STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

OCTOBER 2005

Spring has brought chicks to the Island.

The arrival of trampers is welcomed; the local lads are particularly happy to see more ladies in the pub after a winter of mostly-males.

Yes, chicks are about the place—and not just the lovely back-packed sort. Weka chicks have been seen strutting their fluff around the bay. Read about these new residents on page 6.

The Island is spring cleaning, readying itself for the warm-weather crowds. Breathe deep and smell the springtime: blossoms in the morning, bonfires in the evening, and mussel-bacon kebabs on especially gorgeous afternoons.



Weka chick with mummy



It wouldn't feel like a spring-time issue without pictures of kids jumping rope. Fortunately, Grim Davis supplied the editor with plenty of such photos — you'll find them in these pages. Hope they make your heart skip sweetly; hope they remind you of being a kid.

Some Stewart Island Players at a dress rehearsal for "Beastie and the Beaut."



Hurry, get your tickets to *Beastie* and the *Beaut*. The Stewart Island Players have been working hard to bring you their latest hilarious theatrical masterpiece. Show times are 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday 21st and 22nd October at the Community Centre.

Tickets are available at DoC, Ship to Shore and the South Sea Hotel (\$15 adult/\$5 children).

The cast is made up of your friends and neighbours. They have endured days of rehearsal, stage butterflies, itchy wigs, and puffy pants...all you have to do is show up and be entertained!

Boat-of-the-Month	2
Fire Brigade	9
Library	8
Kids jumping rope	5, 8, 10, 11, 12
Oban Globetrotter	4
Patchwork	10
Wekas	6
Yellow-eyed penguins	9
And much more!!	

Inside this issue:

\$2

Boat of the Month:

OLIVE



Which would be the most photographed boat in Halfmoon Bay? My guess would have to be the **OLIVE**, as she sat prettily on her mooring in Lonnekers Bay and attracted the eyes and cameras of many visitors. Unfortunately she is no longer there, but will remain in our memories for a long time.

OLIVE on the Rakeahua River May 1977. Photo: Merv King.

OLIVE was built in Port Chalmers in 1920 by Miller Brothers. She is 34' x 8'6" x 3'6", and built of kauri, being powered lately by a Lister diesel engine.

In her early years she worked out of Careys Bay and Kaka Point, at one stage with a Morris Hill as owner/skipper. She was bought south to Stewart Island in the 1950's by Herb Hansen Snr, and used as a fishing and tourist boat until Herb had the **KIWI** built and sold **OLIVE** to Alex Traill in 1959.

Alex carried on fishing her out of Halfmoon Bay for many years, and, after he retired to an easier lifestyle, she was his "pleasure boat." There would not be many nooks and crannies she has not been in, either up the Inlet or up and down the shore outside the Bay.

In 2003, shortly before Alex passed away, **OLIVE** was taken to Bluff by Peter Leask Jnr to be worked on, and as far as I know she is still there.

That's it for this month – hope you enjoyed reading it! Merv King.

Now and then Alex liked to give the sails an "airing".
Photo: Belinda Sawyer















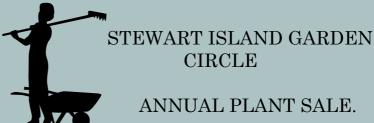


FREE SEAWEED FOR COMPOST & GARDEN

A large amount of free seaweed may be available in November and December, for anyone wishing to add it to their gardens and compost. The seaweed will become available through scientific work conducted for Biosecurity New Zealand in Halfmoon Bay, by Kingett Mitchell Limited. We would deliver the seaweed to you free of charge. Unless the seaweed can be disposed of on Stewart Island, it will have to be carted back to the mainland for disposal in a landfill. If you are interested in some free seaweed, please leave your name and contact details with the DOC field office (2190002), and we will contact you when the seaweed becomes available.

www.kma.co.nz





A selection of shrubs / ground cover plants will be available for sale on SAT.22, OCT. – 11:00 a.m. Halfmoon Bay School Grounds.

These plants have been supplied by Nicholls Greenworld and are being sold at town retail prices.

SEE YOU THERE.

Fly girl Kelly Karaitiana poses in uniform at the local airstrip.

Islanders miss her lovely smile at the local flight depot counter, but Kelly is representing the island well, gracing flights throughout the Pacific with her kind and friendly demeanour.

