

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

MAY—JUNE 2008

\$2

The Island's been in the news featuring Jack holding a petrol pump nozzle to his head. We're at \$2.21 a litre and probably rising. Don't fret: soon we will all be issued free electric cars which we'll charge up with our new windmill! Well, not yet ... See pp. 5, 6 and 10 for the latest on Island power. A big thanks to Pete Wilson for a thorough power-saving report.

The earth gave us a wee kick in the pants with a 6.1 jolt on the 27th. Check out [www.geonet.org.nz](http://www.geonet.org.nz) for more earthquake news.

Tuesdays have become dreadful for our friends at the Recycle Centre: Please don't put willy-nilly broken glass and hot ashes in your bins, those guys do a great job collecting our junk but if you put



Stewart Island Players present...

**THE WIZARD OF OZ**

7.30pm Saturday 31st May

7.30pm Sunday 1st June

\$15 adults; \$5 kids

dangerous items in your trash they will refuse your refuse (p9).

Welcome to our new cop Dale and his wife Cath (p3). And welcome to Casey, our new Centre manager (p5)—stop by and say hi. We're also welcoming 400 new picture books and grown-up books to the Library on 7th June, come by for their debut!

You may have noticed cattle egrets around the Bay. They are the subject of ornithological study as their movements are rather mysterious. It's theorized they started to expand their territory as grazing land has been developed. They are originally from Africa, but have now colonized Oz and migrate here in the winter. Their visits to Stewart Island have been noted since the 1970s. Maybe the school grounds



The creatures in your neighbourhood. Eamonn photographed this sea anemone in Paterson Inlet.

remind them of the short grass margins of freshwater wetlands in Africa where they used to hang out with Cape Buffalo. Are the schoolyard's pied oystercatchers impressed? Study results pending.

There is unhappy news on the native bird front: it seems the Acker's titi aren't doing so well (p9).

This chick (originated in Manhattan, colonized Stewart Island) will be migrating to the northern hemisphere for the next

few months—Kari Beaven will be editing when her schedule allows, but if a month goes by without a SIN don't be alarmed. Goodbye, see you in October. —Jess



18/03/2008 08:06:19

Titi chick (beak agape) on nest. Image taken with burrowcam.

### Experiencing Marine Reserves

by Samara Nicholas

Three Rakiura students, Logan Davis (10), Henry Bayne (8) and Jamie Adams (12) have been participating in a feasibility study for a programme called Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) this week.

EMR has proven a successful marine education model in Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, Wellington



PHOTO: E. Ganley

and Picton. Department of Conservation are a foundation supporter of the programme and the national expansion of the programme is supported by DOC and the Tindall Foundation.

The Experiencing Marine Reserves

(EMR) programme empowers schools and communities by providing hands-on experience in the ocean. The programme involves investigating marine biodiversity and the local marine environment before venturing to a fully-protected marine reserve. After this experience, students are able to compare unprotected and protected areas and are encouraged to put their knowledge into action within the community.

National EMR programme director Samara Nicholas visited Stewart Island to run the feasibility study. The

(Continued on page 2)

**Boat-of-the-month: KOMURI**

Built at Port Chalmers in 1927 by Miller & Tunnage, she was the usual round bilge counter stern wooden hull. Her dimensions were 12.29m x 3.20m x 1.22m.,but her early engines are not known. In June 1963 she was fitted with a new 4LW Gardner diesel, which would have lasted her the rest of her days.

The photo above shows her in the pre-war years when she had a licence to carry 48 passengers as a tourist boat in the non-fishing times.



Photo: Jo Riksem

Her skippers were mostly Pollocks, with Athol (Sass) being the last in her company owned days. She was part of the Jones fleet, later to be bought by Cliff Skeggs and finally by Carl Wast.

Day fishing for blue cod and groper out of Halfmoon Bay was her main job in the post-war years, and Dean Wast, as skipper, continued this, working from Bluff.

On 15th June 1981 she hit a submerged object off Ruggedy and sank — the crew were saved.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

We would like to thank Vicki and everyone who has donated money through the quiz. A few weeks ago we were donated the money from the quiz to help out with Jess. We are very humbled by all your generosity. We cannot thank everyone enough and would just like to say that you are all amazing people. Vicki you are one in a million.

Jess really enjoys scrapbooking and bought herself a camera and photo printer which will keep her very busy at home and while she is in hospital.

Again, THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

Jess can not go out much at the moment so we cannot attend the quiz night which we are missing very much as we really enjoyed going. Chris will still be going and will see you all there.

*Chris, Trudy, Jessica and Grace*

(MARINE RESERVE *Continued from p 1*)

first day involved a 1 ½ hour marine life presentation, followed by a pool snorkel at Halfmoon Bay School.

The following day we went by water taxi to Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara marine reserve. We snorkelled inside the marine reserve boundaries and saw amazing giant kelp forests, large blue moki, sea tulips (that are actually animals), sea hares, friendly blue cod, octopus and bands of trumpeter. We then snorkelled just outside the reserve boundaries and saw less large fish, but still a stunning amount of variety. It is possible that the underwater comparison may also be achievable via a submersible or with drop video technology

“Perhaps over the years we may see even more life within the reserve, as many other reserves around the country have shown an increase in size and abundance of different marine life over time” says Mrs Nicholas.

Collectively the three students involved said “We would like to see more promotion of our existing Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island marine reserve in the Stewart Island tourism brochures, making the information assessable to visitors to the Island, especially because we do not have boundaries markers on site, the boundaries should be published more in places visitors are likely to see it”.

Jamie made the comment “There needs to be more awareness about the consequences of illegally harvesting from marine reserves”

Logan says “My experience on the programme this week opened my eyes to how much beautiful marine life we have in our waters”

Henry thinks “There should be more marine reserves in New Zealand”.

During calm weather the waters in the marine reserve make fantastic

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Halfmoon Bay Beat

My name is Dale Jenkins and since Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> May I have been the local police officer. Or 'Proper copper' instead of 'Rent a cop' My wife Catherine (Cath) is here with me and we have settled into our new home.

