

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

November--December 2012

\$2.00



a week-long workshop sharing his expertise with the the Rakiura Museum (p13).

Does this island contain a **space alien portal into the fifth dimension**? One recent visitor seemed to think Rakiura National Park might have a more exciting entrance than an anchor chain sculpture. The man spent a couple days harassing and photographing people around the place, and then he threatened a business owner and her establishment with extreme violence and arson. The cop was contacted and the man has departed but threats continue from afar, along with a promise to return (with attack dogs) and buy property here and save Rakiura from the resident non-space-alien-enthusiasts. Should we laugh? Should we be alarmed? Could be worse ... I can't help but think of Bugarach, a tiny bucolic French village in the Pyrenees which has become a mecca for New Age UFO-seeking Armageddonites (p10).

Congratulations to Ozzie Pete and Penny on **A Local's Tale** which premiered here in true island style. The narrator—a dog—sat waiting in a truck parked outside for his chance to walk the red carpet which was lined with road cones and fishing rope. The film itself almost didn't make it in time: the director had to dash across the Tasman Sea and Foveaux Strait to deliver it personally, arriving while the first guests were sipping bubbly and fiddling with the popcorn machine in the lobby and the director was ducking into a side door with the red carpet rolled up under his arm. Ex Island crayman Bruce Hopkins of LOTR fame introduced the film to the excited audience whose attire ranged from swannys and gummies to heels and possum fur. *A Local's Tale* is 40 minutes of truly entertaining island history filled with footage of numerous Island friends, and the last few minutes during the credits are priceless. A must-see! Check out their Facebook page Stewart Island Bunkhouse Theatre for more information.

We've had some interesting **visitors** recently. Some seeking knowledge, some instructive, and one bent on destruction. You may have met Lindsay Olsen, a 23-year university graduate from Homer, Alaska who won a fellowship to tour around the world investigating different fishing industries and communities (p5). Francois Leurquin, a conservator, led

**Gala Day** was a massive success. Everyone enjoyed the horizontal bungee, silly bikes, baking, and prizes. The book auction run by Bill Todd was exciting and some books sold for over \$200. Rugrats raised a record (for Gala Day) over \$2,500. The Heritage Centre raised over \$2,000! Congratulations to Luke Simeon who won the **Stewart Island Man of the Year** competition



The crowd hoots and hollers as men line up to remove a bra from a mini-skirted headless mannequin on a table littered with filleting knives ... I couldn't help but wonder if the German tourists next to me thought they'd stumbled into a surreal horror movie. Gala Day was great fun and the Stewart Island Man of the Year competition excellent entertainment, see inside for more info and pix. There is never enough room in *SIN* for photos, and our b&w format doesn't do them justice, so check the photo albums of the Facebook page **Stewart Island Events** which I will be using as a repository for extra *SIN* pix.

(runners up were Cody Squires and Lumpy aka Heath Allen). They had to chop kindling, undo a bra one-handed, fillet cod, shuck paua (and eat the guts) (and keep them down) for extra points, and jump in the pool. The end was a draw and deciding factors were a gumboot throw and the horizontal bungee.

Well done Years 1&2 who triumphed at the **soccer game** in town! (More next month).

Coverage of **Gareth Morgan's proposal** to help fund a plan to eradicate pests here is on pages 6-9. The drop box at the shop collected a

majority of *Yeses*. This is not a green light to blitz the Island with poison but a nod for Gareth to help us fund a study to see if and how pest eradication is feasible here. If you haven't read Brent's rat paper it's available on the SIRCET website.

We're getting some scorching hot days and on a few recent occasions I've had to wait *in line for almost 45 seconds* at the shop. **Summer** and the busy season are fast approaching.

Finally: Welcome home, **Grim!** —Jess

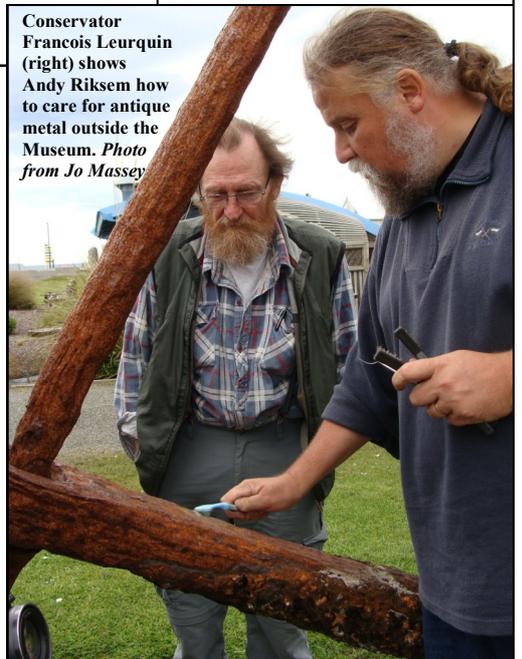
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Conservator Francois Leurquin (right) shows Andy Riksem how to care for antique metal outside the Museum. Photo from Jo Massey



Thanks to everyone for making our Labour week-end Gala Day a huge success. The market area was packed shoulder to shoulder by 9:45am and things just got busier from there. Rugrats raised over \$2,500 on the day and hopefully some of the other community groups also raised some funds. The crazy bikes and heritage book auction were great crowd pleasers. Congratulations to Luke Simeon for taking out the Stewart Island Southern Man competition, a well deserved and gut wrenching performance. The Gala Day raffle was drawn last week: 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Cave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Cavanagh, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lauren Tozer. The children's raffle will be drawn once all the tickets have sold.

Since our last update in June, a couple of things have changed at Rugrats, although we hope some of them will only be temporary. We are now running on a new license in order to comply with the Ministry of Education regulations and to continue operating. This includes an under 2yr old session on Monday mornings and our Tues/Thurs/Fri sessions extended till 1:15pm. Sadly our Tuesday – Friday sessions no longer include Under 2yr olds.

This new format is not what we want or need for our community in the long term and it saddens us to know there are children unable to attend the Centre because of it. Our priority has always been an all inclusive community

centre and so we continue to negotiate with the Ministry. Trevor Mallards visit in September was extremely encouraging and since then has set off a chain of talks between Mr Mallard, Eric Roy, and the Minister of Education Hekia Parata which we hope will see logic and common sense prevail in the very near future.

The amount of support that Rugrats has received in the last 6 months; emotional, practical, and financial, has been overwhelming. A huge big THANK YOU to all those individuals and businesses who have helped us out in one way or another during a particularly challenging year, we are extremely lucky to be part of such a supportive community. *Jo Learmonth*



Above Right; Jack Frew walks the red carpet at the premiere to *A Local's Tale*. Above left: Halfmoon Bay School mums Bonnie and Kath get popcorn at the Bunkhouse Theatre. Below: Big Tim and wee Ben look on as Meg gives Jax "Funky Hair" at Gala Day. (Jax, a visitor from Christchurch and owner of Manscape salons where men get tidied up, was good humoured about having the hairdressing tables turned).



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Rugrats (Stewart Island Early Childhood Centre) Fundraiser, Support Local and Help the Environment



**GREYMOUTH PETROLEUM**  
**Wishing You a Red Hot Summer**

Dear Residents of Stewart Island,

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all in your wonderful community for your support through our Horseshoe-1 drilling project.

The great Southern Hospitality experienced by our team is unsurpassed. You have set the bar high.

Tom and the boys had a great time on the island and we hope that the reconstructed causeway at Horseshoe Bay will be of benefit for all.

Best wishes for a great summer. We look forward to seeing you all soon !

Regards,  
 The Greymouth Petroleum Team

**Stewart Island Patchwork Group**

by Pat King

The final meeting for 2012 will be held at the Fire Station on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 11a.m. to 3p.m.

There will be a display of some of the quilts made by members over this year. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a look at them.

We have made over 80 mini quilts so far this year and they have already been sent to the Neo-Natal Unit at Southland Hospital. This is an ongoing project as the mothers can take their quilt home if they wish to.

Special thanks to Vicky and the Pub Quiz Night and to everyone who has donated material to be used in the making of these quilts.



Dunedin Hospital, Ward 8C, 15 September  
 The oldest kid ever visited by the All Blacks in Hospital:  
 Ben Smith, Same Cane, Loosie Twaddle, Brodie Retallick, Wyatt Crockert.

**Scattering of Sam**  
 8<sup>th</sup> December 2pm  
 The Pavillion, Stewart Island



We invite you to join us on the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sam's passing to scatter Sam's ashes.

(Barry's kindly let him live at his place for the last four years and although Sam would have been proud of our procrastination, it's probably time!)

