

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

MARCH-APRIL 2007

\$2

Stewart Island has been in the news lately, what with Arkwright's discovery of oil beneath Thule boat sheds; a spot on TV One's "Are we There Yet?"; and, in sombre events, the sad and sudden death of Big Fluffy (p.2). *RIP, YEP.*



Oyster season!

Rain or shine, heaps of people have been around: oyster-seekers and trampers, road-workers and Pub revellers. We've had some unfortunate Pub *revilers* too, including an unsavoury visitor

We watch the news in dismay as the weatherman depicts squiggly spiderwebs of Lows ensnaring the island. After a beautiful summer, the weather turned on a dime and warm



Stroppy sheds his velvet, kicking off camo-fashion season (p.12) and the start of the roar.

northerlies became cold southerlies. But we must remember the rain isn't all bad—no more fire

ban, no more empty rain tanks, and have a read of this month's *Oban Globetrotter* —the photo of an Australian boat ramp in a cracked desert says it all (p.4).



Opening day of oyster season: Zane sorts through a bunch of bivalves after diving a secret patch.

who stole flour from the Hotel kitchen, brought it back to his accommodation and threw it all over his room. Another dubious character did very bad things to the pool table.

The Hotel staff party featured some excellent costumes — Borat was a particular hit. Quiz nights continue on Sunday nights at 6, folks hurl abuse and wrong answers around like they're going out of style, and it's extremely good fun.

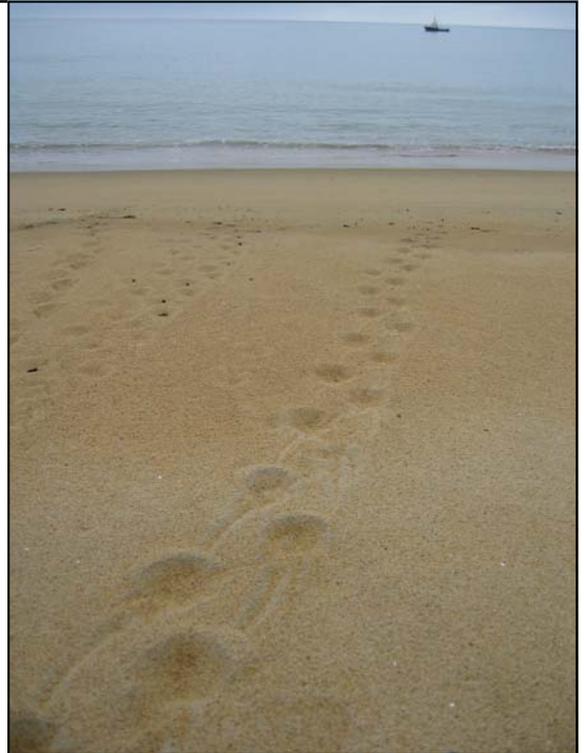
The Library fundraiser was a big success (p.10)— thanks to all who helped.

Many local driveways have a nice new crunch to them ... oyster shells!

Wood pigeons seem especially prolific these days, and kiwi



Sinky and his harem relax at Ringa Ringa.



Yellow-eyed penguin tracks.

PLEASE NOTE: There has been some confusion about the **FERRY SCHEDULE** due to a type-o on the schedule magnets. The correct time table should read: **Mid-March through April, the last ferry from Oban is at 5pm. May through Sept, the last ferry from Oban sails at 3pm.**

There is a correction slip on page 12, just cut out and stick over type-o!

sightings around the Bay continue.

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And much more!!



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

This month's news is not what I was expecting it would be. I was expecting to be able to say that the sole surviving

chick on the Anglem coast had fledged and was busy exploring its ocean environment. Instead I have to say that Big Fluffy was found dead near his nest on 28th February. Needless to say I was completely gob smacked when I found him, and it would not be appropriate to print what I actually said. I had last seen Big Fluffy about 10 days before, alive and well with no outward sign of illness. A quick check for his transponder with the electronic reader (the "light saber" device in the photo) confirmed his identity.

The carcass appeared quite fresh, and I estimated that he hadn't been dead for more than a day or two so it seemed worthwhile sending him to Massey for a full autopsy. A few phone calls later and a taxi was on its way (cell phones do have their uses); a very big thank you to Ian Wilson for making a special water taxi trip in "Eco Taxi" to pick me up in time to package Big Fluffy appropriately and send him off. He arrived at Massey the next morning, and the pathologists were delighted to have such a fresh, and thus valuable, specimen. They contacted me later in the day to say that it looked like Big Fluffy had been killed by a blood parasite that they have been particularly interested in. This preliminary diagnosis has since been confirmed by laboratory tests. They also confirmed that he was a male, was in good physical condition and had plenty of fat reserves before he died, and death was acute, i.e. it happened suddenly.

