

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

April 2005 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island



"My first Kiwi"

Once upon a time there was a girl called Michaela and she was staying in the Mason Bay Homestead and one night her Dad said to her "There's a kiwi out on the lawn!" So she went outside to see it. And she saw her first kiwi. It was amazing!! She loved it very much. Then she went inside and ate the rest of her pudding. Then she wrote about it. The title was "My First Kiwi".

The End

Sunday 10 of April

Today was very sunny and we went up the biggest sand dune that I've ever seen and we had a race down.

By Michaela Belworthy. Done at Mason.

Editorial Note.

This month SIN has suffered from a lack of time from the editor to apply the usual setting out and arrangement of stories. Apologies for that!!! I have an excellent article from Shirley Whyte about the Fire Brigade's celebrations but have not had enough time to type it out for the newsletter. Hopefully next month will be better. And hopefully not too late for the story.

If anyone would be interested in taking over the editor's role for SIN, please contact Margaret Hopkins (219 1026) or Stewart Dovey (219 1559). All offers will be very welcome. You will need a computer, a modern printer and around 20 hours a month free time to assemble the newsletter.

MUSEUM NOTES

GENERAL: We are very pleased to have found a source of a **Stewart Island map** in colour on cotton rag paper. At present we have two sizes (A1 594 x 841mm and A2 420 x 594mm) on display and are ready to take orders. The exact price is not confirmed, but we hope it will be around \$20.00 - \$25.00 and of course less for the smaller size. Either size framed would make a lovely gift, or you could just go ahead and spoil yourself.

Rakiura Museum Opening Times:

Monday through Saturday - 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Sunday - 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

It appears that some people are not absolutely sure about the museum opening times, so we are taking an opportunity to clarify this. The museum is run entirely by volunteers. During the weekday mornings the museum is open while Colleen Dawson 'mans' the Southland District Council desk. We appreciate Colleen's efforts, which allow so many tourists the opportunity to view Stewart Island's past history. In addition, we are often approached by school groups for guided tours. Thanks to our small group of volunteers, we are able to open some afternoons. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you are interested please approach L. Hansen (Chairperson) 2191133 or Lee Wadds (Secretary) - 2191271

AVIATION: Mary Garden, a daughter of Oscar Garden, has contacted the Museum about a book she is writing on her father, who piloted the first plane to "land" on Stewart Island. This was back in February 1931, and with Geoff Todd (our Bill's father) as passenger they put down on Horseshoe Bay beach – finishing up with their tail in the air and nose in the tide. She is wanting to chat with anyone who has memories or photos of this event when she visits the Island. In the meantime Margaret Rooney – 2191012 – is the contact person.

Boat of the Month.

ANTELOPE

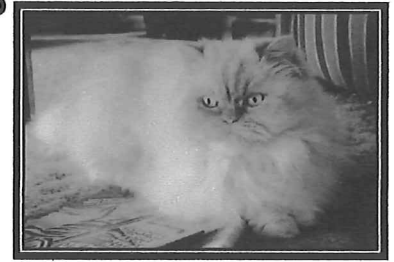
Built in 1862 by James Clare at Mahurangi, north of Auckland. She measured 39'3" x 15'2" x 5'8", and was blessed with the nickname of "THE GOAT".

She fished around Stewart Island in the early 1900's, at one time under the command of Capt. Harry Roderique. In March 1907 she is on record as taking a party of muttonbirders south from Riverton, while in 1914 she made a sealing trip to Fiordland, going as far as Doubtful Sound under Capt. W Spencer. On the way home to Bluff some of her party were left on the Solander Islands, and only learned of the outbreak of World War 1 when they were later taken off the Island. Her ultimate fate is unknown.



I must thank Secretary Lee Wadds for her help in making up this newsletter – see you next month. Merv King.

Stewart Island Pets safe from Wild Cat Control



The Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project is targeting rats, possums and wild cats for control on 250 hectares of privately owned land in and around Halfmoon Bay.

The Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project is not targeting domestic cats.

As a trust, we promote responsible pet ownership; however, there is no denying that wild cats devastate our native wildlife.

Wild cats must be removed from the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project if we aim to protect the wildlife within the area.

To ensure the safety of our pets, we have chosen methods which do not put pet cats at any risk. Cage traps used to attract wild cats keep the cat dry and safe and are checked every morning on the day after they are set. Domestic cats will be identified (they appear and act very differently to wild cats) and returned immediately to their owners. Wild cats will be quickly and humanely killed.

SIRCET are offering pet owners an additional safeguard towards protecting their cats at no cost:

Free Identification Collar for your Cats

The ID collars come in several delightful patterns and colours. The tags are given last 3 digits of your phone number. If your cat is caught, we can use these numbers to return it quickly to you.

The collars have been designed by a leading pet company to be worn safely by any cat.



You can get one of these free collars to ensure your cat's safety, or merely for its gorgeous appearance, by phoning Kari Beaven on 2191 533, leave a note for her at the Stewart Island Post Office or e-mail habitat@glowingsky.co.nz
Contact Kari to view the collars and choose a pattern, or chose from the above designs



Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

c/- Post Office, Stewart Island

Ph (03) 2191 533

e-mail habitat@glowingsky.co.nz

www.glowingsky.co.nz

"Protecting Biodiversity in the Backyard"

Kari Beaven, Project Manager for SIRCET

Saturday 9th April saw superb weather for the local workshop "Protecting Biodiversity in the Backyard" hosted by the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust.

The workshop focussed around tools and techniques to get the most out of your pest control efforts. It was aimed at Islanders whose homes are both within and outside of the current border of the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project.

A head count towards the end of the morning confirmed at least 20 people came to hear Duncan McMorrان and Steve Hix from Connovation (a leading company in the design and manufacture of pest control techniques), and myself, Kari Beaven.

Steve presented a few real-life videos demonstrating the devastation of introduced pests such as possums and rats, and an insight into possum behaviour when they are near a trap. One video demonstrated the speed and humaneness of the Warrior kill-trap used in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project and Steve discussed various other methods of pest control. He gave some useful information about how to attract possums and rats in your own backyard, and how to locate the best sites for a trap. I presented the techniques and traps used to control possums, rats and wild cats in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, while still allowing for the protection of our domestic pets.

Several points of note were: rats enjoy peanut butter, chocolate (even chocolate instant pudding!) and herbs such as five spice (thanks Nick & Shane). Rats don't like to run across open spaces, but rather follow the edge of walls or tree roots. Possums are attracted by sight and by scent. They have favourite tree species for eating, which can vary at different times of the year, and they also use some trees as "marker trees," chewing scars in the bark to show this is their territory. These signs help to select a suitable tree for placing a trap.

The main point raised was, no matter what bait and trap position you try, learn from what happens and continue with the baits and sites that work!

I hope you all enjoyed the morning and gained some extra knowledge from the presentation.

I would like to thank Duncan and Steve for giving their time to the Stewart Island Community and the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, and for their support towards supplying traps, bait and tools for the Project. Their instruction and guidance towards best-practice trapping will be greatly beneficial to the future of the project.

I would also like to thank Stewart Island Flights for sponsoring the transport of Duncan and Steve to the Island and Ian Wilson of Stewart Island Water Taxi for sponsoring a trip to Ulva Island. Current results on Ulva are a wonderful showcase of our vision for Halfmoon Bay.

For information about the project and about future workshops hosted by SIRCET, please feel free to contact Kari Beaven on the above details.



Southland District Health Board
P O Box 828
INVERCARGILL
Phone 214-7224 Fax 214-7228
Please address correspondence to:
Communications Manager

Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme

Southland is soon to launch its Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme, with the school based campaign getting under way on 30 May 2005, followed by the primary care campaign on 7 June 2005.

The campaign is the largest of its kind ever undertaken in this country and in Southland alone will involve immunising around 30,000 people under the age of 20. Each person will be required to have three doses of the vaccine, approximately 6 weeks apart.

A large team of registered nurses has been employed to deliver the immunisations through schools and all school children can expect to receive a consent form for their parents during the first few days of Term 2.

The consent form explains the importance of the campaign, as well as providing information on how their children will be immunised and general advice about Meningococcal disease.

Children under the age of five and those under the age of 20 who do not attend school will be vaccinated at their general practitioner by appointment.

New Zealand is currently in its 15th year of a group B Meningococcal disease epidemic. Since 1991 there have been approximately 5,700 cases of Meningococcal disease and 227 deaths. The rate of disease is currently more than three times the rates considered an epidemic by the World Health Organisation.

Until recently there was no vaccine to protect against New Zealand's epidemic strain of Meningococcal B disease.

Research has clearly identified those under the age of 20 as being most at risk for contracting Meningococcal disease and this is why the vaccine is being implemented for this age group.

Rigorous testing and ongoing monitoring has ensured the safety of the vaccine and monitoring will continue throughout the campaign.

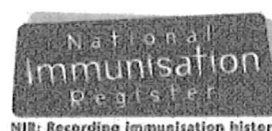
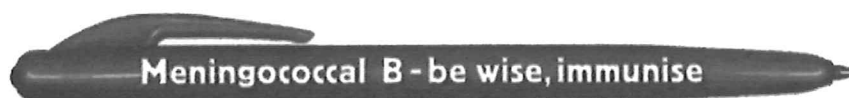
The development of a National Immunisation Register (NIR) has been an ongoing project, which will begin in Southland at the same time as the immunisation campaign.

Every young person who receives the Meningococcal B vaccine will be registered on the NIR, providing a computerised record of all immunisations.

While the vaccine is the best protection available for the current epidemic strain of Meningococcal B disease, vigilance is still essential to protect the community against this deadly disease and people are warned to continue to be aware of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease.

For further information about this programme people can contact the following:

- **Southland's MVS Team** – (03) 214 8260.
- **National Meningococcal B Programme Helpline** - 0800 20 30 90
- **Website** www.immunise.moh.govt.nz





Council's Draft Annual Plan Consistent with Prior Signals

Roading continues to be the big-ticket item for the Southland District Council in its Draft Annual Plan, which was adopted by the Council today.

But uncertainty about the level of the Government's contribution through Land Transport New Zealand has left a question mark over whether the Council will be able to carry out its full programme in the coming year.

Councillors spent most of today debating the proposed expenditure, including the ongoing commitment to roading maintenance and improvements. The Southland District has the largest roading network of any local authority in the country.

Last year's Long Term Council Community Plan took into account proposed funding increases in roading, but now Land Transport NZ has signalled that it is changing the criteria for allocating roading subsidies. If this results in a significant reduction from the \$12.77 million that the Council expects to receive, the roading programme will have to be revised.

The Council has already committed to take out a \$350,000 roading loan this year. It will also continue to levy a differential roading rate on industrial, mining and commercial land, including properties used for farming and forestry. This reflects the greater pressures that heavy vehicle traffic places on roads.

The differential was levied for the first time last year. The Council is continuing to consult sector representatives over the weighting that should be given to different classes of land and if these discussions result in a change in the existing ratios, they will be included in the final Annual Plan, to be adopted in June.

The Council will be issuing a summary of the plan to every resident and ratepayer in the district, within the next fortnight. The summary will include an invitation to make submissions on key issues. Councillors signalled that they would particularly like to hear from the public on whether to increase the proportion of rates collected as a Uniform Annual Charge from the current 26.6% to 29%. This would have the effect of shifting more of the overall rates burden from rural to urban properties.

If all the proposed projects and activities are confirmed, the district rate will rise by 5.36% in 2005-06. This is in line with projections in the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan, which was adopted last year and set the Council's strategic direction from 2004-14.

In line with the LTCCP, the Council has confirmed that it will contribute one sixth of the capital costs of new or extended sewerage schemes, including the projects that are already underway in Oban and Gorge Road.



Yellow-eyed Penguin study update.

The second summer of field work in the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's five year study into factors affecting the breeding success of YEPs on Stewart Island has been completed. Some readers might remember the Stewart Island edition of the Trust's newsletter that appeared in mailboxes last November, which explained what we are doing on Stewart Island, and why we are doing it. In a nutshell, for those who don't, the number of yellow-eyed penguins breeding on Stewart Island has declined over the past 15 or so years, and the Trust is trying to find out why. It's a case of needing to identify the problem before we can think about how to fix it. Feral cats have been at the top of the suspect list for quite some time.

Two local contractors were employed this summer to do the monitoring on Stewart Island, with some help from volunteers and DOC staff. All of the nest sites monitored in 2003/2004 on Stewart Island were monitored again this summer and were compared with nest sites on cat free offshore islands. Forty-five nests were monitored – 25 on Stewart Island and 20 on the cat free islands. Sixteen chicks survived to fledging (going to sea) on Stewart Island, giving a fledging success of 43.2%. The fledging success on the islands, where 25 chicks fledged, was 62.5%. This is a difference of nearly 20%.

While it is tempting to say that this supports the original hypothesis that fledging success will be higher in areas where there are no cats, the work this year again did not find carcasses that had signs of cat predation but instead identified several other factors that affected breeding success. These included eggs failing to hatch because they were infertile or the nest being abandoned, an accident befalling the chick in the nest, possible starvation, and disease.

The bacterium that caused the mass chick mortality in Otago early in the breeding season was also found on Stewart Island and at least one chick probably died because of it. Some chicks died for reasons that couldn't be identified and work next summer will continue to try to identify these causes. Feral cats are not off the hook yet – we can't prove that they are the cause of the penguins' decline, but neither can we prove that they are not.

Anyone who wants to know more, or who has information about yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island, can contact Sandy King (2191102) or the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, PO Box 5409, Dunedin.

Hi there,

Well with the official 'busy' season over, we can start to slow down a little again I suppose. I seem to have been still quite busy, but fortunately with generally routine matters.

A topic at the moment is roading. Thank you for everyone's patience as the roads get dug up and blocked and the sewer lines go in. Also we have had Jayne Ballantyne over here from Road Safety Southland. At the time this goes to press she is again over for a public meeting in relation to road safety on the island. We can report back on the issues/ideas next time.

Jayne is working closely with various agencies including the Community Board and police to address current roading and road safety issues.

Last time she was here Jayne conducted an informal survey at the island. Most of what she reported back on was positive. She monitored speeds around various areas and noted that generally these were o.k.

Bike helmet compliance and Warrant of fitness and rego's got a big thumbs up. A lot better than any time previously she said. Good work everyone. The whole point of this is making sure we have safe, roadworthy cars on the island and yes that includes the police vehicle! We will keep on at this.

One area of concern was the attitude she found that still exists in some circles regarding drink driving. I have mentioned this before. More active enforcement would appear to be the only way of stopping those who persist in this. Drink drivers will be prosecuted if caught here. The RBT (Rural Breath Testing) unit and/or TAG (Traffic Alcohol Group) will be making more regular visits to the island. BE WARNED it will be 'anytime, any place'.

Firearms licences. The 10 year licences are coming up for renewal. Most are in alphabetical order. It is A's, B,s and C,s at the moment. If you have not received a renewal pack it is probably because you have not changed your address. (This is a requirement in law). Because I get a lot of questions.....

For a renewal or for a first application, the procedure is this:

- 1/ Complete the 'Application for a NZ Firearms Licence'. (Sent to you with renewal pack or available at the police station).
- 2/ Attach a passport sized photo to the area that says "passport style colour photograph". Stewart Dovey informs me that he can now do these.
- 3/ Pay the fee of \$123.75 to the Post Office in town (not on the island). and ATTACH the RECEIPT to the application. If it is a problem getting to town see me and we will arrange something.

- 4/ Give the completed application to me.
- 5/ The application will be forwarded to Invercargill arms office for computer checks & paperwork and return to me for interviews etc.

Also, make sure the security of your firearms are in accordance with the reqs. Sub standard security will not be accepted and is embarrassing to you and police. A licence may be declined on these grounds alone.

Remember. Make sure to get the applications in early as the process does take some weeks. Don't leave it until the last minute and then complain if it is not ready when you need it!

NB. If it is a new application, make sure you pick up the Arms code from the police station. You will be required to sit a test on this which is done through Mountain Safety Council. Again see me to arrange.

If it is a renewal, I will go through the small test on the back of the application for at the time of your interview.
Any queries please ring or see me.

Still on the hunting theme. I get complaints from time to time about people hunting where they shouldn't. Hunting on private property without permission or on DOC land without a permit is illegal. You risk prosecution and/or loss of your firearms licence. Ask permission on private land. If you are not doing this because you think it will be declined then you are obviously poaching.

One last thing. Lets see if we can get a really good turnout for ANZAC day on Monday 25th. I personally feel a real sense of pride marching on this day when I think of the selfless sacrifices returned service personnel have made for us. Please support this day of remembrance Everyone is welcome.

The parade will gather outside '**Ship to Shore**' shop at **7.15 a.m on the 25th April**. You can support the local RSA by buying a poppy on Friday 22nd, 9a.m to midday outside the shop.

Catch you next month,

Constable Tod Hollebon
Half Moon Bay Police.

Kai Kart Ketch Up

As in the past two years we find the time has come to let you know that we will be closing our doors for the winter at the beginning of May. Your loyal support during the season is very much appreciated. We hope you enjoyed our meals as much as Vanessa and I had fun cooking for you. If you were happy, tell your friends. If not, tell us!

We have another 'CUSTOMER OF THE SEASON' and we would like to point out that this award does not go to the most frequent customer. This time it is:

Karl and Mark Johnson.

Congratulation boys, we are looking forward to serving you your free meal !!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank especially Vanessa Taylor, but also everybody that kept the Kai Kart going during Jim's and my absence from the Island in December.

It is terrific to realise how much support we received from all of you.

Hilli



This month the chocolates have been kindly donated by Ship to Shore. Thanks, Jill & Richard.

The deserving winners are the staff, volunteers, trustees and management of the Rakiura Community and Environment Trust for all their hard work and vision in our community.

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email to the editor: sdovey@es.co.nz preferably as an MsWord™ attachment.

Short written articles can be posted to the editor:

Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

The deadline for the May issue is Friday 13th May 2005

If you would like this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

For ten issues to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, please send \$25

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