Meeting at the Pavillion at 2pm, we will drive and scatter Sam in some of his favourite places before returning back to for a yarn, a beer and Billy the Bus.

*All welcome.*

I thought you and your readership might be interested in Michael's [Tobias] latest *Forbes* article on **Don Binney** whom we first met on Stewart Island in 2005.

Don Binney, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE), and one of New Zealand's greatest artists and conservationists, passed away September 14th. He was 72. An artist, naturalist and ecologist of international stature, Don Binney lived during some of New Zealand's most turbulent environmentally-challenged decades. His deep understanding, appreciation for, and vision of sacred Maori landscapes, and iconic, endemic New Zealand birds – in combination with the resulting conservation successes he helped inspire and sustain – all combine to make Don Binney's passing not just a tragedy for his family and countless friends, and all of New Zealand, but an extraordinary blow to both global conservation and the art world everywhere. We hope you enjoy and share our reflections on a remarkable man.

Kind Regards,  
 Jane Morrison  
 Dancing Star Foundation

**go to [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) and search BINNEY**



**Product Review:**

**The Wagner Fairburn.**

by Jed Lewis

This marvellous modern machine heats our house and hot water, cooks our food, bakes the bread, dries the washing, boils the kettle, warms the towels, plates and cat simultaneously.

Its clever design means it runs very efficiently on special fuel. This fuel can be grown in most parts of the world and is the cheapest by far for us here on Stewart Island. This fuel is carbon neutral, locally available, environmentally harmless in the event of a spill, and does not require any special qualifications to handle in bulk. It is commonly known as firewood. The Wagener can also convert waste paper, cardboard and meat scraps into useful heat.

The running costs are little hard to quantify. We light her up most days for 2 to 3 hours. This will consume about 1/2 a fish bin of firewood. Colder weather or more baking/roasting takes consumption up to a whole fish bin. We very rarely run the fire all day unless it is snowing. So our annual consumption is about 10 m3 of firewood. At \$80.00/m3 that's \$800.00. Our gas bill is negligible and power bill averages \$175.00. Our



total annual energy bill is \$2900.00. Many of you are spending much more than that just on diesel to heat the house. You are also supporting a dirty industry that is destroying the planet. I am not qualified to tell you how to live but if you want to save the world, be more self sufficient, promote employment on the island and save some money get a wood range. But there is a catch. WORK. Yes the nasty four lettered word. You may have to carry wood and empty the ash can. But if you think of work as healthy exercise you will be thin, happy and warm.

Firewood availability may be an issue. If you want wood but cannot get it please give Jed a call. I would like to assess demand. I feel firewood is key to overcoming our addiction to diesel. The island may be in a catch 22 where people think they cannot get firewood. Also no one

has geared up to provide firewood on a commercial scale due to lack of demand. Perhaps there is an employment opportunity there for someone.

I hope that this article will kick off some discussion/forum on energy efficiency. I hope to do more articles on energy efficient lighting and refrigeration. But the key to energy conservation is lifestyle. If you have something to contribute please forward it to the SIN. If you have any technical queries please call Jed at 2191494.

**Paua on Rakiura:  
a brief history: Part 1**

by Storm Stanley

Around 700 years ago the first humans to arrive on Rakiura walked up a sheltered beach, probably somewhere on the northern coast. The island they had just discovered at that time must have been an incredibly beautiful place, and, for, the crew of that first waka across the dangerous waters of Foveaux Strait a land of plenty. We don't know who they were for certain, but we can be pretty sure that these tough early Maori explorers included paua, gathered at low tide nearby, in their first celebratory meals.

For the next few hundred years, right up until the first Europeans showed up and beyond, paua continued to be an extremely valued resource for Maori. Paua occur on almost any of the coastal reef or rocky foreshore found around Stewart Island. They used to occur in very large numbers and were once commonly found exposed above the sea at low tide. This meant that paua made a very reliable and easily available food source. And what a great food source they are!

The average large Stewart Island paua probably weighs around 300-400 grammes of which 40% will be meat, though the roe and gut were also eaten by Maori. Paua meat is about 20% protein and is a rich source of many minerals and vitamins and includes the Omega 3 oils so sought after today. It takes little processing, anyone with a strong enough thumb can pop it out of the shell. Try that with a scallop or oyster!

All these things meant that not only was paua a mainstay food for the scattered Maori settlements around Stewart Island, but that any groups following seasonal harvests could travel without having to carry large supplies of preserved food knowing that the sea would provide pretty much wherever they stopped. Of course for those harvesting Titi (muttonbirds) this was particularly important. The Titi Islands can be a bit small to support groups of people for very long, particularly when bad weather struck, so paua were a core food source for them.

The importance of paua to Rakiura Maori can be seen when looking at exposed middens situated near old settlement sites. They almost invariably yield paua shell and shell fragments amongst the fish and bird bones and charcoal. Skilled Maori paua harvesters were able to gather paua using their bare hands if they were quick enough but also had a custom of dropping a starfish on to the more reluctant ones and then simply plucking them off when the paua tried to escape their enemy. More commonly a specially developed tool, the *ripi paua*, was used. This tool was shaped a little like an elongated shoe horn and was normally carved from bone or a hard wood like manuka.

A few years ago a Stewart Island paua diver and carver, Lance LeQuesse, recreated one from beef bone out of curiosity and tried it out. He found it an extremely effective tool, and interestingly the Ministry of Fisheries adapted the original *ripi* design for their official plastic recreational paua harvest promotional tool.

While paua can be eaten raw, it was more

often processed to make the tough meat more palatable. This included burying numbers of paua in earth until they became tender or by placing in fresh flowing water which would have the same effect. Cooking in either hangi or over the embers of the fire was also a usual way of preparation. One very handy technique to guarantee a delicious meal with little fuss was to hollow out a bull kelp (*Durvillea* sp) frond, place the shucked or whole paua inside, seal, and place in the fire ashes until the kelp is charred on both sides. This steams the paua and makes them more tender and means no dishes to do.

Of course this mollusc was more than just a source of food. The amazing colours and beauty of the shell made them valuable for carving as ornaments or for personal adornment. The shell colours had meaning with those tending to deep blues and greens being described as "morning paua", and the more red and pink hued as "evening paua". The paua shell is the main insert used for eyes in maori carving. The colour qualities held a number of meanings, but one of the most significant was for marae where paua shell eyes were "mata - a - ruru" or the eyes of the owl, signifying the all-seeing nature and wisdom commonly associated with that bird. In representations of the warrior the pink and scarlet coloured shells would be used to show the fierce red flashing of a warrior's eyes in combat.

Shell could also be used to inlay fish lures, where paua shell was particularly effective for attracting baraccouta. The shells were also used as a storage and mixing vessel for paint pigments such as ochre.

(Continued on page 8)

# Stewart Island community Christmas party

*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 3pm*

*Stewart Island Community Centre*

*All welcome!*

*(locals, cribbies, guests, visitors)*

**Santa!**

**Craft Corner for the kids**

**Karaoke & a Sing-song later on!**

**Brought to you by Kopi Katz Karaoke**

*BYO Drinkies*

*Please bring a plate to share for dinner*

*(Ready to eat, that doesn't need to be heated or prepared please)*

*Ring Vicki with any queries or questions*

*03 2191 498 Or 0275 211 895*

*Acts wanted to sing or mime to songs later on; don't be shy! Practise now!*

## SIRCET spring news

*by Letitia McRitchie*

Our rat trapping programme has been continuing with the help of our great volunteers and Pest Manager Denise Hayes. Rat numbers were high over the winter but have started to slow down a bit now with the tracking tunnels run in September showing rats tracking at 30% in the project area. With assistance from a Lotteries Environment and Heritage Grant and Community Trust of Southland grant, we recently set up new tracking lines outside the project area. We will run these tunnels at the same time as our existing network and this will give us an understanding of rat numbers in similar, un-trapped habitat.

With funding from the Environmental Enhancement Fund (Environment Southland) we are going to embark on estab-

lishing a weed control programme for Ackers Point. We are planning a survey of the area in December to see what weeds are out there and will develop a plan from there. If you are interesting in seeing the ackers bush up close and personal, and learning a bit more about the weeds growing in the area, send Denise an email ([denise@sircet.org.nz](mailto:denise@sircet.org.nz))

We held our AGM recently and gained a new trustee, welcome to Cherie Hemsley. We know you will bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the Trust. Sadly Margaret Hopkins resigned as Chair, she has done a wonderful job over the last six years and we will miss your knowledge and experience. With seven trustees on board we are continuing to do our core work and taking on new projects. In 2013 we will have been operating for 10 years, employing locals and working to preserve the biodiversity in our backyard. Watch this space for details of our celebratory events!

