

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

March—April 2011

\$2.50



A pod of 107 pilot whales were discovered stranded at Mason Bay near Cavalier Creek on 20th Feb. Half were already dead, and the rest were euthanized by DoC.

SPECIAL EDITION FUNDRAISER for CHRISTCHURCH

to help our neighbours in Canterbury. Several islanders, representing Victims Support Group and Land Search and Rescue, travelled to Christchurch to offer "hands-on" help (p4). Thanks to Jill, Gwen, Jon, Al, Sandy, and Andrew for making those trips.

Just when we thought our eyes couldn't be subjected to any more horror, the unbe-

All proceeds from this issue (shop coins, ad sales) will go to the Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Appeal, so please throw extra change in the *SIN* can at the shop, and don't mind the unusual number of ads this month as they are for a worthy cause!

Stewart Islanders have reached deep in their hearts and pockets in response to the Christchurch catastrophe. The school, Rugrats and homes opened their doors to earthquake refugees. Cake stalls, scavenger hunts, quizzes, raffles and other efforts have already raised thousands of dollars

lievable footage from Japan started flickering on our screens. If you are starting to think the world is crumbling around your ears, and you are helpless to help, know this: Despite present appearances, the world is NOT ending. And you CAN help. Go to www.redcross.org.nz and make a donation toward Christchurch, or Japan, or the General Appeal Fund.

On our home front, all is well. Oyster

*The Island mourns the passing of
Lil Skipper. Our sympathies to
Maureen and her family.*



Petra wears black and red and a wetsuit at the Pub during a recent Scavenger Hunt. This was one of the many events organized to raise money for Christchurch. See p12 for the latest tally which exceeds *SEVEN GRAND*.

season is tasting good. The trouserless, staggering stag-doers-gone-amok have left the island. The Library is going to have a change in management (p6). Flu jabs are available (p15).

Thanks to everyone who bought ad space to support this special issue (and to Garden Circle who didn't but gave us money anyway!) —Jess

School opens doors to Christchurch students

by Poppy LeQuesne

After the Christchurch earthquake, Halfmoon Bay School temporarily took in three girls from the devastated city.

The new students were six year old Lucy Hansen-Ratter from Redcliffs, seven year old Bridie Cameron from Dunsandel, and eleven year old Isabella Costigan from Opawa. All the girls told me that the second earthquake was the strongest in their areas.

(Continued on page 2)

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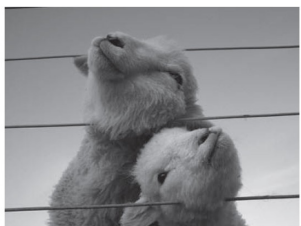
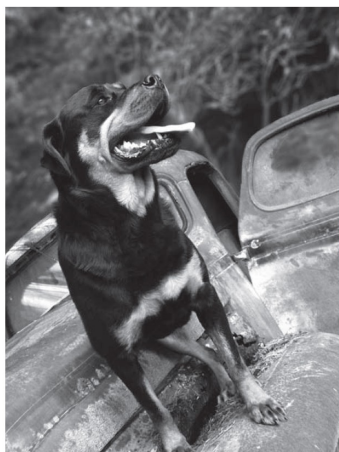
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Quiz money from the beginning of the year has bought the Rugrats a new fridge, the hall 5 new moon hoppers, \$500 to the Stewart Island Lions Administrative Account, and laminating pouches and USB sticks to Civil Defense. —Vicki

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Will meet at the home of
Diana Bryant
at 2.00 pm Thursday 14th April



Theme: Sign of Spring.

THANK YOU

from
the Stewart Island Victim Support
volunteers who went to Christchurch
following the February 22 earthquake
to
the Stewart Island
Community Centre Trust
for the two crates of bottled water.

These were gratefully received by the
Southland team as a whole.

Also thanks to Debs for the very useful
gloves and masks.

We really appreciated your generosity.

Jill, Jon, and Gwen.

(Continued from page 1)

In the first earthquake, Lucy rushed under the table with her family, Bridie jumped into bed with her parents, and Isabella stayed in a bed at her cousins' house. During the second earthquake, they were all at school and fled out of their classrooms.

Luckily their families all came out unscathed. Bridie's house came out without a scratch, Lucy's house did not get damaged but she has had to move out because the land is unstable, and Isabella's house has liquefaction and cracks. All the girls had belongings smash and crash in the earthquakes. Lucy's mirror and her mother's jewellery box, Bridie's lamps, and Isabella's printer and globe were all damaged.

These girls are brave and proof that Christchurch is a city that will come through.



Bridie, Lucy and Isabella

In memory of
Roger Anthony Hicks



3 September 1949 – 3 March 2011

“Those we love remain with us, for love itself lives on.

And cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone”

Brenda and family would like to thank the Stewart Island Community for their care and support over the last few months.

Special thanks to Debs and Marty.

Stewart Island Health Committee

Chairperson's Report 2010

2010 has been a year of quiet achievement for the Health Committee and of deep satisfaction for the whole community in the national recognition of our two resident rural nurse practioners, Debs and Marty.

The year began with a campaign to provide dental health checks for Island children here, rather than at Bluff which was what the Ministry of Health was proposing. Thanks to the pro-active work of Debs and Marty and the school principal, Kath Johnston, a viable solution was found not just for child dental health but for dental care provision for all age groups on the island. If we provided the equipment, the DHB would provide the professional workforce.

