

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

JUNE—JULY 2009

\$2.50



Paula Brown took this lovely shot of Halfmoon Bay under a blanket of snow.

Month too, sorry, buy the boat book.)

I've got a new one for the collection this month: grizzling in rhyme (see Vicki's poem, p11) which I have been advised not to take personally (a tall order ... sniff ... she rhymes *SIN* with *fit for the bin*). But her point is that this paper could surely be

You have been misrepresenting this community. You make Stewart Island sound like a happy place to live, but people living here are not happy.

That's one of my all-time favourite complaints levelled against the *Stewart Island News*. Yes, this fine specimen of world-class journalism has been on the receiving end of some grumpy remarks over the years: "The *SIN* is too green." "You should use recycled paper." "Too much bird crap." "Why don't you print meeting minutes." "Meetings are boring." "I'm sick of the Oban Globe-trotter." "The riddle's too easy." "I miss Boat-of-the-Month." (I miss Boat-of-the-

improved if more people contribute, and I agree. To the guy who nudged me at the Pub and said it's too green: hey, write about pillaging the village, I'd be happy to print it! Loathe little blues? Ink therapy: Work through your anti-penguin angst with a pen and send it to *SIN*. Write about your adventures off-island or down the Pub or at the milk chiller in Ship to Shore.

This issue marks the start of my fifth year as *SIN* editor (beware, tourists: I, too, was just going to stay for a few days...). The June 2005 issue introduced our very first *Oban Globetrotter*, contributed by Dan Young; it also featured a priceless *Half-*



I've heard about people going into hibernation mode in the winter, but Jeanette grew a bear rug on her bosom!

Vicki Coats summed up the *Super 14 Prize Giving at the Pub*:

Richard Wilson 1st
Papa Smurff/ Squizzy jnt 2nd
Carolyn Squires/ Steve Black jnt 3rd
Dougie Last

bottles of port consumed: # not known, I bailed out!

and mona bought us all pressies, for some reason Jeanette got a man's chest wig complete with medallion....

moon Bay Beat quote from Duncan Hollebon: "Some tweezer kicked in the glass pane of the public phone box on Main Street..." (The innocent old days—this month we've got some tweezer shooting up my neighbour's house! pp2,3)

It might be impossible to please every reader, and, if I did, that would mean we live in a creepy sci-fi movie where aliens have taken over and we're all



PHOTO: Laura Cavanagh

Congratulations to Pog a.k.a. Jarrod Baird. He was presented with the Nathan Pasco Memorial Cup at the Fire Brigade Honours Night. Page 2.

drones of a nasty creature who resides in the effluent pond. Fortunately this is a diverse community, and the HMB citizens have a wide variety of interests, backgrounds, and tastes. My lofty aim is to not displease *everyone*, and to strive to improve the *SIN* and live up to the motto CELEBRATING RAKIURA. Because I believe, despite what a cranky bird once told me, this *is* a happy place to live.

Thanks to everyone who has shared stories and pictures over the years. If you have ideas for making our newsletter better, let me know. If you have an idea for a good story, tell me, or better yet, write it down and *contribute!*

—Jess

Inside:	
DoC	4
Galley	6,7
Garden Circle	12
HMB School	8
Library	10
Quiz	10
Rakiura Riddle	11
SIRCET	8

And much more!!

Window Repairs
Shelving & Mirrors
New Glazing
Double Glazing
Glass Doors

Don't be fooled by imitations

We offer genuine double glazing
Double glaze your existing aluminium windows
and enjoy the benefits with retro-fit

INVERCARGILL

GLASS & MIRROR

0800 862 414

- Keeps warmth in and saves energy costs
- Reduces condensation
- Cuts out noise
- Adds value to your home
- Replaces glass in the existing frames
- 10 YEAR WARRANTY & FREE QUOTES

Ph: (03) 214 0918 Fax: 214 0938
Toll Free 0800 862 414
258 Mersey Street
PO Box 7067, Invercargill

Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours Night 2009

by CFO Jed Lewis

The annual Fire Brigade Honours night is the formal way to recognise the contribution of our volunteer fire fighters. For one year of weekly training, some lost income and burnt up spare time you get a free feed, couple of beers and maybe a medal.

There is no doubt in my mind that this communities volunteer fire-fighters have earned their medals, and I for one would like to thank you on behalf of the community. For a small group of people you put in a huge commitment and effort.

I would also like to mention the support of the wives and partners of the fire-fighters who have to hold down the fort while the hero's are out saving the world. Without their support we would not

have a brigade.

I also acknowledge the other Emergency Services we work with, Dale Jenkins from the Police and our District Nurses.

Callouts

We had a quiet year for callouts. Only eleven calls in total including four non-events like large party fires, and Buzz taking a midnight dip.

We had four boat salvages with the Nimbus, the Haukuturi, a trimaran and the Talisker. We had a small fire at the Shearwater Inn and we had a big fire at the Herzhoffs, which was a good save as the fire investigator on his investigation advised me that we were approximately two minutes from losing the house. We had one special event with a road collapsing where we assisted the police by closing the road and making the scene safe.

(Continued on page 7)



The Island BEAT

Crime:

Thefts.

Some time in the Month of May a 1.5 metre, 1 ¼ inch red Crowbar valued at \$150.00 has been removed from a section in Miro Crescent. The crowbar was left at the section by the owner to roll logs when cutting firewood. The owner would like the crowbar returned.

Between the 1st and the 20th of May a 10 litre can of Forest wood redwood stain valued at \$115.00 has been taken from a shed in Rankin Street.

Discharge firearm in or near a Dwelling.