Iona and Rangi are proud of their daughter: Kelly worked hard to become a flight attendant for Air New Zealand, and she loves her exciting new career.

Based in Christchurch, Kelly's job takes her all around the country and beyond — she often crosses the Tasman Sea.

When this photo was taken, Kelly had her Air New Zealand gears on in preparation for a flight to Sydney later that afternoon.

With such exotic and far-flung destinations under her belt, Kelly still includes the great town of Oban in her busy itinerary, and she still flies Stewart Island Flights the last leg of her journey home.

ban Globetrotter off-island adventures

Ann Pullen recently toured parts of South

America. Following is her account of travels in Brasil.

(Ann notes that people who live in Brasil spell Brasil with an s while other folk spell it with a z.)

 $extbf{\emph{M}}$ any moons ago I caught the end of a travel programme on TV, in which there was this most amazing waterfall that seemed to go on for ever – Wow I thought, it would be great to see that one day. I took note at the end of the programme that it was filmed in Brasil, and never thought much more about it, until

Through the mail one day at the beginning of this year there came some travel pamphlets (I am always sending away for this and that cause it looks good), and lo and behold there was this month long trip to Brasil to include time in the Pantanal which is one of the largest wetland wildlife areas of the world, and the Iguazu falls which are one of the natural wonders of the world, and are just the falls I had seen on the TV programme all that time ago.

There was nothing else for it but to find out a few more details, and before you could say "Jack Robinson" I had sent away my deposit, it was months away anyway.

As we know, time just goes by so quickly and before I knew it I was on the plane to Rio de Janeiro via Santiago.

Brasil a country of

169,799,170 people (give or take a million or two), from all backgrounds and countries, and when you meet someone it is not unusual for them to give you their history, a lot have African background from the days of slavery times.

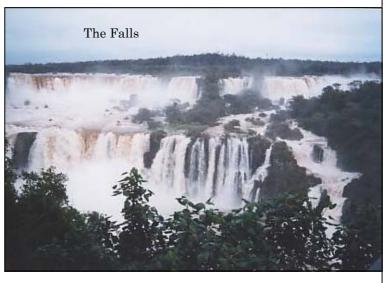
We started off in Rio de Janeiro, and what an exciting city that is with a population of over 14 million. You have to watch your back all the time

as there is a lot of poverty in the country, and "rich " tourists are an easy target. Brasilians certainly have an eye for an opportunity, and everywhere you go their

is someone with their goods for to complain about over here sale on a bit of a mat or a rough fold-up table, it might be watches, beads, batteries. you name it – they sell it, then on a wet day there would be people selling umbrellas everywhere, but as soon as the sun came out, there were all the sunglass stands. If you were waiting outside a hotel to set off on a days outing, before you knew it there was someone selling bags, or jewellery, you really have to hand it to them they are on the look-out for a sale all the time. Just a meagre existence, but at least they try.

We visited some unusual

towns and cities, one that fascinated me was Ouro Preto, it was an old 18th century gold mining town, the streets were so narrow and cobbled, it took a car to make a 5 point turn just to turn onto another street, and if there were pedestrians walking along the road the car would have to wait until the street was clear before it could continue, the drivers would certainly have to have patience (we have got nothing



with tourists all over the roads).

It was the town of churches too, 13 Churches and 13 Chapels. Because it had been such a rich town everyone built a church, even the prisoners built their own church on the top of a hill, they were all very elaborate with carvings throughout.

We spent 4 nights in the Pantanal, in temperatures of up to 42degs, this was a fantastic huge wetland area with hundreds of different birds and animals, we had hardly got there and saw so many caiman (crocodiles) because it was the end of the dry season, everything was so easy to see because it was hanging round the water edges.



We had several trips on the river early morning (5am) and late evening, we were told it was just like the Amazon only smaller, so we were able to see things close up. It was even better than what you see on the travel programmes with all the sounds, and the very red ball of the sun sinking on the sky. One morning we had a tropical thunderstorm while out on the river, thought it was going to rain hard, but only teased us, our guide reckoned the rainy season was not too far away. I am sure all the creatures would be pleased, as things looked very dry to us all. hundreds of Caiman in one water hole.

The Iguacu Falls were even

more spectacular than what I remembered from the TV programme, but mind you as we moved south it rained, (for 6 days in fact), and with all the water heading one way it had

one effect, Horrendous water falls, almost too good, some
of the walkways were
closed. It was the
greatest amount of
water since 1992.