We have been impressed with the warmth and friendliness we have encountered since arriving,

#### First a bit about us

We have four children (unfortunately for the local school) all now adults and independent with partners. We also have two grandsons aged 5 and 2. We hope in time that they will all come to visit us here and enjoy everything the island has to offer.

Cath and I enjoy the outdoors, hunting, tramping and of course fishing and diving, so when not working we will have plenty to keep us busy.

We both hope to take an active part in community life so please let us know if we can help in any way.

I have been a police officer for just over 20 years. I have previously been stationed in Grey-mouth, Waiouru, Taihape and Motueka where we have just transferred from.

#### Now to "The Police Report"

As the local cop I am responsible for enforcing the laws of the land. With your assistance my job will be made easier.

My first few weeks work will be settling in, meeting people and seeing how things work on the island.

I have noticed however that there are a lot of vehicles which are unlicensed and have no warrant of fitness. There is the odd one that should not be on the road at all. If you own one of these vehicles this is a friendly reminder to get them up to scratch and road worthy.

I had also noted the percentage of people wearing seatbelts is very low. Seatbelts do save lives and may save your life, your passenger's or child's life. "So Belt up"

On a positive note Cycle helmet wearing compliance is high.

Police would like information about the driver of a vehicle which has backed into or driven into the right rear door of a light blue coloured Toyota corolla car parked outside Glowing Sky between 1030 a.m. and 1130 a.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. The damage which was extensive was not reported to the owner or to the Police. If you have information about this crash or you are the offending driver I would like to speak to you.

That's it for now. Thanks for the friendly welcome to the Island.

*Senior Constable Dale JENKINS*  
Halfmoon Bay Police.

*(Continued from page 2)*

snorkelling, the students advise thick long wetsuits and hot milo and warm clothes on return to the beach

Warning – we would like to keep our marine reserve as natural as possible, take photos and memories and leave nothing but bubbles and fin prints.

Experiencing Marine Reserves, Department of Conservation, Rakiura Education Trust and other interested parties will now move forward with a plan for how we might implement the programme on Stewart Island in the future

For further information please contact Samara at [samara@emr.org.nz](mailto:samara@emr.org.nz) or (09) 433 8205 or 021 036 2019.

Experiencing Marine Reserves engages the school community in awareness, understanding and involvement in marine conservation.

The aim of the programme is to raise awareness, understanding and involvement in marine conservation through provision of dynamic experiential environmental education opportunities and to advocate for marine protection.

The local aim for the programme in Stewart Island would be in increase the profile of the existing marine reserve.

Experiencing Marine Reserves offers schools expertise, a hands-on approach to learning about marine biodiversity, and opportunities for conservation. The programme is structured around creating a very special and individual

experience with students' local marine environment. This is done through guidance, direction and coordination of classroom exercises and field trips to the ocean.

The Experiencing Marine Reserves programme has been operational in Northland since 2002 and available to other parts of New Zealand since 2004. The programme has produced interactive educational resources (CD ROM, video & website) featuring information and images about marine biodiversity and conservation.

EMR in Northland is under the umbrella of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust (formerly known as Ngā Maunga ki te Moana Conservation Trust) and is currently funded by the Tindall Foundation and the Department of Conservation.

Thank you to everyone who came forward to volunteer some of your time to the project last month. We sent out a message asking for people who wouldn't normally be available long-term, to help out in a bigger-than-usual rat year, and several people responded.

We hope you have a great month, seeing some areas off-the-beaten-track, and more importantly, giving some of the Island's more vulnerable wildlife a bit of breathing space around HMB.

*Kari, Bevan and the SIRCET team.*

**Quilt Workshop and Exhibition** We are trying to organise a visit from Noeline Johnson of Catlin Quilts, to come to the Island to hold a Workshop and Exhibit the Hoffman Challenge quilts in August. Preliminary dates 12th 13th 14th August. This is just an early notice, but keep August free and enquiries to Margaret Rooney.

 Department of Conservation **DOC**  
Te Papa Atawhai **Spot**

**Experiencing Marine Reserves**

Ever wonder what's so special about marine reserves? Samara Nicholas, director of Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) visited Stewart Island / Rakiura recently to investigate the feasibility of establishing an EMR programme here on Stewart Island

The concept behind this programme is that it empowers schools and communities by providing hands-on experience in the ocean.



Students investigate marine biodiversity and the local marine environment before venturing to a fully-protected marine reserve, after which they are able to compare unprotected and protected areas and are encouraged to put their knowledge into action within the community. Our three brave 'guinea pigs' for this project were Jamie Adams, Logan Davis and Henry Bayne. (Thank you guys - you were awesome!). The temperatures weren't tropical but all three children and the adults accompanying them, Samara, Jenny Williams, Eamonn Ganley and Francesca Poli were blown away by the variety of sealift they encountered. Whether it is feasible to put kids in wetsuits and put them in the ocean here on Stewart Island, or whether there are alternative options that might provide a similar experience has yet to be assessed, but the concept of making more people aware of what is special about marine reserves is definitely something that we intend to pursue. Henry probably summed up the trial quite aptly when he asked: "Can we do this again .....in summer?"



**International visitor**  
Earlier this month we

were visited by a very charming young ranger from Italy. Francesca Poli works for Cinque Terre National Park which is situated along the north western coast of Italy (at the top of the 'boot'). Her park has a 'twin' park relationship with Fiordland National Park and Francesca was sent to Fiordland on a cultural exchange. To enable her to get a comprehensive understanding of national parks in New Zealand she spent 5 days of her six-week visit to New Zealand on Stewart Island / Rakiura. She noted a few similarities, for instance Cinque Terre also has a marine reserve, which is home to a diverse range of colourful coral and also whales, but she found the remoteness and wildness of our national parks quite different from her own. Cinque Terre is a

man made park. Centuries ago the land was terraced using stone walls to create flat terraces to cultivate vineyards, citrus and olive groves. The park is actively involved in recuperating and maintaining these terraces and in order to help pay for this work derives income from selling items grown and produced within the park such as wine, Limoncino, olive oil and herbal lotions. Francesca encourages anyone interested in learning more about her park can do so by visiting:

[www.parconzionale5terre.it](http://www.parconzionale5terre.it) (but if your Italian is not very good, you might like to do what I did and just 'google' the words 'Cinque Terre.') Francesca would also like to say a very big thank you to Ian Wilson, Phillip Smith and Stewart Island Experience for helping her make the most of her short time on the island. She was especially thrilled to see kiwi in the wild and experience the 'cool' wonders of the underwater world of the Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve.