Fundraising for a dental surgery was undertaken. The Committee is most grateful for the support received from the Stewart Island Lions (\$2000) the Southland Community Trust (\$5000) and from Knit and Natter (\$500). Our own fundraising stall at Labour weekend raised over \$500. All of this combined with some of our own resources has resulted in the purchase of a full dental surgery pack. Special thanks are due to Ron Morrison for his diligence in

getting the best possible deal for us from the suppliers and overseeing the delivery of this equipment from Australia , with all the attendant problems of GST and Customs.

In June, the tireless work of Marty and Debs was recognised when they received the Queen Service Medal for services to the Community. Subsequently they were presented with their awards in a pre-earthquake Christchurch by the Governor General and then received a special “knighting” back home at a community celebration.

A special “Thank You” to the members of the concert band, Rock for Rakiura, who raised \$5000 for our Medical Centre. This generous donation will be used for on-going training for our St John's Ambulance Team.

I wish to thank all the members of the committee for their support throughout this year. You are a great team – enthusiastic, hardworking, committed. Special thanks to our secretary, Sue Munro and our treasurer, Ron Morrison, and most of all to Marty and Debs.

Raylene Waddell
 Chairperson

Stewart Island LandSAR in Christchurch

by Al Check

On Sunday 27th February Andrew King, Sandy King, and myself were deployed to Christchurch as part of a nationally coordinated response by Land SAR to assist Christchurch residents after the 22nd February earthquake.

Operation West was the name used for the support that Land SAR provided the Christchurch community. More than 500 volunteers contributed and more than 340 persons were present on just one day. The role of Land SAR was a little different from typically locating lost or injured persons in the wilderness of Stewart Island. Instead the focus was to gather information on issues of welfare, property & services in an urban environment, with the details being reported to Civil Defence for action.

Over a period of a week some 55,000 homes were visited throughout Christchurch, Lyttelton and Banks Peninsula. Every home in the assigned areas was checked and where possible the occupants were spoken to. Our role was one of Search and Reas-

surance. Damage to property was evident throughout the city, some areas worse than others with 10% of the houses visited sustaining major damage. Everybody had a story to tell, a tear to shed and in some cases an uncertainty of what would happen next, particularly as the after shocks kept rolling in.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity of being part of the operations team for a couple of shifts. To be part of a team of enthusiastic, committed and collaboratively working individuals was very rewarding. And to be part of a complex large scale operation that functioned efficiently with really high outputs eg 55000 homes visited, proves the high caliber of the people that make up LandSAR.

Stewart Island put itself on the map in Christchurch with LandSAR and our welfare team on the ground. Residents were amazed at our presence, but each of us would

not have had it any other way. Mayor Bob Parker in light of all his pressures remembered his time on the bar stool at the South Seas Hotel. He was most grateful for our support.

If you'd like to know more about Stewart Island LandSAR you can give Al a call on 2191598 or check out the notice board for the next training night (usually the 1st Tuesday of the month - 7pm at the fire station). All welcome as there is a role for everyone.



SCRATCHY WINNERS

1. Robin Campbell No2
2. Sue Munro No 25
3. Chris & Serena No 25
4. Colette Brown No 14
5. John McRandle No 28

Also, Phil Rennie from Wellington won the DoC raffle, took a bottle of wine and a box of chocs and gifted the rest back to be re-raffled, so that's at the shop, \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5 (feel free to add more!)

—Vicki

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre *Stewart Island / Rakiura*

OPENING HOURS 2011

The Visitor Centre is open every day of the year, except Christmas Day, for track information, Rakiura Track bookings, but passes, hunting permits, weather updates, general information, interpretive displays and audiovisuals

<i>From 1 January 2011</i>	<i>8.00am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>5.00pm daily</i>
<i>From 1 April</i>	<i>8.30am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>4.30pm weekdays</i>
<i>– 30 April 2011</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>4.00pm weekends & public holidays except for Anzac Day</i>
<i>25th April (Anzac Day)</i>	<i>12noon</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>5.00pm</i>
<i>From May 1</i>	<i>8.30am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>4.30pm weekdays</i>
<i>– 21 October 2011</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>2pm weekdays & public holidays</i>
<i>From 22 October 2011</i>	<i>8.00am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>5.00pm weekdays</i>
	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>4.00pm weekends & public holidays</i>
<i>Christmas Day 2011</i>			<i>Closed</i>
<i>From 26 December 2011</i>	<i>8.00am</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>5.00pm daily</i>

Phone: (03) 219 0009 Fax: (03) 219 0003

Email rakiuravc@doc.govt.nz

DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz

Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre Location:

Main Road, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island

Stewart Island Museum

There will be a showing of some **historical art** in the Community Centre over Easter. Some of the works on show will be T. P. Royds, Christopher Aubrey, Dawn Barry, Hodgkins etc, and of course, our own Margaret Fairhall.

All the art on show has been kindly donated by our generous locals and depict the island then and now. Topics covered include whaling, logging, fishing etc.

Opening hours will be Saturday 23rd 7.30pm until 9pm, and Sunday 10am until 6pm. \$10.00 entry on Saturday entitles you to a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles. Sunday will be a gold coin donation at the door.