The Iguaca Falls span 2700 metres, not in a straight line, and boarder Argen-

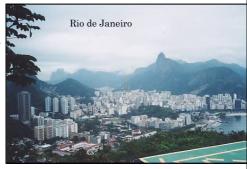
tina and Brasil. There are walkways right out to the middle of the falls, and you can't help thinking "what if these walkways washed away", there would be no second chance. I went over the top of them by helicopter, which was quite a mind blowing experience.

I really think we should send OSH over there it would keep of live them busy forever, you had to great watch yourself all the time, great holes in the pavements (if you could call them that) and some of the roads. The thing that amazed me most we line. were on the 19th floor of a hotel, great view, especially with very the windows wide open and no bars or barrier, no good if you came

can't stand heights!!. Everywhere you went you couldn't help thinking – gee you wouldn't get away with that in NZ.

They do like to drive quite fast, but all towns had "road bumps" to slow traffic, which certainly had the desired effect.

Brasilians are very handsome people, and all look pretty fit, didn't see too many of them smoking, but then the average wage, (so we were told) was between 300 and 600 Reais per



month, which equates to \$150 - \$300 per month, things are a lot cheaper, but the standard of living for the majority is not great. We were told 2% of the population own most of the wealth of the country, 15% on reasonable income, and the other 83% are below the bread line

Very interesting country to visit, and glad the opportunity came my way. —Ann Pullen



On the left, the students of Half-moon Bay School proudly display their jump-roping certificates, earned after an afternoon participating in the Jump Roping for Heart program.



Weka, weka everywhere

The first weka chicks have been spotted around Halfmoon Bay! Two pairs have been seen with chicks, but it is highly likely that there are more. The weka were only transferred back into the urban area of Stewart Island between April and July this year, with 78 birds being moved off near-by Bench Island.

"It is fantastic to see these birds breeding only a few months after release. When Stewart Island Flights sponsored the release earlier in the year, we were wrapped that so many of them stayed in the project area, so seeing chicks is the icing on the cake" said Brent Beaven, Biodiversity Manager for DOC on Stewart Island.

Stewart Island weka are more endangered than kiwi with only a few thousand thought to remain, mostly on off-shore islands. Establishing a mainland population has been seen, in the recovery plan, as a key step toward securing the future of this species.

The weka were transferred to the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Area, where the local community has been trapping possums, rats and wild cats for the previous two years. This trapping has resulted in a safe area for the weka to breed and raise families, often in the very backyards of locals.

Dil Belworthy, spokesperson for the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust said "The huge smiles on the faces of Trust members and volunteers are evidence of what a fantastic milestone this is for the Trust. The vision of bringing threatened species into our gardens is no longer a dream, it is a cute and fluffy reality! The Trust would particularly like to thank the sponsors, volunteers, and community, for the support that has made this success possible."

"We will be putting transmitters on at least five juveniles to see if they survive and where they settle" said Mr Beaven. "Nevertheless, thanks to the trapping efforts of a dedicated community, the future of this threatened species is looking up."



For more information please contact Brent Beaven at the Department of Conservation, Ph: 03 2190007, email bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz; Dil Belworthy for Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust, Ph: 03 2191249; or Raymond Hector at Stewart Island Flights, Ph 03 2189129. Background information is available at www.glowingsky.co.nz or www.stewartislandflights.co.nz

Photo: Female weka with chicks. Taken by Kari Beaven, Project Manager for the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project

Outlaw creative present

TERRAIN

An award-winning physical theatre and dance installation performance by Guy Ryan and Malia Johnston

HEARTLAND TOUR - OCT / NOV 2005

Hot on the heels of their success at the Christchurch and Taranaki Arts festivals and the NZ World of Wearable Arts Awards, innovative NZ choreographers Guy Ryan and Malia Johnston of Outlaw creative are touring the South Island with their award-winning duet Terrain this October and November.

Winner of the "Best production/technical award" at the Wellington Fringe festival in 2004, Terrain is a captivating performance that weaves together dance, physical theatre and visual imagery. Exploring the concepts of landscape, scale, place and precariousness, Terrain is set in and around an innovative and continuously evolving installation made up of a kitset plywood stage, layers of artificial grass, lighting stands and an array of miniature props (including toy cars, trains, tanks and dolls). The most unique feature of Terrain is its scale. With a small stage measuring only 3x3m and several miniature scenes, Terrain is designed for a small audience of usually no more than 30 that sit up close and engage intimately with the action – An experience not to be missed. The music, all played on vinyl, is nostalgic with vintage songs by Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Brian Eno and Cole Wilson and the Tumbleweeds and others.