**Lindsay Olsen** hails from Homer, Alaska (home of the Time Bandit's Hillstrand brothers on Discovery Channel's *Deadliest Catch*). Lindsay's dad is a commercial wild salmon fisherman, and the 23-year old has fished with him for eight years. (When her girlfriend Leah crewed for him a few years ago his boat sank. Leah managed to get into a survival suit but Lindsay's dad was submerged and suit-less in the unforgiving Bering Sea...the Coast Guard rescued them with a helicopter and basket).

Upon graduation from Williams College in Massachusetts USA, Lindsay was awarded a fellowship to travel the globe and study fishing communities and industries around the world. Her itinerary includes New Zealand, Indonesia, Norway, and the Faroe Islands.



Photo from Bruce Hopkins

First stop: NZ. Lindsay started at the top, and met Coe Hopkins in Northland (who was her first Stewart Island connection). She worked on a mussel farm on the Coromandel Peninsula, then she stayed in Gisbourne and tackled this tongue twister: *trawling for trevali and longlining for ling*.

She chatted with Talley's staff in Motueka, and then hit the West Coast where she went whitebaiting with Jimbo and crayfished out of Jackson's Bay on the *Sea Emerald*. In Bluff she signed up for the Coastal Cleanup with Whitey, dined on muttonbird with Rewi, and met Graham Anderson. Then she crossed the Strait and talked crayfishing with Stu, went crayfishing with Colin to the South Cape, and went cod fishing with Heath and Luke, sampling paua and kina.

Like many Alaskans, Lindsay is an

unfussy, adventurous eater: she said Alaskans can put their name on a waiting list for moose roadkill, and if a moose gets hit by a car and your name's up and you're within so many km it's on you to drive to the dead or wounded beast, deal to the it, and it's yours for the eating. Roadkill doesn't sound that appetizing but she says one moose in the freezer could feed a family for a year; most of the meat is minced.

Lindsay was impressed with Stewart Island and so sad to leave that after the Fiordland Coastal Cleanup she returned with her girlfriend (who is presently cycling around the country) and they tramped to Mason Bay and on to Doughboy. This intrepid explorer has many more experiences ahead of her but so far the scholarly young fisherwoman said the highlights of her trip have been seeing the South Cape, the Fiordland coastline, and Mason Bay and Doughboy. She is presently exploring Indonesia and we wish her all the best.

—Jess

**FROM GARETH MORGAN:  
To the Stewart Island Community**

I want to thank the people of Stewart Island for extending their wonderful hospitality to me and my team when we visited in early October. We had a wonderful few days and although I was a little under the weather, I enjoyed tremendously talking to the community about the possibility of pursuing a predator-free Stewart Island. I learned a lot about the concerns of islanders about the community's economic future, including the costs of power and stopping population fall so that services can be maintained. But I also saw for myself a wide range of business and community initiatives and came away thinking what a resilient bunch you are.

My visit culminated in the meeting at the community centre where I presented some impressions from the last couple of visits I've had to the subantarctics where I've seen the results of the work done by DOC and the Australian Wildlife Service – the before and after impacts of pest eradication on Enderby, Campbell and now MacQuarie. It is absolutely outstanding in terms of the net gains to flora and fauna – something you can't really appreciate until you visit those locations. Nobody who's been there could possibly argue otherwise – which of course is why those organisations have gained such an international reputation for their work.

It was great to be shown around Ulva by the folks living and maintaining that – wonderful, the bird life was just stunning compared to the forests we are used to on the mainland.

I left the public meeting with a resolution for you to express your views on, and over the subsequent two weeks you expressed those through the dropbox at the supermarket. That resolution was;

**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**

When the results came in the numbers were 163 votes cast, 137 are in favour, 26 against. So an 84% endorsement of those who expressed a view. That's enough encouragement for me to proceed to the next stage which is to get a technical roadmap of how to achieve the predator eradication, how to maintain the predator-free status, and what the economic impact of such an initiative is expected to be on the island, Southland, and New Zealand. Currently I'm determining whether these reports can be assembled, and if that occurs they will of course then be circulated for scrutiny and discussion.

So thank you for the marvellous hospitality, and Brent Beaven of DOC for facilitating the visit, and of course for his great work in assembling the 2008 report which brought this project to the attention of a wider audience.

I will keep you informed on any progress made.

Kind regards,  
*Gareth*  
Dr Gareth Morgan  
Gareth Morgan Investments Ltd.  
P.O. Box 10068, Wellington ph. (+64 4) 494-6079

**FEEDBACK to Gareth Morgan's Proposal**



When compared to the pest eradication project of Rangitoto (And Motutapu) - Stewart Island is 174,000 hectares in land area. Rangitoto & Motutapu islands are 3,800 hectares. (Ulva Island is just 267 hectares (DoC) An Official Information Act request has revealed that Rangitoto & Motutapu Islands weren't eradicated of pests through the use of 147 tonnes of aerially applied poison bait, as DoC would have you believe. (New video clip to be released on TV WiLD, soon) All of the targeted species were detected alive, at different times, after the poison drops were completed. And, to add injury to the insult, the number of recorded bird deaths was 10 times higher than the targeted species, combined. However, the islands were eradicated of pests (though, temporarily) by trapping, shooting, and dog teams. If you want to rid Stewart Island of mammal pests, then the only way to do it is through targeted, ground control techniques. If Stewart Island is too large to be managed by ground control techniques, it must never be aerially poisoned. Aerial poisoning with brodifacoum, equates to ecocide. Here is a link to a our viedo regarding this issue: <http://youtu.be/NIBGx78mcTQ>

*Clyde Graf*, The Graf Boys  
thegrafboys@xtra.co.nz



Currently there is no plan to drop toxins on the island. This is misinformation associated with the proposal by Gareth Morgan that has been circulating.

Gareth Morgan has become interested in the potential to eradicate rats, wild cats and possums from Stewart Island and has approached the Stewart Island community for an initial discussion. If the community supports the proposal for further investigation, then Mr. Morgan has indicated that he will determine whether a more detailed plan could be developed, including an economic cost/benefit analysis. This work would then provide an information pack for further discussion.

Should the proposal be supported by Stewart Island residents, then a much broader array of people will need to be consulted, including ratepayers, hunters and other interested parties throughout New Zealand.

*Brent Beaven*



We regret that only residents of Stewart Island have been able to vote re the Dr Morgan wish. As ratepayers with a vested interest in Stewart Island we would like it noted that we find this proposal unacceptable in its current form.

We feel that it is essential that experienced Island Ecologists first study the whole ecosystem and that these people should be largely sourced from overseas to get a broad and unbiased view.

New Zealand does have some good ecologists too but all bar a few are conflicted with the current focus in New Zealand, of poison first.

Let's have a thorough study done on this unique place and then consider if there will be benefit, what the benefit might be, what the costs to Stewart Island's special biota would be, and then consider seriously using more skilled trapping and other ground methods that do not involve brodifacoum or 1080, both of which have been suggested to date.

It is essential that the cost /benefit of this be ths cost to the environment and the benefit to our special species; not a monetary view.

Stewart Island is a very special place, sure a bit more tourism might be desirable, but perhaps Dr. Morgan might rather boost the World economy and tourism would increase from that.

Poisoning to be the first Island in the World to be done with human habita-

tion, would be a grand coup for a few and an absolute nightmare for the ecology, residents and ratepayers alike.

*Regards, Mary & Lindsay Molloy*



An interesting talk by Gareth Morgan. Left me feeling a bit patronised to be honest. If this is going to be his next big project, couldn't he have tailored his talk towards us, rather than giving us the same spiel that he is to the rest of New Zealand? I mean, why does he think that the kids are here are so knowledgeable about these things? Because people like Sandy King, Sharon Pasco, the Beavens etc actually go out and DO this work and tell us about it.

Why did he decide to do this on Stewart Island? He didn't come here, spend time here and then think, that would benefit the community. He thought, I want to do this, that would be a good place. Make him look very good, won't it?

It smacks of a cheap advert on TV; Lots of other places want it, you should get in first. You've got two weeks to decide (when the initial idea was touted in the media months ago...), better chose quickly. Doesn't this smack of pressurising people into decisions?

It's going to do wonders for your economy. How exactly? Yep, it'll bring some more tourists here, but without lower overheads, locals are not be going to be able to take advantage of that and start new businesses; that is going to be left to outsiders with cash.

Won't quarantine be marvellous, a sense of occasion? And not to mention putting the already high freight costs even higher.

