

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2007

\$2

The Equinox Gales nearly devoured us! October brought numerous knots of wind to the island, cancelling flights and ferries (the sea was smoking), skittling outdoor furniture, and knocking rooftops askew. The accompanying rain caused flooding and slips: there are big monster bites along our roads marked with orange cones. But this is a sturdy wee island, and the beastly Spring finally spat us out, Jonah-style, into a well-earned summer.

The Island has recently appeared in the wider media (true, *SIN* isn't the biggest news journal around) due to a food-thieving hermit who walked an



PHOTO: Margaret Hopkins

Dolphins visit the Rawiti.



Scavenger hunters at Vicki's mercy.

estimated 150 km through the bush and has since been apprehended and hospitalized with gangrenous feet. (p.5)

Ask Floyd about his latest hunting feat if you want to hear a good yarn (and make Floyd very happy, as he is dying to tell you

how he saves on bullets).

While a big Island company just closed up shop, there are several new ones opening their doors. Vicki opened the Craftee Cod (at Island Transport), Britt opened the Little Paua Shell Shop at Just Café, and there is a new owner of the Fernery: Megan McLellend (Megan is Ulva's daughter and the new evening Librarian). It's time to do some shopping!

Yes, it's that time of year...what better gift than a subscription to the *Stewart Island News*? See p.4 for details. **Happy Holidays everyone!**

Mention **kiwis and dogs** and you might get barked at, as some folks don't think it's proper etiquette to mention the proverbial elephant in the room (in this case the mauled kiwi on the airstrip). This issue contains some responses to the recent kiwi shocker: details of the incident in DoC Spot (p.3); an opinion piece by a resident (p.4); and the "official line" from a Council official (p.6). The *unofficial* word is that the dog suspected of killing the Traill Park kiwi likely also killed the Airstrip kiwi, that there are probably other undiscovered kiwi carcasses rotting in the bush in that vicinity, and any living kiwi who has graced our neighbourhood is sadly doomed as long as the dog is permitted to roam. Listening to people around the Bay it seems that many residents have strong opinions on the

matter. There is frustration that it seems nothing effective can be done. (continued on page 2)

**Doug donned this bikini for a good cause—the Library fund-raising Scavenger Hunt(p.10). Sometimes, he dresses in drag for no particular reason... (p.4)**



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**BOAT-of-the-MONTH:****DIGGER**

Photo: Phillip Smith.

Built at 117 Conan Street, Invercargill, by Charlie Trillo & Tom Stirland in the early 1920's. She was launched from the foot of Crinan Street in 1922, a kauri displacement hull 48' x 11' x 5'3" and powered in recent years by a 4 cyl Gardner. This was later replaced with a 4-71 GM. Her hull was at some time altered to reduce excessive flair from the bow, and her stern rebuilt with a square transom.

Her early working history is not clear, but in 1936 she was fishing into the **STELLA** at North Port, Chalky Inlet, crewed by Bert Johnson, Arthur Watson, & Cyril ("Honey") Hanning.

Nothing is known of her life from then until the mid 1960's when, as part of the Stan

Jones fleet, she was skippered by Denny Smith, Keith Smith, Barry Hamilton and others.

**DIGGER** fished the Island waters and Fiordland during her lifetime.

She was lastly bought by John Roderique who converted her for passenger and charter work out of Bluff, renaming her **WATERLILY** at the same time.

On 8th September 1996, while carrying a charter party of 8 people on a fishing trip to Ruapuke, she hit a rock and sank. All on board were saved, but the vessel was not salvaged.

(KIWIS and DOGS *Continued from page 1*)

Legally, the dog must be caught "red-handed" for repercussions to occur. Realistically, how is that going to happen? Kiwis are slaughtered at night by roaming dogs, and it's not like there are handy dog-watching stands set up or anyone who would care to man them all

night. As a community, are we helpless to protect the kiwi population gamely attempting to establish itself around the Bay? What do you think can be done? Any ideas? Share your thoughts, send them to *S.I.N.* or tell the Council (anonymously if you prefer) and maybe together Islanders can brainstorm an actual solution.

—Editor

We would like to thank the Stewart Island community (and the wider community off the island) for all the cards, flowers, baking, and love and support that we have received after the devastating loss of our beautiful wee girl Anya.

*Love, Eamonn and Bridget.*



*Holding hands with mum*



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**DOC  
Spot**

### **Please don't let your dog roam**

...

*by Sharon Pasco*

DOC staff recently had the disappointing task of collecting the second victim of a fatal dog attack on a Stewart Island brown kiwi / to-koeke in just four months.

