

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May—June 2011

\$2.50

A recent Saturday evening found me yelping in fear as something repeatedly thumped against the house. Like many paranoid sooks I'm a connoisseur of night-time noises but this one I couldn't identify. If something goes bump in the dark on Stewart Island and you rule out possum, cat, and rat... well, you might start a fearful yelping too. A peek out the window quickly solved the mystery: three young muttonbirds: one in the gutter, one on the welcome mat and one sitting amongst the gum-boots. I quickly turned off the lights and the thumps stopped, and all surprise guests were gone in the morning. I since heard several residents remark they'd seen an unusual number of titi on the roads and around the township early Sunday morning. We're also

starting to see them on our plates thanks to the hard work of muttonbirders this season.

Tongues have been wagging about the prevalence of whitetails in our gardens, and white pointers in our (liquid) front yard. There have been alarming reports of people tootling out to the islands for an innocent morning coddling and suddenly seeing large sharks circling their dinghy. If you've had a recent shark encounter please contact me, I'm collecting these tales.

A community "Snak & Yak" at the Hall gave dozens of residents a chance to talk about the organization they represent. Attendees wrote down all of the local clubs and committees they could think of and the final tally was over sixty!

And two more were put forward at the meeting: a chook-house tour, and dance classes. (Don Dickens is "tired of going to functions and seeing a bunch of jiggling zombies standing in the middle of the floor" so



Rugrats learn about safety and visit the fire station. Find out more about recent ruggie adventures on page 11.



ANZAC Day 2011: page 5

good on him for this idea!). See more on page 7.

*The cemetery is not a dog toilet.*

To whoever is walking their canine in the cemetery: please clean up after pooch goes poo. As Graham Oki succinctly put it:

On a higher note: Caity Kenny wowed the crowd in Taranaki at the end of April, jumping 1.55m to become the highest jumper her age in the country!

If you hear thumps on your house tonight it's probably hailstones. Winter is surely upon us.

Don't miss  
the theatrical event  
**Strange Resting Places**  
730pm Monday 6th June  
Community Centre  
See page 15 for more info

### Exhibition of Historical Art

by Kari Beaven

An artist gifts us a unique glimpse of the world, as it is seen through their eyes. This month, so many gifts inspired by Stewart Island from as far back as the late eighteen hundreds through to the present day were brought together by the hard work of the museum committee and particularly, Raylene Waddell, Lee and Alan Wadds, and the generosity of the extended island families who loaned their precious paintings for display.

The scenes which stretched out along the community centre display foyer were touchingly familiar; the iconic image of sunlight escaping through low cumulous clouds over Bragg Bay was one such example. Island bays and views were, in some instances, unchanged by time. Others were just a memory of a store on Stoney Hill, and a painting on a wall. Artists were named alongside their works and brought memories of families back to those admiring the works. "I didn't know he painted" was a familiar murmur by the night's end. Another overheard murmur was "it's so nice to see all these paintings of the Neck and not a

*(Continued on page 2)*

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piece of gorse in sight!" Individually, these were treasured memories; glimpses back in family history for the people on whose walls they hung. Brought together for just two days, they created a novel.

As the first lap of paintings delivered us back to the foyer entrance, we were brought back to the present with some recent, yet timeless pieces by Jo Ogier and Inge Doesburg. The truly stunning moment, however, came as guests walked further into the main hall, where black drops hung with paintings drew our eyes throughout the room and into every corner. The number of paintings dedicated to island inspiration was just a taste, a representation of what has been created in the last few years, yet they filled the large hall. Each one was so carefully created, fitting to dominate a privileged wall as a favoured piece. Themes ranged from islanders at work, unique local scenes, boatsheds and sunlit water, charismatic birdlife and even a recent, somewhat stunning, acrylic of a local mother and her child.



Raylene Waddell officially welcomed people to the opening night and invited those present to swap their entrance ticket for a glass of wine. She spoke of how many of these paintings are in the museum but are often



missed because of the small space and number of other exhibits, and of the need for these paintings to be seen. She spoke of how generous people had been with their treasures, including the example of a woven flax bag, with which the museum had just that evening been entrusted. Margaret Hopkins launched the idea of a "Friends of the Museum" group on the island, to encourage closer ties between the Museum and residents or those with family links to the Island and to share knowledge about local history. Pamphlets for this are available from Margaret and the museum. Ken MacAngerny then blessed the evening, the treasures and those present with a prayer.

The final star of the night was the community centre itself. Once again the foresight of the community centre trust and their "wishlist", created in the planning phase of building the centre, meant that we had an absolutely ideal location to showcase these treasures.

Thank you to everyone involved. I enjoyed the evening, the paintings and the presentation so much, I dragged the whole family back to see it the next day.



**EASTER ART EXHIBITION**

The Rakiura Heritage Trust would like to thank everyone who contributed to the exhibition. We are grateful to all those who loaned us their beautiful works of art. It was a privilege to assemble such a fine collection. Some of the exhibits are on permanent display in the Rakiura Museum. The rest came from private ownership both on Stewart Island and further afield. The Trust would also like to thank Wendy Bailey for her professional work in producing the name plates and explanatory material. To the many Islanders and visitors who attended the exhibition, thank you for your support.