Bring your visitors along to view art inspired by our island.

Further information is available from Raylene Waddell 2191 092



Above: Stranded whales at Mason Bay, 20th Feb. Photo from Brent Beavan.

Below: Same pod, decomposing, 12th March. Visitor Tony Hardy took this photo from Zane's helicopter.



I've recently fielded heaps of complaints regarding internet users "poaching" the Library's free Wifi. While our wifi is an "all you can eat" set-up which means users are not costing us anything, the issue was more about loitering: some afternoons there would be a dozen people with their backpacks and laptops assembled on the Community Centre porch, blocking the doors. Cruise ship days were more crowded. I do applaud free wifi available in our community for visitors, and I say "good on you" to the visitors that are canny enough to find and use it. HOWEVER, the crowded porch has definitely become a problem — I tried to take Moby to the gym the other day and had to step over wifi-users and their stuff to get inside and back out. Not to mention my answering machine has become crowded with messages of exasperation and concern from other community members. So I have contacted the Wifi controllers and they have altered the hours to match our Library opening hours. Hopefully this will ease the traffic.

You may have heard rumours that I will be leaving the Librarian post: that is true. With Colleen Dawson's retirement from the Southland District Council office across the street, the SDC has put forward the idea of offering a new job combining the Library manager *and* SDC office duties. The combo would create a meatier position with more hours. There is talk of actually moving the SDC office INTO the Library space. How? This answer is best left to logistical genies. I have enough trouble fitting books onto shelves. Anyway, these plans are in the half-baked stage, so watch this space for more details.

We have so many new books the blue "New Books" shelf in the front is STUFFED. It may explode. You can help alleviate this problem by coming by and checking out some of these books.

An enormous THANK YOU to Pat King who, with the help of Jenny Gell and Diana Bryant, went book by book, shelf by shelf, for hours and days, and put every book in that Library in its proper place, tidying as she went. It looks great and I am sincerely grateful to those ladies for this painstaking labour of love.



"Thanks, Pat!!!!"

We finally had our annual Library Volunteer Christmas Luncheon on 28th February at the Hotel. SD Libraries Manager Lynda Hodge came over with our new "point person" in Winton, Morag Gray. We all enjoyed the chit-chat and fish and chips.

—Jess

the GALLEY

AMBERGRIS RAMBLE

I heard a rumour that synthetic ambergris is sending the price of the real whale vomit down the toilet. This news would alarm more than one island resident. BUT... is it true?

I did some cyber-sleuthing and googled "ambergris value" to find out. The search brought me to an intriguing document entitled *The 2011 Import and Export Market for Ambergris, Castoreum, Civet, Musk, Cantharides, Bile, Glands, and Other Animal Products Used in the Preparation of Pharmaceutical Products in Japan*. This is an "add to basket" sort of document with a price tag of 64 euro. I didn't make the purchase as I'm optimistic the wish list of items in my head will eventually show up on trademe with a \$5 Buy Now.

Further googling led me to Derek Brown, a beverage expert, who has claimed in a 2011 article that adding ambergris to cocktails is a "current micro-trend in bartending" (take note, Jarrod!). I subsequently stumbled across not one but TWO drink recipes that include whale chunder.

Following is an excerpt from Brown's article, and the recipes:

* I added a small, pea-like nugget of the substance to a hot Negus I served this New Year's Eve at the Columbia Room. I was initially spurred by pioneering ambergris user and drinks historian David Wondrich's latest tome of pre-cocktailian compounding, *Punch: The Delights (and Dangers) of the Flowing Bowl*, along with some cajoling from former cocktail blogger Damon Fodge. After adding the small amount directly shaved in the punch, I then offered guests an extra shave of ambergris on top of the Negus. The comparison to truffles is

obvious, although pound for pound ambergris is more expensive. With the steam from the hot beverage, the aroma of the ambergris wafted, and even those who initially shunned an extra cut eventually added it after tasting their date's cup or sniffing a neighbor's. It really is a compelling smell and it's no wonder why it has been part of perfumery.

Recipe: Excellent Negus

- 1 bottle Port (tawny or vintage for best results)
- 2 ½ pints distilled water
- juice of 1 lemon (I used Meyer lemons, and it was a good call)
- 1 lemon peel rubbed off on caster sugar
- grated nutmeg and sugar to taste
- shave pea-sized chunk of ambergris or create a tincture of ambergris for extended use and easier storage (recipe below)

Mix ingredients. Serve warm.

Recipe: Tincture of Ambergris

Grate 5 grams of Ambergris (please keep in mind that this is approximately \$125 worth of ambergris and you can make it weaker if you want). Add to 1 cup overproof spirit (more than 50 percent alcohol by volume). Put the ingredients in a secure jar and seal tightly.