Barry Rhodes made the discovery while checking the weather at the Ryan's Creek airstrip. He promptly alerted DOC so the mauled body could be removed from the tarmac prior to the arrival of the first flight for the day.

Phred Dobbins who responded to the call-out said the large female kiwi put up a valiant fight. The trail of feathers and skid marks showed where it had been chased more than 70m along the edge of the airstrip and attacked several times before being killed on the runway.

A number of dog prints were found following and around the kiwi, Phred said, and one set of prints identified a dog, "about the size of a fox terrier".

A dog was also the confirmed killer of an adult male kiwi found dead on Traill Park in July. Since then I have fielded a number of calls from irate residents, including a couple from people who have dogs and are concerned that their pets are being branded kiwi killers just because a few irresponsi-

ble dog owners let their dogs roam. We're pleading to all dog owners to keep their dogs under control at all times. Evidence suggests that once a dog gets a taste for kiwi that the killings will continue. This is the third kiwi killed by dogs around the village that we are aware of in the past 18 months. In recent weeks we have also picked up a number of Little Blue Penguins that haven't fallen prey to dogs.

Southland District Council is responsible for dog control in the urban areas of Stewart Island. SDC Animal control officer Paul Bell says council has a zero tolerance of roaming dogs on Stewart Island and will prosecute owners when this is possible. He urges anyone who sees a dog wandering loose anywhere on Stewart Island to report it immediately to council staff, so action can be taken. This service is available 24 hours a day, by telephoning 0800 732 732.

### **Barberry battle continues**

*by Robyn Newham*

As we come back into the warmer months, and the plants start to grow with enthusiasm we thought it was timely to let everyone know just what the Stewart Island weeds team is doing.

The battle against barberry continues, with the team working hard in two areas; around the airstrip and in the main infestation area around Back Road and Fern Gully.

Blair Jarvis is continuing to treat

Selaginella (African Club moss) on a three monthly basis. He is making good progress and is always keen to hear of any new Selaginella sites so he can get on and treat them as soon as possible.

Chilean Flame Creeper treatment time is upon us again. This year we plan to treat the plant twice (In November /December and then again in February) instead of the normal annual treatment. The aim is to knock the plant back twice during its peak growing phase so that it never gets the chance to flower and spread further.

Those with the plant on their properties will be hearing from Matt Langley in the next couple of weeks organising a time for the team to come and treat this weed. Chilean Flame Creeper is listed as a total control plant in the Regional Pest Management Strategy, which means it must not be grown or propagated and if found should be reported to DOC.

Everyone will have been noticing the worrying amount of Gorse and Broom around the township, especially now that it is flowering. Stewart Island has an advantage over other mainland locations in that once something has been eradicated; it stays that way with a little careful management. That is why DOC on Stewart Island is so keen to work on certain weeds found on private properties to try and eradicate them once and for all.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Here's a great gift idea!

Give the gift that keeps on giving (for 12 months) Buy your friends and family a subscription to the *Stewart Island News*.



The first issue will come enclosed with a wee "beak-written" card. Just fill out the form below and send it

to Box 156 along with a cheque (\$24 for Island; \$30 for NZ; \$54 for overseas)



Evening wear at the Pub

YES, I would like to give my friend a great holiday gift. Please send a subscription to

Recipient's Name and address:

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Please sign the following name(s) to the holiday card:

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*I have enclosed a cheque for the appropriate amount.*

**Word Nerd Box:** Chris Visser recently stumbled over this word (and you will too): **Floccinaucinihilipilification** Noun: The act or habit or an instance of contemptuously dismissing something or of treating something as worthless

## Humans In the Doghouse & Other Dog Lore

by Sue Ford

I'm not renowned for my love of animals. I'm that strange breed of human that just doesn't get it – why would someone want to "own" another living, breathing being? (This totally excludes those wonderful animals who work for a living, like guide dogs for the blind.) I know I'm in the minority. But with those who do take on the responsibility for an animal, I have no concept of how some can then relegate a pet to the status of encumbrance, and as a result, an aggravation to the neighbours. Dogs in particular have had "bad press" recently, and I join with those amongst us who think that some people shouldn't be trusted with a stick insect for a pet, let alone "man's best friend".

Lest you should think my view of animal ownership is an across-the-board dislike of all animals, I assure you that – though I didn't want my "inheritance" – no two cats were ever more beloved than my Oscar and T.C.; and I shed tears when my old friend Sam Dog (who owned my mate Sue) died. It is some years now

since our own local Cracker and I forged a temporary friendship at DoC – taking my coffee breaks alone, Cracker and I shared many an illicit biscuit as we kept each other company in our enforced isolation. Buster, Missy and Snow are four-legged acquaintance whose company I enjoy these days. So no, I'm not an animal-hater, but I am very much against the lackadaisical approach of some of the owners of our local canine population.

