

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

April 2020

FREE

Hākoako. The southern brown skua. I've never had particularly warm thoughts about the thieving scavenging seabird known for aggression and siblicide. And now, I'll forever associate it with the time our world became skewed. On our HMB School calendars, the large brown bird presides over March 2020, flying above the grid of days, its beak pointing down toward the column of Fridays.

On Friday the 6th, a group of excited HMB school students travelled to Gore to compete in the Kids' Literature competition. Afterwards they swam at Splash Palace, had ice creams at the busy pool café, then carpooled back to the ferry at Bluff. The second week of March, kids practiced their butterflies and free style for an upcoming southern swimming event.

Then, like an amusement ride but not amusing, everything started to speed up. The third week of March started out sort of normally, with the school hosting the ERO (Education Review Office) representatives Monday through Wednesday. (Unbeknownst to us then, that would be their last visit to any NZ school.) That afternoon, Bunkers Backpackers announced they were closing due to Covid-19. On Thursday, local businesses gathered to discuss the community response to Covid-19. Friday the 20th March the school held a parents v teachers v students swim challenge in lieu of the cancelled Southern swim comp. One after another, accommodations and businesses announced their imminent or immediate closure.

On the morning of Saturday 21st March, dozens of kids gathered at the Community Centre for gymnastics. At midday, we watched the Prime Minister on TV describe an alert level system for the country, and absorbed the announcement that we were on Level 2, and that oldies were advised to stay home. That evening we explained to our children they couldn't cuddle their grandparents,

(Continued on page 10)



Phred and Belinda Dobbins pose in their "bubble." This is part of a series of portraits by Laire Purik called *Copeisolation*. The collection of photographs features Stewart Islanders isolating in their respective bubbles. "My message behind this project is to bring islanders closer to each other via art and humour in these unsettling times." While practicing safe distancing and common sense, Laire has photographed dozens of islanders and asked them all the same question: *How are you coping?* "After a week it was a pleasure to see how everyone is coping with smiles and toughness." Look inside for more *Copeisolation*. If you are interested in being a part of this project, contact Laire at Lairka Photography on Facebook.

The Ups and Downs of Tai Chi on Skype by Sue Ford

The Tai Chi Group meet Mondays and Thursdays at 10.00 a.m. "Bubbling" wasn't going to stop us if we could get on Skype. Why me? The least technologically-able person in the group was randomly selected to sort it! Though Pat and



Sue practicing Skype-chi.

Jenny don't do Skype, both agreed to do tai chi at home so they were with us in spirit if not in body.

Monday 30 March dawned glorious for our second attempt, and Bonnie and Diane set up outside, Ulva, Penny (and Lola) and I were indoors. Warm-ups over, we settled: "Commencement form, begin," I intoned.

"Sue," said Ulva, "can you show us your feet?"

So – not without some difficulty – I lifted my foot up onto the desk. It seems that wasn't what she meant; she wanted me to angle the camera down to the floor so she could follow my footwork. My screen was then a picture of my desk, so we gave up on that idea.

We began. After a few minutes, a glance at the screens showed we were going at different speeds and facing each other. Our tai chi movements are reliant on us all doing the same moves, at the same time, and in the same direction. This proved somewhat difficult with us all at different speeds. Those doing it faster were forced to wait now and again for the slower ones to catch up, but it gave the quick-

(Continued on page 2)

From the Stewart Island Health Committee:

Unfortunately some residents are circulating and promoting conspiracy theories that the Covid-19 virus is a hoax. I and other islanders personally have friends and family overseas who have Covid-19. The threat is real. —Mary

Thanks

Huge thanks to everyone for staying in their bubbles and helping to protect our Island community. Also a massive thanks and shout out to the Community Nurses who are working tirelessly to look after this community. Also big thanks to Ship to Shore, Stewart Island Experience, the Meals on Wheels crew, the Police, the Garage, the Recycle Centre, and the Post office / SI flights for ensuring our community doesn't go without. These essential staff are working hard to make our lives a bit easier. There are many volunteers in the midst helping out too, we thank you.

Support

Just a reminder if you need local help, don't hesitate to ask via Belinda Dobbins, Kirsten Hicks or Mary Chittenden. We have a long list of people happy and ready to help out. Please keep in touch with your neighbours, friends and colleagues and while the health committee has a system in place just remember that a phone call goes a long way. If there is anyone you are worried about or know is needing help please refer them on too. We have a list of people happy to help in many practical ways including people who are happy to just ring

and have chats so please if you are struggling, say something to someone.

Belinda Dobbins (ph 2191050 or 0273454814), Kirsten Hicks (0273251721) or Mary Chittenden (2191223).

Lots of important information including financial is available on <https://covid19.govt.nz> **(Taken from the Ministry of Health website)** **If you're struggling and need to talk**, free call or text 1737 to have a chat with a trained counsellor. They're available for free, day and night.

- The Depression Helpline (0800 111 757)
- Healthline (0800 611 116)
- Lifeline (0800 543 354)
- Samaritans (0800 726 666)
- Youthline (0800 376 633)
- Alcohol Drug Helpline (0800 787 797)

Flu vaccinations

Thanks to everyone who was involved in last weeks flu vaccinations. Certainly a different scene than usual with vaccinations being done in the car park by fully protected staff. While not everyone over 65 received one that wanted one, we are hoping to obtain more soon. You will be notified when they become available. This may not be until 2nd week in April. For the rest of us they will be rolled out later in April as they become available. The flu vaccine is to help alleviate the pressure that influenza places on the Hospital system each year.

(Skype-chi Continued from page 1)

er movers a chance to work out whether they were going in the right direction or not. In my case, "not".

My screen went black and the Skype icon dropped off. This technophobe had to start from scratch with all the fiddling I had done originally in order to get back. I don't think anyone even noticed I was missing.

Then I realised I was waving at clouds to the left and there was a gentle murmur: "Go right, Sue, go right." But I was in my zone and couldn't figure out where I'd gone wrong. I had to stop, watch and re-group. My back demanded I rest so I sat down. Then resumed. Lola voiced her disapproval - I don't know what Penny was doing wrong, but Lola was desperately trying to get Penny's attention, and succeeded of course.

Later, I glanced at the computer screen from the other side of the office – and all the little screen panels were empty! Where was everyone? Shots of windows, the back of an empty room, two of blue sky - and mine showed Bruce's desk. Not a good look. And the penny dropped: we had been "waving at clouds left" and all waved ourselves out of camera shot. By the time I'd worked that out, I'd no idea where in the sequence we had got to, so had to wait till everyone had "played the lute on the right" back into shot before I could pick up.

Diane went dark. Had she turned us off? It wasn't likely that a crowd of visitors had turned up, so having remarked her absence, we carried on. Diane re-joined the group just as we were ready to start our closing move. Her tablet had decided it didn't like the sun so had packed in and had to be cooled into submission before she could come back.

Usually, at the end of each complete rotation, we turn 90 degrees. Doing this four times, we complete "four walls" but in our home conditions some of us had to turn 180 and repeat, some couldn't turn at all. Glancing at the screen proved disorientating with us all going off at tangents. Bonnie suggested that if I called the move and confirmed direction it would be easier. That worked out OK, despite my feet being dyslexic and not knowing which of them was which.

We performed our "thank you" greeting/farewell. And somehow, the class was done, and we swapped stories of how we were coping, finally said our "cheerios" and arranged to meet on Thursday.

I managed to find the End Call button. Eventually. Does anyone who can handle simple technology want to join our group? Please? J Roll on Thursday.



Halfmoon Bay Police Beat

Kia Ora

It is an interesting time to say the least in New Zealand's modern day history as we experience the effect **COVID-19** has on our day to day lives.

Fielding calls from multiple members of the community about what they can and cannot do have been numerous and I recommend in the first instance you visit the Ministry of Health website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Using the website will give you the majority of the answers to your questions, it is being constantly updated and links to the latest media alerts keeping us all in line with the current situation.

From a Police aspect I want you all to keep up the good work in complying with the self-isolation, also that while you may be out and about getting fresh air and exercise alleviating the cabin fever, ensure social distancing is being observed to avoid the potential spread of the virus.

As a community I've heard of many things being done for the older members as an attempt to help protect and care for them while maintaining self-isolation, good work.

Keeping that in mind I'm sure you don't want to be 'that' person who carried the virus into the community infecting someone else.

A **hunter went missing** in the North Lords Hunting block in the evening of Monday 23/03/2020, "Just a short hunt for a couple of hours".

No Global Positioning System (GPS), Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or map, his compass was useful until he used it with his pocket knife being in a nearby jacket pocket causing interference to the compass.

The gentleman had walked to Chew Tobacco where he was located as part of the aerial coastal search at about 11am on 26/03/2020, a straight line distance of about 12km.

Search and Rescue teams from Stewart Island and the lower South Island attended the search and made a sterling effort in tough bush with difficult radio communications amidst the mire of the COVID-19 level being raised from Level 2 to Level 4.

