

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

November—December 2013

\$2.00

Thor's been knocking on our door and I'm not talking about a trick-or-treater. **Lightening** wreaked havoc with phones and tvs around the place and scared the wits out of a few people. Can anyone recall experiencing so many thunderstorms on Stewart Island inside a month? To quote my two- and three-year old boys: *WHY? WHY? WHY?* (repeated to the nth degree). I did some investigating and while I didn't get to the bottom of the electrical anomaly I learned a thing or two, see page 8.

Attention trick-or-treaters: there's a fine line between **Halloween** style trick-or-treating and just showing up at someone's house wanting lollies. You can stay on the Halloween side by *wearing a costume*.

Beware of serious tricksters! Several locals have been scammed recently—as I was writing this I got a call from someone asking to speak with the owner of the computer in the house...I took Chris Dillon's advice and hung up. **Scammers** will call and trick you into giving up your bank details, or email you with attachments that are cyber Trojan horses filled with spyware that will royally destroy your computer and privacy. I also recently received a Facebook friend request from...myself. I reported the impersonation to FB and was impressed they removed the scammer's timeline within 48 hours. Even if you're curious don't accept a friend request from "yourself" as the person gains access to your photos and contacts and friends of friends, puts your image alongside your name and starts friending acquaintances and causing malicious mayhem. Have you received emails with subject headings "T.T. report" or "Purchase Order"? Don't open them and report them as SPAM. Please read more about this on page 4.



Victual Ritual: It's a weirdly reverent scene: what would visitors fresh off the ferry think? Are we a strange tribe that worships beer and paua? (Sort of...) Luke, Riki and Laurence (along with Pearson, Heath and Morgan, not pictured) prepare to complete the final challenge of the Stewart Island Man of the Year competition: shuck two paua, eat the guts, and chase it with a bottle of Tui, all monitored by timers behind them and laughed at by the crowd. As I type this out it sounds deranged, but trust me, if you're actually there, it's the best thing ever. (Unless of course you're one of the six guys choking on paua guts.) Congratulations to Luke Simeon who successfully defended his title and to second place Heath (Lumpy was also winner of the People's Choice) and third place Pearson.
Heaps more photos from the event inside.

The whitebait are running at Mill Creek and the deer are running at Horseshoe Bay. Strange behaviour in the natural world: the afternoon of the Man of the Year competition, a **deer** ran up and down Horseshoe Beach, first sort of racing Bonnie in her car, and then just bounding up and down along the tide line for 20 minutes or so in broad daylight.

Despite cranky weather and crackly phones Stewart Islanders have been having ridiculous amounts of **fun**. (Is it possible to have too much fun? I think I answered that question at Quiz Night when I overindulged on happy juice, tried to get the dreadful *USA* chant going during a question about rhubarb, and hollered threatening trash talk at my mother-in-law.)

The Church Hill **Melbourne Cup** party was a great time, raised \$1,000 for the Health Committee, and was beautifully captured by talented photographer Ariana Vargas.

And I don't know what's more fun than the **Stewart Island Man of the Year** Competition. Hats off to Mel, Cherie, Liz, Dids, and all the Rugrats family and helpers, organizers and competitors who made the day so totally awesome and raised over \$2,500 for Ruggies. The challenges included wood chopping; grappling; dive gear (including flippers) race along beach; bowline-tying rope-coiling rat-trap-setting race; rowing race; and the finale: paua-shucking paua gut-eating beer-chugging race. The competition was fierce and the guys were exhausted



Our new JP Sue Graham (aka Diddle) gets the official paperwork at the courthouse.
Photo from Bruce Ford

and green as paua *hua* at the end, staggering to the sea to gargle the puke and gut-bag taste from their mouths. We all went to the Pub afterwards for the award ceremony which featured a podium built with beer crates and a beautiful trophy carved by Greg Northe. I imagine this will become one of the iconic Stewart Island events every year.

Another great annual event: the **Stewart Island Christmas Party** will be Saturday 21st December at the Community Centre. If you know you are bringing your children, or if you know you will *not* be attending, please let Vicki know either way so she can sort out the kids' presents.

Experience an evening of great music: **Beyondsemble** will be performing at the Community Centre at 8 pm 23d November. **The Royal New Zealand Ballet** will be at the Community Centre at 7.30pm on 4th December.

Do some **Christmas shopping** at the Community Centre 10-2pm 7th December: details page 16.

The busy season is upon us: tell everyone about your business and support the *Stewart Island News* by **advertising in SIN**. It's a win-win! Contact editor for details. —Jess



I like Jules' comment re this visitor: "At least he's using the footpath."
Photo from Adrian Munro



Joanne Leask celebrates the Melbourne Cup at Church Hill.
pp7&10 *Photo from Ariana Vargas*



WISE UP TO WEEDS



with Amy

AFRICAN CLUB MOSS

(Selaginella kraussina)




African club moss is something of a problem in Oban. As most people know, there is a big DOC programme on the Island to help deal with it. However, if you're doing the control yourself, it is time to start spraying it on a monthly basis.

What is it?
African club moss is a beautiful soft ground cover, which likes shady moist areas.

What is the problem?
It creates solid carpets which can smother and exclude other plants. It is spread by spores and fragments. Be careful with any small pieces when you mow your lawn or pull it out.

How to control it?

- Hand weed small patches.
- Spray with straight vinegar or 20m/L Glyphosate (Roundup) monthly over the summer season.
- Completely cover with black plastic for several months, ideally over the summer.

Please contact Amy Lagerstedt at Environment Southland if you find this plant: email amy.lagerstedt@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115

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

Blind Auction

“Stewart Island – The Pride of the Southern Seas”

We have recently received this lovely little booklet to use as a fundraiser for the Library.

It has a soft cover (with room for autographs on the inside) and a cord binding.