Breeding success on the Anglem coast this year has been 0%, it doesn't get any worse than that! The only good thing to have come of it is that a lot of detailed information was collected by researchers from Otago and Massey Universities. Two diseases were identified which caused the death of some chicks, other chicks died of starvation and/or had been squashed in the nest. We have learned that the blood parasite appears to be endemic in the penguin population – most of the adults have it

but are not being affected by it.

One aspect of the investigation being carried out at Massey aims to find out why this disease is affecting the young penguins so dramatically, and to understand how the two diseases cause mortality and interact with each other and with starvation.

Of course we are also monitoring penguins on some of the islands in the Bravo group and on Codfish Island. Results from those islands are quite different to the disaster along the Anglem coast; breeding success is lower than it has been in past years for both places but at least some chicks have survived and have fledged. Some of the work being carried out by researchers from Otago University should tell us whether there are gross differences in the quality of the food being fed to the chicks by their parents. If there are differences then we will need to look more closely at the role of food supply in chick deaths; if not then we will know to focus more on the disease aspect. We're still waiting for results from this and other aspects of the foraging and diet studies.

One of the questions we have to ask ourselves after a season like this is "are we the cause of any of the chick deaths?" We still have to be, and always have been, aware of our potential impact. We don't approach a nest any closer than is necessary to observe its contents. If we have to handle any bird, for example when weighing chicks or retrieving dead ones from a nest, we wear gloves or use an antibacterial hand cleaner to ensure we are not transferring

disease between birds. We also clean organic matter from our boots between sites, again so that we are not transporting disease.

Scientifically it is unlikely that we have caused any of the chick deaths by monitoring, bearing in mind that:

1. We are also monitoring on Codfish and the Bravo islands and those chicks haven't all died.
2. This is the fourth season of monitoring and in past seasons chicks have survived.
3. Yellow-eyed penguins are monitored and



Big Fluffy.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DOC Spot

Beach Clean-ups

Sea week was celebrated at the start of March and, quite appropriately, this year it coincided with the annual beach cleanups along the north western coast of Stewart Island. Three trips, each consisting of three volunteers led by a DOC staff member combed the coast from Doughboy to East Ruggedy. Blair Jarvis led the first trip and over the course of a week collected 5 fadges of rubbish from Little Hellfire, one each from Big Hellfire and Waituna and four from West Ruggedy. Blair said that among the fish bins, nets, rope, buoys and bottles, he was amazed to find a rugby ball kicking tee. Sharon Pasco and her team had four perfect days of sunshine at Doughboy Bay and filled 6 fadges. Again, mainly with nets and ropes, but also a lot of strapping tape and plastic bags, not to mention the odd toothbrush and light bulb and even a mud guard from a bicycle. The third trip is currently underway with James Lang and his team combing the length of Mason Bay. At the conclusion of the trips, the fadges, which have been stropped up will be collected by helicopter and flown out to the freight boat and transported to Bluff and on to a landfill. So until at least the next big blow – anyone tackling the North West Circuit can expect to find some pristine beaches.



Just one of the many nets extracted from Doughboy Bay by volunteers Prue Turnbull, Pip Craigie and Goril Andreassen.

Fire Ban

A Prohibited Fire Season has been declared by the Southern Rural Fire Authority since the 28th February, which means until further notice there is a total fire ban, throughout the Southland District, including Stewart Island, therefore the lighting of fires is not permitted in the open air. Changes to fire seasons are notified by radio announcement or newspaper advertisements, but on Stewart Island will also be posted on the Public, DOC and SDC notice-boards. If in doubt as to whether or not you are permitted to have a fire please contact the DOC office, as we administer

fire permits for the island on behalf of the SRFA.

Further introductions: Paul Schneider – Ranger Animal Pests

Hi, my name is Paul Schneider and I was born on the 22nd of February 1977 in Pretoria, South Africa, where I also grew up. I migrated to Germany together with my family, where I completed Montessori High school and did my Bachelor in Physical Geography, Botany and Zoology. I obtained a post-graduate scholarship for a year at Victoria University in Wellington, where I completed my Honours degree researching sediment distribution resulting from major landslide events.

Returning to Germany, I worked as a freelance environmental consultant for three years, during which time I spent six months on a tiny island off Sicily, Italy. I always planned on returning to NZ, which I did together with my partner Daniela late last year after sailing the Pacific from West to East in seven months.