**World Environment Day**

World Environment Day is celebrated each year in more than 100 countries. It is an opportunity to raise awareness and promote action on environmental issues through public engagement. This year New Zealand is hosting World Environment Day in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The international slogan for 2008 is: **Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy**, in recognition that climate change is becoming the defining issue of our era. The theme also includes the role of forest conservation and sustainable forestry in achieving domestic and global climate change goals. In order to mark World Environment Day here on Stewart Island / Rakiura, DOC staff invite residents to join them at the Community Centre at 10.30am on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Bring along your gardening gloves and implements and help transform the bare garden plots outside the community centre with native trees and shrubs. A car pool will also be running from the centre around to the community nursery at Horseshoe Bay where residents

can obtain plants for their home gardens in exchange for an hour or two of labour (or gold coins).

**Photos Wanted**

I mentioned in last month's DOC Spot, that we are working on an upgrade of the information panels within the visitor centre. To illustrate these we need lots of images of people out and about, on the tracks, in the huts and on the water - in good weather and bad. We want to tell it like it is. If you have any photos that might be suitable, that you would be happy for us to use, please contact us. We have a lot of images in our library, but strangely enough most of the people in them are all wearing the same green or khaki clothing ....

## Stewart Island Community Centre

### HI FROM THE NEW MANAGER!

Hey everyone! This is Casey Lockwood, your new Community Centre manager, just giving you a shout out. You may have seen me around town this past week—I'm almost 2 meters tall, have blonde hair and have been walking around with a bandage over my broken nose with two black eyes...hard to miss! Feeling much better now though—Debs fixed me up nicely =)

I hail from near San Francisco, California, and my partner, Kent and I run the Paua farm in Horseshoe Bay. After we had been working here for about a week, I saw the opening for this job and thought it would be a great opportunity to get to know people and get involved. Also, I played basketball at university back in the states, so the full-size hardwood court here is a dream come true. Anyone who EVER wants to shoot around, play or even get some instruction, just contact me at the centre or at the farm (226) and we'll set up a time—I miss it!

I am not quite up to speed about the weekly events here, but I will put a posting on the community board as soon as I get that sorted.

So come stop by the office during office hours (listed below) and introduce yourself. And if you aren't already a member, you can join then too =) The winter is the best time for it!

Loving the island life—thank you all for being so welcoming. Look forward to meeting you.

Cheers~

Casey

Office  
Hours:

11:00-1:00pm Wednesday

11:00-12:00pm Saturday

Telephone & Fax (03) 2191 477

Email: [stewart.island@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewart.island@xtra.co.nz)

Stewart Island

Community Stewart Island

Community Centre Trust

## Councillor's Update

Among recent Council activity there has been considerable work for all Councillors and staff, with rate review and the methodology of changing the road rate to capital value from land value to better reflect the costs of those who create the greatest loadings. No doubt you will have seen lots of publicity in the media on this topic.

There are all manner of by-laws which have been reviewed as per Government legislation, including all Southland roading and parking by-laws. This includes the recent Bay-front parking, etc. Also completed, the upgraded dog by-laws which adds the Horseshoe Bay-Braggs track to the existing Ackers Point and Golden Bay restricted areas. There will be new maps available – which I will put on the Notice Board as soon as they come to hand.

Thursday 1 May saw a visit by all District Council Members and some staff as familiarisation of the region. This included a tour of all the roading, etc., also a trip to Ulva Island and Little Glory Wharfs. It was a very busy day, and Councillors now have a much broader understanding of the community projects coming to fruition.

On 8/9 May, I attended a local government zone meeting, which covers all the South Island Councils, and presentations included energy, climate change, peak oil, etc., giving us a more thorough understanding of further possibilities in our en-

ergy challenges. Also on the horizon for any interested people, there is an energy seminar in Invercargill on 6 June, featuring some very high profile speakers, including Hon. David Parker at the top of the list – registration forms available at our Post Office.

The energy arrangements with SIESA/Right House are proceeding with test windmill at the Ringaringa Schofield property. There are also solar gain panels being fitted in "town" to evaluate further the energy possibilities. Research is ongoing for renewable options, and you might like to look at some of the world-wide research by following the links listed below:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/development/oceanenergy/>

<http://www.lunarenergy.co.uk/latestNews>

<http://www.ceto.com.au/home.php>

<http://www.worldenergy.org/default.asp>

<http://www.itmdi-energy.com/news/index.html>

<http://www.emec.org.uk/>

Right House is a subsidiary of Meridian and has staff with experience in marine energy. They will be assisting with that aspect, and there is substantial government funding available for utilisation of this sustainable source of energy.

So heaps of very exciting stuff happening, and I'll update you again in the next SIN if I don't speak to you personally before then.

*Bruce Ford*

## **Power Saving Tips**

*shared by Pete Wilson*

Note: This information was collected from a website where all energy costs were at the average cost of electricity in New Zealand (18 cents per unit). These figures have been roughly converted to the Stewart Island cost of 52 cents per unit. The payback times shown here are therefore 3 times quicker than in the original articles because the power cost here is roughly 3 times higher than the average mainland cost.

### **Things that cost nothing and save cash**

- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Use cold water for laundry and wash only full loads.
- Use the sun and wind to dry your laundry.
- Repair leaky taps.
- Close curtains and windows at sunset in the winter.
- When buying a new appliance, ask for an energy-efficient model. Look for the "Energy Star Rating" sticker.
- If you have a beer fridge, turn it off.
- Use a stuffed "snake" to exclude draughts under the door.
- Block off open fireplaces when not in use.
- Switch off TVs, DVD players, stereos, etc at the wall when not in use. Appliances on standby waste energy.
- Run heated towel rails for a few hours only.
- Switch cupboard heaters off during the day.
- Reduce your hot water cylinder temperature, but

not less than 60°C.