As a reminder any activities you undertake at this time consider what will happen if things go wrong and what risk are you putting the potential rescuers/ First Aiders at due to your recklessness, negligence, over-confidence or just dumb bad luck. Also I'm sure you would rather be here than in Southland Hospital Emergency Department.

Wearing a seatbelt increases the chance of surviving a crash by 40%, Seatbelts save Lives and \$150.

Safer Communities Together (In self-isolation)

Kia pai to ra

Constable Stuart NEWTON
Rakiura / Stewart Island



A healthier Rakiura and thriving community is the greatest legacy we can leave for our children.

We can't go over it, we can't go under it and we can't go around it. We'll have to go through it. As we navigate our way through the Covid-19 pandemic, our thoughts are with you all during these extraordinary times. Other than essential services, people are at home and self-isolating. We can still contribute to our goal of Predator Free Rakiura by taking actions in and around our homes. It's a good time to set up, check and maintain traps and bait stations on your property right now. Here's some ideas on what you can do.

On your property:

- Ask yourself, have you got your traps or stations set up effectively?
- Can children, pets or vulnerable native wildlife reach them?
- Is this a place where you know predators go? Look for evidence of predator sign e.g. droppings, chew marks, tracks, tunnels through vegetation, fur, urine smell.
- Try some different baits such as chocolate, peanut butter, bacon / meat, cheese and mayonnaise.
- Consider putting up a camera, if you can, to monitor your traps or bait stations.... always interesting to see who investigates but doesn't go in.
- Check your traps – how hard / easy is it to trigger them? Covered in gore, leaf litter or rust? Time for a clean with a wire brush?

Online:

- Pest Detective is an awesome website with tools to help you identify which predator is which, based on clues left at the scene.
- Check out the map of predator control across all of New Zealand by PFNZ Trust. Search for 'PFNZ National map'.
- Type in 'NZ Geo Predator Free', 'PF Practical Guide to Trapping' and 'free bird id nz' and 'doc conservation education resources'.



In March Tane Davis and kākāpō 'Blake' visited the Halfmoon Bay School kids to talk about the tītī islands, saddleback and snipe transfers, Tane's dreams for kākāpō and for Predator Free Rakiura. Kids Kate Asher and Ryan McRitchie-King also headed out with DOC's Si Taylor to check traps on Ulva Island in March. Photo Bridget Carter

Our evening of inspiring conservation talks scheduled for April has been postponed.

Please check out this month's inspiring story from Halfmoon Bay school student Kate. 

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809), Sandy King (03 219 1102), Jill Skerrett, John Cushen (027 640 7522) or Garry Neave (03 219 1385).

RECYCLE CENTRE UPDATE

I just wanted to remind people to recycle as directed, all recycling should be clean, bottle tops removed, cardboard tied in a bundle and kept dry.

We have noticed the recycle bins have been used as a general rubbish bin with anything from house hold rubbish to used tissues and sanitary items!!!!

These Bins will not be taken from now on.

There is enough risk for the collectors with a normal days work without Covid-19 threat so, we ask that you read you previous instructions on recycle items and what you can put in the supplied brown rubbish bag. (under 15kg please)

All rubbish and recycle bins should be at the street frontage by 8am on Tuesday mornings,

Rubbish and Recycle bins not out by this time and missed may not be collected.

Reminder The **transfer station** is closed until further notice.

The **Green waste** at Braggs Bay is closed until further notice.

Rubbish collection continues each Tuesday

We come to your bubble each Tuesday we are most at risk so stay safe and stay home,

Thank you

Transfer station Team

Further Information Call 0272230198 Bruce Miller.

It's the year 2050 my name is Kate Asher and my job is pet cat gadgets. I have invented a collar for pet cats. It's difficult for pet cats to not eat birds and get killed by traps so how the collar works is it can't break. It has an eye in the middle of the collar and a clip that senses when it gets too close to a bird. When it gets too close the collar will make an alarming sound and frighten the birds away and it will do the same thing to any other bird. The collar is used for other things as well, like it has a clip on the collar as well so if it gets lost it will show where it is and you can find it. The collar will show you if it's too close to a trap and will not harm the cat.

By Kate Asher



Stewart Island Kiwi Research update by Emma Feenstra

There are some great news stories from around the world on the wildlife creeping bravely back into urban areas. Here on the Island, we already have kiwi in our backyards, but I wonder if we might start seeing more of them with the lack of vehicle and foot traffic...

Kiwi by definition, are territorial species. This means they consistently defend an area against intruders. However, this project and other projects around the country show that kiwi are not always strictly territorial, and can often be found close to their neighbours, and here on Stewart Island, well within their neighbours 'territory'.

From our transmitted kiwi at Kaipipi and on Ulva Island, this time of year has brought the most interesting movement patterns. In the weeks leading up to lockdown, we kept finding our birds in new and unexpected places, bending and breaking our carefully established territory maps. We found birds were visiting other territories, staying a while, and/or skipping back and forth between the home territory and nearby territories. One day on Ulva Island, 4 previously unrelated birds were all in close proximity and all active during the day, chasing, fighting, calling and entertaining tourists. With the breeding season finished, it makes sense the birds would choose this time to break new ground, and look for unrelated partners in different areas. Perhaps, Stewart Island kiwi maintain territories just through the breeding season.

During the lockdown, some specific forms of animal welfare are considered essential. For example, animals that are contained require ongoing management. Wild animals, like our transmitted kiwi, are still an unknown. Adult kiwi with transmitters are considered to be at no risk when not monitored regularly or for a length of time (say 4 weeks or more). On the other hand, young kiwi like chicks and juveniles are at risk without regular checks. Usually, the transmitter attachment on young kiwi is checked and changed every 4 weeks as the bird grows, to ensure there is no restriction on the leg. Under the current lockdown scenario, this regular monitoring is not possible. This is for the same reason we are not able to surf, hike, hunt, fish etc., as these are considered activities that put people in risk of requiring help/rescue in the case of an accident. Therefore, the best-case scenario for our project is that we remove the transmitters from our young birds, so they no longer require regular checks and are at no risk from any issue with the transmitters during the lockdown period. Together with the local DOC team, we have submitted a field plan with these intentions and await a response from the National DOC team. There are many other kiwi (and other wildlife) projects across the country with similar concerns for the welfare of the animals in their projects. Hopefully by the time this SIN issue is released, we will have an answer.

In the meantime, there is a mountain of data, writing, research, meetings, funding applications etc. etc. etc. to catch up on, and endless daydreams of what those kiwi are up to now that no one is watching them... J

Aren't we lucky to be here in this community for lockdown... keep safe & stay in your bubbles kiwi lovers.

Please email me with any questions at emmafeenstra@gmail.com, and check out our latest video on kiwi during lockdown, and project updates at: <https://www.facebook.com/Rakiuratokoeka/>

Emma & the Stewart Island Kiwi Research Team

~ This project wouldn't be possible without A LOT of local support! Thank you to all you special people, and for checking in on the project during lockdown. Kia kaha



Spot the kiwi!



Successful transmitter change on Ulva

Rakiura Museum Update *by Margaret Hopkins*

It was without fanfare that the old Rakiura Museum closed its door to the public for the last time on the 22nd March. After 60 years it is not the way we wanted to end our days in that building, but like other businesses and organisations we have had to bow to the threat of Covid19 and protect our community.

No longer having to serve the public means that our volunteers can concentrate on exhibition planning for the new museum. We are currently editing texts as they are sent to us from exhibition designer Sally Papps. We are also preparing reports to funders, updating budgets, organizing fittings for the new museum and working on the AV production. All of this is being done from the comfort of our own homes.

Jo Massey, Roving Museum Officer, spent several weeks here in March sorting and packing objects and artifacts ready for the big shift to the new museum building when life gets back to normal. Upstairs is getting crammed with crates so we will at least be able to move stuff downstairs before the big shift.

Lockdown isn't conducive to real estate sales and we are now in the awkward position of having an ideally located building with lots of potential, just waiting on the time to be right for someone to buy it. There had been some interest but with the appearance of Covid19 and the disruption to tourism, no one wants to put their neck on the line for new ventures here or anywhere for that matter. We are still hoping that with current low interest rates and poor returns on money investments that someone might see the potential for the building as an apartment, gallery or café once life gets back to normal. Stewart Island has certainly proved to be one of the better places in the country to self isolate and news of our wonderful tight knit community has been drawing more people here who want to work from home and have the benefits of a more laid back lifestyle. If you know of someone who may be interested in buying the building please encourage them to get in touch.

The original design concept for Rakiura Museum by Monica Barham of Invercargill who was one of New Zealand's earliest female architects. The unavailability of local stone as cladding resulted in a change to the planned exterior.



We wish you well

Phew. We've been working hard to ensure smooth running of the salmon farm and mussel operations in Big Glory Bay and the processing plant in Bluff – we're proud that Sanford staff have been recognised as providing an essential service to New Zealand.

