

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

September-October 2011

\$2.50

There are a few changes around the Bay: The South Sea Hotel has a nicely painted new sign. Just Cafe also has a new paint job and is now the *Kiwi-French Crepery*. And Ian's digger removed the swings from the waterfront to be replaced with less squeaky play gear.

Islanders have been showing their support for the Rugby World Cup, buzzing over to Invercargill to cheer on Romania, Scotland, Georgia and Argentina.

Thanks to Cherie Champion of the SDC who kindly emailed me to point out a type-o in our *masthead*! Did anyone else notice...?

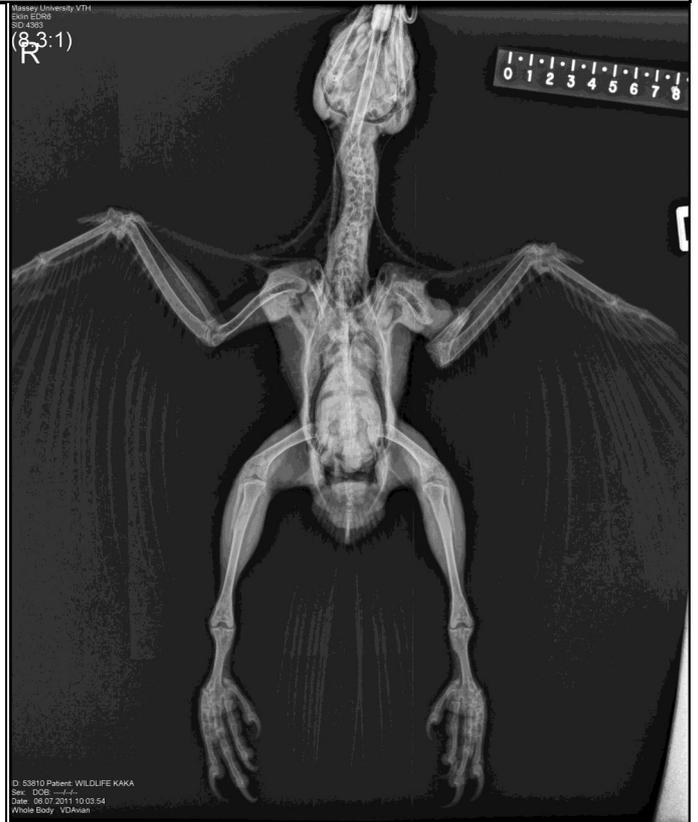
It seems you can't turn on the telly these days without seeing a Stewart Islander. After hilarious Singles Ball coverage, *Closeup* aired a great bit about the Pub's infamous Sunday Quiz. The TV One studio will need new censoring equipment as I'm sure the segment starring Vicki wore out their bleep button.

The Daffodil ladies raised \$1011 this year — thanks ladies! Islanders mucked in for Conservation Week (pp 10-13). And the Hospice drive collected four ferry bins of stuff, there will be another one soon so keep at that Spring Cleaning!

Search and Rescue has been BUSY. They arranged an excellent outdoor first aid course (p15). Then, using up-to-date search methods, SAR revisited a 1991 mystery: the disappearance of hunter Joe Freiman (p5).

The HMB School wowed the community with Peter Pan (see Poppy's story below) and the theatre doesn't stop there... It's time for a Community Concert: if you have talent, get involved! (p3)

Thanks to Kari for doing the *SN* while I was away, and thanks to her for watching Moby and his new baby brother so I could have a spare hour wearing the editor cap.



This might be the creepiest picture ever to grace our front page. Any guesses what it is? See page 10....

Jess



HMB School brings PETER PAN to stage

by Poppy LeQuesne

The HMB School students have done a fabulous job in their production of the famous children's story **Peter Pan!**

As the lights dimmed and the talking faded, the overture began strong and powerful like the beating wings of an albatross. The mu-

sic was harmonious and gave the audience a little taste of what was to come.

After a thunderous and glass shattering applause, the majestic dark blue curtain swung open and the recorder solo announced the arrival of **Peter Pan!**

The show then moved on to the Darling family, with Mother and Father telling Wendy she has to

(Continued on page 8)

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Jenny Twaddle has sent us this update on Loosie who is halfway through his treatment at hospital. She writes: *Loosie doesn't know how to stop working even during blood transfusions. As you can see, he is doing extremely well, and is in remission... He is very positive and looks forward to taking his boat out again.*



Ian's digger removes the old foreshore swings to make way for new playground gear.

Community Centre News

Hi all

Tash the personal trainer is here Thursday 22nd Sept and Friday 23rd morning only - to get you looking fabulous for summer. There are sessions available so let me know- and there is a special if you book a session and join for 3 months you get one extra month free or join for 6 months and get 2 extra months free.

Tash will also be giving me some tips to run a circuit class - we

were lucky to have Kim Hollebon who gave Becky, Chris and I a good workout the other day - so to keep it up we want more people to join us - let me know what times suit you.

We have received our new squash racquets and they are stored up on top of lockers. We also have new table tennis bats.

Please let me know if there's any gear for the gym you would like to see.

The clothes swap has been changed to 8th and 9th October - to coincide with school holidays - please feel free to drop off any clothing to hall - it will be swapped first then sent to town to the Salvation Army.