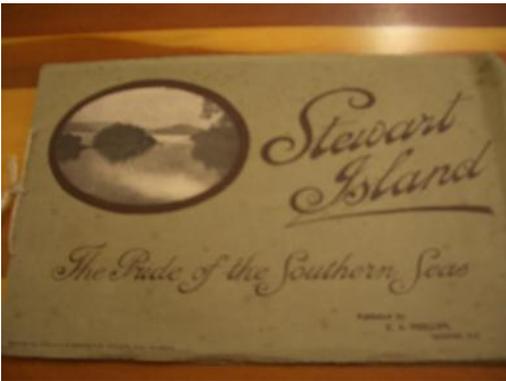
Inside are 23 sepia toned postcard shots of Island beaches, buildings, boats and well known buildings.

The photographs are the work of EA Phillips of Winton. It was printed by Coulls Somerville Wilkie Ltd of Dunedin.

The website “Worldcat” states that there was only one edition, published in 1926, and that there are three copies in libraries worldwide.

So, if you would like to have a copy for your library, enclose your name, contact details and amount you wish to bid in an envelope & post to PO Box 7, Stewart Island 9846 by 9 December. Alternatively, you can view the booklet at the Stewart Island Library during usual session times, and leave your bid in the container provided.

Funds raised from this venture will go towards new books for our library – thank you for your support.



From the S.I. Health Committee - A huge “Thank You” to Deanne and Chris of Church Hill Restaurant and Oyster Bar for hosting a Melbourne Cup fundraiser for our Clinic upgrade programme. Thanks too to all those happy punters who came along and supported the fun event, which raised a whopping **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!** What a great community!



St Andrews Anglican Church



Christmas

Loved and pre loved Books & Toys Collection

for disadvantaged Southland Children will be gratefully received.

Hamper at Stewart Island Flights until December



Contact Rev Richard Johnson... 214 3117
or Iris ... 219 1151

Heritage Antiques & Collectables

Are going to be at Stewart Island Community Centre:

Saturday 23rd November

Time 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Sunday 24th November

Time 10.00am - 2.00pm

Simply bring any pieces that you may want to have an appraisal or to sell:

Items to consider bringing:

Coins & Banknotes (Pennies, Sixpences, Proofs, Sovereigns, NZ & Overseas)
Art – Local, NZ, & Overseas
Military Memorabilia (Military Photos, Pay Books, Papers, Medals & Uniforms)
Sporting Badges, Photos & Awards, (Including Bowls, Hockey, Rugby etc)
Film Cameras, Old Photos & Postcards
Sports/Event Programmes & Local Memorabilia
Scientific Instruments, Rail & Shipping Items
Cigarette Cards, Tins & Smoking Accessories
Old Bottles, Food Packaging & All Signage
Watering Cans, Petrol Cans & Farming Implements
Vintage Dresses, Material & Handbags / Purses
Maori, Pacific Island, African & Tribal Artefacts: Clubs, Woven Items,
Carvings / Fish Hooks & Lures, Statues / Ornaments
Toys, Matchbox, Fun Ho & Dolls
Costume Jewellery, Watches & Sterling Silver
Gold Jewellery, Nuggets, Broken/Scrap Gold, Gold Sovereigns,
Krugerrands, Alluvial, Flake, Ingots & Maples.
Medals, Medallions, Awards, Badges, Trophies & Masonic Jewels
Dental, Medical & Scientific Items

For further information call: Benjamin Hodges 0800 55 99 22

If you are unable to make these times as above, please call:

Benjamin Hodges 0800 55 99 22

To leave your contact details and we will arrange to come to you at a later date.

Licensed Antique and Artefact Dealer

All Manner of Rare, Collectable & Maori Artefact Items Considered

Be Wary of Scammers!

from Chris Dillon

A call from the 'Microsoft Windows Technical Department'

It is a scam and plenty of people have been caught.

How does it work ?

You'll be called at home by somebody claiming to be from a technical support company. Windows Technical Services, PC Windows Support, Virtual PC Doctor and Microsoft are a few of the company names used.

The caller will tell you that your computer has a virus. They'll ask you to log on to your computer and to download a piece of software. This gives them remote access to your PC.

The caller will helpfully show you where the virus is on your computer. They'll then offer to sell you a six or twelve-month computer service contract. This is meant to protect you from any more viruses.

If you agree, the caller will take your credit card details. Or they may ask you to pay by electronic money transfer. What you don't realise is that there is no virus. The files the caller asked you to look at are a standard part of your machine.

What's more, the scammers may have downloaded spyware onto your computer. This gives them access to personal details like email address lists and bank details.

What can you do?

If someone calls you out of the blue to say your computer has a virus, **just hang up.**

If you've downloaded any software onto your computer, as a result of this scam, unplug it from the internet immediately. You should also run spyware and antivirus programmes and change all of your passwords, using a different computer. If in doubt, take your computer to a technician to be 'cleaned'.

If you've signed up to a service contract which you believe to be a scam, contact

your bank or credit-card provider immediately.

Don't be intimidated by the callers, who can become very aggressive. **Just hang up.**

How can I help protect my computer from viruses?

- 1/ Install an anti virus program. There are plenty of good free anti virus programs available.
- 2/Do not open emails or attachments from unfamiliar senders.
- 3/ Use a popup blocker.
- 4/ Keep windows updated. And your anti virus program
- 5/ Use a firewall.
- 6/ Use the browser privacy settings.
- 7/Turn on User Account Control. The UAC can keep viruses from making changes.
- 8/Clear your browsing history and internet cache regularly.

Don't open email messages from unfamiliar senders, or email attachments that you don't recognize

What a pleasure the Halfmoon Bay School performance was. **'Giraffes Can Dance'** was the highlight of the year and I wouldn't mind betting that we all left with grins, sore hands from clapping, feeling very proud of this entire community. As for the children - imagine knowing that 200 adults think you are great.

Congratulations as always has to go to HMB Staff for their constant involvement in the education of these precious young ones. Kath Johnston and Bonnie Leask are always on the look out for opportunities to give their students a range of experiences with the support of staff members Belinda Dobbins and Emily Joy. I know that these children

probably won't remember who helped them learn to read or understand math let alone draw out the talents which can lay dormant for a long time, but they will remember that play and standing there with an ador-

ing public, cheering and yelling for more.

