

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## *CELEBRATING RAKIURA*

April 2018

\$3.00



Sunrise at Halfmoon Bay *Photo by Greg Everest*

### **Just a typical day swanning around** *by Teri McCracken*

Like all brilliant ideas, it started with a couple of drinks & ended in triumph.

Bridget Hunt had a dream of floating a giant swan down Freshwater, she started



**Getting pumped up for an adventure**

the ol' group chat & within seconds we had all signed up. A quick search on the internet we found that "1-day" had inflatable swans on sale – it was meant to be! They were swiftly purchased & serious planning had begun.

The day the swans arrived excitement was at an all-time high. Next step was to test run our method of transport & why not do it right in front of the entire bay? We bombarded the pizzeria so we would have space to pump up the swans (sorry Spoon) and soon we faced the question: "how do we get them out the door?" The answer was with a lot of laughter & squeezing.

We trudged down Main Road, swans in tow, with the admira-

tion and awe of the South Sea Hotel guests watching us out the window. As we launched the swans people began gathering around the waterfront, some with faces of delight, others wondering who on earth would be this crazy? It wasn't until after the swans were launched that we realised that maybe we should have brought some paddles with us. The wind picked up ever so slightly & we drifted further away from shore, screeching with laughter as we went. We turned belly first on the swans and paddled our way back to shore using our arms, Tamsen being the only one with long enough legs to simply kick.

Clearly the first launch being such a success we were ready to go. Next step was to find a volunteer to safety dinghy us down the river. The plea for help on Facebook was met with great

*(Continued on page 19)*



### Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve information evening

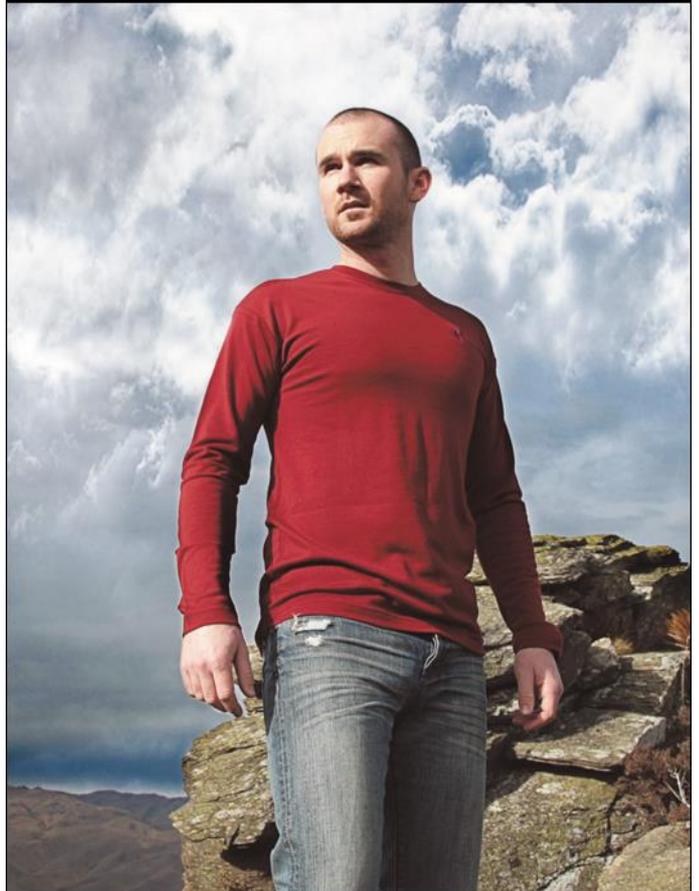
on the 21st of April at 5pm at The Pavilion

Please come along if you would like to learn more about our progress and about our plans moving forward.

Thank you.

*Antony Simpson, Rachel and Roy Thompson*

Village Centre, Oban : [glowingsky.co.nz](http://glowingsky.co.nz)



**Glowing Sky. Southern Clothing.**

## RAKIURA JADE

*with Master Carver & Sculptor Dave Goodin*

Open from 10.30am every day upstairs at  
45 Elgin Terrace (next to the boat slip)

Enjoy stunning views of Stewart Island harbour from  
the world's southernmost jade workshop.

Make your own treasure from your selected piece of  
beautiful New Zealand greenstone (from \$150/day)

Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects  
made by local artists

[www.rakiurajade.co.nz](http://www.rakiurajade.co.nz) [rakiurajade@gmail.com](mailto:rakiurajade@gmail.com)

021 025 93958

Mamaku Point has been picked as a Z Garage 'Good in the Hood' recipient! Anyone who want to, who's buying petrol or who has family who buys petrol from the Z Garage on Dee Street in Invercargill can vote.

This runs through the month of May.



## Sans Souci: A Tribute to Edith Piaf

Ft. Rachel France and Tom Callwood



Proudly presented by  
 Venture Southland

80 min,  
plus interval  
\$25/20

Fri 27 April, 7:30pm  
Stewart Island  
Events Centre  
Door Sales Only



## BOOK SALE

Withdrawn adult fiction  
\$2 each or 8 for \$10

Stewart Island Library  
Open 8.30- 12 weekdays  
2 - 4 pm Wednesdays  
11 - 12 Saturdays

*Stock your shelves for winter*

## GOOD NEWS FROM STEWART ISLAND EXPERIENCE

Following on from a very busy few months for all of us on the Island, you will be aware of the extra midday return ferry sailing Stewart Island Experience scheduled this summer, which ran from 27 Dec – 28 Feb, which has been a great success. So much so, that we have now confirmed this return midday sailing will operate again next summer, and for a much longer period, as follows:

**1st Dec 2018 to 31st March 2019**

**Stewart Island to Bluff**  
12 midday to 1pm

**Bluff to Stewart Island**  
1.30pm – 2.30pm

However, the best news, which I am sure you will all be pleased to hear, is that we have also opened up our **Winter Schedule**. We have signed off on two return sailings – **seven days a week from 1st May to 30th September** each winter going forward – commencing this year.

**Winter Ferry Schedule**  
**1st May – 30th September**  
*Seven days a week*

<p><b>Stewart Island to Bluff</b> 8am – 9am 3pm – 4pm</p>	<p><b>Bluff to Stewart Island</b> 9.45am – 10.45am 4.30pm – 5.30pm</p>
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### Mission without Borders

Any knitting would gratefully received including hats, scarves, socks, jerseys etc; also squares or better still strips suitable to make into blankets. This year all knitting needs to be in by the beginning of June. Thanks.