You could have a two year queue to get into Stewart Island, just like the Campbell Islands! Well, it's no longer going to be accessible to Joe Bloggs and his missus just thinking they might like to experience this magical place. Just the elite. Only 700 people per year are allowed to visit Campbell Island; how is that going to help US? How is this going to affect our cruise ship visitors and their \$5 each levy we have just got started?

Are all these people that are going to come to visit happy about the fact that people still hunt here, or will that be something that gets phased out next?

It would be easier for me to just get you lot on a plane and out of the way for two weeks. Nice. They ain't going to build a dam for 400 people, so don't even think about it. We might though.

The reason I live here is the community;

I'm quite happy to pay a premium for things that would cost less on the Mainland because the people who live here make this place. Take them away, and what have you got? Lots of birds and "non-locals" vying for the tourist dollar.

I don't want to talk about the domestic cat issue, that's another story. So why mix the two in your initial get-the-public talking statements?

World Heritage site is also a bit worrying. From their website:

*Who owns a site once it's inscribed on the World Heritage List?*

*The site is the property of the country on whose territory it is located, but it is considered in the interest of the international community to protect the site for future generations. Its protection and preservation becomes a concern of the international World Heritage community as a whole.*

And from the Fiordland National Park:

*The international profile of the area as a visitor destination places pressure on some of the main tourist attractions within the wider site. These pressures are being managed to provide visitor access but only where the conservation values at these sites are protected.* There are 3 World heritage sites in NZ, Tongariro, the Sub-Antarctic islands and South-West NZ. Has being a World Heritage site helped communities in those places? Might be a good idea to ask them.

A yes/no answer is a very simplistic answer to a complex problem. Do I think Gareth Morgan should pay for a feasibility study? Yes, if he wants to, that's great. Do I want rats, feral cats, possums off the Island? Well of course I do. Do I think this is the foremost problem on the Island, no.

There's a well-known saying that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. There's also a saying, don't look a gift horse in the mouth. At the moment I'm not sure which one to listen to.

*Vicki Coats*



I'm in Invercargill preparing to head down to Campbell Island next week where one of the tasks is to check whether the island is still rodent free - 11 years after rats were eradicated. I was last there 9 years ago so am quite excited about seeing for myself the changes that I'm told have occurred since the eradication!

So, the Gareth Morgan proposal....I think the vision of living on a predator free island is great, but it remains to be seen just how practical and realistic that vision is. There are many, many things to take into consideration including the sheer scale of the op-

eration, the methods that might be used, the implications (what life would be like for us) of living on a predator free island, and (perhaps most importantly) our ability to prevent reinvasion or re-establishment of any predator. If this vision was to become a reality then it would have to be maintained forever - and forever is a lot longer than 15 years (remember Ulva Island....?)!

But, a lot of things that at one time seemed impossible become possible given a bit of time and effort - think about putting a robot thingy on Mars. I liked the resolution that Mr Morgan put to the community. I can't remember the exact wording but the essence of it was asking if we want to have a more detailed look at the idea without committing to anything further. A detailed investigation into the proposal would cost quite a lot and if Mr Morgan is prepared to stump up the money to do it then I'm all in favour of that. I can't think of anyone else who would.

If he does that then as a community we must ensure that we are kept informed, and that we turn out to meetings to be informed and give feedback. The proposal might end up being unacceptable - too costly, methods we don't like, implications we don't want to live with - in which case the community needs to have a voice which is heard by the right people in the right places. Speculating amongst ourselves about what we think is being talked about, or grumbling to each other isn't very constructive or effective. Or, we might find that the issues we thought were insurmountable aren't that difficult to deal with after all, and that the proposal is supportable, or at least acceptable to the majority.

One thing is for sure, we won't know unless we give it a go! So I'd say lets look at it, keep an open mind and commit to nothing further at this time.

*Sandy King*



What an interesting paper S.I.N. is! Pua biology—and that note about Gareth Morgan's doings. My late brother Alex Traill might have questioned Gareth's philanthropy. People's domestic puss-cats—so it was put about earlier—could live out their lives, but not be replaced. That seems rather more humane than threats to gun down ALL cats, whether feral or domestic. (And there'd be a damn sight more rats in the rafters without these efficient natural rat-traps.)

Fond regards,  
*Sheila Natusch*

*What are your thoughts on this or any other Island-related topic?*  
Send to Stewart Island News PO Box 156 or to editor@stewart-island-news.com

Questions are arising after Gareth Morgan's proposal, I put a few to Brent Beaven.

**SIN: The poison question. I'm confused. A hunter recently told me he thinks 1080 has a bad rap but would be more effective than brodifacoum, but in anti-poison posts the two seem interchangeable in some minds. Is there a big difference between the two poisons?**

BB: I think it is important to be clear that there is no plan to use either of these toxins at the moment. Gareth Morgan is proposing pulling together a plan to see what would actually be involved - a road map, so that we can have some informed debate around what would actually be involved in eradicating possums and/or wild cats and/or rats.

—I think it is important to be clear that there is no plan to use either of these toxins at the moment—

There is a big difference between those two toxins. 1080 is what we call an acute poison. This means that it acts very quickly but breaks down to harmless products in a relatively short time. By acting quickly, if an animal gets a less than lethal amount, then they will get sick and associate that sickness with the bait (bit like eating some off seafood and not being able to go near it for a while). This makes 1080 a good choice for control operations (such as we do for possum control on Stewart Island), but not so good for eradication operations where we cant afford to have even a single animal surviving.

Brodifacoum is a chronic poison, taking longer to act and therefore the animal doesn't associate any sick feeling with the bait and will keep eating until death. This has made it ideal for eradicating rats from islands.

The full summary of scientific knowledge on each toxin is available off the DOC website for those who want to read about how they act, what they effect, etc.

**SIN: Could possums be considered useful as native seed spreaders?**

BB: Complete rubbish. There is a huge body of scientific evidence that proves beyond doubt that possums are having a hugely negative impact on New Zealand's forests. There is also overwhelming evidence that possums are killing Stewart Islands forests. This evidence formed the basis of the possum control programme that we have developed on Stewart Island in collaboration with the community.

**SIN: Is this all a roundabout sneaky plot to get rid of deer?**

BB: No. What DOC can and can't do is dictated by the Rakiura National Park Plan and Conservation Management Strategy. The plans are very clear on deer. These documents were developed with a huge amount of community consultation. Both these documents are available on the DOC website for those who need a bit of reassurance.

**SIN: People are concerned a day trip to town could turn into a major pain in the ass, will fishermen and boaties have to check in somewhere before they can return to the wharf? Do you foresee at all the logistics of that? Will there be a paid harbour-master sort of inspector stationed at HMB wharf and everyone gets scanned before disembarking? Have you imagined how this will work?**

—If the proposal came out to use the new gas powered traps to eradicate possums off the island would anyone be opposed?—

BB: A bit early to be getting concerned about this. Until we get a plan as proposed by Gareth Morgan, we have no real idea what biosecurity for the island may look like. My personal view is that those concerned and effected need to be involved in developing the solution otherwise it wont be practical, people wont buy into it and it will

—All that Mr Morgan has proposed is the development of a clear road map and a cost/benefit analysis. Surely this information is essential for us as an island community—

then fail. Let's wait until we see what might actually be involved before we take up arms.

**SIN: There is a YouTube video circulating made by the Graf boys that heaps of people in the community have viewed and taken on board now...The Graf boys have sent a statement to SIN along with link to this video so might be worth addressing.**

BB: I haven't seen it, but I did ring Clyde Graf for a chat. Even he could see the benefit in getting a "road map" developed and told me that they would fully support the eradication idea if it used targeted ground based techniques such as trapping for possums.

Maybe we should get a plan developed so that we could see what methods are actually on the table. When I looked at the feasibility of this in 2007, the brief was to see if it could be done using existing technologies. The answer was yes, but since that time a whole raft of new technologies have been developed. If the

proposal came out to use the new gas powered traps to eradicate possums off the island would anyone be opposed? I support the idea of Gareth Morgan funding the development of a clear road map so that we can have some discussion on what is actually proposed as opposed to speculating.

**SIN: The people totally opposed to poison use on Stewart Island: is there anything you think you can say to them to sway their stance?**

BB: It's a bit early to be writing placards and planning protests. There is no plan to use anything at the moment. All that Mr Morgan has proposed is the development of a clear road map and a cost/benefit analysis. Surely this information is essential for us as an island community if we want to make any informed decisions about the potential to eradicate these pests from Stewart Island?