Right now our focus is helping to feed the nation and keeping our people and communities safe. This means that on Stewart Island and in Bluff we're putting in a lot of effort to ensure our staff feel cared for and respected, while also guaranteeing the 2m safe bubble at all times.

There's a lot of new procedures put in place. Actually some of these things we've been doing for a couple of weeks now – like stopping all non-essential visits to the farm and our offices.

We're thankful to have such a great team of people on our staff. We also want to call you out and acknowledge everyone in our community that is helping to do their bit to keep them safe, by also keeping to the 2m bubble rule and washing hands.

Through the COVID-19 Level 4 our San Hauraki vessel, which normally transports feed and harvested fish between Bluff and the farm, will also be taking a small number of our people into Big Glory Bay to facilitate a 14 day shift change (rather than 7 days). We're also taking care that their travel between home and South Port always keeps the 2 meter bubble. It's a massive thank you all around to everyone who has been helping us.

Please reach out to us with any questions. Ali (027 293 7795) is always available to take your calls.

All the very best to you and your families over the next few weeks, warm regards from us at Sanford Ted, Richard, Jaco, Bevan, Chris and Ali and the rest of our great Sanford Stewart Island team.

Proudly Rakiura



Fire Managers Urge People Not to Burn During COVID-19

While we unite against COVID-19, Principal Rural Fire Officer Timo Bierlin is urging people not to have any outdoor fires. Mr Bierlin says, "it's important our volunteer firefighters stay in their bubble to prevent contracting COVID-19 and remain able to respond to their community's needs". The government has called for people to 'help emergency services by only doing safe activities'. Mr. Bierlin ask people to be kind and follow the government's advice and not burn. Most out of control fires are caused by humans. If people don't burn, we stop all out of control fires. Burning risks exposing firefighters and their families to COVID-19. Volunteer firefighters are experiencing the same level of uncertainty and anxiety as all New Zealanders, with the added pressure of attending callouts. Mr. Bierlin says, "nothing is more important than keeping New Zealanders safe and nothing is so important it needs burning right now. We want to ensure our firefighters remain fit and healthy so they can continue to serve their community".

[Fire and Emergency NZ are prepared to respond to a variety of events including hazardous substances, medical calls, and vehicle accidents.](#) Keeping firefighters at home, ready for serious events is Fire and Emergency's number one objective. Stewart Island is currently in an open fire season For more information please contact www.checkitsalright.nz or ring 0800 658 628.

MYTHS & LEGENDS CLUB

Jess Kany and Julie Asher are starting a myths and legends club for kids. We'll tackle myths and legends from around the world with reading, quizzes, discussions and games. We were inspired by the fascination the students had for Greek mythology as we prepared for the Kids Literature Quiz last month. Afterward a few students said they would be interested in learning more mythology. We fell over in the "legends" category of the Quiz, so legends would be a good thing to cover too.

Get in touch with either Jess or Julie if your child is interested in participating. It will be an emailed/on-line discussion during lockdown, and in the future we'll meet once or twice a month for fun and stories.



Emma found this vintage cough medicine bottle in her garden.

BEWARE OF THAT LION IN YOUR KITCHEN

If there isn't quite enough action at home, and you're allowed to borrow your Mum or Dad's phone, then call in the zoo. You can check out tigers, alligators, sharks and heaps more by inviting them into your kitchen.

Here's how to take a photo of a lion in your lounge.

- ◆ Search for the animal you want to see, for example search for 'lion' on the **Google Chrome** app, making sure you are searching in 'All' not images or videos.
- ◆ Just under the Wikipedia description of a lion, click on 'View in 3D'
- ◆ Give Google access to your camera
- ◆ Once you say yes, you will see the lion on your screen – point your phone to the floor and then move it slowly around your room to bring the lion inside.
- ◆ Make your lion bigger or smaller by zooming in or out. You've then got 30 seconds to take a photo.

Our challenge to you is to dress up in a costume and take a photo of entertaining the zoo at home. Send it to Ali at Sanford

sanford.law@sanford.co.nz and we'll make up a poster to hang on the Community Notice Board in a few weeks. Good Luck

Follow the
Stewart Island News
on Facebook

RAKIURA PEST CONTROL

Local trapping service targeting
RATS, POSSUMS AND FERAL CATS
On Domestic, Commercial and
Bush Block properties

Non-toxic lures to humane kill traps or live
capture traps (for feral cats/possums)
NO POISON USED

**CONTACT DENISE HAYES ON 2191 159 or
0273 913215**
to discuss your individual requirements



Stewart Island Real Estate

For all local listings -
houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

See our website **TODDCO.NZ**
or contact our local representative
Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589
for all Island real estate enquiries.

What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



Kia ora koutou.

As we know, business as usual on Rakiura involves a degree of isolation and added logistics but we've still had to make some big changes.

All DOC staff on the island (and the country) are working from home on a range of administrative, relational, strategic, planning and reporting tasks. We're still contactable through e-mail and phone and here to help wherever possible.

If you think we might be able to help your group/organisation in any way then please get in touch.

Please find the latest key messages from DOC as follows:

The Department of Conservation's priority is to support New Zealand in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and saving lives. New Zealanders are being told to stay home to break the chain of community transmission of this deadly virus. DOC is playing its part. Right now that means DOC facilities and offices are closed, and tracks and national parks are out of bounds unless they are right by your home.

Recreation in the great outdoors needs to be put on hold as the country goes into lockdown for four weeks.

All DOC staff who are not involved in Incident Management Teams are working from home. This includes rangers and other field staff.

We have arrangements in place for essential care services for threatened native species held in captivity. DOC will be monitoring the situation over the coming days and weeks and may respond in specific situations, should safety issues arise in conservation areas.

Visit DOC's website for information including track updates, closures and safety advice: www.doc.govt.nz

Go to <https://covid19.govt.nz/> for the latest all of government updates.

You can also check out our dedicated webpage which is regularly updated with new information (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/covid-19/>).

As always, please accept a warm invitation to contact me on jross@doc.govt.nz or 027 542 8450.

Take care and stay well, Jen

(Continued from page 1)

and that upcoming events and birthday parties were cancelled. We fielded numerous anxious questions with: "I don't know."

By Monday 23rd March, things really started to whirl. Level 3 was announced. When the bell rang at 3pm, students were told to take all their stuff home: school's out indefinitely. For days to come the background noise to our thumping hearts was the drone of helicopters as DOC searched out trappers and hunters from the tracks and huts. On top of that a search and rescue operation was underway for a hunter missing at Lord's River. By Thursday we were at Level 4, sequestered in our respective bubbles in a nationwide lockdown, the only faces in the Pub window a row of teddy bears.

When the missing hunter was found at Chew Tobacco on Thursday there was a collective sigh of relief: we didn't think we could digest one more bit of bad news.

Our brains have taken on a year's worth of



horrible news in less than a month as we watch the World with growing dread and alarm. Eyes on Italy, eyes on New York, Sweden, Tokyo, Oz. Eyes on Bluff. Eyes on unfamiliar boats in the bay. We look at graphs. We watch the 1pm updates, or we pointedly don't, then reach for our phones anyway to see the new numbers.

On the 27th, the last Friday in the skewed skua month, the Kid Lit Comp seemed like ancient history — a long-ago

time when groups of people carefreely gathered and socialised and travelled. Back when our lexicon didn't include bubble, self-isolation, cluster, and community spread. When two-metre was just a nickname, when washing your hands wasn't a mandate and life-saver, when the words Friday and weekend and Monday had meaning. Flattening the curve meant wearing a sports bra.

If you're feeling like you've been living in a bad dream, riding a demented carousel whirling round faster and faster, spinning out of control, rusty cogs flying, pretty ponies replaced by screeching pelagic predators,

well, you're not alone.

But, hopefully, two weeks into lockdown (or lickdown as some people's phones keep autocorrecting), hopefully you're feeling calmer. Things are quieting now and we are adjusting to new normals and finding the good news where we can.



Here's some good news: we are in a beautiful place

with plenty of room to stretch our legs and souls; there is a strong network of support and care here; we don't need a hashtag telling us to be kind.

The good news is that despite horror stories of hoarding and panic buying around the country and the world, there are hardly any bare patches on the shelves at our local shop. It is a testament to the character of this community that right through every day of this unfolding crisis, toilet paper remained on shelf at Ship to Shore. These are strange, unprecedented times, so if the presence of TP at the shop is the measuring stick for our humanity & sanity, alrighty then. We're doing fine so far. *Kia kaha Rakiura.*

COPEISOLATION by Laire Purik



Sharon: "Feeling lucky in our work bubble."

ART IS NOT ALWAYS ABOUT PRETTY THINGS. IT'S ABOUT WHO WE ARE, WHAT HAPPENED TO US, AND HOW OUR LIVES ARE AFFECTED.

Elizabeth Broun



Morgan, Riki & Emily. "The three musketeers will cope!"



Shona, Ben & Monty. "And then there were three..."



Jen & Al. "Living in a tiny bubble is an interesting start to a brand new marriage."



Josephine. "At least the sun is shining."