Of course stage director Mary Chetty has to be given due recognition for an amazing range of talents. There are three other groups to congratulate. The band I believe were made up of skilled, semi skilled, young skilled and "just learnt how to play this instrument" skills.

The commitment to make rehearsals regularly is hard enough let alone producing music of the standard we all enjoyed that night. The backing group could go professional and really boosted the volume. As we all know the show needs 'Gofa' parents and community members - thanks for

your input. Along with all members of the audience I was entertained and so proud to be a member of this Stewart Island Community.

Thanks to you brilliant future stars ... all of you, young and older.

Lee Wadds



RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem



John Stirling Baker and Pastry Cook

100 Years Ago – Going through some old archives I found a receipt dated 1913 from John Stirling, baker, to Mr Harrold Lonneker for 9 loaves of bread costing 5 schillings 7 ½ pence. I did a bit of digging and found a photograph of the old bakery which is shown above. John Stirling came to Stewart Island in the early 1900s and started the bakery. His 18 year old daughter Eadie opened a shop in the left end of the building in 1906. When John retired his son Jack carried on with the bakery until 1928. The above picture shows Jack in the doorway and his three children on the roadside, Myrtle, Colin and Allan. The house above (top left) was owned and used by both John and his son. After 1928 other bakers included Jordon (who died here on the Island), Baumfield, Gordon Barton, Tom Denny and Arthur Norman. Arthur Norman bought it off Tom Denny and used it as a bake house and later closed it and went fishing. This ended the bake house years. After the bake house closed, Jack and Elsie Thornley ran it as a tearoom. It was The Fernery for some years and in 2000 became the “Gumboot Theatre.” It is now the Glowing Skies shop and the Stewart Island Community Environment Trust display room.

 By the time you get this there will have been a mail drop with a registration sheet listing the activities, prices and a place for how many people in your party for each event for our Norsk Feiring (Norwegian Celebration) on the 4, 5, 6 April 2014. It is very important to get these in to us so we can plan the catering.

As there has already been at least 100 people showing interest in this event, it is critical that you get your final registration papers in as for some activities, numbers will be limited. We are also looking for volunteers (having Norwegian connections would be great but not necessary) to help with the weekend. Contact Bev or Jo at Rakiura Museum (2191-221) if you can be of assistance.

Christmas is just around the corner and we have some excellent gift ideas; Dorothy Jenkin orchid cards, Halfmoon Bay painting by Margaret Fairhall card, Memories 2014 calendar (with lovely old photographs including one of our boat in the Sanders Cup Race) and some very special books; Stewart Island Boats, Diary of M.E. Wiig on board the *Sir James Clark Ross*, Rakiura Heritage by Neville Peat, Dorothy Jenkin’s Stewart Island Orchids and Elsie Smith’s Stewart Island Orchids (both the orchids books in very limited supply)

Museum hours are now October thru April Monday thru Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm and Sunday Noon-2 pm
 Contact us at PO Box 114, Stewart Island, 9846 or email: stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

Bruce Ford named the ladies in last month’s photo of fishshed workers: Sue Munro and Marion Whip.

The Facebook page Stewart Island Events now has a shiny new calendar on it! This should show at a glance what’s available to the public at a glance. If you have a weekly or monthly event, let me know and I’ll add it in. If you have a one-off, same deal, let me know and I’ll add it to the list. My email is stewartisland@xtra.co.nz Thanks! Vicki
www.facebook.com/stewartislandevents (you don’t have to be a member of Facebook to view the calendar)



Cotton cloud art at Rugrats
 Photo from Karin Lewis



Tena Koutu Rakiura/Stewart Island Community,
Te Papa Ataahua

The busy season is rapidly approaching where everything appears to be ramping up a notch.

We have a number of Conservation Volunteer Projects available for the 2023 and 2014 season.

- On Stewart Island we have;
- Stewart Island/Rakiura Hut Rangers
- Ulva Island Ranger
- Moturau Moana Historic Native Garden Maintenance
- Historic Homestead maintenance
- Port Pegasus tin mining maintenance

While projects for volunteers are areas that local are aware of, we need to be able to see these through the eyes of visitors.

We showcase some of the most unspoilt areas of New Zealand which as a volunteer, promotes the feeling of participation and engagement. People through volunteer projects develop a real sense of pride in our environment and lifelong friendships can develop.

Through our Conservation projects we offer work to suit everybody with no upper age limit.

Our volunteer goals:

1. Provide volunteer opportunities for the community to assist in the conservation of New Zealand's natural cultural and historic resources.
 2. Provide opportunities for people to safely experience the natural; and historic environment, and to become sensitive to those values.
 3. Support and strengthen links between tangata whenua conservation and recreation groups, the community in general and DOC.
 4. Provide, where appropriate, opportunities for volunteers to become aware of Maori values and perspectives on the environment.
 5. Enable conservation tasks that otherwise would not have done to be completed through the assistance of volunteers.
- DOC's volunteer projects focus on providing opportunities primarily for local communities, then other New Zealanders and lastly overseas visitors.

For further information please see the Department of Conservation website www.doc.govt.nz

Naku noa, na
Phil Melgren



We will be showing
THE AFRICAN QUEEN on
Saturday 23 & Wednesday 27 November 2013 at 7.30pm.



(PG) Alfred Hitchcock, 1959. 136m □

With Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason □. North by Northwest is considered one of the best films Hitchcock ever made. A middle-aged Madison Avenue advertising executive is mistaken for a government agent by a gang of spies. He gets involved in a series of misadventures and is pursued across the country by both the spies and the government. Through all this he's helped by a beautiful blonde. Features the thrilling crop duster chase and the suspenseful Mount Rushmore sequence!

NORTH BY NORTHWEST
on Saturday 14 & Wednesday 18 December 2013 at 7.30pm.



(G) John Huston, 1951. 105m

With Humphrey Bogart, Katherine Hepburn, Robert Morley. Superb combination of gin-swilling Bogart and spinster Hepburn travelling downriver in Africa during WWI, combating the elements, the Germans and each other. Bogart won the Best Actor Oscar.