What prompted me to take a position on Stewart Island? I had heard only good things about this truly beautiful place. The fact that Stewart Island is 85% National Park to me is absolutely fantastic and I said to myself that this is where I want to work, live and make a contribution. Also for Daniela it was a place she wanted to go and live since she has recently completed her thesis on migratory birds in the Waddensea National Park in Germany and shares the same fascination as myself for islands and wildlife.



Paul with a child on Taroa Island

What I most enjoy about being here is the scenery, especially the sunrises and sunsets, the peacefulness and the absence of crime, the kakas, being out in nature, being able to contribute, working for DOC, great colleagues, appreciating a lot of things a lot more which I often took for granted before I moved here, sitting on the balcony at the end of the day looking out onto the bay drinking a nice glass of wine, smoking the cigarette of the day and simply enjoying the place as such.



ban Globetrotter *off-island adventures*

Kari and Brent Beaven recently crossed the ditch, following is Kari's account of their trip:

Australia is an island of reasonable-size and I grew up around the middle of the south coast, so it is not astounding that I had never been to Bendigo, two hours north-west of Melbourne.

One of the wealthiest of the small country towns which sprung up during the gold rushes of the nineteenth century, Bendigo entertained the opulent lifestyles of many gold merchants as well as the rather less endearing necessities of the prospectors. The earth was laced with seams of gold and the area boasted two vast and reliable sources of water, essential to combating the cycle of "droughts and flooding rains" for which the Australian outback is renowned. Thus Bendigo outgrew its small-town title and became a city of almost 80,000 people complete with universities, a bio technology industry, the Bank of Bendigo (which I believe is now owned by investors outside of Oz...); sustainable in itself.

We were looking forward to spending a few days in the his-



Christie's Beach, sunset.



Lake Eppalock boat ramp, Bendigo.

toric town, visiting my brother, his partner Sally and my very first niece Dahlia; all there on Pete's work assignment.

The train from Melbourne central was an experience of its own, passing through "Castlemaine", a town made famous by A.B. (Banjo) Paterson -arguably Australia's most famous poet and a long-time favourite of mine-, "Diggers Rest" where, surprisingly, those seeking their fortunes further up the line would stop for rest and water, as well as rugged forest and the raw beauty of the countryside stretching far away to a distant horizon. Brent's ribs suffered a few sharp digs to alert him to places and stories long dismissed to the deeper areas of my memory.

The town was gorgeous, the buildings historic, my niece the most beautiful little girl in the world and the company of Sally and Pete fantastic to be enjoying again after so

long apart, but by far the most extraordinary experience was a visit to the once vast and reliable "Lake Eppalock", Bendigo's last remaining water supply beyond milk tankers trucking the precious liquid from Melbourne. Sally drove us past the former yacht club, ghostly in

its inactivity, to the "boat ramp". From here it was two miles down to the water, the lake at a mere 1% capacity.



Brent and niece Dahlia at Lake Eppalock.

Roads have now been built far below where yachts once raced, the drought has extended for so long, and small shrubs have grown where they

once were drowned. We followed one such road down to the basin, where we walked on clay leached of its moisture so much that it was cracked through to over a foot below its surface. Stepping had to be swift to move off each clay "pillar" before the ground gave way beneath our feet.

Water restrictions, the future of water sources around the country and how long before the next rains were the major

(Continued on page 5)

PHOTOS: KARI AND BRENT BEAVEN

(GLOBETROTTER *Continued from page 4*)

topics of discussion wherever we went, though still much of that was with optimism and a sense of humour born of generations accustomed to narrow escapes.

Neighbour-watching has begun, where each person is so aware of the fragility of the system that they abhor a lush, green lawn and take note of how long other people run the tap. Buckets are placed to catch the excess shower water and installing a grey-water system (which catches and keeps separate water from the shower, washing machine etc for use in the garden) almost outstrips building a verandah (deck) for increasing the value of a home.

Water and the solution offered for its provision looks set to decide the outcome of the next major election.

Onward to Adelaide and water was still a hot topic, especially as the Victorians have been pinching water out of the major river running through to South Australia for years (the "Mighty Murray" now a trickle in places, no longer supporting the heritage "Coorong" wetland area, nor escaping to the ocean at its mouth). We managed to catch our fair share, spending days at a time, surfing, wave-jumping or just watching the sun go down over the sea. Brent survived his first day ever in weather hotter than blood temperature. At 41.5°C we sat at "Moana" feeling the cooler sea breeze under the sun-shade or surfing the sizeable waves. Apparently a 4m "great white" (shark) spent the same day there; however, so long as we stayed near to smaller, slower prey we felt safe

enough. The local flight school has an ongoing contract for "shark runs" where up-and-coming pilots build up their hours flying the coastline with a "spotter." When a shark is seen the plane circles low over the nearby swimmers and everyone piles in to shore until it's safe to venture out again. Or that's the theory...