### **Simple and inexpensive - under \$60**

- Install a water-efficient showerhead.
- Fill gaps in your ceiling insulation.
- Plant a deciduous tree to shade your largest west-facing window in summer. You'll get shade in summer, sun in winter.
- Fit shields for draughts and rain on external doors.
- Insulate the first two metres of hot-water pipe nearest the hot-water cylinder.
- Put compact fluorescent bulbs in the light fittings you use the most. These use around a fifth the electricity of a standard bulb.

### **Measures that pay for themselves in 4 to 20 months**

- Insulate the ceiling.
- Block draughty air gaps around plumbing pipes and electrical cables, windows and doors, with caulking and weather strips.
- Insulate remaining hot-water pipes.
- Insulate under timber floors.
- If your hot-water cylinder is not labelled A grade, install a cylinder wrap.
- If the ground underneath your house is wet, cover with polythene, taping the joints and ensuring a fit around the piles.

### **Measures that cost more but pay for themselves in 1 to 5 years**

- Insulate the walls when renovating.
- Increase ceiling insulation.
- Convert to solar hot-water heating.

- Double-glaze windows.
- Install awnings or shades over windows that over-heat your home in summer. This will reduce the need for cooling fans and air-conditioning.
- Consider installing a heat pump to replace conventional electric heaters.

## **Savings around the home**

### **Lights**

Lights that are on most of the time add significantly to your power bill. A 150W security light left on all night (12 hours) will cost \$270 a year. Replace it with a motion sensor security light, so it only switches on when needed.

Downlights chew through even more electricity. A modern open-plan living/dining area could easily have 12 ceiling-mounted downlights. That's the equivalent of a one-bar heater in the ceiling. Replace the downlights with compact fluorescent bulbs (around \$6 each), and consumption will be down to the 240 watts. And - if the lights burn for six hours per night on average - this will save you \$786 annually.

### **Floor**

Up to 20% of heat loss can be through the floor in older houses. New houses must be insulated to a minimum level.

To prevent heat loss, staple special insulating foil or foil-backed insulating blanket under the floor joists. This may only be feasible if you have good access, and will cost between \$500 and \$850.

Thicker carpets and underlay, or cork tiles, will help achieve the same effect. With warmer feet you should need less heating.

### **Draughts**

15% to 25% of heat escapes through disused fireplaces, tongue-and-groove floors, around windows, under doors, and where drains and water pipes enter.

To reduce the loss, fill gaps, seal old chimneys, and fit weather stripping (costing about \$200) around doors and windows. Fit draught-excluders to the bottoms of doors, or make a draught "sausage".

### **Ceiling**

42% of the heat lost from an average uninsulated home goes through the ceiling. Older houses can exceed 60%. The solution: insulate. Glass fibre (such as Pink Batts) is usually the most cost effective, though loose fill insulation may be easier to install in older houses.

Insulation costs about \$1000, plus labour, unless you're a DIYer. With savings of between \$300 and \$1150 per year, the payback time can be anywhere between 6 months and 30 months.

A handy tip: check your ceiling insulation regularly. Loose fill can blow around, and tradespeople may not always refit it after electrical or plumbing work. All gaps should be filled.

### **Windows**

Glass loses heat very quickly: 25% to 30% of heat losses can go this way. Curtains will only make a real difference if they are floor length and thermal lined, with the gap closed at the top. You need to trap air between the curtain and the window. Make sure the sun warms up the house when possible, but close the curtains tight in the early evening.

Double glazing is even more effective. With existing windows, the best option may be "secondary glazing", which involves

fitting a second set of windows inside the existing frame. But it is pricey - each square metre of secondary glazing costs \$120 to \$140.

#### **Walls**

Up to 25% of heat loss is through walls. Unfortunately, insulation is not usually worth attempting unless you intend to reline the walls, as it costs up to \$1000 for materials, plus the cost of relining.

#### **Bath and shower**

Showers are generally more economical than baths, but a wasteful shower head can use up to 20 litres of warm water a minute. You ought to be able to have a perfectly comfortable shower at around 7 litres a minute. To find out whether your shower head is wasteful, time how long it takes to fill a 10L household bucket. If it's less than a minute, get a more economical head (these cost \$55 or more). Check which type of hot water cylinder you have. If it's mains pressure, an adjustment to the mixer or a restrictor may be needed.

Say you have a household of four people, all of whom take a 10 minute shower each day. Reducing shower flow by 4 litres per minute will save you about \$900 over a year.

#### **Hot water cylinder**

An old-style low-pressure hot water cylinder might last 30-40 years so there are still many installed in New Zealand homes. Their heat loss is much greater than a new one, and the problem may be compounded by smaller cylinders being set to a higher temperature than is safe and economical.

Check the label. An "A" grade cylinder label does not need more insulation. Older cylinders probably should be insulated. The rule-of-thumb is if the outside casing of your cylinder is noticeably warm to touch, you need a wrap. These cost around \$90 to \$120. You should also insulate the first two metres of pipe - this costs about \$15. Then there's the thermostat. Water doesn't need to be over 60°C, so you're wasting money if you keep the temperature set higher (but it shouldn't go lower than 60°C).

These steps can save you up to \$300 a year - \$150 for the cylinder wrap, \$75 for the pipe wrap, and \$75 by reducing the thermostat temperature.

#### **Dripping taps**

One dripping hot tap can waste 5000 litres of hot water a year. That's as much as the standing losses of a cylinder. If you're able to replace the tap washer yourself, it'll cost less than \$1, but could save you up to \$240 a year, if you left it dripping that long.

#### **Savings with appliances**

It's the little things that count. Or cost, when it comes to electricity. The clothes dryer might draw a lot of power but, used sparingly, won't affect the bill too much. The less obvious cost is the appliance left on for hours.

Here are some of the most energy-hungry appliances around the house, and suggestions about how to run them more cheaply, or avoid using them entirely.

#### **Heaters**

Simply turning off heaters isn't a wise move, as prolonged cold room temperatures will result in ill effects for the house and its inhabitants! However, you can take care to choose the most appropriate heater for your needs. A woodburner is also an option.