Before you decide that a cute puppy would be a wonderful Christmas addition to your household, for the sake – firstly, of your dog, and – secondly, for the sake of your neighbours, there are some serious matters for you to consider. First on the list is money. The cost of buying the pup is the least of it. For instance, your dog must be registered and chipped. It will need a range of vaccinations, and over its lifetime, will require other veterinary attentions, from de-sexing through to accident repair and illness care. I'm not kidding when I say that a visit to the vet can leave you \$1,000 short in your bank account. Your dog will need feeding – and if you think your growing kids take some filling, just you wait until you add up the weekly grocery bill for your dog's balanced

diet! And before you even consider buying your puppy, your property must be properly fenced (which would solve 99% of the present Wandering Dog Syndrome in the community). And something which seems to be hugely overlooked, your dog will need a range of toys. Dogs are, necessarily, on their own for bursts of time, whilst you are at work and school. Can you imagine the boredom-factor which your dog has to live with at these times? Every dog needs soft toys to cuddle, balls to chase, "rubber" bones to worry; and these toys have to be replaced often because – like children with their toys – your dog will either grow bored with same-old same-old, or break them. You will have to buy leads, collars, chains, pooper-scoopers, kennel for an outside dweller or basket for an indoor pet, kennel fees for when you go away on holiday, bedding, anti-flea and parasite concoctions - and that's the tip of the iceberg as to where your money is going to go. (Something which a responsible dog-owner should not have to contemplate is non-compliance fines - \$300 for not registering your dog? Up to \$20,000 and/or three years in jail for taking to protected wildlife? Let's

*(Continued on page 10)*

(DoC SPOT *Continued from page 3*)

It is ultimately the responsibility of the landowner to control weeds on their own property and while DOC is giving people an extra hand to eradicate some total control weeds, such as Barberry, Selaginella and Chilean Flame Creeper from their properties on Stewart Island; this does not extend to gorse and broom. If you do see large areas of gorse, broom or any other weeds around the township that need controlling, please approach the property owner concerned or Southland District Council if it's along the roadsides.

**Visitor assets update**  
*by Dale Chittenden*

The recent wild winds and heavy rains battering the island have caused havoc to most walking tracks. It started in July with heavy rains flooding tracks and causing slips, the result being the closure of several tracks. Freshwater hut was also closed due to flooding, there were major slips on the Rakiura track and both the bridge at Masons Bay hut and the freshwater swingbridge were undermined. More recent winds and rains have added to these issues with major amounts of windfalls on both the local and backcountry tracks and further slippage on the Rakiura track.

So, the visitor assets team have been flat tack trying to fix these issues and are making good progress. All DOC tracks are currently open to the public but ongoing repairs will lead into summer.

As of mid December, DOC hut wardens will be based at Port Wil-

liam and Mason Bay. This year we have Heather Petersen and John Irwin returning for a second time and also Katie Hector sharing the roles. Be sure to say g'day to our wardens as you pass through.

We now have a flash new suspension bridge at Maori Beach. It replaces the old swingbridge that had reached the end of its safe life. Thanks to John Henderson for doing a great job on the bridge and apologies to anyone who may have been inconvenienced during the replacement period.

Finally, just a reminder that when tramping through the backcountry, to be prepared for all kinds of weather and apply caution and common sense if tracks are flooded. Before heading out, check at the DOC office for the latest track conditions, record your intentions and don't forget to sign back in on your return. Remember if no-one knows where you've gone or when you're due back - they won't know where or when to send out a search party!

**Possum control underway**  
*by Letitia McRitchie*

Possum control has begun again in Rakiura National Park. This year control is occurring on the south side of Paterson Inlet and up the Anglem coast. Both these areas were first controlled in 2003 and with a four-year-rotation, they receive control again this year. When possum numbers were assessed at the end of the control work in 2003 they were down to very low levels: 0.6 to 2.8 possum captures per 100

trap nights. Possum numbers were assessed again in early 2007 and have increased up to 19 possum captures per 100 trap nights. So it's time to knock them back again!

The contractors are assisted by their trusty possum dogs. These are specially trained dogs for following poison lines. They receive a permit to be in the National Park and each dog has to be certified to be a possum dog. The certification process assesses each dog as to how obedient and well trained they are. To pass, the dogs and handlers have to reach a high standard in a variety of tests. For the dog this includes wearing a muzzle, walking on a lead, sitting/staying and staying while the owner is out of sight for one minute. Not an easy task for many dogs!