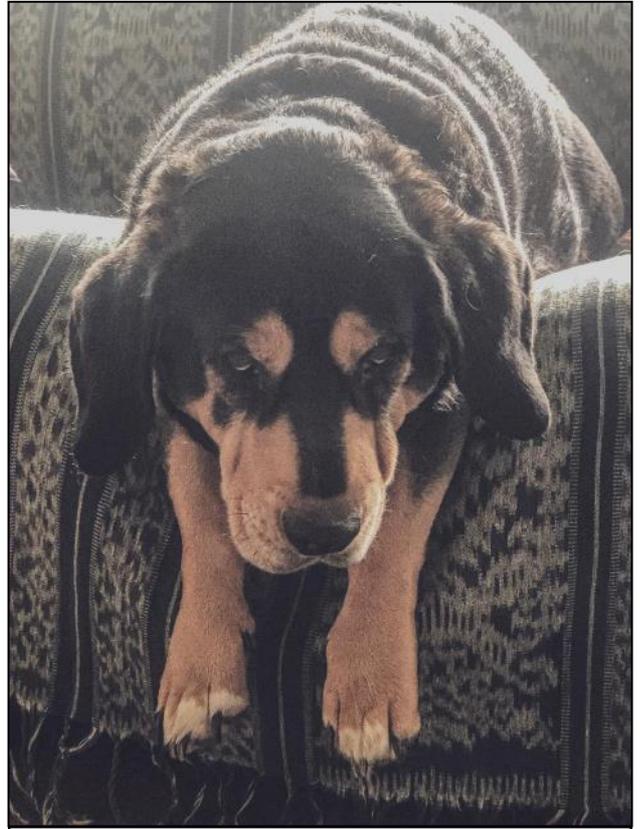
Michaela:
"I miss you."

Gareth:
"F— off."

Steve:
"One more step..."



Chris, Serena, Neek & Chase. "One day at a time."



Carlos Alejandro. "One more walk and I will send a complaint to the SPCA."



Sayla, Tam, James, Archie & Lou. "Kai Moana is an essential food. We are so thankful to be here."



Steve Meads. "Horrible! You can't lock up Leos!"



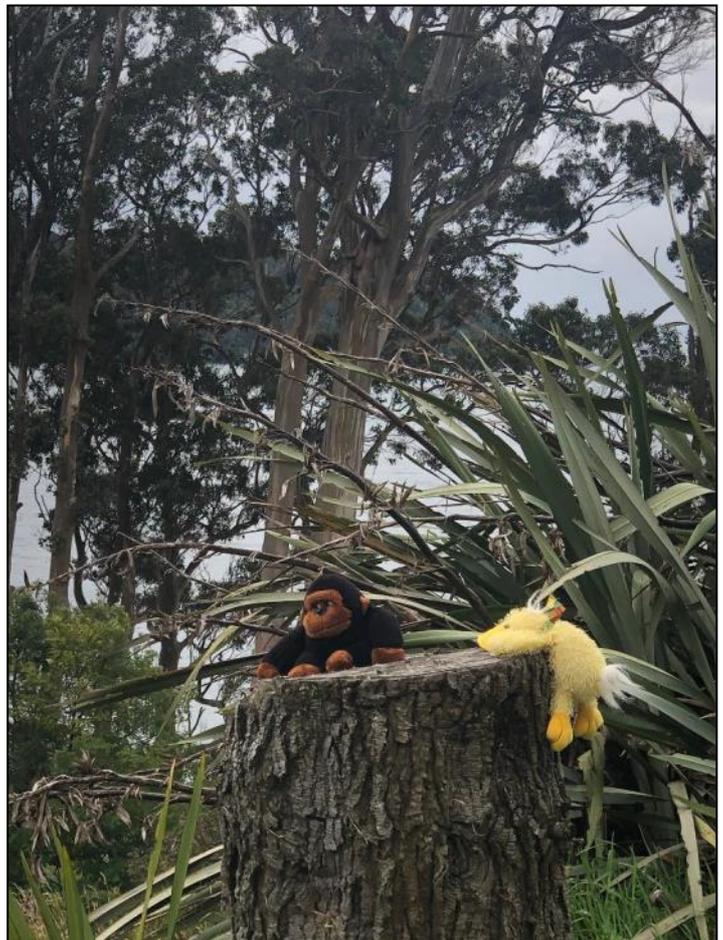
Rakiura. "I wasn't prepared for this, but I am prepared for dinner."



Bella, Pip & Ian. "No place like home."



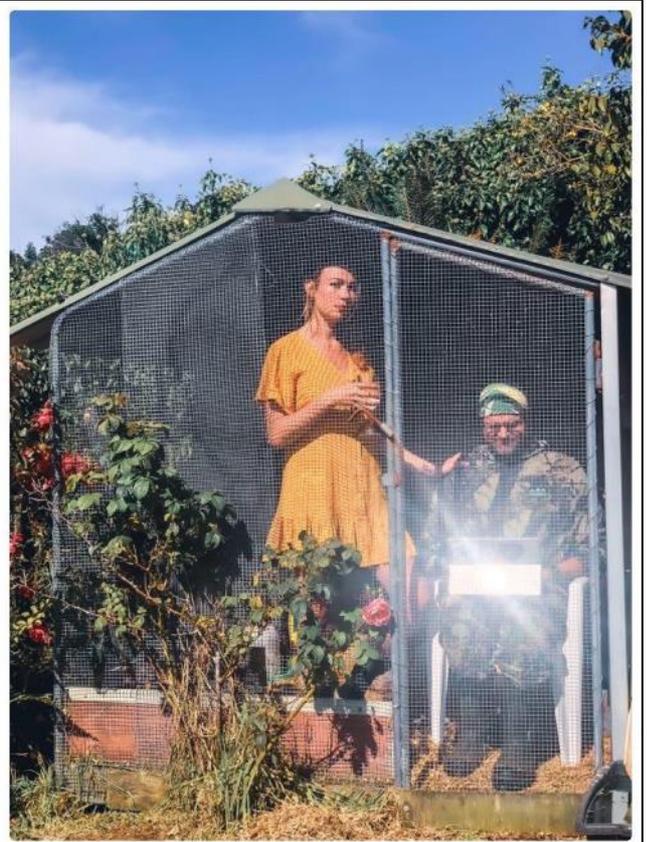
Magic, Ang & Manu. "Week one. We are smiling."



Monkey & duck. "What don't you understand about two metres?"



Rosie & Daniel. "I didn't think I'd bring on a pandemic by wishing I didn't have to leave the island. But if I'm not spotted after self-isolation finishes, check Daniel's shed for the body."
#younglove



Pauline & Willy. "Making the best of being cooped up."



Margaret & Colin. "We are so lucky living in a beautiful isolated place like this. We should appreciate every day."



Jules, Matt & Nonu.
Matt [wearing Russian hat, tie, and nothing else]:
"I thought I should wear something smart."
[Photographer laughing so hard she can't breathe]
Jules: "Laire, are you having a heart attack?"

Updates from SIPA (Stewart Island Promotion Association)

Stewart Island 4 Square

As of Saturday 11 April, the Stewart Island 4 Square will be opening their doors once again to customers – this will be a strict 3 at a time scenario (1 in 1 out). The hours will be 9am – 5pm. Until then, please place orders by email (stewart.island@foursquare-si.co.nz), include your account number and contact phone number. Other alternative is to phone on 2191069 or Sam on 027 238 5435. The shop will be **closed on Good Friday** (Friday 10 April).

Meals on Wheels

This service is courtesy of Thorsten, and the South Sea Hotel. Meals are currently available on Wednesdays and Sundays, with orders needing to be received by 10.00am on the day of delivery. To place an order phone Thorsten on 027 814 3337 or 2191016 and it will be delivered to your door by one of the enthusiastic volunteers (following social distancing protocol). All meals (costing \$12) will be charged to your hotel account monthly, so no money changes hands at this stage.

SIPA

Promotions have been in consultation with Great South to work out a strategy to keep tourism active once the travel restrictions are lifted.

Rakiura Shipping

Although there is no usual freight run, Rakiura Shipping are maintaining a schedule to ensure adequate supplies of diesel, petrol, LPG, wood and coal for the Island.

Stewart Island Flights/NZ Post

Flights are now restricted to essential charters or ambo flights. If these occur, mail and other airfreight will be included where possible. Should you have freight arrive, John or Amy will contact you where possible and will leave this on the deck at the Koru Lounge (back of depot). If you are expecting freight and want to leave a phone number, contact John or Amy on 2191090. Staff will be there 10 – 12 noon daily. There will be no access to the building but you will be able to speak to them at a distance.

Stewart Island Experience

Latest ferry schedule:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8am ex Stewart Island

10am ex Bluff

Friday

8am ex Stewart Island

4pm ex Bluff

These sailings are for essential travel and freight only. If freight arrives, you will be contacted. If you need to update your contact details, email Jon on jspraggon@realjourneys.co.nz.

Please contact Kylie on 022 392 6062 if you have any queries.