On the 25th of May a Hole was noted in a double glassed sliding door of a holiday home on Back Road. The hole was from a Projectile fired from a high powered firearm. The projectile has gone through the window fragmented and torn through a curtain. The main piece of the projectile has travelled across the lounge and embedded in an arm chair. Other pieces have hit a water heater and the front of the chair.

It appears the shooter (I use the word shooter as they are not a hunter) responsible was shooting at game, more than likely at night and has not checked the firing zone. (one of the 7 basic Firearms safety rules)

The owner of this property and the neighbouring properties have given no one authority to shoot on their land.

If this holiday home had been occupied at the time the shot was fired serious injury or death could have resulted.

Firearms licence holders. If you are on private land without authority or conservation land without a permit and with a firearm in your possession you are trespassing.

If you are convicted of trespassing and were carrying a firearm at the time of the offence the Court can disqualify you from holding a firearms licence for up to 2 years.

It is an offence to discharge a firearm in or near a dwelling.

The police will also take revoca-

tion action against you and prevent you from holding or possessing a firearm or licence. This will even prevent you from hunting with a licensed firearms holder.

There is plenty of Legal Game out there without Putting other Island residents lives and property at risk. Or risking the loss of your firearms licence or your liberty.

If you have any information about the above offences. Call me.

Found Property:

Currently holding 3 items of unclaimed found property
1 x pāua Shell Bracelet (Found Ringaringa Beach 21/04/2009)
1 x Petzel headlamp (Found Golden bay road 01/05/2009)
1 x pair Binoculars (Found Leonard Street 30/05/2009)

Traffic:

I have noted that a high percentage of vehicles on the islands roads now have current licence labels and warrants of fitness. This is a big improvement on the same time last year. Well done.

—Dale Jenkins

Stewart Island Wharf.

Congestion at the Wharf is causing problems. It is only going to get worse with the increase in passengers and freight. Late last year a meeting between Stewart Island experience, Council, South Port, Island Transport, Helen Cave and Police was held to discuss the key problems and responsibilities. The lack of rules for wharf users was discussed.

A draft set of **12 simple rules** for Wharf users has been put together for Island residents to view. Some of the rules are enforceable others are to make the wharf work better.

The rules will be reviewed at the end of August each year to consider improvements.

With the increase in both passenger and freight traffic on the wharf it is believed rules will make the wharf more **user friendly**.

Road marking for pedestrian traffic has already been completed.

The Wharf Issues:

i. Parking Elgin Terrace (wharf road):

Legal Authority for enforcement. Police and Council Loading Zone (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Problems: Exceeding 30 minutes. Ties up parking spaces at peak times unnecessarily.

Parking on no parking lines and footpath.

Problems: Narrows road for cars, impedes foot path diverting foot traffic onto road.

Parking in turn around area by Wharf.

Problems: Impedes traffic, passenger and freight flow on and off wharf.

Rules to improve: 1. 2. 3. and 4

ii. Parking Wharf:

Legal Authority is South Port. (Jon SPRAGGON) On Wharf.

Problem: Impedes traffic, pedestrian and freight flow on and off the wharf.

Note: Fish factory has 1 x car park on wharf in front of factory. There is one park for vehicle picking up luggage from bins. (in front of packing crates)

Rule to improve: 5. and 6.

iii. Passenger/Pedestrian flow on and off wharf:

Legal authority is South port:

Problem: Passengers/pedestrians not following the clearly marked path from the foot path to behind the metal rail barriers and to the Wharf office when moving on and off

the wharf. Risk of pedestrians being hit by Forklift, vehicles bins on the Work area of the wharf.

Rule to improve: 7.

iv. Bulk Freight movement on and off Wharf.

Legal authority: South Port.

Problems:

Bulk freight left on Wharf for long periods of time.

Bulk freight dropped off on wharf without pre booking or arrangement.

Bulk Freight being dropped off or picked up at Ferry/Freight boat loading and unloading times.

Rules to improve: 8. and 9.

v. Passenger Luggage

Responsibility: Stewart island Experience

Problems:

Congestion at bins when uplifting luggage or large amounts of personal gear.

Pedestrians walking on work area of Wharf to place luggage in Bins.

Vehicles driving onto work area of Wharf at peak times to unload/uplift luggage. (running late)

Rules to improve: 10. 11. and 12

The Wharf Rules: (To make the Wharf more user friendly)

1. Police will enforce loading zone time limit, No parking lines and parking on footpath.
 2. Park Vehicles in 30 minute loading zone with vehicle facing away from wharf. (Stop bottle neck at turn around area)
 3. Park inside broken parking lines where possible.
 4. No parking in turn around area. 'Keep it clear'.
 5. South Port (Jon SPRAGGON) to enforce parking on wharf.
 6. No unattended parking on wharf other than in the one approved park on beach side of entrance to wharf, for loading or unloading only .
 7. No pedestrian traffic on work area of wharf.
 8. All Bulk Freight to be moved off Wharf within 24 hours of arrival.
 9. All Bulk Freight to be pre booked before going onto wharf.
- Non Perishable bulk freight/freight items to be uplifted/dropped off outside of Ferry/Freight boat arrival departure times.
10. Small amounts personal luggage to be taken to Wharf office via walkway and then placed in bins by office.
 11. Drop off bulk amounts of Luggage early.
 12. If you have large amounts of luggage personal items wait until the congestion is clear before loading/unloading.

Gunfire at Horseshoe. About a half hour after the end of the rugby game on Friday, 22nd May, I heard really loud reports coming from the direction of the north side of my Horseshoe Bay home. It was surprising and disturbing to think anyone would be shooting so close to houses in our neighbourhood. Nic heard it too, although another neighbour heard nothing (they must have great insulation!)

A few days later we learned the Bunns had discovered a hole in their house (the Skinners' old place).

