received the popular toy as a Christmas gift, brought it



Te Radar describes a hunting mishap during his sold-out performance *Eating the Dog* at the Community Centre on 18th January. (While trying to carry his kill out of the bush, he flips backwards and gets stuck inside the eviscerated pig. *You know what we call a Pakeha stuck inside a pig?* says a Maori friend. *Stuffing.*) A professional "opinionist", Te Radar had the audience roaring as he riffed about his favourite misfits and bumbler of the country's past. Formatted as a power-point presentation by a stuffily-dressed historian, the show was interactive, high energy, extremely clever, educational, irreverent, and very funny. After some banter with the audience, Te Radar came up with Stewart Island's new extreme sport: Vicki wrestling! The star of *Radar's Patch*, *Off the Radar*, and *Homegrown* brought this great night of storytelling and history to our stage thanks to Toi Rakiura.

to the Community Centre for a play, and, well, next time you're at the gym, look up.

A friend in Wyoming, USA was running a tour boat and couldn't keep a straight face when a woman pointed at a great blue heron and said *Look! It's a goose flying backwards!* Silly loopy comments: we love them. I know they're being collected and traded on Facebook; let's share some here. Send your gems for the next issue.

Speaking of our visitors, there have been many thoughts banded about to make life smoother during the busy season. Ideas include a sign directing people to use the footpath placed at the base of the hill leading from the township up toward Horseshoe. Also: a shuttle to loop around island roads throughout busy season so visitors can jump on and off.

How do I keep my two year old occupied so I can write this? I loaded my new iPad with games, put it in a military-grade protective case, and let him play. So the other day he went to the hotel for his usual double fluffy.

You know those big gingerbread man cookies wrapped in plastic by the cashier? I gave him one and he started pushing the candy buttons with mounting frustration. He thought they were apps.

Sorry, there was no December issue. Apologies to those who paid their subscription by cheque in the last few months and have not had the cheque cleared yet. We missed a few cheques at the last banking.

If you're really observant you've seen the price in the upper right corner has changed back from \$2.50 to \$2.00. You might ask *WHY, how is that possible, in this stink economy with prices soaring all around, how can a product as fine as the Stewart Island News actually cost LESS?* It's a financial mystery and a windfall for you wonderful readers. Let that silver line your pockets and **HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY!**

—Jess



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The Island Beat

It was good to see the Christmas and New Year celebrations enjoyed in good spirit and fun on the Island. There were no reported incidents of violence/ family violence, damage, disorder or traffic accidents that other areas around New Zealand experience. Stewart island is a safe and enjoyable place to be at this time of year.

Reported Crime:

- Between the 2nd of June and December last year 280 litres of Diesel and 14 plastic 20 litre containers have been stolen from a house at Ackers point.
- Over night on the 10th of December \$100.00 cash was taken from the office at Stewart island Backpackers. The offender took the opportunity to avoid security cameras while the town experienced a power cut.

Any information about these thefts would be appreciated.

Traffic:

- Thanks to the majority of people adhering to the Wharf Rules, congestion at the wharf during the busiest time of the year has been minimal.
- A number of vehicles have had Licence and Warrant '**warnings**' attached over the last couple of months. Some owners have informed me that they have their name on the board at the garage and are waiting for a phone call. It is the owners responsibility to ensure the vehicle is warranted, licensed and has sufficient Road user charges before operating it on the road.

Found Property:

Police are currently holding the following found items:

- Relief Band found Ocean Beach 06/12/11
- Females wrist watch found outside shop 02/01/12
- Club 200 child's inflatable boat found in sea by mutton bird island 02/01/12
- Set of Petanque bowls found Braggs beach 08/01/12

Lost Property:

Boat rod and Kilwell pro series 390 spinning reel left at end of evening cove road 30/12/11.

D.C. JENKINS

Museum notes.

The Trustees are keen to create a file of school photos from the Oban School. We have quite a few older groups, but for some reason most people think History stops in the 40's or 50's! Never forget that last year's photos will also be history one day. It would be most helpful if the subjects were named as well. Contact the museum if you would like someone to collect them.