Pete Ross Automotive

Opening hours 10 – 4pm weekdays. Easter -Closed Good Friday, open Saturday 10-12, closed Sunday and Monday. For queries, phone Sharon on 2191266.

RRRC

The centre is closed but rubbish runs will be continuing as usual. Please have your rubbish and recycling out by 8am on Tuesdays.

If you have information you would like to share with the wider Stewart Island Community, please email kirsten.hicks@southlanddc.govt.nz

Remember – stay safe, stay in your bubble and stay kind!

This is a fluid situation. Schedules and protocols for local services could change. To keep up to date, follow Stewart Island News, Stewart Island Buy Sell & Exchange, and Future Rakiura on Facebook.



by Becky Bell and Willy Gamble

Kia ora everyone, my name is Becky Bell and I recently took over as Project Administrator for SIRCET. I moved to Rakiura 5 months ago with my two preschoolers, Josie and Reuben, and my husband James. We were looking for a better lifestyle with a small friendly community, surrounded by wild natural spaces and a cooler climate..... Boy, have we found it here! Rakiura is incredible and we feel so fortunate to now call this place home.

I love everything about the natural world, and am excited about helping the Trust secure funding to continue the amazing work that it does in our community. I have a background as an ecologist. You will find me walking the beaches and tracks with my family, dashing in and out of Ruggies, or out in our garden. You may have seen me driving our little white electric car. Thank you to this amazing community for the warm welcome. You guys are awesome!

NURSERY

Volunteers have put in a heap of effort and our nursery is up and running at Traill Park. It's great to have it established in the village. When we have returned to Level 2 alert level for COVID-19, members of the community are welcome to drop in and take plants for your home gardens, and pay via bank deposit. Details here: www.sircet.org.nz/donate or (normally!) pay at Glowing Sky. Recommended koha = \$4 per plant. We are looking to start propagating plants again in the winter and welcome any green thumb volunteers. Please contact Willy with any queries willy@sircet.org.nz

MONITORING REPORT

February 2020 monitoring results showed an overall reduction in positive rat tracking in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project Area at 43%, previously 53%. We recently gathered in 72 of our goodnature self-resetting A24 traps which have exceeded their lifespan and shipped these back to the factory for replacement. We are hoping that once the refurbished traps are in place it will lead to a reduction in rat numbers in our core zone close to Ackers Point.

February showed a spike in rat catches, especially on the Golf course and Golden Bay Tracks. We recently caught two possums in our community zone and are expecting to catch more moving in to Autumn/winter. We also have our biennial possum monitoring due this winter. Our feral cat results are sitting at 23 for the season, overtaking the record of 22 set in 2016/2017.

We have been lucky to have had the help of visiting volunteers Tom, Alex and Carola helping over the past month or so. SIRCET trapping operations are currently suspended due to Covid-19, but we are eager to get back out there once the level four restrictions have been lifted. In the meantime, we encourage volunteers and landowners to remove pests such as rats and invasive weeds from their properties. Our trap library will be open again when the local alert level is back at level 2.

We also have a brand new shiny web app to show off our catch results.

<https://www.sircet.org.nz/our-story/trapping-results/> This uses the same ESRI technology that you may have seen on One News for the Covid19 world results.



Church Chatter by Jo Riksem

Our church building might be closed for a time but we're still around.

On that thought we've established a Facebook page to share our thoughts and inspirations. These will come from members, islanders and those who have visited our church over the years. If you would like to post something please send me a word document to jriksem@gmail.com Please make them short and positive. There are a lot of things being shared and we don't want to bombard people but to offer them hope. As time permits I'll put new postings at least once a week. This is for all, to help us through a difficult time and come out the other side rejoicing. If you know anyone who is not on Facebook but would like these postings via email just message, text or phone me their email 027 4552191 and I will send them out each week.

There will be special postings all going well for Palm Sunday 5 April, Good Friday 10 April and Easter Sunday 12 Sunday.

We live in a brilliant community with amazing support. So many blessings to be thankful for. Take time for the little things.

Seal Lullaby *by Rudyard Kipling*

Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,
 And black are the waters that sparkled so green.
 The moon, o'er the combers, looks downward to find us,
 At rest in the hollows that rustle between.
 Where billow meets billow, then soft be thy pillow,
 Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!
 The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,
 Asleep in the arms of the slow swinging seas!

This is a shout out of appreciation of a peerless asset, an open expanse of rolling green sward on an island largely dominated by dense bush. Where else on Stewart Island can you walk – and huff and puff! - up and over challenging acres of carefully mown grass, exercise yourself and your pooch or sit companionably with a friend, exalting in glorious sea views in all directions?



Over the last 40 years or so, a small group of wonderful Islanders has coaxed into being one of the finest, best designed golf courses in New Zealand. More than one professional has declared that it contains ‘holes as good as any in the country.’ The Visitors’ Book of Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Course says it all: “What an exciting challenge! What a fantastic view! We are so glad we came!”



There is a wealth of stories to be told about our golf course and the colourful characters associated with it. This much was obvious as I began asking the usual suspects for their recollections of how it came into being. Suffice to say, gentle readers, that there will be much diligent research into the truthfulness or otherwise of the foundation myths which have been offered, but boring, I promise you, they are not. With the indulgence of our delightful editors, I shall endeavour to collate these into some semblance of coherence for a future edition or editions of S.I.N., once this fraught passage of the Covid 19 pandemic has been navigated and I can safely interview at length some of the founding fathers and mothers.

Breathtaking view... especially if you have walked up there!

In the meantime, a brief resume: about 1987 a group of keen Stewart Island golfers formed a club to develop what were then sheep paddocks owned by Roger and Brenda Hicks into a golf course. Lorna Hitchcock had designed a layout of challenging fairways and 6 holes to fit the terrain and thus began a labour of love - contouring and drainage, mowing and pruning, planting and weeding, fundraising and fun-raising. The opening game was played in January 1988, about the same time Stewart Island was being wired up to reticulated electricity. Electrix, the company charged with hooking us all up to the local grid, donated a trophy in the form of a telegraph pole and hence the origins of the Electrix Competition.



Dog heaven

In the beginning the land was leased from Roger and Brenda. The sheep remained, the greens protected by wire fences, both of which added novel elements to the standard course hazards. A new term entered the arcane vocabulary of golf – the dubious accomplishment of hitting a sheep was termed a muttonbird.

As time went by, the club took the courageous step of buying the land, fundraising ever more imaginatively.

And through it all, Lorna and Ian Sinclair, Ian and Sue Munro, Jon Spraggon, Russell Squires, Ewan and Jenny Gell, Neville Bennett, Dave Kershaw and no doubt many others have continuously developed and maintained this very special place. It is not just a golf course; it is a pleasure park and we are privileged to be allowed to ramble through it.

The gardener in me has always appreciated the plantings of rhododendrons, red hot pokers, agapanthus and beds of osteospermum. In flower these plants are stand-out performers, a fact not lost on some visitors from Auckland who were overheard exclaiming at the rich colour palette. ‘Haven’t I been telling you?’ said a lady vehemently to her companions, ‘Auckland is faded!’ Well, I could not possibly comment!

As we search for imaginative ways to catch up safely with friends and family and not spread the virus, what a great opportunity our golf course provides. I’m not suggesting we do this en masse but the whole population of Stewart Island could easily fit on to the course, keeping the mandatory 2 m distance apart from one another. So, if you are feeling, mouldy, ropey, caged in, ring a friend and arrange to meet there for a walk and a talk, thus preserving both your bubble and your sanity.

Keep calm, keep safe and keep gardening on!

Raylene



Osteospermums framed by Paterson Inlet
photo by Jenny Gell



SANFORD UPDATE

What we're doing to help keep you, our people and our community safe from COVID-19.

Since being recognised as one of New Zealand's essential services our salmon farming and mussel teams have been working hard to implement new ways of working. We want to share with you the new measures we have put in place.

We are incredibly grateful that our staff have all offered to work extended shifts during Level 4.

It's all about the bubble

Our efforts have concentrated on isolating our work and home bubbles in line with Ministry of Health and Ministry for Primary Industries Guidelines.

Ferries and flights to the Island

On the Tuesday before the lockdown started we had already stopped using all public transport. We now have one vessel going between Big Glory Bay and Bluff - which is our freight only vessel the San Hauraki, no staff are transferred on her, only fish feed and supplies. All non-essential visitors and our feed company visits were stopped from the 16th February.

Managers

Normally our managers rotate one week on - one week off. In response to COVID-19 Bevan and Chris will stay on

the farm for the 28 day lockdown. Jaco and Richard are in lockdown at home, ready to relieve them.

Net cleaners

We have four people deployed in net cleaning duties on a seven day, rotating shift. We've rearranged their schedules to allow the people with families to go home, and we're taken on a new staff member who is island based to train into this position. Net cleaners do an important job removing the marine growth and sea-weeds from the nets to ensure good water and oxygen flows through the farm, this is a priority task.