If the weather stays fine possum control across the Inlet will be completed at the end of December



and in the Anglem area by the end of January. The blocks are closed to hunters and anyone who goes walking in the area should see few signs that the possums have been working there. With sustained control we intend to reverse the decline of the forest canopy and allow species like rata to once again bloom across the tops of the forest. —DoC staff

**The hermit**, a 36-year old Invercargill man, spent more than a month criss-crossing the dense bush of Stewart Island, avoiding people and subsisting on food stolen from huts. (He took all of the food supply for the feral cat trappers.)

He first raised eyebrows at the Hotel, when he rocked into the Pub in early September with a bunch of town-purchased beers and proceeded to whip the tops off his Steinlagers in front of the Hotel owner. He became increasingly obnoxious,

and the cop finally escorted him to a room at Shearwater to settle down. He then broke a window there, and disappeared *into the wild*, leaving all of his belongings at the backpackers. His route, traced dot-to-dot style by various sightings

and hut break-ins, covered an estimated 150 km and included Doughboy, Table Hill, and, finally, Abrahams Bay where he was found bootless, hungry and foul-smelling. He has since been hospitalized with gangrenous feet.—*Editor*

## PENALTIES FOR DOG ATTACKS

The recent fatal kiwi attack by a dog has resulted in inquiries being made as to action that might be taken in respect to the offending dog, and/or its owner.

The owner of any dog that does attack any protected wildlife, and causes serious injuries, or death of that wildlife, commits an offence and, on conviction, is liable for imprisonment for a term of up to three years, or a fine of up to \$20,000, or both, and the Court shall make an Order for the destruction of the dog unless there are exceptional circumstances, that does not justify this destruction.

Where any dog is at large and is an immediate disturbance or threat to any protected wildlife the property owner, or any constable, dog control officer or dog ranger, acting with the consent of the property owner, may seize or destroy that dog.

The Southland District Council has a zero tolerance Policy relating to wandering dogs on Stewart Island, and has initiated random patrols to intercept offending dogs.

I would appeal to all residents of Stewart Island to report all incidents of wandering dogs, or where dogs act in a threatening manner, to Council's Dog Control Officer.

—*Lindsay McKenzie*  
Group Manager, Regulatory Services  
Southland District Council

### Marriage Counselling and Therapy

*sent to us by Jo and Andy*

A husband and wife came for counselling after 15 years of marriage. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the 15 years they had been married. She went on and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured over the course of their marriage.

Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and, after asking the wife to stand, embraced and kissed her passionately. The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?"

The husband thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I fish."

## Rakiura Reminiscence

*by Richie Afford*

*I wrote to you previously about my first trip to the Island at the beginning of 1940, with promise of a follow-up contribution of my next visit and more particularly my third visit.*

I kept laying onto my wife what a wonderful and unique island was New Zealand's third gem until in exasperation she insisted I share some of my experiences with her. And so it was we spent two wonderful weeks early 1975 staying at the boarding house on the hill above Oban and we explored every nook and cranny of the area. But one experience was missing and that was a return trip to Mason Bay. Consequently I determined to return the next year with friends to accomplish that.

In the meantime the boarding house had burnt to the ground so we sought out a cottage on the hill above Thule through the auspices of the shop proprietor who we nicknamed "Mistress Niven" due to her striking resemblance to the nurse in the T.V. show "Dr Findlays Casebook." She was very interested in the local native flora and in discussion said she was the proud possessor of a hanging basket with that lovely trailing *fuchsia procumbens*. This caused a great deal of merriment among our friends due to the fact the said lady (with due respect to her) had a rather prominent nose and whenever we called for stores we would ask the welfare of her procumbens.

Now travel to the island if not by boat was by float plane and due to weather conditions we alighted at Thule to be met by the local constable, as was his wont. It occurred to me that if we wanted to hire a boat to take us up to Freshwater, who better to ask but the local cop. He leapt into action, asked where we were staying, a cottage well-named "Manurere-I-Runga", "The House Above the Flight of the Birds", and said he knew the very man to take us. Incidentally during our stay one of our greatest pleasures was to watch the sun go down in the West in fiery splendour whilst the birds winged out over the saddle into the dusk of Paterson Inlet. We had no longer settled in when the cop was on the doorstep to instruct us to be at the wharf within the

**—To our surprise the cop accompanied us on the journey, not because he doubted our intentions, but rather to accept his commission in the way of whiskey—**

hour. Imagine the consternation having to organize our packs and provisions for our days in the wild. One disappointment was the fact we would have to forfeit

the lovely river to Freshwater due to silting, and would have to settle for Fred's Camp.