*Lorraine Hansen*  
Chairperson  
Rakiura Heritage Trust

**Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust**

*by Margaret Hopkins*

An architectural firm has been chosen to develop a concept plan for the new Museum / Information Centre & Council office on Stewart Island. Members of the Trust interviewed four of the architects short-listed for the project and have chosen Opus Architecture. With the assistance of Venture Southland a contract is currently being drawn up for architectural services by Opus and it is hoped that the first meeting with the Trust to go over the brief and develop the project plan will take place within the next month. Venture Southland and Southland District Council are also working through procedures for accessing the money held in trust by the Department of Conservation which was part of the infrastructural grant set aside for Stewart Island by the previous government following the gazettal of the Rakiura National Park.

Members of the Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust are excited to be moving on to this new stage in the development of our multi purpose building.



&

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## LETTERS



### Vaccination discussion

"I am the one!!!"

When attending the meeting I expected a discussion forum to clarify some very controversial issues regarding any broad-spectrum vaccination program to help the mothers on this island make a well-informed decision in the best interest of their children. This means to me a lively discussion and advocacy of pros *and* cons!

I didn't expect a one-sided promotion presentation of the well-known established pro-vaccination lobby. that might explain my impatience.

### I deeply regret having distracted through my passionate participation from the real issue of high public interest.

To bring back reason into the debate I want to clarify the following

- I do not subscribe to any conspiracy theory
- I am not "all natural", I rather hesitate to disturb natural resources wherever possible.
- Anybody could have commented and addressed his/her own questions to the presenters. Am I to blame that this chance wasn't taken?
- At some point another member of the audience and later Dr Sotutu retreated arguing with "sin" and "faith", to me a proof that their chosen "scientific" arguments couldn't hold opposition. Bringing "belief" into the equation is rather outrageous and deceiving to me. Religious pressure doesn't help any mother - as little as my own temper displayed I have to admit! But if faith is brought into play I ask seriously: why bother with vaccination at all?!

My point of view is based on my own experience as a mother. Back in Germany I had a career as registered nurse in a regional public hospital specialized in alternative medicine with 500 beds, the size of Southland Hospital for 17yrs, as well as having been a Kindergarten helper for 3 yrs. I travelled so called 3.world countries, too.

What I found revealing was the admittance of Dr Sotutu that

There is no absolute security against infection even if vaccination took place.

If infection occurs despite previous vaccination complications usually are much more severe.

Life long vaccination is only proven working against 3 diseases

Long-term health effects of vaccination are not conclusively studied, especially for newly developed vaccines, e.g. Human Papillomavirus. Here I like to point out the well-known fact that any study gives space for controversial interpretation depending on by *who* and *how* they are published.

Any Vaccine can only be produced *after* a disease hits,

*after* the microorganism of concern is identified and isolated. But bacteria and viruses are clever life forms. They adapt and mutate quickly and make vaccines based on the original microbe outdated.

Among medical scientists the high increase of allergies today is suspected to be related to vaccination. the "pro"-lobby is concerned about this fact, too.

Despite "herd-immunisation" and being declared eradicated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) there is a serious outbreak of small pox in Madagascar taking place right now! How is that possible?

In the Caucasian race the so-called children's diseases have been empirically considered a natural step for building up a healthy human immune system - so much more needed these days with our exposure to a changing, polluted environment and it's weakening effects to the bodies of our youngest. Think of the experiences we have with over-dosing of disinfectants e.g. hand sanitizer. These days appropriate de-sensitization is widely regarded a better method of protection against germs. Regarding the Maori Race, the indigenous people of both Americas and Australia one has to consider all relevant facts to decide appropriately.

To protect kids against complications when they fall ill there are other measures possible before taking refuge to "heavy machinery", other working methods of prevention are available. Curative medicine developed, too, and can help to cope with diseases and any complications better than in the "old days".

Unfortunately one has to accept the fact that during *any* illness and for the time of recovery a child needs special care (e.g. warmth, sleep, food appropriate to the situation and the need of the infected child, isolation, special attention). That is understandably very inconvenient for any busy modern mother.

But isn't it a worthwhile investment for the long-term health of our children and our society?

I'm always open to further discussion or information especially about the mentioned "irrational" arguments.

*Antje Nikolaus*



To all our friends and whanau of Stewart Island

A sincere heartfelt thank you to you all! Your generosity, support, cards and love has been overwhelming and while totally unexpected it has been highly appreciated and absolutely helped in Dan's recovery. We know now what it truly means to be part of a special community. We apologise for not being able to make it to the island to thank you personally but had to return to Nelson to start rehabilitation. We intend on being on the island next school holidays so will catch up with you all then. Thanks again from the bottom of our hearts.

*Arohanui Dan, Ang and boys*

*(Continued on page 5)*

# ANZAC Day 2011

“Lest We Forget”



By Dale Chittenden

“On Anzac Day we look to the past, remembering those who strove to protect our future. We remember those who served on foreign battlefields, and those who stayed behind. Those who lost their lives, and those who survived.”

Anzac Day 2011 saw another great turnout by the Stewart Island com-

munity and visitors for the dawn parade. As usual all who marched scrubbed up well and did us proud. Although our servicemen get fewer each year, it is good to see the younger generations joining in the commemorations. Many braved the cold and rugged up accordingly in hope of a glimmer of sun over the bay in what has to be one of the most beautiful memorial settings. Although the sun wasn't forthcoming

the rain held off until the Last Post, perhaps a fitting end as the bugle sounded.