For any help phone Elaine 2191027  
or Pat 2191156

The annual OSNZ (Birds NZ) youth camp will be held on Stewart Island 17 – 19 April. We have 22 keen teenagers all busy spotting birds and eager to help out with any bird-related or conservation activities.

Any suggestions for us?

Thanks, Lloyd Esler  
2130404 esler@southnet.co.nz

## The GALLEY

I love Mexican food and flautas aka taquitos are a favourite. You can use any filling you like...this recipe is for quick & easy baked prawn taquitos.

### PRAWN TAQUITOS

Thaw a bag of frozen uncooked prawns. Toss with garlic and sauté for a minute, then roughly chop.

Toss with fresh coriander, a cup of corn, salt & pepper.

Place a couple tablespoons in a line on a tortilla along with grated cheese and roll the tortilla into a tight tube. Set aside seam-side down and keep making them until you've used up the prawn mixture.

Brush taquitos with olive oil and place on baking paper seam-side down on cookie sheet and bake at 200 degrees for about 15 minutes, or until golden brown and crunchy.

**Dipping sauce:** mix crème fraiche with chopped chipotles. If you don't have any on hand just use anything zingy and hot. And you can substitute sour cream for crème fraiche.

# SALMON TALES

GIVING BACK to your host community is a good way to say thank you. Sanford's support of the Stewart Island community comes in many ways but as a rule of thumb, we don't generally talk about it. Quiet giving is our style.

The problem with quiet is that not everyone knows. We've been hearing people say 'Sanford is not doing enough' yet we're feeling proud of our achievements – some of which we do alone and others like us helping manage the EEC community mussel lines, is well known as the proceeds go into running the community centre. As agreed with Alister Eade, the farm complete with ropes is being returned and will from this year be operated by the community centre.

Aquaculture contributes to community. The most obvious positive is good, full-time permanent jobs but the non-cash benefits our business, staff and their families invest locally when they volunteer are important. It's the sort of giving that keeps commu-

nities together.

Sanford supports Halfmoon Bay School. For the last 10 years we have contributed \$30,000 a year towards the costs of the Graeme Dingle Foundation's KiwiCan programme that delivers once a fortnight a Values programme based on integrity, respect, resilience and positive relationships.



Our seafood contributions of salmon and mussels to community, sporting events and tangi are informal but frequent. Sanford can be relied on to provide. We also make a significant cash contribution to the Southern Coastal Trust which cleans up remote areas – this year's it's the western coastline of Stewart Island.

Giving happens in small ways and in grand gestures. We know it's important to spread opportunities and we're committed to helping where we can.

Warm regards, Ali | [aundorf-lay@sanford.co.nz](mailto:aundorf-lay@sanford.co.nz) | 027 293 7795

## DARK SKIES UPDATE

The progress towards potential International Dark Sky accreditation for Rakiura/ Stewart Island has been moving forward well over the last few months. Exceptional sky quality readings have made the island eligible for Dark Sky Sanctuary status subject to positive community support. This has been assessed in partnership with the Stewart Island Promotion Association and Rakiura/ Stewart Island Community Board. This update outlines our next steps towards gaining official accreditation.



### Survey Results

The results of the recent Rakiura/ Stewart Island Dark Skies Survey accompany this update. This survey had a total of 90 respondents and of those 92% were in support of the concept of developing a Dark Sky Sanctuary on Stewart Island. Such a strong positive response provides a community mandate to move forward with the project. The concerns expressed by the few who were not in support will be addressed as more detailed information is shared and discussed in partnership with the community.

### Next Steps

#### IDA Application

The recommended process towards making an application to the International Dark Skies Association is as outlined here:

##### Private Lighting Inventory

An inventory of private/community lighting (other than street lights) would need to be completed and any recommendations for improvement made.

##### Lightscape Management Plan & Implementation

A lightscape management plan is required to be prepared considering the information obtained above. The plan should include:

- Immediate actions – for existing lighting to mitigate effects

- Evidence that two-thirds of the existing outdoor lighting fixtures conform to the requirements. The LED replacement program by SDC will certainly aid this outcome.

- Proposed plans to bring 90% of lighting into line with IDA requirements within the next 5 years and 100% of lighting to this level within the next 10 years.

##### Application

Prepare an application to the IDA to recognize Stewart Island as a Dark Sky Sanctuary; aimed at having a decision made by November 2018.

##### Promotion

Should the application for Stewart Islands Dark Sky Sanctuary accreditation be successful any relevant education, signage and promotion should be in place to coincide with the launch of the Dark Sky Sanctuary.

### Funding Requirements

The steps outlined above would be undertaken by an expert consultant with support from a project advisory group from Venture Southland and Stewart Island Promotion Association. The Joint Committee of Venture Southland will consider funding support for the project. Its next meeting will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Church Chatter by Jo Riksem**



*Winter light*

*Photo by Margaret Fairhall*

Margaret Fairhall was an amazing artist but also a wonderful photographer and the above photo was one of hers. It's sad to think that she is no longer with us but through her paintings, photographs, and friendships she will always be remembered. As we've had to say goodbye to other islanders, I remember the laughter that has come from each one, and sadness turns to joy. The Lord is a great source of joy and will always be there for us too, no matter what the situation. Just ask Him.

**Speakers for May**

**6, 13 & 20 May 2018 – Rev Scott Thomson** – We are happy to have Scott and his wife, Barbara, back on the Island for three Sundays. Scott met his wife, Barbara Gough, at the St Martin Island Community in Otago harbor when Anglican and Presbyterian leadership established a work and worship retreat that has developed a strong conservation message. Barbara (nee Gough) introduced Scott to Stewart Island, and the house she helped her father Ian build. Then there is Southland. Over fifty years ago Scott was ordained at Oreti Plains parish, and we went on to Wellington, Waimate, Timaru and finally Masterton.

Scott has a strong interest in history, particularly international relations. He was a member of the government advisory committee on overseas aid, and is an honorary vice president of the NZ Institute of International Affairs. A self confessed internationalist, he finds Stewart Island fascinating.

**27 May – Barry McKessar** - Barry McKessar has recently returned from 3 weeks teaching in Papua New Guinea, having arrived there about 36 hours before the 7.5 earthquake. Coming from Christchurch, he knew all about earthquakes. Life went on in a country where there is no insurance or health and safety protocols to slow things down or complicate life. With his wife Eunice, Barry spent 12 years in Malaysia last century, with OMF, where they were working in education. Having recently retired from teaching and management at Ara Institute, formerly Christchurch Polytechnic, Barry now spends more time in the outdoors and pursuing photography. They have 4 adult children.

**Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.**

**Monty the champion ratter** has now reached a target of 300 rats killed and presented to me. As you can see there wasn't much left of rat number 300. It has taken a while longer than was necessary as a few, that Monty had brought inside to play with before annihilation, escaped when my wee dog, Melge, wanted to join in the fun. Monty immediately gives up and as the rat is not prepared to join Melge at play, it runs away escaping us all. I then have to set a trap to finish the job. These were not



added to Monty's tally - they were mine! That means over 300 whole and bits and pieces of rat that I have had to clean up over the years. Lovely!  
*Jenny Twaddle*

Many of us were fortunate to catch the recent screening of *No Ordinary Sheila* at the Bunkhouse Theatre. This documentary is a beautiful film about the extraordinary Stewart Islander Sheila Natusch. The film was clearly made with much respect and love by director Hugh MacDonald and writer Christine Dann. If you missed it or long to see it again, the DVD will be soon be sold at the museum.

## Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

### HOUSE OF THE MONTH

#### The Nest



back row left to right:  
Mrs Gladys Lewis, Mrs Emily McKellar  
middle row left to right:  
Mr Vic Thomson, Mrs Clementine Napier  
front row left to right:  
Miss Barbara Thomson, Mr Bill Thomson,  
Mrs Eri Large



The Nest with Wally Johnson



The Mah Jong Ladies:  
L to R: Jean Marshall, Mab  
Prentice, Gladys Lewis (nee  
Thomson), Olive Allan,  
Marjorie Macdonald (nee  
Aldridge "Tui" Macdonald's  
wife) Neta Rawle, Mollie  
Simmers (nee Smith),  
Mrs Roy Traill (nee Dorothy  
Moseley/Moffatt), Kath  
Turner, Elsie Smith (nee  
Simmers).



The Nest getting a new coat of paint. 2018

The Nest was originally built from plans drawn up in London for Mr Peter & Gladys Lewis and building started in 1938, finishing in 1940. Gladys was a Thomson who had lived at Vaila. They lived there for 15 years and entertained quite a bit, which the large living-room with big open fire was well suited for. Mah Jong parties were held frequently with a towel being held out a window to let the others know when there was a game on. The windows were placed low to make the most of the views which apply to this day. It is a very structurally sound house. Wally and Nella (nee West) Johnson became the owners for another 15 years but used it mostly as a holiday home. Ownership then went in 1970 to present day owners Lindsay and Lorraine Squires who have lovingly restored it over the past 48 years. It was struck by lightning in 2014 with a lot of damage but has now been completely repaired.

#### Acquisitions for March:

Poster on hardboard of last M.V. Wairua Charter

Greeting cards from the old Fernery and archival material such as documents relating to George Turner, books, maps, and other Stewart Island material.

Silver ashtray from ferry "Matai", Small harpoon head and old 1930s newspapers.

**"No Ordinary Sheila" DVD** - Will be sold at the museum from the last week of April. Price \$24.99

We love getting letters regarding our articles and then one came from Liz of Waitati regarding Mab Prentice's house, "My uncle Ed Jensen was installing power to her house and fell quite a distance from his ladder landing in a plant. She rushed out, looked at him and said, "Oh my poor Lasiandra. He never got a mention"

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Museum Continued from page 6)

**Searches for February:**

Sarah Jane Atkinson - First Pakeha child born on the island - found out not the first child; Hira Hapaiaho aka Zilla Fife or Zilla Kingi (other surname used Poheahea); Mary Ann Williams nee Harding; Harry, Marina, George, Josiah Harry Fife; Tin Mining at Pegasus; Newton Family; American story of whaling in NZ; Maori feather cloaks; Maori traditional instruments; Telephone cable laying in 1902 especially photos of Mr J. Orchiston and Mr T. Buckley of the Post and telegraph service.

**New items:**

We have been donated old stock from Tindal's "Fernery" to fundraise for the museum. We have a limited supply of certain cards but very worthwhile come in to check them out. They cover Ulva Island, Golden Bay, South Sea Ho-

tel, Lonnekers, Ferns, orchids and fungi.

**Groups for February:**

Halfmoon Bay School  
Pacific Jewel 1700 pax 26th March

Summer hours until the end of April are:  
Monday - Saturday 10- 1:30, Sunday 12 - 2:00.

Winter hours May through September:  
Monday - Friday 10-12 Noon,  
Saturday 10- 1:30, Sunday 12 - 2:00.



**Predator Free Rakiura update.**

The Predator Free Rakiura Leadership Group met in Invercar-

gill on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Key points from this meeting were:

The Social Impact Assessment carried out by Auckland Uniservices in the latter half of 2017 is publicly available on the DOC website [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz). To access it type "Predator Free Rakiura" into the search box, scroll down the page to the section on Progress and Critical issue 2, then click on the Predator Free Rakiura Social Impact Assessment link to download the report as a PDF. If you have difficulty downloading please talk to Jill Skerrett, Garry Neave, or Sandy King.

The page also offers information and links to previous reports relating to the Predator Free Rakiura proposal.

Funds granted by MBIE for a project manager will be held by Southland District Council, subject to formal resolution from Council on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The sum of \$100K has been granted to employ a project manager for 12 months. SDC will lead the recruitment process and will also be responsible for reporting to MBIE and ensuring conditions of the grant are met. A subcommittee from the PFR Leadership Group will work on a Position Description and employment conditions over the next few weeks and it is hoped the recruitment process will be underway by early May.

The next meeting of the PFR Leadership Group will be held on the Island within the next 3-4 months, a date is still to be decided.

**Millars Beach jetty closed due to safety concerns**

The Millars Beach jetty on Stewart Island has been closed until further notice because of public safety concerns.

Southland District Council community engineer Brendan Gray says a report into the state of the jetty highlighted several public safety concerns and structural deficiencies such as missing or broken deck boards, broken support beams and insecure hand-rails.

"The safety of operators using the jetty, as well as that of the general public, has to be a top priority and given the current state of the jetty there simply was no other option but to prohibit public access to it while we figure out our next steps," Mr Gray says.

A sign has been installed at the jetty highlighting people of the danger. All jetty licence holders and operators, Stewart Island Rakiura Community Board members and Jetties Subcommittee members have been notified of its closure, he says.

No timeframe to complete remedial work on the Millars Beach jetty has been set yet.