Of course, it would be great if "the shooter" apologised to the Bunns and offered to pay for the damage. The Bunns are nice people, relatively new to the island, just refurbished their home... A bullet embedded in their furniture? Not exactly the nicest

housewarming present. Doesn't really say *welcome*.

So far, no one has come forward but we hope that the perp (sorry, too much crime TV) is aware of their stuff-up, is sorry, and never shoots their gun anywhere near anyone's home again. Even if you're confident you have a giant whitetail in your sights. Because you don't. It's an armchair. —Ed



DOC Spot

New Boat

Construction of the Department of Conservation’s replacement vessel for the *Jester* is on track for delivery in late June. The engine is in and fitting out is well underway. Stewart Island residents will be given an opportunity to look through the new vessel, *Hananui*, when she arrives at the island. The *Jester* has been offered for tender.

Kiwi Recovery Plan

As part of the national kiwi recovery planning process, separate plans are required for each population, including the Stewart Island population. The Stewart Island plan is being written by Brent Beaven and provides opportunity for local input into kiwi management on Stewart Island. To this end, a public meeting is being held at DOC on 2nd July 2009, at 7.30pm.

Secondment

From 1st July, Brent is on a one year secondment to a new role titled National Hunting Advisor. This role is focused on improving the department's relationship with the hunting community and facilitating easier access to hunting on public conservation land. Brent will still be living on the island. Letitia



McRitchie has been appointed Programme Manager - Biodiversity in Brent's absence.

Please report whale sightings

It's that time of year again when Southern right whales are on the move and DOC is putting out a call for the general public to assist our research programme by immediately reporting any sightings of right whales along the NZ coast so DOC researchers can retrieve tissue samples and other vital information. DOC's challenge is to find as many whales as possible and do more research to better understand the relationship between the whales seen around the mainland and those from the New Zealand sub Antarctic region. Sightings can be reported directly to the Stewart Island Field Centre on 2190002 or via the DOC Hotline 0800 362468.

Submissions Hearings

Analysis of the 316 submissions received on the Draft Stewart Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan is now complete. The summary of submissions is available on the Department of Conservation website www.doc.govt.nz We are now preparing for hearings. This integral part of the process enables those that requested to

Reprinted with permission from the weather blog at www.metservice.com

The Year of Slipping Dangerously

by Erick Brenstrum

With rainfall well above normal last winter, it was a great time for slips: big ones cutting major road and rail links in Kaikoura and other places and thousands of little ones making small mischief on roads and properties all over the country. Houses in Auckland were threatened for days by slow moving slips, while, in Milford Sound, tourists watching waterfalls had to sprint to safety when the sound of the rain took on a deeper rumble and tonnes of rocks and trees crashed down on the spot where they had been standing.

All of this excitement reminded me of one of my favourite New Zealand slip

stories. In 1810 a major storm struck the bottom of the South Island. There were no newspapers in New Zealand then but the storm was eventually written up in a Sydney newspaper. Described as a hurricane, the tempest lasted 48 hours, flattening swathes of forest and caused numerous landslides which blocked several streams, resulting in dangerous floods.

On Stewart Island, a gang of eight sealers working in a cove near South Cape were caught by the storm. With difficulty, the men reached the shelter of a cave, where they camped. During the night, while they were asleep, a large slip blocked the mouth of the cave. With no hope of rescue from outside, the men set about digging their way out. Luckily, they had all their camping gear and provisions with them, and a stream broke through the roof of the previously dry cave, providing them with water. Initially the flow of the stream was

heavy enough to threaten them with inundation, but it eased off to a trickle once the storm had passed.

The men had only two shovels, one axe and four iron pikes to work with. At first, the more debris they cleared away, the more slid down from above. It took them almost a week to burrow their way out. They were then able to observe that the cave was to one side of the slip. Had it been closer to the main body of the slip, they would never have dug their way free.

Having no timepiece with them, and unable to tell the difference between night and day while they were entombed, the men had lost track of time.

When a ship eventually picked them up, they found that they were two days ahead in their reckoning of the date. The storm had blown them into the future!

<p>be heard the opportunity to be able to present their submissions to a panel. All are welcome to attend these hearings, however, please be aware that only those that are presenting are given the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>Andy Roberts Department of Conservation - Area Manager Southern Islands Area Manager Robin McNeil Southland Conservation Board Chair of the Rakiura Sub-committee Gail Thomson Southland Conservation Board Rakiura Sub-committee. Ian Wilson Southland Conservation Board Rakiura Sub-committee.</p>	Location	Date	Time	Hearing Panel
	RSA Hall Stewart Island / Rakiura	22 June	10.30am – 3.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
	3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Monday, 29 June	10.30am – 6.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
	3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Monday, 13 July	10.30am – 5.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
	3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Friday, 17 July	10.00am – 7.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
	Kingsgate Hotel, 10 Smith Street, Dunedin	Monday, 20 July	9.00am – 6.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
	3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Monday, 27 July	10.00am – 4.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
	Conference Room, Department of Conservation Office, Level 5, 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton	Monday, 10 August	9.30am – 7.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Ian Wilson
	3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Monday, 17 August	10.30am – 7.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Ian Wilson
	RSA Hall Stewart Island / Rakiura	Monday, 24 August	10.20 – 3.00pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson

Council promotes microchipping

Kevin the dog’s story has highlighted the need for dogs to be microchipped, Southland District Council group manager regulatory services Lindsay McKenzie said.

Kevin is a black Labrador who was owned by a Hamilton man who was killed while he was out hunting. The dog was found wandering without a collar or microchip in Opunake 10 days after his owner’s body was found. Kevin was held in the South Taranaki District Council pound for 10 days before he was rehomed with a family who paid the registration and microchipping fee.