Thanks must go to all those that marched including the representatives of the NZ Army, Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade, Oban Police, and ex-servicemen. Also thanks to Rev Air-dry Dyson-Leask for

the prayers, to Dale Jenkins for reading the NZ Defence Force speech, the Garden Circle for the wreaths and all those that gathered to commemorate and remember.

Many adjourned after the ceremony to the RSA for rum toddies to warm our cold bodies and spark the conversation. Thanks to Ship to Shore for sandwiches, South Seas Hotel for the scones and to the NZ Fire Service, Peter and Iris Tait for the toddies. A job well done, thank you.

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

—From the poem for the fallen  
by Laurence Binyon



PHOTOS: James King-Turner



Dear Editor,

I have to tell you about one incident at Stewart Island. Karina and I were honey mooning in April and spent a couple of weeks doing the Northern Circuit. When we finished tramping we had heaps of gas left in our cooker bottles but we couldn't take it home because it's too dangerous in aeroplanes. We decided to sell the bottles with an advert on the Notice Board opposite the wharf. We left a little sign that read “Two gas bottles for sale \$5 each”. We didn't know how to get the payment from the purchaser so we added a little note “Just pin the money to the notice board”. The honesty and trust in your community is unbelievable. Just before dark when I had completely forgotten the gas bottles that night I was heading to the Four Square. To my utter shock and surprise pinned neatly to the notice board was a \$10 note. Stewart Island is such a great little place and the locals are awesome.



Thanks from Tony



Vicki and Hippy's new chook house complete with cat-shaped door!

**BIG THANKS** to whoever has been through and weed-eaten the Back Road between the Quarry and Horseshoe.  
From Mountain-bikers Kath, Gus and Jo

A big thank you to you all who have sent cards and come up and spoken to me, and us all, since Murray passed away.  
 Your words and messages have been of great comfort.  
*Nancy and family*



**The Lions** are still collecting old NZ money or foreign coins and notes for the *Heads up for Kids* campaign. The Lions have so far collected over \$140,000. You can give any coins you have to Barry at the Flight Depot or Vicki at the Shop (or via the quiz jar where quite a few end up!)  
 The Lions also collect old prescription eyeglasses or sunglasses which are recycled and sent to South Pacific countries.

**Community Centre**

Hi all

It was great to have Tash our personal trainer come over again at the beginning of May, and it was great to see lots of people take the opportunity to get a programme - she will be back in September so keep up the good work. If you would like a gym buddy let me know and see if we can match a few people up - it is harder to get out of going to the gym if you make a time with

your buddy.

I am still looking for someone to teach us ballroom dancing - if you know anyone who would be interested in teaching or helping out let me know. There are a lot of us keen to dance.

Tai Chi - is still going Tuesday mornings at 9.30am and 10.30am and Thursday evening 5.30pm.

A **MASSIVE** thank you to Debbie Barry, Becca

Parry and their helpers for a sterling job fundraising over Easter an awesome effort. This will go towards our new second hand cross trainer.

Also a **HUGE** thank you to Vicki and the pub quiz over Easter we will be buying a small compressor and some new basket balls.

Anyone have any suggestions of equipment they would like to see at the gym, let me know. The tennis posts

should be in soon - sorry for delay.

"If anyone picked up the red rain coat that was hanging on notice-board inside the community centre, can you please reutrnr it i have had someone report it missing. cheers Sue"  
 Thanks

Hours over winter Wed 9.30am - 10.30am and Sat 9.30am-11.30am  
 Or  
 Contact me 2191166 or text 0272316305  
*Cheers Diddle*

*Alison Broad is Chair of the Education Committee for the Community Trust of Southland. Fog kept her plane in Invercargill but she forwarded these comments to open a recent community forum "Snak & Yak" at the Hall:*

This Stewart Island community is distinctive not only in where it is but also in how it gets on with things. There are many examples of how amazing the Stewart Island community is when it's at its best. The story of this Community Centre is in itself a striking case of a community turning its own vision into reality. To borrow the 'Zero' or 'Hero' terminology from the mainland, it is striking that the heroes in the case of the Stewart Island Community Centre were the Stewart Islanders themselves.

This really illustrates the essence of what community led development is all about. It is about the people who make up a community also making the opportunity to determine what is the future they want for their community. Not just what they want their community to have but also what they want their community to be.

At the Community Trust of Southland, community-led development is an area of particular focus. This is newish for us as a Trust – we started on this a couple of years ago. As a community funder, this means that we are encouraging communities to take a big picture view of their community and how they want it to be, and the Trust will then work with them on the individual projects to make this happen. The focus is on whole of community, rather than on disconnected project by project funding. As John Prendergast, the Trust CEO, has described it – "it is quite a different proposition to simply parachuting in lumps of money for a particular project". It is exciting for the Trust, but also a bit risky as we don't know at the start what the end is going to look like.

To use the analogy of a bus, community led development is about the community being on the bus, driving the bus, and determining where that bus is headed. Community led development is not about being on someone else's bus. And, of course, it's not about missing the bus!

This is not a simple challenge – how does a community do this? – determine how it wants to be, and how it can work towards this. Communities, even small ones, are complex and diverse.