A hit with audiences around the country, Terrain has toured to the 2004 Otago Festival of the Arts (Dunedin Public Art gallery), Tempo - Auckland's Festival of Dance, this year's Applaud - The Christchurch Arts festival (Chch Art Gallery) and The Taranaki Arts festival (TSB stage). It was also judged 2nd best contemporary dance production of 2004 by the NZ Listener.

"Captivating and beautifully realized" – NZ LISTENER

Tour schedule

Invercargill Southland Museum+Gallery Oct 24 2&6pm
Bluff St Johns Ambulance Hall Oct 27 7pm

Stewart Island S.I.Community Centre Oct 29 6&8pm

Contact: Guy Ryan Ph 021 049 6673 Bookings: Ph 021 520 170

email:outlawcreative@xtra.co.nz Tickets: \$20 /\$15

Outlaw creative

Combining the talents of choreographers Guy Ryan and Malia Johnston and producer Michele Powles, Outlaw creative is a company that is renowned for producing new and innovative NZ dance work of high quality. In the last year and a half it has produced 4 successful new works including the duet "Terrain", "The Fall Guy" - a solo, group work Miniatures that recently toured NZ and most recently "The Mystery of the Disappearing Body".

Guy Ryan - Guy Ryan is one of NZ's most versatile and experienced dancer-choreographers. He has an extensive performance background that includes work throughout NZ, in Australia, England, Ireland, Belgium and Switzerland. In 2004, he presented a solo work The Fall Guy in Auckland and Wellington, choreographed for the NBR NZ Opera production of "Carmen", performed in Kristian Larsen's major STAB commission show "Certainty" and co-directed and performed in "Terrain". In 2005, he has danced with Michael Parmenter, in "Terrain" at the Taranaki and Christchurch Arts festivals and the World of Wearable Art Awards show. He also presented a new work "The Mystery of the Disappearing Body" in Auckland.



Malia Johnston - Malia has been working as a choreographer and dancer since she graduated with a performing and screen arts degree in 1998. She has choreographed her own work the past 6 years including Weather Vain People 2002, Spoke 2003, and Terrain co-choreographed with Guy Ryan. Her large company work Miniatures has just completed a successful 2005 national tour of New Zealand with sell out seasons in a number of centres. She has worked for a variety of companies including Curve Dance Collective, Touch Compass Dance Trust and The Graduate Dance Company and is currently the choreographer for the Montana World of Wearable Arts Awards. Her work on Miniatures, Terrain and the Wearable Art Awards won her NZ contemporary dancer and choreographer of the year in 2004.

Pigeon lacks pigment (but makes up for it in flair)

A rare white wood pigeon resides in the trees by the rimu phone, and often feeds in the foliage across the road.

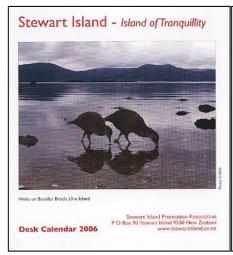
This unusual avian albino likes to play chicken with cars. He has a tendency to burst from the bushes and wing past one's windshield in a



dramatic dash across the road leading down into Horseshoe Bay.

Keep your eye out for this highly kinetic and slightly kooky kereru.





The calendars from Stewart Island Promotions Association are now available at Ship to Shore. These attractive desk calendars are perfect for shipping to friends and family — they come packaged ready to mail! Cost is \$15.



Do you have your wine card from Ship to Shore yet? Winot? Every twelve bottles of wine ensures you a free bottle to the value of \$12. I will tell you the card featured to the left belongs to the editor; I won't tell you how few — I mean how many days it took to procure those stamps.



If you were fascinated by last month's article about Belinda Sawyer's work on the Titanic, you should check out the new DVD at the library. Belinda donated a copy of the amazing Aliens of the Deep featuring the incredible submarine vehicles she has been navigating!

Our shelves are a treasure trove of information. Spend a mellow evening reading up on whisky

(the book walks you through a tasting at the end) (no, we don't provide the samples).

A perfect complement to Our hours are: Seal Morning, a library favourite, is our new copy of People of the Sea, a beautiful classic tale of the search for the selkie (the mythical Scottish seal-human).