The book of 40 historical punch recipes Brown mentions, *Punch*, sounded so great I couldn't wait for trademe, so that did go into the fishpond basket and is en route to your community library. The ambergris recipe featured is also the book's oldest recipe, dating back to 1668, and here it is:

** Recipe: 'Meriton Latroon's Bantam Punch'

THE ORIGINAL FORMULA

For we had not only the country drink called toddee, which is made of the juice of several trees, and punch, which is made of rack-lime, or lime-water, sugar, spices, and sometimes the addition of amber-grease, but

we likewise drank great quantities of Persian wine, which is much like claret, and brought from that country in bottles.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

In a mortar or small bowl, muddle a piece of ambergris the size of a grain of barley with an ounce of Indonesian gula jawa or other dark, funky sugar until it has been incorporated. Add 2 ounces Batavia arrack and muddle again until sugar has dissolved. Break up 5 ounces of gula jawa, put it in a two-quart jug with 6 ounces lime juice and muddle together until sugar has dissolved. Add the ambergris-sugar-arrack mixture and stir. Add the remains of the 750-milliliter bottle of Batavia arrack from which you have removed the 2 ounces to mix with the ambergris, stir again, and finish with 3 to 4 cups water, according to taste. Grate nutmeg over the top.

So if ambergris has indeed lost its value, perhaps our local gris hounds can turn to the art of mixology and get with "current micro-trends"!

And p.s., I just heard another rumour that the aforementioned rumour isn't true.

* Reprinted with permission from author Derek Brown. To read the whole article go to www.theatlantic.com and search for article "A Whale of a Cocktail Ingredient".

** From Richard Head/Francis Kirkman, *The English Rogue, Continued, in the Life of Meriton Latroon and Other Extravagants. Comprehending the Most Eminent Cheats of Most Trades and Professions. The Second Part, 1668.*

For more historic punch recipes check out the book *Punch* by Wondrich at the Library.

—Jess Kany



Local ladies at the Black & red Scavenger Hunt
Photos from Vicki Coats





*Our support and good wishes to all the people of Christchurch during this difficult time and to friends, family, clients, agents and suppliers.
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Aerial bait spread is the best approach for Ulva Island

Ninety six rats have now been caught on Ulva Island since a rat population was detected just after Christmas last year.

Ulva Island (263ha) is located in Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island. Is a key eco-tourism destination due to its pristine forest and abundant wildlife. Rats were initially removed from Ulva Island by 1995 and the island is now home to many endangered birds, including mohua / yellowhead and tieke / saddleback. Ulva Island is one of a few 'open sanctuary' islands where the public are able to visit without a permit.

After considering the advice of experts and the feedback from the local community, the Department has made a decision on which method it will pursue in its attempt to eradicate rats off Ulva Island. It has become apparent in the last few weeks that the only method that gives the best chance of achieving eradication is an aerial spread of bait containing rat poison (brodifacoum). The decision was made as an aerial spread has the highest chance of succeeding and will be the quickest to achieve the result in a situation where time is of the essence.

"It is the best tool for the job and we would be complicit if we attempted anything else," said DOC Area Manager Andy Roberts. "This was reinforced in recent days when we read about the Fregate Island (in the Seychelles Islands) rat eradication failure being blamed on the use of bait stations."

The Department will be lodging a resource consent application with Environment Southland in the next few weeks. Environment Southland will notify this consent allowing anyone to make a submission.

"The resource consent process is sound and is an independent evaluation of our proposed methods and controls. We en-

courage people to make a submission (in support or expressing your concerns), so that Environment Southland can fully evaluate this application." said Mr Roberts.

Contacts

Brent Beaven
Programme Manager – Biodiversity, Stewart Island
Ph 03 2190007 or 0272664079

Andy Roberts
Area Manager -- Southern Islands Ph 03 2112412

Background information

Q. Why are there so many rats here this time?

At some point, at least one female rat evaded our trap and bait station network and started to breed. Rats are able to produce large numbers of offspring and these can reach sexual maturity within a few months. With large amounts of food on Ulva Island, maximum breeding output is expected. Unchecked, they can go from one individual to over 30 thousand within 18 months. We are already 9 months down that track.

Q. How are you going to get rid of the rats?

R. The Department has considered advice from the world experts in eradicating rats. We have also taken on board the concerns of the community. We have decided that an aerial spread of rat bait is the best option to achieve success. It has the highest chance of success and will get the job done in the quickest timeframe. The method has been extensively used so we have a lot of information about its effect. It is the method that has resulted in most of New Zealand key wildlife sanctuaries (e.g. islands such as Codfish / Whenua Hou, Kapiti, Little Barrier Island, Campbell Island, Taukihepa, and mainland fenced sanctuaries such as Karori, Maungatautiri, and Orokonui).

Q. Can you keep them off in the future?

R. The biosecurity that we had in place managed to stop rats establishing on Ulva for 15 years. But, this time it failed. We will review our biosecurity procedures and develop a new

plan that will further reduce the chances of this happening again. A community meeting is being planned to get everyone's ideas and thoughts about improvements that could be made – biosecurity needs to be everyone's responsibility otherwise it will fail. Ulva will continue to be an 'open' island as it is important that people get to see these special places.

Q. What impact will the rats have on the birds?

R. Ulva Island is home to some of our most endangered birds, such as the mohua and saddleback. These species are particularly vulnerable to rat predation. Rats may be preying on individual birds but with the abundance of other food available on the island and the birds coming to the end of their breeding season, then this impact is likely to be minimised. We have a small window of opportunity to eradicate the rats this winter before the birds start breeding again. If rats are not removed from Ulva, they will wipe out populations of these birds and severely limit other species like robin and rifleman.