Unflued (portable) gas heaters are not recommended. Energy costs are slightly higher than electricity, but worse, they give off around a litre of water per hour on high settings. To remove this moisture you might be tempted to use a dehumidifier, at a cost of 9 to 12 cents per hour.

If you run two heated towel rails (80 watts each) and a cupboard heater continuously (180 watts), but decide to switch them off for 12 hours a day, that is an annual saving of \$714.

#### **Fridge/freezers**

A mid-size (380-450L) modern fridge/freezer uses 25 percent less electricity than a 10-year old model - a saving of about \$120 a year.

Faults make an old model even less efficient: insulation gives up, door seals wear, thermostats fail. Listen to the fridge: it should cycle on and off in a regular pattern when the door is closed. If it runs all the time it's not in good health.

Check the seals: they should be free from cracks or tears. If you can easily insert a piece of paper between the seal and the frame, the door is not fitting tightly enough. This can actu-

ally double the running costs! New seals can be fitted to most fridge/freezers, at a cost of \$120 to \$160. Don't fix an old fridge if it's more cost-efficient to buy a new one. Turning off that second beer fridge can save up to \$360 per year - more if you include the reduced beer consumption!

#### **Stoves**

Stoves are not very efficient. To make the most of the heat, use close-fitting lids on pots. When possible, use a microwave instead - it's more than twice as efficient.

#### **Dishwashers**

The best dishwashers require about the same amount of energy as a hot hand wash - at a cost of around \$120 per year. Older dishwashers can use over \$390 of power per year.

If you own a dishwasher, run it only when full, or set half-loads, if you have that option. If your household relies on hand-washing, try not to pre-rinse using hot water - this can save up to \$120 a year. If buying a new dishwasher, choose an energy efficient model.

#### **Dehumidifiers**

A typical dehumidifier uses 9 to 12 cents per hour. In favourable circumstances (a warm room), the most efficient models will remove 1 litre of water every 4 hours. If you run a dehumidifier for 10 hours a day over winter (3 months), it will cost \$105. Although a dehumidifier will usually succeed in drying a house, it only removes the symptoms, not the cause of the problem. This is why we don't generally recommend dehumidifiers, at least not on their own. Removing moisture at the source is cheaper.

Fit **extractor fans** in the bathroom (around \$100 to \$500), and an externally-vented rangehood in the kitchen. Vent the dryer to the outside. Warm the air, to lower the relative humidity, and don't use unflued gas heaters, as these release up to a litre of water into the air, every hour.

#### **Washing machines**

Hot or warm washes in a typical top-loading washing machine use a lot of energy. You can cut this right back by using cold washes. It's just as hygienic, and modern detergents work very well. It costs nothing to make the change, but will reduce the running costs by a massive 90 percent.

(Continued on page 10)



## Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

In late April the final de-brief meeting for the Stewart Island project was held in Dunedin. About 30 people attended including representatives from the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, DOC, the University of Otago, and volunteers. The Wellington-based DOC veterinarian also made it down and presented information on behalf of Massey University and Biosecurity NZ. The entire morning was taken up with hearing about what the project has achieved over the past five years, what it has cost, and what the information gaps are. Discussion in the afternoon focused on what should be done next.

The main conclusion that came from the afternoon session was that we need to determine whether the rapid decline in the number of breeding pairs we've observed on the Anglem coast has also occurred in other parts of Stewart Island. In 1999-2000 the Trust surveyed most of the

island and found 84 breeding pairs on the Stewart Island mainland, of which 32 were found on the same stretch of Anglem coast that we have been monitoring. This season we found 16 pairs there – a decline of 50% since 1999 (nine breeding seasons). We need to repeat the earlier survey to see if this decline is widespread.

Unfortunately the Trust currently has no available funds to do this repeat survey in the coming season, so are desperately

working on ways to source funds. If you can help in any way, please contact Sandy King ([sdk@callsouth.net.nz](mailto:sdk@callsouth.net.nz)) or the Trust Office in Dunedin ([yeptrust@gmail.com](mailto:yeptrust@gmail.com)).

Our five years of intensive monitoring on Stewart Island has highlighted the facts that the population of yellow-eyed penguin along the Anglem coast is declining at an alarmingly rapid rate, that breeding success there has been consistently poor, that chicks are dying but are not being predated, and that starvation and disease are key causes of chick death. In comparison, the population on the Bravo group has remained stable and breeding success there and on Codfish Island has fluctuated within normal levels. The past five years have also highlighted a lot of questions that



Dunedin de-brief

we don't yet have answers to; for example, is the problem we have uncovered confined to the Anglem coast, or is it occurring in all yellow-eyed penguin breeding areas on mainland Stewart Island? Also, what are the factors that have caused chicks to starve and succumb to disease along the Anglem coast but not on nearby off-shore islands? Is the problem related to food supply, or something else?

Also of interest were some comparisons with breeding success in other parts of the

penguins' range. For example on the Otago Peninsula this season productivity at eight monitored breeding sites ranged from 0.88 – 1.75 chicks per nest (cpn) with productivity at five of these sites being 1.5 cpn or greater. Several sites successfully fledged all of the chicks that hatched. While we thought that our Bravo and Codfish sites did really well this year productivity there was 1.35 and 1.51 cpn respectively, which isn't exceptionally high in comparison to the Otago Peninsula sites. The best the Anglem coast birds have been able to do over the past five years was 0.67 cpn in 2006.

While in Dunedin I had the opportunity to visit a chemistry lab and talk with some people who specialize in forensics. This is the sort of stuff that enables the police to identify the origin of human remains, and to help solve drug related crimes by linking batches of drugs to certain manufacturers etc. Although my recall of high school chemistry was sorely taxed, I did learn that the same techniques could be used to help answer some of the puzzling questions about penguins that we have uncovered. We have started by submitting samples for analysis that could show whether differences in the diet of chicks can be linked to the different productivity we've observed. I'll look forward to the results, and trying to figure out what they mean, over the next few months.