Hours over winter Wed 9.30am - 10.30am and Sat 9.30am-11.30am or

Contact me 2191166 or text 0272316305

Cheers Diddle

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We strive to get anything people may want. It's a good time for Kiwis to take advantage of the NZD USD exchange rate (over 80cents). No need to wait for any potential savings (that often never comes) to get through to the retail level here in NZ. We can source all sorts, new or second hand outboards, outdoor power equipment, motorbikes, cars etc. Some of the more miscellaneous items we have brought in are: athletic strapping tape, baby gear, and exercise equipment. Take advantage of using a Kiwi business with US connections to save you all the headaches of dealing with overseas purchases.



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Play with fire?

(eat it or poi?)

Play an Instrument?

Play the Fool?

**It's Community Concert time
(Saturday October 22nd October)**

**& we need the Community to
make it happen.**

**Contact Brent Beaven (533),
Gwen Neave (385) or Kirsten
Hicks (309) with your ideas.**

**And if you answered "no" to the
questions above, we have one
more for you...**

**"Can you sit?" - because we also
need an audience!**

Oystercatcher's Choice Oysters

We offer Stewart Island Oysters for sale. Please give us a call on 219 1040. If we are on the farm, please leave a message.

The Oysters are graded into different sizes: medium, large, xlarge and for the very keen the jumbo oysters.

Prices start at \$23/doz for mediums, average weight is about 170g/doz

Large \$29.50/doz - weight approx. 240g

Xlarge \$35.50/doz - weight average 330g

Jumbo \$42.50/doz - weight anything above 390g/doz

We do have soup-oysters available from time to time, 2doz are \$15.

Please give us a days notice if you need a larger amount.

Payment can be by cash, cheque or Internet banking.

www.stewartislandoysters.co.nz

Jim and Hilli Maass-Barrett



Summer and Zoe pose during a dance lesson

QUIZ UPDATE

from Vicki Coats

We've raised over \$7000 this year already and still going so if your group does need a little extra cash, let us know!

Also there will be a vacancy for one night only as Quiz master/mistresses as I am away at the

beginning of November. If you think you would fit the bill, I'll provide the questions...

It was great to have Weka Nathan and his crew at a recent quiz and they did fairly well!

This month also saw the Quiz featuring on Close Up, two hours worth of bad language condensed

into five minutes TV, but still quite humorous! (and just a tad embarrassing).

So if you are around on a Sunday and would like to partake of a few drinkies and a bit of fun (the hotel crew also can sort you out with delicious food) 6pm at the Hotel is the place to be!

Ta Vicki



ban Globetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

In the June issue Sandy King shared an account of her voyage to Macquarie Island. Here her journey continues:

In mid-July I returned to Macquarie Island to begin a 9 month term as a dog handler / hunter for the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Project (MIPEP). This is probably the most ambitious island pest eradication project ever. It aims to eradicate rabbits (plain old grey / brown feral bunnies), ship rats and mice from this 12,860 hectare subantarctic island by aerial baiting and follow-up ground hunting. The aerial baiting phase was completed between May-July and was similar to the one currently underway on Ulva Island, but on a much grander scale due to the size and isolation of Macquarie Island in comparison to Ulva, and the need to eradicate three pest species instead of just one.

Macquarie Island is roughly 1500km south east of Tasmania, is about 34 km long and up to 5.5km wide. It has a narrow strip of relatively flat land around much of the coast (the south and south-western coast is steeper), followed by a steep escarpment rising to about 200m above sea level which then becomes an undulating plateau. The highest point on the plateau is a little over 400m asl. Weather is often inclement and changes very quickly. The prevailing wind is from the westerly quarter and is usually strong – a “calm” day here is anything less than 15 knots and 15-25 knots is ordinary. Wind speeds are given at sea level and the wind is always stronger on the plateau, which is also often covered in low cloud and mist. A calm, clear day up there is a beautiful thing. Four helicopters were used to spread 307 tonnes of cereal based baits containing the toxin brodifacoum (same bait as used on Ulva), snatching any suitable weather window in which flying and bait spreading could safely and effectively take place – i.e. no cloud on the plateau



A hillside that was once covered in tussock.

and wind less than 25 knots, which is quite a lot to ask in a place like this. Eventually the entire island was covered twice, and areas that are very steep and difficult or impossible to access on foot were baited a third time. The total cost of the project is around \$24.6 million Australian dollars.

The baiting was the first part of the operational phase (following 3 years planning and preparation) of the eradication project, and now the hunting part has begun. The aerial baiting technique has been used successfully many times before (think Campbell, Codfish and Bench Islands just for a start, and hopefully Ulva) and based on past experience it is expected that all the rats, and maybe all mice, will have succumbed. However rabbits are another story and experience suggests that not all rabbits will be killed by baiting alone; in fact this has already been proven correct with 5 rabbits being caught since the baiting finished. Because rabbits are renowned for “breeding like rabbits” it is crucial that survivors aren’t given the chance to breed and re-establish the population, hence the importance of the follow-up hunting. This part of the project is expected to take up to three years with a further two years of monitoring.

In 2001 I spent 12 months here working on a cat eradication project. It is quite shocking to see the difference that rabbit grazing has made to the vegetation and landscape in the intervening 10 years. Whole hillsides which used to be covered in tussock are now almost bare and there have been a lot of land slips. On the positive side I’ve noticed many more areas where



Half Moon Bay, Macquarie Island.

burrowing seabirds are breeding since cats have been removed, and this should improve further with the absence of rat predation and competition with rabbits

for burrows.

Estimates prior to the baiting put the rabbit population at somewhere between 100,000 – 150,000. Now, after the baiting and almost two months of intensive ground hunting the estimate is less than 30. We’re looking for a furry needle in a big soggy green haystack.