Tickets - \$15.00 Adults and \$13.00 Seniors. Bookings suggested, and can be made by dropping into the theatre (10 Main Rd) or email us on bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com.





Melbourne Cup Day at Church Hill

Church Hill Restaurant became Church Hill Raceway for the day, in the name of the Melbourne Cup and the Stewart Island Health Committee Building Fund. We had 5 charity races which were sponsored by Church Hill, Stewart Island Flights, EEC, 4 Square and Pete Ross Motors. Thanks to them and the generosity of the punters on the day we raised \$1000 for the Fund.



Among the locals we had a good number of visitors on course for the day. One couple, Gail and Herb, of Christchurch, had a very lucky day and left with a good few prizes. There was plenty to go around however and a good time was had by all.



With a great showing for the fashion in the field and best hat, selection of winners was a tough job for the judges.



Congratulations to Jo for taking out best dressed member and Phillipa for best hat. Honourable mentions go to Brett (pictured) and Russell Squires who both looked very dapper in their suits.



As for the winner of the big race sweepstakes I will leave it up to you to work it out...



Thanks to all those who supported us and the fund and we now look forward to our next event, Italian Night, on the 21st November.



It is great to be part of this community and plan to keep supporting causes through the business we are proud to have here in paradise.

Thanks,

Deanne and Chris



Clouds banging together.
That was my explanation when my kids asked a string of WHYs about thunder, and my answer confused them because
a) it's not true and their antennae picked up on that by my shifty demeanour, and b) at Rugrats that morning, inspired by the recent moody weather, Karin encouraged the children to create cloud art using glue and cotton. And, to sound like a bad rapper, *cotton don't bang.*



Rugrats cotton cloud art
Photo from Karin Lewis

I've wondered why last month saw more electrical storms than in the ten plus years I've lived here. I talked to people who have lived here all their lives and they were also surprised by the amount of thunderstorms we've experienced this spring. What's changed over the decades...could global warming be a factor? I contacted some real meteorologists with my query and following are their responses:

from Daniel Corbett of MetService:
"It is difficult to say about links between your increased lighting activity and global warming without further research but the main reason you have seen more in the last month or so is down to the very active spell of spring weather we experienced during September and October.

The Southern Ocean has been a breeding ground for lows and the roaring forties have been the pipeline to feed all the active systems our way. Some of them brought very strong winds as a result of the tight pressure gradient that set up across the country and others brought vivid lighting displays to much of the southern and western parts of the South Island.

If the strong northwesters had some warm unstable air that originated on the warmer Australian continent that helped bring the thunderstorms to life as they moved into the west coast."

and from NIWA:
"According to NIWA climate scientist Dr Brett Mullan, October 2013 was an unusual month in terms of the atmospheric circulation in the New Zealand region. There were a succession of low pressure centres moving eastwards along about 55 degree south, with active fronts extending northward. This frontal activity produced a lot of convective rainfall and thunderstorms affecting Stewart Island. Even though unusual, this situation is by no means unprecedented, and it is not straightforward to relate to global warming."

I was too shy to ask the busy weathermen *and p.s. what's thunder & lightning anyway?* So I went to the good old Internet for the best explanation.

from Wikipedia:
Lightning is a massive electrostatic discharge between the electrically charged regions within clouds or between a cloud and the Earth's surface. The charged regions within the atmosphere temporarily equalize themselves through a lightning flash, commonly referred to as a *strike* if it hits an object on the ground. There are three primary types of lightning; from a cloud to itself (intra-cloud or IC); from one cloud to another cloud (CC) and between a cloud and the ground (CG). Although lightning is always accompanied by the sound of thunder, distant lightning

may be seen but be too far away for the thunder to be heard.

Thunder is the sound caused by lightning. Depending on the distance and nature of the lightning, thunder can range from a sharp, loud crack to a long, low rumble (brontide). The sudden increase in pressure and temperature from lightning produces rapid expansion of the air surrounding and within a bolt of lightning. In turn, this expansion of air cre-

ates a sonic shock wave, similar to a sonic boom, which produces the sound of thunder, often referred to as a *clap, crack, or peal of thunder*. The distance of the lightning can be calculated by the listener based on the time interval from when the lightning is seen to when the sound is heard.

...lightning is approximately one kilometer distant for every 2.9 seconds that elapse between the visible flash and the first sound of thunder (or one mile for every 4.8 seconds). In the same five seconds, the light could have traveled the same distance as circling the globe 37 times. Thunder is seldom heard at distances over 20 kilometers (12 mi). A very bright flash of lightning and an almost simultaneous sharp "crack" of thunder, a *thundercrack*, therefore indicates that the lightning strike was very near.

[I like this bit: Aristotle and I are on the same page...]
The cause of thunder has been the subject of centuries of speculation and scientific inquiry. The first recorded theory is attributed to the Greek philosopher Aristotle in the third century BC, and an early speculation was that it was caused by the collision of clouds.

Hope this helps explain something to somebody although questions are still being raised in my house. Or one particular question, actually. *WHY mummy? WHY? WHY? WHY?*

Halfmoon Bay School Enviro-Group are looking for people in the community to help us with our EnviroSchools programme. Some of the things we would like to do are: start a vegetable garden, paint our old water tanks with murals, create a personalised picket fence outside the office area and start a worm farm. If you would like to help in any of these ways or if you have any of your own ideas please get in touch with Kath @ School.



"RUGRATS" etched into the wood pile. The chopped wood from the Man of the Year competition was raffled off: winners were Bridget Squires and Anita Cox.



Photos by Jess Kany. For more pix check Stewart Island Events page on FB.

The establishment of the **Predator-Free Stewart Island** Governance Board has been taking place over the past month. Board members have been chosen, representing the fishing and aquaculture industry; hunting interests; local Government; business; Ngai Tahu; DOC; Rakiura Maori Land Trust; and potential funders. The final members, from the resident community itself, should be selected by local community leaders within a couple of weeks, following strong expressions of interest.