To our surprise the cop accompanied us on the journey, not because he doubted our intentions, but rather to accept his commission in the way of whiskey. Of course the day was getting on and despite the long twilight we would have to get a move on to reach Freshwater Hut before dark, and the fact our friend had a wonky knee did not help the situation. I was on the point of deciding we would have to bed down in the open when

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project: New Phase**

*by Kari Beaven*

*So how many rats and possums are actually left?*

We've been running traps at Ackers point for four years now, along the main part of the peninsula for three years and two years right in the township. There have been some outstanding results (like a 230% increase in the numbers of bellbird and tui recorded in our bird counts, a growing Stewart Island weka population stalking our streets once more, reports of favourite rose bushes and fuchsia doing so much better than in the years before combined, local possum control).

In comparison with 'the early days', very few possums and rats are showing up now on each rotation, much to the frustration of keen trappers! So does this mean we're keeping on top of them, or are some sneaking under the radar? To date it has been important to focus our effort into trapping and

watch the 'indications' around us for the results (e.g. bird counts, penguin monitoring), after all, the 'indications' were the reason we started acting.

The time has come to look deeper. The animal pest team in DOC has generously looked into the layout of the peninsula and devised a monitoring programme for possums and rats which closely models the government's national protocol. Basically, it'll give us a pretty reliable test of what's still out there, and how this changes with the seasons and our rotational trapping efforts.

Monitoring for rats will involve following a line of tracking tunnels through the bush. Tracking tunnels, often called "run-through tunnels", are open at both ends so rats can run straight through. An ink card is placed in the middle and checked the next morning to see if foot-prints show a rat has run through the ink during the night. Of course not every rat will run through a tunnel. Instead, we

will get an index that can be used to show us how safe our local wildlife is from being eaten.

The HMB school students might remember setting out tracking tunnels as a project last term. The tunnels can double-up as a good way to check on insects, lizards and other interesting, small critters out there, and the students were getting pretty skilled at telling the difference between lizard and weta foot prints (which is not as easy as it sounds) all without having to touch anything that has hairy legs!

If anyone is interested in running a line or two of tunnels (*for those averse to rat-contact, looking at footprints rather than rats themselves might appeal*), please get in touch. Walking fitness is required, though no-one dictates how fast that means!

We'll keep up-dates in *SIN* about what we find and what it means for the future of wildlife in the restoration area.

*(MASON BAY Continued from page 6)*

my wife, being fitter than me, rushed ahead and spotted a curl of smoke arising in the distance and a man appeared from the hut. She called out to ask if there were any spare bunks and being told *No* said in that case she would sleep with him. In the event he was the local park ranger and the only other occupant and as he happened to be a serious snorer gave occupation to my wife to prod him regularly with a broom handle.

All this aside, we accomplished our adventure to the Bay which included coming upon a large kiwi in the middle of the track which retaliated vigorously when we tried to pick him up. Unfortunately I had arranged for the ferryman to pick us up again two days hence so that as I was determined to return to the Gut-

ter our time was at a premium and our hike that day and return to Freshwater was long and tiring.

We collapsed into the hut, disrobed and hung our wet socks from the mantelpiece. The ranger was still in residence and was far from impressed when the said socks fell into the billy of tea.

**—The ranger was still in residence and was far from impressed when the socks fell into the billy of tea—**

Right on time next day our ferryman returned to Fred's Camp accompanied once again by the friendly cop and copious supply of whiskey, which got me thinking whether I had missed my vocation, for one thing seemed certain and that was that the life of the Stewart Island cop must be sinecure.

—Richie Afford

*Best wishes to all those who live on the island!*

**THANK YOU STATE INSURANCE FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF THE HALFMOON BAY HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT ON STEWART ISLAND/ RAUWHA. STATE HAVE AGREED TO SPONSOR OUR INSURANCE COVER FOR THE 2007 / 08 YEAR, FOLLOWING TWO YEARS CONTINUOUS INSURANCE SUPPORT. THEIR INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY PROJECT ALLOWS US TO INCREASE THE RESTORATION WORK AND ENSURES THE VALUABLE USE OF THE PROJECT VEHICLE LONG TERM.**



## Southland District Council and Right House Announce project to “Green” Stewart Island Power Supply

SDC and meridian subsidiary Right House have launched a project to replace the current diesel electricity system with renewable generation.

