

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

"CELEBRATE STEWART ISLAND"

April 2003 \$2.00

Welcome to this April edition of Stewart Island News. A big thanks this month to Fiona Hall who has helped me put this issue together, and to the other contributors who have made time to write articles - you are the people who make Stewart Island News work. Thanks also for the offers of help from Ann Pullen, Sue Munro and Stu Dovey to continue the subscription service, and a big

thanks too to *Stewart Island Flights* who sponsor the freight costs associated with SIN.

I wish you all a happy Easter - take some time to snuggle up in front of the fire with a good book - a cup of hot chocolate and some hot cross buns. ENJOY.

Cheers, Chris Visser

From the Library

Pat King

Well, at last we have finished cataloging the permanent collection of books held in the library. It's taken a long time to do the job but you should now be able to find out if we have a particular book or author in the collection. We are still learning how to use the system so we hope you will be patient with us. We will get better. (Fingers crossed.)

10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. 50 cents per book and 3 children's paperbacks for 50 cents.

We have been donated a large number of books recently, including various classics, some more modern fiction and some non-fiction. Thank you to the many donors. These books have now been processed and are on the shelves.

As we catalogued the books we were able to remove some that hadn't been issued for up to ten years. These books will be on **SALE** in the library on Saturday 19th April between

The library will be closed on Good Friday, 18th April and Anzac Day 25th April.

Museum Notes

Merv King

Not a great deal to report for this issue. Visitor numbers have been steady, although the patronage from cruise ships has dropped. School parties continue to come to the Island and give an interesting insight into teaching methods-- some children are just not interested at all, while others have projects to complete and have obviously done a lot of preparatory work. These things are noticed! When the new building is up

and running we will be able to accommodate the larger school and tour parties more comfortably. Noticeable lately is the increase in the number of people asking about ancestors on the Island, and wanting copies of relevant photographs if we have them. We are only too happy to oblige where we can, but find that we have to make a charge to cover our expenses.

Coincidence?

A couple of weeks back, Alan Wadds arrived at my front door accompanied by a

visitor who introduced himself as Jon Parson, the son of one of the six young men who, in 1931 bought the "WATERLILY" and cruised off

to the Pacific. Now, the good ship WATERLILLY was very well known in this part of the world from the late 1890's until 1931 and is to be featured in my "boat book", which is why her file was on my desk at the time! Jon was quite excited to learn this, and has since given me some details of her cruising life with promise of more to come from his family records, diaries and newspaper cuttings. One never knows does one?? watch this space!

IONA ~ The vessel.

In my last notes I promised to give the story of an interesting boat, and **IONA** fits the bill. On the western shore of the Neck opposite the east end of Ulva Island is a grove of macracarpa trees which at one time sheltered a boatbuilding enterprise. This was home to the Stevenson family, who lived off the land at Papatiki after shifting down from Dunedin during the depression years. Bert senior bought a small vessel --the **DOT**-- to allow them to travel to Halfmoon Bay when required, and also to use as a fishing boat. By 1936 the **DOT** proved to be too small, and with the occasional help from his sons Bert set about building a larger vessel. With machinery salvaged from timber mills closed due to the depression he set about milling locally gathered totara, rata, broadleaf, rimu and macrocarpa logs, some of which were too big to handle without first being broken down by pit saw. Two pieces of hardwood used in the transom, and the plywood for the wheelhouse, were the only "imported" bits of timber used. He set up a forge and cast all the bronze fittings needed, and made his own bolts from rails and fittings off the ship "**TARAWERA**" which had been scuttled as a breakwater in nearby Lowry Bay.

After 13 years of hard work, interspersed by periods of sickness, **IONA** was ready for launching -- a task which took two days and the combined pull of three vessels to achieve! At this time the family owned the **SPRAY**, and she, along with the **VIOLET** and **SECRET** finally got her off the ways and into the water. (On the previous day **TE MOANA** and **MYSTERY** had tried but failed!) She was then towed to Bluff to have her engine and freezer installed before commencing her fishing career. When **IONA** was fully commissioned the Stevensons sold **SPRAY**,

and Bert Jnr went crayfishing around the Fiordland coast, being one of the early boats to take advantage of that lucrative fishery. Most of his fishing was done inside the sounds, and at good times he was taking up to a ton a day, which netted him 100 pounds a day -- good money even then! In the off season, **IONA** was used for coddling and transporting muttonbirders to and from their islands.

After working her for about four years **IONA** was handed on to younger brother Charlie, while Bert Jnr had a new boat --**CHANCE**-- built in Tasmania.