Council is in the process of seeking quotes from contractors to determine the cost of fixing the jetty, Mr Gray says.





Hint: knowledge of local boat names is an advantage...can you find all 33?

**ACROSS**

- 1. Angel singer Sarah
- 8. carpe \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Duffers daily
- 14. Tibetan ox
- 18. airforce that turned 100 this month
- 21. Iraqi city on the Tigris
- 22. brochure or bee
- 24. word between title and author
- 26. six feet
- 30. half a Māori morepork
- 31. singing *Silent Night*
- 34. Taylor Swift's *Shake it* \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. *You've Got Mail* Ryan
- 37. canoe built by Toto in Māori lore
- 38. danger
- 40. "kiddy's surgery"
- 41. where 40 across takes place
- 42. Albany is its capitol
- 43. copper symbol
- 44. with a double-u you'll get a wish
- 45. **this font**
- 46. crème de \_\_\_\_\_
- 48. Scorpion stone
- 50. The Boss's Disguise
- 52. Malaysia in Madrid
- 56. Art historians also call this Late Renaissance
- 57. Shrek and his family
- 58. initials of e=mc2 guy
- 59. Tennyson poem named for a woman
- 60. overheard at a poker game
- 62. cabrales, mahon & manchego
- 64. skewered food (*variant sp.*)
- 67. Māori noon

- 138. "whacky tobacco" or weed
- 139. site of Mt. Rushmore
- 140. Captain Kirk's ship
- 144. Tokyo terror attack gas
- 145. direction ferry travels from Bluff to HMB
- 146. bank
- 147. card game crazy \_\_\_\_\_
- 149. east in Māori
- 150. prefix meaning nine
- 151. Bill's sidekick
- 153. Rakiura's highest peak
- 154. letters before Box
- 155. half of Dorothy's doggy
- 156. Disney film inspired by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
- 159. Burnett book *The \_\_\_\_\_ Garden*
- 160. Johnny Depp plays one in *Chocolat*
- 161. left & right compass points
- 162. seaside town 35k north of the Octagon
- 163. nose with no no

**DOWN**

- 1. chocolate treat \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Chanel
- 3. hurdle for law school entry
- 4. Southern Lights
- 5. horseshoe sound
- 6. love in Fiji
- 7. *Sound of Music* role
- 9. doubtful, informally
- 10. North Pole employee
- 11. possessive for I
- 12. dwarves work to get this
- 13. lung disease
- 15. ship's rear-end
- 16. Māori lore: the guy who ate a chief's pet whale
- 17. acidity
- 19. singer Grande
- 20. 39 weeks preggy
- 23. savoury meal in Oz

- 25. hotmail alternative
- 27. Isle of Skye scotch
- 28. Coober Pedy's Olympic Australis
- 29. Shrek's coat
- 32. anger
- 33. Guantanamo Bay informally
- 34. in an upright position
- 36. Billy's pet in *Gremlins*
- 39. former NZ First MP Bond
- 40. fantasy series featuring dragon airforce
- 43. rum brand
- 47. word to describe a period of idyllic happiness
- 48. drink made from agave
- 49. donkey
- 50. town north of Taeri Mouth
- 51. "in the matter of"
- 53. alphabetical trio
- 54. Debussy composition or part of an address
- 55. passport or driver's license
- 60. you're enjoying vinos if you add this to win
- 61. Douglas with needles
- 63. BBQ style \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
- 65. Fox Brush
- 66. B on the radio
- 68. Disney palindromic princess
- 69. opposite of fasten
- 70. *All Creatures Great and \_\_\_\_\_*
- 72. homophones for *hour you*
- 73. soul singer Redding's "endless" name
- 74. abbreviation for Latin "that is"
- 76. spoon-bender Geller
- 79. Mune or Rankin
- 80. stockings ladder
- 85. mozzie-borne bug (acronym)
- 86. German-born writer of *Death in Venice*
- 89. Italian Madeleine
- 93. breadwinner
- 94. abalone
- 96. start of acronym celebrating weekend's start
- 97. what spirits do
- 98. Roman 56
- 99. Saturn's largest moon
- 100. lyric poem
- 101. sound north of Dusky
- 105. eat vowels
- 107. flying fox
- 108. Viking vessel
- 109. one who wears a white zucchetto
- 110. US police radio message
- 112. Lucy Van Pelt's brother
- 113. WWII movie *The Guns of \_\_\_\_\_*
- 114. *Crossing the Bar*'s third word
- 115. "reedy" musicians
- 121. Pamol unit
- 122. Sodor "slow lane"
- 125. bird of prey
- 126. Apple assistant
- 127. Chinese life force
- 128. Frankfurter's state
- 130. citizens of Muskat
- 131. Biblical Nile baby (variant sp.) or "homes" anagram
- 132. kind of fit
- 133. Hogwarts professor
- 137. excessively quaint
- 138. Māori hill fort
- 141. How many heads did Orthros have?
- 142. building supplies company Ball
- 143. Coro character for 46 years
- 148. tensioned cable
- 152. Potomac city
- 156. rank under MAJ & CPT
- 157. cheerleading movie *Bring it \_\_\_\_\_*
- 158. direction ferry travels from HMB to Bluff



## Books Reviewed from Sue Ford

### Claire Messud's "The Burning Girl"

is a very difficult book to review because – until towards the end

– nothing happens, and the ending is left hanging. Julia is surely the most perspicacious 12 to 15-year old ever, but the story of her friendship with angelic-looking Cassie, dating back to kindergarten, is oddly moving and beautifully told. Friendships change and so did Cassie as her home became a battleground when her widowed mother started a serious relationship with a most peculiar man. Captivating but you'll have to read it for yourself!

### "An Anatomy of a Scandal" by Sarah

**Vaughan** is brilliant story-telling. Holly is a clumsy, bulky, full scholarship girl from Liverpool when she finds herself in the rarefied atmosphere of Oxford in the '90's. Alison is her extrovert friend. Sophie is her blasé study-buddy, and James is Sophie's on-off boyfriend. He had an eye for the ladies even then, but he does have a deep and abiding friendship for Tom. The events of Holly's year at Oxford reach far into the future. In 2016, we meet slender, elegant and obsessive Kate, a barrister charged with prosecuting James (who is now a Junior Minister in Government, and still the best friend of Tom, the Prime Minister) for rape. What's the connection between Kate and the group of friends at Oxford? I doubt that someone as steely and resolute as Kate can be as weak and insipid about her past, but events do mark us, change our personalities, so I suspended that brief frisson of disbelief in favour of a blummin' good story with suspense and tension!