Harvest team

We have a harvest team of five people who work Sunday through to Thursday. Last week we paused the harvest while we reviewed their entire operation and revised ways of doing things. We wanted to ensure their personal safe bubble at all times. This team is all Stewart Island based.

Shift workers

Our current team are all island based and have been on the farm since before the lock-down, they have agreed to cover

the full 28 days. Their job is to feed our salmon and ensure the smooth running of the farm with a keen eye on ensuring our fish stay in top quality. Immediately our markets open up again, we need to be ready to deliver our amazing Big Glory Bay fish to the world.

Engineering staff

Engineering staff supporting the farm have been reduced from three to one, and this person will also stay on the farm for the 28 day lock down.

San Hauraki

Our San Hauraki has a crew of three. They travel between the farm and Bluff five days each week. This vessel brings the feed in for our fish and takes the harvested salmon back to Bluff for processing. This crew has changed their processes to ensure their 2 meter bubble separation for all parts of their trip, and will not at any time get off the vessel and go onto the farm. Everyone will maintain their safe bubble.

Dive team

We have a dive team of six made up of three local and three contract divers. The divers would normally operate on a weekly rotation but all have agreed to all stay for the 28 day lock down. The dive team is essential to our operation ensuring the integrity of our fish nets, preparing pens for harvest and assisting with fish health.

Daily travel

For daily travel from the Island to the farm prior to the

Government's Level 4 lockdown we were already using a Rakiura Charter taxi to transport personnel to and from the farm. We now have one of their taxis designated for Sanford's exclusive use, which will transport two of our people on each trip. This secures their bubble.

Dedicated transport vessels

To ensure we maintain our 2m bubbles for all our Stewart Island staff coming over from Oban, we have also hired the Aurora for our exclusive use and have limited the number of passengers carried on her to 10 people – again it's all about helping our staff to maintain their physical distancing bubble. A vessel register is maintained on both vessels, all surfaces are cleaned after each trip, in both directions. Our people are all doing lots of hand cleaning, sanitising and safety wipes.

Induction and sign off on our new ways of working

All staff have been trained on the new requirements, and have signed off that they understand and accept responsibility to ensure the new procedures and will maintain their 2m bubbles at work and at home.

At the beginning of each morning we check in with our staff ensure they have maintained their bubble before they head out to the farm.

There is a clear understanding that the changes to all farming processes and operations are to ensure peoples' bubbles are maintained at work, at home and between work and home.

We're totally open to hearing your ideas on what other changes we can implement on the farm.

Please reach out to Ali on 027 293 7795 or aundorf-lay@sanford.co.nz.

She is always available to take your calls and hear your suggestions.

At Sanford our focus is keeping New Zealand fed while keeping our people and communities safe.

We are taking this responsibility very seriously and are constantly reviewing our procedures.

It's a dynamic time and we are committed to staying in step.



Over the Tea Cups by *Peter Schofield*

If the world throws you a lemon, reach for the tequila.

“Are you writing about the algal bloom?” Denise said.

“Yes,” I replied, “A good story is about the struggle, overwhelming odds, then overcoming adversity to conquer all in the final stanza.”

“Are you writing pulp?” Denise asked.

“Yes.” I said.

“Then you will not only need tequila for the nerves, but Horlicks for the stomach.”

In past times algal blooms were never an issue. They were and are a naturally occurring phenomenon that appear on a regular basis. However, they are an issue when you have a salmon farm that does not move, populated with salmon that cannot swim away. Never-the-less, the worst issue with the 1989 Glory Bay Algal Bloom was that it was the first bloom in a new industry. Farmers had to discover what it was and then, what to do about it. Nowadays, the water is monitored for such events, plus there are procedures established to protect the farms.

The algae smothered the gills and overwhelmed the fish by suffocation. Big Glory Bay witnessed hundreds of tonnes of salmon dying in about four days. Fish processing facilities, labour and freezers were all overwhelmed. Consequently, fish that were able to be harvested were sold in a depressed market. In addition, most of the fish that died were mature salmon ready for sale. This was critical because the longer a fish is kept, the more money has been spent.

“Does that cover the struggle part?”

“Yes, but clouds have silver linings,” Denise said.

“Whoever said that was a fool: clouds have rain.”

“Idiot,” Denise said under her breath.

“...and lightning,” I added.

However, there were positives. Such as the overwhelming support from the local community. Islanders turned out by the dozen, giving their time and labour to harvest fish. Processing factories were kept open over the Christmas break both at the Island and in Bluff. Local Island business helped feed the workers, dived and helped with the clean-up.

The financial hit on the community cannot be overstated but clouds do have silver linings - if you persist. Farms modified their operations and still provide local employment today. Additionally, new farmers have joined the aquaculture industry. The algal bloom wounded but did not destroy what is now a major Stewart Island employer.

A community's identity is defined by what its work-force does. Oban has always been a fishing village. My grandfather was a Traill from Traill's Bay and my grandmother was a Leask from Leask's Bay. Both families were fishing families. They came from the Orkney Islands. However, it doesn't matter which island our ancestors came from, Ruapuke or maybe a Scandinavian island, we all made a living from the sea. Our people have been producing quality seafood for a long time. Subsequently, if you go by 'export dollars per capita', gathering kai is something that Stewart Islanders are good at, always have been.

I think I'll have that tequila now, it has been a long millennium.

MORE ON THE 'JAPANESE THREAT' OF WWII by Bill Watt

Some other Stewart Island stories have surfaced in my enquiries over the years.

The first is that the people of Oban did indeed fear – like the rest of New Zealand – the perceived threat of a Japanese invasion. Apparently, there was a plan – to evacuate the village and set up in hiding somewhere beyond the end of the present Fern Gully track. That was then the walking route – one would hesitate to call it a track – to the North Arm then to Masons. Food was stashed away in hiding places.

Alex Trail told me this. He also told me that his dad, Roy, thought it a 'daft idea' and that it would take the Japanese *five minutes*... Roy's plan was different. He had a dinghy hidden. Alex told me exactly where it was hidden. As you walk the Deep Bay track from Deep Bay to Golden Bay you go down a steep set of tracks to the first creek, go up again, go along the level for a 100 m or so, then go down another steep set of steps to the second creek. Roy had his dinghy hidden up that creek. His plan, if the Japanese landed, was to hide, and choosing his weather, sail and row across to Bluff and tell New Zealand that the Japanese had landed on Rakiura.

I think one has to see past the "Dads Army" element in these stories to see the true courage of people and communities perceiving a real and serious threat and responding to it with courage.

If anyone has any more related stories – please, I am interested! It is part of our folk history I would like to record. Please email me at williamwatt@outlook.co.nz

Skype, Zoom, Whatsapp.

Facetime, Snapchat, Messenger.

All the talk of social distancing, yet we have myriad technologies for staying in touch.

The kids use an app called Hangouts.

I shared some news with my son the other day and he said, "I already knew that."

"How?"

"Mum, what do think we do on Hangouts, just send emojis back and forth?"

"Um..."

"We trade information!"

"Ah."

Later that afternoon, walking on the beach, we see his friends' names written in the sand.

He tosses some driftwood and smiles wisely. "Now I know what they did today."

There are so many ways we stay connected.

Glowing Sky Merino

Shipping online now at
glowingsky.co.nz



and hoping you are
all staying safe
and staying sane.

400 Words by Beverley Osborn

Recently Vodafone ran a T.V. ad for 5G. A man introducing himself as Ernest Rutherford said that, just as he had stood at the door of communication methods we now take for granted, we were standing at the gate of something quite new to us. "Let's see what this thing can do," he said.

He was talking about a dream for a rosy future but at present our view from a door to the unknown looks more like a nightmare. We wait in some trepidation to see what this Covid 19 thing can do.

My early childhood happened in a time of world war. I remember the lengths taken each night to ensure no chinks of light could escape from a window – a bothersome precaution in a seemingly safe environment. As I grew older I learned about the consequences of escaping light when enemy bombers were on the hunt.

On Stewart Island we are less at risk than if we lived in a crowded city and that makes it a greater temptation to "bend" those self- isolating commands designed to protect our nation's health as much as possible. But, just as it was so important to rigorously maintain the total blackout rules of my childhood, it is equally necessary to abide by the present health rules. If we don't, the consequences for thousands of others as well as ourselves would be devastating.

As I write, we are in the Christian calendar season known as Lent. Rev Motekiai Fakatou recently offered this thought. "Lent is like a cocoon. You go in a caterpillar and come out a butterfly and in between the "going in" and the "coming out" a lot happens."

So what do we want to happen to ourselves in the Covid 19 cocoon?

We have been warned that incidents of domestic violence might spike and, only a few days into our Level 4 situation, reports of domestic violence indeed began to turn from river towards flood.

I hope that in our cocoon time we will develop our determination to ensure all of us know we belong as valued members of the caring community we believe ourselves to be.

I hope our self-discipline will strengthen through understanding the cost of suffering we can help to prevent.

I hope "seeing what this thing can do" will result in a world landscape filled with butterflies of love and care.