Sandy

**Sandy King**

**Projects Officer Southern Islands  
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Dunedin**  
office Ph: 03 479 0011

Ph: 03 219 1102

Email: [yeptrust@gmail.com](mailto:yeptrust@gmail.com)

Email: [sdk@callsouth.net.nz](mailto:sdk@callsouth.net.nz)

[www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)

**Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre** is facing some sharp and hot problems at the moment. Supervisor David Squire said the centre is getting rubbish bags full of glass and bottles in them.

“That’s dangerous for the sorting guys. We don’t want anyone to get cut so please don’t put glass in the rubbish bags. Put them in the recycling bins,” David said. “You can put broken glass in as long as it is wrapped securely; otherwise it is a hazard for the guys as well.”

Residents can put paper, cardboard, plastics 1 and 2 bottles, glass, and steel and aluminium cans in their recycling bins but it is important these are sorted and in separate plastic shopping bags.

It is also important to remember not to put hot ashes in the refuse bags. Staff recently picked up some bags and by the time they got back to the depot, one bag with a coal sack inside it had melted through.

“If we had not noticed it the bag would have been placed in the rubbish compactor and then we would have had a major problem with fire,” he said.

Residents can put things like bones, rubber items, plastics marked 3 and over and items made from mixed materials in the refuse bags.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please ring the RRC on 219 1581. If the procedures are followed, your refuse bags/recycling bins will be rejected and not picked up.

**To say the titi/ muttonbird colony has had another disappointing year is a gross understatement.**

Results in January had been promising, with a similar rate of chicks hatching to last season, and on track to meet our goal of at least 50% of nests surviving to fledge. Even then, we would estimate about 20 chicks would fledge from the colony - not a lot for a colony reliant on these birds to secure their next generation.

Instead, we now estimate about 12 chicks survived. These birds still need to make it through the weeks of growing their final feathers, stretching and strengthening their wings before launching themselves into an as yet unknown world of wild winds, salt spray and a journey straight up to the north-west coast of Canada and beyond.

It’s a bit-

tersweet result. In years gone by we have had as little as one chick survive to the last stage at which we can measure them, so survival has swelled from that devastating year, yet this number of chicks hardly gives us confidence that the Ackers Point colony will be there for the next generation to enjoy.

We don’t have a lot of answers on this one and I’m keen to talk to birders about the numbers and size of birds on the islands this year, which always helps to make sense of our results. What we can say is that, thankfully, there were no signs of predation again this year

Thank you again to everyone helping to trap wild cats in cage-traps. This is a time-consuming job, but

one which has kept numbers of wild cats at Ackers at an all-time low, and ensures local domestic pets are protected. With the effort kept up, we are giving this special colony the best chance we can to ensure it is still there for generations to come. —Kari Beaven



Titi parent at burrow entrance.

**Information for Stewart Island Emergency Patients:**

If you are a Stewart Island resident who has been discharged from the emergency room after the last plane or ferry of the day and you find yourself without money or without friends with whom you can stay the night, don’t despair! The transportation and accommodation providers listed below have agreed to provide Island residents who find themselves in this situation with necessary services, with payment deferred until they get home. Taxi service is available 24 hours a day, and all accommodation have agreed to work with late night situations. The intent is to make it easy to obtain transportation and accommodation during a difficult situation. If you use these services, you are responsible for any debts incurred.

**Transportation**

**Blue Star Taxis: Phone 217-7777** Describe your situation, and provide your name when you phone.

**Accommodation**

**Kelvin Hotel: Phone 218-2829.** Both a phone and food are available here. Located at Esk & Kelvin.

**The Shiny Paua: Phone 218-2503.** Both a phone and food are available here. The address is 240 Spey Street.

**Townsmen Motor Lodge: Phone 218-8027.** A phone (but no food) is available here. Address is 195 Tay St.

*Describe your situation when you phone, and formally register.*

**Missing from the Halfmoon Bay School**

Dental Clinic. A painted black iron treadle wheel, part of a dental drill. If you have it in your possession, or know where it is, please contact the school.

**Red Cross First Aid Training Comprehensive First Aid Course**

NZQA accredited (unit standards 6400, 6401 & 6402)

**16 & 17 June 2008**

**Comprehensive First Aid Revalidation**

**17 June 2008**

Venue: RSA Rooms Bookings: ph 218 4339

**STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE**

***PERMACULTURE DEMONSTRATION.***

ROBERT GUYTON (N.Z Gardener) and his wife Robyn will visit the island late May early June (watch Notice Board for details).

Robert will demonstrate how to construct a permaculture plot. Robyn would like to show us how to prune fruit trees. If you have any fruit trees please contact Wendy 357, Jenny 219 or Loraine 310

The next meeting of the Garden Circle will be held at the home of Loraine Squires, 2.0 on Thursday 12 June.



(POWER TIPS *Continued from page 7*)

**Clothes dryers**

Dryers are costly to run: expect to pay around 60 cents per (5kg) load. The obvious strategy is to avoid using dryers wherever possible. Also, cut back on moisture infiltrating your house by venting your dryer to the outside. If that's not possible, use it in the laundry with the outside door/window open and the door to inside the house shut.

**Computers**

A computer costs about 9 cents per hour, depending on age, monitor size and efficiency.

When your computer is switched on, make the most of any in-built energy saving features, such as low power modes, and monitor/hard-drive power-off settings.

When not in use, it goes without saying that you should turn your computer off. But be wary of leaving it unplugged for very long periods, especially if it's elderly. If left for a few months without being able to draw any electricity, there's a risk the internal battery may run down, resulting in the computer "losing its memory".

**Standby power**

Standby power is that little bit of energy required to keep some appliances warm, with clocks going, and batteries charged. In some cases, this is handy. VCRs need to be kept on standby, or you'll have to reset the clock every time you want to record. Ditto with clock/radios!

But standby is a luxury for many other appliances. Stereos don't require a functioning clock, and neither do CD players, games machines, TVs, set-top boxes and the like. Most of them only use around 10 watts. Some inefficient appliances use up to 20W; very good ones less than 1W. It's not much, but if you have several appliances permanently on standby, your costs can add up to nearly \$300 a year. Where practicable, turn appliances off at the wall. When you buy, ask about models with low standby costs. Some can run for less than a dollar a year. Note that energy labels don't give standby information.