However, the family of the dead man wanted the dog back as they said Kevin was part of their family. Unfortunately the new owners did not want to give him back and the story has been played out in the media.

Mr McKenzie said the story was sad but also could have been avoided if Kevin had been microchipped.

“The council would have been able to scan the dog and immediately know who he belonged to and return him.

“We have had a tremendous response to the free microchipping we have offered, with more than 300 dogs chipped around Southland.

“I strongly recommend dog-owners consider microchipping to avoid situations like this ever occurring.

“It’s tragic for everyone concerned, but there is a simple solution,” Mr McKenzie said.

For further information please contact:
[Lindsay McKenzie](#)

Group Manager Regulatory Services
 Southland District Council
 Phone: 0800 732732

STEWART ISLAND LIONS CLUB.

To those fellow islanders who don't know about us, and a reminder to those who do ...

The Stewart Island Lions Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

The meeting is followed by a meal and fellowship together.

In – coming office bearers for the 2009 / 10 year are:

- President – Barbara Wilson – ph: 077
- Secretary – Anita Geeson – ph: 014
- Treasurer – Jon Spraggon – ph: 449.

We pride ourselves on taking an active part in the community, helping those who need help. Recent donations have been made to the S.I. Search & Rescue Organization (funding for basic equipment kits,) Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust, NZ.Foundation of the Blind (puppy sponsorship), Starship Hospital and Southland Hospice.

We enjoy the company of our fellow club members by participating in club projects together. Forth coming projects include weekly delivery of meals-on-wheels to Senior Citizens, organization of the 'Catch All' Fishing Competition (Aug.2 – 4) and the 2009 Singles Ball.

Want to know more?

You are welcome to come along and share a meeting night with us. Contact the president, or secretary (as above) for meeting time and venue.



from Jess

Necessity is the mother of invention. This can apply to your kitchen: recipes have been born from a hungry tummy and whatever happens to be in your cupboards. Gourmet magic can occur, such is the happy story of Caesar Salad: On a busy night in 1924 at Caesar's Hotel in Tijuana, Mexico, the kitchen ran short of supplies, the customers were hungry, so the chef threw together any available ingredients and *voila*, a famous and tasty meal now graces world menus.

It's not always culinary history...the combination of hunger and supply can go horribly wrong, too. Last crayfishing season a peckish crew (we'll call him "George") mixed the following ingredients in a pot: spaghetti, a can of Wattie's potato bake, and left-over chunks of fried cod. Don't expect to see the resulting "Lachy Pasta" on fine menus anytime soon.

Below is a quick and easy (and anchovy-less)

Caesar Salad:

Slice a third package of streaky bacon crosswise in 2-cm bits and cook in skillet till all fat melted off and they are just about burnt, transfer to paper towels to absorb excess grease.

Bake one of those packaged garlic breads from the shop until crunchy, then cut longwise and across to create a heap of big buttery crunchy croutons. Yum.

Mix Caesar dressing (Paul Newman brand is nice) with Tbsp of mayonnaise to make it creamy.

Toss dressing, bacon, and croutons in bowl with lettuce (Romaine is best but whatever will do), and (optional) avocado and (very optional) half a can of sweet whole corn.

Top with shaved Parmesan cheese and ground coarse black pepper and serve with poached egg atop. Nice with white wine. Nasty with prune juice.

Kiwi on Stewart Island

Public meeting to discuss management
7.30pm, Thursday 2nd July
At the Department of Conservation office

The kiwi recovery planning process requires writing of a specific plan (called a taxon plan) for the Stewart Island birds. Part of the process of writing these plans, is to consult and get input and ideas from anyone who has a stake in kiwi on Stewart Island.

Therefore a public workshop will occur at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd July. One of the kiwi recovery group will be coming down to participate in the discussion. This will be at DOC and I promise to supply tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits. If you can't make that meeting, or would simply prefer to discuss something in person, then give me a call to arrange some time during that same day.

Questions to Brent Beaven (03 2190007)

Website of the month brought to you by Vicki:

www.thenile.co.nz

is an online bookstore with customer reviews, competitions and low-cost books. At the moment they are running a 99c book deal for the first people to reply to the offers (May was *High Fidelity*, June was *The Great Gatsby*), plus on the 29th June they are releasing a range of Penguin classics from \$10.49.

Re-read the stories of your childhood, or pass them on so other generations of your family can discover them! Also review a book and be in to win a \$50 each month!

(FIRE BRIGADE *Continued from page 2)*

Honours medals

This years honours medals go to;
 Steve King - 2 year bar (7 years service)
 Jarrod Baird - 2 year bar (9 years service)
 Rex Dunlop- 2 year bar (11 years service)
 Gary Lewis – 2 year bar (11 years service)
 Andrew Knowles - 2 year bar (13 years service)
 Brett Twaddle – 2 year bar (17 years service)
 Neil Connor – 2 year bar (29 years service)

Life Membership

We are honoured this year to officially present Arkwright with his Life Membership Medal, after 30 plus years of fire-fighting. Rumours circulate that Arkie was actually born IN the Fire Station. According to local legend, Arkie learned to talk by manning the radio at age three and fell in love with the Green Goddess at age twelve, learning to drive her shortly thereafter. This was followed by an illustrious career as a fire fighter, quickly rising to the rank of Senior Fire Fighter. Arkie has been also been Treasurer for the past 18 years. The local brigade is honoured to present Arkie with his Life Membership Medal.

Best Attendance 2009

It's quite possible that there were callouts that the brigade never even heard about because this man got there first /put the fire out/ pumped the boat out / got the cat out of the tree /or the drunkard

out of the ditch before any of us even responded to the call, because that's just the kind of guy he is. And that's why this year's best attendance goes to Percy, Man of Steel.