Friends of Rakiura Museum are now eligible for 10% discount on purchases from the museum. This includes retail sales, photo images and research. So for your small donation, there are some perks. A subscription would be an ideal gift for that some-one who seems to have everything!

The latest from the SSANZ

Plans are now advancing to welcome the Round New Zealand yachties of the Short-handed Sailing Association of NZ. The Island liaison committee has been overwhelmed with the support offered by Islanders – especially in the area of billeting and social hosting. A huge thank you to all who have offered in different capacities – you may not have heard the last from us yet, and your offers may be gratefully accepted once we are better informed by the Association. There will be a lot of fine-tuning to do, and most of it at the last minute, so forgive us if we don't jump at your many kind offers for another few weeks. There are other schemes afoot: it has been suggested – as already reported – that we have an "Adopt a Boat" scheme – your firm or organisation might be interested? Let us know. Then there will be some form of sweepstake to really up the interest ante. And the School has taken this project to heart. We can't wait to hear the full details from them, and hope to report on this in the next SIN. We must already thank the Munro's for their most generous freighting arrangements, and Helen Cave for making the Hotel available as Head Quarters – and Islanders will be invited to share in some of the activities there too. Whilst arrangements are coming together slowly but surely this month, activities will build to fever-pitch during the last weeks before the arrival of the first boat in early March, so watch the Notice Board and look out for a more detailed up-date in the next SIN. Thanks again to all those people waiting in the wings to help – we'll be in touch.

Gwen Neave
Ph: 2191 385

Quiz Round-up! from Vicki Coats

Another year done and the Quiz had it's best year ever!

\$10,039.30 donated in 2011 compared to \$1305 donated in 2006, \$3465 donated in 2007, \$5575 donated in 2008, \$5955 donated in 2009, \$6975 donated in 2010

Here's where your money went, with a huge amount being raised for the Christchurch Red Cross.

20.2.11 \$1590 donated to the Rugrats, Civil Defense, Community Hall & Stewart Island Lions

27.2.11 \$487.20 donated to the Chch Red Cross Earthquake Appeal

6.3.11 \$606.40 donated to the Chch Red Cross Earthquake Appeal

13.3.11 \$456.70 donated to the Chch Red Cross Earthquake Appeal

20.3.11 \$433 donated to the Chch Red Cross Earthquake Appeal

3.4.11 \$527.10 donated to Dan Young's Get Well Fund

24.4.11 \$535 donated from the Easter Quiz to the Community Centre & Musuem

29.5.11 \$537 donated to the Community Cen-

tre & Rugrats

7.8.11 \$520 donated to the Health Centre Garden & to School Kids Lunch Boxes

14.8.11 \$1000 donated to the Community Pool

4.9.11 \$170 donated to the Kids Friday Afternoon Movie Club

18.9.11 \$560 donated to the Community Garden/Knit & Knatter/Patchwork Club

2.10.11 \$790 donated to the Stewart Island Musuem

16.10.11 \$171.90 donated to the NZBCF from the Pink Quiz!

4.12.11 \$200 donated to SIRCET

18.12.11 \$530 donated to the Community Christmas Party & presents to the Salvation Army

25.12.11 \$780 donated to Search & Rescue/Civil defense

25.12.11 \$145 donated from the Xmas Quiz to the Stewart Island Community Centre

The Quizmas Day Quiz was a blast, only six teams and around thirty people, but what people! Have to maybe look at doing that next year too! So to all the regulars, thanks for your continued support and also a welcome to a whole bunch of people who came for the first time this year, don't forget to come back again!



ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

In the June and September issues Sandy King shared her voyage to Macquarie Island. The journey continues ...

Greetings from a southern isle

Life as a rabbit hunter on subantarctic Macquarie Island has settled into a routine of 4 weeks field work followed by 4 days R&R back at base. Being settled into a routine might sound a bit dull, but there is always plenty happening both in the field and on base so time seems to be rocketing by. The total number of rabbits caught following last winter's eradication now stands at 13, and the team is on the trail of at least two more. Hopefully it is only a matter of time before they are caught. Thirteen rabbits might not sound like much of a result from four months of hunting, but it reflects the success of the aerial baiting, showing that the kill rate was very high. A lot of effort has gone into those 13 rabbits, with anything from 2,000 - 4,000km walked every month by the team of hunters, and probably three times that by the dogs. The effort will need to continue for a long time yet to ensure that every last rabbit is accounted for. Already we've found one litter, showing that some breeding has occurred since the baiting and it is crucial that the hunting pressure is kept up so that



