

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May—April 2014

\$3.00

INSIDE: Predator-Free Rakiura articles, commentary, Vicki's survey results, and more pages 5-9.

After a year cruising the globe, *The World* (the floating posh apartments) returned to the Bay and brought their band back to the Pub. I received an email that evening saying Helen was auctioning off Hotel stuff to World passengers to raise money for Rugrats and had already raised thousands of dollars. I became extremely excited when I read this message, not just because Rugrats needs the dough, but because I read *stuff* as *staff* and thought: *Brilliant!!!*

Besides auctioning pub staff to cruise shippers, the Island kept busy with other fundraising efforts this past month. Easter and ANZAC weekends saw heaps of fundraising with a Rugrats Easter Dig on the beach, bake stall including Tracy's famous hot cross buns,



The World arrives at sunset. Photograph from *Serena Dawson*



Easterlies bring all sorts to our shores. Chris Visser came across this sea turtle on Horseshoe Bay Beach (pictured with Gadjet for scale). Te Papa experts studied photos she sent and concluded this is an Olive Ridley.

There is a record of a sea turtle washing up at Whenua Hou in 2002.

Photo from C. Visser

giant bottle of wine raffle (dubious congrats to the winner)... and the following weekend bacon wrapped mussel kebabs flew off the grill to raise \$1200 for the Community Centre. The Easter Dig looked iffy as an Easterly the day before (Preasterly) dumped loads of seaweed on Halfmoon Bay Beach. Island kids are a hardy lot but asking them to dig through mounds of rotting kelp is a bit too rough, so much thanks to Greg Everest and his digger for saving the day. Easter Monday was market day, I'm sure I'm not the only person who showed up with a lot of crap, I mean un-used items— from my home, feeling

doubly imperious for donating goods to a good cause and tidying my house... Only to leave with a pile of other people's

unwanted stuff. Do I need more books? I do not. But in a White Elephant moment I suddenly HAD to have *Who Shat That? A Trail Guide to Poo*. And two brass deer statuettes. And giant horsehead bookends to hold up my new book...

While we busily fundraise for community groups, the island as a whole is always exploring a myriad of ways to boost tourism and industry here for economic growth (ie aquaculture farming outside Big Glory, Predator-Free Rakiura, expanded Wifi hotspots, etc...). Not everyone agrees with every idea but it's good to keep the conversation going, to keep brainstorming, and to continue to look at new ideas. So... what do you all think about a cycle trail to Mason Bay? This vision has been simmering in several local minds for a while now. From the *Nga Haerenga—The New Zealand Cycle Trail* website: "this project was created to generate lasting economic, social and environmental benefits for New Zealand communities through the creation of a network of world-class cycling experiences..." See nzcycletrail.com for more information.

Finally, sympathies to the families of the three Germans people lost with the *Munetra*.

—Jess

Memories of Stewart Island by *Mary Preiss (Nee Fairhall)*

Having recently been on the Island it has rekindled a lot of memories for me... As a family, we have strong connections with the Island going back generations, back to both grandfathers! Mother's family were Southlanders and my paternal grandfather lived his latter years in Invercargill – all visiting the Island many times. In 1938 father decided to take a break from his stressful work as a surveyor in the North Island, and take the family south to spend some time fishing. My sister Nancy was almost five and I was two at the time. Nancy started her schooling at the Island – the little school by the roadside - I remember it well. After a couple of years we moved to Christchurch where our brother John was born, then some years later came our sister Margaret, the artist, who recently passed away. Margaret had the longest connection with Stewart Island as she was only 12 yrs. old when our parents retired from Christchurch and purchased "Vaila" in 1961. She completed her schooling and an art course by correspondence, and lived there for

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Bacon-wrapped mussel kebabs on the front page? Yes. They've served this community well and they're so excellent they deserve to be here. Not to mention they complement the sunset photo beautifully...who knew streaky bacon and streaky skies were partners in palette?



WISE UP TO WEEDS



TRADESCANTIA (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)

Tradescantia (Wandering Jew) is uncommon in Oban and we need it to stay that way. If you have some in your backyard control it now before it's too late!

What is it?

Tradescantia is a ground cover plant with small pairs of oval leaves and delicate white three-petalled flowers in summer. It is only found in frost-free areas of Southland.

What is the problem?

It forms dense mats which exclude other plants from growing. It is only found in shaded areas and therefore a problem for the understorey of a forest. This plant spreads by fragments, so be very careful with green waste.

How to control it?

Rake the area until all the stems and leaves have been removed, ensuring all the green waste is picked up. When it starts to regrow spray with 20ml/L of glyphosate (Roundup) and penetrant (Pulse). It will require a number of applications.

If you find this plant please contact Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer Shawn Johnson at Environment Southland, email shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115.

For more information see www.es.govt.nz/environment/pests/plants



ANDREW WILLIAMS MP New Zealand First List MP

Andrew Williams, New Zealand First MP visited Stewart Island in January.

New Zealand First is committed to securing alternative renewable energy for Stewart Island. Testing of wind, solar and hydro options will commence this month.

To read Andrew's report on renewable energy following his visit to Stewart Island go to:
nzfirst.org.nz/energystewartisland



Andrew Williams MP

Spokesperson for Conservation, Environment, Local Government and Energy

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Authorised by Andrew Williams, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Above: On ANZAC Day, Kath Johnson, Stacy Wilford, Debbie Barry and Becca Parry (along with Karin Lewis, not pictured) sell one of Stewart Island's most famous culinary delights: bacon-wrapped mussel kebabs. YUM. They raised over \$1200 for the Community Centre.

Below: The happiest face at the Predator-Free Community Meeting: Cherie was unable to contain her excitement.



**A Southland Classic. Glowing Sky
100% NZ Grown & Made Merino Hoody.
Between The Shop & Pub / glowingsky.co.nz**

The Rural Women New Zealand group from Glenorchy are coming to Stewart Island Sat 24th and Sunday 25th of May.

Their aim is to have fun and fellowship with Island women. Their programme is an Inlet cruise Saturday morning with Rakiura Charters, game of bowls Saturday afternoon with any keen Island ladies and a pot luck tea with Island ladies Saturday night at RSA- all women welcome bring a plate and any tippie. On Sunday they plan breakfast at the South Sea Hotel with any keen Island women and then a walk to Maori beach. Some are staying for quiz night.

They are a diverse bunch of all ages and really looking forward to meeting Island women. Some will already know Pam Henderson and Pip Craigie. They will also have copies of the cookbook *A Good Spread* for sale.

Anyone keen to participate in any events please contact Deb Dillon 0274695069 Or Hilli Maas-Barrett 040.



It's the Looove Boat!.... Captains Rhys and Ty looking debonair-nautical at the Stewart Island Ball. Photo from Kirsten Hicks

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Full Circle: Ans Westra

Click click click. The first thing I noticed about **Ans Westra** was a soft clicking sound. She is the consummate photographer, carrying her camera wherever she goes, and recording what she sees. As I viewed her photographs at the Community Centre during her recent Full Circle tour, I heard *click click click* and realised she was still taking pictures at her own exhibit, constantly capturing her experience on film.

The renowned New Zealand photographer's exhibit included the photographs she took on Stewart Island during her 1996 visit. The images were hung with no captions, her pictures are fleeting moments in time but powerful enough to tell their own story. Familiar faces peered from the walls—Morgan, Bonnie – and her image *Farm Visit* featured familiar gumboots (Murray Schofield's).

Ans was born in the Netherlands in 1936 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1957. She taught herself how to use a camera, and was thrust into dubious fame in 1964 when *Washday at the Pa* was published. A collection of intimate portraits of a Maori family, the book sparked controversy, the general consensus from its critics being that it was culturally and racially insensitive. The fact that Ans was non-Kiwi and non-Maori raised questions over *who* should depict Maori and *how*. Finding herself at the centre of a Kiwi cultural brouhaha surprised the young artist, but did not dissuade her from pursuing her career.

Decades down the track, she has produced numerous collections of photographs and has taken thousands of pictures in her travels around the country. In fact, during her visit she was peddling her latest book *Nga Tau ki Muri/ Our Future*. This collection of colour photographs depicts landscapes from New Zealand – many from the South Island – that pit natural environs against the scourge of human development. The book serves as part warning, part plea: “really my statement is to say plan for the future, don't sell off all the land.” It is a strangely beautiful book: strange because it's beautiful, yet the photos depict so much ugliness. Landscapes are skewered with pylons, strewn with garbage, staked with signage: PRIVATE PROPERTY; WARNING; FOR SALE, FOR SALE, FOR SALE. “Everything seems ultimately for sale here,” said Ans.

She turned to page 133 and chuckled at the photo of a large housing development in the background, tapping her finger on the developer's big sign on a fence in the foreground:

NATURAL HABITATS: LANDSCAPES

She recalled how the developer himself saw her photographing it and asked what she was doing. She went back the next day and the sign had been removed. “He saw what I'd seen,” she said.