Brent's cool kit.

The nights were a lovely reminder for me of childhood weeks on end spent without dipping below 30°C. My fingers remembered the feeling of blood-flow and each night I slept like a baby.

Brent hugged the air conditioner and in that way was able to grab a few hours' restless kip. He also learnt the time-honoured art of freezing a wet tea-towel to act as a refrigeration unit as the ice melts and the water and evaporates off your skin.

All too soon we were buying our last Eucalyptus balls, Pepperleaf sauce and Chico-babies (treats not available outside Oz) and heading for the departure terminal.



Kari soaks up rays at Point Noarlunga.

Now back in fresh, green New Zealand I still find myself reaching up in elation when the sky breaks. Though I've never run short of water in our tank here yet, the only discomfort I can find in the sometimes steady rains is that I can't share some of it westwards to give the parched decision-makers a fresh start.

Friday and Luke unload gravel at Halfmoon Bay Wharf.

Photos by Sandy King



Barry Atkins
20.03.1951 – 18.02 2007

I just wanted to write a special thank you to you the wonderful people of Stewart Island for your cards, phone calls, flowers and support. The Island had a special place in Barry's heart. He fought his battle well and the time that we spent down there always gave him renewed energy to carry on. That "feel good factor" so impor-

tant in any health battle. I always tell people when I talk of the Island and your support it's like having a big warm blanket wrapped around you. His funeral was held at home on a beautiful sunny day. He told me two days before what he wanted, and one of the things he said was "I want it to be a mid afternoon funeral with a high tide." He got the highest tide of the year and as they carried him out the tide turned. A very "Barry" funeral —

his presence was everywhere. Our association with the Island is going to continue of course and I know when the time is right and I come down, the support will be there in abundance again.

As a community pat yourselves on the back, caring is a wonderful thing. Thanks again.

Aroha to you all.
*Sue, Chris & Katrina, Tracy,
 Matt & Alina*

Stewart Island Community Centre News

Job Vacancy

Manager for the Stewart Island Community Centre.

6 hours per week with occasional extra hours available.
 Duties include: Banking and customer invoicing
 Bookings and scheduling
 Membership recruitment and renewals
 Ensuring building security
 Checking phone/email /mail messages
 Client liaison

For further details please contact:

Margaret Hopkins - 2191126
 Hilli Maas-Barrett - 2191040

Trustee Positions

We require 2 new trustees for the Stewart Island Community Centre Trust. We would love to hear from anyone keen to join our current team of Trustees to help guide the management of our very valuable asset – Stewart Island Community Centre. Meetings are held once a month and only last between 1 and 1.5 hours.

For further details or expressions of interest please contact:

Alistair Eade - 2191103
 Margaret Hopkins - 2191126

Swipe Cards

Would anyone holding unused or expired access cards for the Community Centre please return them to Hilli at the Kai Kart or leave them at the post office as these can be re-programmed to save us money.

(Continued from page 2)

have been studied in other areas much more intrusively and for much longer than we are doing, and chicks there don't all die.

There is compelling evidence from the post mortem results that other factors are causing chicks to die, e.g. disease.

So on the face of it, there looks as if there could be a problem but when you dig deeper the scientific evidence suggests otherwise.

In late April more results and information should be available, and we will have our annual



A Bravo chick

de-brief meeting then. It will be then that everyone who has been involved this year will be able to sit around a table to discuss results, consider all of the questions we've identified this season. We will also consider how we go about trying to answer them next season, which is the last season of work for this current study. Although we don't have any definite answers, we are narrowing down the possibilities and working to understand the increasingly complex issues facing yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island.

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Nurse's News Stewart Island – a Healthy Island

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

It is great to see fine weather at last for our gardens, visitors and general enjoyment! A sunny day really brings out the beauty of the Island and the lifestyle it offers! Hope you have managed to read some of the "LIFE" campaign articles that the Southland Times has been featuring over the past week, giving ideas for achieving our best in health.

With the heat come water supply issues and you will have all received information about caring for our water supplies in the mail. Freshwater is a precious resource here, and on Islands in general, and needs careful conservation from both residents and visitors. Are you aware that to leave the tape running while you clean your teeth uses about half a bucket of water?