What do selkies and whisky have in common? Scotland. Home to Oban, our namesake. And the ultimate binder: books. Come check them out!

Wed 2-3:15 pm Fri 11-noon Sat 11-noon

Visitors are welcome. The borrowing fee is just 50 cents per book!

Happy reading, Jess









Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news

The third season of field work in the Trust's five year study on Stewart Island is beginning as this edition of SIN goes to print. This year

Sandy King will be assisted by Julie McInnes, (an Australian who has been studying little (blue) penguins), Paul Johnston, Annett Eiselt, Nick Torr, Jim Barritt, Bruce McKinlay and Dave Blair. Once again the local DOC staff will be providing logistical support, in particular Phred Dobbins who has the unenviable task of ensuring that incoming volunteers are suitably briefed and end up in the right place, and food packages are delivered to the intended recipient. Phred and Paul will between them monitor the Bravo islands, while Sandy and Julie will take care of the stretch of coast between Long Harry and Bungaree. Annett, Nick, Jim, Bruce and Dave will cover periods when Sandy and Julie are having a break from field

At the end of last season we still had more questions than answers about what is causing the decline of yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island. This season we hope to be able to start answering a few of those questions. We know that last season Corynebacterium, the cause of mass chick mortality on the Otago Peninsula, was present on Stewart Island, and suspect that it was responsible for more than just the one confirmed death here. This season we will intensively monitor the first few weeks after hatching, which is when most chicks on the Peninsula succumbed to this disease. It is also the period when most of the Stewart Island chicks died last season, and it will be most interesting to know if the pattern repeats itself this year. If we are able to retrieve chick carcasses before they get too rotten, the presence of the disease can be confirmed by folk at Massey University. We will also still be on the lookout for any evidence of predation by feral cats, and any other clues as to why numbers are declining.

Last season we monitored a total of 45 nests on Stewart Island and the Bravo islands – anybody like to guess how many we'll find this season? Perhaps we could run a sweepstake. Watch this space for an update later in the year, and a summary of results in March or April 2006.

Sandy

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

Ph: 03 219 1102 Dunedin office Ph: 03 479 0011

Now that daylight saving has arrived – don't forget to

-Re-test the smoke alarm after you have changed the

battery to check that they are working properly and re-

—If the smoke alarm is not working properly – *Replace*

Any person interested in joining the Oban Volunteer Fore Brigade, come down to the Fire Station on a Mon-

at 219 1207 (evenings) for more information.

day night at 7pm or ring Chief Fire Officer David Valli

change the batteries in your Smoke Alarms. —Clean dust by lightly vacuuming over the smoke

Email: SANDY.KING@xtra.co.nz

Email: yept@clear.net.nz

member to test regularly.

the Smoke Alarm.

Recruitments

Other Items

Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade Results for Western Southland and Emergency Services Golf Tournament, 8th Oct.

Fire Brigade Section

Best Net: G. Neilson 71-10-61

Men's Stableford: N. Bennett 37; G. Sinclair 37; C.

Kenning 35

Woman's Stableford: R. Wilson 33; D. Sinclair 27; B.

Pratt 23

Sponsors Section

Men's Stableford: R. Squires 34; I. Munro 29; M.

Woman's Stableford: B. Cowie 32; B. Hicks 27

Longest Drive: A. Watters

Nearest the pin: I. Munro No 2; G. Neilson No 3; A.

Watters No. 6

Two's: G. Neilson; M. Egerton; A. Watters; N. Bennett

Glowing Sky Seaview Water Taxis Dunlop Plumbing Brett Twaddle Building Mico Wakefield

Aurora Charters Anonymous

DB

South Sea Hotel Ringaringa Heights Golf Club

Kaka Cottages

Bay Motels Guytons Butchery NZ Post Real Journeys

Also a special thanks to all the Oban Fire Brigade Members, wives and partners for all of their assistance. A successful golf tournament was held by all. Thank you.

A special thanks to the following sponsors for their support and generosity:

Brett Hamilton - McPherson Real Estate Speights - Lion Brewery Invercargill Truck Services Place makers Ship to Shore Clampett Industries

Rexel Electrical Supplies E. Hayes and Sons Island Transport Allied Liquor Invercargill Licensing Trust NZ Fire Service Big Glory Salmon Farm E.E.C. Mussels Stewart Island Flights Invercargill Volunteer Fire Bri-

Patchwork Weekend by Margaret Rooney

On the first week end in September, six keen ladies gathered in the Fire Station Rooms to learn the basic skills of Patchwork.