It was an honour meeting such a great artist who uses her camera to see and to tell the stories of this country—social, cultural, and environmental. At 78 she is still travelling and working and-- *click click click*—her trusty camera remains a fixture in hand.

Full Circle implies completion, but when I mentioned this to Ans she smiled and shook her head. “I'm not saying goodbye. I'm not retired, not as long as my eyes work.”

To view Ans' photographs or purchase her books go to www.suite.co.nz, or ask at the library which has *Washday at the Pa* and *Our Future*.

—Jess

Are You Raising Funds For a Community Project?

Dianne Williams our Grants Manager is coming to Stewart Island.

If you are helping a community group to raise funds for a project Dianne can meet with you to discuss:

- if your project is eligible for our funding,
- how and when to apply,
- completing an application form.

When: 21 May 2014

For An Appointment: phone 0800 500 185 or email dianne@ctos.org.nz

For further information on CTOS visit www.ctos.org.nz



Over the years I have occasionally written something about dogs threatening kiwi in these pages and it usually “gets a bite.” A few years ago the mutilated body of a kiwi was found spread over the grass at Traill Park, its body savaged by someone's loose dog. I wrote about it, got a wrack-up on the phone by a local lady and terse comments by another and it's like I'd committed a faux pas to mention this particular canine elephant in the room.

Last month a resident was on a local trail, noticing and enjoying heaps of kiwi sign, and looked up to see a dog running through the bush. When she saw the owners she suggested they put their dog on a lead. End of boring no-big-deal story? The owners, visitors here, were so outraged that someone had encroached on their rights as dog owners they followed up, researched the by-laws for that particular stretch of trail, asked around the community to find the woman, and got on the phone to vigorously assert their rights as dog-owners.

Because why? Because god forbid somebody say boo to a dog owner and infringe on their perceived right to own any kind of dog and take it anywhere on the island and let it romp off a lead? What's so wrong with saying something about that? What's wrong with a member of the public, concerned for the welfare of kiwi, speaking to a dog's owner?

We hear all the time in the media “it's not the dogs it's the owners” and vice versa, and while this pointless quibble continues, a kiwi is still dead, a kid still mauled, those facts remain unchanged no matter what the argument. Dog owners often genuinely believe their dogs are sweethearts, trustworthy around babies and flightless birds, considered a much loved member of their human family. News article after news article, you read about these same stunned, horrified, devastated dog owners who never saw it coming when their beloved pet, for the first and last time, shocked the neighbourhood with an explosion of violence and harm toward a child, a neighbour, or a neighbour's pet.

As *SIN* goes to print I read about Otautahui the kiwi, torn apart by a dog off a leash on a trail near Christchurch. I can't help but think of outraged dog owners so bent on asserting their rights, so offended by an islander having a word suggesting they put their dog on a lead in an area heavy with kiwi sign, that they can't see the forest for the trees. Or the bird for the bloody feathers and chunks of flesh stuck to the grass.

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LETTERS ☒ ☒ ☒

Lindsay & I feel very strongly that what is planned with Dr Morgan and various scoping documents, no ecological studies to show the consequences good or bad for Stewart Island, is wrong, not that predators are dealt to but how and why and how it has been established that this is necessary – not just seen as the “right” thing to do.

We have friends who are Maori owners and also Mutton birders who have not been notified about what is intended here, nor are ratepayers notified and a request to Dr. Morgan that we be involved as ratepayers with an investment on Stewart Island was met with “it’s none of our business”. Thus I consider myself a part-time resident. It is my business and your business what happens on Stewart Island.

We don’t believe there is a very good basis of science for the program that while supposedly not agreed yet, is to form a Trust before next December. The statement from Dr Morgan that he favours a “short sharp shock” indicates clearly to us that poison is planned and in a big way.

It is likely to be mainly brodifacoum and we are very aware of the Lord Howe Island issues with a declared brodifacoum drop planned for them but not desired by Islanders at all.

Which will be the first inhabited Island in the World to be poisoned by brodifacoum? Currently the race is on between Lord Howe Island and Stewart Island and NZ has sent experts in island poisoning to help Lord Howe. Poisoners not ecologists.

Lord Howe is a World Heritage Site from which all previous introduced wild animals were removed, farming & fishing ended, citrus orchards up-rooted, cats grandfathered and dogs removed from the Island.

Some dogs have been allowed back under stringent rulings of a bond being paid and an animal expert certifying that these are safe to live on the Island. It has a predator fence on it but its local bush is nothing like as extensive nor as varied in species etc as ours.

The Lord Howe locals have petitioned their Governor and sent a list of nearly 200 questions to their Governance Board which to my knowledge has yet to be answered.

They have banded together to try and stop this poisoning but it rolls ever closer. They have managed to postpone it several times.

Their tourism is entirely capped so as not over-reach the facilities; **tourism can not be grown.** There are many other details that would worry Islanders here, however, that would be better discussed with one of the senior elders of Lord Howe.

This is why we are offering up to \$1,000 towards the travel and will provide full accommodation at no extra cost, on Stewart Island.

This is if Stewart Islanders are interested. It can be run either through your Community Board or a separate interest group concerned in understanding the likely consequences to Stewart Island if you lose control of your environment.

It is up to you – we are happy to work through either your current groups or a new one for just meeting and talking with an Islander from Lord Howe, to understand how their Island works and decide if you want the same for your Island.

We don’t want to force our views on you but we love Stewart Island – we want to help and so have put our money where **my** mouth is.

Feel free to contact us, chaos1@xtra.co.nz or phone 03 7533082.

Mary Molloy

☒

Would you be able to help reunite a married couple with their wedding photos taken nine years ago? Sadly I have just recently found the digital photos, but do not have any record of their names and address, and I have established through Raylene that Oban church does not have records of the couple marrying on Sat. 26th of March 2005.

Kind regards

Karl Power
karl.power@xtra.co.nz



Predator Free Rakiura Update

Submitted by the Governance Group

Background

The first Oban meeting was on October 16th 2012, to discuss whether the community wanted to progress the 2008 scoping study further. This was followed by a 2 week period for a community vote on the following proposition; "I support in principle the concept of a predator free Stewart Island / Rakiura but would like to know more before approving any plan – Yes / No" Of the 163 replies received 84% indicated they were in support of the evaluation.

The second Oban meeting was on May 9th 2013 to discuss the DOC scoping report, along with the intention to form a Governance Group to drive the project forward.

Since then the Governance Group has been formed and has met three times. The latest meeting was in Oban, and was followed by another town meeting.

Governance Group Meeting

The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group met for the third time on Stewart Island/ Rakiura on April 15th 2014. The Group has agreed to form a Trust to enable fund raising for the project. The Trust Deed is currently being finalised, but once completed and signed by all trustees the Group would be able to start fundraising for the project. To date the costs of establishing and running the Governance Group have been covered by DOC and the Morgan Foundation.

Oban Town Meeting

The Governance Group held a public meeting on Stewart Island to keep the islanders up to date on progress. Three documents had been made available to the community for a month prior via the internet and hard copy, and were discussed at the meeting. These three documents were:

- Technical aspects of the project (for the predator-free Halfmoon Bay project).
- Predator fence preliminary outline document (given current technology a fence is needed for this project to proceed).
- Economic and social analysis paper (which estimated benefits for the Stewart Island/ Rakiura economy of \$10m, 88 new jobs and 116 new people).

The community was also introduced to the Governance Group members, the mechanisms for engaging in the project, and for the Group to answer questions and address concerns were outlined.

Questions from the Town Meeting

At the town meeting (and subsequently on the website) a number of questions were raised. All questions and issues recorded on the whiteboard now have a response on the website. In addition, some of the key issues raised are below:

Do the islanders have the final say?

This project is a partnership involving many parties, and all partners have to agree for it to proceed. That includes the island community, funders, regulators, and all the communities of interest. If any one of those parties does not want to proceed, then the whole project will not be able to proceed. Obviously, the township is an essential part of the concept and without the support of the community of Oban the project to make Rakiura predator free cannot happen. So once there is a full detailed proposal to consider, the town will have the opportunity to rule out any approaches that are unacceptable.

Will the islanders need to fund the projects?

No quite the opposite. In pure economic benefit terms the financial benefits for the Stewart Island economy are major. Whether individual islanders take advantage of that is their concern; as with all such major investment projects, some people do some people don't. There is more on this in the Economic and Social Impact report. We don't expect increased tourism to increase infrastructure costs, for a number of reasons:

Predator Free status would likely attract higher spending tourists rather than greatly increased numbers of tourists.

The tourist levy will also help cover costs of any additional infrastructure.

Quotas and higher prices can be used to limit numbers, if issues were encountered.