Inspiring Communities, the network that is working

to foster community-led development in New Zealand, has been working with a number of different communities on this over the past 3 years. Inspiring Communities, which I am privileged to be involved in, has found so far that while each community necessarily has its own answers, there are some things in common, including

That the members of a community always know better what they need, than external people do.

Communities are complex – and quick fixes are unlikely to be other than superficial and short-lived

Identifying a community's strengths and assets is generally far more powerful than starting with its problems

There is extraordinary potential to be tapped if diverse sectors of the community all work together

Unexpected opportunities emerge when people get together and talk about what's happening and what's possible

This get-together is a starting point on this last observation. Stewart Island as a community is made up of just under 400 people. For various purposes and functions, these almost 400 people form yourselves into almost 50 different community groups and organisations. At both the individual level and the group level, your contribution is what makes this community tick.

I hope you enjoy this opportunity today for some fresh dialogue between different sectors of the Stewart Island community.

Once you start talking, you never know where it might lead. As some of you might know, I'm involved in the Women's Self Defence Network, which teaches self defence to women and girls around NZ. We've recently been having discussions with the National Collective of Women's Refuges. For the past 20+ years, we've been doing our thing and they've been doing their thing. Now, from our discussions has emerged a new proposal – for our teachers to work with the women who are clients of women's refuge. The discussions have enabled us to hop out of our usual grooves, and come up with an idea that responds really well to what is needed.

I look forward to finding out where the discussions that start today eventually lead. The future direction of this community is primarily in the hands of you who live here. No pressure! – but, such great opportunity.



**DOC Spot**

*by Sharon Pasco, Programme*

*Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor*

**Ulva Island Update**

**Biosecurity Meeting** - A community meeting was held on April 28 to discuss potential improvements to biosecurity on Ulva Isand. All ideas on how to keep rats off Ulva Island and how to deal with any that arrived, were canvassed and recorded. Ideas included creating a contingency fund, the use of dogs, an "Ulva Safe" certification and using volunteers to check traps more frequently. Everyone at the meeting was in agreement that biosecurity was everyone's responsibility. A draft biosecurity plan will be drafted during May and made available for comment. Between us all, we should be able to design an improved system.

**Resource Consent Hearing** - Submissions closed on the Resource Consent Application on April 27. Environment Southland received 29 submissions - 24 supporting the planned operation and five in opposition. A couple of those five have refused to work with us to see if we could come to any resolution and negate the need for a \$20 000 hearing. Therefore, unfortunately, we will have to have a hearing on this resource consent application and this has been scheduled for May19-20. Once the Hearing is complete, Environment Southland has 15 working days to release their decision.

**Readiness Check** - The Ulva Island Readiness Check is planned for May 23-24. This is a key part of eradication planning, where members of the Island Eradication Advisory Group will come down to Southland and audit our preparations and planning for the Ulva Island operation. The team will look at all of our plans and paperwork and either give us the green light (i.e. we are all set to go) or advise us of any parts that we need to hurry up and get on track to enable us to be ready for an eradication. Our aim is to be operationally all signed off and ready to go by June 1 - then, once the resource consent is obtained, we can conduct the operation in the next fine weather window of three fine nights.

**Bait Callibration** - On April 27 Pete McClelland (DOC Southern Islands Programme Manager Offshore Islands) and Paul Jacques met with Otago Helicopters in Mosgiel to take part in a bucket calibration trial for the Ulva eradication. The aim was to confirm the bucket settings required to deliver bait at the target swath width of 80 metres. Otago Helicopters have extensive eradication experience and know their equip-

ment inside out. Based on previous trials and operations they were able to estimate the RPM of the spinner motor (mounted on the bucket) and the metering disc size (a changeable metal aperture that the bait falls through to reach the spinner) required for an 80 metre swath width. Graeme, the pilot, then sowed several swaths of non-toxic pestoff bait (same weight and dimensions as the bait to be used on Ulva), over the Mosgiel airfield next to the Otago Helicopters hangar. Pete and Paul carefully measured the extent of the bait on the ground and were able to confirm that the calculations had been spot-on. The metering disc size and bucket rpm were recorded and will be replicated during the Ulva drop. During this trial we also worked on the rate of bait spread per hectare. There are more factors involved in getting this right including helicopter speed and environmental factors that can vary from day to day, such as wind speed. Typically project managers and pilots use a calibration trial to get the correct rate per hectare and then use the first swath of the operation to confirm that the settings recorded during the calibration are delivering the required rate per hectare on the day. The helicopter's GIS system tells the project manager exactly how much ground has been covered (in hectares) and the number of kilos of bait used (i.e. the number of bait bags loaded into the bucket) is then divided by the area in hectares to give the actual rate in kg/ha. The rate can then be adjusted if necessary for the conditions on the day. We discussed our planned use of the deflector bucket technology for sowing the coast of the Island whilst minimising bait fall into the sea. The deflector bucket technology has been developed by the Otago Helicopters team and has not been used in an operation in New Zealand to date, but has been used overseas and later this month will be used extensively in a rat eradication on the Palmyra Atoll in Hawaii. During May Graeme and Pete will travel to Palmyra to play a leading role in that operation and the Ulva operation is likely to benefit from the further field experience of using the deflector bucket that the team gain during this time. Paul's summary of the trial was: "Throughout our visit to Otago Helicopters I was very impressed by the level of professionalism and knowledge shown by the whole team and I have no doubt that they will deliver an excellent operation for us on Ulva Island."