The hunting is being carried out by a team of 12 dogs and 14 human hunters. The island has been divided into six hunting blocks with a team of two dogs, one dog handler and one other hunter in each block for periods of 24-28 days. There are also two roaming hunters who can spend time wherever extra eyes are most needed. As one of the dog handlers I’ve been assigned two springer spaniels named Ash and Bondi (pronounced Bon-dee). They were trained in Sydney especially for this job by one of Australia’s top dog trainers. They’ve been on the Island since April and have adjusted well to the change in environment and temperature. Ash is the older and more experienced of the two and is a keen and friendly dog. Bondi is a bit younger and can be quite timid around the other dogs and other people but is very confident in the steep and difficult areas and good at finding his own way around. Both have good noses and can easily find rabbit scent put out for training sessions. They get on well together but I usually work them on alternate days so that they get every other day off. This keeps them rested so they have plenty of energy and enthusiasm when it is their turn to be the dog of the day. Some days I wish my bosses would let me work the same way!



Some of the dogs and handlers.

Accommodation on the
(Continued on page 14)

Stewart Island-Rakiura Land SAR update

by Dale Jenkins

Over the last year our local SAR group has been very active in training and operationally. We have purchased and received from LandSAR NZ a lot of new equipment including radios.

The training completed over the last year includes

Garry Neave and Jessica Nicholls completed a two day level 3 Cims (coordinated incident management) course with the Coastguard.

A two day Incident Management training exercise attended at Dunedin by Dale Chittenden, Sharon Pasco and Dale Jenkins.

Two day Air observers training course Zane Smith, Al Check, Furhana Ahmed and Dale Jenkins Track Sign cutting and processing course Queenstown Attended by Andrew King, Clair Kilner.

Pre-selection Tracking Course in Lewis pass attended by Phred Dobbins and Al Check (now both have been selected for the advanced Tracking course to be held next year)

A five day 'Managing land Search operations' Course at Queenstown attended by Phred Dobbins and Jessica Nichols

Local training nights on Island have included:

VHF Radios.

Hypothermia.

GPs and Map a compass

Track Sign cutting and processing.

Search Methods.

Disaster victim Identification

Gear Checks.

Search management paper exercise 'Lost tramper' Mt Rakiuhua.

Two day 'outdoor first aid' course run by Triple one care.

This was attended by 9 members of our group as well as 3 members of the Invercargill SAR group.

Search management paper exercise based on a 'Lost Hunter'.

In this training we re looked at the real search where Joe Freiman a 64 year old hunter went missing in the Mid Glory hunter block on the 30th of May 1991. FREIMAN was not found after an extensive 7 day search in adverse weather conditions. The original search involved a lot of the Stewart Island residents. The management exercise looked at the Freiman search using today's search management, search methods and lost person behaviour statistics.

On Saturday the 17th of September a field training day was held in the Mid Big glory Block. The object of the training was to put all the Management and field skills we have been training to a practical use. Three search teams were deployed in small sectors of the Mid Big Glory hunting block to locate and search around any Hazards that may have been a contributing factor to Joe Freiman's disappearance.

The search and search teams were managed from Gary Neave's boat the Arun.

A number of items including lolly wrappers, drink bottles, tins, a hanky, and skeletal remains of deer, Kaka, and penguins were found by the teams. Unfortunately no evidence of Mr FREIMAN was located.

Three live white tail were also disturbed.

In the future other small areas of the Big Glory hunting block may be searched as part of group training.

The day was a learning exercise for everyone who participated.



Al Check searching.

Running NZ by Kari Beaven

Jup Brown started running the length of New Zealand on 1st September, launching his first stride from the Anchor Chain at Lee Bay. He has left in his wake a tide of supporters, from the school kids he visits along the way (he pledged as far as it is possible, not to turn down any school visit request), to the co-runners and cyclists who have buoyed him up for slice of the journey, the Stroke clubs he has dropped in to meet and the businesses who have sponsored a night's accommodation, a meal or just a coffee along the way.

Jup has inspired people all over New Zealand because, in his own words, he's "just a plumber from Wanaka", who has decided to put his body on the line for people like his friend Nick. There are a lot of people out there who would be saying "I could do something like that" but it takes a very special person to stand up, make a solid plan and then get out there and do it.

Cycling alongside Jup as he set out from Lee Bay, I was expecting to be there but quietly cycling alongside, so he could conserve his breath for the run. How wrong was I! As soon as I caught him up again after the first hill (to my defence I had waited back when his crew asked me to help pack up the camera and lights!) he started yakking away about the journey so far, the journey ahead and the wonderful people he's met, including the HMB School kids. He said having people alongside him was just awesome and talking took his mind off the physical task, so I swallowed hard, hoped the dark hid my glowing face, wheezed as quietly as I could and talked back to him on the downhills. Several others joined us along the way, all finishing up at the ferry to see him on his journey to Bluff and onward.

Jup planned this whole trip with the self-assurance that it would work out somehow. He hopes to raise awareness above all things, but also to raise money so that people who have had strokes can have free access to rehabilitation training equipment. Until a fortnight before he set off he had no driver nor assistant for the journey but stayed strong and trusted that it would all be alright. Rick, who had never met Jup before, stepped forward at that point and said he would like to document Jup's journey and suddenly Jup had a driver and long-haul support person. It was Rick's first trip to Stewart Island and he was pretty taken with the scenery and peacefulness (less so with the sleet that came down just before the run start).