Q. Shouldn't you transfer some off to protect them?

R. The species on Ulva Island are all valuable. We believe that we have a window of opportunity to get these rats before they cause a substantial decline in any of the bird populations. Transfers take a lot of planning and are labour intensive. We would rather be putting this effort into planning the eradication of rats. If we fail with the eradication, then there may well be a need to transfer some of the species off.

The impact of the baiting operation on most of the birds will be negligible. Some species such as saddleback and robins may lose some individuals, but this will be more than made up for by one years worth of breeding after the rats are removed. The only species that will suffer substantial decline is weka. But, weka have proven capable of rapidly recovering in numbers after a baiting operation and hence we don't believe a transfer is warranted.

Q. How did the rats get there?

R. Rats get to Ulva Island

either by hitching a ride on people's boats or swimming. Ulva is also within the known swimming range of Norway rats, being 730m from the nearest mainland point (with one rock between the island and the mainland), but the frequency of this occurring is very low, otherwise they would arrive more often than they do. Rats have been observed jumping off a boat and swimming to Ulva in the past, so we do know that boats play a contribution to rats getting to Ulva. Regardless, we need to deal with the current situation and work with the community to find ways of making biosecurity tighter.

Q. What can we do to help?

R. At the moment, we require funding to pay for the eradication. Donations can be made to the Ulva Island Trust. Check the Ulva Island Trust website (www.ulvaisland.org) for details on how to make a donation.

Q. Could the cost of ground based operations be reduced via volunteers?

R. Volunteers are a valued part of DOC's operation. Many of these volunteers are very skilled and it would certainly reduce the cost of a ground based operation. But, it will add to the complexity and thus increase the risk of failure. As very few people could commit to volunteer full time for at least a year, we would be increasing the number of people involved in bait station checks – in all likelihood by a large amount. This will put pressure on someone to organise and co-ordinate that volunteer effort. Both of these factors increase the complexity of the operation and the subsequent risk of something going wrong. Regardless, the decision to use aerial was not based on price, but on what is the best tool for the job. Aerial has more chance of success and will achieve a rat free state quicker than a ground based operation.

Q. What is the effect in the coastal marine area. Will you poison people who fish in the area?

R. In reality the risk of this is very low. Some bait will indeed enter the marine environ-

(Continued on page 10)

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Developments on Stewart Island Jetties

Your “Jetties” Team – the S.D.C. Jetties Committee - consists of: Jon Spraggon (Promotions), Kevin O’Sullivan (E.S.), Colin Hopkins (Fishing Operators), Ian Munro (Shipping), Squirt (Construction Team Leader), Dale Chittenden (DoC), Phillip Smith (Local Iwi) and myself – Bruce Ford. We have been busy recently with upgrades and assessments of the various jetties that Southport has handed over to our Community. These jetties are: Port William, Fred’s Camp, Millar’s Beach, Ulva, Little Glory.

When Little Glory Wharf “disappeared” a couple of years ago (in a storm), it was decided to seek a more weather-

friendly position for the new jetty, and a site was selected west of and across from the old wharf. Plans were made and approvals sought, all of which took some time. However, over recent months, a brand new jetty has been completed with hardwood poles - donated by Powernet – and all new tanalised materials. The maintenance team at Southern Seafoods has done a tremendous job with the build which will see many years of service with the minimum of attention.

We also have a contract pending to complete repairs and stabilisation on Ulva Wharf which has – with considerable extra use – required a “beef up”.

Further repairs and maintenance are being scheduled for Fred’s Camp and

Port William.

Whilst these projects have taken some time, it has been possible financially only with monies from Southport, E.S., S.D.C., and all the boat operators who pay annual “subs”. All tourist boats are obliged to pay a “sub” if they operate from any Stewart Island Wharf, and Southport has been very good to allow us to collect and spend on local facilities. However, there are no doubt additional jetty sites lodged in memories of olden days – and who knows, finance permitting, they might even be rejuvenated one day!

*Bruce Ford, Chairman
Stewart Island Jetties Committee*

(Continued from page 9)

ment. This will be in the order two pellets per metre of coast, or less than half a kilogram of bait in a 100m stretch. The well monitored Kaikoura bait spill dropped 18 tonne in a 100m stretch and effects were limited to that 100m stretch. While the marine reserve is obviously not the local food basket, we will be discussing

concerns about bait entering the marine environment with the Mataitai committee. One option that has been raised has been for a Rahui to be placed around Ulva Island to completely eliminate any possibility of eating fish that may have had contact with bait. Exploring potential solutions such as these may pave a way forward. We are also seeking advice from national marine and fisheries

experts.

Q. Why an aerial drop? Surely the ground based approach is the safer option?

R. We have now completed many island eradications using aerial spread of bait that has resulted in some of our most unique and valuable pest free sites, including Codfish Island / Whenua Hou and Campbell Island. Ulva Island is at threat from rats. We only have a lim-

ited range of tools to deal with this. We need to use the best tool for the job that will save Ulva from rat-induced devastation. The Department’s preference is for an aerial operation as this has a greater chance of success than a bait station operation and can be completed much more quickly – effectively restoring Ulva Island to a rat free state before too much

(Continued on page 14)



IRB UK TV Crew

On Thursday the 24th February Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club were privileged to host a Television crew from the IRB Total Rugby Programme in the UK. What started out a delayed arrival due to fog finished up a stunning day and the result was some wonderful footage of the golf course. The camera man was Franc Vissers and the interviewer was Martin Cross, Jeff Wilson was the stand in golfer. Thank you to Kerryn Smith from Venture Southland for recommending us, our club can only benefit from such wonderful exposure. —*Sue Munro*

Annual Electrix Tournament

by *Sue Munro*

On Saturday 26th February Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club held their annual Electrix Golf Tournament. It was a beautiful day and eleven teams turned out for the occasion. It was a good mixture of club members, visitors to the island, non golfers, ladies, and Paul Potter's team from Bluff.