**Eleven new chicks**



**NZAS general manager Ryan Cavanagh and Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson watch as kakapo ranger Jo Ledington feeds a young chick.**

The stadium-flattening snowfall that fell in September had a major impact on the rimu trees on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island and, as a result, on the kakapo breeding season this year. However, given there was no breeding during 2010, we were pleased when nine female kakapo nested on Whenua Hou laying a total of 20 eggs, 15 of which were fertile. Eleven of those hatched, with the other four embryos dying during development.

We were also delighted when we

### Luke Squires and Heath wait for waves at Ringa Ringa. Photo from Liz Cave.



discovered one female had nested on Anchor Island. Although her clutch of two eggs was infertile it is the first kakapo nesting attempt recorded on Anchor Island and the first in Fiordland in living memory. Currently, all 11 chicks hatched on Whenua Hou are alive. Solstice One was the only one to suffer really poor health but, after a few weeks under the care of vet Lisa Argilla at Wellington Zoo, she returned south on May 4. She joined six other chicks that are being hand-reared in Invercargill for up to eight weeks. Four of the kakapo mums: Flossie, Cyndy, Rakiura and Ellie, have each managed to continue to feeding a single chick on their nests, relying on the supplementary food given to them by staff and volunteers.

#### Tieke returned to rightful home

Six Departmental staff worked with muttonbirders on Big and Kundy Islands recently to transfer tieke (South Island Saddlebacks) to Taukihepa (Big South Cape) and Mokonui (Big Moggy) islands. The project was agreed between the Rakiura Titi Island Administering Body, the Titi Committee and DOC over a year ago but an attempt to transfer the birds last year was thwarted by bad weather. This transfer to Taukihepa is particularly significant, culturally and for conservation, as it has returned birds to what had been their last remaining natural home. Tieke, along with three other species, were wiped out on Taukihepa by an invasion of rats in the 1960s. At that time Big Island, along with Kaimohu to the south, were selected as the most suitable sites to relocate the few remaining birds. Tieke bred well on Big Island and it has since been the



**Tieke transfer team from left: Pete McClelland (DOC), Donald Bragg, Margaret Bragg and Sharon Trainor (DOC). The fifth member of the team was Ros Cole from DOC, who took this photo.**

source of birds for transfers to 18 different islands. Returning tieke had been one of the key restoration goals for Taukihepa, following the eradication of rats from the island (along with Pukeweka, Solomon and Mokonui islands) in 2006. In effect, returning these birds to their rightful home has seen them come full circle. Thirty-seven tieke were caught on Big and Kundy islands in March, using mist nets, and held in temporary aviaries until they could be transferred. Muttonbirders from Big and Kundy islands accompanied the birds to the release sites where they were formally welcomed by the birders on those islands. The size of Taukihepa and Mokonui, together with neighbouring islands Pukeweka, Solomon and Mokoiti (Little Moggy) onto which the birds should naturally spread, means this transfer more than doubles the total area available to tieke. This should see a big increase in the total number of this species, helping to safeguard it into the future. The important thing is that rats are kept off these islands – a task that falls on all the birders on those islands, as well as the fishermen who work in the area. The Department gives thanks to Southern Lakes Helicopters and Jack Topi for their support of the project, as well as the birders on Big and Kundy for their assistance.

#### Numbers up on Rakiura Track

Easter as usual delivered a mixed bag of weather however this didn't deter people wanting a taste of the backcountry. Easter weekend concluded our season for the volunteer hut warden programme, with the Rakiura track huts full and Masons Bays also busy. Numbers on the Rakiura are up 2% from last season, with New Zealanders still the predominant user of the track. The number of New Zealanders walking the track has increased by 15% in the last two years.

#### New/old face in the visitor centre

In April we welcomed Di Morris back to the island. Di has been appointed Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre Supervisor and joins permanent VC staff members Gary Cocker and Steph Clarke. The VC's winter opening hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm weekdays (but just 9am to 4pm on Queens Birthday - June 6) and 10am to 2pm at weekends. It offers a warm refuge for anyone looking for something to do on a miserable day and has a small retail outlet for anyone wishing to shop for gifts or souvenirs.