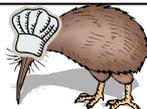
Nathan Pasco Memorial Cup for Services to Fire and Rescue

This cup is awarded every year in memory of Nathan Pasco, and is presented by Nathan's father Noel. This year the award goes to Jarrod Baird. Pog has not only been fire fighting this year, he has also attended many callouts to assist the nurses with his Pre-hospital Emergency Care skills. In the salvage of the Nimbus at Masons Bay last week, Pog worked continuously for 30 hours manning the pump to keep her afloat. This is possibly the longest call in Brigade history, and a huge effort. Well done Pog.

Joining the Fire Brigade.

Every year I write something hoping to encourage more people to join the Fire Brigade. We have a small number of trained fire fighters, ideally we would have more so that we can be sure that we can respond at any time to any sort of emergency. I've heard all the excuses, 'I'm away a lot' 'I have a family' 'I'm too busy' 'I've done my bit'... these excuses hold true for every volunteer we have in the brigade, but those guys still show up and do their bit. We train every Monday night, if you are interested please come on down and we show you what it is all about. Or talk to any of the Brigade.

More...
the GALLEY



sent to us by Vicki:

5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE!!

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
- A small splash of vanilla extract and your favourite tipple
- 1 large coffee mug

Add dry ingredients to your largest mug and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (if using), vanilla extract and a drop or two of your favourite tipple, then mix again. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts (high). The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired..

In honour of our recent snowfall, a snow poem:

Love Recognized

by Robert Penn Warren

There are many things in the world and you
 Are one of them. Many things keep happening and
 You are one of them, and the happening that
 Is you keeps falling like snow
 On the landscape of not-you, hiding hideousness,
 until
 The streets and the world of wrath are choked with
 snow.

How many things have become silent? Traffic
 Is throttled. The mayor
 Has been, clearly, remiss and the city
 Was totally unprepared for such a crisis. Nor
 Was I — yes, why should this happen to me?
 I have always been a law abiding citizen.

But you, like snow, like love, keep falling,

And it is not certain that the world will not be
 Covered in a glitter of crystalline whiteness.

Silence.

HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL

by Kath Johnson

SOUTHERN ZONE CROSS COUNTRY: Congratulations to the eleven students that travelled to Gorge Road to compete in The Southern Zone Cross Country on Friday 22nd May. The students were a determined bunch who really navigated that choppy sea or should I say muddy paddock (or several of them in Jahdan and Meg's case).

The course was extremely cross country with everyone having to cross at least one muddy creek and Meg and Jahdan having to conquer some mighty hilly paddocks. Special mention must go to Marley Wright who came 3rd in the 8



Rat Tales, Fantails and other stories of breeding success.

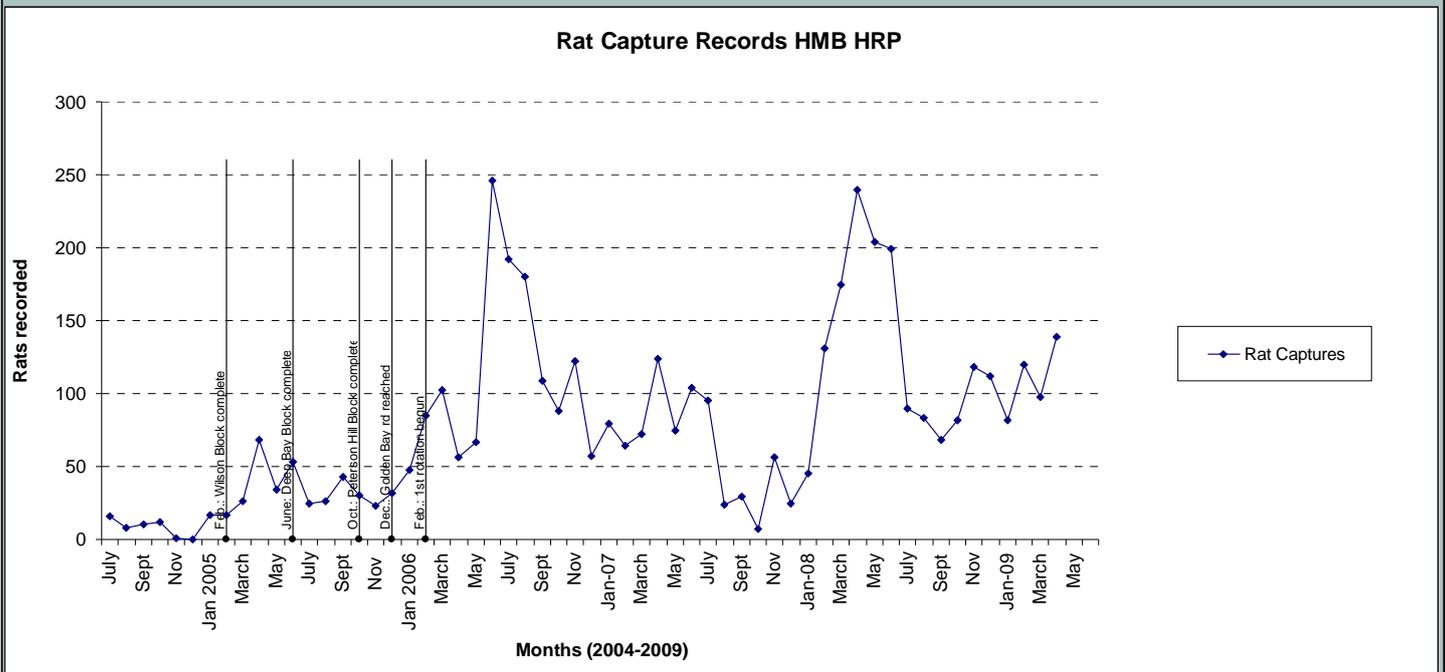
by Kari Beaven

It's hard to strike the right balance between keeping you up-to-date on what the latest news has been in the community trapping project and not leaving you alone! With some people saying 'it's all they ever read about' and others saying they haven't heard anything from us in ages, I guess these articles must be falling somewhere in the middle of those extremes with the majority of people.