(PAUA Continued from page 4)

As mentioned in previous articles, abalone species such as paua, are particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Over time Rakiura and other Maori learned by experience that too much fishing pressure would devastate their important paua reefs. They adopted fisheries management practices to ensure that each paua bed was maintained at a sustainable level. In this they were helped greatly by both the fact that their population level was comparatively low being limited by the fact that cultivation of such things as kumara was not possible in the cool southern climates, and that at iwi and rununga level they exercised complete control over their rohe moana, or coastal area.

Some of the management techniques customarily used are recognised and deployed today. The most powerful management intervention would be a complete closure, rahui, of the fishing ground for taking of any particular species which was thought to be in trouble. Rahui were strictly enforced, and sanctions taken by the rununga against offenders against any rahui could become... quite physical! Rahui tended to stay in place until the fishery was thought to have recovered.

This is mirrored today by not only emergency regulations available to the Fisheries minister but also in the ability for rununga implement rahui either voluntarily or under customary regulations. A recent example was the temporary rahui declared after the

tragedy of the "Easy Rider" sinking.

To assist in the rebuilding of depleted paua beds Maori would actively transfer paua from healthy beds to act as "mother" populations to provide breeding pools to rejuvenate an area. A number of rather clever techniques were used to ensure maximum survival rates for transplanted paua including storage and transport in fresh kelp bags. There was also an active habitat creation technique used of building rock reefs across small sandy embayments to corral paua in preferred and more sheltered sites as a food source in times of rough weather. This was done in parts of the north island and was very likely a management tool used on Rakiura.

These days of course fisheries around Stewart Island are administered and managed on everyone's behalf by the Crown using the 1996 Fisheries Act. However in recognition of the fact that southern Maori did not intend to give up their guardianship of their fisheries resources the South Island Customary Fisheries Regulations were created by the Crown. These allow for iwi, rununga and hapu to put in place measures through mataitai, taiapure and so on to recognize and provide for customary food gathering by Maori.

In Part 2 of this brief history presented in the next issue post European settlement impacts on Stewart Island paua up to the present time are explored.

Lumpy, Roddy and Ty love watching Luke choke down paua guts, but Luke has the last laugh.... photo from Liz Cave



**Funding Given for Heritage Survey of Whalers' Base**

environment SOUTHLAND  
*Te Taiao Tonga*

Environment Southland is contributing \$10,000 towards the costs of a marine archaeological survey of the 1926-1932 Norwegian whalers' base at Price's Inlet on Stewart Island.

The Environment Management Committee agreed to proposals for funding from the New Zealand Heritage Places Trust (NZHPT) at its Environmental Management Committee meeting last week.

Environment Southland, NZHPT, Te Ao Marama, the New Zealand Archaeological Association, Department of Conservation, the Southland District Council and the Invercargill City Council are partners in the Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project. Work so far has focused on archaeological sites along the Southland coast, but there were plans to extend this to Stewart Island.

While this request pre-empted those plans, there was some concern about the fact that the whalers' base at Stewart Island presently had no protection and items could be removed.

The site is considered significant due to the story it tells about early 20<sup>th</sup> century whaling by Norwegians in the Southern Ocean and the tangible evidence that still exists. This includes a concrete/wooden slipway, whale catcher propellers, the Othello hulk and a workshop Swedish boiler.

Council Chairwoman Ali Timms described the project as exciting and said she thought it was really good that the Council was involved.

The old cop wagon leaves the Island. Photo from Joanne Leask



The Museum storage room looks exactly like I imagined it would.

1) Crispy Bat wings (Nachos) \$14<sup>50</sup>  
 2) Tail of Sea Serpent w/ seaweed & Muggots  
 (Crayfish tail w/ Spring Vegetables & Rice) \$28<sup>00</sup>  
 3) Middle Piglet w/ Worm Rosti & Mouldy Milk  
 (Pork Fillet w/ Potato Rosti & Blue Cheese Sauce) \$24<sup>00</sup>  
 4) Spicy Intestines w/ muggots & toasted Gum boot  
 (chicken Curry Rice & Naan) \$19<sup>50</sup>  
 Witch's Breth -> Roasted Pigblood w/ Pirate limbs

Halloween menu at the South Sea Hotel. Photo from Kath Johnson.

**Community Centre News**

Hi All  
 Summer is about to hit us hopefully, so get the gym workout going, Tash our personal trainer from World of fitness is going to come over in the new year probably Feb so give your workout heaps so you are ready for a new one next year.

Monday night 6pm Turbo touch at the community centre, lets do it, it looks fast and fun, I have a you tube clip to watch before we start.

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November card making weekend, the social room will be available to anyone who is keen to make Christmas, or and type of cards we will have some materials,

but bring all your knick knacks and artistic talents - lots of fun and very rewarding. \$2 donation towards cost of heating and lights each day. There will be some very talented people to help out.

Clothes swap/take, any clothes you have that you would like to give away, we will have a week of it, where you can drop clothes off and take what you would like, great for kids clothes and adults. I will be 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December, the clothes left will go to the Salvation Army in Invercargill.

Don't forget to register your kids in the SDC holiday programme on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. *Diddle*

Many of us believe that it's possible—even probable—that we are not alone in the Universe, and more Life exists somewhere Out There. Some people surmise that space aliens have already been to Earth, and attribute pyramids and crop circles to their visits. And there are those who truly think that space aliens are here *now*, hovering right above us en masse, communicating with certain humans who channel their messages and pop them onto Internet sites (i.e. www.galacticchannelings.com or Ashtar Command via youtube) for believers to ponder. You might visit one of these sites for a laugh, but keep in mind there are an extraordinary number of people who takes these messages seriously, and make their life choices based around this space alien "gospel."

Have you heard of Bugarach? It's a tiny French community in the Pyrenees, population about 200, that has seen an explosion of visitors—20,000 and rapidly counting—in the past year. These newcomers are New Age "UFOlogists", who believe that the world is going to end on 21st December 2012 and that the town's home mountain contains space aliens who will whisk them to safety from Armageddon. The French government estimates more than 100,000 alien-believing armageddonites could descend on this tiny town next month, and the mayor wants the army to intervene in case of mass suicides, not to mention lack of port-a-loos and basic infrastructure.

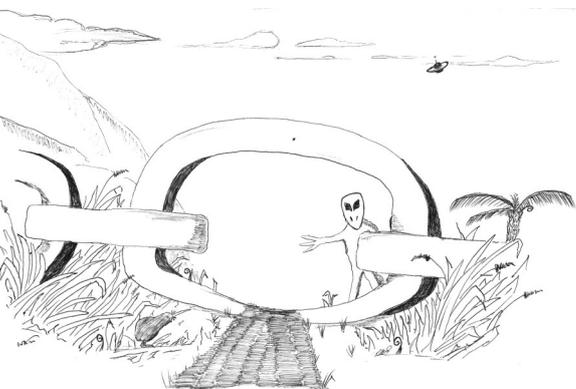
Some of these people have bought real estate there for exorbitant prices and forced up property prices. The terrain has been ruined for the original villagers who can't throw a stick without hitting white-cloaked people chanting and performing rituals on the slopes. One local businessman said his clientele used to be about 70 percent trampers; now they are 70 percent "esoterics" (the locals' word for this particular brand of New Ager). This hair-raising tale of a tiny bucolic town overrun with spaceship chasing doomsdayers raises some questions: Why 21 December 2012? It's a Mayan Calendar thing: long story involving eyeball melting cryptic equations...google it. Why this particular mountain? *Pic de Bugarach* has been known as the "upside down mountain" because rock samples from the top are older than rock samples from the bottom (there is a geological explanation for this, but hard science doesn't fly with the esoterics.)

Why this particular town? The clincher, apparently, was that several years ago, a

resident wrote in a UFO enthusiasts' journal that he heard a humming from inside the mountain, and, as the French say, *Voila. Voila* tens of thousands of New Agers in camper vans heading *chez vous*. Reading about bewildered wee Bugarach doesn't make me laugh. Can you imagine if our

lovely locale became such a destination? I pity those villagers who can no longer enjoy their own backyard; I feel for the editor of the *Bugarach Mountain News* who must be at a total loss for words; and what about those poor little French kids trying to sell 2013 calendars for their school fundraiser? And how bizarre and sad for all the thousands of people who truly believe this world is ending in a few weeks. They must be seriously stressed out. What happens on 22 December? Relief? Disappointment? A scramble online to see a recalculated new doomsday, to see what the alien-channelling websites tell them to do next? Maybe, for some, a New Year's Resolution to think for themselves?