As for rates, the Councils participating in the Governance Group have not made any decision to contribute to the project as yet. Any such decision would be subject to the Council's usual Annual/Long Term Planning public submission processes; whereby the Councils would identify any proposed funding contribution in their draft Annual Plans and then any party would have the opportunity to lodge a submission either in support of or opposition to such proposed contributions.

What eradication methods will be used and what will be their impact on the community and environment?

At this stage no proposals have been made nor deci-

sions made on eradication methods for either project. Detailed options will be developed under the guidance of the Governance Group, and the communities of interest will have plenty of opportunity to seek elaboration and express preferences over which one (s) they want to see implemented. **Aerial application of toxins will not be used for the township area, and work is going into new technologies for the rest of the island.**

What biosecurity measures will be used to prevent reinvasion?

This will take some work during this next stage of feasibility assessment to work out how intensive the island biosecurity system needs to be. Certainly some work will be needed on the wharves at Halfmoon Bay and Bluff, as a minimum, to ensure rodents are kept off the ships and not mistakenly brought to the island. Protecting a predator-free Halfmoon Bay (and ultimately, Stewart Island) will require vigilance from everyone. It should be noted that Rangitoto and Motutapu islands in the Hauraki Gulf are pest free and currently operate with little obvious island biosecurity measures; indeed the system is virtually invisible to individuals. The aim is to recreate that experience on Stewart Island as far as possible. A paper on biosecurity proposals will be developed as part of the feasibility study for the project.

Developing the Proposal

The next stage of the process will include undertaking a full feasibility study comprising:

- A biosecurity plan (with options for managing the risks)
- A scoping study of the predator fence (looking at best location, design specifications, cost, etc)
- Detailed assessment of the options for eradication for the Halfmoon Bay project
- Assessment of options for maintaining deer populations throughout the project

This work will take several months to complete. The Governance Group is currently in the process of appointing a project manager, which in itself will take time. Once it is finished, all the reports/ papers will be made available to the communities of interest for their consideration.

Staying in Touch with the Project

While the next stage of work is being completed, questions are welcome from the Stewart Island community, and anyone else interested in the project, through the following avenues:

- Direct contact with the members of the Governance Group;
- The Q&A page of the website (www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz); and
- People can sign up on the website to receive email updates.

The Governance Group will provide regular updates on how the work is developing through the website and in *Stewart Island News* (and other media as appropriate).

Notes from Predator-free Meeting

by Jess Kany

The meeting got off on a back foot, starting half an hour late due to a printing snafu in the SLT. It wasn't a great recipe (Rugrats mixing vinegar and baking soda comes to mind): a room packed with people bursting with stuff to say, and not enough time to possibly allot to all of the numerous questions or people who just wanted to sound off on how they felt about things. Then the questions got off on the wrong foot, with a SIRCET volunteer at the back asking if the team had "looked into cocaine", and MC Nick Tansley assuming he was taking the piss (FYI they will *not* be using cocaine as it is not only an illegal substance but also not registered as a predator control tool).

Many of the queries addressed the nitty gritty issues of toxins, biosecurity,

ty, and exact fence placement, and these topics were slated for the *next* meeting (sometime before Christmas). The frustration in the room was palpable as questions went repeatedly into the "will be answered later" bin. To be fair to the guys running the meeting—economist Geoff Simmons and Phillip Bell who writes the technical scopes-- I think they hoped everyone had completed their homework assignment and had "done the reading." The Economic & Technical analyses had been made available on-line and they were prepared to discuss and answer questions to those particular papers that evening. But there were people who clearly hadn't done so, or had done so and then still wanted to discuss other topics.

A few moments of levity include Len musing that the Great Wall of China, built sometime in his youth, "didn't work"; and Marty wished us luck see-



Jill Skerrett, Phil Bell, Geoff Simmons and MC Nick Tansley before the meeting.

ing a kakapo walking down our roads – "You'd have better luck seeing one on Mars." His sarcasm switched to philosophy: How many millions of dollars does it take to make a small community happy and healthy? And then he turned to deeper cynicism and anger: "I think it's going to get pushed

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Predator Free Survey Results from Vicki Coats

Firstly I have to apologise for the use of the word ‘pest’ in Question 3, whereas I meant to put ‘predator’. I actually included this question as this was the extent of the public input asked of the Community by the Project group.

“October 16th 2012, followed by a 2 week period for a village vote on the following proposition; “I support in principle the concept of a predator free Stewart Island / Rakiura but would like to know more before proving any plan – Yes / No” Of the 163 replies received 84% indicated they were in support of the evaluation. “

It is of interest to note that this survey does not state how many responses were from Islanders as opposed to visitors and whether each vote was individual.

This survey has been distributed in many ways; a mailbox drop, in the last edition of SINs posted out to off-island readers, Facebook, email and an online survey. I have personally printed off over 400 surveys to hand out. Now as we know, if procrastination was an Olympic sport, Stewart Islanders would win hands down and I know there are still plenty of people with them sitting completed on their tables! So if residents or ratepayers still wish to fill in a survey you still can. The online survey will close on 28th May (as that’s when my paid subscription runs out), I would like to have the final results in and verified by an independent source by the next SIN.

So, on to the results I have now. I have split survey responses into two groups; 1/ residents, ratepayers, ex-residents (henceforward referred to as residents) and 2/ visitors.

The reason for this is simple: as the surveys have been named there are no duplicate responses, all ARE ratepayers, residents etc and I can prove that.

Visitors, I can only take their word on who they are and I can’t discount the fact that some may answer the survey multiple times and distort the findings. Having said that, I don’t believe this is the case and all the surveys have been filled in honestly.

I have had a total of 245 responses from Residents (and it is useful to note that 40 children are represented by this views, so 285 in total) and 123 responses from Visitors and 3 anonymous replies which haven’t been counted. An interested third party distributed the survey to the wider hunting fraternity so most of the visitor responses come from this group.

Question One was Name.
Question Two was resident, ratepayer, visitor or other. Some people obviously fall under more than one category.

Question Three was *Do you support the idea of a Pest Free Rakiura?*

Residents Results
Yes 173 No 32 Don’t Know 35
No Answer 5
Visitors Results
Yes 77 No 26 Don’t Know 20

Question Four was *Do you support the erection of a Predator Fence?*

Residents Results
Yes 51 No 157 Don’t Know 37
Visitors Results
Yes 47 No 60 Don’t Know 16

Question Five was *Do you support manual trapping of predators?*

Residents Results
Yes 238 No 4 Don’t Know 3
Visitors Results
Yes 116 No 5 Don’t Know 2

Question Six was *Do you support manual poisoning of predators? (ie Bait Stations)*

Residents Results
Yes 208 No 22 Don’t Know 13
No Answer 2
Visitors Results
Yes 106 No 11 Don’t Know 6

Question Seven was *Do you support aerial poisoning of predators?*

Residents Results
Yes 39 No 187 Don’t Know 19
Visitors Results
Yes 8 No 108 Don’t Know 7

Question Eight was *Do you have any other comments you’d like to pass on to the Governance Group?*

There are far too many comments to print out here in the SIN so I will compile a separate list at the end of the survey.

All this data will be passed on to the Governance group (without people’s names obviously), hopefully this will assist them in their decision making processes.

The next bit are my personal views, not data from the survey.

The overriding result I personally have found from the survey is that Stewart Islanders do NOT feel they have been

adequately consulted in this process, whatever side of the (proposed) fence they are on. Another interesting find I made while perusing the Predator Free website was a mention of a survey the Morgan Foundation have carried out. (Page 19 of the Economic Appraisal)

To complement this data from overseas eradications, we have conducted an online survey to test whether Predator Free status would alter their likelihood of visiting Stewart Island/Rakiura. The survey was passed through the local and international birding community and Stewart Island/Rakiura tourism networks. It asked local and international people whether they had previously visited or planned to visit Stewart Island/Rakiura. 166 responses
Source: Morgan Foundation survey

It is interesting to note there is no data as to who was asked and when and the links to the survey.

But the most worrying thing I personally read was in the FAQ about funding.

3c) Will the islanders need to fund the projects?

We don’t expect increased tourism to increase infrastructure costs, for a number of reasons:

Predator Free status would attract higher spending tourists rather than increased numbers.

The tourist levy will also help cover costs of any additional infrastructure.

Quotas and higher prices can be used to limit numbers. Stewart Island is our home but it also belongs to the rest of New Zealand. Kiwis and visitors should ALL be able to visit a unique part of our country, it shouldn’t be restricted to rich twitters here to see the kakapo walking down Main Road.

Vicki Coats

Online Surveys can be completed at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LCRS5FM>

Or email me at stewartisland@xtra.co.nz



Words from and about our Governance Group community representatives:

After last month's Predator Free meeting, *The Southland Times* printed an article which called into question the integrity of the Governance Group and the power the members supposedly wield regarding the outcome of the project. I (Jess) was one of three locals who picked Sandy and Jill from a list of the people who had volunteered for the position to be our community representatives, so I was unimpressed reading these allegations in print. I have no affiliation with Gareth Morgan, nor with DoC. Personally I am very much "on the fence" about the project (and married to a guy who is not a fan). I had no knowledge of Sandy's or Jill's opinions on the subject; their names jumped out as honest, intelligent, approachable, reliable, sane, thick-skinned members of the community. I am grateful they are doing the tough job of representing us. And yes, despite insinuations in the SLT article, they are doing just that: *representing* us. Not making choices for us.