Anyway, I was collating some rat captures and bird count results ahead of the information night SIRCET held last month and felt this was too interesting to leave out.

It seems our instincts were all right – there were a lot of rats around in the peak of their breeding cycle last year. Volunteers, around-the-home trappers and staff felt they were catching rats endlessly. The quantity of food we were seeing on the fuchsia, wineberry and other foody-trees served to both excite people about what would be available for the local native birds, and worry others about how well rats might continue to breed. Our trapping records, taken from the updates volunteers hand in each month showing where they've caught rats, shows a peak *as high as the first year* we had traps set out in the project area. Each of these rats is now not around to breed, kill or damage property, making for a better future for all the things we do want to have around.

The graph shows the rat captures, per month since the project began. The vertical lines show how the project expanded in the early days from Ackers Point back to the Golden Bay road. Rat numbers go up and down across the year, in line with their breeding and lifecycle; at their highest from March – August and dropping in number over summer.





year old boys race (out of 41).

Other top fifteen placings were: Meg Kenny 8th out of 32, George Conner 10th out of 57, Timu Moxham 12th out of 52 and Jack Dobbins 13th out of 41. Well done to all our runners.

The thing that made me proudest was watching two awesome students (Sophie and Jahdan) who don't really enjoy running BUT gave it their best and made our school proud. It's not always about winning, but it is about PERSEVERING and doing your best!



Pretty exciting, but even more so when considered with the results from bird count monitoring this year. With all those rats around, we secretly had a mental note that it would be an achievement if our monitoring showed that bird numbers had 'held their own' over the breeding season, ie, that we hadn't lost any ground from what volunteers' trapping efforts had achieved over the last 5 years. What we actually recorded was a rise in numbers... again!

The bird count graph is an average of all the (native) species counted at each of the count stations. There are 50 stations at Ackers Point, representing where we are trapping for rats, and 50 stations around the Ryan's Creek track, representing where we are not trapping for rats. What the graph suggests, is that if you stopped at any spot at Ackers Point or along the Ryan's Creek track in April 2004, you would be able to count, on average, about 5 or 6 individual, native birds within a 100m radius. In April 2009, this number had soared at Ackers Point to an average of 18 different individual native birds, while at Ryan's creek it had remained pretty much unchanged.

Thank you to everyone who has played their part this last year, from trustees Margaret,

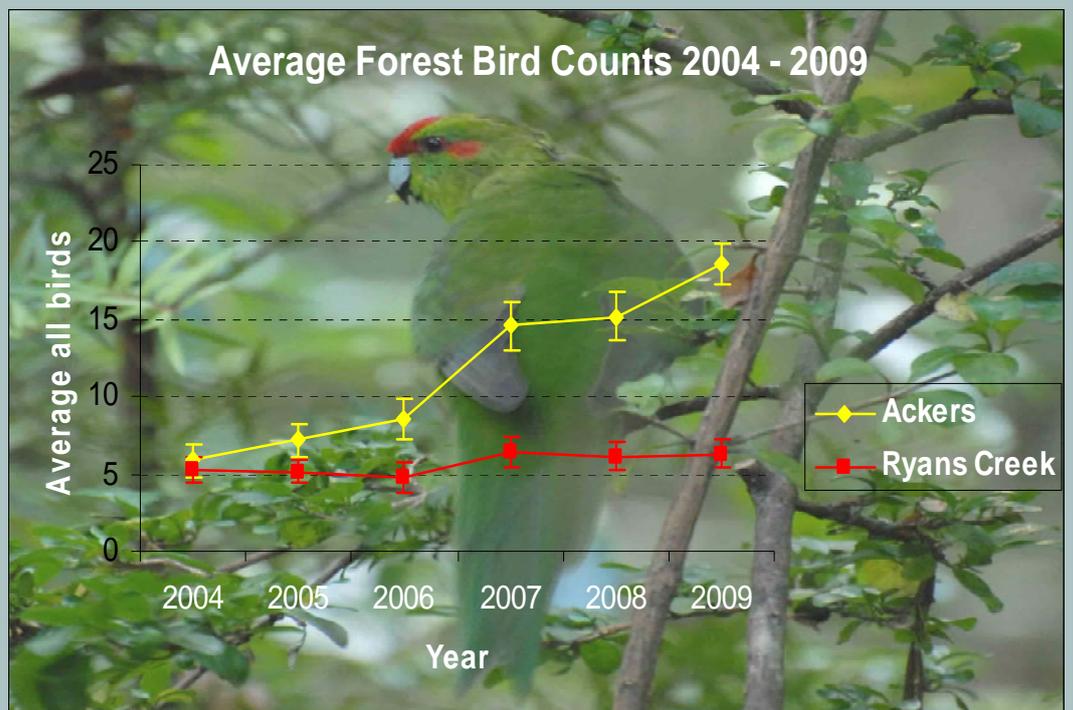
Margaret, Jo, Paula and Jim, to Di and Bevan, two staff no longer with the project; the many volunteers who together give over twelve hundred hours each year and around-the-home trappers (whose time contributions are much harder to gauge but are valued equally), especially to those hard-core trappers over that period: Lee, Karen, Daniel, John, Ian, Philippa, Russell, Carolyn, Ronnie, Peter, Margaret, Ann, Neville, Steve, Collette, Sharon, Sandy, Clint, Jan, Brent, Jessi, Emma, Claire, Jo, Rosie and others I may have missed, and the project sponsors who continue to support the work in both practical and financial ways.