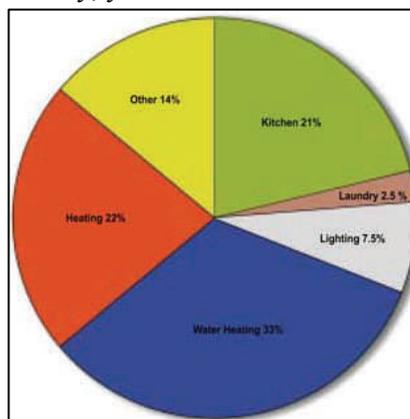
**Where does the money go?**

Ever wondered what really gets your power meter spinning? We took the power bill for an average New Zealand house, broke it down into six parts, and identified just where the money had been spent. *See chart.*

Two adults and two children live in this all-electric, well-insulated, suburban Wellington home. The time of year is autumn/winter.

The family mostly take showers, but have the luxury of an occasional bath. An electric heat pump is used to heat the main living area, with thermostatically controlled oil-column heaters for the sleeping areas.

The kitchen has a fridge/freezer, and a dishwasher which is used on the eco-dry setting. All laundry is done with cold water, and the drier is used as little as possible. A dehumidifier is run part-time to keep the house dry, and all lighting is incandescent.



*Last month I invited input about power on the Island. Folks have heaps to say on the subject! Following are some of the collected comments and questions (and if you haven't already, read the report from RightHouse "Initial Findings and Recommendations from Stewart Island Energy and Generation Study" available at your Library).*

"We should all get those wee electric cars from China that go 35km/h and charge them up with a wind-mill."

"Are we supposed to believe that Meridian is our friend and they're doing this out of the goodness of their hearts? They are a business and this is about business."

"Is the cable under the Strait going to cost \$9 million or \$59 million—I hear

different numbers and where do these figures come from?" [Editor's Note: I put \$9M figure in SIN after earwiggling at the Pub; the RightHouse report says after the 9M the cable's life-span is estimated at 40 years with a \$300,000 maintenance tab per year. Do the math: that's a lot of pricy zeros!]

"Meridian Energy is giving SIESA a 3-million dollar loan with no interest and no specific payback date. This financing is a big part of the project and leads to an immediate effect for Stewart island electrical units to be 4 cents cheaper. The main reason for the loan would be huge advertising and commercial benefits for Meridian. The work of installation and services would be given to local contractors if possible. There have been discussions by other parties

which indicate that it is up to the Stewart Islanders themselves to make their voice heard and if they do then a far better outcome could be negotiated than the one already on the table.

"Do you believe that the benefit for Meridian or any other provider are far more commercially beneficial than for the Islanders (to get a maximum of 4 cents off their current charge per unit)?"

"Do you believe that the Islanders are best served in leaving the information and discussions just to the Community Board members, Pete Thompson and any other SDC employee?"

"Do you believe that the current price per electrical unit on Stewart Island should be the same as Invercargill?"

"Do you believe that the scheme would go even further ahead in providing

free insulation material for all Stewart Island homeowners and home builders?"

"Meridian can do whatever they want, they can buy me, as long as they don't hold back and they give us the best possible deal."

"These are exciting times. Any kind of alternative energy that would reduce power costs would be great. Everyone should make an effort and try to do their bit."

"I regret I never had solar panels put into my roof—even if they just keep the hot water cylinder at a warm temperature so it doesn't take so much energy to get it hot."

"I'm keen to see what they come up with as long as it doesn't cost us too much."

*(Continued on page 11)*

### The RightHouse

**report** *“Initial Findings and Recommendations from Stewart Island Energy and Generation Study” is 10 pages long, available at the Library, and worth a read. Here are some excerpts:*

The current price for electricity on Stewart Island is 52 cents / kWh. This currently represents a loss for SIESA. Diesel prices are expected to climb in the near to medium term. The 2006/07 bill for the island was \$480,000. The 2008/08 is budgeted at \$675,000.

There is considerable poten-

tial for domestic energy efficiency on the island. There is limited scope for further energy efficiency from commercial operations as most potential measures have already been implemented.

Our initial domestic audit, which had a 43% response rate provided the following efficiency headlines:

65% of houses had partial or no underfloor insulation.  
26% of houses had partial or no ceiling insulation.  
38.5% of houses did not have lagged pipes.

The average fridge / freezer age is 7.95 years

The average stand alone freezer age is 9.8 years  
20% of the fridge / freezers on the island are older than 10 years.

Average monthly energy bill for permanent residents on the island (includes electricity gas diesel and coal) is:  
Summer \$248  
Winter \$333

The project team were surprised at the amount of coal and diesel used for space and hot water heating. On average the island spends around \$20,000 to \$40,000 per month on fossil fuel for these purposes.

“To sort out a typical Island house and get it up to energy efficiency scratch costs \$19,000. Now how many people who live in those style homes can afford \$19,000? I can’t.”

“They [RightHouse report] say our power station makes 3.3 [kWh per litre of diesel], but it’s actually 4.3.”

“We can’t forget our diesel station, it cost a lot of money to put there and we need to maintain it. We can’t get around the fact that we need to run diesel power on the island and we need to maintain the diesel station, we can’t afford to let it slip. If there’s \$50,000 in the pot and the roof needs fixed at the diesel station, we’ve got to fix it. It’s like you have your island car and your flash car in town—you can spend all your money on the town car but at the end of the day you still need your island car to get to work every day, you’ve got to maintain it.”

“We should spend some money on a ring feed—a secondary circuit—so if someone hits a pole at Mill Creek we don’t all lose power.”

“What’s more important?

Continuing our supply or exploring new supplies of energy? It has to be reliable and if possible cost-efficient.”

“I worry we might be being baffled a bit with bull---- and we could get lured into something that isn’t good for the long term. All of these other ideas are good but we can’t power everything with windmills and solar panels. We need to keep what we’ve got and keep it going. These other ideas are good as long as they don’t cost a lot of money.”

“I don’t want Stewart Island to turn into a place where only rich people can afford to live here, all so we made a good Green one-minute news story.”