The overall winners were The All Sorts Team: Gavin Ferguson, Peter Ayers, Eamonn Ganley, and Jon Spraggon, with a net of 31.5 Well done guys. Prize giving and a bbq followed — a good ending to a great day. Proceeds of \$700 went to the Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Appeal.



What other Golf Clubhouse has views like this??
Photos from Bev Cowie

Congratulations

Newlyweds
Matthew and Nicola

Newlyweds
Tim and Jax

Are you a fan of
Master Chef New Zealand? If you go
to www.masterchef.co.nz
you can access the show's recipes!

RAKIURA RIDDLE Did anyone figure out the answer to last month's riddle? Nobody sent me the answer and one person commented it was really difficult. The answer is: The Waitangi Day Rugby Game shield (shaped like a whale tail, carved by Greg North).

In honour of another beautiful oyster season:

Tale of the Oyster (lyrics)

Down by the sea lived a lonesome oyster,
 Ev'ry day getting sadder and moister.
 He found his home life awf'ly wet,
 And longed to travel with the upper set.
 Poor little oyster.
 Fate was kind to that oyster we know,
 When one day the chef from the Park Casino
 Saw that oyster lying there,
 And said "I'll put you on my bill of fare."
 Lucky little oyster.
 See him on his silver platter,
 Watching the queens of fashion chatter.
 Hearing the wives of millionaires
 Discuss their marriages and their love affairs.
 Thrilled little oyster.
 See that bivalve social climber
 Feeding the rich Mrs. Hoggenheimer,
 Think of his joy as he gaily glides
 Down to the middle of her gilded insides.
 Proud little oyster.
 After lunch Mrs. H. complains,
 And says to her hostess, "I've got such pains.
 I came to town on my yacht today,
 But I think I'd better hurray back to Oyster Bay."
 Scared little oyster.
 Off they go thru the troubled tide,
 The yacht rolling madly from side to side.
 They're tossed about 'til that fine young oyster
 Finds that it's time he should quit his cloister,
 Up comes the oyster.
 Back once more where he started from,
 He murmured, "I haven't a single qualm,
 For I've had a taste of society,
 And society has had a taste of me."
 Wise little oyster.

—*Cole Porter, 1929*

SEVEN GRAND AND COUNTING....

This island has dug deep in their hearts and pockets for Christchurch. Here are some examples of funds raised so far:

700	Golf Club
487	Quiz Week 1
606	Quiz Week 2
457	Quiz Week 3
200	Seaview
1000	Lions
562	Lions BBQ
300	Fire Brigade
220	Knit & Knatter
46	DoC Mufti Day
1215	Cake Stall
459	DoC Raffle
262	Scratchy Boards
130	School Red & Black
326	Scavenger Hunt
269	Muttonbirds raffle

*Total so far: **\$7,239** ...and the money keeps coming. For a relatively tiny community, that's a BIG number.*

If you would like to help, go to www.redcross.org.nz

Whale stranding data:

The largest mass stranding on record is 1918 where 1000 whales stranded on Chatham Islands.

The most recent stranding on Stewart island / Rakiura occurred last February when 28 pilot whales stranded on West Ruggedy Beach.

Locations of mass stranding events: Whangarei; Hawkes Bay; Chatham Islands; Golden Bay; Stewart Island; Northern North-land.

Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 it is illegal to possess, kill, injure, catch, or disturb any marine mammal or any part of a marine mammal without a permit to do so. ['Taking' of marine mammals or parts thereof (alive or dead) without proper authorisation could incur a penalty of up to 6 months imprisonment or a fine up to \$250 000]

How to help at a stranding:

- Contact DOC immediately on 0800 DOCHOT (0800 362 468) or the nearest local DOC office

- Keep animals cool and shaded. It's advisable to cover the animals with wet sheets and use a bucket to pour water over the flippers and tail fluke. Be very careful not to cover or pour water into or near the blowhole.

- Keep the animals as calm as possible by avoiding loud noises and excess movement around them.

- Attempts should be made to move animals into an upright position if they are lying uncomfortably on their sides. Care should be taken not to damage flippers as you do so.

- Whales should not be towed by their flippers or tails, but can be moved gently towards the water on tarpaulins or specially designed pontoons.

- Stay well clear of the tail as whales can become agitated when stressed and will sometimes thrash about - whales are large wild animals and can inadvertently injure people by their movements.

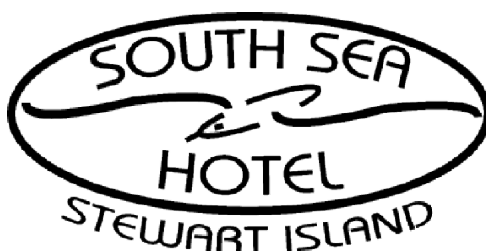
SOUTH SEA HOTEL

*offers our condolences to the families
of those who perished
in the Christchurch
earthquake.*

Please come support Christchurch
by joining us for Sunday night
QUIZ at the Pub.