I recently posed some questions to Jill about her experience being in the Governance Group. Jill said that she realises there is an assumption she is "pro-fence" and she declares that while enthusiastic about the idea of a predator-free island, she is not necessarily pro-fence, she is still waiting for information and listening. She sees her role as a sounding board and a conduit of information between the community and the governance group. She very much wants people to talk to her and tell her what they think so she can bring their comments to meetings. Her standpoint is mostly economic: she feels strongly that the island needs an economic boost for the future of our children, and this project has so much potential that it needs a serious look.

I asked Sandy the same questions and following are her thoughts:

How did I get to be a member of the Governance Group? Like many locals I attended the second public meeting with Gareth Morgan & DOC at the Community Center on 9th May 2013 (almost exactly 1 year ago!). At this meeting we were told that a Governance Group would be formed. Subsequently in SIN there was a call for expressions of interest from locals wanting to be considered as a community representative for the Group, and I saw the same notice on the notice board next to the shop. After thinking about it for a while I put my name forward, as did several others. In late November 2013 I was told that Jill & I had been chosen by other locals (who are not employed by DOC and have no connection to the Morgan Foundation). There are 12 of us on the Governance Group, representing various stakeholder groups. The **stakeholder groups** were "hand picked" as someone described it, but how each of those stakeholder groups chose their representative was up to them.

Initially we hoped to hold our first meeting before Christmas 2013, but it was impossible to find a date for a meeting that everyone could attend until 23rd January 2014. That is barely 4 months ago! Given some frustration in the community about the lack of detailed answers and information this is a point I have been emphasising to people I've spoken with about the project. The work done prior to 2014 focused on the preliminaries - outlining the issues and looking at possible methods, and on establishing the Governance Group. We are still finding our feet, but from here on the Group will drive the project forward - engaging technical experts and relaying the issues, questions and answers between our respective communities and the Group so that a detailed proposal can be formulated. The amount of work to be done is huge, and a bit

daunting - but I imagine the idea of building the Egyptian pyramids was daunting at first, yet they did it! Yes, it will take some time to produce the full feasibility study, but I believe it is more important to get it right than to rush in and try to give answers that haven't been properly thought through.

Is it a foregone conclusion that the project will go ahead?

Absolutely not, in my opinion. It would be just daft to make that decision now, in the absence of the detailed information that the feasibility study will provide, and before the community has had a chance to consider that detailed information. **When we get to that point**, then we can have some sort of vote or community referendum to determine how much support there is, and whether to proceed or not. I don't know exactly how that process will be carried out, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. I know there is already some opposition to the project, but there is also enough support (its just not as loud as the opposition in some cases) to make it worthwhile continuing with the process of the feasibility study - it would be unfair not to. Eventually people will make their own decision, as is their right, as to whether or not to support the project, but I would ask people to base their decision on information provided by the Governance Group rather than the rumour mill, speculation and gossip. There are some strange theories and mis-information out there.

Jill and I are both happy for people to talk to us about the project, and if anyone feels they can't talk to either of us then they are probably also represented by someone else on the Group - Garry Neave, or either of the Southland District Council or Environment Southland representatives, or the hunting representative, or iwi. Most people probably have multiple representatives depending on their situation and interests, and I believe all members of the Group are open minded and willing to listen. It is essential that people bring their questions and concerns to the Group - if we're not made aware of them we can't ensure they are adequately addressed!

Am I pro-fence? We've been told, by people with more technical expertise and experience than I have, that at present it is not technically feasible to try to eradicate predators from the entire Island all at once, and that we don't currently have the surveillance and detection ability to intercept reinvaders in an area so vast and with so many different and widespread points of potential entry. New technologies are needed for this to happen, but will take some time to develop and be properly tested. Therefore it makes sense to do a smaller more manageable area first (i.e. the Halfmoon Bay Project area as proposed), BUT to do this there would need to be some sort of barrier in place to prevent predators from the rest of the island reinvading the project area faster than they can be controlled, and a fence seems like the best option. Also, in the longer term if the rest of the Island can be made predator free, a fence would help contain any reinvaders within the Halfmoon Bay project area. So while I would prefer that we didn't need a fence, I can **accept** it if it means that the Halfmoon Bay project can go ahead. Someone speculated to me that the destruction of bush required to put a fence in place would be more than compensated for by the absence of possums and rats that would otherwise be eating the rest of the bush!

Would I be stressed out and lose sleep over knowing the fence was there? Actually no - most of the time I would never see it (but technical issues aside, for aesthetic reasons I'd prefer it wasn't in the middle of Maori Beach - just my personal opinion), if I wanted to get past it I'd walk through the gates or take a water taxi or kayak around it, and if ugliness bothered me I'd be more concerned with the disused, dilapidated ex-paua hatchery in Horseshoe Bay!

ANZAC DAY speeches from HMB School students

Arthur Dennison Marshall was born on the 1st of August 1912. Arthur was the only son of James Wylie Marshall and Sarah Antoine Smith.

The family lived on Stewart Island in the house that now belongs to Magic. James and Sarah owned a grocery shop that was where the red shed now is.

Arthur attended Halfmoon Bay school then Otago Boys' High

School . From 1930 to 1935 he was a fisherman in Bluff. Then he went to Otago university and Dunedin Training college to become a teacher.



Leading-Aircraftman A. D. Marshall, of Half Moon Bay, Stewart Island, killed on active service.

In 1942 Arthur joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force and was sent to Rotorua for training. Later he was posted to Taieri and then was sent back to Rotorua. In June

1942 he was sent to Canada to train as an air observer. Air observers were in charge of aiming the bombs and navigating the aircraft.

Tragically on the 1st of March 1943 aged 31 Arthur was killed on a training exercise and was sadly classified as killed on active service. Arthur Dennison Marshall was laid to rest at Portage La Prairie cemetery in Manitoba Canada and he also has a headstone in the Halfmoon Bay cemetery.

This is why we are all here today to remember the fallen soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice defending our country.

By Angus Kenny

James Robertson

My great great great uncle, James Robertson was born in 1880. He lived at Horseshoe Bay and went to school on Stewart Island. His parents were Charles and Catherine Robertson.

James' job before the war was a Fisherman.

James fought in the great war with Nancy Schofield's father (Arthur William Traill).

Corporal James Robertson was a Rifleman in the 3rd Brigade. He fought in Belgium and France.

Sadly, aged 37 he died of disease on the 6th of May, 1917 in France. Now he is buried in the Maple Leaf Cemetery Plot 1. Row F. grave 11.

James was posthumously awarded the Anzac medallion, the Bronze victory medal and a 99.9% sterling silver medal for being in active service.

James Robertson died for freedom and honor.

By Harry Hamilton



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at Wendy Hallett's
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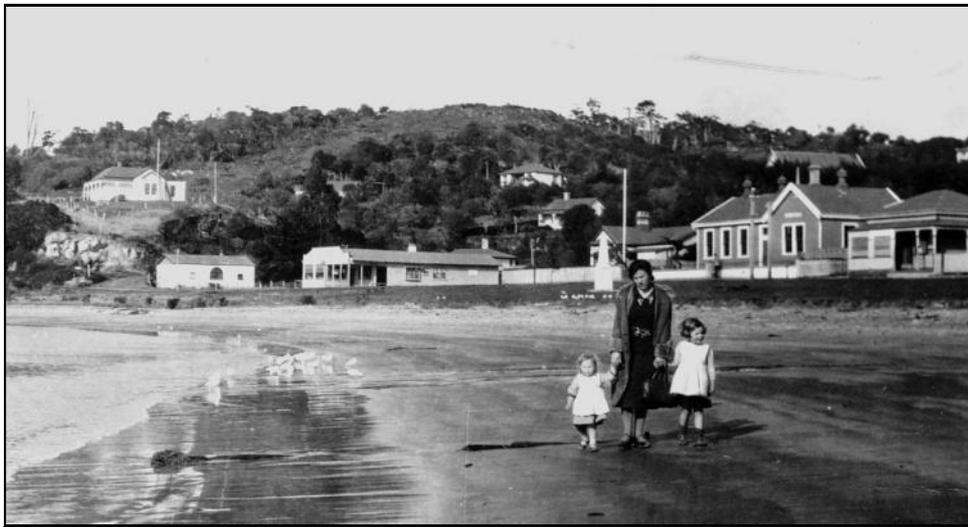
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(Continued from page 1)

many years.