IONA continue to work around the Stewart Island coast and also the Sandhill - Puysegur - Fiordland areas, and was eventually sold to Joe Carstensen Jnr, who worked mainly the west coast of Stewart Island.

On 26th November 1977 she broke away from her mooring at the Gutter, Masons Bay, and went ashore to become a total wreck -- thus ending another historic chapter of the Island's fishing story.

As a rather sad footnote, her last owner -- Joe Carstensen Jnr -- was later lost overboard and drowned while crewing on the vessel **CARMELITA** off Masons Bay.

A Rather Large Acquisition!

Some time ago, with the closing down of the Paper Mill at Matura, the offer was made to return to Stewart Island the big lathe which was originally installed in the workshop at the whaling base at Kaipipi. As it seemed too good an opportunity to let slide, a group of interested people led by Alan Wadds got together and arranged to get it transported "home" to the Island. The pile of dismantled machinery in Arkwright's shed is now awaiting some loving attention. The aim is to eventually set it up as the centre-piece of what is hoped will be a "working museum", displaying various pieces of machinery, engines etc. from the Island's earlier years. It's a big project which will take some time, but these things must start from somewhere!

Those who have been to the whaling base and know where the workshop was, will marvel at the work involved to install this lathe in the 1920's -- before the days of

hydraulics, fork lifts etc! (They did have steam!) In it's day, we believe, it was the biggest lathe in the Southern Hemisphere.

And here endeth my second offering -- I hope was of some interest. See you next issue..... Merv.

POST SCRIPT.

People will have noticed from an article in a Southland Times report on the recent Community Board meeting that we have discovered a rather substantial "cost over-run" on our building project. This came to light following an estimate prepared by Southern Quantity Surveyors after our plans had been finalised, and as can be imagined came as a bit of a shock!!

What started off over four years ago as a fairly simple building addition has developed into a major undertaking, with the original building having to be upgraded to comply with the current regulations --- building and fire codes etc --- to match up with the new section. As will be realised, this in itself is a big job and has added considerably to the final cost.

Much soul searching will be needed in the next few days to decide whether we continue in the hope that the extra money will be found, or we abandon the project. After the work done so far, it would be sad to have to do this.

HAS ANYONE GOT SOME HELPFUL IDEAS??

Rakiura Man Rambles

Fiona Hall

At the beginning of May 2003 Wally Hockly will be taking his first steps along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in the USA. Many SIN readers will have seen his slides from the Appalachian Trail, which he walked in 1999. The PCT is a greater challenge as it involves more miles each day, and because it takes trampers further away from civilisation for longer spells. Isolation is the enemy, and mental strength the only weapon people can rely on to get them through. The prize is an opportunity to stand in places few people ever reach - remote and unspoiled wilderness.

Wally is posting his diary on the Internet at www.trailjournals.com/apteryx. He will make supply trips to nearby towns once every seven to ten days. On those trips he will post his diary to a friend in Edinburgh (Scotland!!), who will then enter it into the website. Incredible but true! So anyone who is interested in his progress will be able to check out his news on the website. You can even leave him a message at the site that he will be able to read online (next time he visits a town). I guess we can keep him up to date on all the Stewart Island News....

Halfmoon Bay School Pool

Fiona Hall (for Halfmoon Bay School Board of Trustees)

Where now for our school pool? Should we invest in repairs and maintenance or save for a new public pool instead? Is it wise to paint the pool or will the resulting maintenance be too costly? These questions have been surfacing and resurfacing for years, but we have always lacked sufficient expertise to provide definite answers. Last year Lloyd Wilcox made some practical suggestions, which we reported in an earlier edition of SIN. This year we had visits from Allan Booth (who has past experience with small pools), and Crosbie Grieve (who runs Splash Palace for Invercargill City Council). A very big thank you to all three for giving

their time and knowledge to help us formulate a plan for the future.

WHY BOTHER?

Our children do still swim in the sea given half the chance, but the pool allows more regular and effective swimming lessons. The pool is a real asset that was built in the days when we had around ninety children at school here. Now that we have just over twenty we need to maximise its life and potential.

WHAT WORK DO WE NEED TO DO?

There are some urgent repairs coming up:

the skimmers need to be replaced, and the pumps need some new parts. In the following couple of years we also need to replace the expansion joint, drill out the rusty remains of the old handrails, and repair the concrete in a couple of places. After that the next move will probably be to coat the tank in order to halt the effect of the chemicals on its surface. In the past this has raised concerns about ongoing maintenance, but modern paint products or fibre-glass may offer a solution. This question needs some more research.