### "Don't Close Your Eyes" by Holly Seddon

is both suspenseful and moving. Sarah and Robin are twins, as unlike as sisters can be. Their parents are unsuited to each other, but each is attracted by another couple whose son, sweet and gentle Cal, eventually becomes a step-brother to the girls. Their lives are complicated but no-one could have predicted the explosive and awful outcomes of their different reactions to their dramatic situations. If I've

learnt anything from this tale, it is that suicide is NOT the answer! Riveting writing despite the melancholy subjects, treated with sensitivity.

Nice antidote to all that dark reading. for sheer light-hearted romance with plenty of humour you can't go past **Phillipa Ashley's "Summer at the Cornish Cafe"** – full of believable characters, with flaws and virtues in equal measure. But: will Cal realise he must let go of sophisticated Isla in favour of mad-cap Demi; will Isla settle for 'second-best' with Luke; will Robyn and Andi make the break with their old-fashioned families; will Mawgan meet her match; and will Kilhallon become the successful holiday park that Cal and Demi envisage? You're kidding me! This is a feel-good story – it's bound to end well, but how they arrive there is the essence of this warm and funny story. Still in Feel Good Country, I read **"Date with Death"** – in **Julia Chapman's** The Dales Detective Series. I read the second book – 'Date with Malice' a while ago and fell about laughing at this unlikely pair and Delilah's daft dog. I wasn't disappointed by going back to Book 1. What Samson's investigation into local deaths has to do with Delilah's Dating Agency is a mystery that the pair – sorry, threesome (including Tolpuddle the Weimar-ner) have to solve despite their many, varied and hilarious differences of opinion. More fun.

## Need a Resource Consent?

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# 400 Words

by Beverley Osborn

Once I became computer-savvy enough to receive e-mails, I got to laugh at a lot more funny stories in a month than I used to hear in a year. Laughter is excellent for one's health and it is certainly the most user-friendly medicine I've ever come across.

Lots of other things reach me by e-mail as well – beautiful pictures, updates from far away associates, friends and family and, occasionally, little poems or wise sayings.

Some verses about friendship once popped up on the screen, rather sentimental ones actually, but their message interested me.

The writer reflected on a list of friends and realised they were more than names in his address book – they were there because of their

significance. Because each of the people listed had made an impact on his life, the poet concluded that their influence was now part and parcel of his own being, making him a sort of conglomerate person, a sum of their total.

Are we really just a hotch-potch of everyone who has influenced us? It is certainly true that our lives are shaped by people we've admired or loved or disliked or by whom we have been hurt. Our lives have also been shaped by the experiences we undergo and the circumstances in which we live.

But shaping by people and experience is a bit like the growth of trees, pushing out the longest roots towards a water source, leaning a trunk towards light, having branches stunted by strong, prevailing winds, or even being pruned into particular shapes.

All of those affect the guise of the

tree and have a bearing on whether or not it is a healthy specimen of its kind, but there's more to a tree than its appearance. No cold wind can turn an oak into a kauri; no unusual root shaping can turn an apple tree into a pine.

There's more to us than our shaping too. No matter what harsh or agreeable influences affect us, there's still a unique "me" in each of us, the person God made us to be.

And it's important to figure out the things that are special about us, possible for us, because that knowledge will give us strength and incentive, and help us to live with integrity.

No-one will be able to convince us we are lemons if we know that we are cherry trees with wonderful blossom and sweet, juicy fruit.

## RMLT News from Tina Nixon

Tourism appears to be doing well on Stewart Island but like everywhere else in the country, there is pressure on infrastructure. The Trust is meeting on Stewart Island early in May to develop its strategy – this will include input from Ngai Tahu Tourism and other experts including Real Journeys.

We want to be in the best position to take advantage of the growing tourism market while ensuring that we preserve and enhance our land. Again, we offer locals the chance to meet the Trustees on the 6<sup>th</sup> May Sunday morning.

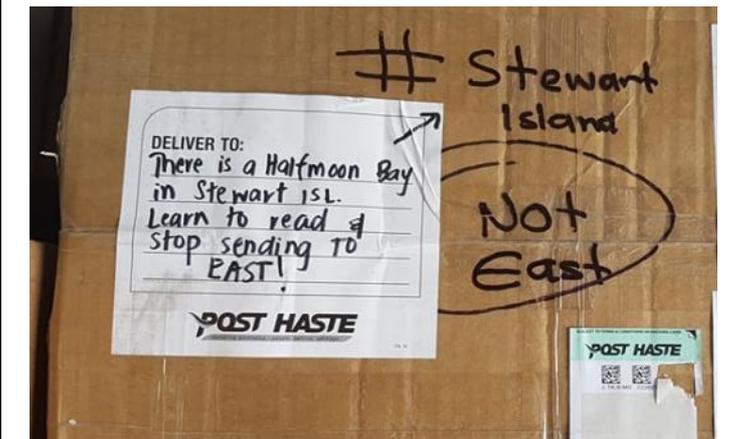
Out Kiwi Spotting venture with Real Journeys is exceeding expectations and some Trustees will be back on the island at the end of May for the launching of a new boat.

We are delighted with the new deer fence at the South End of the Neck. Our aim is to eradicate all deer from the Neck and we will be talking with the community about how we plan to make that happen in the coming months.

We would also like to pay tribute to Kyle Learmonth who has been looking after the Neck hunter's huts and helping us to develop our assets. Kyle was a "Jack of All Trades" and master of many and we will miss his diligence, hard work and honesty. With Kyle's departure we had an opportunity to rescope what sort of person we needed for the future – we interviewed several locals and expect to appoint a new person soon.

We hope you have all benefited from the wonderful summer we have had, and we will see you soon.

Dear NZ Post:  
Postally speaking, life here can occasionally be frustrating. Our local posties are awesome, but it seems the mail people in the rest of the world sometimes struggle to get our parcels and cards to us. No, we are not Halfmoon Bay in East Auckland!!! Thus the words "Stewart Island" in the address!! My mother was bemused to have the Christmas card she sent me returned with the box ticked *No point of delivery*. She called to explain and we laughed when I absurdly commented "The point of delivery is that I receive my Christmas card!!" Can you please try harder to recognise that Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island is an actual destination? Sincerely, resident of *Not East*





## Rakiura Mātauranga Māori/ Stewart Island Māori knowledge

by Cherie Hemsley

This project supports Rakiura community members who want to be more culturally diverse and is part of

a long term project for the Rakiura community to increase our cultural competency.