My very first memory was of finding a coin in the gutter at Bluff, while waiting for the Stewart Is. boat. I was two years old at the time. From then on, I have loads of early memories of our annual family holidays to the Island in the 1940s. We would take the steam train to Invercargill, then boat from Bluff. On one such boat trip I remember we were all covered with tarpaulins and roped on to the deck, as a rough trip was expected! During the trip, a crate of hens near us didn't like being washed with seawater, and protested loudly... Having no shelter from the elements, it became a real journey - one needed to be made of "sturdy stuff" to enjoy Stewart Island holidays in those days! Somehow that day we managed to get to the little bach we hired from Eric Leask on the Ringa-Ringa road, carrying our suitcases! Boat day was a greatly anticipated event by the locals! Twice weekly papers and mail arrived, food was replenished in the shops and everyone seemed to come to the wharf - wet or fine. (There was no shelter on the wharf, either!) Much interest was taken when the boat hatch was raised? As a kid, it always fascinated me. An amazing array of things came out of that hold!

We spent wonderful days fishing off the rocks, bush walks to the light-house, Deep Bay or Golden Bay, collecting shells, feeling for the paua clinging to rocks under the water - getting soaking wet and cold... trying to rescue a crested penguin on Ringa-Ringa beach! Oh, the memories. We had trips up the Inlet with Eric Leask on his boat the "Olga" sometimes a picnic lunch ashore when a fire was lit, and the billy boiled! Other days, we borrowed a dingy and rowed out to the rock in Half Moon Bay and fished - trying the boat to some bull kelp....! I remember rowing out there on my own one day and caught an enormous conger eel, which terrified me as it pulled the dingy around - I got rid of it by cutting the line... Father took me with him when fishing with Roy Traill who kept his little boat at Deep Bay. Our father knew him well. Our brother John's fishing exploits came much later when fishing commercially with John Leask. On one occasion he was



Nancy and myself on the beach with my mother.

washed over-board baiting a cray pot, luckily saved by John Leask's quick action - he was in the wheel-house and saw it happen-rushed out and winched up the pot with John still attached!!!!

As a teenager in 1953 I organised a trip for my workmate girl-friends who were fascinated by my

frequent tales of Stewart Island! We hired Eric's bach at Evening Cove, and as independent youngsters, had a wonderful parent-free holiday - only one problem though "who would empty the "dunny" before we left?" We drew lots, and the

"lady" of the group got the job! (We did help her dig the hole!) Yes, Stewart Island is a fantastic place and I have wonderful memories to cherish. Back then, with no power, no sewerage, no sealed roads, no transport, no comfortable ferry, no flights, no coffee shop etc. it was a great place to holiday. I remember the first custom built ferry built for the run - the "Wairua" which was a vast improvement on the previous "ferry". Later, trips over to visit my parents and Margaret were made on the sea-plane, which landed on the water and taxied up onto the beach! Now of course an airstrip has been carved out of the bush, and planes come and go several times a day, with sealed roads and traffic, telephones, internet connections and all... Just like the other islands!



Olga

Special to me is remembering the smell of wet native bush, the sounds of the native birds, the taste of freshly caught blue cod, the little wekas wandering around and the putt, putt, putt of the generators being switched on at sunset, plus remembering all the wonderful people my parents knew - the Leasks, Trails, Jensens, Dawsons, Squires and many others I have forgotten the names of, some of whom became my sister Margaret's special friends with whom she shared so much. I have great memories of Stewart Island.



Going ashore for a picnic, taken with my Box Brownie



Nancy and myself on the beach.

Story and photos from Mary Preiss (nee Fairhall)

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem



Easter 2014, a transformed cross

It has been a great blessing to have Bruce and Diane Keeley in our community and in our church. They have been a wonderful asset and we're looking forward to the weeks ahead with them as they continue till 18 May.

With all our visiting ministers we get such a wealth of variety and this Easter was special. When you came into the church you saw the big old cross, made from rough planks of wood left over from the renovations and now decorated with ferns, which seemed so appropriate for Stewart Island. There were two big baskets of flowers underneath the cross and we were invited to go up and put flowers in amongst the ferns during the hymn singing. Visitors and locals alike enjoyed the interaction and the cross was truly beautiful by the end of the service.

Remember! 110th Anniversary of Oban Presbyterian Church at Labour Weekend, October of this year. Only six months away so please keep digging through those photos for any people that have been part of our history over the years. A good thing to do over the winter months. Also stories involving the church would be appreciated.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

Halfmoon Bay School would like to have a tunnel house. If you have one that you no longer want please let us know - it doesn't matter if it needs a new 'skin' or if it needs other 'fix up work' to get it going again, we will consider anything. Contact Kath at school or on 029 if you can help

Rakiura Rugrats would like to thank the following people for their help and contributions toward the Easter weekend fundraising:

Jill & Richard at Four Square

Helen Cave at the South Sea Hotel with special thanks to Tracy Baker

Kath Kain

Greg Everest

Woodchoppers

And Stew the policeman who won the wine raffle then gave it back to be won again.

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Checking into South Sea Hotel. *Photo from Mary Preiss*

www.stewart-island-news.com

Dave Sheppard and the Freebies

Free musical workshop

Time: 11am - 1pm

Place: Community Hall

Date: Saturday 7 June

The Freebies and Workshop Performers live in concert

Time: 7 - 9pm

Place: Community Hall

Date: Saturday 7 June

Entry by Koha donation

SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

So I open my fridge and am greeted by a less than pleasing sight, it's not full of all the things I like to have on hand, as we are eating out all the contents before we head off to Joshes to go mutton birding. This is always an interesting exercise for the whole family, as use to their usual fare (depending on how inspired I am) is usually as my mother always says, living beyond our means. When it comes to making a nice meal I tend to forget to have a budget oops!! and often get carried away. But all memories of the cost are gone out the window once we settle down to eating it!! Funny that!

But also to contradict what I have just said, I'm good at using what's available and can do budget cooking, I enjoy the challenge of making something tasty with everyday ingredients that usually are the family staples. As I check behind the organic tofu (which much to my poor husbands disgust, we are probably eating for tea tonight.) I check what we have left over....which turns out to be a strange array of random curry pastes, mayo, tomato paste, cheese and half a pack of bacon and other random bits and pieces with some sad looking vegies in the vegie draw just to round it off nicely.

After a quick glance into the pantry that is looking rather empty, I spot the flour at the bottom and a light bulb goes on over my head! (actually as I peer up from the pantry their is a lightbulb over my head, how ironic!)

SCROLLS! of course! no fuss and easy and the filling is easily changed with whatever you have available. Also great for those of us whom find scone making not one of their strong points (like me) You may have tried these when I worked in the shop kitchen for awhile, they were my take on the humble scone.

SCROLLS
3 cups of plain flour
1 1/2 cups of milk
75g butter

6 tsp's of baking powder
pinch of salt

FILLING:
tomato paste around 3-4 Tbsp
1 cup of grated cheese
1 can of pineapple (either pieces or crushed) with juice drained off
6 pieces of middle bacon sliced into small squares or you can use ham if that is what you have available.
fresh herbs or dried whatever you have or prefer

METHOD:
First set your oven to 200 degrees, a wee bit more if it's not fan forced.
Sift flour into a large bowl, add baking powder, salt and mix together. Add butter softened at room temp and rub butter into flour until it resembles fine bread crumbs. Using a knife mix milk into mixture until combined (don't over stir). Once you have mixed dough together turn onto floured surface and flour top kneading several times to bind together, add extra flour if dough feels too wet. Use a rolling pin to roll out as best you can to around 1cm thick into a oblong shape.

Put paste onto rolled out dough and spread out to edges leaving around 1cm from each edge. add herbs and salt and pepper. Add bacon, cheese and pineapple sprinkling evenly over dough. Roll your dough towards yourself to form a cylinder. Cut into around 2cm thick rolls and place on trays lined with baking paper. using a pastry brush, brush milk onto each scroll, I also like to sprinkle herbs ontop of each scroll, then place into hot oven and cook for around 10-15 mins. Please note some ovens take longer depending if you have fan forced or gas or electric. I find mine takes around 12-15 mins and I have an



electric fan forced oven.
ENJOY! These are a great combination for kids, awesome lunch box fillers and they can easily help you make them. Men seem to love these too but like my BBQ bacon, caramelised onion n cheese filling the most (guess because it's like a meat lovers pizza in a scroll.)

BBQ BACON FILLING
3 red onions cut in half and sliced finely / you can use white but red are sweeter
6 pieces of middle bacon diced into squares
smoky bbq sauce
1 cup of grated cheese
herbs (optional)

to caramelize onions add a tsp of oil to a pan and heat on med heat, add onions a stir, let them sweat down without frying them! they reduce to half sometimes 1/3 what you put in, this takes around 20 mins, add a pinch of salt to speed up process and if you wish add also a tsp of brown sugar.

bbq sauce I just squeeze on and spread out like tomato paste. And cheese and bacon is the same.(if you can't be bothered caramelising onion just diced half a red onion instead)

Also blue cheese and caramelised pear is yummy if you like savoury with sweet.