The pool building itself has stood up well to the test of time. The "clearlite" type cladding will have to be replaced in future years, perhaps in sections as required. The solar water heating system is no longer working efficiently, and should be given some attention. Lastly, the ventilation unit in the apex of the roof (a section which can be raised and lowered) also shows signs of age, and will need some work eventually.

IS IT WORTH INVESTING IN OUR POOL?

All three of our advisors said that the pool will last much longer if it receives some attention soon. Improvements such as coating the tank surface should extend its life significantly. On the other hand, we have considered the possibility that the community might decide to build a new public pool. Our advice has been that a town of 350 - 400 people cannot justify such a project. We know that this community can really rise to the occasion (just look at our impressive community hall), and could no doubt build a pool. However, the ongoing costs of running a public pool do not compare favourably to the number of swims we can expect our community to

take. Even when we take into consideration the number of visitors who might also pay to swim, it currently seems unlikely that it would be a viable proposition without some sort of subsidy. We shall see what the future brings!

WHAT ABOUT COMMUNITY USE OF THE POOL?

As far as community use of the pool goes, the School Board has been strongly advised not to return to open public use, and just to concentrate on teaching our school children to swim. We feel this is a real shame, but it does seem to be the way the world is going. On the positive side, it appears there are some options for private use. Its possible that an individual could run *private lessons* e.g. swimming (adult and child), water aerobics, water polo and / or kayaking skills, through a formal agreement with the school and Ministry of Education. That person would need to be a *qualified lifeguard* and would be responsible for the Health & Safety of participants. This probably wouldn't be much of a fundraiser for the school or pool, but might be one way that the community could have access to the facility it built for the children. So its something to keep in mind.

SO WHERE TO FOR THE POOL?

The school board will make the urgent repairs this year, and begin planning for the longer term maintenance. Most of this work will have to be carried out by qualified or specialist operators. Should we decide that coating the pool is a prudent option we may need to do a little fundraising. The important thing is that we have been reassured that (with some tender loving care) the pool will last to see many more island kids learn to swim.

Why is the "Waste Trust" talking about pest control?

Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

Good question. Actually the name of our Trust is:

The Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust ... (a bit of a mouthful, its true). The words **community** and **environment** indicate the areas most important to us. However, it appears that

our article about a pilot pest control project, in the last issue of SIN, has caused a bit of confusion. We were simply trying to be very open with the community and keep everyone informed. Hopefully the following can clear things up.

We have, indeed, started out with community management of Stewart Island's waste as our core project. However, it has been clear almost from the beginning, that a Trust such as ours can attract all sorts of funding for the community. We don't want to miss out on the opportunity to 'net' money for any community projects just because our Trust is too narrowly focused.

The three projects which we currently have underway (to varying degrees) are:

1. A **Resource Recovery Centre** at Horseshoe Bay, where we will sort and store recyclable waste, and begin composting and worm farming.
2. An **Environment Centre** in Halfmoon Bay, where we will have displays to inform and liaise with the community. This year it is intended that the Environment Centre will help ease the community's transition from dump to recycling. It will also do some work with the school.
3. A **pilot Pest Control project** with land owners at Ackers Point. This latter has begun earlier than first planned because we had the opportunity of a pilot project run for the community *free of charge* by Tarawhiti Polytech students. The pilot will help the community be more informed when we consider any bigger project in later days.

To avoid confusion, any projects we undertake will have their own budget and separate fundraising. There will be no 'secret' projects or 'agendas', although I am sure we will continually be coming up with new ideas (not all of which will eventuate). All of our work will be guided by our Trust Deed.

A summary of the objectives we set out in the Deed are as follows:

- To foster and encourage public interest in the sustainable management of Stewart Island/Rakiura for the benefit of the local and wider community, including sound waste management and minimisation practices.
- To educate visitors and residents of Stewart Island/Rakiura about management practices that advance the principles of sustainability of natural

and physical resources.

- To promote, monitor and achieve improved performance in the sustainable management of natural and physical resources for the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community.
- To foster collaboration in the advancement of sustainable management of natural and physical resources and research to that end.

Anyone who is keen to see our entire Trust Deed should contact Chris Visser (preferably by email possum.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz, or phone 494).

As you can see, we have chosen a very broad remit, so that in years to come the community trust is not limited in the funds it can bid for, or the projects it can carry out. We envisage many opportunities to work alongside the Community Board, Council, Runaka, Stewart Island Promotions and other community groups to achieve mutual goals.