Looking south from Mt Waite (389m ASL)

no more breeding can occur. Rabbits are famous for that sort of thing, and if left alone will increase in number so that the eradication effort would be wasted. That is not going to happen! The subantarctic spring and "summer" is notable for the increase in daylight hours and wildlife activity rather than any

increase in temperature. We continue to experience many cold windy days, with sleet, snow and hail. For example, figures for October show the number of rain days as 25, the temperature range as -3.2 – 8.9°C, and the number of strong wind days was 23. However sunrise is currently at around 3.45am, and sunset around 8.30pm with the twilight period extending well beyond those times. We have had some nice days, which are real gems when you experience them. One clear, relatively calm day recently I was able to stand on one of the higher peaks without being blown over, and appreciate the scenery.

The wildlife has been going gangbusters for the past couple of months.

Southern elephant seals have all but completed their breeding season, which began in August with the return of the large males (3-4 tonnes of blubber and bone!). The females began arriving in September to give birth to their pups which they suckle for only 3-4 weeks. During



Two male elephant seals battle it out. The challenger, on the right, won.

this time the pups increase in weight from around 40-50kg at birth to 110-160kg; elephant seal milk is extremely high in fat. The beaches around the island become very busy during this time, nearly 3000 females were counted on the beaches around the base alone.

Crowded harems of females with young pups are tended by big beach master males constantly needing to defend their mating rights from smaller wannabe males. There are some ferocious and bloody battles, and sometimes the challenger wins.

Moulting elephant seal



The females are mated 2-3 weeks after

giving birth, and abandon their pups to return to sea after about 4 weeks. The pups are then known as weaners and are left to fend for themselves. A few weeks ago the area around the base was littered with weaners lying around and trying to keep out of the way of the males. Now, early December, almost all of the females have disappeared as have most of the big males. Some of the latter die as a result of their exertions, providing a huge smelly feast for scavenging giant petrels and skuas. Immature animals have come ashore and started to



Elephant seal harem



Fat weaners



Royal penguins



King penguins

moult. They shed a layer of skin as well as their hair and look like the victims of a bad case of sunburn.

The weaners have been starting to explore the water, learning to swim and hopefully feed themselves. An increase in orca sightings close in-shore coincides with weaner swimming lessons. Fat weaners make a decent sort of snack for an orca.

There are 4 species of penguin here (almost my favourite birds) and they too are in



Tourists invade the beaches

the midst of breeding. Hundreds of thousands of royal penguins breed here in a number of large crowded colonies. They reappeared in late September and now have small chicks. The huge number of birds creates a lot of guano and dead stuff - there is no mistaking the odour of a royal penguin colony when you are down wind of it.

Gentoo penguins have quite large chicks which are running around out of their nests and forming crèches where the chicks hang out while their parents are out foraging. They are



A crèche of gentoo penguins chicks

quite attractive penguins with bright orange feet like DOC track markers.

Rockhopper penguins were the last to arrive and are still sitting on eggs. The stately king penguins have a weird breeding season – chicks from last season are just beginning to fledge, some adults are just finishing their moult and no eggs have been seen yet.

Summer brings another species to the island – the Tourist. Sixteen visits by tourist ships are scheduled to visit here this season and most will come via the New Zealand subantarctic islands. To do so they must carry a DOC representative, and one of the first to arrive this season was our own Sharon Pasco, bearing delicious NZ chocolate and gossip from home.

As well as all this wildlife activity (and more – I’ve only described a fraction of it) in the field there is always plenty of action on base when we return.