Your imagination is the limit for scroll fillings and that's what I love about them, plus they are cheap to make tasty and filling. Sometimes when the weather is cold and yucky I send Laurence up the farm with a pot of soup and fresh scrolls to share with the guys, of course I make a double batch and you get around 22-24 scrolls if you double recipe.

So warm the cockles of your heart today with some yummy soup and freshly baked scrolls, it's certainly the weather for it!

(Continued from page 4)

Most dog owners who live here are responsible and diligent, many have put their dogs through kiwi aversion training; and I'd say *all* Islanders are thrilled to notice the kiwi population in the village seems to be thriving. This message is aimed at the dog owners who take great offence at someone speaking to them about their pet. I get it, I know, pets are like children and it's awful to hear someone say something about your kid. But no matter how crazy and unpredictable our local rugrats get, even in their worst tannies I can't name one that is capable of ripping a native bird apart with his teeth.

On one hand it seems complicated if you get pulled into the debate about what breed of dog, what kind of owner, what sort of situation, etc. On the other hand, it's really not that complicated: We are all unpredictable animals. As a human who has owned and cherished dogs, who considers Pip (the lab!) and other canines in other lands a part of my extended family, I offer these suggestions (don't bite my head off!):

If you find yourself on the island wandering along trails with your dogs: kiwi live here so if you have ANY doubt about your dogs' reactions to kiwi, please keep your dogs on a lead. And if someone asks you to do so, you could nut out and make it into a long boring story in SIN. Or, just a suggestion, you could simply shrug and say *okay* and put your dog on a lead no matter what the DoC signage or bylaws or fine print say.

At the end of the day, it shouldn't be about people rights, or dog rights, or anyone's pride, or bristling with outrage because some jumped up little punk dared ask you to control your pet. It's about a flightless bird dying horrifically, torn to pieces in the jaws of a stronger animal. It's about the unnamed kiwi and penguins who have been mauled to death here on this island on our watch. It's about Otautahi, the kiwi who survived the Christchurch earthquake but couldn't live through the frenzied snapping jaws of somebody's dog.

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

Well aisle be damned!

I was in a bit of a pickle. Should Onion Marmalade go in Aisle 1 with the jam and marmalade or Aisle 2 alongside relish and chutney?

According to the wisdom of the internet, marmalade is *generally* distinguished from jam by its fruit peel; relish and chutney *generally* contains fruit or vegetable pieces in a sauce. A clear cut case for the Onion Marmalade to relish in the company of chutneys in Aisle 2 then? Perhaps.

But I was still confused. Because we peel an onion does it count as peel in the marmalade?!

Or is an onion one of those tricky little critters that's technically a fruit, like tomato, cucumber and pepper? Of course not - I'm

ashamed to say I checked, even though I **know** onion is a vegetable!

What I know about cooking could be written on the back of a teaspoon, so I explored the mysterious world of preserves and learned that jam is made from the **flesh and juice** of a fruit or vegetable; conserve is a jam made with **fruit stewed** in sugar; marmalade is made from the **juice and peel** of fruit; chutney tends to be sweeter than relish, is generally cooked longer than a relish, and both can be sweet, sour, or spicy.

Relish of course is a general term used for a condiment eaten with food to add flavour, which leads me to sauces! Sauces are generally smoother than relishes ...

But back to the box of Onion Marmalade. Aisle 1 or 2?

Barker's of Geraldine, the New Zealand maker of this particular pot of perfection tell me that it used to be called Sage & Onion Relish, but customer feedback decreed the sage too strong. About 5 years ago the Barker's range was reviewed (including names of products) and apparently some people found 'sage' in the title off-putting. Sage was reduced in the recipe, the relish was renamed Onion Marmalade and the rest, as they say is history - the change was welcomed by customers and sales increased.

Thanks to Lorel at Barker's Customer Care for answering my question!

To conserve any further time and energy you can find the Onion Marmalade located in Aisle 2 with the jelly, chutney and relish. It's delicious, by the way!

Jules



Museum Matters

by Margaret Hopkins

Rakiura Heritage Trustees and volunteers have been enjoying a quieter month after all the busy organizing that went on for the Norsk Feiring in April. The museum has gone onto winter timetable now which means opening hours are:

- Monday – Friday 10a.m. until 12pm.
- Saturday – 10a.m. until 1.30pm.
- Sunday – 12pm until 2pm.

Souvenirs from the Norsk Feiring weekend are still available for purchase at the museum. Coffee mugs, pens and pins as well as *The Whalers' Base*, a pictorial book by Jim Watt. Copies of the diary of Mathias Wiig chronicling his voyage on the Sir James Clarke Ross in 1925 are also available as well as Lloyd Esler's new book *Whaling and Sealing in Southern New Zealand*. A limited number of black and white reproduction photos of the Norwegian whaling in Antarctica, which were on display for the Norsk Feiring, can still be purchased at the Museum.

Apologies for a caption mis-



take in the last edition of SIN. Beverley Johansen was photographed inside the former home of her Aunt Violet and Uncle Harald Askerud – not her great aunt and uncle.

An exhibition designer has now been chosen to design the exhibits that will form the focus of the new Rakiura Heritage Centre. Trustees are excited to be entering this phase of the project and look forward to working with the exhibition designer and interpretation expert.

Stewart Islanders and visitors were treated to sight from the past last month when Ian Johnson brought his old 1930 Model A Ford motorcar back to Stewart Island. Ian purchased the vehicle off Herbie Squires in April 1959 and 55 years later returned to chauffeur the Honorary Norwegian Consul around the Island roads during the Norwegian celebrations. One of the calls made while on the Island was to Herbie's son Lindsay Squires to give him a copy of the registration form and to drive him to his old home on Peterson Hill. Ian has meticulously restored the car himself.

(Predator-free Meeting Continued from page 7)

through whether we bloody well like it or not.”

Phillip Smith was angry too: “What is the rationale of DoC putting an unsightly track through pristine forest, destroying the environment for the sake of a fence, and it’s not going to keep them out anyway?”

Melissa raised an interesting question: if the fence lasts 25 years, what happens after that? What if the money runs dry or changed circumstances means the project ends, what becomes of an island full of birds that have never been exposed to predators? Does it put them at greater risk? Along those same lines, Jim Barrett wondered what if they build the fence and only successfully complete the HMB side of the project. Birder Matt Jones said he was dubious that boatloads of birdwatchers were going to arrive. “I hope they will—that gives me employment—but I’m a realist.” Mary Chittenden pointed out that Maori Beach, a proposed site for the fence, is a historically significant area. She also wondered if a beach with blowing sand is the best site for a fence.

Furhana questioned how the island’s infrastructure could handle the numerous visitors anticipated. (“Wouldn’t it be nice to have these problems?” countered Geoff Simmons.) Vicki wasn’t the only person to express concern that toxins could put the marine environment and fishery jobs (the “backbone of Stewart Island”) at risk. Another woman pointed out that even *perceived* risk was also a threat. Geoff conceded “I understand it’s the lifeblood here and if we do any harm to that we’re stuffed.” (Later, he pointed out that numbers actually say tourism is in fact a bigger industry than fishing here.) Graham Okey reiterated what he’s been saying for many months: aquaculture faces great potential risk from toxins and he wishes there was aquaculture representation on the governance board.

Despite a large presence of hunting enthusiasts in the room, there was only one question about deer. (I chatted with John DeLury afterwards and hopefully in the coming months will have more information on this important aspect.) The Governance Board agrees there needs to be a lot of work on this subject.

The spectre of Ulva Island haunted the room with more than one person pointing out the fact many can’t shake: The tiny (compared to Rakiura) island has gotten the works of poison and traps and it’s supposed to be predator free... and it’s still suffering rat incursions.

As the evening wore on and the MC tried to keep questions short and limit people to one or two questions, things became more tetchy and off-message. Voices were raised. Len pointed out Otago still has rabbits; a woman discussing concerns about toxins suddenly objected to the expression on the MC’s face and his body language.

The meeting seemed to spiral off in various angry directions, and the final speaker Allan Munn managed to anchor it a bit with a very blunt talk about the project. Not only did

he *not* sugar-coat anything, he actually stripped any sweet gloss off all of the icky subjects we talk around.

“Eradication” is a nice word but he pointed out we are talking about killing thousands of animals by poison, or trapping, bopping them over the head... and we have to consider what makes us comfortable. He acknowledged that some of the poisons on the table persist in the livers of mammals for quite some time. “These are decisions we face around New Zealand all the time: aerial versus ground control with toxins.” He informed us frankly that the fence would mean razing forest. “We’ll have to chop down trees, and some big trees. I’m not going to pretend it’s a fence that’s going to sneak through the bush.”