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

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

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

Autumn and winter also bring increased costs for heating so now is a good time to gather wood, draught stop the house and check the EECA website for ideas to reduce energy use and costs at www.energywise.org.nz

Sixteen locals have completed their Pre Hospital Emergency Course and we are meeting together regularly to train, and organize a more structured back-up support system for the Nurse on Call. It is great to have their extra hands and they will receive their Certificates on 28th of March.

Kath Kain is our new gardener/cleaner, and Claire Prior is helping Sandra Whip with the Home Help and Personal Cares. Welcome to the health care team girls!

Services

In EMERGENCY dial: 111

Contact Nurse outside clinic hours: Ph 0800 100 776

General Primary Health Care Clinic:

Daily from 10am-12.30pm- no appointment necessary.

Well Women Clinic on a Thursday afternoon.

This is to enable women to see Debs other than clinic time to encourage uptake of Cervical Smear Screening and discuss women's health issues. Please phone the

clinic to make an appointment if possible but I will always see you if you can only "drop in" at short notice.

Well Child/ Family time type Clinic on a Wednesday afternoon.

We will try to arrange to give immunizations at this time also. Please phone the clinic for an appointment for this clinic if possible but we will always see you if you can only "drop in" at short notice.

Well Child care has always been "fitted in" during clinic time and this does not always give parents enough time to discuss issues and easily organize immunizations. Well child checks are an opportunity to check growth and development which are not usually checked for when a child presents at clinic with an illness. It is also an opportunity to discuss parenting and family issues, and the child's nutrition, sleeping patterns, safety, dental care, immunization status, hearing and eyesight.

Parents are encouraged to get their child's milestones checked weekly for the first 6 weeks then at 3, 5, 9 and 15 months. Thereafter checks are encouraged annually, and especially a through exam before they start school. These are checks are outlined in your child's Well Child book. Any other age is fine too so do not hesitate to come in.

Please note that if there is an "emergency" it may mean re-scheduling of a particular clinic, and thank you for coping so patiently when this happens.

—Debs and Marty.

Can't get enough of OYSTERS? Your local library has no less than 4 books specifically about oysters including *The Big Oyster* by Kur-lansky (author of *Cod*). The shop has

a DVD called *Oyster Farmer* which is a quirky romance set on an aquaculture farm in the Hawkesbury River region of Oz. Oysters appear in art, notably still life paintings of

19th C artist Edouard Manet. A contemporary artist created a sculpture by manipulating live oysters underwater to grow into a particular shape. (See www.philross.org)

Exercise, vitamins and a makeover

by Kari Beaven



Islanders got a fair dose of vitamin D and plenty of exercise, giving the Harrold Bay track junction an “Extreme Make-over.”

For a long time this corner of the walking track has been consumed by thistle, gorse and in more recent years, the very nasty, Chilean Flame Creeper. It is regularly trimmed; however this time we decided to replace the weeds with locally-sourced natives, with thanks to the Stewart Island Community Native Plant Nursery.



Many hands lent their individual skills, from sawing gorse to erecting a temporary fence, and from searching out Chilean Flame Creeper to giving their green-thumb advice on planting the weather-toughened plants. Age was no barrier with youngsters supervising activity, giving advice and getting into the task at hand.



Earlier in the day, the group was offered a workshop, with

guest speakers from DOC, Environment Southland and SIRCET pointing out what characteristics turn a good-looking plant into a high-risk weed and what a combined effort can achieve in favour of our local area.

A walk in the bush pointed out two of the key weeds being addressed on Stewart Island at present: Darwin’s Barberry and Chilean Flame Creeper. This will help volunteers identify these weeds as they walk local tracks, work in their gardens and move around their possum and rat trap areas. Many stayed behind to pull as many of the weeds as they could find in the area, whilst the remainder of the group got stuck into the Harrold Bay corner.



The Harrold Bay corner will take a bit more TLC to coax the native plants past their introduced rivals, with plans to keep pulling competing weeds from around the new plants over the next few years, until these plants are able to make their own way.



The results should be a show-case of native plants, protected by local pest control and in full view of those who walk this area.



Here’s a Funny Fiddly Brain Test:

Count the letter “F” in the following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

OK...how many “F”s are there?

The answer is on page 9!

Stewart Island weka cards now on sale

All proceeds go to your local Halfmoon Bay Restoration Project!

Our very own artist Margaret Fairhall painted these weka as a gift to the HMB restoration project. The painting has been crafted into gift cards which are available from DOC,



Margaret’s gallery (next to Church Hill Café), the HMB Post Office, Visitor Centre, Glowing Sky or by emailing mary@sircet.org.nz

Cost is \$4.00 each; \$15 per pack of 5; \$27.50 per pack of 10



Halfmoon Bay Beat

Over the last month there has been a large empty cable drum removed from the corner of Kamahi Road and Horseshoe Bay Road. Police would like to hear from anybody with any information. Likewise the person responsible would effect its immediate return and the matter will go no further.