The team are currently around the Ashburton area, and loving the scenes of New Zealand at this pace. They're planning on coming back down to Stewart Island when they finish, for a relax, some fishing and to rest weary feet.

Check out Jup's blog on <http://running-nz.info> (if it doesn't connect, he's probably just updating it so try



again later), or become a friend on his Facebook site.

Excerpts from Jup's blog:

The lovely team at Stewart Island Experience have donated the fee of the ferry to us and I can't say thanks enough. I'm told I

have to run a few laps of the back of the boat when I run, so looking forward to that. Lucky it is only 5m by 4m, so not a big ask. Thank you so much. We then checked to our kindly donated by "South Seas Hotel" room here in Halfmoon Bay where we had an awesome feed for dinner. So nice the food here – you gotta come and try it. Stewart Island is Primo!!!! Long day, so dead on my feet. Big sleep tonight to get ready to meet the kids at the Halfmoon Bay school in the morning. First school of many I hope to visit along the way.

Halfmoon Bay School Visit Posted on August 31, 2011

Today we went along to our first school of the trip, to the Halfmoon Bay School. I had a talk with the kids for 10 minutes about strokes and our mission ahead. They were awesome and asked heaps of questions, and knew quite a bit about strokes which was great. A couple of the boys asked if they could join me tomorrow morning for our start which is just what I wanted. Then we went for a run together around the block and the school twice, and I got smoked! Way too fast for me, especially Billy - he was so quick. Everyone ran great and laughed and smiled the whole way. I couldn't have asked for any more fun. They gave a donation as well which came from the lost property box. If the kids lose or forget their clothes they pay a little fine to get their clothes back – helps the forgetful ones to remember. They also gave us the first copy in NZ of their 2012 calendar which is so beautiful, full of shots of Stewart Island and the wildlife.

Thank you so much for showing me so much energy and fun!

Day One – Stewart Island to Makarewa Posted September 1

Day one on the run got off to a great start after it stopped sleet-ing. With the sun just about to burst over the horizon in Lees bay Stewart Island, Jup set off on his mammoth mission at 6.45am.

A few locals joined along the 6km leg to keep him company and show their support. Stewart Island's strong community knows how to get behind a good cause, anything we needed – such as a big spotlight so we could see the start, or a car to get out there – they were quick to find five people who would have one or could help in some way.

A condition of the free ferry ride, generously provided by Stewart Island Experience, was that Jup had to run a few laps at the back of the boat. Easier said than done on the small vessel especially with the swells we had coming back to Bluff. But Jup didn't let that stop him, much to the amusement of the locals.





People asked to take care with what they throw out

A saw, knife and large fishing hook are just some of the dangerous material Stewart Islanders are throwing out in their rubbish.

Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre supervisor David Squire said staff were extremely lucky not to get hurt by these items and he was getting annoyed at the thoughtlessness of some.

“This is just another example of hazardous materials being discarded without any regard to our staff’s safety,” Mr Squire said.

“Please everyone be very very careful in what you are throwing out as rubbish.”



The team at the centre has found knives poking out of rubbish bags and has had hypodermic syringes fall out of bags in the past. All the rubbish is manually handled and the recycling is sorted by hand, so items like knives, saws and fish hooks are potentially very harmful.

“Please consider others and be safe.”

Council also reminds people, both permanent residents and those who are holidaymakers, that if the rubbish can be identified as belonging to someone, that person can face court action and a fine.

For further information please contact:
[David Squire](#)
 Supervisor
 Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre
 Ph: 219-1581

The Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre opened on the 1st Dec 2003. In the 7 years of operation up until the 30th Nov 2010 approx 1166.6 tonnes of recyclable product has been diverted away from Landfill.

As at the 30th Nov 2010 we have shipped the following product off the Island.

Cardboard		94.1 Tonnes
Paper		71.5 Tonnes
Plastics		17.4 Tonnes
Cans		12.6 Tonnes
Scrap cars	(194)	268.8 Tonnes
Scrap metal		195.0 Tonnes
Car Engines		7.0 Tonnes
Car batteries		13.0 Tonnes
E waste		2.0 Tonnes
Waste oil		5.0 Tonnes
Used Tyres		6.0 Tonnes

Approx 505 Tonnes of glass has been used as a core base before overlaying with clean fill to help reclaim the old Bragg Bay Land fill site.

When the centre opened in 2001 we accepted on Street collection day grade 1 & 2 Plastics, paper, cardboard, steel & aluminium cans, glass & food scraps. Today we accept all of the above as well as grade 3 – 7 plastics, plastic bags, polystyrene, all alkaline and rechargeable as well as flat batteries.

We will also take in other product which has been delivered to the site such as car batteries, small amounts of waste oil, gas bottles, roofing iron, scrap metal, green waste, scrap timber, white ware, paint, small amounts of chemicals (clearly identified.) and out of date emergency flares both parachute and smoke and scrap cars.

In the last few months the centre has purchased a glass crusher which turns bottles into a coarse grain sandy product. This product will be used by Council in walking track maintenance and repair work. It will also possibly be used in a large community project in the future.

In conclusion this community has come a long way in the last 7.5 years and if it wasn’t for the community buy in of the reasons behind the centre then the centre wouldn’t be here today. The community can be extremely proud of their efforts to Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.



(Continued from page 1)

leave the nursery and grow up. Of course Peter Pan wasn't having any of that and he told them about the mysterious and magical land of Neverland where you never grow up.