Rakiura and Māori occupation have been interwoven for *at least* 700 years. The Rapuwai people are thought to be the first to occupy this island somewhere around the thirteenth century, the Waitaha people came next then Kāti Mamoe in the sixteenth century and finally Ngāi Kahu in the 17th century.

This month we will explore the Māori name Ringaringa:

**Ringaringa Beach:** 'Ringaringa' is the name of a well-known tohunga who lived at the beach.

A tohunga is a person chosen by the agent of an atua (Māori 'gods') and the tribe as a leader in a particular field because of signs indicating talent for a particular vocation. For example those chosen to specialise in carving are tohunga whakairo, in tattooing are tohunga tā moko, in astrology are tohunga kōkōrangī, in composing songs are tohunga tito waiata, in canoe making are tohunga tārai waka, in rituals are tohunga karakia, etc. Tohunga were trained in a traditional whare wānanga or by another tohunga.

Ringa Ringa was the home of the last Kāti Mamoe called Mohi Maraetaia known as Ringaringa Moses. Born in 1832, he was an expert mariner and was a guide to early surveyors. He was a very superstitious man. He believed that everytime a ruru/morepork called it was ominous, and you pulled the blankets over your head! A white tītī/muttonbird meant death and cramp in the night was a solemn warning. "Hear those waiata's" he used to say about the song of the breaking surf and oystercatchers. – *Olga Sansom, The Stewart Islanders*

His resting place is on Ringa Ringa Point, a tussocky slope facing east to the white sandhills and green slopes of his first home 'Whara whara' Native Island. A beautiful headstone/monument to Mohi was erected this past Christmas.

**This information has come from the following sources;**

*Local Kaumātua Phillip Smith*

*Rakiura Heritage by Neville Peat*

*Kā Huru Manu – Cultural mapping tool created by Ngai Tahu*

*The Stewart Islanders by Olga Sansom*

If you have any questions or would like to know the Māori names of specific places here on Rakiura and their history, Please feel free to visit the facebook page or email me at

[cherie.hemsley@hotmail.com](mailto:cherie.hemsley@hotmail.com)

Kia pai tō rā/Have a good day



Another weekend approaches where hunters will venture into the hills in search of a roaring stag. Firearms Safety Specialists consultant Nicole McKee warns hunters that if they become complacent with their handling they will become a statistic.

"It's as simple as counting one to seven" says McKee "The seven basic rules of firearms safety". Currently there are multiple hunters and hunting parties in the same area of bush and their presence may not be known to each other. Making it essential that hunters fully identify their target beyond all doubt before they take their shot. Should you separate from a hunter in your own party you must cease hunting until you regain sight of each other.

McKee also reminds hunters to ensure that they point their firearms in a safe direction, be mindful of where the muzzle is pointed at all times so that it doesn't pass over yourself or anyone else. Also ensure your rifle is only loaded when you are about to take a shot and fully unload the rifle when you have taken the shot, when your game gets away or when you leave your hunting area.

"Hunting is a healthy lifestyle that puts food on the tables of many families. Food not sympathy cards should be donning our tables this roar – keep mindful and keep yourself and others around you safe" urges McKee

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### Stewart Island Real Estate

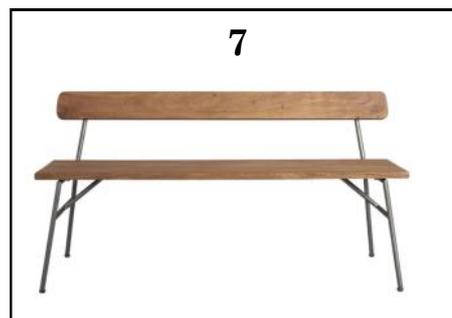
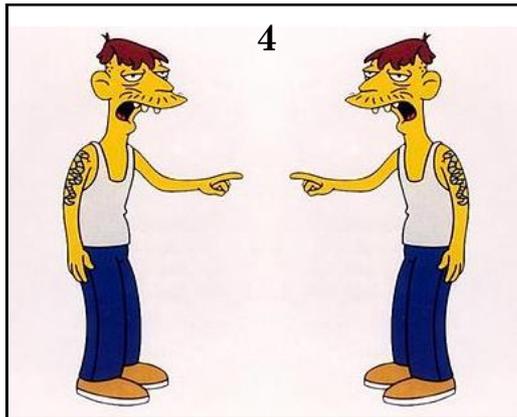
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for all Island real estate enquiries.

# Pictogram Fun: Island locations



## Stewart Island QUIZ

1. local street that's also a diamond pattern
2. alliterative-named former SIN editor
3. hut north of Big Hellfire
4. river near Owen Island
5. Hydrurga leptonyx
6. bay east of Pryse Peak
7. Secret and Mystery were built at this bay
8. it's got jalapeno poppers on the menu
9. our town's terrace
10. smallest of the whitebait species

**ANAGRAM:** Write down the first letter of each correct quiz answer and combine them to spell a Stewart Island place name.

## RAKIURA RIDDLE

"My heart's on my sleeve" is a saying we use  
 But did you know that Shakespeare's the muse?  
 The play Othello was the birth of that quote  
 It's also the name of Luke Squire's boat  
 A good clue with two tie-ins is this Othello:  
 Boats and the Venetian murderer fellow  
 Not brushed up on the Bard? Bronte's  
 your preference?  
 The setting of Wuthering Height's a  
 good reference

Got the word? Now give me a ring for my name  
 I've got other bling: pins & pendants on chains  
 No heart to wear out on my sleeve as they say  
 But if my parts wear out Othello gets away

[Answer to last month's riddle: the LED mast light atop the Presbyterian Church steeple]

# What's up, DOC?



## Thank-you and farewell to DOC long-term volunteers Sarah and Bryony!

Sarah and Bryony have been working hard alongside the DOC biodiversity and historic/rec teams for the past 3 months.



**Long term volunteers Bryony Hitchcock and Sarah White**

The skills and experience they have gained working on Rakiura have been valuable in helping them both secure paid jobs for the Department in Thames, where they will be working on similar track upgrade and weed control projects. We hope to see them back in the future and wish them well in their next adventure with DOC in the Coromandel. Below they write about their time with the Rakiura DOC team and living on the island;

Over our three months volunteering with DOC, we have helped with a huge variety of work from marram control in the sand dunes, to gravelling parts of the Rakiura track and assisting with the rat incursion response on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Having never visited Rakiura before, we both arrived on the island not really knowing what to expect. We had heard about the amazing scenery and wildlife and the warm, welcoming community, we were not disappointed ponce we arrived.