*Thanks Matt for the artwork! —Jess*



**DOC Spot** Submitted by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor

**Volunteers leave Moturau looking smart**

Despite the miserable weather prior to Labour Weekend, Moturau Gardens are again looking very smart, thanks to Elaine Hamilton and a band of hardy volunteers, including Sandra Dalziel who has joined Elaine on this project for a number of years now. The Department is very pleased to assist the Southland District Council to maintain this community asset by providing support for the annual volunteer project and this year Andrew King and Jack Turner helped Elaine and her team to repair the pergola, weed and build up the gardens, replace a dead conifer, dig a drainage ditch, build new steps and tidy the tracks. If you haven't visited Moturau recently, then it is well worth a visit. It's a great spot for a picnic on a sunny summer's day.

**Robin research underway**

The University of Otago bird research group has started this season's robin monitoring on Ulva Island. This year Sol Heber has taken over from Bryce Musuda as the university's lead field person on the island and it is to be the last year of research into the robins of Ulva Island. Once again, the team will be attempting to map every territory, band every individual and monitor every nesting attempt. Sol reported on the 7<sup>th</sup> November that the team had so far identified 184 pairs of robins on the island and found 103 nests in total. She has reported that 43 of those nests currently contain eggs, 37 have chicks, 18 have failed (probably due to the weather we've all been experiencing these last few weeks), with a further four also suspected to have failed. Only one nest so far had already successfully fledged chicks!

**Check ensures Ulva is rat free**

It is now over a year since we completed the rat eradication operation on Ulva Island and the island continues to be rat free. DOC ranger, Miriam Ritchie spent much of last week on Ulva with her rat detecting terrier, 'Moss'. Together they completed a thorough search of Ulva and were happy to report their failure to find any evidence of rodents on the island.

**A big thank you to Winton Rotary Club**  
 Volunteers for the Winton

Rotary Club spent last week working alongside DOC staff, applying the finishing touches to North Arm Hut, which included a full re-paint of the hut, replacing old alloy joinery and lining underneath the hut. It now looks very smart heading into the summer season. Winton Rotary Club has provided ongoing support to the Department over the past 10 years, covering a range of projects from hut and track maintenance here on Stewart Island / Rakiura, to building boardwalk for the Sub Antarctic islands and we really cannot thank them enough for their ongoing efforts.

**Celebration cancelled**

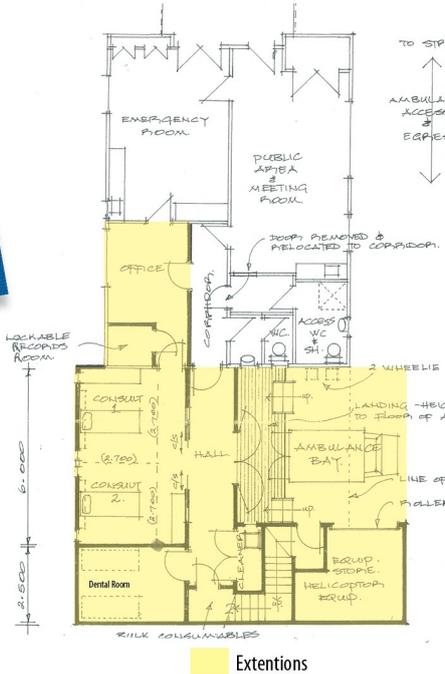
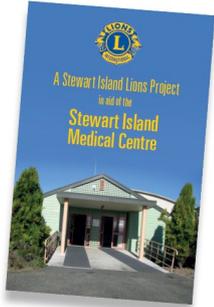
We have over the past few months advertised our intention to hold a belated celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Rakiura National Park, in conjunction with the completion of the Rakiura Track upgrade and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Rakiura Track as a Great Walk. However approaching this milestone, it became apparent that we were being overly ambitious in attempting to host an event at Port William / Pouteripo, given the logistics required to get a large number of people on site at the same time, given that we wouldn't be able to use the jetty. As we didn't want to have to restrict attendance, we have - rather reluctantly - decided to cancel this planned celebration. We would however encourage anyone who hasn't walked the Rakiura Track recently, to think about doing so. A booking system is in place for the huts (and campsites) on this track, to eliminate the fear that you may arrive to find the huts already full. The tracks have been hardened, with information provided at the huts and various sites along the way to give walkers a basic appreciation of the cultural, historic and natural heritage of the area and for those keen to get an even greater appreciation of the area, there are a number of operators who offer guided day walks on sections of the Rakiura Track, with a few also offering guided walks around the entire Rakiura Track.



**Moss on the job.**  
*Photo from Gareth Eyres.*

# Stewart Island Passports

Stewart Island Health Clinic proposed alterations



By purchasing a Stewart Island passport you are supporting these proposed alterations.

## Passports \$3.00

## Or 2 for \$5.00

(Donations gladly accepted)

Passports kindly sponsored by Stewart Island Lions Club

## New Stewart Island Passport Stewart Island Health Clinic Fund Raiser

The Stewart Island Health Committee is committed to raising funds towards the proposed alterations and extensions of the clinic.

The Stewart Island Lions Club have kindly supported us by resurrecting their original S I Passport for this purpose and have donated the first 1000 passports.

The new version is credit card size so it fits easily in your wallet or purse and is made from teslin synthetic non rip card.

It is hoped islanders and visitors to the island will get behind this project and buy one for themselves and more for friends and family! **ALL** proceeds go to the extensions.

Great as a gift or stocking filler. They will be available at  
**Ship to Shore**  
**S I Flights**  
**Stewart Island Ferry Terminal**  
Also available on the  
**Stewart Island Events page on Facebook**  
and **Trade Me**

1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5



A Gala Day highlight: Dale gets a leg up on the mannequin as his wife Mary looks on during the Stewart Island Man of the Year competition.

**HMB School News:  
The year six's  
Rural Kids Project**

*by Marley Wright*

Well where do I begin? Well from the start of course. So, everyone knows what rural means? Well if you don't READ THE FOLLOWING. Rural is more country than it is city and everyone knows that our school is rural but, there are other rural schools in New Zealand too.

Some principals from some rural schools got together at a conference in Palmerston North and made up the Rural Kids Group. (note we are

looking to make up a better name that includes the word island too)

The rural kids project is made up of rural and remote schools that have small numbers of senior students that are Year 6 and Year 7.

The schools are Kaingaroa Ki-ang-a-row-a they are on the Chatham Islands, then you have Makuri school Makoo-ri now they are up in the North Island 2 or 3 hours drive from Wellington. There are also four schools from Taranaki and one from Great Barrier Island.

The bosses (Ms J & Rachel) made a We-learn website for us kids to go on and chat

with each other. The easiest way to describe it, is saying that it is like a kids Facebook, cool ay?

The kids that are in this project are from some cool as places in New Zealand and we have been comparing our schools and our communities. One day we got asked what it was like to come from such a big school? (their school only has seven students)

Now for the part that the readers are waiting for, the class. The class is every Tuesday at 1:30 PM - I know what you're thinking... How do we attend our class? We attend class with a computer and a telephone. The com-

puter has the pictures and the telephone has the sound! Our class goes for half an hour but and we get homework like graphing all the jobs that our parents do so we can compare our parents with the other schools parents. We also have quizzes. If we want to chat in class we type messages :-)) to the others into the chat box - sometimes the teacher has to hide this because it's a bit like talking in class!

Next year in April (2013) all of the kids in the class are going to be meeting up in Wellington (and yes that does include us) to do a whole lot of awesome activities and finally meet up in person!

**Wise up to Weeds Workshop**

This is a free workshop run by Environment Southland to provide you with the skills to identify and control weeds in your garden. A must for enthusiastic gardeners, volunteers for weed programmes and anyone who is interested!

**Saturday 8 December 9-11am  
Halfmoon Bay School**

*Bookings essential*, please contact Nikki at [education@es.govt.nz](mailto:education@es.govt.nz) or phone 0800 76 88 45

**www.glenorchycommunity.co.nz** If you have a moment check out this website which Debs has shared with us. While we currently have a Stewart Island website it is for visitors not for residents. The SIN has a website with links to contacts but I'm no expert and the thing is a bit clunky (and as a monthly newsletter, the SIN isn't always ideal for updating every community function). Vicky has started a FB page for Stewart Island Events because there does seem to be a need for a current on-line calendar somewhere, as the bush telegraph and the noticeboard are not totally reliable due to weather changes etc. Anyway if you have time see what Glenorchy's doing with their site, it's pretty slick and includes most community organizations and their events and feedback. If you like what you see and feel inspired let Debs know and maybe we can rustle up some people to MIH.