There are 35-40 people on the island (some come and go on tourist ships over the summer and I’ve lost track of exactly how many are here now), and the hunting team



Sharon steps ashore at Macca.



makes up nearly half. Consequently our return at the end of each month

(Continued on page 11)

A letter to our friends on Stewart Island:

As you all know Peter and I recently moved from Stewart Island to Te Anau. Due to Peter's sudden illness he was unable to remain working at the power station. This was a huge shock to us as we were planning on living among you all for some years yet. We would like to thank you for your friendship and kindness shown to us over the six years we spent on the island. Leaving was heart wrenching. Thankyou Jack and your team of helpers that worked so hard getting us packed up and on to the freighter. Your generosity of spirit was much appreciated. The uniqueness of being "islanders" are memories we will treasure. Peter is keeping quite well and we are slowly settling in to life on the mainland. If you are up this way a warm welcome awaits you at 3 Tom Plato Drive. Season's greetings to each and everyone and every best wish for the New Year.

Peter & Barbara Wilson

OOPS...THEY DID IT AGAIN.
Stewart Island Players would like to thank all those who sang, acted, sat, played, drank and partied at the December community concert. As a result, \$850.00 was raised for the Stewart Island Health Committee. Well done!



Above: Volendam visits the island.
Below: Raylene Waddell showed the welcoming side of Stewart Island hospitality to passengers who made it to the top of the Golden Bay hill from the wharf. For the small amount of time that we were taking photos, grateful passengers were sitting there and taking advantage of a sit down. There were quite a few that had no idea about walking anywhere without hailing a taxi. Whatever happened to the all day shuttle that we used to have?... *from Ulva Goodwillie*



CRA8 Scholarship Awards

by Margaret Hopkins

Two of the three young recipients of the CRA8 Management Committee Scholarship fund awarded at the CRA8 AGM in Invercargill recently are ex Halfmoon Bay School pupils who grew up on Stewart Island.

‘This is the first time that the awards have been made and the scholarship committee was very impressed with the standard of applicants’ said Malcolm Lawson, Chief Executive Officer for CRA8.

Those who received awards were Chloe Squires who is undertaking a 10 week summer research project at Otago University into the development of new drug targets for cancer treatment. In particular she is investigating the mode in which bone marrow stem cells migrate to tumour cells.

The other Stewart Island recipient, Dylan Belworthy Hamilton, has completed a BSc at Massey and is now studying at the University of Tasmania towards a Master’s degree in Applied Science focussing on the Marine Environment.

Eleni Hogg studying towards a BCA in international business and marketing and a BA in politics and mandarin at Victoria University. In 2012 she will spend the first semester at a business school in the south of France.

The CRA8 Board is pleased to be able to assist these members of the CRA8 community and wish them well for 2012.

On the rocks:

The *Matariki* went high and dry in Thompsons Bay after its mooring broke last month. The status of the owning company, Te Manu Adventures, seems to be up in the air right now. The cafe at Pearler’s and the kiwi tours at the Neck have not eventuated.

Photo from Sue Munro



New Zealand Maritime School Graduates



Master Mariner Ben Hopkins
 Ben Hopkins graduated from New Zealand Maritime School in November as Master of a Foreign Going Ship. Ben was employed until recently by BP Maritime Services and has worked on oil and gas tankers in many parts of the world. He is currently working on the FPSO *Swiber Torunn* off New Plymouth for a short stint before returning to oversee the building of his house on Stewart Island after which he hopes to work in the off-shore oil industry.



2nd Mate Clint Brown

Clint Brown (aka Barney) recently graduated with the qualification 2nd Mate of a Foreign Going Ship. Barney lived and worked on Stewart Island for several years as skipper of the Department of Conservation's boat before moving his family to Auckland where he attended the NZ Maritime School and worked for Fullers Group as a ferry skipper. The family have now returned to Southland and Clint has a job working as 2nd Mate on the *Pacific Barbarian* on Australia's Nor West Shelf. — Margaret Hopkins

RARE STEWART ISLAND SHEEP

A few weeks back I was contacted by an elderly gentleman who has a small flock of 10 rare Stewart Island Big Horn sheep on his South Canterbury property. He is no longer able to maintain the flock and would like for them to return to the island as either a tourist attraction or as a domestic flock.