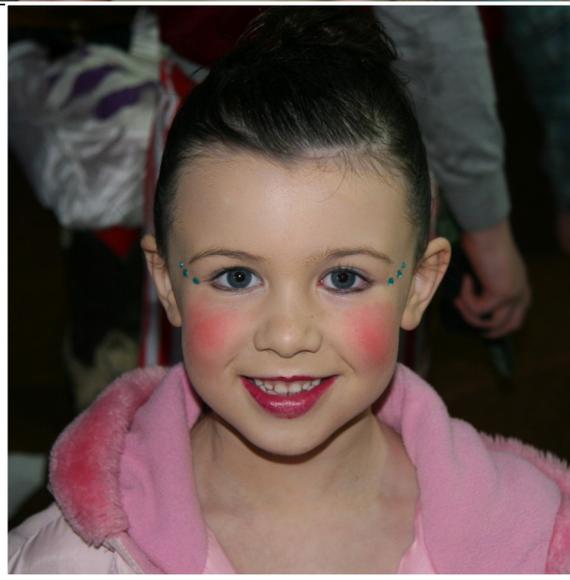
Once in Neverland the children met the exciting and energetic Indians, the sneaky and armed Lost Boys and the sweet and caring Mermaids.

But not everything in Neverland is fun and games! The Darling children and the Lost Boys



PHOTOS: MURRAY GRAHAM and LIZ CAVE

get captured by Peter Pan's worst enemy, the villainous and vile Captain Hook, and his dumb and dirty pirate crew.



Peter Pan arrives to **save the day** and challenges Captain Hook to a magnificent and quirky battle that sends the audience into fits of laughter.

After Peter wins the battle and sends Captain Hook to have a **little chat** with what he fears the most in all the world **THE CROCODILE**, he takes the children home to their worried parents and their miserable nanny dog Nana, who welcome them with tears of joy.

So what a fantastic time this has been for the HMB School students who have worked so hard on this magical play that will stay in the hearts of people on Stewart Island for generations.



DOC Spot

By Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor

A rescue mission of our own ...

While an emperor penguin called Happy Feet has been dominating the world's media, we have quietly had our own bird rescue programme underway. In July a local kaka was handed in at the DOC office with a broken wing. As kaka have become quite rare through the South Island, this bird was sent to the vet school at Massey University to see if its wing could be repaired. His story is best represented by the following updates received from the vet:

8 July: *It's doing very well, but the surgery was a lot harder than I initially thought. Looking at the radiographs, the fractured ends are not sharp like they are in a fresh fracture, but rounded and smooth. This indicates we're dealing with a very old fracture. The elbow part of the humerus was set in a fully flexed elbow position. Over time a lot of fibrous tissue had formed, that prevented movement of the elbow. This had to be broken down during surgery to be able to move the elbow joint again. Also, some bone had to be removed from the rounded fracture ends, to create active healing sites again. By removing these pieces of bone, approx 1 cm in the centre of the humerus was taken away. This "gap" was filled with a bone graft (a piece of bone that I took from the keel bone). The humerus is stable in normal position again, with an intra-medullary pin and some cross pins, creating an external fixation. At the moment the Kaka is treated with fluids, antibiotics and pain killers, and the wing is bandaged to protect the surgery site. It seems very happy, and is chatting away to another Kaka in the ward. The surgery went very well, now it's up to the bird to do some further healing.*

19 August: *The kaka had repeat x-rays done today under anaesthetic which shows that the broken bone has healed. As a result, we removed the metal pin that was inside the bone today also. Unfortunately, the bone has healed in such a way that it is shorter than the other humerus, a complication we were trying to prevent by using a bone graft and a gap between the bones, but which we weren't able to prevent entirely. He also had physiotherapy today but there has been no improvement in the range of motion that the wing can go*

through since Wednesday. We are still hopeful we will be able to improve the range of motion of the wing of this bird. He will continue to receive physiotherapy three times next week under a general anaesthetic.

24 August: *The kaka is still bright and active and doing very well in himself but unfortunately we appear to be making no further progress with the physiotherapy. There has been no improvement in the range of motion of the wing since last week, despite three physiotherapy sessions. The elbow is very stiff and only moves through 80 degrees. The shoulder and wrist are stiff also. The bone that was fractured has healed entirely, and has no further implants holding it in place, but unfortunately the wing is not ready for flight yet.*

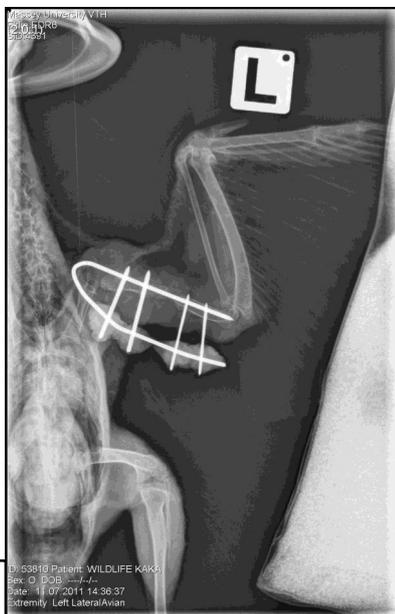
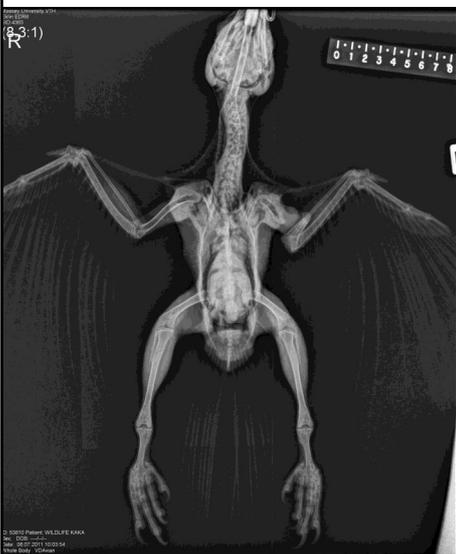
26 August: *I have good news to report today which is that under general anaesthetic we were able to extend the left (affected) elbow through 110 degrees with gentle but firm tension. In comparison, the normal elbow moves through 120 degrees. It is good to be seeing some further improvement in wing function in this bird*