# Rat Report

By Denise Hayes, SIRCET

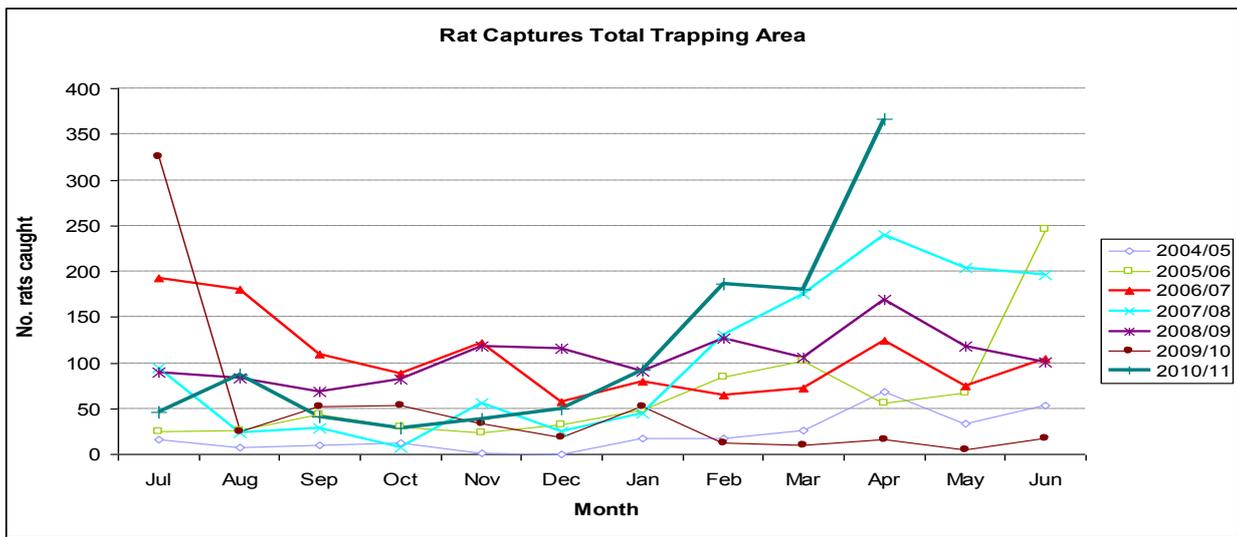
The number of rats both detected (using monitoring tunnels) and caught (using rat traps) in the Half-moon Bay Habitat Restoration Project area over the past two months has been worryingly high.

**Monitoring** of the area during March this year resulted in 28% of monitoring tunnels detecting rats (well above our target of 10%), a number not seen since August 2009.

SIRCET responded by conducting a month of **intensive trapping** in the area, which consists of the traps being checked for rats and reset every 4 days, in an effort to reduce the number of rats.

During the April round of intensive trapping, 367 rats were caught. This is the highest number ever caught over a one month period since the project first began; a very disappointing result.

Unfortunately, this round of intensive trapping was seemingly ineffective in reducing rat numbers, despite the high number of rats caught: continued monitoring during the following month of May saw the percentage of tunnels detecting rats reach 38%.



**Monitoring tunnels** are standardised, open-ended tunnels which are used nationally to gather information about rat densities in an area. A card with ink in its centre is placed inside the tunnel for one night and they are baited with peanut butter. When rats step inside the tunnel they step onto the ink, leaving footprints on the outer, blank sections of card. This tool does not register every rat present but rather it gives an index of tracking numbers, written as a percentage of the ink cards which recorded rats on that evening.

Generally it is accepted that an index **below 10%** (or only 10 out of every 100 ink cards marked) means that rat numbers are low enough to keep the more vulnerable species, such as brown creeper and rifleman, safe, even while they are breeding from low numbers. For some species, an index below 5% or even lower is recommended to keep them safe.

At present, our aim is to keep rat numbers below an index of 10% right across the year, through the natural fluctuations of the seasons.

As a result of this high monitoring result SIRCET has decided to continue with the intensive trapping for another 6 weeks, in an effort to get on top of the recent surge in rat numbers.

### Tips & Tricks for setting and baiting the rat traps

To help ensure the maximum catch possible, here are a few handy tips and tricks to help you set your traps effectively:

- ✧ The traps need to be kept in good working order – they should be maintained fairly regularly with a good scrub with a wire brush

(Continued on page 11)

## The Rakiura Rugrats have been very busy lately!

by Poppy LeQuesne

The children have been busy learning about emergencies, this started because of the Christchurch earthquake. They have also been enjoying acting as policeman, fire fighters and doctors, they liked helping their patients whether giving them an operation or helping them when they are in trouble. A Police Education Officer called Fenton Harrex who helps kids with things like bike safety came to talk to the children about what policeman actually do. He told the children that the police do not put criminals in jail and that a judge does that. The children were very surprised. Fenton also told them that police are here to help. A fire fighter also came and the children liked learning and trying *get down, get low and get out*.

This all seems like so much fun and maybe we will have some new policemen, fire fighters and doctors some day.



(Continued from page 10)

and lightly oiled with the cans of lanolin spray (there is now a supply of these in the volunteer box at the flight centre);

- ✧ Any broken traps, rotten base boards or broken covers or wire need to be replaced as soon as possible. Spare traps can be found in the volunteer box, but if you need more wire, covers or base boards, please contact us;
- ✧ The wire at the front of the cover needs to be clipped down securely under the nail to prevent the covers from lifting (this prevents non-target species such as weka messing with the traps);
- ✧ When baiting the traps, only a small amount of bait is required (around an almond size piece is sufficient) and the bait should be placed firmly and as far back as possible on the yellow pedal;
- ✧ When setting the traps, the yellow pedal shouldn't be very high and needs to be unobstructed (by old bait, sticks and leaves etc) to ensure the trap can spring;
- ✧ Bait needs to be renewed as soon as it starts to show signs of mould;
- ✧ Swapping the type of bait used seems to help keep the rats interested; there are now 3 types of bait in the volunteer box including a blue one, a green one and a new bait called Peanut Butter Delight.

We really appreciate all the time and effort you all put into the trapping program and hopefully we will soon get back on top of these little pests!

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss any of this, please do not hesitate to contact me. My home number is (03) 2191 159 and my mobile is 0273 913 215.