Once the Governance Board is fully formed, the membership will be announced on the website (www.predatorfreestewartisland.org.nz). It is hoped to have the first meeting of the

Governance Board before Christmas.

In the meantime, the Morgan Foundation is developing a report outlining the economic and social benefits that could be generated from the Predator-Free Stewart Island project. The Department of Conservation is drafting a paper outlining the range of options available to undertake the Halfmoon Bay project – the 5000ha predator elimination project to kick start the island eradication. No method has been chosen. This will be a decision for the Governance Board to make, following extensive consultation.

Both of these reports will be presented at the Governance Board meeting, and then made publicly available. —Philip Bell



Melbourne Cup at Church Hill. For more photos from the day check arianavargas-photography.tumblr.com or look at the Stewart Island Events page on Facebook.



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHLAND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY AND PARTNERS

SOUTHLAND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY DINNER 2013

THIS WILL TAKE PLACE

AT: ASCOT PARK HOTEL
ON: FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2013
FROM: 6.30pm
THE COST: \$55.00. Drinks are extra
 A bar will be in operation

THE GUEST SPEAKERS ARE ROBERT 'BEANSPROUT' LONG AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE
FROM THE GORGE RIVER, SOUTH WESTLAND
THEY WILL SPEAK ABOUT THEIR LIVES AND THE CHALLENGE OF LIVING AND RAISING A FAMILY IN ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE PLACES IN NEW ZEALAND

FOR BOOKINGS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MALCOLM LAWSON

(027) 209 0762 cra8@xtra.co.nz

GRAEME WRIGHT (027) 221 9320 graeme.wright@barnesoysters.co.nz

COME, BE ENTERTAINED, AND SOCIALISE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR INDUSTRY

Running the Rakiura Track

(about 30km without Port William leg) by Jess Kany

I run heaps but my ventures tend to last around an hour, so running the Rakiura Track was a daunting deal for me. I also never run with anything but my music thingy, I hate being active in the morning, I'm a sook about the cold, and I have no sense of direction and could get lost in a paper bag...all of these foibles came to haunt me in the woods.

I left with Julian from the chain at 9 am and the forest floor was covered with hail: the steps were pooled with ice water, and this was at sea level! I got turned around twice on the high tide track at Maori Beach and found myself heading back toward Lee Bay so that was discouraging and ate into my time. Julian is an ultra-runner and can run for ten straight hours so we agreed at the outset he would run out to Port William and I would skip that leg to roughly even out our times. The last time I saw him before the Pub was at Maori Beach.

It took me exactly one hour to reach the turnoff to Port William. I anticipated the leg to North Arm would be the hardest part with all the steep climbs and heaps of hail and mud and slippery track snaked with ankle-twisting roots. It was hard and there were some hills so steep that it didn't matter if I climbed or tried to run as whatever I was doing was sort of a pointless pantomime of running.

From the PW turnoff, I made it to North Arm in 1:50. I was feeling really good heading down the last leg toward HMB, ignoring my husband's voice in my head: *make sure you stop and eat before North Arm*. He'd given me a couple of energy squeezepacks which I'd never tried before, and I had them in a running backpack (also a first) which contained my water and a just-in-case box of matches. After running for four hours I stopped and got the lemon-flavored energy gel squeezepack and was about to tear it open when I noticed the stamped expiry date was 2008. Another foible: I'm paranoid about eating "expired" food. I stuck the thing uneaten back in my pack and when I went to zip it shut I noticed the toggle on the zipper was loose. Seemed like a tiny nuisance in the moment but would become a BIG problem about 15 minutes later.

It's funny how time and space collapse and expand when you're running: I felt great the first four hours but those last forty minutes felt like two hours and the last 7 km felt like 20. It had been hailing on and off throughout the run and in the first few k of the track I'd "committed" — my personal running term for the moment I stop trying to skirt puddles to keep my feet dry and plunge my sneakers into freezing water and mud. So on that last leg when I started feeling a bit woozy and sick and stopped again 15

minutes later, as soon as I stopped moving my body temperature plummeted. I'd been foolish not to eat until I was desperate for electrolytes. I'm sure survivalist elephant-dung-munching Bear Grylls wouldn't worry about expiry dates. Hunkered down in the middle of the muddy track with ice water running off my face and hail pinging my eyes I took my pack off again and realised with horror that the toggle was gone from the zipper, and my fingers were frozen and barely functioning. Opening the zipper without the toggle seemed like an astronomically complex task: my brain was sluggish and not working well. By the time I managed to open the pack and get the gel my fingers were useless claws and I couldn't tear open the plastic package. I finally managed to puncture a hole with my teeth and squeeze the goop into my mouth, worried it would make me puke.

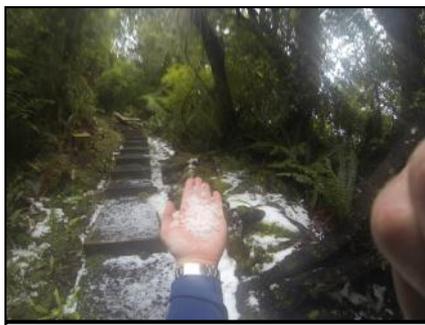
Fortunately, within minutes my mind felt clearer and I felt re-fuelled and energized (those things REALLY DO WORK!) and I reached the road 1:50 from the North Arm (exact time as middle longest and supposedly hardest leg), making my run (including the stops) a total 4:40.

Much thanks to the lovely Lions who greeted me at the Pub and hastily created a finish line for me to run through. Julian arrived about 15 minutes later and convinced me to join him for an ice bath for the good of muscle recovery in our legs, so with handles of Speights we waded into Halfmoon Bay and stayed until we finished our beer. There might be something to it because I only had one day of real soreness in my legs and I thought I'd be out of action for a week. The most lingering ill effect was from the backpack which rubbed parts of my back raw.