So... “Timing snafu” or no, “done the reading” or not, let’s face it: a community meeting is great in theory but in reality can be a bit of a hot mess. More than a hundred people packed into a room, all with differing opinions and levels of anger and frustration with little time to vent. There were people who kept popping up like gophers with more and more to say, and there were people who left the Hall who never got to speak at all. There were people who attended the meeting who are so adamantly against the project due to an aspect of it (DoC, poison) that they weren’t really there to listen but to express their damnation and disapproval. Despite the fact the meeting opened with incredibly positive presentations about the economic windfall we could experience, the overall feeling of the meeting was negative, and the vibe on exit was frustration.

The next meeting will be a doozy, tackling the big topics. Let’s do our part to stay on message, everybody do your homework and arm yourselves with knowledge so you don’t glut the proceeding with the “what colour is a blueberry” sort of long-ago-answered question. And hopefully the meeting guys will have learned something and will lend more time to public discussion, questions and input, maybe *two* meetings in a month, one with their presentations which can then be put on-line for anyone who missed it, and the next, a couple weeks later, an opportunity for people to talk and respond and ask questions. And maybe in the interim, between the two meetings, people can send their questions so the governance board comes prepared to answer the majority of queries (just a late night brainstorm from me).

SIN will continue to be a platform to report on this project and your thoughts are always most welcome. To ask questions go to the Q&A page at the website www.predatorfreestewartisland.org.nz or chat with anyone in the Governance Group including locals Jill Skerrett, Sandy King, and Garry Neave. Please don’t view them as people “on the other side of the fence.” They have raised their hands to do a difficult job, they are doing this community a service fielding all of our feelings and feedback, they want you to tell them what you think so they can bring that information to the advisory group.

Finally: the entire meeting can be viewed online. If you missed the meeting and wish to know what really went on, this shoddy journalist implores you to go to vimeo.com and search for “Stewart Island meeting” and watch it in its entirety.

—Jess

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The Island in the Media

The May issue of *Life & Leisure* has great happy coverage of Island activities.

If you missed the *Third Degree* programme about shark cage diving you can watch it on-line at tv3.co.nz, very entertaining show and the island and surrounds are exquisitely filmed.

Denise of SIRCET gave an excellent interview about rat trapping on Country Life, go to www.radionz.co.nz

Stuff Nation published *The Day I Swam with Sharks* in which the writer raves ecstatically about cage diving, comments that the reception on the island can be “chilly” due to controversy, and goes on to explain that it’s actually just the fishermen who feed sharks here.

Predator Free has landed us in *SLT* Times and on TV with some juicy “Island Divided” comments reminiscent of Greymouth days.

Stewart Island: Birds Rule Island Bastion was printed in the Travel section

of the New Zealand Herald last month. Same section had an odd little story this month entitled *Flight Check: Invercargill to Stewart Island* which mentions the lack of toilets and food service on Stewart Island Flights. Not booming with accuracy, but sort of amusing.

I'd like to keep this Island in the Media bit going in these pages so if you readers see anything Stewart Islandy out there, please send me the link so I can include it. Thanks!

Update from Cr. Bruce

April 16 hosted our District Council Meeting at Stewart Island. All the usual discussions took place, but of special interest was a further endorsement from all 12 Councillors of their disapproval of psychoactive substances as per Government proposals. It is very pleasing to see that the voice of all – especially our Mayor, Gary Tong, and others throughout the country – have been heard and heeded.

And it was great to see the success of the Norsk Feiring weekend. On that note, I have made a submission to ES regarding the erosion of the “Kaipipi Shipyard” site. It is encouraging that other folk have written in similar vein. You will all have received in the mail a summary document of SDC’s Annual Draft Plan. I hope you had a good look and made your submissions. It’s your plan and your vision.

The applications for Stewart Island Visitor Levy allocations closed 30 April, and I believe there are comprehensive applications submitted for a variety of projects. The Allocations Meeting is scheduled for late May. I also take part in SDC Allocations Committee which provides funds for numerous community facilities throughout Southland – and that Committee sits on 13 May. I’ll be reporting on both in due course.

Our long-awaited energy renewable work has been further bogged down amongst Government agencies, and your Community Board and myself are continuing to exert considerable political pressure. There is “progress” of a sort, but not enough sense of urgency from some quasi-Government departments, so we

can’t let up on the pressure at this point.

The Seniors Housing Project is still receiving a lot of attention and generating a lot of work. It’s a very tall order to extract a large proportion of funding from Central Government. Consequently, assistance is provided through the Venture Southland Community Development resources. With that backing, things are starting to look up.

Motorau Moana now boasts a new and upgraded stairway off Horseshoe Bay Road, along with some additional park furniture. It’s well-worth you taking visitors to the focal look-out, and a great place for picnics and any celebration. A lot of the upkeep and maintenance has been due for many years to Elaine Hamilton and a band of volunteers – we certainly wouldn’t have this beautiful area in such excellent condition were it not for that commitment. Further plans are afoot to really enhance what we already have at the Gardens – do you have any ideas that might help and so encourage the use of this facility? Let me know.

It’s been a particularly busy year so far, and May is already full of appointments and meetings, reports and actions to be taken. I was hoping that June would be a time of consolidation, a chance to pull together some loose ends, but for a small community with a tiny population, we certainly generate a lot of enthusiasm and great ideas which may give our bureaucracy some headaches, but is also an inspiration to other communities. So I suspect that June will turn out to be just as busy as the year to date, which is as it should be if we are to continue to grow in the best senses of the word.



Voice of a Girl Mechanic

by Sharon Ross

This month I dedicate this column in memory of Sandy Ross who would be 97 on 16/05/14 but sadly passed away on 20/04/14. Sandy is Pete’s Dad, he was also a mechanic, he served 4 and a half years in the NZ Army during WWII and was wounded twice. He was also the last remaining founding member of Invercargill’s 2nd NZEF, both the RSA and 2nd NZEF officers gave moving tributes at his funeral. Sandy spoke very little about his time as a signalman except for stories of the fun and camaraderie he and his fellow officers shared.

I learnt at his funeral that Sandy was approached by the British Army to overhaul a vehicles motor in the Egyptian sand, he was given 3 weeks to have it done, but in true Sandy fashion he had it finished in 3 days! For this Winston Churchill came to him and praised him with the words “Good Work Kiwi”. Sandy loved telling a yarn, he was a hard and diligent worker, a proud Southlander, a loving family man and is deeply missed.

This month I was going to write about LPG but in Sandy’s memory I rewrote the article to be about winter motoring. Sandy always took great pride in his vehicles (he passed his drivers license again at 96) and they were always well looked after.

I would also like to sincerely thank Jeanette,
(Continued on page 17)

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford: "Advent" by James Treadwell

So many good books this month! Will race through the first four so that I can rave about the fifth, doing none of them justice, but hoping to persuade you to read one of them, starting with **Kate Atkinson's "Human Croquet"**. It's as complex as you'd expect but also very readable. The story 'belongs' to Isobel rather than is 'about' her, the blurb says, and I feel that's a great way to describe this multi-layered story involving a 16-year old girl in the 1950's. Isobel dreams. Or time travels? Lives parallel lives? Slips through time warps? The answer at the end of the book is prosaic enough – or is it? We, the readers, know more than the characters (a typical Atkinson strategy), and even Isobel isn't entirely convinced Not a book to pick up and read over morning coffee; save it for when you can absorb the quality of the writing as well as the complexity of the plot. That's *not* required for Good Read No. 2 – "**Murder in Mind**" by **Lyndon Stacey**. Slightly too off-beat to be described as 'formulaic detective fiction', cleverly plotted and what we used to call 'a jolly good read'! And talking of off-beat, in Book No. 3, **Jo Nesbo's** Norwegian detective, Harry Hole, ends up in Bangkok tracking the murderer(s) of Norwegian nationals in "**Cockroaches**".