We certainly don't plan to encroach on the work of other groups, and we know there are people who see pest control as being the Department of Conservation (DOC)'s job. However, DOC are not funded to operate outside the Conservation Estate (Crown Land). They do sometimes work in conjunction with other bodies (such as Environment Southland), and in this case the Trust has worked in conjunction with DOC to some degree (they have shared their expertise). In fact, we believe most people here would rather be responsible for their own property and retain full control of what goes on there.

At the moment no-one else is coordinating pest control in town. The rat 'plague' of last year showed a need for a concerted effort on that front, and we would like to help land owners tackle the problem. Of course, projects on private land can *only* occur with the permission and support of the owners. Any work we do, in any area, will rely heavily on community support and buy in. **Our long term focus is on community led initiatives that (i) make our township an even better**

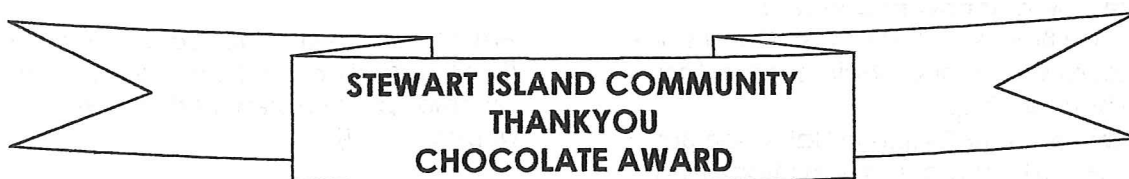
place to live, and (ii) (where possible) provide meaningful employment for local people.

Meanwhile, this year we have a big job to do setting up a new waste management

system. We are aiming for a start date of 1st October, so you will be hearing more from us about exactly what you will need to do to get rid of your rubbish from that date.

Basin Award.....

The Community Native Plant Nursery - for mixing concrete into some of their potting mix instead of lime - and wondering why the dirt was so danged HARD and nothing seemed to grow.....



This award is sponsored by local businesses and individuals to acknowledge the work and efforts of people who make positive

contributions to our community. We have four winners this month. SIN thanks those businesses who make this award possible.

This months winners are.....

- ◇ The Community Centre Trust for the hours of voluntary time they put into overseeing the Community Centre
- ◇ Iona and Kelly at Stewart Island Flights for their endless patience (and "virtue" according to the nominee....), and
- ◇ Dee Oliver - for going the "extra mile" with her home help jobs!

The above people / groups will receive a box of chocolates sponsored by :

Stewart Island Water Taxi

MJW Carpentry and Joinery, and

The Department of Conservation (Stewart Island Field Centre)

If you wish to make a nomination for this award - or sponsor a box of chocolates - please get in touch with Chris. Nominations are usually made anonymously and winners are picked out of a hat. If your nomination

doesn't win one month - it will be carried over to the next month. The more boxes of chocolates that are provided the more awards that can be given out.

◇ STEWART ISLAND WELCOMES... HARRY JOHN HAMILTON
born 4 March 2003.
Congratulations Tracey & Andrew!!

DOC Update

(as presented to the Stewart Island Community Board meeting held on Monday, April 7 2003)

Greg Lind

VIN/ I -SITE

Currently DOC provides on behalf of the community the Visitor Information Network [VIN] service for visitors to the island. This service has been in place on the island now for 10 years. In that time visitor numbers have doubled - now up to 65,000 through the door of the visitor centre.

NZ Tourism Board has recently undertaken a major review of the national network and ultimately made the decision to support and upgrade the network. The new name for the network comes under the logo of i-SITE and DOC operates two combined visitor centres/ i-SITEs in the South Island, one being at Halfmoon Bay.

The department has reviewed its position in supporting the service and has consulted informally with the Stewart Island Promotion Association and now with the Community Board as to the future.

The dual operation at the DOC visitor centre poses some challenges with the visitor numbers and information/service requests. It is DOC's view that a major revamp of the service is required to meet the demand. As part of the process DOC is seeking the views of the Promotion Association and the Community Board and potentially, if the service is to continue as part of the DOC Visitor Centre, then increased resourcing will be required.

Currently the Community Board provides \$4000 towards the costs of the operation and has done so for six years. Other avenues of providing an income stream would need to be investigated.

SI Promotion Association has sought submissions from its members and a meeting is to held this week to discuss those submissions and the options available. Julie Paterson from Venture Southland will be attending to assist the proposal.