Errolyn Taane of Invercargill came across to Tutor us and we gathered with our sewing machines, sewing equipment, and material ready to take it all in. Errolyn promised that at the end of the course we would all have made or nearly made an article, and true to her word we did.

After deciding what we wanted to make, we learnt how to use a rotary

cutter and board, how to straighten our material, then how to cut our required pieces. For the rest of the time it was heads down, cutters going, machines whirring, irons pressing, and the odd word of woe.

By the end of Sunday afternoon, with Errolyn's patient help and encouragement, everyone had made something to be proud of, from two Rikki Timm quilts, two

cushion covers, a small cushion cover and a large quilt in progress.

Thank you to the Fire Brigade for the use of their room, Stewart Island Flights with help towards Errolyn's ticket, the enthusiastic participants, Helen for hosting Errolyn and most of all thank you to Errolyn for sharing her expertise in such a friendly way, it was a very satisfying week-end. We



Patchworkers from Left: Tina Bennett, Wendy Hallet, Jane Wilson, Helen Bennett. Seated: Margaret Rooney, Margaret Hopkins

hope to have another day at the beginning of December to get together to make Christmas articles.

CHOCOLATE AWARD

Peter Cox writes:

After a hard days work on the mussel farm, Jim Barrett, Sandra King, and Russel Salter generously offer to lift a heavy beam I was grappling with.

Up it went. Didn't fit. Must be wrong way round. Turn it round. Up it went. Still didn't fit.

"We can bend it" says Jim.

And with a clever piece of leverage he did.

Up it went. It is now bolted firmly in place. Thank you Jim, Sandy and Russell. *Chocolates donated by Peter Cox*



HOOKED ON HEALTH

Community Health Day 24th November 2005 12 noon to 8 p.m. at the Community Centre



THERE IS LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL GROUPS AND/OR INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE PART IN THIS HEALTH DAY.



HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE YOUR HEALTH MES-SAGE OR PRODUCT.

> FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phillipa Fraser Wilson PH 2191 394

Halfmoon Bay School Fundraiser...

Stewart Island Wall Calendar 2006 - (13 months) \$19.95 ea Size: 250mm x 320mm (folded) fits extra large letter post

10% discount for orders of 10 and over ...

Available for sale Thursday 20 October For viewing & orders at Glowing Sky Shop ph 2191 518 Halfmoon Bay School ph 2191 179 Jan LeQuesne ph 2191 180



Pharology

Back in the day, many of the lighthouses of Europe ran on olive oil. The Cabo Mondego of Portugal used 1,307,000 litres of olive oil per year!

New Zealand lighthouses of old were often fuelled by colza oil (of the rape plant).

Our island's Acker's lighthouse used gas from 1923 to 1968, when it became automatic and changed to batteries.

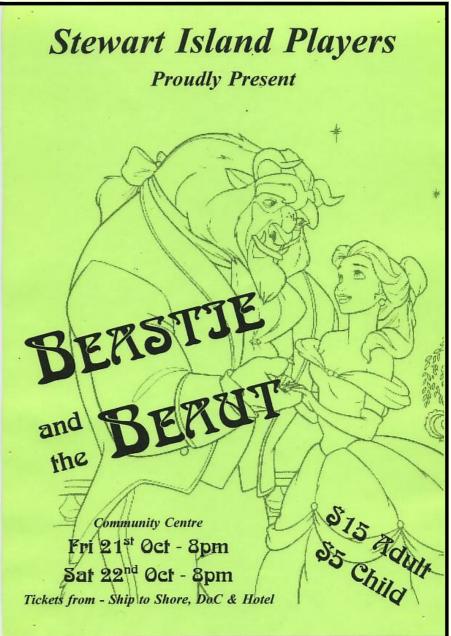






A discarded wig at her feet, hairdresser Tanya puts some last-minute touches on a Stewart Island Player during a dress rehearsal for *Beastie and the Beaut*.





Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email or snail mail.

Please send articles and queries to

jess@stewart-island-news.com, or post to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, 16th November.

If you wish to have Stewart Island News posted to you or a friend, please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:
12 issues to an Oban address \$24
12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30
Yes, we can arrange for international subscriptions — contact editor for rates
Name of Recipient:Address: