

Stewart Island News

April 2004 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island



Indoor Bowls Tournament in full swing at Community

Last weekend saw the Community Centre stadium put to great use with the annual Stewart Island Indoor Bowls Tournament being staged at the venue. Teams of indoor bowlers battled the afternoon away, all in the best of humour.

A total of nine teams from Wallacetown, Tisbury, Lumsden, Georgetown, Makarewa and Oban competed for a wide variety of prizes.

First prize of a return ferry trip (Foveaux Express Ltd) a meal voucher (Church Hill Restaurant) and hotel accommodation (South Seas Hotel) was won by Mark Keen of Makarewa. (Thanks to Sponsors).

Second prize of 4kg of blue cod was snapped up by David Ross of Tisbury.

Organiser Alister Eade has already taken bookings for six teams for next year's event which promises to attract a larger contingent from Southland and possibly Otago.

The visiting bowlers were treated to some typical Stewart Island hospitality by Community Centre staff, trustees and valued volunteers Lorraine Hansen and Wayne Skerrett.

Overall, an enjoyable day for everyone concerned and a valuable earner for the Centre.

On other pages:

- 2 - Museum Notes
- 3 - Museum Photograph Appeal, Kari and Brent Beaven's thanks
- 4 - Community Board News, Basin Award
- 5 - School Report
- 6 - Lions Club News plus Chuckles
- 7 - Promotions Association, Ship to Shore News
- 8 - Garden Circle plus Lawn story
- 9 - DOC visitor survey report
- 10 - Health Centre News
- 11 - Community Centre News, Chocolate Award
- 12 - Kai Kart News plus Yoga story

MUSEUM NOTES.

by Merv King

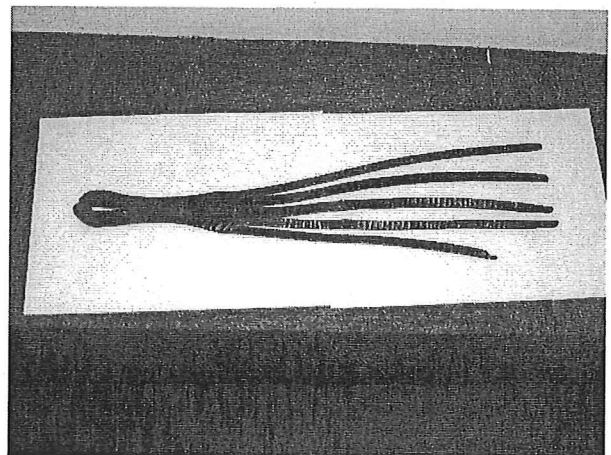
Not a great deal to report on this month. Time seems to be flying along as we head for mid-winter again, and visitors keep arriving in good numbers.

Some of our committee have been able to take vacations, with Curator Elaine Hamilton at the moment on a trip to Blenheim and the West Coast while she takes the opportunity to research some boats for the book we are putting together. Other members are helping with various tasks, and we hope to have the book published towards the end of the year.

DONATION BOX.

Just a snippet – have you noticed (and hopefully popped the odd coin in) the Donation Box around to the left inside the Museum door? This box is made from wood taken from the sailing vessel **OTHELLO** that was used as a wharf at the Norwegian Whaling Base when the base was operating. Time has played its hand so that not much can be seen of her these days.

Anyway, the box was made by Hugh Paterson, who was the “P” of PM Stores Ltd. Hugh was a cheery sole, always whistling, with the nickname (naturally) of “Birdseed”. Sadly, he was drowned at the head of the Inlet while on a picnic cruise with George Crack, (who was the Publican at the time.)



ACQUISITIONS.

This month we have been given an object that will bring tears to some older eyes! The teacher's assistant for the years 1913 to 1929 was Miss Jessie Hamilton, and the strap she used was donated. A fearsome looking thing it is too! A bit like a small “Cat-o-Nine Tails”-- can anyone recall getting a touch from it?

Boat of the Month:

ROVERS BRIDE.

Built at the Neck in 1842-44 by James Joss, and fitted out in Glory Cove, she was a wooden brigantine of 40 tons – quite a large vessel. For some reason she was nicknamed “Kaiporuporu” (Eat the mud!)

Owned and captained by Jas. Joss, she was crewed by his two eldest sons, and their first voyage was via the Fiordland coast to Wellington. They arrived there on 23rd January 1845 with a load of greenstone, and then took on a cargo for Tahiti. Somehow they missed that Island, to finish up at Samoa where the **ROVERS BRIDE** was reportedly wrecked and James Joss disappeared, supposedly murdered by the natives!

Whether this story is all true or not will probably never be known, but she was one of the earlier boats to be built on Stewart Island.

Oban Museum Requests Help with Fishing Boat Photographs

The Museum is publishing a book on fishing boats of Stewart Island. Merv King is seeking help in finding photographs of the following boats. Those marked with an asterisk are urgently sought.

Andrea	Endeavour	Nightingale
Anissa	Fredian	Pilot*
Ariel*	Hawk	Polly*
Bluenose*	Industry	Rover's Bride
Columbo*	John Bullock*	Sou-West
Coral*	Joseph Weller*	Spec*
Crest of the Wave*	Lerwick*	Union*
Dorcas*	Margaret	Unity
Dot*	Marlborough	Venus*
Dove*	Mary Brilliard*	Waihopai*
Eclipse*	Mary van Every*	Zephyrus
Eliza Simpson*	Nancy*	

If you have photographs of these vessels or know of their whereabouts, please contact: Merv King, P O Box 74, Stewart Island. Telephone 219 1156.

Our greatest thanks

To everyone on Stewart Island who shared our wedding with us, in person, in thought and in day to day conversations and comments. We have been truly stunned by the efforts of everyone which made the celebration as great as it was.

We both had a fantastic day and were thrilled to share it with friends.

Brent and Kari Beaven

(Dad's photos for anyone interested are on a website www.robfarmer.com.au. Click the weddings icon, K)

COMMUNITY BOARD NEWS

Braggs Bay Refuse site

Environment Southland has stated that Braggs Bay refuse site is to be used for clean fill and tree stumps only. It is to be emphasized that it is very important to stick to the guidelines, as there could be serious, severe repercussions if the rules are not adhered to. It might be necessary for the public to obtain an application form for the dumping of material such as demolition waste and items like car tyres.

Estimates and Objectives for S.I.E.S.A.

It was resolved that the Estimates and Objectives for Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority for 2004/2005 year are approved.

There was some concern relating to residential properties that are being used for accommodation purposes but paying only domestic residential supply rates for power and the fairness of this. Recovery of extra costs was discussed.

S.I.E.S.A. Tariff

The tariff for S.I.E.S.A. for the year commencing 1 July 2004 is to remain unchanged.

Community Centre Lease

The lease for the Community Centre was granted for a period of 20 years commencing on 1 July 2000.

Incorrect depositing/recycling of rubbish at the Wharf

There was a discussion about incorrectly recycling refuse and that people could possibly be prosecuted. Discussion took place regarding the rubbish at the wharf. It was agreed that signage should be erected at the wharf regarding the depositing of rubbish there. There is a health and safety issue with refuse being left at the wharf.

Provisional approval for sewerage scheme

Technical work is underway on the extension to the sewerage scheme with a view to taking up the Government subsidy for the project within a year. The Ministry of Health has provisionally approved half of the estimated cost. There are several factors that will influence the actual start date for the scheme. Design work has to be finished, and the construction has to go out to tender. Resource consents are required. Property owners have to be consulted over the final cost, and their options for payment. The Ministry of Health has to give final approval, and agree to the work being brought forward, as initially it was not scheduled to start until 2006.

The Highly-Coveted, Stewart Island Basin Award (Sorry Alister, you will have to relinquish it now.)

High-level management meetings failed to reach a consensus on the Basin Award this month. Many hours have been spent in expensive consultation. Overseas experts were flown in, at great expense, to resolve a local conflict of ideas. Happily, a result has been achieved.

Rebecca Diaz-Parry

For turning up to help with the mussel preparations at the Community Centre with the classic "Death-Warmed-Up-Look" after allegedly sinking at least one bottle of Gin while her house was topless. Hope you are in good spirits now Becky?

Halfmoon Bay School

End of Term Report by Fiona Hall

We ended another busy term at Easter. Poppy Lequesne and Mikhaila Breitenbach have been making weekly visits and will join Michaela Belworthy as our new entrants in Term 2. Brooke Jones, and Amalie and Chanterelle Olive have moved away with their families, and will be sorely missed by everyone at the school.

In the final week, Cath and Bonnie were able to head off to a Rural Principal's Conference in Queenstown, thanks to funding from our 'Foveaux Cluster'. The big area of concern was what to wear to the conference dinner, as a "Kiwiana" theme had been declared. Bonnie was very fortunate in having a design by a famous Stewart Islander, which was previously entered in the local version of Wearable Arts. The only question was whether Tia would let her model it! Meanwhile, Cath insisted that she would not be seen in gumboots and a 'swanny', even if they were "traditional". In the end she found she had gathered up enough paua jewellery and accessories to satisfy the criteria.

Back at school we were really lucky to have snared teacher Dave Merton to take charge for the week. Dave works for both the Ministry of Education, and Dunedin College of Education, and is bang up to date with the latest computer and digital camera equipment. The senior children were kept very busy learning some new computer skills, and found ways to present their Term 1 work in an on-line format. The juniors showed all their creative skills off to great effect during a week of Easter fun (and kept Mrs Hall right when she forgot how the proper teacher does things). We all had a great time, and really enjoyed sharing the week with Mr Merton's sons Liam and Zac.

The last week of term also saw the conclusion to the election season. We have been very

lucky to have so much support from our school community and to have six excellent nominees. When you consider that we only have 31 parents / caregivers resident on the island, that four of those were due to leave at the end of this term, and several others were either current or previous Board members, or parents of recent entrants to the school – well, six was a great turn out. Our new Trustees are: Karen Adams, Johann Breitenbach, Grim Davis, Caron Hodge, and Di Morris. Bonnie Leask was re-elected as Staff Representative. Congratulations to all of you.

We have been lucky to have the services of Iris Tait as Returning Officer for many years now – it's a tricky job, as everything has to be done just right, and her experience is invaluable. Thanks Iris!

Finally, the school would like to thank and acknowledge the outgoing Board for all their time, effort and commitment. Kirsten Hicks has been on the school Board longer than she can remember, and has been both secretary and chairperson (among many other things). She'll be missed on those Tuesday nights, but we know she'll enjoy catching up with Coronation Street. Also stepping down are: Nigel Philp, Barry Rhodes, and Jill Skerrett. Previous trustees in the past three years were: John McRandle, Tim Simmance and Ronnie Waddell. I have worked for the Board as Treasurer, in the absence of an available Trustee for the role. I know we all wish the new Trustees the very best in their future roles.

Card Making Day

Just a wee reminder from Margaret Rooney that the card making day is still on this coming Saturday 24th.

Please check noticeboard for times and details.

Stewart Island Lions Club - Update

A reminder to the community that we have barbecues for hire and that we are available to cater for barbecue-type meals at \$15 and \$30 per person. For menu details contact convenor K. Geeson on 219-1014. Barbecues represent a major part of our fundraising: the more we make, the more we can donate back to the community.

Recent activities have included cutting firewood for senior citizens and a seafood raffle for the MRI scanner appeal for Kew Hospital. The raffle raised \$500 and this was matched dollar for dollar by the club. This resulted in a donation of \$1000 to this appeal. A great big “thank you” to those who so generously donated the prizes and congratulations to the winners: Donna Herick, Micaela Mullen, Ken Jones, Malcolm Scammel and P Gordon.

Plans are underway for the exterior repaint of the Pavilion building and for the 10th anniversary of the Publicans Fishing Competition to be held 1st to 3rd August.

The March meeting of the club was held aboard *Extravacat*. The moonlight cruise was most enjoyable. Our thanks to Ian and Sue Munro who were our hosts for the evening.

The business meeting in April took the form of a pot-luck barbecue at the Pavilion. Owaka Lions Club members will visit us in May.

Warm congratulations to Sue Munro and her team for their wonderful effort in the Cancer Society Relay-For-Life held in Invercargill. We support this cause with on-going donations, also to the Guide Dog Foundation and the Borland Youth Adventure Trust.

New member Stewart Dovey was welcomed recently. New recruits are most welcome. If you think you would be interested in coming to a meeting, contact President Ian (Sinky) Sinclair 219 1045 or Secretary Janine Murray 219 1545 for details.

Jan West on Ulva Island

I was guiding a group on Ulva Island and was just completing our trip with a brief waiata, since the trip included Iwi interpretation and protocols. The party was full of people from all around the world so they weren't too familiar with this sort of thing. I duly sang my six lines of Maori and after a brief moment of complete silence they burst into thunderous applause. I got such a surprise I started laughing, then felt most embarrassed as I explained that it wasn't necessary, and no-one had ever clapped before. With that a quiet, stoic voice from the group said “Hmnn, well you must have improved then!” I guess so. ●



Golf and Funerals

Two guys are golfing on a course that is right next to a cemetery. After they tee off, one of the golfers notices that there is a funeral procession passing by. So he takes off his hat and places it over his heart. When the funeral is over, the other golfer looks at the guy with respect and asks, “Why did you do that?”

The man replies “Well, we were married for almost forty years. It's the least I could do!”

STEWART ISLAND PROMOTION ASSOCIATION

Bluff Oyster and Southland Seafood Festival

The preparation of food for this festival took place with a lot of helpers pitching in to help make our contribution to this festival yet again another success. The festival took place on Saturday, 17 April. A lot of people have been involved with the Promotion stall and without their help this great fundraising endeavour would not be possible. The Association sincerely appreciates the time and effort put in by every one concerned. A special thanks goes out to Stewart Island Marine Services who have, once again, been very generous in their sponsorship in getting the workers to Bluff. There are obviously a lot of people to be thanked so please, consider yourself thanked.

Foveaux Strait Bi-Centenary

We are sure that something will take place later in the year. Chris Visser is the only person on the Island so far to show any interest in assisting to help organise this celebration with Lindsay Beer, Bluff Promotions indicating an interest. If there is anybody out there feeling that they may want to help even in a little way, please contact Sue Graham.

Stewart Island Strategy

The value and importance of having such a strategy is obvious. Fergus Sullivan who was involved in compiling a strategy for the Catlins is to be invited to talk at the General meeting in May along with Bobbi (Reid) Brown from Venture Southland.

Bobbi will also talk about research and statistics and the importance of these matters.

Brochure update

Members need to think about the Brochure – format and size. This will need to be put out about October/November. Get your thinking caps on and let the Executive know what format you would like to see.

A.G.M.

This is to take place on Thursday, 27 May. A new President will be needed so it is time to get the thinking hats on to decide who will best represent members for the coming year. Nomination papers will be put out next month. It has been agreed that Proxy votes will not be permitted.

SHIP TO SHORE

Ships Log, (Stardate 2004420.0730)

Winter Hours

**Monday to Friday 7.30am to 7pm
Saturday & Sunday 7.30am to 6.30pm**

Wendy is still producing *yummy* food in our kitchen. New products selling really well include her famous mussel, potato-top and chicken pies. We are always trying new products so be sure to drop in and test.

We are still running our in-store specials and will have some winter competitions for locals. We look forward to seeing you all and thank you very much for your continued patronage.

From the crew at Ship to Shore. (Beam me up Wayne!)

Stewart Island Garden Circle

Jenny Gell

On the 5th April the Garden Circle sponsored a bus tour, the morning weather was shocking but the sun came out as Dave Valli drove a full bus load, including two visitors, to see the sights.

The first stop was at the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre where Dave Squire gave us a look into the workings of the recycling business. He gave us all some pointers on how to separate our rubbish, and we had a look at the worm farm.

Next stop was Moturau Moana Gardens where a few memories of Miss Baker were shared before a wander round in the sun finding plenty of plants and trees to take our interest.

Sue Munro's beautiful new garden was next, and everyone was very impressed with what can be achieved in a short time, obviously a lot of work for Sue and Ian but a wonderful result.

We ended up at Lorraine Squires as a hail storm started and had a well needed afternoon tea, a quick meeting, and a wander round the garden taking in the beautiful views before heading off home having enjoyed a very special afternoon on Stewart Island, with a big thank you to all those concerned in making it so.

Blue Mountain Nurseries

On Thursday 15th April, Denis Hughes from Blue Mountain Nurseries in Tapanui gave a very interesting talk in the Anglican Church Hall. Denis covered the number of Kowhai available, the colourful selection of Rowans and finally talked about the group of plants he had brought over for sale which were suitable for Stewart Island. We finished with afternoon tea.

A few of our keen gardeners (including two with new gardens) were fortunate enough to have Denis visit them with advice (and encouragement).

I am sure everyone enjoyed the visit and hope Denis will come back to visit with his wife Margaret in the not too distant future.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Raylene Waddell at 2pm on 13th May. ●

A somewhat irreverent extract from the Australian Lawn Mowing Association newsletter "G'day" (apologies to the devout)

The Creator talks with St. Francis...

"Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in Australia? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracted butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see are these green rectangles."

"It's the tribes that settled there, Chief. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great extent to kill them and replace them with grass."

"Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?"
"Apparently so, Chief. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each Spring by fertilising grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn".

"The Spring rains and warmer weather probably make the grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy?"

Apparently not, Chief. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it – sometimes twice a week."

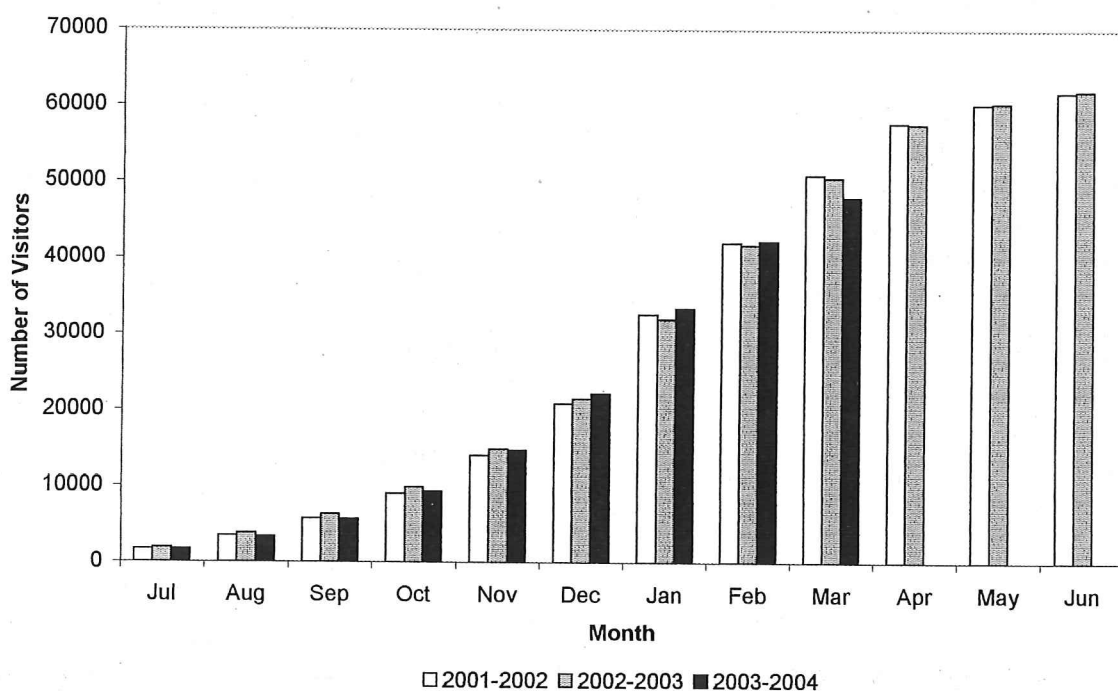
(Part two appears next month)

A Busy Season on the Island?

by Jana Newman

How many people visited Stewart Island over the summer? As the busy season winds down, I thought it would be timely to reflect on the season. The Department of Conservation manage a network of 18 track counters on the island which give us an idea of how many people use the huts and tracks on Rakiura. The data from the track counters help us manage the facilities in the park to an appropriate level, predict future ‘hot spots’ of visitor activity and ensure there are minimum impacts on the flora and fauna. The track counters are checked every month and the data are translated into running totals of the number of people for the financial year. The graph below shows roughly the trend in the number of people using the visitor centre over the last three years.

People Visiting Stewart Island Visitor Centre 2001-2004 (cumulative data)



Between the 1st of July and the 31st March 2003/2004, approximately 49,700 people went through the visitor centre, compared to 50,500 in that period in 2002/2003 and 50,900 in 2001/2002. Visitor numbers were up slightly on last year for December, January and February but dropped off significantly in March.

For the same period from July to March, approximately 18,100 people walked the tracks on Ulva Island, 2,200 walked the Rakiura track and the same number walked between Mason Bay and Freshwater Landing.

Contributions.

I have on hand some very creative and newsworthy contributions including excellent poetry, sketches, transcriptions of speeches, newspaper cuttings, etc. Unfortunately many are quite long and can cause problems fitting them in to our marginally viable newsletter. Please don't be offended if your material is not published immediately. I will try and fit it in one day!

Cheers, Ed.

Stewart Island District Nurses

It's the beginning of influenza season again and we have the flu vaccination available for anyone who may be interested. We have tried to contact everyone who is eligible for free vaccination – that is people over the age of 65 or anyone with certain pre-existing medical conditions such as respiratory disease or diabetes. If you think you may be eligible and we have missed you, please contact us and we will arrange your immunisation. You can also choose to pay \$27.50 for the vaccine if you do not meet the criteria but feel you may benefit from vaccination. It may also be worth considering if you live or work with folk vulnerable to infection, such as the elderly or immuno-compromised people.

Congratulations to those women who have availed themselves of the Women's Health afternoon clinics. Catherine will continue to have 30-minute appointments on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons twice a month. Just phone the clinic to make an appointment. Cath will be contacting all women due for cervical screening and encouraging them to have a smear test. This is a very simple, painless procedure. It checks for abnormal cell changes in the cervix that could develop into cancer if they are not treated. Treatment at an early stage is very effective, with a 98 to 100% success rate. Lets face it – it's not something we look forward to but please try to think of this simple test as a real investment in your health and wellbeing.

Cath is also keen to offer women the opportunity of sexual health screening. The incidence of certain sexually transmissible diseases such as chlamydia is rising. This infection is often asymptomatic (you have no symptoms) and can cause pelvic inflammatory disease – a leading cause of infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Again this is a simple test, done in a private, unhurried manner. There is tons of time for questions about any health

concerns. This is a great opportunity to get contraceptive advice, pre conception advice and education regarding self- breast examination. Please let Cath know if there is any other service pertaining to women's health issues that you may find useful.

We would like to remind everyone that you have a uniquely free health service here on Stewart Island. There are no charges for consultations or treatment. The only charges you will incur are for prescriptions, transport of laboratory samples and over the counter medications. We are also now charging a small fee for cervical smear tests to cover the cost of equipment. We have a number of outstanding accounts and do not wish to have to be chasing debts. We are dependent upon the goodwill of supporting medical practitioners and pharmacists. They cannot support us if we don't pay our bills. Please come prepared to pay the following charges.

Prescriptions	\$15
Repeat Prescriptions	\$10
Lab Samples	\$3
Cervical smears	\$6

Our thanks to Dee Olive for her outstanding service providing a clean and tidy clinic (and garden) for us all. Dee, Stu, Amalie and Chantelle are off on their latest adventure in Western Australia and we wish you bon voyage and good luck in your travels. The odd postcard from sunny climes would cheer us, as does the thought of your return. We'll miss you Dee. Thanks for everything.

We have yet to fill the vacancy Dee's departure has created. If you think you could keep a couple of messy nurses in line, give us a call.

That's it for this month folks.

Good Health,
Marty and Cath

Ayr Street
P O Box 187
Stewart Island
Telephone & Fax (03) 2191 477



Community Centre Newsletter – April 2004

The Centre has been quite busy over the last two months with weddings, meetings, shows and tournaments. As a result of the many functions, there are a fair number of privately owned platters, casserole dishes, etc that have been left unclaimed. If you have provided “a plate” to any recent function, please check your kitchen cupboards for AWOL’s and pop into the centre during office hours (1pm to 2pm weekdays) to reclaim them.

Teams of trustees and volunteers have been very busy over the last three weeks preparing for the Community Centre’s two stands at the Bluff Seafood Festival. The team that travelled over to the festival was thrilled to receive the prize for the best community stand. This is a major fund-raising event for the centre and the donations of product and personal time are very much appreciated.

Co-inciding with a change in manager for the centre, some differences will be noticed. Office hours have been dropped back to one hour per day (1pm to 2pm weekdays) so this is the time to come in and discuss your needs for using the centre. The reduced office hours are for a trial period but staff will do their best to be flexible. It is *your* community centre so we want you to use it to the fullest extent. Now, with winter setting in, would be a good time to re-establish those sporting clubs, hobby groups and training sessions.

If anyone wants help setting up a new event, meeting or seminar, just contact us or leave a message on the telephone answering machine (219 1147). Thanks.



This month S.I.N. has purchased the chocolates, as we had no other offers. (Please contact Stewart if you are willing to sponsor a chocolate award.)

Jo Leask is the deserving recipient for April. Jo painted the backdrop for the Community Centre’s winning Bluff Seafood Festival stall. Thanks, Jo.

Kai Kart

Here we are again at the end of our second season, just when we were getting into the swing of things. The last two weeks have been the busiest so far and it seems strange to think we will be closing for winter soon. We will be closing after ANZAC Day, (week 26 April to 1 May). Can't put an exact date on it yet, as it will depend on demand.

We will run our stock down so one or two items might not be available any more and we apologise for that. Frozen goods have a use-by date too and we do not want to keep items in the freezer for too long. We will have fish, chips and mussels until we shut the door.

Like last year we have a *customer of the season* and this time it is "NEVILLE KING". (Drawn by an independent person, we might add). Congratulations Neville, and don't forget to pick up your freebee.

Thank you all again for your ongoing support, it certainly makes it all worthwhile and if we do make a profit at the end of it, even better. Enjoy the coming peaceful times.

Your KAI KART team.

YOGA - Fiona Hall

The yoga session held on 19th April was attended by eleven people (either for the whole or a half-day) and was just the thing for a dark wet Saturday! Everyone left feeling great! Thanks to Linda Ryder, of the Yoga Centre Southland, who shared lots of new ideas with us. Thanks also to the Pavilion for the wonderful venue.

A further day or weekend of yoga is planned for later in the winter, meanwhile we continue our friendly, non-competitive sessions every Wednesday at 5.30 (for around an hour) at the Pavilion. New folk are always welcome and irregular attendance is not a problem!

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material and contributions permit. Any stories or articles relating to Stewart Island are welcome and can be forwarded to the editor Stewart Dovey (preferably by email as an MsWord™ attachment)

Contact details: Stewart Island News, P O Box 87, Stewart Island. Email: sdovey@es.co.nz