Sheep were first farmed on the island in the 1870's with several flocks being present at Scott Burn, Island Hill, and Kilbride. The sheep were introduced by the Norwegians and are a breed of

German origin. Although the farming was never that successful, several sheep escaped from the farming operations and formed a feral population. Some of this feral population were removed in the 1990's in an effort to stop the breed from dying out and it is from these sheep that this flock from South Canterbury has originated. The flock is pure bred, contains rams, and ewes, and is registered with the Rare Breeds Society of NZ. They are black sheep with distinctive horns, smallish in size, and with merino origins. More information can be found at <http://www.rarebreeds.co.nz/stewart.html>

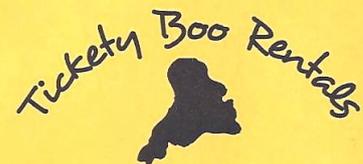
If anyone is interested in these sheep, either for historical, tourism, or personal means, please get in contact with me. This gentleman has done a lot of research on the animal and has all the relevant historical and breeding information that you would need.

Jo Learmonth

2191-555 or jo.learmonth@extra.co.nz



Kite surfing at Lee Bay



Stewart Island

Alan Tall,
 Ph 021 449 272
 P O Box 176,
 Stewart Island.
alantall@slingshot.co.nz

Bookings Call:
Stewart Island Flights
 Ph 03 2191 090

Tickety Boo Rentals Rates.

| | 4 Hours | 8 Hours | Over 3 Days |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Car | \$70.00 | \$110.00 | \$100.00 Per Day |
| Van | \$100.00 | \$140.00 | \$110.00 Per Day |

Prices subject to change without prior notice.

DOC Spot

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

Don't get burnt ...

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a chance to enjoy the sunshine that stretched well into the New Year. I know many people (including me) couldn't help feeling a little smug reading that most other parts of the country were having their worst summer ever, when down here we were having one of our best! Isn't it odd though, how, after just a few weeks without rain, our enjoyment of the sunny days can suddenly be tainted by the underlying worry: *Just how much water is left in my water tank – can I keep taking a shower and watering my garden?!!*

Even with the recent rain, the bush around Stewart Island / Rakiura is still very dry and if you believe the old myth - *native bush doesn't burn* - then please have a rethink. It's quite possible the person who lit an illegal camp fire on Doubtful Island, in Fiordland recently may have subscribed to that myth. I certainly hope they are aware that their little campfire was the probable cause of a forest fire that took Te Anau firefighters a number of days to extinguish, and consequently will think twice before they light up in the future.

A total fire ban is in place across all of Southland (including Stewart Island / Rakiura), Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago meaning no fires can be lit in the open air, including camp fires, braziers and wood or coal barbecues. This is not a ban that Fire Authorities (the people responsible for managing rural fire) impose lightly as it can greatly impact on people's business and recreational activities.

The decision to change the fire season status to Total Fire Ban involves gathering data from around Southland and Otago on a daily bases through out the year. This information helps the Fire Authorities monitor how quickly vegetation is drying out across the region. Changes in drying conditions, such as relative humidity, moisture levels in light, medium and heavy vegetation (fuel) are assessed daily. The landscape, elevation and slope coupled with vegetation type are all taken into account as they determine how quickly a fire would spread. Fire Authorities then calculate the likelihood of a fire occurring in a given area and the degree of difficulty in fighting the fire if it was to occur.

In some cases fires are too aggressive for helicopters

to get close and move too fast for fire crews on the ground to keep up with, making them impossible to fight.

The current fire ban will remain in force across Southland until the Southern Rural Fire Authority deems conditions safe enough for it to be lifted. Notification will be posted on the Stewart Island Community noticeboard when this happens, but if you are in doubt or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the DOC office. A number of DOC staff have been delegated Rural Fire Officers by the SRFA and



Photographs of a recent forest fire on Doubtful Island in Lake Te Anau. The cause? An illegal camp fire – providing proof that native bush can and does burn. Please take care, so that something like this doesn't happen here on Stewart Island / Rakiura. With our peaty soil structure fires can continue burning underground long after they appear to be out – popping-up, days or even weeks later, to burn with renewed vigour through the forest.

DOC has the responsibility for dealing with rural fire issues on the island.

Dotterel update from Paul Jacques

Our Southern NZ dotterel protection programme on the subalpine tops has been proceeding well this season. Due to the fantastic summer weather we have had some very warm trips, which makes a nice change from the more usual gale force westerlies and sideways rain.