Black orchid. Photo by Carolyn Squires

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks from the office of Sarah Dowie MP

We are all in this together

The situation we are facing with COVID-19 is unprecedented. The word 'unprecedented' has been used a lot to describe what's happening right now. However, unfortunately it's true.

We only have to look overseas, in countries such as Italy and Spain, to see the devastation COVID-19 has inflicted. If it can happen to those countries, then there's a risk it can happen here.

National supported the Government's decision to move the country to Level 4 of the Covid-19 alert system. We'll always support measures that protect the health and safety of New Zealanders.

It is better to look back and say, 'this lockdown was an overreaction', than allow people to die needlessly.

It goes without saying that the lockdown's impact on jobs and people's livelihoods will be severe. Therefore, it's in our nation's interest for people to have access to the latest information out there, such as estimates on job losses if the lockdown is extended. That way people are informed and have a sense of what's to come.

Through the Epidemic Response Committee which was recently established, National is taking a constructive and principled approach to scrutinising the Government's response. This is a forum that allows Opposition MPs to question Government Ministers, including officials and experts, about the response thus far. And further to that, ask the questions that New Zealanders want answered.

For instance, during Wednesday's Epidemic Response Committee National learnt that Ministers have had access to economic modelling behind their response to Covid-19, but haven't been forthcoming in releasing it. It's hugely important for the Government to be transparent and I was pleased to hear that Minister of Finance Grant Robertson has committed to changing this.

With 400 residents and about 85 percent of the Island a national park, Stewart Island is a great place to be at the moment. Most houses are spaced apart with bush in-between, everyone knows everyone and people look out for each other. And as we enter the second week of the lockdown this strong sense of community has already come to the fore, highlighted by how locals have pitched in to start delivering 'meals on wheels' for the elderly.

Here in Invercargill I've fielded a number of questions from both employers and employees on the Government's Wage Subsidy. It seems a lot of people are in the dark over what they're entitled to and when they will get it.

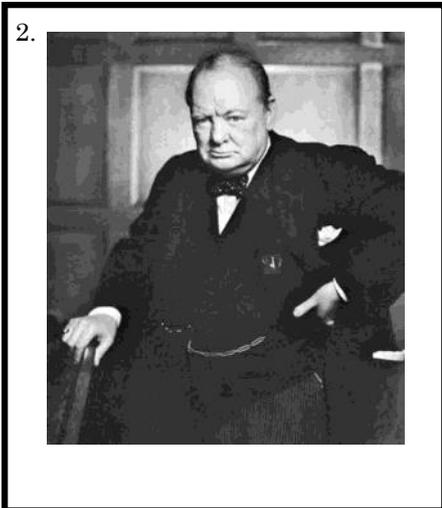
With information in this area continuing to be updated, a good place to start is Employment NZ's website and the links at the bottom of the page: see, <https://www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/other-types-of-leave/coronavirus-workplace/wage-subsidy/>. It would also pay to take a look at Work and Income's website: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-support.html>.

As the number of Covid-19 continues to rise, I understand that it can be rather daunting keeping up with what's going on. However, while my office remains closed, my team and I continue to be available to answer any queries you might have.

So if you're not sure of what you're entitled to - or just simply don't know where to start - please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can either leave a message on (03) 218 6813 and I'll get back to you or email sarah.dowie@parliament.govt.nz.

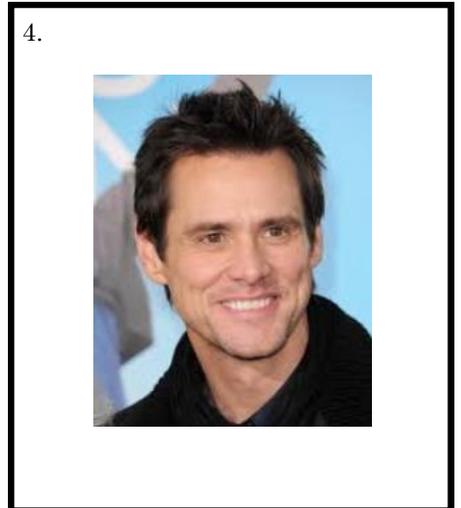
Pictograms: Familiar places

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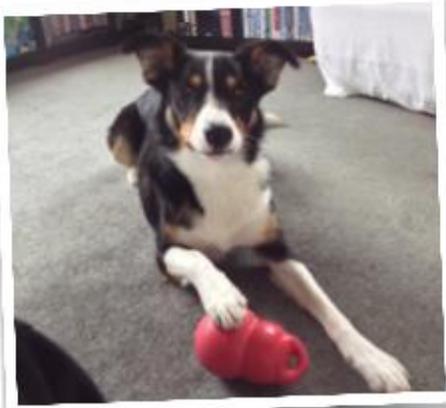
RAKIURA KIDDLE

THE MACEDONIAN CAPITAL'S A GOOD STARTING PLACE
 TO FIND ME, SKULK DOWN TO A BONY FACE

THE PIRATE FLAG SYMBOL'S A BIT BENEATH ME
 THOUGH I AM KNOWN FOR SKULLDUGGERY

WHEN I'M BACKWARDS ITS AWKWARD OR AUKS AS KIDS SAY
 GUESSED WHO I AM? IT'S ALL JUST WORD PLAY

GET COLLINS OR WEBSTER FOR THE GAME
 USE THEM SO YOU CAN KNOW MY NAME



WHERE'S NONU?

Hello humans!

I love hiding - can you find me?



Thanks for playing - hope you've had fun!



Thanks for playing - hope you've had fun!

Across

- 1. A personal quarantine (4,9)
- 11. Space enclosed by walls, floor and a ceiling (4)
- 12. A snorting or grunting sound in a person's breathing while they are asleep (5)
- 15. Existing in name only (7)
- 18. Large woody plant (4)
- 19. (Of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world (8)
- 20. Observed (7)
- 21. Maker of bread (5)
- 23. Formal dance (4)
- 24. Raced (3)
- 26. Thanks (2)
- 27. Terms in which we often require medical language to be described (6'1)
- 29. A person who keeps watch on others secretly (3)
- 30. A slimy substance secreted by membranes in the body for lubrication and protection (5)
- 31. (& 22 Down) A format of DVD designed for the storage of high definition video and data (3,3)
- 32. By way of (3)
- 35. Remedy (4)
- 36. Software downloaded to a smartphone (*Abbrev*) (3)
- 37. An open sore, caused by a break in the skin or mucous membrane which fails to heal (5)
- 38. A cavity enclosed by a membrane and containing air or liquid

- (3)
- 40. Any of a group of RNA viruses that cause a variety of diseases in humans and other animals (11)
- 42. _____-19, a form of *40 Across* currently spreading through NZ and the world (5)
- 44. An evergreen coniferous tree with upright cones (3)
- 45. Biblical garden (4)
- 47. Seek information or advice from eg. a medical professional (7)
- 51. Hand-----, a popular item in stores and pharmacies at present! (9)
- 53. Aural organ (3)
- 54. A legally registered symbol or word(s) representing a company or product (*Abbrev*) (2)
- 55. Having a high degree of heat (3)
- 57. Theatrical entertainment mainly for children with music, jokes and comedy (9)
- 59. Heavy cotton cloth waterproofed with oil (7)
- 63. A very strong wind (4)
- 64. Observe (3)
- 65. Restore someone to health by training and therapy after illness (12)

Down

- 1. A bacteria genus, certain species of which can be pathogenic for humans (14)
- 2. Room where clothes or linen

- are washed (7)
- 3. Of or situated on the inside (8)
- 4. A volume containing several books previously published separately (7)
- 5. Upper limb (3)
- 6. Much sought-after "panic-buy" item in supermarkets recently (6,5)
- 7. An atom or molecule with a net electric charge due to the loss or gain of one or more electrons (3)
- 8. Middle-Eastern country (4)
- 9. Active in fighting species of *1 Down* (13)
- 10. Syringe (6)
- 13. Killer whale (4)
- 14. Mechanical part of a fishing rod (4)
- 16. A South American plant related to wood sorrel, cultivated in Peru for its edible tubers (3)
- 17. A temporary (relieving) doctor in a hospital or practice (5)
- 22. *See 31 Across*
- 25. Cautionary yellow traffic light between green and red (5)
- 28. A person trained to care for the sick or infirm, especially in a hospital (5)
- 29. Drink by taking small mouthfuls (3)
- 32. Substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against disease (7)
- 33. A bitter crystalline compound used as a tonic and formerly as an

- antimalarial drug (7)
- 34. A group of similar things or people, often heard lately in relation to *42 Across* (7)
- 39. Period of time at the end of the day (7)
- 41. Conjunction used to link alternatives (2)
- 43. A famous brand of household or surgical disinfectant (6)
- 44. Flat-topped conical red hat with a black tassel on top (3)
- 46. Less bright (6)
- 48. Begin a voyage (of ship) (4)
- 49. You are (*Abbrev. when txtng*) (2)
- 50. A person employed in using a keyboard (6)
- 52. Christian radio station in New Zealand (5)
- 56. In the direction of (2)
- 57. Give money for (3)
- 58. A dark, thick flammable liquid (3)
- 60. Unwell (3)
- 61. Use a chair (for its intended purpose) (3)
- 62. Originally called, born (when giving maiden name) (3)

Find the circled letters to spell a lifeline Stewart Island business.