Because of doubts that this kaka would survive if released back into the wild, he has now found a new home at the Dunedin Botanic gardens where he will be part of the captive breeding programme that is reintroducing kaka to mainland South Island sites, including Orokonui near Dunedin. So, in future years if you are in Dunedin and hear the familiar warble or screech of a kaka...it may well have a Stewart Island connection.

Conservation Week celebrated

Conservation Week (September 11 – 18) is being celebrated, as this edition of SIN goes to print. On Sunday, September 11 Sharon, accompanied by Ann Pullen, Jahdan, Sophie, Marley, Jack, Harry and Angus from Halfmoon Bay School and Alina Thiebes from SIRCET travelled to Bushy Point Reserve, in Invercargill to take part in the Great Living Legends Muck-in. Living Legends is a community conservation project that is co-ordinating 17 native tree planting projects across the country during September and October 2011 in conjunction with the Rugby World Cup. This year, DOC Southland chose to forego its annual Conservation Awards and replace formal attire, nibbles and awards with gumboots, spades and sausages to support this event and celebrate commu-

nity conservation in a more practical manner. The good news for Halfmoon Bay School is that the school gets to keep the Conservation Award it won in 2010 for an extra year, so it was very fitting that some of the children were able to part of this event. Thanks Real Journeys for helping out with their travel and thank you kids for giving up a Sunday to help plant trees. (See the SIRCET column for more about this event). Monday's planned interpretation walk to Mill Creek was thwarted by rain; however the whole school headed to Mill Creek and Bathing Beach on Wednesday morning, led by Di, Steph and Al to talk about the history of the area, look at the estuary environment and its inhabitants and learn about tidal zones. Then it was down to the beach for some fun and to continue the dune restoration work commenced some years before. The remaining event for Conservation week is still to



X-rays of kaka with broken wing (above) and after it was set with a pin (right).



Steph explains the life cycle of inanga (whitebait) to the students of HMB school.

can be found on the DOC website: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/restoration-projects/ulva-island-rat-eradication/> Anyone who has further questions or concerns, should contact Brent Beaven by telephoning 03 2190007 or emailing bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz

Stewart Island / Rakiura top place

We all know that Stewart Island / Rakiura is a special place – but it's reassuring to know that others around New Zealand share that sentiment. Stewart Island topped the list of New Zealand's special places in a recent nation-wide survey conducted by the Department of Conservation that asked: *What species and places define us as New Zealanders?* Twenty two percent of respondents ranked Stewart Island in the top 10, ahead of Fiordland (18%), Cape Reinga (17%), Aoraki/Mt Cook (14%) and Rotorua. (13%). Personally, I think we should work on spreading the word, so that next time the poll is taken Stewart Island continues to top the list, but with a 100% endorsement! Further information about the Quintessentially Kiwi Survey, which placed kiwi, tui and kakapo at the top of the list of species, can be found on the DOC website: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/kiwis-tell-us-what-is-quintessentially-kiwi/>

Kakapo population now 129

This month, the Kakapo recovery programme suffered the loss of two, young, female kakapo - one on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island, off Stewart Island and the other on Anchor Island in Fiordland. The two birds were discovered by rangers doing transmitter changes. The first to be discovered, Purity, hatched during the bumper 2009 breeding season. It was estimated she had been dead around ten days when she was found. The other, Monoa (hatched in 2002), was found on Anchor Island and had been dead for quite some time, indicating the two deaths were not linked. Initial autopsies carried out at Auckland Zoo were inconclusive so the Kakapo team is waiting for the results of tissue tests from Massey University. The kakapo deaths are a re-

minder that, although the Kakapo recovery programme has achieved much during the past 21 years – increasing the total population from 49 to 131 this year – the kakapo is still a critically endangered species and vulnerable. As kakapo numbers increase, a natural increase in mortality rates for a variety of reasons can be expected. The good news is more than half the kakapo population is made up of young breeding-age birds, so the recovery of kakapo is still in good shape.

VA team gearing up for summer

The Visitor Asset team have kept busy this past month, repairing fire damage at the department's staff accommodation in Dundee Street when the weather has been too wet and cold to head out into the field. With the assistance of contractors, these repairs should be completed before the first of our ranger trainees and seasonal staff arrive to start work. This week the VA team headed out onto the west coast of the North West Circuit to undertake cleaning and maintenance tasks at the huts and clear windfalls from tracks. Local walks are next on the work programme. Dale spent time with the team recently at North Arm Hut, cleaning, digging a new hole for the toilet and restocking the wood shed. On his return he commented that many of the trampers passing through had said they had come to New Zealand to follow the Rugby World Cup games. Visitor Centre staff have also commented that many of the overseas visitors coming in are telling them they are spending time on the island between RWC games. Interestingly, a number of these people are supporting teams that are not playing games in Invercargill.