Four breeding sites have been visited fortnightly since the end of September in order to re-fill the cat and rat bait stations which surround the open habitat. Birds have bred successfully at all four sites, with chicks having been seen from the start of November right through to the most recent trip at the start of January.

We have recorded a good number of cat takes, particularly around the major breeding site at Table Hill. We have just a few more weeks to go before the last chicks will have fledged and we can shut the bait sta-



British Ornithologist Richard Chandler (centre) pictured with DOC staff member Paul Jaques, who now oversees the Southern NZ dotterel protection programme on Stewart Island / Rakiura and Matt Jones (right) during a recent trip to check how the dotterels are faring this breeding season. (Photograph by Richard Chandler)

tions down for the season, in the hope that we will see a healthy crop of new birds in the winter flock at Mason Bay this year.

In November we had a visit from Richard Chandler, a leading British Ornithologist, who travelled to Stewart Island in order to photograph the Dotterels for a new field guide to the wading birds of the Southern Hemisphere. Richard, along with local bird enthusiast Matt Jones, was able to tag along with one of our regular trips and obtained some excellent images of the birds. Richard was very excited to see the birds on their breeding grounds, and it was also a buzz for me to have such an experienced wader boffin along to get his perspective on our work. Richard has been involved with high-profile endangered waders such as the spoon-billed sandpiper, a species which has been much in the news of late. It was interest-

ing for me to realise that our Southern NZ dotterels are actually considerably rarer than even the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper, another reminder of the importance of our cat control programme.

Introducing Aaron ...

Hi, I am Aaron Templer, I moved to the island at the end of September 2011 to take up a contract working with the biodiversity team, helping with the eradication of weeds and pests around the island. I have been fortunate enough to land myself a two-year biodiversity role with DOC on Stewart Island. Since arriving on the island I have continued my interest in the fire service and search and rescue by joining the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade and Rakiura / Stewart Island Search and Rescue group and I hope to gain more skills and experiences while I'm here. My interests include whitebaiting and duckshooting (where permitted and in season – of course!)



**A Southern NZ Dotterel
(Photograph by Richard Chandler)**

No more rats ...

To date, no rats have been caught on Ulva since the aerial bait drops were completed in September 2011. During October and November DOC staff carried out fortnightly checks of the network of 92 traps deployed across the island and around the coast. With no evidence of any rats remaining on the island, this regime has now been reduced once more to monthly checks. Additional traps are ready to be deployed on the island should the need arise. It is now up to everyone visiting Ulva to not only be vigilant and ensure they don't unwittingly transport rats to the island, but also to report immediately any evidence that rats may be present there.

Southland Relay For Life 10/11th March 2012 At Rugby Park

Plans are already well in hand for this years **RELAY FOR LIFE**. Our team (10 members so far) have been fundraising for the last 2 years and we need some topping up. We will be placing a raffle in the shop this week and would welcome your support. Once again our marquee will be kindly sponsored so we have shelter for the event. Anyone who would like to join our team is welcome. It is a very emotional and at times sad experience as most of us some-time in our lives have been touched by Cancer. The relay is not only in memory of those who have been taken, but also a celebration of life and fund raising for the **Southland Branch of the Cancer Society** so all the funds raised **stay in Southland**.

There is none stop entertainment day and night , this year is going to be the biggest yet as all tent sites have been sold. If you would like to join us it will cost you \$10 dollars to register, this is considered your donation and all you need to bring is your sleeping bag, a pillow and a rug, maybe a hot water bag, and a change of clothes, footwear, rain coat. Some nibbles maybe.

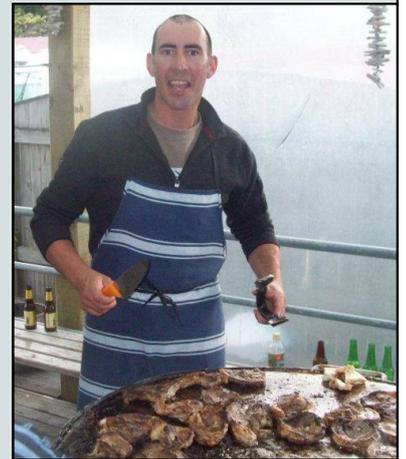
The relay starts at 12 noon Saturday 10th March and ends 12 noon Sunday 11th .You are responsible for getting yourself there and back. If you would like to know more about the actual relay phone Sue Munro on 2191327. Love to have your support. —*Sue Munro*



A big thanks to all involved in the "Oops, they did it again!" show and Community Christmas Party! A great mix of entertainment for all ages and especially well done considering we chose to put it on right slap bang in the middle of the busy season! (Won't be doing that again!)