Many of you know I am going to become a mum in the next few weeks, and that I'm very excited about the

new 'job'. I'd like to say an enormous THANK YOU to everyone who has made this job such an enjoyment and the project such a success over the years. I'd also like to say welcome to Jessi Nichols and Claire Kilner, who will be continuing the work to drive this project forward alongside you all. Thanks for making the island your home Jessi and Claire, and for your enthusiasm already towards what is a fantastic achievement for a small community. I will of course be staying involved in a volunteer capacity, and still love hearing about your stories and successes, the nests in your gardens and those phenomenal weka, so do stay in touch.

Oh yeah, and if anyone has any advice for me on what to do with a baby...

—Kari B



QUIZ JAR!

by Vicki Coats

I quite often find unusual stuff in the quiz jar; foreign coins, old kiwi tender (why is it still in your pocket???) and the infamous stamped coin with the ten commandments on it. (It was over Easter and I did manage to give it back to the owner so she could bother someone else with it!). However, today has to be the best. The playing card with the rather excited young man (nekkid) came out first (pun not intended) so that must have been someone that was there on the 7th June... (you know who you are, I thankfully don't) and the list went on!

So we have:

Ace of spades card featuring a chap (don't tell Hippy)

A love you note from Matt (don't tell Hippy)

An aussie \$2, 20c, 10c and 5c, an old Kiwi 10c and two 5c, a Tongan 10 seniti, a German 10 pfennig (minted 1950, I

used to use them to buy lollies more than 20 years ago!)

A button (who's losing their pants?)

And a polished washer (Hippy advises me not to tell Sanfords)

I think I'd rather just



have donations! But if anyone knows a charity that will take foreign coins let me know; the same if your Stewart Island good cause needs a cash injection, we're always on the look out for places to spend the money, but you will have to complete at least one quiz before we

take you on!

And to finish, along with the debris, we also took \$990 out (that's for about 8 or 9 quizzes) so thanks to everyone who comes and joins in and donates! (I'll let you know the recipients soon!)



Do you need **money** for a project? (No, not the buying-a-pint sort of project.) Our new computers are loaded with many great programs and subscribe to online databases which can help you. Come log onto Fundview, Break-Out and CorporateCitizens and research loans, grants, sponsorship and many other financial options available to you. These resources will cost you at home but are all FREE at your Library.

Letitia donated a heap of *Life and Leisure* **magazines** to us which are really nice publications. This makes our magazine collection truly stellar: *NZ Geographic, Real Groove, North & South, Cuisine, Next, Taste, Seafood, NZ Aquaculture* ... who has time for books?

Well, make time! Vicki kindly bought us a pile of **new books** including Jeremy Clarkson's *For Crying Out Loud* for all you *Top Gear* fans. Other new non-fiction from her shopping

spree includes *Fleur's Place*, all about the beautiful Moeraki restaurant. New fiction features *A Perfectly Good Family* by Lionel Shriver, author of the freaky and un-put-down-able *We Need to Talk About Kevin*. Also *White Tiger* by Aravund Adiga, winner of the 2008 Booker Prize.

Recommended books:

- *Outlander* by Gil Adamson: Historical novel set in turn-of-century Canadian wilderness, exquisite detail transports you to the mining communities and backwoods of the Rockies in 1900, all while following a very strong female protagonist as she runs from scary vengeful brothers-in-law.
- *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski: This modern-day version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is beautifully written, heart-wrenching, and a glimpse into the world of dog breeding, training, and a dog's soul.
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare: Good for your reading soul.

Wendy has very generously given us a **\$100 voucher** for books which I intend to spend on NZ history.

Sorry, I've decided to close the Library for the rest of June's **Monday evenings**. It's dark and cold at 6:30pm, and the last time I went I stood there shivering for an hour and not one person showed up. Hopefully we'll get back on the Monday night horse in July. If you really need a book or DVD outside of our schedule, do call me at 367 (within reasonable hours) and I'll open the library for you.

Thanks to Raylene, Pat, Beverley O and Loraine H for donations of books, and to Kent and Casey for new DVDs. Noel B gave me a paperback which he'd sawn in half, I'm hoping I can make double the money with it at the sale shelf, and then millions when I sell the idea to Whitcoulls.

We are open and you're most welcome 2-3 Wednesday; and 11-noon Friday and Saturday. —Jess

A poem from Vicki Coats:

I can't but help, notice of late,
 The slow decline of our long-running mate,
 Not a person, whom we all hold dear,
 Rather an institution that has run, year after year,
 It used to be fun, with stories to be told,
 Now meetings and reports are getting old,
 Now I'm as guilty as the next man,
 Finding the time within me to plan,
 A witty story, a poem, a tale to share,
 Who did what here and who did that there,
 Our loveable paper the SIN,
 Is rapidly becoming only fit for the bin,
 While updates on DOC are needed to be known,
 Perhaps another side of Stewart Island should be shown,
 Think of our readers far and wide,
 And think what they must decide,
 Is this place I once visited and had fun?
 Where I awoke with a plastic cockerel and stones stuck to me bum?
 Where I visited friends and we yarned for a while,
 Where I went for a small walk and was gone for miles,
 That place is still here as we all know well,
 You all have many stories to tell,
 Winter is upon us, not much to do,
 So next down you sit down with not much of a clue,
 Of how you're going to fill the wintery night,
 Did out the old photo albums and give us a fright,
 Take photos of the next group you go to,
 Write us a story of what you did and plan to do,
 Give us some gossip, some scandal (that's clean),
 And let's not all of us lean,
 Upon our lovely writers who struggle to fill,
 Our community paper, that we can't wait until,
 It appears on the counter of Ship to Shore,
 Eagerly we buy, expecting more.
 The people of Rakiura are what make this land,
 So if you if you could see your way clear to lend a hand,
 And make this great paper a representation,
 Of a cross-life of our small nation,
 I, for one, would thank you dearly,
 And promise to write more (once I can see the quiz clearly!)
 Now no more hints and no more clues!
 Get off your arse and help the Stewart Island News!