Barberry team on the move

The barberry eradication programme is going well with much cutting and pasting occurring around the forested areas of the bay. Soon however, the team will be moving into the township area to undertake this work and if you are a landowner you should have received a letter from Al (who leads this programme) requesting permission to undertake this work on your property. Alternatively, you are welcome to do the work yourself and have DOC check to see how it is going. Please just call into the DOC office and ask for Al if you would like to get some equipment to do this, or simply if you have any questions about the work.

come – Vicky has promised to include some 'Conservation Curlers' in Sunday night's quiz. Let's hope the DOC teams know their stuff!

Ulva Island Update

Last month we reported that the first of two aerial drops of the rat toxin brodifacoum had taken place. Since then, we have been in a holding pattern waiting on the weather to carry out the second drop, for which we need a calm fine day followed by three nights of fine(ish) weather. Recent fine weather has been hampered by the strong winds. Winds stronger than 15 knots blow the bucket around beneath the helicopter and affect the evenness of bait spread. Rat sign has decreased significantly on the island since that first drop on August 18. Places where people were seeing rat footprints are now clear of them. The biosecurity traps have all been reactivated (seven days after the first drop) and to date, no rats have been found in any of the traps - a good sign. We are continuing to watch the weather forecast and look forward to completing the second drop as soon as we get an indication that the conditions are right. In the mean time anyone visiting the island should continue to heed the following advice:

- DO NOT touch bait
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times DO NOT FISH or eat fish or shellfish taken from within 100m of the coast of Ulva Island and surrounding rock stacks until further notice

It is also very important that everyone visiting Ulva following the bait drops continues to check all gear, to ensure they are not unwittingly transporting rats, mice or seeds to the island. Additional information regarding this operation, including a key facts sheet



SIRCET Snippets from Alina Thiebes

Southland Living Legends Muck-In a huge success

Sunday the 11th of September saw 300 Southlanders and overseas visitors descend upon Bushy Point, Otatara for the Southland Living Legends Muck-In, celebrating this year's Conservation Week.

Living Legends is a community conservation project that is coordinating 17 native tree planting projects throughout New Zealand during the Rugby World Cup 2011. Each planting project is dedicated to a regional 'Rugby Legend', and Southland's Living Legend is Kevin Laidlaw.

Southland's Bushy Point Restoration Project venue is the Otatara Landcare Group's "forest in the making", which commenced in 2000.

Volunteers Sharon Pascoe, Ann Pullen and five students from Halfmoon Bay School attended the event, and set to work planting trees, distributing fertiliser, handing out lollies and even a little babysitting! Thanks guys, you really did us proud!

Over 5,000 native trees were planted on the day, and this was achieved in less than an hour! Everyone was so keen to muck in that even the wooden stakes were placed - a job that was scheduled for the Landcare Group members at a later date – and were rewarded with a sausage sizzle for lunch.

Marley hands out fertiliser tablets.



Harry babysitting.



Alina Thiebes also volunteered with a SIRCET (Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community & Environment Trust) display inside the large marquee. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Stewart Island community's projects and to mingle and chat with other local community groups about their recent achievements, current projects and future plans.

SIRCET wishes to extend our thanks to Real Journeys for sponsoring transport, to Mark Oster (DOC) for organising the event, major sponsors Meridian Energy and Project Crimson, Linda & Ray and the team at the Otatara Landcare Trust and, to Ruud Kleinpaste (The Bugman) who was our passionate and inspirational host on the day.

HMB students help with planting. Angus (above) Jardin (below) and Sophie (right).



Lonnekers looking sharp again!

SIRCET celebrated Conservation Week with a working bee of its own on Wednesday 14th September. Local community volunteers armed with spades and gardening gloves stuck into some much needed weeding and planting at the Lonnekers Beach revegetation site, pulling stubborn



Kari and Lyall pitch in.

gorse and bracken, sliding over the steep weed-matted site and replacing a few plants that had perished over the winter. Thanks to all who attended – Lonnekens is looking sharp again!



Jill helps spruce up Lonnekens.

And just a reminder that SIRCET will be holding its Rakiura Environment Centre re-launch on Saturday 15th Oct, 4:30-7pm. *All welcome.*



Greg puts his back into it.

Conservation Week Themed Service

A Conservation-themed service was held at the Stewart Island Presbyterian Church on Sunday 11th September, where Di Morris (Department of Conservation), David Squire (Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre) and Margaret Hopkins (SIRCET Chair) were invited to speak.

Beautiful native flower arrangements were prepared for the service, and a lovely twist on the story of Noah’s Ark was told – of Noah’s wife, the so-called Mrs. Noah – and her efforts to salvage seeds, cuttings and plants while Noah set about rescuing the animals.

Margaret spoke about SIRCET’s conservation role in the Stewart Island community and of the good-will fostered by caring community members through the projects. Our thanks go out to Raylene Waddell and the Presbyterian Church members for hosting us on the day.



Raylene asked the HMB kids to create some decor for the Church for the Conservation Week kick-off. The children used fingerprints and their hands to create this lovely rainbow!