Denise

## Friends of Rakiura Museum



I have always been a bit of a 'museumaholic' and endeavour to visit museums wherever I travel. Museums are a unique window into the lives of early inhabitants and show the things that shaped the communities of that particular area. Here on Stewart Island we have a real treasure at the Rakiura Museum with an outstanding collection of over 5000 items, much of which is not on display but carefully stored and catalogued thanks to the amazing volunteers who run the Museum.

'Friends of the Museum' is a concept that has long been established in many provincial museums large and small. These groups were primarily formed to create a link between families living in the area and those with an interest in local history or whose ancestors have links with some of the treasures held at the museum. So many people identify with Stewart Island / Rakiura as an important part of their lives and the lives of their ancestors so it seems fitting that we should have a 'Friends of Rakiura Museum' group here. An annual subscription to Friends of Rakiura Museum would provide a fund that could be used to improve and protect our collection as well as provide programmes at the Museum for those wanting to learn more about local history and the wonderful collection we have.

Launched at the Rakiura Museum's recent art exhibition 'Friends of Rakiura Museum' has already attracted a number of members and hopefully that will grow.

Some of the benefits of membership include

- Invitations to feature exhibition openings
- Invitation to programmes and events
- Discounts on purchases from Rakiura Museum including photographs

Copy of the Rakiura Museum's bi-annual newsletter

We expect to have the first newsletter available in June which will feature articles from the Museum's collection, early photographs, family stories and recent acquisitions. If you would like to become a Friend of Rakiura Museum call in to pick up a brochure or email [stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz) or you may wish to fill in the this form and return to P.O. Box 114, Stewart Island 9846.

—Margaret Hopkins



## Membership category

The Friends membership per year.

- \$15 Student
- \$20 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$80 Business

I would like to give an additional donation \$

Please tick this box if you are paying by internet banking (below)

• **Subscriptions may be paid by Direct Debit to the Rakiura Heritage Trust**

• **SBS account 03 1355 0512149 01 ref: FORM**

•

**Please be aware that no information will be sent out until we receive the monthly bank statement.**

## Personal information

Name:

Postal address:

Ph number:

Email:

**Thank you for becoming a Friend of Rakiura Museum -  
we value your support and will be in contact with you shortly.**

If paying by **cheque**, please make cheques payable to

**Rakiura Heritage Trust**

and post to Friends of Rakiura Museum, PO Box 114, Stewart Island 9846

# Wondrous Tales from the Tuk Tuk

by The Mother Tucker

Hi everyone! Well you know how they teach children about "Stranger Danger" for example:

Do not except lollies from strangers!

Do not get into a vehicle!

As I see it as the local Tuk Tuk driver the kids on the island even the cribby kids and even the ones visiting the island, do not even understand this rule as they bribe the tuk tuk driver for a lift home! Or how I even have to re-negotiate the price for a lift?

So far I have received:

- Fresh waffles with homemade jam & ice cream slushy
- \$4 bucks & 1/2 a Moro bar
- 1 Moro bar
- 2 Easter eggs per child (4 girls)
- Birthday cake
- Blueberry donuts

And more! The list my friends continue on. Things on occasion have turned up live, dead or even grown, which by the way is just "fantastic". I better start my "strict regime diet next year" and turn down these offers that these kids tempt me with! But boy how I enjoy the negotiation skills that these kids possess! I love it when they get a glimmer in their eyes when they have clinched the deal!

One funny story that comes to mind regarding these young lads that were sick of walking up to their crib by Observation Rock. They offered me Kai Moana for payment, but the boys were counting on their mother to be home! As they ran down the hill and dove into the fridge, I could hear their mother

telling them what they are taking is for dinner that night! I thought to myself "I better get the tuck out of here" They were trying to explain to their mum that they already had made the deal and the tuk tuk driver was waiting for payment!

So the young lads came up sheepishly and handed over a parting gift and said I hope you don't mind this instead? I took it graciously!

When leaving I parted with these wise words to the lads, since you have read the "Local Rates" if you are not able to supply any of the above always refer back to the "Tourist Rate" & Cash is King!

Well I better stop eating these yummy Easter eggs & get back to tuk tucking around!



Monte Cassino, Italy, 1944: A Māori soldier meets an Italian taking cover in a stable. They find themselves trapped in a deadly stand-off with the Germans just outside. Through live music, drama and comedy, *Strange Resting Places* reveals the commonalities shared by Māori and Italian: Whanau, Food and Song – not to mention a love of vino and a passion for women!

Arts on Tour  
New Zealand  
PRESENTS

# STRANGE RESTING PLACES



... *Strange Resting Places* is theatre crafted from extensive research, contemporary storytelling and personal experience.  
© Robyn McLean: The Dominion Post

**Monday 6 June 7.30pm**

Stewart Island Community Centre  
\$15 door sales only

THE HENRIK IBSSEN FOUNDATION [www.ibsen.org.nz](http://www.ibsen.org.nz)

Italy World War II - 1944. A young Maori soldier from the 28<sup>th</sup> Māori Battalion sets out to steal food. An Italian deserter from the Fascist army takes cover in a stable. Both find themselves in a potentially deadly stand-off, but with Germans just outside, their survival depends on co-operation.

Originally conceived and written by Paolo Rotondo and Rob Makaraka, who blend their own family histories with those of strangers, *Strange Resting Places* shines a light on New Zealand's wartime history, exploring cultural differences to comic effect, as well as the four universals shared with Italians:- the love of family, food, seduction and song!