It is the view of DOC that we are not the sole option for providing the service, but the original reasons for the department undertaking the service are still valid. At the time, 10 years ago, five different outlets were attempting to provide visitor information.

This led to visitor confusion and inconsistent standards being applied. The community, at that time, felt DOC was the only option for a non partisan/non parochial visitor information service.

Now it is time to give this service a serious review so visitors to this island and the operators benefit from a professional approach to their needs.

LEE BAY AND THE CHAIN SCULPTURE

Over the winter Lee Bay, the main entrance to Rakiura National Park, will be given a much needed spruce up. Bark coverings be laid around the area to provide protection for ongoing plantings, which will come chiefly from the Community Nursery at Horseshoe Bay. An interpretation panel will be placed near the telephone/telegraph cable site and a plaque commemorating the park opening in 2002 will be erected as well.

The paint coating system on the chain sculpture has failed in places so, under warranty, it will be stripped off and replaced with an oil based product. This will give a more "anchor chain" effect and more visual appeal. This work will be undertaken before next summer.

TRACK UPGRADES AND SLIPS

Following the large rain event late last year, a number of slips have occurred on local tracks. Most of the damage has been repaired but the large unstable slip in Golden Bay requires a more permanent solution to be found. This slip area has been active for more that 20 years.

DOC has had an engineer review the problem and hopefully a long term repair option can be found. Next summer will probably see a continuation of the track upgrade work towards Port William. The previous upgrade from Little River to Maori Beach, carried out by John Henderson and team, continues to draw favourable comment - especially the section re-routed around Peters Point. The coastal views there are as good as those on the Abel Tasman Track in Nelson.

VISITORS NUMBERS ANDWHO IS COUNTING?

One of the tasks DOC staff [Phred Dobbins in this case] carry out on a monthly basis is collection of the visitor counter recordings from sites all over the island and from local places such as the visitor centre front door. Kerry Squire then collates the figures, "weights" them [making allowances for two-way traffic, etc] and then inputs the stats into a database. This information is then used as a guide in decision making, as it indicates things such as trends and pressure points. We know, for instance that numbers of visitors to Ulva Island are up 34% over last

year; Mason Bay / Freshwater track usage is down 31% and visitor centre numbers are similar to last year [i.e. no growth over what was a bumper year in 2002].

DOC has advertised a full time position on the island focussed on management of databases, including this valuable visitor management information tool. Once setup, the position will also start looking at the area of impacts. The information is available to the public and we hope to present the annual returns to organisations such as the Community Board and Promotion Association, on a regular basis.

BOOK REVIEW "Jackdaws" by Ken Follett (In the SI Library) Sue Ford

Follett, prolific writer of "good yarns", doesn't disappoint with this World War 2 story. The heroine, Flick, a British SOE agent, is involved in a failed attempt by the French Resistance to blow up a vital German communications base in Reims. One of the few survivors, Flick's daring new plan is for an all-woman team to attempt the same job on the eve of the invasion of France by the Allies. Prompted by the legend of The Jackdaw of Reims, the motley group of women recruited at short notice is codenamed "Jackdaws".

As always with Ken Follett, the main characters are well-drawn but the supporting cast are somewhat wooden. This isn't a great literary work of art but an entertaining, fast-paced adventure story. Long before the end (remembering that Follett doesn't specialise in happy endings!),

you find yourself on the edge of your seat, afraid for the women as each obstacle presents. A complex plan is further complicated by Flick's husband being the philandering leader of the local Resistance cell. Then the Jackdaws comprise a safe-breaker, a murderer, an aristocrat who can't take orders, a bi-sexual flirt – and a transvestite German homosexual! As a sort of side dish, Flick falls in love. Back in France, she soon realises that she is up against an unusually intelligent adversary. What happens to the Jackdaws becomes more of a thriller than a spy story. But perhaps Flick should have paid more attention to the ending of the legend of the Jackdaw of Reims (who stole the bishop's ring) – he is cursed! And finally, Follett strikes an odd note, a little twist, at the end of a very satisfactory read.

Remembering Johnny Olsen Thoughts from Trevor McLellan

He was always willing to lend a hand - Time was no object.

Always ready with a cup of tea "in a brown paper bag".

Loved helping at the 'Neck' - Enjoyed company and boating.

Very good at getting whitebait for me.

Part of the Island for thirty odd years.

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

On 13th March the meeting was held at the home of Jenny Gell. We all took along our "worst enemy" plant for discussion and it was interesting to note that Sheep's Sorrel seemed to come top of the list. We tossed around ideas for events the Garden Circle could put on for the community.