Storms drive seabirds inland

The Department of Conservation has received numerous calls from people who have found exhausted seabirds blown off course.

Many titi ('sooty shearwaters' or 'mutton birds') have been unable to endure harsh weather conditions in Foveaux Strait as they migrate to the North Pacific, being blown inland as far as Edendale and Wyndham.

DOC Biodiversity Assets Ranger for Murihiku Area Sue Lake said it is quite normal for seabird fledglings to be found dead on beaches during the migration period. However poor food sources this season have led to a significant number of underweight titi being blown inland.

"Anyone who finds an exhausted seabird should try to release it at the nearest beach by placing it behind a log or somewhere it can get a bit of shelter. Some of these birds will recover in their own time but others are in such poor condition they will not survive," Ms Lake said.

"Rehabilitation is not generally an option for seabirds, due to their special food and environmental requirements," Ms Lake said. "If the bird is injured or an unusual breed it can be taken to DOC for staff to assess and manage its condition."

Seabirds are protected under the Wildlife Act and dog owners should be particularly careful to ensure their dog does not harass any sick or injured seabirds.

DOC Pou Kura Taiao Manager Stephen Bragg said 'birding' season on the Titi islands has also been impacted. "Titi have a great significance for iwi as they are a key asset for harvesting," said Mr Bragg. "There is an expectation titi numbers will vary each year but this season is particularly poor so the number being harvested has reduced."

An estimated 20 million titi live and breed on islands around Foveaux Strait and the Sub-Antarctic islands. Titi often travel in flocks of up to 500,000 birds, spending the winter in Sub-Arctic waters as far north as the Gulf of Alaska. The first breeding birds will arrive back in our southern oceans in September.

RIDDLE-OF-THE-MONTH

KENT, KAREN AND ANN WERE THE FIRST TO RESPOND CORRECTLY TO LAST MONTH'S RIDDLE

SIXTEENTH JUNE I VISIT YOU
 I MAKE YOU SMILE AND TURN YOU BLUE

YOU HARDLY EVER SEE ME HERE
 I DROP IN ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR

I DON'T STAY LONG, FLAKY? THAT'S ME
 I'M JUST TOO COOL FOR HMB

I STICK ROUND LONGER IF I'M HIGH
 MY GIFT I DIDN'T KNIT OR BUY

THE WHITE HAT MAKES YOU OOH AND AHH
 UNTIL TAKEN AWAY BY RA

Joe Cave slips a lemon from his bra and squeezes it into his drink; Fox's band caterwauls in the background; Colin Hopkins leans on the bar in a tight pink dress...

Beware: Helen Cave has finally sussed out how to convert video tapes to DVDs, and she is now armed with hours of decades-old Island footage which will soon be showing at a Pub near you...

In honour of our recent snowfall, a snow poem:

A Piece of the Storm

by Mark Strand

From the shadow of domes in the city of domes,
 A snowflake, a blizzard of one, weightless, entered your room
 And made its way to the arm of the chair where you, looking up
 From your book, saw it the moment it landed.
 That's all there was to it. No more than a solemn waking
 To brevity, to the lifting and falling away of attention, swiftly,
 A time between times, a flowerless funeral. No more than that
 Except for the feeling that this piece of the storm,
 Which turned into nothing before your eyes, would come back,
 That someone years hence, sitting as you are now, might say:
 "It's time. The air is ready. The sky has an opening."



Your help would be greatly appreciated to construct rat traps for the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project! Easy to do and no prior skills needed.



10am SATURDAY 27th JUNE
Community Centre Veranda



11am first showing of the Titi burrow camera footage

Traps will also be available for purchase at cost price for round your home.



To all Keen Trappers:
Bring along your **best, biggest** rat specimens of all species. An award will be given to the 'best of show'. We want good fresh specimens of taxidermy quality.



NEED MORE CASH?

Mature consultants required to present our popular adult parties. Must be outgoing with a good sense of humour.

Be your own boss, work your own hours, meet new friends and have a lot of fun. What more could you ask for?

Ph: 03 218 3157 or email: southland@cocobella.co.nz



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next meeting will be at the home of Jenny Gell Thursday 9th July at 2pm

Competition:
A red flower
Flowering Shrub
A Winter Rose



"Winter Warmers" for senior citizens.

Meals-on-Wheels begins on June 17th.

Delivery each Wednesday.

Phone your order to South Seas Hotel
Ph: 2191059
by Monday of each week or place a regular weekly order.

Brought to your door by Stewart Island Lions Club members.

Kakapo Encounter 2009



People calling the Visitor Centre to book their Encounter will be asking about special discounts offered to them during the event (Sept 26-Oct 26).

Many local businesses are already on board, including the plane, the ferry, and several accommodations. Don't miss out, put together your Kakapo Encounter package today and let us know.

kakapoencounter@extra.co.nz or call i-SITE at 2191 400

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com The next deadline is Monday, 11th July.

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

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

Name of Recipient: _____
Address _____