And also for the Christmas party, to all the barmen and ladies and the kitchen and BBQ folks who cooked up a storm! And thank you to everyone who took

the time to make a plate of food, a big **THANK YOU** to Jack and the Hillbillies for the amazing chops and pork; due to some people arriving empty handed and/or empty bellied we would have run out of food if it wasn't for your generosity so kudos to you! *Vicki*



STEWART ISLAND

GARDEN CIRCLE

WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF LEE WADDS

AT 2.00 pm

ON THURSDAY

9th FEBRUARY



NIGHT FLIGHT UPDATE

At this point in time there are no fixed wing plane evacuations at night but we continue to have access to helivacs during the night (helicopter from Te Anau). It had become uneconomic to retain trained pilots on call for night flights, and also needed personnel on the Island to be on call for lighting at the airstrip.

The DHB, ED Dept, ACC and Stewart Island Air are presently reviewing the option of permanent airstrip lighting and funding issues. Our emergency service remains the same, as do our professional decisions around the need to evacuate someone. *From Deborah Kennet.*

ELECTRIX GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Annual Electrix Golf Tournament
Will be held on Saturday 18TH February 2012
At Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club Inc

Tee off times are 9am or 1pm

Electrix is Ringa Ringa's fun tournament of the year

Non golfers are encouraged to enter a team.

There are prizes for the non golfers section.

To enter official tournament please enter teams of 4 players at least one team member must have an official golf handicap

Entry \$60 per team-includes after match BBQ at The Club House at 6 pm

Best net/ Nearest the Pin

Entries to Jon Spraggon Phone 032190034

Soft drinks, beer and wine, and some food available on the course

Locals this is your tournament, make up a team with friends, relations, workmates, visitors and come along and make it a day to remember.

Good Prizes

(GLOBETROTTER *Continued from page 5*)

makes a big difference to the population on base and provides an excuse for "special occasions" and activities. The recent Rugby World Cup was keenly followed here; being an Australian territory most of the staff are Aussies, but



Watching the RWC

there is also a strong Kiwi contingent. The NZ vs Aus game was the highlight, bringing out the best in trans-Tasman rivalry. The NZ flag flew triumphantly from one of the flag poles the morning after the match. However, true

to the ANZAC spirit everyone was barracking for the ABs during the final.

We've also celebrated Melbourne Cup day with the hunting dogs participating in a 100m Macca Dog Dash (meat platter for the winner), and there have been various competitions and contests including a cribbage tournament, an ice-cream eating competition (the first to finish 2 litres, not as easy as it sounds) and a brewing contest. The results of the brewing contest won't be known until Christmas when the brews will be ready for tasting. It will be interesting as there were some very odd concoctions and flavours, but not being a beer drinker I'll stick to the role of spectator!

—PHOTOS and story from SANDY KING

CONGRATULATIONS

Proud parents
Tam and James
Welcome
Sayla Jade

Proud parents
Jess and Yoyo
Welcome
Pippa Belle

Proud parents
Mariana and Zane
Welcome
Delta Dusky

Proud parents
Kari and Brent and
big brother Lyall
Welcome
Iluka Matai

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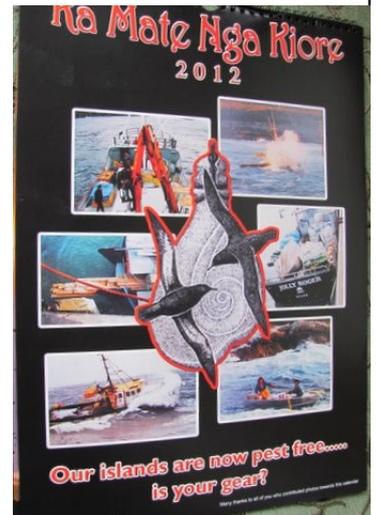
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