Competition results were:

Fuchsia (1) Jenny Gell (2) Lil Skipper & Raylene Waddell (3) Mavis Tait

Emerald Green Plant (1) Anita Geeson (2) Jenny Gell (3) Raylene Waddell

Edible Plant (1) Lil Skipper & Mavis Tait (2) Anita Geeson (3) Myra Leask

In-house prize went to Raylene and Peggy

The April Meeting was held at the home of Anita Geeson on 10th April. We welcomed Barbara Miller, visiting Presbyterian minister and hope to see her again at Garden Circle next time she is here.

Chris Visser brought along her "pet" worms and gave us a most inspiring talk on Worm Farming which had us eager to get home and start one of our own.

Competition results were:

Succulent: (1) Myra Leask (2) Nancy Schofield (3) Lil Skipper.

Best Survivor: (1) Lil Skipper (2) Mavis (3) Raylene Waddell & Peggy Wilson

Interesting Seed Head: (1) Nancy Schofield (2) Mavis Tait (3) Peggy Wilson

The next meeting is to be held at the home of Raylene Waddell on 8th May.

When the dump closes...

Stewart Island / Rakuira Community and Environment Trust

Everyone is wondering what will happen when the dump finally closes its gates in November. All this time and not much information from "those greenies" who plan to take over the rubbish business on Stewart Island! Sorry folks, it has been quite a while, but the time fairly goes in when you decide to start a new community trust and business on top of your regular job, life and commitments. Still, it's time for an update, particularly on the areas which will affect most people directly.

1. Will rubbish collection day change? We hope to keep the pick-up happening on Tuesday. We are still figuring out the fine details of the pick-up service and transporting landfill waste to the Mainland, and it may turn out that collection of separated rubbish takes a lot more time. If so, it might become necessary to have two pick up days and split the township in two for those, or we might do landfill rubbish in the morning and the rest in the afternoon; however, we will keep the pickup consistent once we have established the best system.

2. What will I have to do at home? You will need to sort your rubbish into three types: anything recyclable into one tub, food scraps into a bucket (with lid), and non-recyclables into a specially marked bag. If you have garden waste it will normally have to be dropped off at the Recovery Centre.

3. Will I have to pay directly for any of this? The Community Board / Council will provide each household with a number of landfill bags each year. Once you have used all of your allocated bags you can purchase more. Landfill will cost us dearly in freight, so the more rubbish we can recycle or reuse, the better for all.

4. What if I or my business has special needs? We will investigate solutions for the elderly or less able folk (e.g. garden waste pick-ups), and for individual businesses or groups. If businesses produce some kind of noxious or dangerous waste we will help find ways they can transport and dispose of it. If businesses have volumes of waste at peak

times we will look at ways to manage it. As problems arise we plan to help community members find a solution (if we can't solve it for them). This will take time and two way communication, but we are keen to help.

5. What happens if the community trust fails?

The Council will retain ownership of the buildings and plant. They will have to tender the work out to whichever company will take it, and the company will run the resource recovery centre. The waste will still be processed via a recycling based system. However, the community will have lost out on the opportunity to have control, and to direct funds and employment back into the community.

6. How can we ensure success? Its very unlikely that the transition will be problem free and painless. No-one has ever attempted to do this before (on Stewart

Island), so with the best planning in the world we still have to expect the unexpected. With community buy-in, patience and commitment we can make it work. In fact we believe we can be a model for the rest of New Zealand, and show how resource recovery can be a practical option and cost effective.

We think these are the main questions circulating at the moment, but will be happy to answer any others. As said before, we are still in the throes of sorting out some of the details, so keep your eye on the Promotions Noticeboard for future updates.

The members of this Trust are Jed Lewis, Fiona Hall, Sandy King, Dil Belworthy, Jim Barrett, Chris Visser and Rodney Hansen. Any of us a happy to talk to you about what we are doing so please keep in touch.

HALFMOON BAY BEAT

Rob Fox

Let's Talk Traffic

Attitudes and Responsibility

Having been residing on Stewart Island now for two years I have realised one thing – we have a unique lifestyle that is not readily found in other parts of our country. We have certain forms of freedom that once lost we will not get back. What am I talking about? I am talking about staying within the law that governs us especially in relation to our driving habits and over consumption of alcohol.

What is the problem?