I learned some important lessons on this run: EAT AND HYDRATE while you're still feeling good, don't wait until you're crook and not thinking straight. DON'T WORRY about expiry dates when you're border-line hypothermic and in desperate need of sustenance in a hail-storm in the bush. KNOW YOUR GEAR before you go — a slightly ill-fitting backpack or a loose zipper toggle could be your downfall. If I do it again I'd definitely pack some gloves too. And while I thought suggestions of a space blanket and a lucifer were a bit dramatic before I went, I can see how I could have really used those items if I twisted an ankle and ended up freezing, with frozen hands and rudimentary shelter.

Finally, despite the fact I worried I'd bitten off more than I could chew I'm glad I didn't talk myself out of it and ran the thing. I'd loaded my iPod with music recommended by family and friends before I left and during those last few seemingly endless miles I particularly loved running to Ben Howard's anthem:

*Keep your head up
Keep your heart strong*



Hail on the track. Photo from Julian Bee





Much thanks to visitor Ronald Knoebel for these great portraits from a great day. For more pix check the Stewart Island Events page on FB.



SIRCET Kiwi advocacy update

By Cherie Hemsley

Monitoring this month of the kiwis that were released into the Ackers project area in February has revealed more relationship quandaries!

TX22's old girlfriend TX12 may be in some kind of relationship crisis! Her and her partner TX87 have been picked up together in the Evening Cove area for 2 months, being heard almost every night by locals in that area, but now it seems they may be taking some 'time apart' or as Ross Gellar (from Friends) would say 'on a break'! Will they reunite? Or meet new birds? Only time will tell.

One of the signals I have been tracking for the last two months was consistently coming from the Traill Park area. It was a bird that didn't receive a new transmitter back in May and as they were designed to fall off around August it was likely that it had come off but was still beeping. I enlisted some expert help and we went to track it down. Starting at Obs Rock we followed the signal to the start of the Fuchsia Track, and then it was behind us! A bit more tracking and we unearthed a transmitter from the rugby field; it had been pushed into the ground when the mower ran over it. Not as exciting as finding a kiwi but it's good to know that they are falling off as designed!

I can't wait to find out what happens next month! I'll keep you posted!



Ka Kete
Cherie



Kiwi Dog Aversion Workshop:

Mother Nature threw hail, sleet, wind and freezing temperatures at the Kiwi Dog Aversion Workshop day held on 27th October but Stewart Islanders are a hardy bunch and 'the show must go on'.

Despite the atrocious weather conditions, the owners and dogs arrived at their allocated times and were introduced to Pete Graham who is a nationally recognised dog trainer and Wendy Sporle from *Kiwis for Kiwis*. Once registered on the national database, the dogs had the opportunity to sniff the electronic collar before it was put on. Pete, the owner and dog then went for a short walk across Traill Park to a track where a dead kiwi had been placed. At this point the dog would show; interest, partial interest (may have been distracted elsewhere for moment) or a definitive aversion - that is when the dog saw/smelt the kiwi and took 'aversive' action in order to avoid going near it. If the dog showed either interest or partial interest, they would receive a shock from the collar with the theory being the dog then associates the zap with the kiwi scent. From then, the walk continued to another track where a second dead kiwi had been placed. It was noted that at this point 99% of the dogs gave this second kiwi a wide berth and showed definite aversion to the scent. Including the walk back to the Scout hall, where a certificate (valid for 6 months) and information was given to the owner, the training only took 15 minutes to complete and during the course of the days 24 dogs were put through their paces.

A big thank you must go to Sandy King who joined Pete and Wendy at Traill Park for the day and gained her qualification as a *Kiwi Dog Aversion Trainer*. SIRCET is very grateful that Sandy is willing to give up her time to continue the good work and, that island dogs will be able to be trained in kiwi aversion into the future. A further Kiwi Aversion training day will be held in 6 months, however, in the meantime anyone interested in their dogs being trained, please get in touch with Di Morris or Sandy King.

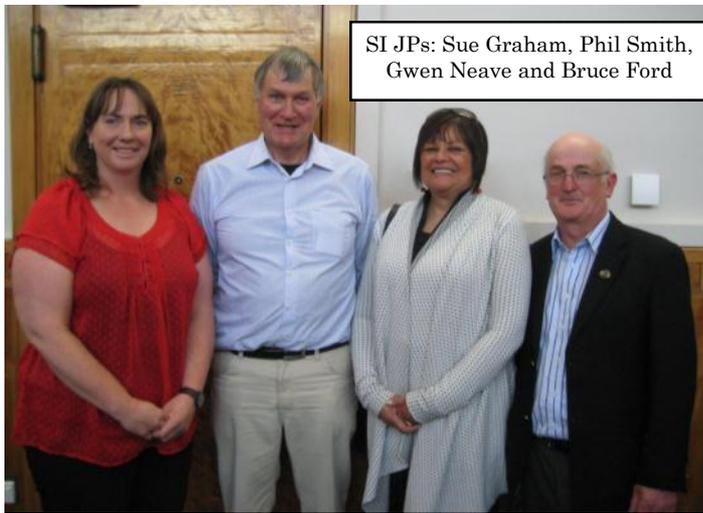
Many thanks to Di Morris for co-ordinating the training day – hope it didn't take too long to thaw out!



Pink for a Day volunteers collected \$790 for breast cancer awareness last month.



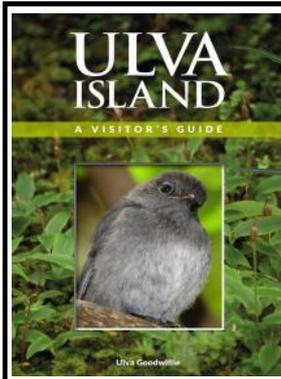
CHOCOLATE AWARD to Noel Pasco for reading stories to the Rugrats children every week.