Here are a few of our highlights:

For me (Sarah), the highlight has been the sheer variety and beauty of the places I visited. Travelling over the island by helicopter, the extent of the forest is awe-inspiring. Every day involved amazing wildlife encounters - whether giant tree ferns and delicious smelling Easter orchids or cheeky weka and sea lions on Ulva. I will never ever forget watching mollymawks cruising through the air over the inlet. Working with DOC has been varied, challenging and very rewarding. Where else do you get to spend 8 nights camping on doughboy beach, cooking in a cave and walking every inch of the dunes looking for weeds one week and then gravelling the Rakiura track the next? Although hard work at the time, the satisfaction and pride to see the frankly stunning, gravelled corners when I walked the track a few weeks later was awesome. The community on the island has been so welcoming. From the wonderful team at DOC, to the wider community, everyone has been so friendly. I'm proud to think that there are boomerang bags at the shop that I contributed to! After 3 months here, there are still so many places left to explore - I'm definitely going to come back even just to win the pub quiz!

My highlights (Bryony) have been the time away on fieldtrips in the wilderness and the wildlife encounters, such as two kiwi in one morning on Ulva Island! Another memorable moment for us both was waiting for the penguins to return home at Ackers Point. After waiting for darkness, we heard some rustling in the bushes, then slap, slap, slap as a little blue penguin waddled across the path in front of us. The wildlife rose to the challenge on my last day in the field. Whilst checking the coastal traps on Ulva Island a pod of dolphins swam by to play with the boat. Aside from the natural beauty, I have enjoyed the welcoming community and the quirks of the island when even a trip to the bank is an adventure, riding shotgun in the plane over to town.



Unforgettable sunset at Sawdust Bay during a fieldtrip working on the Rakiura Track. *Photo by Sarah White*

## Rodent Incursion Response on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Update

No further rats have been caught or sign of rodents detected on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara since the 7th March.

Between the 20th-22nd March a team of three handlers and their rodent dogs headed out to run a thorough check of the



From L-R: Sarah, Bryony, Harriet, Bec, Troy, and Piri the rodent dog.

entire island. Scott Sambell and Milly, Richard Johnston and Flint and Angela Newport with Cody, covered a total of 95kms in their search. There was a focus on high risk areas, coverage of the coast and perimeter as this is where Norway rats prefer to hang out.

The team were also out on the beaches early each morning looking for fresh rodent prints in the wet sand. The advantage of having multiple handlers and dogs on the island at the same time is that they can re-check areas

which seemed questionable within a few hours, double checking their dogs responses and ensuring that if there was a rat around the likelihood of detecting it would be increased. The team were pleased to report no indication of rodents present in the areas they searched.

Carol Nanning and her rodent dog Piri stopped in on their way home from helping to declare the Antipodes Islands mouse free and have also been helping with the search whilst Sandy and Gadget have been busy checking on equipment heading to the mutton bird islands.

Results of DNA testing at EcoGene laboratory suggest that the first four rodents caught may have come from The Neck, and the fifth from the Freshwater area. It does not appear that any of the rats are closely related so at present we believe there have been 5 separate incursions as opposed to any breeding on the island. This is great news as it shows our trapping network working effectively to intercept rats arriving on the island.

Warmer than usual weather and potentially increased rodent breeding may be putting the island at a higher incursion risk than usual. It is possible that some of the rats caught have swum from The Neck, however it seems more likely that the 5th rat, related to the Freshwater population, may have hitched a ride, at least part way, on a boat. This highlights the importance of boat users checking their vessels regularly for stowaways. A big thanks to those boaties that are vigilant in this, and to Sandy and Gadget for helping them do so.

No further rats is great news, however the hard work isn't over yet! A crew continue to work over the Easter period and we will continue monitoring at our current level until approx mid April when we will have another dog team re-check the island and re-assess the situation. Staff are currently completing the following tasks:

**Daily checks of all 191 traps across the island**

**Daily checks of all 80 tracking tunnels across the island**

**Regular checks of trail cameras, wax tags and other surveillance tools**

**Keeping stakeholders updated**

**Rangers on the island being vigilant for and recording the details of any further evidence of incursion**



Log of tracks for dog team. Green: Scott and Milly, Red: Ange and Cody, Blue: Richard and Flint.

**\*\*If you would like to receive weekly e-mail updates about the incursion please contact [jross@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jross@doc.govt.nz)\*\***

## **Another huge thank you to the Ulva Island Charitable Trust!**

The Department would like to extend a huge thank you to the Ulva Island Charitable Trust for a \$3,000 donation on top of a previous donation of \$1,500 to help with the Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara incursion response! This donation was used to help pay for part of the visiting dog team rodent detection work.

## **Maori Beach Sawmill Volunteer Activity**

Three volunteers and one DOC staff member spent a week at the Maori Beach sawmilling site in March/ Poutūterangi 2018 undertaking vegetation clearance, cleaning down old machinery, and restoring the sawmill steam engine site. The major focus on the project for this year was repairing the cribbing under a steam engine. The cribbing was decaying, causing the engine to slump away, and putting the historic engine at risk of damage. The team replaced the cribbing with new carefully constructed cribbing to match the original design.



**SIRCET Update**—by *Bridget Carter*

Over Easter we held one of the Kiwi Avoidance Training workshops to help some of our four-legged, furry whanau members to steer clear of kiwi. By attending the day twenty-five local and five visiting dogs refreshed their kiwi avoidance skills. Dogs are encouraged to avoid the sight and smell of the e-kiwi ; a device designed to replicate a wild kiwi and will hopefully avoid kiwi in real life. Dogs who show no interest, no problem. Dogs who touch the e-kiwi receive a small zap and generally give the e-kiwi a wide berth from there on. Thanks to Di Morris and Sandy King for their time and to Zane Smith and Te Anau Helicopters for allowing us to use the Fern Gully Heliport as a training venue.



**Star running back to the car during the Kiwi Avoidance Training workshop**

Thank you to all those who purchased tickets for our firewood raffle and to DOC for the firewood - congratulations go to winners Chris and Macca McCarthy. We intend to put the proceeds towards trap replacements.

SIRCET acknowledges the ongoing dedication of our resilient local volunteers; it takes a lot of effort and commitment to maintain a project. Thank you to Stewart Island Backpackers for providing a warm bed for our current visiting volunteers and for providing a new printer recently.