Live music intertwines with drama and comedy in three languages – Māori, English and Italian - in this critically acclaimed Taki Rua production which has toured internationally to festivals in London, Singapore, Australia, and American Samoa, as well as Aotearoa. From the sharing of coffee in the prologue, to the serving of wine and food at the end of each performance, the chemistry between the performers extends outwards to include the audience. *Strange Resting Places* is inclusive theatre at its best.

**Reviews**

'A spellbinding little gem of a show that will have you laughing a lot and crying just a little.....*Strange Resting Places* is intimate theatre at its best that would be warmly received in a piazza, a marae and anywhere in between. THE HERALD (Auckland)

'There is a great mix of physical theatre, narrative and singing, the production moving deftly from moments of broad comedy to brutal reality, from the hilariously funny to the poignantly tragic.' DOMINION POST (Wellington)

'*Strange Resting Places* is as piquant a piece of 'celebratory' theatre as you may ever hope to experience anywhere. While 'celebration' may seem a strange quality to bring to a war story, it turns out to be an inspired way to make truly moving theatre.'THEATREVIEW.COM (New Zealand)

'The stripped-down set of army supplies turns out to provide a rich landscape for the narration of this tale, although that's nothing compared to the actors' abilities to conjure up this forgotten world through voice, music and movement' INKPOTREVIEWS.COM (Singapore)

**BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford:**  
"Dark Matter" by Michelle Paver

DO NOT read this book if you are "sensitive", don't read horror stories or ghost stories; and don't read it when you are alone. And yet, the lurking, horrific, ghostly qualities play very much second fiddle to themes of loneliness, utter darkness, the quality of the Arctic's lightless winter. In these themes, the horror lurks, leaving you haunted by the atmosphere long after you put down the book (not too long since once you start reading, you can't stop).

In 1937, the Depression in England is still biting, there is talk of an upcoming war, but there are still enterprising, enthusiastic, gung-ho young men, fresh from the English public school system and Oxbridge university schooling. As the author points out, in real life, these types of men existed, were dedicated to science, and – despite taking Rockingham China off which to eat their meals – endured physical and mental conditions beyond our imagining – with stoicism always, and even cheerfulness. Jack Miller, the central character, is different in that he is a product of the Grammar School system, an

outsider of the five who gather to form an Arctic exploration party. To say that Jack is down on his luck is an understatement. He is a frustrated physicist, working as a clerical assistant, down to his last couple of bob, and no way out. And he takes the job of wireless operator on the expedition.

The expedition is dogged by bad luck right from the start. One drops out before they even leave England, a second in Norway, so it is a party of three men plus dogs who eventually arrive, by boat from Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen) at Gruhuken. The story is told in Jack's diary so it's a while before you find out what the other two men – Algie and Gus – feel about Gruhuken. The first half of the book merely sets the atmosphere – and that is gripping enough in all conscience. Paver obviously knows her Spitsbergen by day and by night (effectively, 6 months of each!), and you are on the edge of your seat before the first even remotely supernatural happening. Even then, the "happenings" are – when taken apart and inspected in the clear light of sunshine – hardly riveting of themselves. But in context of the total isolation of the long night on which the explorers are embarking, the mi-

nor events take on significance. Then Gus develops appendicitis.

One of the other two must accompany Gus back to Longyearbyen for an urgent operation – leaving one member of the expedition alone, alone in a way which we cannot imagine, but which Paver makes an excellent job of detailing. It is Jack who heroically offers to stay and keep the expedition alive during the expected short absence of the other two, though he has already begun to develop certain fears and suffer from – well, shall we call them – hallucinations? Not until the end of the tale does the full horror of the past catch up with Jack's present, leading to one more tragedy to haunt the already haunted bay of Gruhaken.

If you have any interest in survival amidst "frozen wastes" – mental as well as physical, or if you enjoy the pleasurable thrill down your spine at reading about the inexplicable – "dark matter", or if you just like an author who can capture atmosphere by describing scenery in an extremely powerful way – then DO read this. You'll rarely meet its match.

# Need a Resource Consent?

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## KNIT KNATTER AND KOFFEE GROUP

would like to thank the Oban Presbyterian Church for their kind donation of \$100.00 towards wool for the Christchurch Knitting Appeal. The money was spent when the group visited the Milton Knitting Mills on 19<sup>th</sup> April and has been made up into jumpers, hats, slippers, gloves, socks and toys. On completion these will be sent to the Rural Women of N.Z and Bed Time Beanies.

## STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Will meet at the home  
of Raylene Waddell  
at 2.00 pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June



Plant Propagation

www.stewart-island-news.com

# CONGRATULATIONS

*New parents Kiri and Chris  
Welcome Manu John!*

**ATTENTION BUSINESSES:** if you  
have offers or discounts for the  
**Singles Ball** send them to Vicki Coats  
so she can include them on the website.

[stewartisland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewartisland@xtra.co.nz)



**LOST:** Pretty please can whoever took my brand new Sprayway rain jacket from the Community Centre please either return it to the Community Centre, or drop it in to me at school.  
Thanks  
Kath Johnson

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**Please send articles and enquiries to  
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or to [editor@stewart-island-news.com](mailto:editor@stewart-island-news.com)**

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