Constable Fraser Jackson
Halfmoon Bay “rent-a-cop”

The GALLEY: Spaghetti with venison meatballs

Put shoulder meat through grinder with 2 onions & 3 cloves garlic. Knead in one egg, 1 TB Worcester sauce, 1 TB mixed herbs, two pieces lightly toasted white bread (without crusts), then add store-bought breadcrumbs until mixture not too moist. Make meatballs (slightly smaller than table tennis balls) and fry in hot oil until both sides brown. Drain excess oil from pan. Add tomato sauce (homemade or jar of Bertolli summer tomato-basil sauce is nice), cover and simmer while you're boiling spaghetti and sautéing sliced mushrooms in olive oil and white wine. Serve everything together with parmesan cheese (the fluffy kind) and red wine.



Stewart Islanders love their scavenger hunts. These teams lost, despite their best efforts and a silly wig.



GUESS-THE-POET CONTEST

The following poem was given to Jill and Richard at Ship to Shore. It's obvious whom the poem is written about, but the identity of the poet is a mystery. If you can rightly guess the author of this odious ode and be the first person to tell Jill at the Shop, you will win a free onion, a free box of lasagne, and a bottle of wine valued at \$12 or less. Each person is permitted only one guess. (If you already know the identity of the poet, please don't play.)

I'd like to complain
About one of your staff
An official complaint
You may well laugh
This particular person
She says all kind of rude things
She sells me all sorts
Including bad onions
She comes up behind me
And gives me a fright
And says *What are you doing*
Coming this time of night
I'm trying to clean up
I'm sweeping the floor
You should have been here
well before.
I ask *Where's the lasagne?*
She says *Find it yourself*
She sells me a Lotto
And I've still got no wealth
At the end of the day
After a hard day of grafting
I walk in a bit grumpy
And walk out again laughing
In general this experience
Can be very unnerving
So I think reprimanded
Is what she's deserving

Page 8 Brain Test answer:

You should have counted 6 F's. If you didn't, go back and count again! I swear there's six! Count again, then read on...

If you had trouble finding all 6, consider this strange brain phenomenon: most people don't process the word "of."

Now count again, and see how you go.

Talking About a Talking Book – “3000 Degrees” by Sean Flynn

Reviewed by Sue Ford

This is the true story of an horrendous fire. Doesn't sound much like easy-listening does it? And it isn't. It's gripping, suspenseful, and frightening. The fact that it is a true story only adds to the horror.

December 3rd 1999 started like any other day at the Worcester, Massachusetts, Fire House. In the town, there is one particular building which scares shift captain, Mike, and this is the day on which all his worst fears about the abandoned warehouse will be realised. The warehouse is an old cold-storage facility, built in an L-shape, and is thought to be six-storied – but it is difficult to tell because the building is windowless, and it is years since anyone was in this boarded-up place.

Inside, it is a warren of storerooms, cold rooms and offices, of stairwells and lift shafts, and with no natural daylight to infiltrate the total darkness. Because of the nature of cold storage, the building is not only immensely solid in external structure, all those internal spaces are lined with highly-combustible and toxic insulation materials.

The building is heavily secured against intruders, but vagrants don't let that get in the way, and vagrant squatters plus drugs and alcohol make for clumsiness – a recipe for disaster when the only light is candlelight. And then, in its own way, the story is an indictment on the bureaucracy that keeps some of our local community heroes working “on the edge”. To say that the Worcester Fire Department is ill-equipped (e.g. poor radio communication, not least due to the fact that the radios short out when wet) is not damning of

this one station in this one city, but, you begin to suspect, is typical of fire stations throughout the “western” world. As the tale unfolds, not only does the suspense heighten, but you are filled with respect and awe for the men and women who face situations like this one throughout their working lives. As an Islander listening to the story, I began to think about volunteer fire brigades like our own ...

If there is a downside to listening to this story, it is the fact that the people involved – being real people, not characters in a book – often share the same first name and have similar backgrounds. With the written word, it is easy to flip back a page to more firmly cement a name and character, and his family circumstances into your mind, but with tapes, it is just that fraction more difficult to do this. In the early part of the story, this is a slight distraction, as is the

rather choppy manner that Flynn flits back and forth, from person to person, present to past and back again. But the suspense doesn't abate. And neither does the fire.