SI JPs: Sue Graham, Phil Smith,
Gwen Neave and Bruce Ford



Photo from Adrian Munro



Ulva Island - A Visitor's Guide

By Ulva Goodwillie

Is available for sale at *The Fernery - Gallery & Gift Shop*
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If you wish to order a signed copy, contact:

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OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem



Oban Presbyterian Church inside with flower arrangements

Flowers have always been very much a part of our church, inside and outside. The Bible says, "Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves but I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers." Next time you come up to our little church take time to notice the flowers and the beauty they bring. There might be the odd droopy one but how like us that is. We often droop when tired or in need of nourishment and how we spring back to life when nourishment (a kind word or deed is dropped our way). Be on the lookout for ways to make people "bloom" when they look a little droopy. We can often run short of flowers for our arrangements, so if you have any extras in your garden that we can use please phone Lorraine Squires (2191310) or Raylene Waddell (2191092). It will make those arrangements extra special knowing they've come from the community.

December brings some familiar faces and some new ones to our little church.

December 1 - Paul Johnstone - Paul Johnstone is a parochial 5th Generation Southlander and has a background in Business and Accounting. He also ran his family motor vehicle business based in Invercargill for some time but over the past 16 years has lived in Gore where he has worked on a number of business and property related projects alongside Ian (Inky) Tulloch. Paul is married to Jocelyn. They have

three adult children – Naomi, Aaron and Sam. Jocelyn is a Clinical Advisor for Otago/Southland for the NZ Plunket Society, and operates her own Counselling practice.

December 8 - Bruce Fraser, - Mission Adviser to the Synod of Otago. Regular visitor with his wife Beverley.

December 15 - Beverly Osborn - Beverley Osborn - Beverley is our home-grown minister. Beverley gained her qualification as an extra mural university student and was employed as a social worker first with the Arthritis Foundation and then at Southland Hospital. When her husband Jim died she was already on her way to becoming a Methodist minister, studying for her Diploma of Theology while continuing to work and to maintain the family home. She is a wonderful knitter and there are many babies and toddlers with her lovely booties that have penguin, kiwi and kakapo faces.

December 18 - Carol Service 7:30 pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, starting 11-30 p.m. Oban Presbyterian Church and St Andrew's Anglican church are combining to host this special service – to be held at the Oban Presbyterian Church.

December 22 & 25 - Peter & Bev Rodwell - are regular members of the Worship Team at the Waiareka Weston Parish (Oamaru). As their extended whanau will be with them, they intend to make the worship with you a family based one.

December 29 - Jane Wilden

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

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

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

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It was a packed house at The Fernery for the debut of Ulva's new book *Ulva Island*. Ulva signed copies for everyone. The book is packed with gorgeous photography and would make a great Christmas gift or addition to anyone's collection of Island books. *Photo from Jules Retberg*

Halfmoon Bay & Rakiura Rugrats joint fundraising venture. Stewart Island Community Centre Saturday 7th December 10am - 2pm

*We are selling a range of brand new high quality fishing and outdoor gear!
We have stainless steel fish smokers, filleting knives, a selection of top quality rods and reels and
a large range of stocking fillers for the Stewart Island man, woman and child!*

Bigger items will be sold by silent auction (reserve must be met) and stocking fillers will be for sale at discounted prices.

Come along, get a head start on your Christmas shopping
and support **Halfmoon Bay School** and **Rakiura Rugrats**

Matariki Festival - following on from our successful Matariki Festival this year Halfmoon Bay School are looking for any locals or community groups who want to take over the organisation and running of the Matariki Festival. It was not our intention to make this an annual event as there are other learning experiences we will be pursuing in 2014. However, as many people seemed to enjoy the occasion it may be something the community wishes to continue with. Halfmoon Bay School Board of Trustees are happy for the school grounds to be used as a venue.

“Book Review” from Sue Ford

What. A. Month! Brilliant books read during the cold spring-snap. I can't praise enough 'Robert Galbraith's' (aka J.K. Rowling) "The Cuckoo's Calling". So, take one partial-amputee, Cormoran Strike, struggling with his return to civvy street after his disastrous stint in Afghanistan. He's in one of the "off again" periods of his bitter "on-again-off-again" relationship, resulting in homelessness, and has a dwindling business as a private-eye. Add one naive young Yorkshire woman, come south to London to live with her newly-qualified accountant boyfriend (and soon-to-be fiancé) who ends up 'temping' for Cormoran. Stir with one emotional lawyer who is convinced that his sister – famous super-model, Lula Landry – did NOT commit suicide. Mix thoroughly with a plethora of excellently drawn characters – from the homeless Rochelle to the super-rich Tony Landry; sprinkle liberally with clues and motives. Result: recipe for a bloomin' good read with a surprise ending. I must boast here – I guessed "who-dunnit", but only by applying the Agatha Christie principle, not because I could spot the how or the why of the situation. Excellent writing in contemporary setting, a lurking sense of humour and the feeling at the end that this is only the beginning of Cormoran Strike's ad-

ventures. Excellent!

Now Beverly Osborne recommended I read "Jasmyn" by Alex Bell – but carefully refrained from recommending the book on its own merits! Kirsten kindly saved the book at the Library until I'd finished the above, and I admit I finished this in two days. The writing isn't *that* good, the characters not *that* charismatic or interesting – and take some really, really stupid decisions, the plot is fantastical and overly complex; but I couldn't stop reading. Albino Jasmyn's adored young husband dies, five dead black swans fall out of the thunderstorm raging at his funeral, Liam's family turn cold towards Jasmyn and then things start to get really strange I know, I know! The book is beyond ridiculous – but hypnotic!

"In Touch with Grace" by Jenny Patrick could not be more different. It follows the twists and turns of fortune of 80-year old Grace, living in a Wellington suburb in the 1990's – it's all mullets and mohawks out in the city! Widowed for many years and her musically-gifted, alcoholic daughter having committed suicide, Grace is reliant upon friends for support and sociability. Family life is something of an alien – and also trying and tiring - concept. Max was the dead daughter's music

teacher. His friendship with Grace begins to tip into something more intimate, but that puts Grace's dearest and oldest friend's nose out of joint – Mildred is jealous. Then Max is very ill, Max's children and grandchildren insert themselves into Grace's routines, Mildred becomes seriously ill, and the fabric of this feisty Grace's life starts to unravel. Even the Bowling Club, the members of which are the main rocks upon whom Grace rests, seem less able to help in the increasing dilemmas which Grace must face, and the fears – like the computer - which she must conquer. Told with a gentle humour, there are some very real issues here still to be faced by our aging population 20 years later. Hmm. I guess Dicken's "Edwin Drood" – my next read - isn't going to compare with either of the above somehow.