“If I want to shop around for solar panels or other ways to make my house more energy efficient I should be allowed to, it’s my prerogative how I spend my money.”

“We should look at the health issue: if you’ve got your clothes drying next to the fire, and you leave the lids off your pots when you’re cooking, and you don’t open a window and let fresh air into the house, then it’s

going to be damp and mouldy and unhealthy. When they did the Bluff insulating they started with an educator going into peoples’ homes and explaining this stuff, it’s not just about insulation: People need to do the right and bright thing.”

“I think people should stop driving everywhere, it’s an easy way to save on petrol and stay fit.”

“A lot of people are missing the number one point: it’s an island and you can’t expect to have power here for what you get it on the mainland. If you live on an island and it’s a National Park then power is an added expense you have to put up with. The national media coverage talks about the poor Stewart Islanders, well boohoo, everyone’s in the same boat.”

“Opportunities for hydro power here exist but getting past the green thing is the problem, getting a transmission line here would cost a bomb and you’d never get it in the National Park. But we’ve got a lot of water down here and Mill Creek has got to be worth a look.”

*Thanks everyone for your contributions.—Ed.*

Following a tragedy at sea, the community donated funds to Roy (aka Noisy) Conner’s widow Ange which she used to purchase books



for her boys. Now that they’ve grown beyond picture books, Ange arranged to have all of those books sent

down here and put into our library for the Stewart Island children! It’s a wonderful windfall for us. Thank you to Ange and her sons Tyron and Kadin for such a thoughtful and touching gift to us.

Helen Devlin, our new “point person” in Winton, came down to have lunch with the volunteers last month. Her library roots go back to Bondi Beach Library when she was 20, and she worked for over a decade at the Invercargill City Library. Anyway, it turns out she is a shelf whisperer and she rolled up her sleeves and helped me create a bunch more space in the fiction section. We all really enjoyed meeting her.

If you haven’t already, buy a Library schedule magnet next time you’re at the Library, the \$3 goes in the Library pot, the magnet goes on your fridge and you won’t forget when we’re open.

We now have the Joan Druett *Wiki Coffin* series, starting with *A Watery Grave*. We have two books by another NZ writer, Invercargill-bred Maxine Alterio’s short stories and her new novel *Ribbons of Grace*. Kiwi Laurence Fearnley’s acclaimed *Edwin + Matilda* was kindly given to us by Anita.

Philipa and Ian recently gave us \$100—it’s gone toward some beautiful jewellery making books.

Thanks to Jules, Pat, Anita, Loraine, Jamie, Bev C., Coral, Isabelle, and all the other generous donors of books and DVDs.

***On Saturday, 7th June we will put all of our new picture books and grown-up books on display, please come by for their community debut!***

concert

# DEREK LIND & STEVE APIRANA

GREAT MATES, LARRIKINS AND ENTERTAINERS HAVE FOR MANY YEARS THRILLED AUDIENCES WITH CONCERTS THAT ARE FULL OF LAUGHS, GREAT MUSIC AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

DEREK AND STEVE, TWO OF TEAR FUNDS MOST POPULAR ARTISTS WILL BE APPEARING AT THE

## COMMUNITY HALL FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 8.0 P.M

GOLD COIN DONATION FOR TEAR FUND

Good luck to everyone competing in the Stewart Island Classic Triathlon!!!

The Stewart Islands News thanks Maurice at Executive Car Service, Stewart Island Flights, Margaret Hopkins, Kari Beaven, Ship to Shore, the Visitor Centre, and McDowall Print.

### TO ALL PROMOTIONS MEMBERS

Please Remember to send in your Brochure/Map applications *As Soon As Possible*. Applications have been very slow. It will make our task a lot easier if we can get them in early. WE HAVE NOW MADE A DECISION THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A PRODUCT MANUAL THIS YEAR. Thank you — Promotions Brochure Committee

## **WANTED** **WILY OLD SEA-DOGS TO COME TELL THE KIDS SOME GOOD YARNS.**

The school is studying weather and if you're a fisherman with a good weather story please come share it with us.

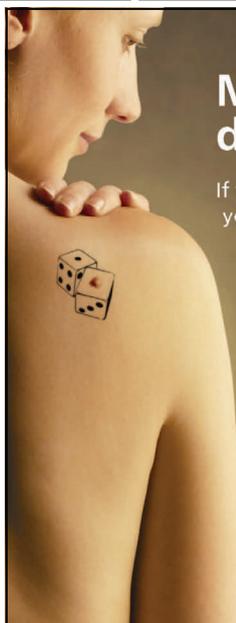
Contact school.



ANZAC Day 2008

**Chocolate Award.** Sue and Ian Munro are giving this month's award to **Graham Oakey** and **Amber Leask**: *Thank you for making such a great job of keeping our roads tidy!*

www.stewart-island-news.com



## Melanoma doesn't hibernate.

If you've spent time in the sun during the summer, your skin is at risk from melanoma, even in the winter.

A MoleMap consultation can help. MoleMap is a new technology which monitors your skin over time and can see what the naked eye cannot. So, we'll be able to detect problems at an early, and therefore treatable, stage.

The procedure isn't painful, invasive or harmful in any way. And, with on-going regular MoleMap checks, you can reduce the risks involved if you

# MoleMap

early detection avoids the risks of melanoma

### Coming to Stewart Island May 28, 29, 30

Phone 0800 MOLEMAP (0800 665 3627) for bookings or visit [www.molemap.co.nz](http://www.molemap.co.nz) for more information. Proud to be part of the MoleMap National Network.

BlackwoodKing MML0184

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

**Through October, please send articles and enquiries to Kari Beaven at Box 124, or to [sircet@callsouth.net.nz](mailto:sircet@callsouth.net.nz) The next deadline is Friday, 13th June.**

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

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

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

Name of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a website for your local accommodation or activity? Give folks a reason to visit the Island and boost your shoulder season bookings: tell prospective visitors about Kakapo Encounter which will take place this Sept-Oct. Just add this link to your website: [www.kakapoencounter.com](http://www.kakapoencounter.com)