Over the past two years I have spoken to many people regarding their vehicle registrations and warrants of fitness. I have attempted to educate the Stewart Island driving public to look after what they have by doing the simple things with their vehicle, that is keep them road legal. I tried to be fair and have given support to Stewart Island drivers by asking them to fix the problem and not enforcing traffic

matters by way of infringements. I have also attempted to hold back the return of the Highway Patrol to this community. Sadly I have found that a large number of law abiding Stewart Islanders are being let down by others. These people seem to consider they have the right to do as they want by not keeping their vehicles road legal or declining to cooperate with my requests and or consuming alcohol to the point where Police have to be called because of their actions.

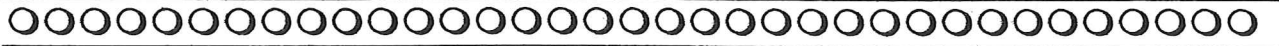
I do not begrudge anyone having a social drink but you must remember your responsibility to yourself, your family and others living here. Don't get intoxicated to the point where you drive or cause disorder on the streets. If I am called then I will deal with the problem using my full policing powers no matter who you are.

Like it or not we are part of New Zealand and I can only do so much to keep the unique lifestyle we know on Stewart Island the rest is up to you.

Outsiders observe discuss and inform which attracts attention our way. It is up to everyone to take responsibility for their actions be it with their vehicles or behaviour.

If there is not change in attitude or responsibility then I will be forced to stand aside and let the heavy weight of full traffic enforcement enter upon Stewart Island and completely change the exceptional lifestyle we have.

The choice is now yours.
Rob Fox



STEWART ISLAND INDOOR BOWLS.

The Stewart Island Indoor Bowls Club hosted 11 teams from Invercargill, Lumsden, Mataura, Seaward Downs, Wyndham and Tisbury at their annual tournament held at the community centre on Saturday 5th April.

14 Teams played 4 games in the qualifying section of the tournament. In this qualifying section, teams required 5 points to qualify for post section play. (2 points being awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw.) At the end of section play 5 teams qualified for the main event and 8 non qualifying teams played in the plate event.

Main Event

the final was a rerun of the 2002 final and in a tight seasawing match which saw the result being unclear until the final bowl was played Stewart Island 1 emerged the victors over last years winners Lumsden 3.

RESULTS

Main Event

- 1st Stewart Island 1 - David Squire, Ali Eade, Jan Richards
- 2nd Lumsden 3 - Mark Keen, Brent Keen, Myrtle Kelly
- 3rd= Lumsden 1 - H. Orchard, M Adams, A Adams
- 3rd= Wallacetown - N Malcolm, P Stratford, J Wilson

Plate Event

- 1st Tisbury - R Pread , B Ferris , J Bond
- 2nd Seaward Downs - P Carnie , E Carnie , K Nind.

A special thanks to our sponsors without whose support this tournament wouldn't have been the success it was. Thankyou Stewart Island Community Centre, South Seas Hotel, Church Hill Cafe and Stewart Island Marine.



KAI KART KETCH UP
Hille Maas - Barrett

Hello everyone, AG's, Yve's and my first season at the KAI KART draws to an end and we thank every body that showed patience during our first months of trial and error. Not that we reached Mattys fine art of cooking fish and chips yet, but we are trying...

We like to point out that we are aiming at closing the KAI KART at the end of April. Last day of operation will be Sunday the 27th. due to other commitments and viability. We will reopen again from Labour weekend on. Ag, the "Burger Queen" has just tried out a new spicy chilli tomato sauce for

your burgers. So ask for it next time you have a burger.

Our work has been mainly fun (just ask the local tour bus drivers) and we do enjoy all the people that come in especially the diners and to think that we nearly did not have that side operating at all seems rather silly now.

We thought it would be nice to have a customer of the month, one that stuck in our minds, either through their continued custom or there outstanding

personality or just because he/she made us laugh. But since there are so many of you we had to put you all in a hat (literally speaking) and draw a name out. And our first customer of the season is:

JO AND ANDY RIKSEM

So come on in you have got yourselves a free meal!
Meanwhile, greasy greetings



Stewart Island Playgroup to be Disbanded!!

Cathy Belworthy

But don't worry - this doesn't mean we are neglecting the Island's littlest ones. We are in the process of recreating the playgroup as a Licensed Early Childhood Education Centre (Otherwise to be known as the Rakiura Rugrats!!). The centre will be managed by a Charitable Trust made up of Island parents and will employ Denise Schofield as teacher. Denise has recently returned to the Island after working in Dunedin for the last few years as a kindergarten teacher. She has been working with the children at playgroup on a voluntary basis since January and all of us, parents and children alike, have really appreciated the extra stimulation she has provided. At the moment we are sifting

through the MOUND of paperwork associated with our application to the Ministry of Education but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and hope to have our provisional license in place by the end of May. In the meantime we are continuing to operate as playgroup, meeting twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays.