Right House specialises in providing energy efficient solutions to the built environment.

The Council’s Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA) network manager Peter Thompson said renewable energy was the best possible solution for Stewart Island and was in keeping with its natural heritage and native environment.

“This ‘green’ Stewart Island project will help lower carbon emissions while providing Islanders with a cheaper, sustainable replacement to meet their energy needs,” Mr. Thompson said.

“We see renewable energy systems as the way of the future and are considering options to introduce renewable generation in other areas, including footpath lighting and council workplaces. Right House has really come to the fore with this proposal and we’re excited to have this opportunity to work closely with them.”

The work will be carried out by a combined team

from SDC and Right House, with assistance from Elemental Energy and Environ Fuels.

Elemental Energy is a company that sells, installs and maintains small scale renewable energy systems nationwide. Environ Fuels is a Te Kuiti based firm that specialises in producing bio diesel from sustainable oil seed.

Commencing in January 2008, the project will determine where energy efficiencies can be obtained, identify sites to install renewable generation and commence trialling one of the existing diesel generators on a 100% bio diesel blend.

Hamish Sisson, Chief executive of Right House said “We are excited to be able to utilise our expertise to provide a complete energy efficiency solution and make a special part of New Zealand more sustainable. We look forward to delivering this project with SDC who we value as a forward thinking Council.”

For more information contact:

Peter Thompson  
Manager Area Engineers, SDC  
(03) 211 2502 or 027 2960283  
or 0800 732 732

Alan Seay  
External Relations Advisor,  
Meridian  
(04) 381 1243 or (021) 494 475

Or go to [www.righthouse.co.nz](http://www.righthouse.co.nz)

# THE FERNERY

Visit one of the Island’s loveliest gift shops.  
Located on Ayr Street (up the hill toward Golden Bay, past the cop shop, on the left)  
**Open daily 10:30am-6:30pm**

the people in your neighbourhood

## Meet Mandy G

Mandy Groshinski, or Mandy G as most people call her, is the new member of the Miro Crecent clan. You’ll often see her out and about with her Jack Russel Koru, when she’s not busy guiding for Stewart Island Guided Walks.



Living on Stewart Island certainly wasn’t on this years agenda for Mandy; however, it’s been a wonderful side-track! Mandy and her husband Daman purchased a yacht in Bluff early this year with full intentions of sailing into Fiordland. However, as all charts on board the yacht at the time were of Stewart Island they decided to take a quick detour... and as yet, Fiordland still awaits (Kevin Schofield has a lot to answer for!!)

As Mandy G grew up in the back blocks of Gisbourne, bush and steep wild country is what she loves, while Daman from Northland loves the ocean and everything related to water. Stewart Island met both their needs and is considered “Just perfect.” Having both worked in remote Fiordland for the past two years, Stewart Island is like a thriving metropolis for the pair — they love it!

Working as an occupational therapist for 12 years prior, Mandy G leapt at the chance to give up her 9-5 job that often had her office-bound, and head bush. Her knowledge of the native bush and birdlife was instilled at a young age by her grandfather, so it’s the human history of the island she has been busy soaking up. The locals have been just great offering their knowledge and Mandy G’s looking forward to her season with Stewart island Guided Walks and lots of fun times ahead. Housewarming party...still to be confirmed!



**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.**

The first phase of penguin field work was completed by early this month, with searches for nests on the Bravo group, Codfish Island and the Anglem coast of Stewart Island having been carried out by Trust staff, DOC staff, and volunteers.

Joanna Wright, who was employed by the Trust to be the Bungaree-based field assistant last season, has returned for another go, hoping to see some sun and some penguin chicks this time!

**Remember last season that all bar one chick died by mid December and the last chick died in February.**

Only 13 nests were found along the Anglem coast, a decrease from 20 nests found along the same stretch of coastline last season. There was evidence at some sites that "extra" birds were around, and it is possible that a nest or two was missed on the initial search, but we can expect to pick these up over the next few weeks. We've managed to miss one or two nests during the initial search each year, but not as many as seven, so it does seem that breeding numbers are down this season.

There was a small decrease in nest numbers on the Bravo group; 17 nests this season where there were 20 last season. Once again there was evidence of there being "extra" birds about, so this decrease in nest numbers found



**Joanna and Pred returning from a trip up the coast**

may not necessarily indicate a decline in numbers.

36 nests were located in Sealers Bay on Codfish Island. This is a few more than we have found to monitor in the past, but not because of an increase in numbers. In past seasons nest searchers have kept looking until they found a sample of 25-30 conveniently located nests, whereas this year we had more time and did our best to find the majority of nests. Even so, it is likely that there are more still as we ran out of time to thoroughly search the last remaining site.