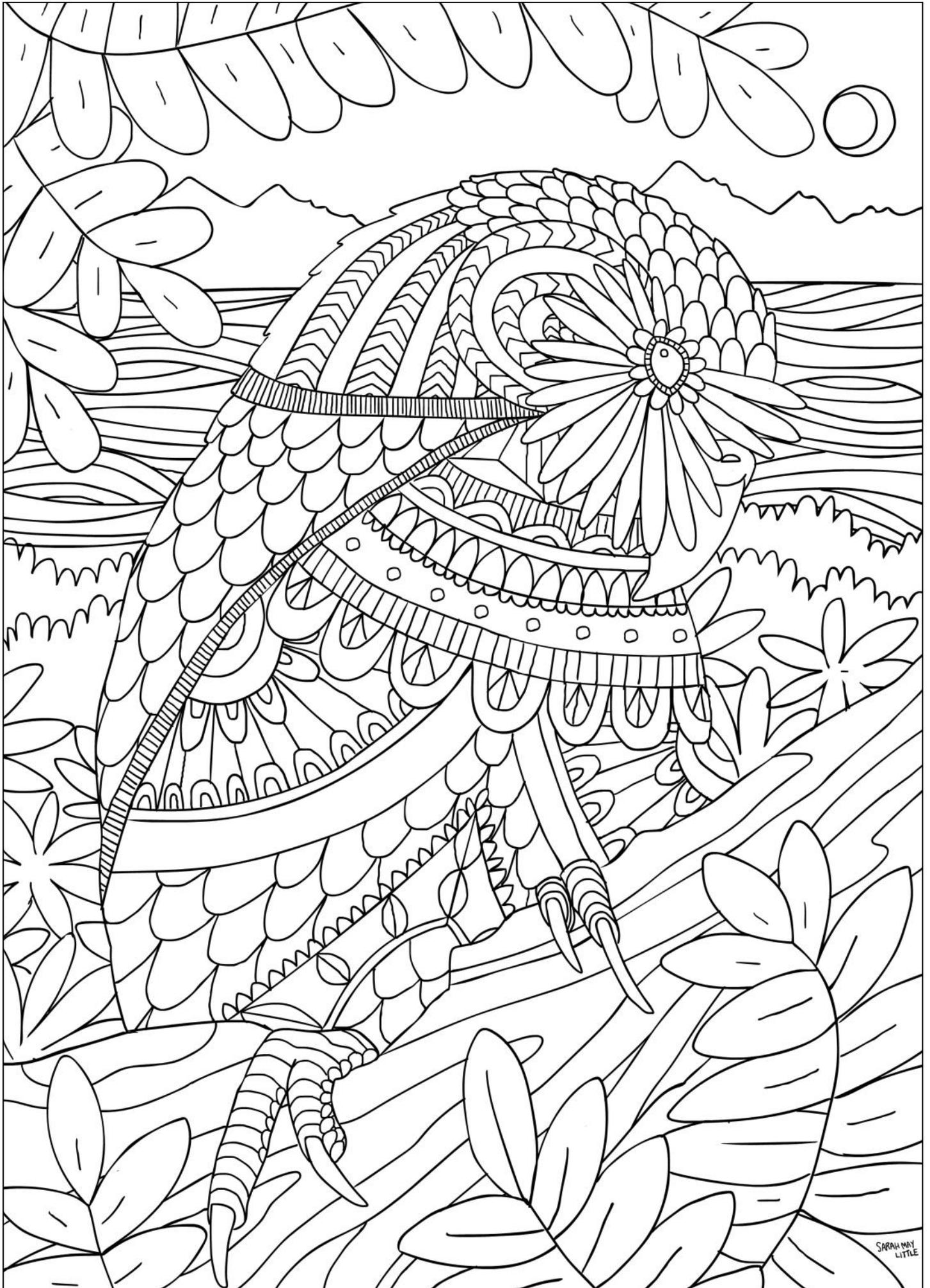
Last month's solution: *Across:* 2 Fastidious, 10 Virus, 11 Help, 12 Tier, 14 Vaila Voe, 16 Ogling, 17

Oar, 18 Urge, 19 Lightning, 21 Is, 22 Preen, 23 Often, 25 Elm, 26 Mooch, 28 Snow, 30 Opening Hours, 31 Arms, 32 Taxi, 33 Atrophy, 34 Dane, 35 VoIP, 38 Meme, 39 Girl, 41 Offal, 44 Up, 46 Rolex, 48 Ail, 49 Pa, 50 Ago, 52 Don, 54 Imam, 56 Helios, 57 Lumen, 59 Etc, 60 Horn, 61 Umami, 62 LSD, 63 Under, 65 Ru, 66 One, 67 Isa, 68 Revere, 69 Use.

Down: 1 Ringaringa Heights, 2 Futile, 3 Asinine, 4 Tar, 5 Diving petrel, 6 Onion, 7 Scar, 8 Jeer, 9 Spread, 11 Household, 13 Egg, 15 Lagoon, 20 Homo Sapiens, 21 Itch, 24 Foggy, 26 Mispronounce, 27 Crank Up, 29 Waiver, 36 Igloo, 37 Waimumu, 40 Rx, 42 Failure, 43 Llama, 45 Pan, 47 Odious, 51 OECD, 53 Store, 55 Memos, 58 Nine, 59 Elk, 60 Her, 64 Na.

Highlighted word: Freshwater

By Ben Hopkins



Colouring-in artwork by Sarah May Little

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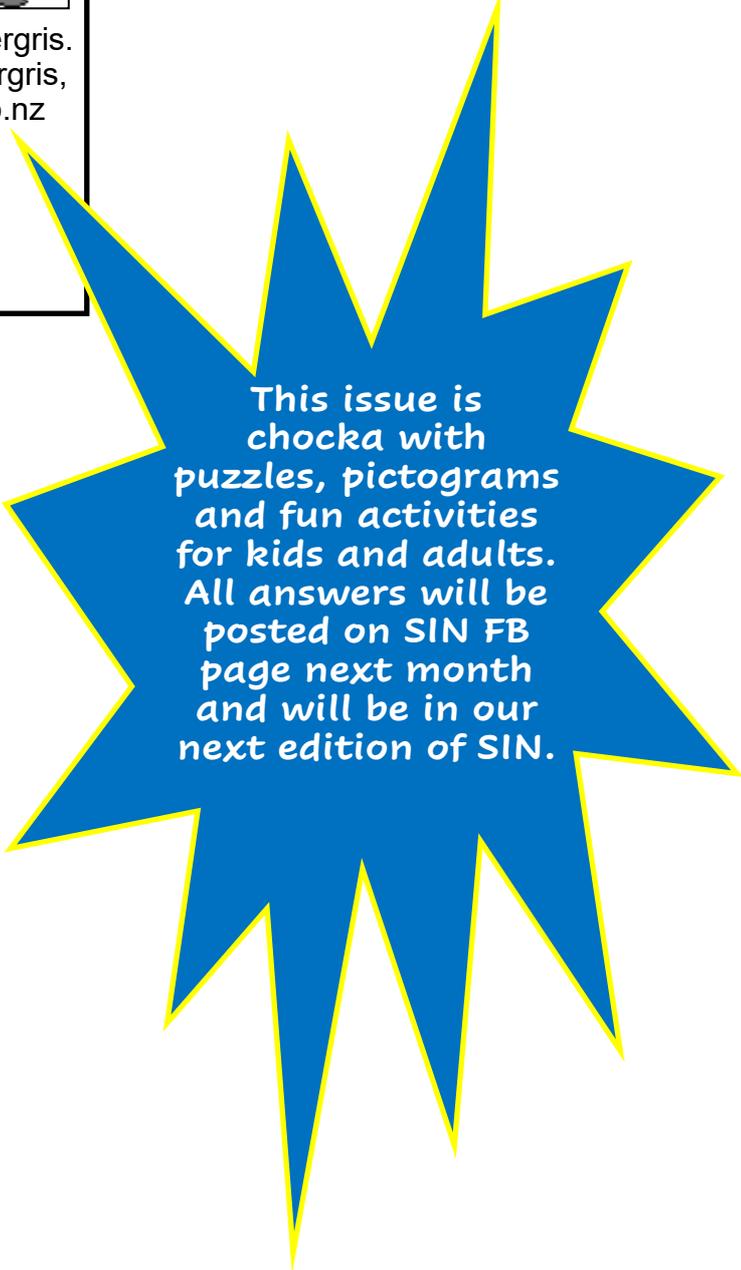


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This issue is chocka with puzzles, pictograms and fun activities for kids and adults. All answers will be posted on SIN FB page next month and will be in our next edition of SIN.

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