**SIRCET Volunteers Neroli (left) and Nathalie (right).**

It is with mixed feelings that we share our trapping results this month. On the plus side we recognise the sterling effort from those clearing traps and have a whopping 669 rat tally to report so far in 2018. What this means though is that there has been a surge of rats which, inevitably, take a toll on birds, reptiles and invertebrates and on the shrubs, grasses and trees. As rimu tips are fruiting this year, this likely heralds a veritable rodent tsunami next season. March to July is an excellent time to target rats around your home as the rats are hungry and are drawn to the warmth of houses. Talk to us about our community trap library if you'd like to 'lend' a trap. In an ideal world we'd like to complain of boring, low rat numbers. Or no rats. Imagine that wondrous scenario.

Our bird call count work will be underway in April, one of the tools we use to compare the effects of nixing the nasties (reducing rats, possums and feral cats) at Acker's Point to a similar site where no predator control occurs. A goal is to protect and enhance the native birdlife around the township.

Gorged on the ol' chocolate eggs and hot cross buns over Easter? What about converting all that excess energy into exercise with a twist? So efficient! We have some rat lines free that need volunteers. You could consider sharing a line. If you'd like to take one on, please contact Willy: [willy@sircet.org.nz](mailto:willy@sircet.org.nz) or 0274694504.

We're always looking for feedback and to hear new ideas, so please do get in touch; email Bridget at [administrator@sircet.org.nz](mailto:administrator@sircet.org.nz). Check out our flash website [www.sircet.org.nz](http://www.sircet.org.nz) or our Facebook page.



*Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary Mum and Dad!*  
*Love you heaps*  
*Bec, Bobby, Zaneboy and troops. XXXX*

(Swanee River Continued from page 1)

skepticism, we had no idea why. Maybe the use of the word 'responsible' had raised peoples' eyebrows. Luckily Logan came to our rescue with a dinghy, Joz volunteered Riki's help & our safety team was formed.

The water taxi was booked, snacks were purchased and of course cider was packed. The day arrived and we had second thoughts when we woke up to be ready for a 7.30am water taxi in the freezing cold. What on earth were we going to do if it continued to be this cold all day? We sat on the wharf waiting for Chris to take us on the beginning of our adventure, cackling away about the possibilities of the day, much to the puzzlement of other passengers on the taxi. After 4 swans, a toucan, 5 wetsuits, many riggers of cider, snacks and a foot pump (don't forget the foot

pump!!) were loaded we were on our way.

We unloaded & triumphed after we triple checked we hadn't left anything behind - first hurdle done! We pumped the swans & toucan in record time, whipped on our wetsuits & launched ourselves onto the river. We were expecting the current at the top of the river to be the strongest, this was not the case. A slow meander down the river had us concerned we would miss the tide later on, however the river picked up, the sun came out & our spirits lifted.

Cider & snacks were consumed as we floated down the river, making better time than we ever expected. The only real issue being what to do for toilet breaks, some of us meeting this challenge with more grace than others... Eventually we made it to the beginning of the mudflats, 4.5 hrs after we had begun, shockingly with no punctures either! Joz decided to show off some tricks, standing on her toucan which then made her the first (but not only) one to fall in. Of course after laughing at her failure we all gave it a go. After falling off herself, Olivia realised the immense struggle of then making it back onto her swan, luckily our safety dinghy came to



Above: Expert support crew Riki & Logan  
Below: The not-so-graceful swans



Olivia capsized... "She's beauty, she's grace, she landed on her face."

her rescue, not before taking pictures of her predicament.

After a team struggle of making our way over the flats, Riki, Logan & Joz pushing the dinghy (Bridget 'supervising') we eventually made it to Fred's camp for our pick up back to the bay. We quickly deflated our majestic modes of transport & boarded the boat - once again to the confusion of other passengers of the pick-up.

On arrival to Golden Bay we weren't quite ready for the day to end. After the amazing success of the swans with one passenger, why not find out how many they could take? The answer is 3 people, just, & one of them has to be sober for it to work.

It was a marvelous day with lots a shrieking, laughing & plenty of sun. A huge thanks to Spoon, Rakiura Charters, Logan, Riki & all those who prayed for our safety & loaned us gear for making our trip such a success.

Also if anyone who was on those particular water taxis are reading this - we're really sorry for hurting your ears!

Teri, Bridget, Joz, Tamsen & Olivia

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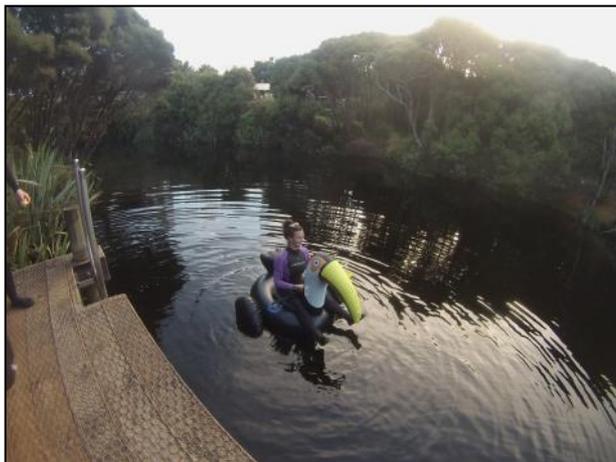


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Brenda uses a cleaver, Kirsten uses a carpenter's saw. But Chris might need more than her usual tomahawk to chop up this monster pumpkin grown at the Community Garden. It weighed in at 7.3kg!

The **Kai Kart** is under new management and will be open through April every day *except Wednesdays*. Keep an eye out for the OPEN sign or call 021 08887284.



## Stewart Island Handyman Services

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Lawn mowing                          | General fencing          |
| Line trimming                        | General carpentry        |
| Section maintenance                  | Gutter cleaning          |
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| Chainsaw work                        |                          |
| Hedge trimming                       | And more - just ask      |
- Contact **Geoff**



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 Mobile 027 253 3106  
 Email [handyman@acadia.co.nz](mailto:handyman@acadia.co.nz)

**WANTED: long-term 4-bedroom house** to rent starting in May. Preferably fully furnished. I'll be working at the SSH and need a place for myself, my partner and our baby. We don't have any pets. If you can help please call Darcy Maloney at 03 750 0034

Help support the island pre-school Rakiura Rugrats and buy a copy of the children's book *Seaberry Stomp!* All proceeds go to Ruggies. Book available at Stewart Island Gift Shop, Ship to Shore, and the Bluff ferry terminal.

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