The strength of the story is not only in the suspense and the horror, but in knowing that the people in the story are all heroes, and that their “brothers” may be our own family, friends or neighbours. We are told that the patron saint of fire-fighters is St. Florian, who, on being threatened with death by fire, told his persecutors that if he was burnt, he would rise to Heaven on the flames. This provides a poignant touch in the otherwise harrowing true tale. And by all the Powers-That-Be, I hope that none of our own OVFB ever has cause to think about St. Florian, as did the fire-fighters of the Worcester City Fire Department on that terrible day in 1999.



The Library was feeling the love on 3rd March at our big fundraiser book sale!

THANK YOU to the Community Centre for the space, Liz and Lucy for advertising and selling raffle tickets; the Visitor Centre for selling raffle tickets, Shaun for drawing the raffle (winners were Barbara Wilson and Stacey), Jenny and Ewan for setting up and cleaning up, Kerry for working the sale all day long; Mary for helping behind-the-scenes, Zane for the scales; Helen Cave for various supplies; the Hotel kitchen for the cray pot; Southern Seafoods for the crayfish;

cray-chef Stuey; everyone who donated books and bought books and raffle tickets, and a huge thanks to Dave and the Recycle Centre team who schlepped dozens of boxes of books all over the show. I was very touched by the great show of support from the community. At the end of the day, we raised over \$1,500 to spend on new books! If you have any ideas about what sorts of books you'd like to see on the shelves, tell me.

Congratulations to Sheila Natusch for being honoured as writer and illustrator by the NZ Order of Merit. We now have two new books by Sheila on our Stewart Island shelf. Other new books in-

clude the new Catherine Alliott; the Otago Central Rail Trail guide; the new Bill Bryson; Corinne Hofmann's *Reunion in Barsaloi* – the sequel to *The White Masai*; *Ghosts of Everest* which chronicles the 1999 expedition attempting to solve the mystery surrounding Mallory and Irvine; and one of the most enjoyable and brilliant novels I've read in a long time: *Special Topic in Calamity Physics* by Marisha Pessl. We also have the YA classic *I Am the Cheese* by Cormier, and *Hank the Cowdog* for kids.

Thanks to Loraine, Irene, Rugrats, Running Man, Ted

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Rooney, Cath, Annabelle Frew, Jenny, Pat, Phil B., Greer, Vanessa T., and all the other generous donors of books. And to Emma Hopkins who so cheerfully (over)paid her overdue fine!

Talking about talking about talking books....the Library has heaps of talking books, some on tapes and some on CDs. They are a great way to entertain/educate yourself while you're walking, ironing, boating, gardening, or road-tripping on the mainland! Most of the audio books are unabridged, and many are award-winning. Come by and check them out!

Fiction / Literature

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson: *contemporary fiction; mystery; fishing; Audiofile Earphones Award; Pen/Faulkner Award*

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle: *classic literature; mystery*

The Final Solution by Michael Chabon: *contemporary fiction; mystery; World War II*

John Le Carre Collection (The Night Manager; Our Game; The Tailor of Panama): *contemporary fiction; international espionage*

Life of Pi by Yann Martell: *contemporary fiction; Booker prize winner*

A Room with a View by E. M. Forster: *classic literature Audiofile Earphones Award*

Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh: *classic literature*

Bookshop by Penelope Fitzgerald: *contemporary fiction; Booker prize winner; Audiofile Earphones Award*

The Quiet American by Graham Greene: *classic literature; history; war*

A Very Long Engagement by Sebastian Japrisot: *contemporary fiction*

Beowulf translated by Nobel Prize for Literature recipient Seamus Heaney: *classic literature Whitbread Book of the Year*

The Widow by Anne Stuart: *contemporary fiction; romance*

Relic by Douglas Preston: *contemporary fiction; thriller*

Mistaken Identity by Lisa Scottoline: *contemporary fiction; mystery*

Good Poems: *classic literature; poetry 2003 Audie Award*

Mysterious Affair at Styles: *classic literature; mystery 1997 Audie Award*

Stories by Richard Russo: *contemporary fiction; short stories*

Tales of the City by Amistad Maupin: *classic literature*

Stories by the Masters of Fantasy: *contemporary fiction; fantasy; short stories*

Murder for Vengeance: *contemporary fiction; murder; short stories*

For Better, for Worse by Carole Matthews: *contemporary fiction; romance, humor*

Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne: *classic literature; children's*

The Tempest by William Shakespeare: *classic literature; play*

Piranha to Scurfy by Ruth Rendell: *contemporary fiction; short stories; mystery*