Dozens of residents attended the **Inspiring Communities** workshop last month and brainstormed about where they'd like to see the Island in the future and ways to get there.



**www.stewart-island-news.com**

**STEWART ISLAND  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
*by Kirsten Hicks*

The book sale has come and gone. Hopefully bookshelves in Island homes are well stocked. The library office can now be entered without the very real risk of being crushed beneath stacks of books.

Thank you to the willing band of volunteers who lugged the cartons, harangued shoppers and generally helped raise a profit of just over \$300. We hope to spend the money on some new seating in the children's area.

We are always fortunate in receiving donated books. Recently Gareth Morgan donated the 3 volumes he had on display at his public meeting. Friends of the Library have also recently added two wonderful books to the collection:- award winning "New Zealand's Native Trees" and the stunning "Selling the Dream" (which is a historical account of the art used to promote NZ tourism).

We will also be replacing the computers shortly with new models, supplied by Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa. So we will be all set for a busy summer.



**Roller coaster ride for  
Stewart Island yellow-eyed  
penguin nest numbers**

Recent yellow-eyed penguin nest searches of Whenua Hou, Bravos Group and the Neck by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust have shown the same number of nests as last year on Whenua Hou, (39), slightly up on the Bravos and down at the Neck. As there are still some beaches left to check, the final numbers at these last two sites may increase and bring the final total up.

In other penguin news, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Ranger, Leith Thomson, is joining a DOC - led expedition to the Auckland Islands, leaving on Monday 12 November to monitor yellow-eyed penguins on Enderby Island and other locations. You can follow the progress of this expedition on the Trust website [www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)

Kind regards - *David*  
Dave McFarlane, Field Manager  
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

François Leurquin, conservator, ran a "crate workshop for the Rakiura Museum earlier this month, sharing his expertise on how to properly store the objects of the museum's collection.



Handily, the preferred storage container of museum conservators happens to be...the humble fish tub! They are the perfect size, water tight ...if god forbid a tsunami strikes Halfmoon Bay our precious heritage and priceless taonga could survive!

Here are some Questions and Answers with Francois Leurquin:

Can you tell me a bit about your background?

I was born in Ivory Coast, travelled a lot around the world following my parents to Africa, Madagascar, the West Indies. I studied in France

What did you study and what degree does one need to be a conservator?

I first studied History and Geography, then Art History and Archaeology, Architecture and Fine Arts before specializing in Conservation at the University of La Sorbonne in Paris. Initially, I wanted to be an archaeologist but after getting my Master I realized that too many students (around 3500 that year) wanted the same so I decided to study conservation applied to archaeology. At University I got interested in Ethnology and material cultures, so I decided to broaden my knowledge to the study of other cultures, especially the Pacific.



How did you come to be living in New Zealand?

At the end of Conservation Studies, all students had to find a one year internship in a Museum of a foreign country to learn a language and different approaches to conservation as well as different techniques. I was accepted by the Auckland Institute and Museum and spent one year there as intern, working on my thesis and helping the staff in the day to day conservation operations. While in Auckland, I applied for the position of Conservator at the Otago Museum and was lucky to get it. This was the beginning of my adventure in New Zealand.

How long have you been a conservator?

I have been a conservator since 1987 when I created the conservation laboratory in the Museum of New Caledonia in Noumea

Can you tell me some of the museums and groups you have worked with around the country?

Since 1987, I have worked with many places in New Zealand and abroad. As Regional Conservator at the Otago Museum, I was involved with 33 small museums and Art galleries in the region including Balclutha, Gore (Moonshine museum and John Money gallery), Mandeville, Owaka, Riverton,

Waikaia, Waikawa, Arrowtown, Cromwell, Matakura, Rakiura, Oamaru (Museum, Forrester gallery, Totara estate), Alexandra, Nelson, Waikato Museum, Port Chalmers Museum, Gasworks Museum, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin Public Library, .....

What are some of the most interesting projects you've worked on?

All projects were interesting in their own rights, most of them were complex and involved liaison with architects, engineers, builders and many specific trades. I enjoyed all of them and especially meeting and working with such dedicated and driven people.

Have you been privy to rare and valuable items that the public wouldn't normally see? What is the most exciting part of your job?

Conservators have the rare privilege to work and handle with items that very few people will have the chance to even see. This is the case of manuscripts from the Dunedin Public Library dating 10 centuries for some, or items that have been collected by the first explorers of the Pacific such as Cook and Tasman. The restoration of magnificent and rare Lapita ceramics have been a highlight in my career but all items have got their own interesting specificity and history that make them unique and fascinating.

Are you impressed with the Rakiura Museum's collection?

Like most small community based museums, the Rakiura Museum impressed by the wide

range of collections it holds that demonstrates the interest of the community for their history and their heritage. The archaeology collection is particularly fascinating as are the natural history and the botanical ones. I don't know the collections very well but what I saw was very good with some extraordinary examples. However, what I have been most impressed with in Rakiura are the people, their love for their little piece of paradise that is really worth preserving, their staunch determination to preserve it for generations to come, their dedication to do the right thing however difficult and above all their simplicity, kindness and hospitality that make all things possible and easier.

What do you think are the most valuable and fascinating objects in their collection?

I don't know the collections well enough to give an informed opinion but from what I saw I'd say that the old Maori canoe prow discovered, I think, on Mason Bay is a magnificent example of the richness and antiquity of the Island's heritage.

Are your conserving methods all learned or do you have any original techniques you've come up with over the years? Does Rakiura Museum collection pose any particular challenges for you?

However complete is one training and long one studies, it is impossible to learn all the techniques. Conservation evolves and every year new products, methods and approaches appear. Also, every item being unique in nature, shape and state of conservation, it is inevitable that your techniques and methods must be adapted to suit every specificity. Although driving principles remain unchanged, methods evolve following scientific progress, products manufacture and conservators experience.

Which do you believe is preferable for a treasure: display it to the public and expose it to potential harm; or keep it safe in a backroom and no one gets to see it?

A collection that is not shown to the public has no interest. Keeping objects inside a store and not displaying them for their preservation sake is an aberration. The role of the conservator is to find a compromise between long-term preservation and maximum presentation to the public. One of the most important roles of the museum apart from preserving is to educate using material culture as support to know the past to understand the present and create a better future.



Note: National Services Te Paerangi funded this expert knowledge exchange project. Materials were supplied via Southland Regional Heritage Committee via RMO (Roving Museum Officer) bulk purchase initiative.

PHOTOS: JO MASSEY

**BOOK REVIEW** from Sue Ford  
 “Midnight is a Lonely Place”

by Barbara Erskine

Really enjoyed this book, but first, unless you are a committed Alex Barclay fan, I wouldn't bother with his “Blood Loss” – no loss to have missed it! Kind of boring which is a shame as it had “good bones”.

Julian Barnes’ “The Sense of an Ending” is a different story – and I do mean *different*. My heart told me this wasn't my sort of tale, my head was fascinated. It was as unlike his “Arthur & George” (which I've already urged you to read) as it is possible to be, and yet – coming highly recommended from several sources, not least your Editor – I couldn't put this book down either. Written in the first person by a man of approximately my own age and starting with his early teens, there's a lot of British history I shared with him. (And I don't mean the sort of history you learn at school either!) The arrogance and false assurance of youth is brilliantly done, and the fact that he grows into a run-of-the-mill, conservative sort of adult endears him to you. And yet, some very peculiar things happen to him during that life. I suppose that the older we get, the more past we have, and if each of we

Seniors were to write our life stories, it would surprise – at least! – a younger generation, and this fascinating little story is an example. The ‘endings’ ‘sensed’ are various and differing – a clever title as well as clever writing.

“Death Under the Dryer” by Simon Brett isn't ‘clever’ in any intellectual sense – it doesn't actually sound like a very dramatic or serious crime novel, and it delivers exactly what it sounds like – a who-dunnit with a sense of humour. When retired civil servant Carole condescends to have her hair cut at the local village hairdressers, Connie's Clip Joint, the last thing she expects to come across is a body. Her next door neighbour – Jude – is the exact opposite of the control-freak Carole. Jude's only a bangle short of being a late-middle-aged ‘dippy-hippy’ – but an excellent foil for her straight-laced friend as they unravel the mystery between them. *Very* light reading but none-the-less enjoyable for all that.