(OBAN GLOBETROTTER Continued from page 4)

island ranges from positively luxurious to, well..... living in a water tank. The Australian Antarctic Division has maintained a station on Macquarie since 1948 and there is a sizeable base at the northern end of the island which can accommodate 40 people. The station, also known by its radio call sign VJM, is “home” for the duration of my stay here and has all the luxuries – hot showers, 24 hour power, warm rooms, washing machines & flushing toilets that are inside, a full time chef, a spa pool & sauna, internet & telephones via a satellite link, movies, music, a library, a gym, a brewery and hydroponics to name just a few. All this infrastructure requires people to look after it and there is a station support crew which includes the chef, plumber, electrician, mechanic, carpenter, doctor, station leader, communications technicians, and meteorological observers. In total there are 34 people here but this number will increase over summer when others arrive to carry out various science and research projects. Most of the station crew have dual roles; for example the chef is also the fire chief and librarian, the mechanic is also the hair dresser (he prefers “hair cutter”), and the plumber is the SAR leader.



One of the permanent huts.

In comparison, life in the hunting blocks is a little less luxurious. Each block has two field huts which are either permanent structures that have been in place for years, or temporary huts put in place especially for the eradication project. The latter are modified plastic water tanks that have been fitted out with bunks and a bench with a cooker, and have a cold porch attached. Cooking is done and heating with gas, and power is supplied by 12V batteries that are charged using a small portable generator. I’m guessing that the tanks are about 25,000 litres – about the same size as my tank at home which I used to think of as quite big, until I had to live in one. It can be pretty cosy with two people inside and moving around requires a bit of planning since there isn’t a lot of space for both people to be standing up at the same time. The huts are provisioned for 12 months and most of the supplies have to be stored in cage pellets outside. Foraging for the box of Tim Tams or tinned peas etc when supplies in the hut run out can be an expedition in itself. One of the permanent huts.

The permanent huts are a bit larger and can comfortably accommodate 3-5 people with space to stand up and move around. Most of the hunting blocks have at least one permanent hut on them so field time can split between living in the water tank when necessary, and the permanent hut when the need for a bit more space arises. The water tanks have been positioned so that accessing remote corners of the block isn’t such a huge hike as it would be from the permanent huts. This allows more hunting time, which is the reason we’re here! The hiking around isn’t such a bad thing though, as the island is pretty scenic and there are some spectacular views and interesting wildlife to look at. It even has its own Half Moon Bay!

—Sandy King

First Aid with Second Helpings

by Kari Beaven

Just about every one of us has done a first aid course at some point in our lives. Some of us sit one every year for work, as volunteers or just for the chance to know *exactly* what to do if ever a friend, family or even a stranger needs emergency help. They can be a great reminder of the little details you forget in the months between, or a catch up on what can be constantly changing recommendations.

The basic gist is always the same though and without wanting to offend anyone, the fifteenth year in a row can be a bit ho hum, sitting in a too-warm room, listening to recommendations which assume a ready access to running water, a telephone and an ambulance-accessible driveway. Don't get me wrong, I love knowing the best way to react if my child is choking or how to deal with the bigger stuff around town, and I DO think

everyone should keep themselves up-to-date on first aid. It's uncanny how many people here have family who wouldn't be with us today if it weren't for the quick response of someone who knew first aid, but the timing on something a bit more challenging and relevant to local outdoor situations being available was just perfect.

This month, the Land Search and Rescue team (Stewart Island Land-SAR) arranged an awesome outdoor first aid course, based as closely as possible on real-life Stewart Island scenarios. We still went over the basic stuff first, but it was staged as a test by each other, of each other, with the trainer there to answer questions



or just circulate, followed by lively group discussions of where there were discrepancies. With that quickly out of the way, we launched straight into outdoor scenarios, again set up by each other, using multiple injuries, complicating factors and no chance of help arriving in the next couple of hours. We had the real quandary of arriving to find more patients than we had helpers, screaming and whinging patients trying to distract us from the ones who needed the most urgent attention, arriving on scene in the dark and not being able

to see the extent of injuries as well as in the usual indoor practice scenarios and being out in the wind and rain, with sticks and bracken getting tangled in bandages. We had patients who had dragged themselves into a shelter, making it very difficult to lift them safely onto a stretcher, felt the real weight of carrying a body on a stretcher across rocky ground, and learnt how difficult it can be for a team leader, often the most experienced person on the team, to take a step back and lead the team in caring for patients, rather than stepping straight in to help treat. We were each patients, taking a mental note of what our carers did right or wrong; carers making a mental note of what the observers might be thinking if we made this or that decision and observers, making a mental note to bring ear muffs should we ever be asked to treat Sharon. Back in the warm we dissected each scenario from our own perspectives and discussed the benefits and drawbacks of each action taken or not taken.

Chris, from Triple One Care, was excellent. I highly recommend this course to anyone who heads off the beaten track from time to time, whether it be for a hunt, taking the kids out camping, working outside of the main township or just the occasional fishing jaunt up the inlet. Our thanks to all of the organisers and to the other team members, who each jumped in boots and all to learn the most about out-of-the-way first aid care.



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Hair `n` Around

Hair, Wigs, Beauty

My next visit to the island will be
20th & 21st October

*Cheers from hairdresser
Adele Larsen
216 4214*

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Will meet at the home of Lee Wadds
at 2 pm on



Thursday
13th
October.

 * Ka tangi te wharauora, ko nga *
 * karere a Mahuru. *
 * *When the shining cuckoo calls he is* *
 * *the messenger of Spring.* *
 * —Maori proverb *

Islanders have been heading to Invercargill for Rugby World Cup games.
Below: locals on a SI Flight returning from Romania v. Scotland *Photo from Ian Wilson.*
Right: Face-painted and caped, Caity cheers on Scotland. *Photo from her mum.*



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