African-American Audio Experience by Zora Neal Hurston: *classic literature; history; drama; poetry Audiofile Earphones Award*

Sylvia Plath reads Sylvia Plath: *classic literature; poetry*

Going to St. Ives by Lee Blessing: *contemporary fiction; play*

Nonfiction

French Lessons by Peter Mayle: *Adventures with Knife, Fork, and Corkscrew; travel; food; Audiofile Earphones Award*

Teach Yourself Italian: *Language*

Teach Yourself French: *Language*

Instant Immersion Spanish: *Language*

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson: *History*

Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth: *History*

Lobster Chronicles by Linda Greenlaw: *memoir; fishing*

Firehouse by David Halberstam: *biography; history*

The Fabric of the Cosmos: *Space, Time, and the Texture of Reality* by Brian Greene: *science; astronomy*

Sailing Alone around the World by Joshua Slocum: *travel; memoir; maritime; Best Adventure Book of the past 100 years – Outside Magazine*

Toast: the Story of a Boy's Hunger by Nigel Slater: *memoir, food; survival; Best British Biography of the Year*

The Outlaw Sea: *A World of Freedom, Chaos and Crime* by William

Langewiesche: *Maritime*

Galileo's Daughter: *A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love; history; memoir; science*

Complications: *A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science* by Atul Gawande: *medicine; science; Audiofile Earphones Award*

Krakatoa: *The Day the World Exploded: August 27, 1883* by Simon Winchester: *history, disaster*

The Path Between the Seas: *The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-1914* by David McCullough: *history; AudioFile Earphones Award*

Abraham: *A Journey to the Heart of three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler: *comparative religion; history; travel*

The Endurance: *Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* by Caroline Alexander: *history; biography; survival*

3000 Degrees: *The True Story of a Deadly Fire and the Men Who Fought It* by Sean Flynn: *History; 2003 Audie Award*

The Life and Works of Chopin by Jeremy Siepmann: *biography; history; music; 2002 Audie Award*

It's Not About the Bike: *My Journey back to Life* by lance Armstrong: *memoir; survival; sport; 2001 Audie Award*

Taking Control of Alcohol and Drugs: *self-help*

The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin: *humor; memoir*

A Call to Conscience: *History*

A Cook's Tour by Anthony Bourdain: *travel; memoir; food*

Today I am a Ma'am by Valerie Harper: *memoir; women; humor*

Into the Mirror by Lawrence Schiller: *history; biography; international espionage*

Storyteller's Daughter by Sairah: *history; travel; memoir; women*

No End Save Victory: *Perspectives on WWII; history; military; essays*

Forgotten Voices of the Great War: *Ypres and Gallipoli – April 1915 – June 1916; history; military*

In My Hands: *Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer* by Irene Opdyke: *history; memoir, survival*

The Wild Blue: *the Men and Boys who Flew the B-24s over Germany* by Stephen Ambrose: *history; military*

An Album of Memories: *Personal Histories from the Greatest Generation* by Tom Brokaw: *history; memoir; military*

The Terrible Hours by Peter Maas: *history; military; survival*

Death's Acre by Dr. Bill Blass: *memoir; forensics; science*

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EXHIBITION OPENING

Two years ago Toi Rakiura Arts Trust engaged broadcaster and writer Halina Oganowska-Coates and Juliet Nicholls of Christchurch to produce an oral history exhibition. The result is an exhibition called 'Island' which will feature photographs and stories of islanders. This exhibition will be opened on March 31 in the Community Centre and will combine audio and visual recordings of ten people who have lived or are still living on the island.

"Island"

Saturday 31st March, 2007
 Stewart Island Community Centre

Top Cat

Koru the Kitty unapologetically broke her New Year's resolution to stop sleeping in the S.I.N. box and to stop chewing on the S.I.N. signage. So...she now has a new two-tiered resting unit at the shop. The newsletters live downstairs and she's on the top level.



CONGRATULATIONS

PROUD PARENTS
 Matty and Jolene
 Welcome baby Ricco!

Proud parents
 Alice and Ken
 and happy grandma
 Beverly Osborn
 Welcome Kiera Alex

Kyle's snazzy camo pants suffered a severe attack of the biddy-bids.



Ferry Schedule magnet correction slip:
 cut out slip below and tape over incorrect part which reads: (5.00pm mid May-Apr)



(5.00pm mid March-April)

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next meeting will be held at the home of Lorraine Squires at 2 O'clock on Thursday 12th April
 Competition: A yellow bloom, a seed pod and three annuals.



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Please send articles and enquiries to editor at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com (note new email address)

The deadline for the next issue is 15th April.

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 \$24
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