PS - Remember Glowing Sky are collecting all used printer cartridges for recycling in Auckland - the proceeds of this go to the Rakiura Rugrats!! You can drop them in to Glowing Sky in the bay.

THANK YOU!!



NEW STEWART ISLAND WEBSITE

During the last 3 months we have put up the website: Enchanted Stewart Island on www.hog.ch/nz.htm with about 400 photos and many stories on Stewart Island. We have had a wonderful time on the Island and are very sorry to have to leave tomorrow. We would like to thank all the Stewart Islanders who have supported us during the last 3 months and who have let us participate in their lives. We tremendously enjoyed the hospitality and friendliness and warm welcome we have received

everywhere. It was a special joy to come each Wednesday to the plant nursery and do some peaceful potting and planting.

The photos have created a tremendous interest and we have decided that we will produce a CD along the lines of the website which will be available to tourists in the shops on the Island at the beginning of your next season. Ulva Amos will be our representative here and will know all about the progress of the CD and other future

projects we have in mind. Should anyone like to order photos in the future, this can also be done via Ulva.

We hope to be back soon

Anita + Beat Haug
ENCHANTED STEWART ISLAND
www.hog.ch/nz.htm

OBAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE : WATER DELIVERY POLICIES

Chief Fire Officer David Valli

The Fire Brigade is not and does not want to be in the business of Water Deliveries. However in the past we have delivered water when tanks have run dry and we will continue to help out in the future, when time permits usually in the evenings as most Fire Brigade members are working during the day.

Lately it has been the case where people have been expecting water to be delivered on demand this is not always possible. It has become obvious that some properties do not have the water capacity to suit their

needs, or having blocked or faulty spouting affecting water collection, they should fix this problem themselves, and not rely on the Fire Brigade continuously for water this is not our job.

The Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade is a Volunteer run Brigade set up for Fire and other emergencies concerning life and property.

We are happy to help and advise on Fire Safety - smoke alarms installations and other community projects.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like, through your paper, to say thank you to the Halfmoon Bay School for their poetry display.

It was very well presented, the children had put a lot of thought into their poetry, the work was very professionally presented and it was a credit to all concerned. May we see more in the future.

Yours sincerely

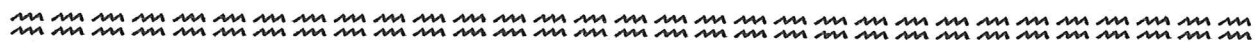
Margaret Rooney.

Stewart Island

Oban Presbyterian Church Services

We welcome visitors to the Island for Easter - all are welcome to join us

- ◇ Good Friday - 7.30pm
- ◇ Easter Sunday - 10.30am - Celebrated by Rev. Barbara Miller from Snells Beach
- ◇ Sunday 27 April - John MacDonald
- ◇ Sunday 4 May (Communion Service) Rev, Murray Marshall
- ◇ Sunday 11 May - Brian Iddles
- ◇ Sunday 18 and 25 May - Tim Pettengill - Chaplain Southland Institute of Technology



Observations from the "Big Smoke"

Katy McGinity

At some stage of the week/month or year for some reason or another we all have to go to town. Some of us like it, some of us don't. Though some people have to go to town for high school. One of those people is me and I am here to tell you about the highs and the lows of living in Inver-vegas other wise known as Invercargill.

At first it was great I mean what normal teenager doesn't like going shopping, swimming at the pools and going to movies. Though it wore off fairly quickly. For instance you know when you are going to sleep at night and you usually hear the lovely sound of silence in town you hear the horrible sound of sirens going off every 5 minutes.

Town does have its good points though. There a lots of opportunities and fun stuff to do. It does get annoying sometimes when

you walk past someone and smile and all you get back is a blank stare though.

Most Friday afternoons on the 5.00 plane I come home. When up in the air I can see cars that look like ants trees that look like small hedges and the sea which look likes a huge fish tank. Though that's only when we are flying over Invercargill and the strait. When we get to the island I see lots of beaches beautiful houses and a overall great place.

That's why I think that we are all so lucky to live on the island its a great place and we should all look after it.

Don't let me put you off going to town it is still a interesting place though personally I prefer the island much much better.



*Remember
Sunday 11 May
Mother's Day*

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Please get in touch with your contributions, suggestions, offers of help, or if you wish to subscribe.
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Happy Easter All