I seem to be reading a lot of “formula” authors recently, and Barbara Erskine is no exception, a love story, a thriller, and a touch of the supernatural – standard Erskine. But it's still not a book I would recommend for late-night reading unless

you are without *any* susceptibilities! Newly successful author of historical biographies, Kate, has a boyfriend with an ego problem since he's not so famous as a poet. Their break-up and Kate's escape from frenetic London to the lonely marshes of England's east coast and a lonely cottage are supposed to allow her to write her next book. Marcus Severus (alive during the Roman occupation of England), his wife and her lover have different ideas. The modern-day characters are very believable, from Kate's retired farmer-landlord (dying of cancer) to his geeky teenage son, all are vaguely similar to people I think I might know – but I can't just place them. Now that's a sign of good writing even before you even consider the creepy plot and the winter wasteland so brilliantly and evocatively described. Warning: not all the ‘goodies’ come to a good end; the end isn't an ending at all, but just another turn of the wheel of fate! And if you DO read this late at night, remember the warning in the title too: midnight can suddenly become a *very* lonely place!

Barbara Erskine is definitely my pick of the bunch this month. And I'm really enjoying Ruth Rendell's Inspector Wexford books – again!



**NO GUTS NO GLORY....Stewart Island men regurgitating paua guts.**  
 Photo from Liz Cave

## Shop Talk

by Jules Retberg

### My train of thought from London Waterloo to Stewart Island

I submitted an article to a magazine recently, the subject of which permitted some indulgent reflection on my past life as a London commuter. It's not something I think about often (or have any desire to do again!) but it was an interesting exercise.

I won't bore you with too many gory details, but for twenty-something years I spent anything between two and four hours a day on a train. Each morning I would get in the same carriage; I would sit in the same seat - if I was lucky enough to GET a seat; I would see the same people; we never spoke or made eye-contact with one another. The unspoken rule of commuting is that only mad axe murderers SPEAK to other passengers!

But I digress. The article that took me down this road of reminiscence about the rat-race also led to comparisons with my life now on Stewart Island.

Here I wave to people I know and even those I don't! I have discovered that most strangers are pretty nice

people and there hasn't been a mad axe murderer among them (none that I know of anyway).

How about my commute to work? A six or seven minute stroll downhill to work and ten minutes uphill to get home, often with the offer a ride up the hill from whoever happens to be driving that way.

Instead of the radio blaring traffic and train delays through my headphones, the soundtrack that now accompanies my walk to work include Tui, Bellbird, Morepork, Weka and Kaka calls (sometimes even Kiwi) depending on the season and the time my shift starts.

I say "good morning" to every person I walk past. Admittedly this isn't always greeted with enthusiasm, but hey, not everyone is a morning person!

On dark winter mornings I love finding the ducks still asleep outside the Ship to Shore. What tickles me most about this is that they sleep within the parking bay lines!

My office in London overlooked the River Thames and it was a spectacular view. However, nothing compares to the boats bobbing about in Halfmoon Bay, a scene that never

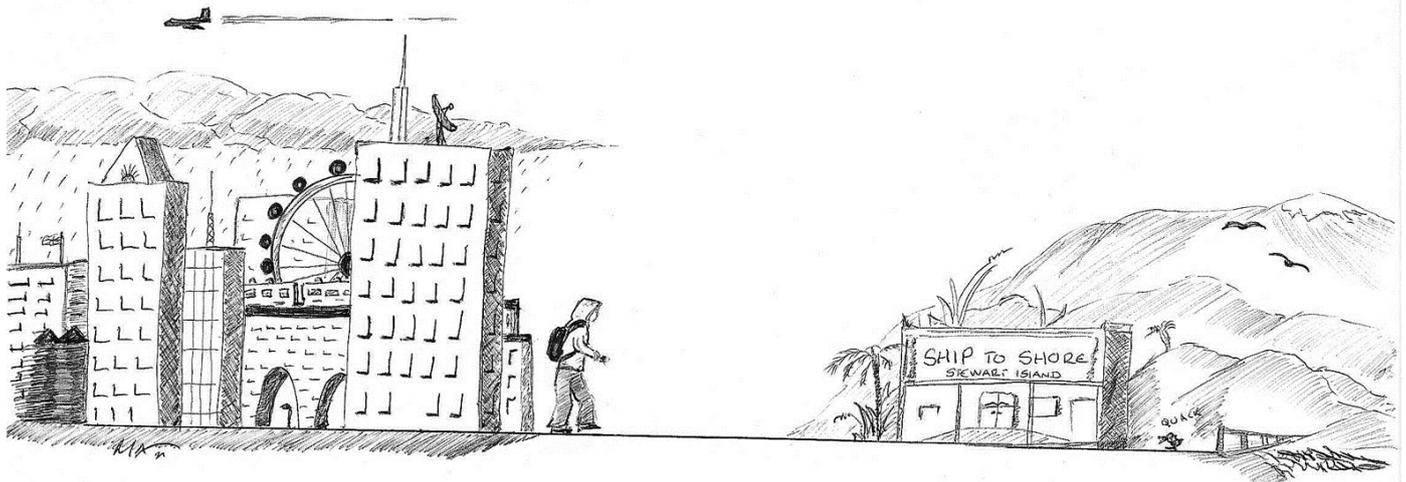
fails to put a smile on my dial. In London I was lucky if I saw a grotty old grey pigeon fly past the window. Dolphins leaping about next to the wharf on my birthday a few years ago will take a lot of beating on the happy-o-meter!

There are lots of reasons I love Stewart Island and many are probably the same things we all love. But once the busy season gets going, I for one am guilty of not looking up often enough. I must develop a blind spot or a force field or something and I just go about every day busy busy busy head down bum up ...

SO! Here's a thought. More than a million people travel by train into central London every weekday. More than one thousand people are crammed into every peak time train. Imagine that! On my last day as a London commuter, I stood at Waterloo train station watching thousands of people racing to get somewhere. I remember thinking to myself that there was more than twice the population of Stewart Island on my train alone that morning.

Now THAT is something I'm going to think about - a lot!!

☀ happy summer everyone ☀



### STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Would like to thank all the organisers of the Labour Day Gala for a thoroughly enjoyable time for all ages.

Thank you to all our customers who enabled our Kitty to be healthier by over \$200 and of course thank you to our willing workers.



To finish off the year our **Christmas Lunch is at 12.00 on the 13<sup>th</sup> December at Church Hill Restaurant**

To celebrate the New Year our home made wine will be opened and tasted at Helen Bennett's on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Happy Christmas to all from Stewart Island Garden Circle and thank you to the *SIN* Editor for such a great little paper.

# Need a Resource Consent? ... I can help!

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## Stewart Island Senior Citizens



(SISC) Christmas Luncheon will be held  
at the South Seas Hotel on  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00**  
Numbers limited.

Wendy 357 or Jenny 219

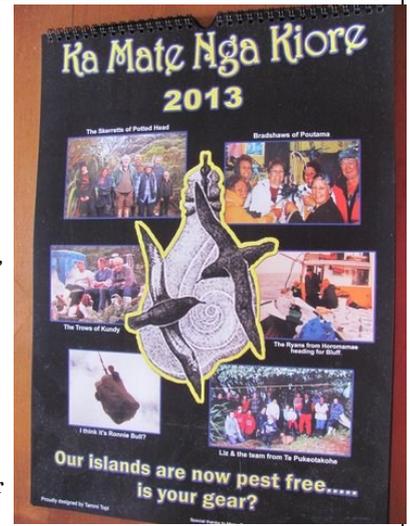
**KNIT KNATTER AND KOFFEE GROUP  
CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
WILL BE HELD AT BIRD ON A PEAR  
12.00 TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER**

### The Ka Mate Nga Kiore

calendar for 2013 is available from  
Morry Trow in Bluff. Ph 2127933.

The calendar celebrates  
on-going efforts to rid the titi  
islands of rats and features the fol-  
lowing boats: *Real MCoy, Caroline,*  
*Kekeno, Kar-reece, Southern Legend,*  
*Helga, Polaris, Supris, Miss Ger-*  
*aldine, Owenga VII* plus a feature  
on famous chopper pilot Bill Black  
and Halfmoon Bay maritime radio  
operator Maureen Jones.

Calendars are \$10 each and would  
make a great Christmas present for  
fishermen.



*This Holiday Season,  
give the gift that  
keeps on giving...  
a subscription to the  
Stewart Island News!*

## Rebecca Cavanagh

Painter & Decorator

0275204110

rc.decorator@yahoo.co.nz

Contact Becky if you need help with: painting, water-blasting,  
paper-hanging, roof painting, paint stripping, interior/exterior,  
or moss & mold prevention. She is returning to the Island in January.

Heath does the horizontal bungee.



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

**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess at  
PO Box 156, Stewart Island News, HMB Post Office  
or to editor@stewart-island-news.com**

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