I prefer my murder stories to be pure escapism and do find Nesbo's stories too realistic and gritty – but it's carefully put together - 'a jolly good read' if you like your murders contemporary and believable. **Tess Gerritson's "The Killing Place"** was more for me, a good old-fashioned and familiar Jane Rizzoli police department adventure – but with a neat twist, the sort of setting and events which keep you reading long after bedtime. All her books have a sense of unease running through, but "The Killing Place" builds an almost supernatural sense of menace and tension in a snow-bound setting. After Stabenow's almost cheerful acceptance of life in a snowy wilderness, this city-dweller's eye-view of the snow makes you shiver – and not with the cold! And so to my great find –

A Harry Potter-esque beginning I thought as I settled to read about 15-year old freaky Gavin. He sees things that aren't there, and is surely too old to have an imaginary friend? Suspended from school, his parents at their wits' end, Gavin is sent for a week's holiday to Aunty Gwen (a self-professed witch) by train from London. And things go awry right from the start, with Gavin's worlds colliding – but this time, with a witness! Things get worse when Aunty Gwen isn't at Truro station to meet him. All reminiscent of a world in which magic exists in a Muggle setting! Except for the flashbacks to 1537 and Johann Faust, Magister, the greatest the world has ever known according to himself. Here, the writing takes on an almost lyrical quality, the prose sometimes develops like poetry, and only an exceptional reader of school age would stay awake to follow the links from Medieval Europe to contemporary England – not meaning to sound patronising. But this is Advent, the time towards the end of the year heralding new beginnings. Gavin's prosaic world disappears and the future of the new world may well depend on whether he can win against the supernatural forces set in motion centuries before. Not everyone comes to a happy end and I take issue with the story ending – don't ask! Despite the build-up of terror, there are moments of pure 15-year old humour. E.g. Marina, 13-years old, has never been outside the grounds of Pendurra, the crumbling mansion where she lives without any electricity or 'mod-cons', has also never heard anyone swear. So when – himself at death's door – Gavin is desperately trying to get a shell-shocked Marina to the river to meet up with her mother, Marina innocently asks if Mummy's name is Fux – because the distraught boy is trying to make Marina walk for the sake of Fux. Think about it. And if you do enjoy a side-trip into alternative worlds, do read "**Advent**".

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(MECHANIC Continued from page 16)

Mona and Jack for looking after our business whilst we were away and making a stressful time much easier. Also thanks to Fiona and Ricky and Dave for their extra help and support.

Winter motoring on Stewart Island is a bit different to our previous workshop in Queenstown where antifreeze was an absolute must, especially for any vehicle heading up to the ski fields. Though our winters are very mild here in comparison, the value of using antifreeze should not be overlooked. The cooling system of any vehicle performs an important job -- to prevent the heat-producing engine from overheating and, quite possibly, seizing up. When you don't flush and replace the antifreeze periodically, rust, scale and corrosion build up in the radiator and engine coolant passages. Eventually, this buildup could result in an overheated engine.

Heat from the engine is basically removed through the exhaust system and also the cooling system. All heat-producing sections of an internal combustion engine need to be cooled, including the combustion chamber, heads, cylinder walls and the engine block itself. This is accomplished by circulating coolant around these heat-

producing areas. The coolant picks the heat up and releases much of it as it circulates through the vehicle's radiator.

Water does a good job helping to cool an engine, but it has limitations. Most importantly, it freezes quickly during cold winter temperatures. Water also can cause certain metals to rust and corrode over time. This is why the water in a vehicle cooling system is best mixed with antifreeze. Please keep in mind that glycol antifreeze is poisonous to humans and pets and that it needs to be disposed of properly. Make sure all the windows are clear of ice, properly de-iced and demisted before you set out. Ensure the windscreen washer is topped up and wiper blades clean and in good condition. If your windscreen is icy the roads are likely to be too!!

Winter puts extra strain on batteries, so check yours is in good working order. Good, responsive brakes are essential in winter, so the pads, discs and brake fluid should be checked, tyres should be checked for good tread and inflated to the correct pressure. Wishing you all safe winter motoring.

RIP Sandy, we miss you so much.



HMB School students had an opportunity to board the Waka Hanui in Halfmoon Bay. Check haunuiwaka.org for more information about this amazing boat and excellent program!



SIRCET Update by Shona Sangster

Wow, May already! 2014 seems to be flying by! SIRCET has plenty happening at the moment, with a new staff member starting and plenty of action on both the pest and native species fronts. Let me introduce myself: I'm



Shona Sangster, new Project Administrator. I've also been helping out at the 4 Square shop so you might recognise me from there. I'm Ben Hopkins' partner, a recent arrival to the island from Auckland - after visiting for 4 years I am giving full time island life a go. Yes, in winter! It isn't the coldest place I've ever moved to, I can assure you. And the welcome has been incredibly warm!

As part of our changes to the way we manage our pest control we have begun a period of intensive rat trapping. After doubling the number of traps and lines in the control and buffer zones area (from the Lonnekers to Ringaringa track right out to Ackers Lighthouse) Denise and her assistant David have been very busy checking all 583 traps virtually daily since the 7th of April. While we have caught 420 rats from these two areas, we were disappointed that when we ran tracking tunnels, rat numbers are still high. After such a huge effort we had hoped we would get a 0% tracking rate! It just shows how hard it is to get rid of rats!!

SIRCET would really like to thank all local volunteers for their hard work at keeping up with regular trap checks along their lines...especially now that the weather is turning! Between them, they have caught over 750 rats this financial year – a huge effort!! We are also still on the look-out for new trapping volunteers if you are interested in helping out please get in touch with Denise at denise@sircet.org.nz. We're also looking out for someone to help with checking the live capture cat cages - even if it is just once a week it would be a huge help.

We held our second kiwi dog aversion training day on Easter Monday at Zane's Heliport and it was great to see so many dogs and owners attending (more than 20), including lots of dogs who had completed the first training. Repeating the training at appropriate intervals makes it much more likely to stick with dogs

over the long term. We were also pleased with the number of dogs attending for the first time, it is never too late to ensure your dog isn't posing a threat to kiwi, especially with the number that are being seen in the Bay at the moment. We will be continuing to run these sessions, if you would like to participate in our next round get in touch with us at info@sircet.org.nz.

Our treasurer Letitia McRitchie attended a Kiwi Hui in Queens-town on the 10-11th April on behalf of SIRCET and presented on the Ackers translocated kiwi. These events are a wonderful opportunity for kiwi conservationists from around New Zealand to network, exchange ideas and learn about what is going on in the kiwi conservation world. We'd like to extend our thanks to DOC for their financial assistance that enabled Letitia to attend.

Have you seen this bloke standing around on local tracks with a clipboard? Wondered what on earth he was up to? SIRCET has been conducting our annual bird count. The method involves standing at a marked site (50 sites in each area) for five minutes and recording the number of calls or sightings of native species of birds. We do this annually in April to allow us to measure the impact our pest control is having. We compare results obtained from inside and outside the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration area. This year there is an increase in birds in both sites, with a greater increase within the project area. Thanks to Matt Jones for spending those days counting birds for us, another day in the office for him!!



As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is... Kohuhu (*Pittosporum Tenuifolium*) More of a workhorse than a rock star in your garden, this fast-growing and hardy Pittosporum is an adaptable garden plant for shelter or hedging. It is also great to use when getting your garden started. Kohuhu will regenerate from hard pruning and maintains a more compact form when clipped. Reported to survive frosts, wind, wet ground, possums and deer.



Photos from Carolyn Squires



SIRCET Kiwi advocacy update

By Cherie Hemsley

Monitoring of the kiwis that were released into the Ackers project area in February 2013 had interesting outcomes this month!

The pang of winter has hit us and the Kiwi! So far this month we have Matatika and Ngaio snuggling up in a new burrow together, hopefully with their juvenile, keeping warm! Next month I will be putting another game camera out to see if this is indeed the case!

TX22 seems to have abandoned his burrow and his unidentified female companion, maybe she wasn't the right one for him after all? Or maybe he prefers the single life? He is now back to hanging out in crown fern and astelia...living those old bachelor days all over again!

TX12 our 'golf course' gal has yet another burrow in her patch, I have put up a game camera and hope to, again, see her with her STILL unidentified male! Whether he be city slicker or bush boy, he sure likes his privacy and has managed to keep his identity secret.

This month's photo is of the SAR team getting me out of the bush in February. Thanks again Team!

DID YOU KNOW;

These are a few interesting things I learnt about kiwi that I would like to share with everyone. Kiwis are a part of the Ratite family and all Ratites are flightless because their breastbone (sternum) is flat – there is no keel to attach the strong muscles needed for flight. This flat chest gave Ratites their name. Ratis means 'raft' in Latin – a boat without a keel.

The kiwi's body temperature is lower than most birds, which range from 39°C – 42°C. The kiwi is more like a mammal, with a temperature between 37°C and 38°C.

The kiwi's skeleton is heavy and marrow-filled, like a mammal, compared with the skeletons of most birds that are light and filled with air sacs to enable flight. Their powerful muscular legs make up a third of the bird's weight.

In most birds, feathers are connected by hooks or barbs that lock together and make it possible for birds to swim or fly without losing too much energy, even over very long distances. Because kiwi do not fly, their feathers have evolved a unique texture to suit a ground-based lifestyle. They are warm, shaggy and hair-like, hang loose and are much fluffier.

*All the leaves are brown and the sky is gray
I've been for a walk on a winter's day
I'd be safe and warm if I wasn't at Ackers Bay.
Stewart Island dreamin' on such a winter's day...*

Until next month,
Ka Kete Ano E Hua

Cherie



Congratulations

Parents
Natalia and Craig
Welcome Baby Girl
Teal Aureliah Joy Stonyer



Thanks to Loraine Everest for sharing this photograph of Arthur Dennison Marshall, a HMB School alum who was killed on active service in 1942. ANZAC Day speeches on page 18.

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