And I've had a right telling-off about reviewing too many books that I've downloaded on my Kindle or read off my own bookshelves. My Report Card now states: "Could do better!" So I'll double-check in future that my Kindle downloads and personal library are in our Library too. The first of the above should be in the Library soon I would have thought; the second definitely is; the third might only be available by request – it isn't mine, nor is it a download... I borrowed it off Dawn! Tah-dah!

Julian Bee's "Great Runs" by Sue Ford

By the time Julian left the Island, he and our Jess Kany having completed the first of Julian's Great Runs – the Rakiura Track – in the rain, hail and wind, they had already raised \$267.90 for Cure Kids. Julian set off on Monday morning to prepare for his assault on The Routeburn. In somewhat better weather than the previous day, the Lions set up the BBQ and the scent of fried onions and big, fat, juicy sausages filled the air. Along with donations, this exercise netted yet another \$375. That's a grand total of

\$642.90, and there are still odd donations coming in via www.greatruns.co.nz – if you missed out but want to support Cure Kids and Julian, that's where you go.

Julian has publicly thanked Jess, our Lions, Real Journeys and Helen at the South Sea Hotel – without them, the Rakiura Track would have been far less fun and far less profitable for Cure Kids. He's thinking of coming back someday (preferably when it isn't hailing!) with his wife Fiona and children, to show them what a great place Stewart Island is, and to show them

where he made his Cure Kids "Great Runs" debut. See you then Julian, but good luck with the other Great Runs in the meantime.



Post-run ice bath and celebratory Speights in Halfmoon Bay. Photo from Julian Bee





**STEWART ISLAND
GARDEN CIRCLE**

by Jenny Gell



Christmas lunch will be at "Bird on a Pear" at 12.00 on Thursday 12th December.

Halfmoon Bay School pool is now open. Keys are \$60 for the 2013/14 season and are available from the school office. There will be NO key sales between 20th December and 7th February so if you wish to swim during the summer holidays please get your key now!

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Shop Talk *by Jules Retberg*

Code wars - a story about a phone, a chimpanzee and a bar (code)

Remember the days of sticky price tickets and waiting as the checkout assistant punched prices into a cash register as a ream of receipt paper spiralled out of the top? These days we barely give a thought to the process of scanning bar codes to give us the price and name of a product ... until the stripy little critter gets smudged or creased and we have to manually type in the damned 12 or 13-digit number!

But you might have noticed a different type of code sneaking into our lives - the QR code. The Quick Response code has been making an appearance on the back of boxes, packets, bottles, magazines and even brochures and posters with only a certain group of people (smartphone owners) understanding what the mystical blocks of squares mean.

Advertising and marketing folks have leapt upon these innocuous little squares as another means of communicating with the buying public. Use a smartphone to scan a QR code and you will be transported (virtually, not literally!) to a web-site, email address, map location, phone number or just a plain old message. Some smartphones even have the ability to scan a bar code and tell you the price and location that you can obtain that product, or even add it to an electronic shopping list. I still personally like a scrap of paper for my shopping list, but whatever floats your boat.

While overseas a few months ago I was gobsmacked at the number of people (it seemed like everyone!) walking along the street with a smartphone in their hand. Sad, I thought, to be so immediately available or interruptible. Either way, it wasn't until I tried to find a timetable on the wall at a train station that I began to understand. The ticket booth was unstaffed. The new norm is to use a smartphone to access public transport information; arrange and purchase travel; electronic boarding passes; read the news or a book; navigate an unfamiliar place; in London it can even tell you the precise second the next bus will arrive at your bus stop. No more waiting in the rain wondering if a bus will *ever* turn up ...

Not really applicable to life here, but who knows what changes may lie ahead?

While trying to process all this new information I thought a spot of shopping might help. At the counter I handed over my faithful shopping companion, Mr Visa, and attempted to enter my PIN number. Instead I was asked sign my name on an electronic pad - using my finger! The scribble that emerged looked like something a deranged chimpanzee on acid might produce if it were handed a pen! The sales assistant made an earnest effort to compare the chimp-scribble with the signature on the back of my card and handed over my purchase. A notepad and pen.



Jules

Stewart Island Community Centre News

by Margaret Hopkins

Thank you to the Trustees and 5 other community members who turned up to complete some spring cleaning tasks at the community centre last month. Every little bit of outside help is much appreciated.

Unfortunately 3 hours was spent on the day of our working bee sorting, packing and carting rubbish from the recent clothes swap. It is very annoying that people thought to use the clothes swap day to get rid of broken and unwanted rubbish. None of it was any good for resale according to the Refuse Centre manager. It was also noted that a lot of the clothes were stained, ripped or unsuitable even to be used as rags. In future there will be no more clothes swap days held at the Community Centre unless it is all done on one day where people stay and swap clothes then take away the excess immediately. The

preferred option is for it to be held at another venue.

Two new Trustees are required for the Community Centre Trust as Alister Eade, who has been chairperson since the Trust's establishment 20 years ago, and secretary Margaret Hopkins, also a founding member, are planning to retire at the AGM in December. If anyone in the community thinks they might like to become a trustee please contact Hilli Maass-Barrett or Kath Johnson.

Current trustees are:

Chairperson Alister Eade (20 years),
Secretary Margaret Hopkins (20 years),
Treasurer Hilli Maass-Barrett (10 years),
Debbie Barry (11 years),
Becca Parry (9 years),
Kath Johnson & Karin Lewis (3 years)
& Chris Sara (1 year).

congratulations

Parents
Tamra and James
Welcome
Archie Jay Ware

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Stewart Island Man of the Year Luke Simeon celebrates with his baby Elise.

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Photo by Carolyn Squires.

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