**All takings from Quiz nights through 20th March
will go to Christchurch Red Cross Appeal.**

So grab your coin purse and
your thinking cap and see us at Quiz
6:30pm Sundays at the Pub.



From Ulva Goodwillie: An old friend living in Heathcote (very close to the epicentre) has been sending us daily emails recounting her post-earthquake experiences, and appended this list

You know you're from Christchurch when...

1. You use the term "liquefaction" and "seismic design" in casual conversation.
2. Digging a hole and crapping in your garden is no longer weird.
3. Your mayor describes the city as "munted".
4. Weaving through car-size potholes on the street is no longer strange.
5. Going to (shaky) Wellington to escape earthquakes makes sense.
6. A shower & a fresh change of underwear is heaven.
7. You have a preference of which kind of silt you'd rather shovel, dry or wet.
8. You see army tanks driving around town.
9. You are always noting what you are standing under.
10. Due to frequent aftershocks during the night, you sleep like a baby -- you wake up every 2 hours and sh** yourself.

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND

In 2010, Rural Women New Zealand had a great year in rural communities from Cape Reinga to Bluff. Now we'd like to introduce ourselves to Stewart Islanders and invite you to come on board too. We already have one member on your island but would love many more to join.

But we know you are all busy people so what's in it for you? If you have access to the internet, take a look at our website to read about the diverse activities we are involved in.

Last year we held rural school safety days, campaigned for 20kmh active signs on school buses and gave away \$10,000 in shade sail grants to schools.

We ran a high profile 'Let's Get Plastered for Breast Cancer' campaign raising money for breast cancer research and having a ball doing it. We held leadership training events, launched a best seller cookbook and went in to bat for rural broadband.

Each year we give out bursaries and grants including secondary and tertiary bursaries, and second chance bursaries to women who wish to retrain.

Our members also actively support a variety of charitable groups within their own rural communities.

As a well respected organization representing rural families we enjoy good access to government departments and Ministers, ensuring the rural impacts of new policies are not overlooked.

One of our publications, *Rural Bulletin*, is a key way we let rural people know what's going on around the country, and how you can have a say.

If you'd like to know more about us, including how to start a new group or to become an individual member, do give us a call. You don't have to be rurally based but just have an interest in rural. Your local contact is Jocelyn McIlraith, our regional councilor for Otago, Southland and Stewart Island! Give her a call on 03 4360694, email jemcilraith@xtra.co.nz, or go to www.ruralwomen.org.nz for more information.

(Continued from page 10)

damage is done by the rats on the wildlife or the businesses that rely on this wildlife. Unfortunately a ground based eradication is far from a "safe option", with bait available in the environment for a whole year and a much higher chance of failure. It is also a much more expensive option. With an aerial operation, bait will be taken to where the rats are so that they don't have to move any distance to find some bait to eat. A bait station operation would require rats to travel some distance, through areas of high natural food abundance, to obtain a meal of rat bait – increasing the risk that they simply won't encounter bait.

Q. Has this been done before?

R. While there have been many eradications worldwide, almost all of these have been with established rat populations that have reached peak numbers and exhausted the food supply. The situation on Ulva is very different where rats are newly invaded and have unlimited food supplies. This situation has only been encountered once before, on Fregate Island in the Seychelles where rats invaded in 1995 and they at-

tempted to eradicate them using bait stations. This failed and the recommendations from this attempt were that the rats weren't using the bait stations and if the situation was encountered again then bait should be presented to the rats in a way that didn't use bait stations (e.g via an aerial application). Rats were eventually eradicated from the island 5 years later by an aerial baiting operation after the rat population had peaked.

Q. Will this work? What are the chances of success?

R. This is new ground and, even though we are using the best tool in the box, we may still fail to eradicate these rats. The rats have unlimited food available and may not have any interest in eating the bait. Even though there is a very real risk of failure, there is also a good chance of success and this, coupled with the current value of Ulva Island, make us think that an attempt is worth it. The alternative is to wait until rats have reached peak numbers and exhausted the food supply.

Q. When would an aerial drop occur and how long would it take?

R. An aerial drop would occur sometime

between June and September. The exact timing depends on obtaining a resource consent and then having a four day fine weather forecast. Four days of fine weather will keep the bait in good condition for enough time for rats to find and eat it. The best practice for eradications is for two bait drops to occur about a week apart. The bait drops will only take a few hours on each of the two days.

Q. Will the island be closed? When? How long until Ulva could be used as normal again?

R. It is likely that we would close Ulva Island on each of the days of the two bait drops. Bait will be cleared from tracks and beaches early the following morning and the island will again be able to be visited. Signs warning that bait may be present will be present and visible until such time as we are sure there is no further risk of bait being present. As long as people don't let children go unsupervised and avoid eating or handling any baits they encounter, then the island could be used as normal from the day immediately following each bait drop.

Nurses' News.

by Raylene Waddell

Flu vaccinations are now available at the Stewart Island Health Clinic at the cost of \$30. Free Flu vaccination is available for those 65 years and over, pregnant women, pre-schoolers and people with lung or heart problems.