Joanna and I are hoping to be kept gainfully employed watching fat, healthy, fluffy chicks develop into fat, healthy, feathered juveniles that venture out to sea in late February or early March. The next few weeks, until mid-December, will be a crucial time for the chicks as in the past most of the chick deaths have occurred within

the first 3 weeks of hatching, and by the end of November we should have a feeling for how well they are doing. Up-date available in next month's SIN!

Sandy  
**Sandy King**  
**Projects Officer Southern Islands**  
**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust**  


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

**The organisers of this Casino Night Fundraiser for the Stewart Island Community Centre would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:**

- Aurora Charters*
- Church Hill Café*
- Classic Clothing*
- Department of Conservation*
- Diacks Nurseries*
- East Road Pets*
- Glowing Sky*

- Hair & Around*
- Halfmoon Bay School*
- Kai Kart*
- Living Space*
- New World Supermarket*
- Paper Plus*
- Resene*
- Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre*
- Ship to Shore*
- Slow Builders*
- Southern Adventures*
- South Sea Hotel*
- Stewart Island Experience*
- Stewart Island Flights*
- Thompsons Furniture*



**Robyn poses in the Community Nursery tunnel house.**

**The Nursery BBQ coincided with the Scavenger Hunt, so the hunt items included a native plant from the nursery. All visitors to the nursery were given a free weeding kit.**

# the GALLEY



Sue Ford came across this recipe in an old cookery book:

## Preserved Husband

Be careful in your selection of product. Do not choose too young or immature. When selected, give your entire thought to preparation for domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in a pickle, others are constantly getting them into hot water. This may make them sour and sometimes bitter. Even poor varieties may be made sweet and tender by garnishing with patience, well-sweetened with love and seasoned with kisses. Store well-wrapped in charity. Keep warm over a steady heat of devotion. Thus prepared, they will keep for years.

(DOGHOUSE Continued from page 4)

not even go there!)

A second factor is time. You will need time to train your dog, time to groom and care for it, to exercise it, to play with it, and to show it the affection that every pet deserves. You will need a heart overflowing with love and enough left over to spare from your human family to share – in cuddles, pats and caresses – with your canine family member. And talking of time, remember that you are going to be expending all this time, love, effort and cash for the foreseeable future. Many well-cared-for dogs of many breeds can easily live for fifteen years, and as they age, will require even more of your attention – and your cash.

To own a dog is a major decision, grave and far-reaching for your whole family. If you can't afford the huge expenditure, or if you live a life-style taking you often from home, a dog should not be an option in my opinion, for your household. For the sake of the wildlife for which our home-island is famous, for the peace of our neighbours on whom we rely in our relative isolation, but mostly, for those wonderful, funny, engaging, loving and trusting dogs – please make sure that you **plan** properly to buy a dog. Or you may find that it is you, the dog-owner, who is in the dog-house!

—Sue Ford



Last month, Vicki organized a Hawaiian-themed Scavenger Hunt and the proceeds (\$210) went to the Library. Mahalo to Vicki and all those

who participated—it takes a lot of aloha spirit (and spirits) to wear the tropical island gears on a less-than-tropical island day. Best dressed team was Brett and Kate, and the overall winners were Andy Hamilton and his crew (he was the only one who actually agreed to shave his beard for the cause!) Cheekiest interpretation of requested items go to Richard and Carolyn Squires, (don't ask what they brought for a "surfboard") and best sand castle builders go to Rod and James.



Fans of the delightful Lillian Beckwith will be happy to see six of her books now on-shelf. We have heaps of new books.

We have a new face at the library: Libby will be doing her work-study there on Wednesdays and Fridays and we are very happy to have such a bright young helper!

We now have an archive of *SINs* at the Library, ask at the desk if you'd like to look through them.

Thanks to Beverley O., Helens B & C, Vanessas A & T, Sue M., and all the other generous donors of books.



Visitors welcome. Our hours are Monday 6:30-7:30pm; Wednesday 2-3pm; Friday and Saturday 11-noon.



## Public Meeting with YHA New Zealand

The Youth Hostels Association of NZ is inviting all residents to a public meeting **10.30am Sun 25 Nov at the Pavilion.**

The purpose of this meeting is to outline future plans for a YHA hostel development on Stewart Island.

“We are committed to ensuring that any hostel development happens as part of rather than apart from the community, and this meeting reflects that commitment” said CEO Mark Wells.