It is also worth considering up-dating your tetanus booster at the same time. These are recommended at 45 years and 65 years of age, or any time you get a wound and it has been more than 10 years since your last booster.

Thank you to our St John volunteers who continue to train with us and support our emergency work. Also thanks to our Home Help-Kath Kain and our Clinic Housekeeper-Brenda Hicks for their great work.

A big thank you to the Health Committee who supports our Nursing Practice and support the Community. They fill the role of many mainland Committees- such as Plunket and St John-all rolled into one efficient group and have done a wonderful job getting the dental equipment for a full dental service.

We are currently sourcing "the dentist" with the help of Dr Tim McKay from the Southern DHB dental unit.

Services

In EMERGENCY dial 111

Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 000 606 (Nurses Bleeper) or Ph 03 2191098 (Nurses Cell Phone).

General Primary Health Care Clinic; Daily 10am-12.30pm. (No appointment necessary).

Clinic Number- Phone; 03 2191098 Fax; 03 2191072.

Women Health Clinic; Wednesday; 9am-late pm. Please phone clinic for an appointment.

Well Child/ Family Clinic; Thursdays; 9am-3pm Please phone clinic for an appointment.

BOOK REVIEWS from Sue Ford: "The Drowning Girl" by Margaret Leroy & "The Coroner" by M.R. Hall

Walked into the Library the other day and there was Barbara, returning and recommending three books. I didn't hesitate: took the lot! And I agree with Barbara. "The Drowning Girl" is slightly creepy, accents of supernatural, but not a thriller, horror or ghost story. Sylvie is almost four. Her single mother, Grace, is broke. The cost of keeping a flat in an insalubrious area of London and Sylvie in her day care centre is barely met by wages as a florist. Then Grace is still in love with Sylvie's father – but he's not hers to love, and her best friend is Karen – they met in the Maternity Ward when Kate was having her daughter Lennie and Grace delivering Sylvie. Karen leads the good life and calls Grace's ex boyfriend The Rat!

There is something odd about Sylvie – which Grace is loath to admit. Sylvie can't abide water; she calls her mother "Grace", never Mum; she has fits of paralysis, screaming and nightmares; she will only draw one picture over and over – a white house, *her* house; she says her friend Lennie "isn't MY Lennie, not

the REAL Lennie". This doesn't endear Sylvie to Karen or to the day care centre. Then Grace finds Adam Winters, a sceptical parapsychologist, who suspects that Sylvie may be a re-incarnation. Not your everyday analysis, but within the bounds of possibility if you are at the end of your tether? Two criticisms: "Lennie" as a girl's name? Never heard it, and the coincidence of there being two is hard to swallow; the ending – fraught with imminent danger and a villain seems almost like a separate story, and leaves you up in the air as to Sylvie's future – and Grace's too.

"The Coroner" couldn't be more different, though Jenny is another mother at the end of her tether. At the other end of the tether is Jenny's controlling ex-husband and 15-year old son. Between is a nervous breakdown and a gap in her childhood memory - which is never explained. As a career change, becoming a coroner seems like a good use of her legal background and less fraught than her old job. But on her first day she hits major snags.

The story brilliantly describes the misery that many of our teenagers face: peer pressure, drugs, the small step leading to prostitution,

an under-funded legal and medical system plus the evil side of privately funded, commercial, institutional care. Add in bullying of the worst kinds, two – possibly three – unexplained deaths, a resentful assistant, feather-nesting officials and pressured police, and you have a recipe for disaster. Stir in an unscrupulous journalist, a young dope-smoking neighbour, and the continuing pressures put upon her by her family, and disaster is only a bottle of temazepam away for Jenny.

This is a gripping murder mystery with a difference, and it kept me up until 2.00 a.m. to finish it. However, as with "The Drowning Girl", the ending was only barely satisfactory, rather trite, and very jumbled. There's things that are never properly explained – like the memory gap - but which seem important to our understanding of Jenny, and we still never find out what is going to happen to her after she has broken the case wide-open. Irritating.

The third book Barbara returned? I can't wait to get into the next chapter, but do look out for "The Lonely Polygamist" by Brady Udall. At the rate I'm reading it, I'll be returning it very soon. Thanks Barbara.

*Roger Hicks will be dearly missed.
The island offers its condolences to
Brenda and family.*

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hardworking experienced builders who
are available any time if required.**



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Emergency Accommodation in Invercargill

Imagine yourself in the following pickle – you have been flown off the Island in a distressed state, no wallet, no toothbrush etc. You are assessed at Southland Hospital and discharged into the unfriendly night. You have no money, nobody you can stay with and not even a toothbrush to keep you company. What to do?

Well, your Health Committee has negotiated with three Invercargill accommodation providers to look after you for the night and help you get back to the Island and re-unite with your wallet etc.

The Kelvin Hotel, The Townsman Motor Lodge and The Shiny Paua will look after Stewart Islanders in their hour of need. Of course you will get a bill for your accommodation but one that you can pay on your return to the Island and reunification with your wallet.

Our thanks to these accommodation providers for their willingness to look after Islanders adrift.

Raylene Waddell, Chairperson, Health Committee

www.redcross.org.nz



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