“It is an opportunity to hear first-hand of our plans as part of a process of directly engaging with the local community”, he said.



**Stewart Island Senior Citizens** (SISC) Christmas Luncheon will be held at the South Seas Hotel on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00**



Halfmoon Bay Halloween

## KAI KART

*Fish n chips, fried mussels, burgers and more!*  
Visit the wee blue building located on Ayr St. next to the Museum.

As of December the Kai Kart is **open daily 11:30-2:20 and 5-9pm**



ban lobetrotter *off-Island Adventures will return next month. Share your adventures with us! !*

## BOOK REVIEW Talking Books: “Going to St. Ives” by Lee Blessing

by Sue Ford

*As I was going to St. Ives, I met a man with seven wives. Every wife had seven sacks. In every sack were seven cats, and every cat had seven kits.*

*Kits, cats, sacks and wives: how many were going to St. Ives? Old English riddle.*

I can't understand why more people don't love our library's collection of talking books. The housework passes more quickly, and at quieter times - with sewing or craftwork - you can listen without your eyes leaving your task, which is not the case if you are in front of the TV! And you can 'Pause' the disc or tape if interrupted, something you can't do with your TV or radio. However, "Going to St. Ives" required that I stop altogether and give the story my complete attention.

Told as a stage dialogue between Dr. Cora Gage (Caroline Goodall) and May N'Kame (L. Scott Caldwell), we find in Act 1 that May is in England - at St. Ives, to be treated by ophthalmologist, Dr. Gage. May is the revered mother of her country's cruel dictator - cruel beyond imagining as May tells us in ghastly detail. However, Cora has her own agenda in treating May N'Kame - she has a favour to ask. As May's story unfolds over the willow-patterned tea cups, so we find out Cora's story too - featuring parallels. It seems that May

wasn't the only one 'going to St. Ives'! Then comes the shock - May can help Dr. Gage, but in return, she needs a favour of a very different stamp! Act 2 is the outcome of Cora Gage's decision, has a different set of circumstances, but is equally shocking.

The story unfolds with much dark humour and a lot of wit. The women are wives and mothers, but - we think - from completely different standpoints: black versus white, youth versus maturity, apparent resignation versus desperate hope, for instance. The pathos is strong as the women reveal their deepest secrets to each other - and to us. The endgame, however, shows - on a most personal level - the truth of the adage that 'we are all sisters under the skin'. It made me think all kinds of profound thoughts: that perhaps we each have our personal St. Ives', and that the riddle of our different lives is how each of us makes the journey - both to and from. For of course, the answer to the old riddle is that only one was 'going to St. Ives' - the man, his wives and their burdens must, therefore, have been **coming from** St. Ives. The only thing that the two parties have in common is the road itself - but how differently each of us perceives the road! And those of us who meet along life's road should be aware of the impact we may have, even unwittingly, upon each other. Heaven forbid that any of *us* should ever be a Cora Gage or a May N'Kame - life is complex enough!

# The CRAFTEE COD

*Cos we do crafts, tees and fishing charters!*

**Bookings for Lo Loma Fishing & Stewart Island Tees on sale**

**Opening Hours:**  
**mon-fri 10-4**  
**sat 11-3**

**located in Island Transport building**  
**(between SI Backpackers and Community Centre)**

**crafts by Bev, Beverly, Tracey, Vanessa, Ron, Helen, Kate and Vicki**  
**Coming soon: crafts by Jenny, Laura, Sue, Jo and Amber!**

**Competition! Guess the number of shells in the bottle! Win the bottle plus a shirt of your choice! Excellent Xmas gifts! 2 guesses per person, drawn on 1st Dec**



Foveaux Freighter with dolphins.

## STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

This year the Christmas Luncheon will be held at Church Hill Restaurant at 12.00 on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. \$5.00 Lucky Dip.



### Halfmoon Bay School job vacancies:

**School Cleaner** start ASAP  
 Approximately Six hours/week during term time  
 Six hours/fortnight during term holidays  
 Twelve hours summer holidays

### Teacher's Aide

2 positions to start late January  
 Position One: 20hrs/wk during term, special needs and care giving.  
 Position Two: 5hrs/wk during term, reading & writing

*Qualifications and experience are not necessarily required, you just have to be the right person for our kids and our school.*

### Minute Secretary for Board of Trustees

Involves taking the minutes at our meetings (eight two-hour meetings per school year), typing them up and distributing them to all Board members.

**Contact Kath at School or phone 2191 179 for more details.**

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com**  
**The deadline for the next issue is 13th December.**

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

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

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

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