

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

April 2019

\$4.00

At noon on April 1<sup>st</sup>, entries opened for the Rakiura Challenge trail race ...within four hours the 250 allocated spots for the race sold out! This race is scheduled for Saturday 5 October 2019 and will bring hundreds of people to the island – racers and their families, friends, and support crews. See pages 12-13 for details about the race and how the community can be involved in this great event! (It's printed in the middle of this booklet so you can pull it from the staples and keep.)

**INSIDE:**  
special  
insert  
pages  
12-13  
with all the information you'll need  
about the Rakiura Challenge!



STEWART ISLAND NEW ZEALAND

raised to the school, much of which will go toward pool maintenance. (That's about a dollar for every shell shot off!) HUGE thanks to the great NFA guys for creating such a fun weekend and for their generosity. (Can anyone guess what NFA stands for? Hint: they keep all their gear on a trailer.)

The hardy Halfmoon Bay students recently completed a water safety exercise by jumping off the wharf in their PJs and swimming to shore with no life jackets. Brrrr! Well done to all of them.

It's not every Sunday one can say: *On Saturday I went to Friday's party.* Many locals attended Friday aka Murray Cavanagh's 70th birthday bash at the fire station. The "birthday boy" did plenty of singing and kept his speech short and sweet: "The secret to a beautiful life is having beautiful friends."

The NFA Trap Shooting Team, a Wakatipu-based social group, recently set up a two-day clay bird shoot behind the old Horseshoe Bay quarry. It was a logistical monster transporting all of the gear (5 tonnes!) across the Strait and wrangling it up to the site which is not easily accessible. Locals catered the luncheon and it was a win-win situation, as everyone had a great time, wonderful kai, and the weather cooperated. Ten thousand shells were shot over the weekend! The guys have generously donated the thousands of dollars

Upcoming events include the Stewart Island Ball (p17), Kiwi Aversion training (p5), and the Anzac Day Dawn parade (p23).

Have your say on the continued use of Bragg's Bay as a discharge site for green waste. Details on page 21.

Thanks to everyone who have made

donations to SIN recently including Pub Quiz, DOC, Diane Walker, and Roy Thompson. All of your support is much appreciated!  
—Jess



Richard Oti Murray (Oti) working on upgrade to 'Te Ara a Kewa' carving which sits at the entry to the DOC visitor centre. More on page 2. Photo by Diana Morris DOC

Last month I included in the SIN a wee sidebar of information about the Ides of March. The assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BC made the date notorious, as it changed the course of Roman history. Little could I know that a week after the March issue was printed, New Zealand history would turn a dark corner, and the date 15<sup>th</sup> March would become synonymous with one of the worst tragedies the nation has ever experienced. The island community's response to the Christchurch terror attack was immediate. The Presbyterian church opened their doors to anyone seeking comfort. Lania organized a gathering at the waterfront the following day for visitors and locals to grieve and comfort one another. Blossoms were placed in the sea as a tribute to the dead. The following Friday, the community observed minutes of silence. Afterwards, the school children sang. The little ones were at the school grounds and the older students were on their way home from a swimming event in town. The students observed two minutes of silence in the ferry terminal, and sang *Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi* on the ferry, on their way home across Foveaux Strait.



—Ed

<i>Tūtira mai ngā iwi</i>	<i>Line up together, people</i>
<i>Tātou tātou e</i>	<i>All of us, all of us.</i>
<i>Tūtira mai ngā iwi</i>	<i>Stand in rows, people</i>
<i>Tātou tātou e</i>	<i>All of us, all of us.</i>
<i>Whai-a te marama-tanga</i>	<i>Seek after knowledge</i>
<i>me te aroha - e ngā iwi!</i>	<i>and love of others - everybody!</i>

# What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



## Te Ara a Kewa Carving Upgrade

The Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre had its last upgrade 10 years ago. The first step along the way to our next 'facelift' is that our treasured carving that proudly sits at the entrance to the Visitor Centre has had a major upgrade.

We have been fortunate to engage one of the original carvers, Richard Oti Murray or 'Oti' to undertake this work. Oti was commissioned by DOC in approximately 1982. He started upgrade work on Tuesday 19th March 2019 with the careful extraction of the carving from its glass enclosure which has now been retro fitted with a door for ease of access in the future. Rangers also got involved by collecting paua shell for replacing parts of the carving and a full karakia and offering was given prior to starting. The carving is now finished and will be installed into the upgraded cabinet once the rain stops. Oti will return for the official unveiling of the new fresh look of "Te Ara a Kewa" and lead a blessing.

## Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Incursion Response Wraps Up

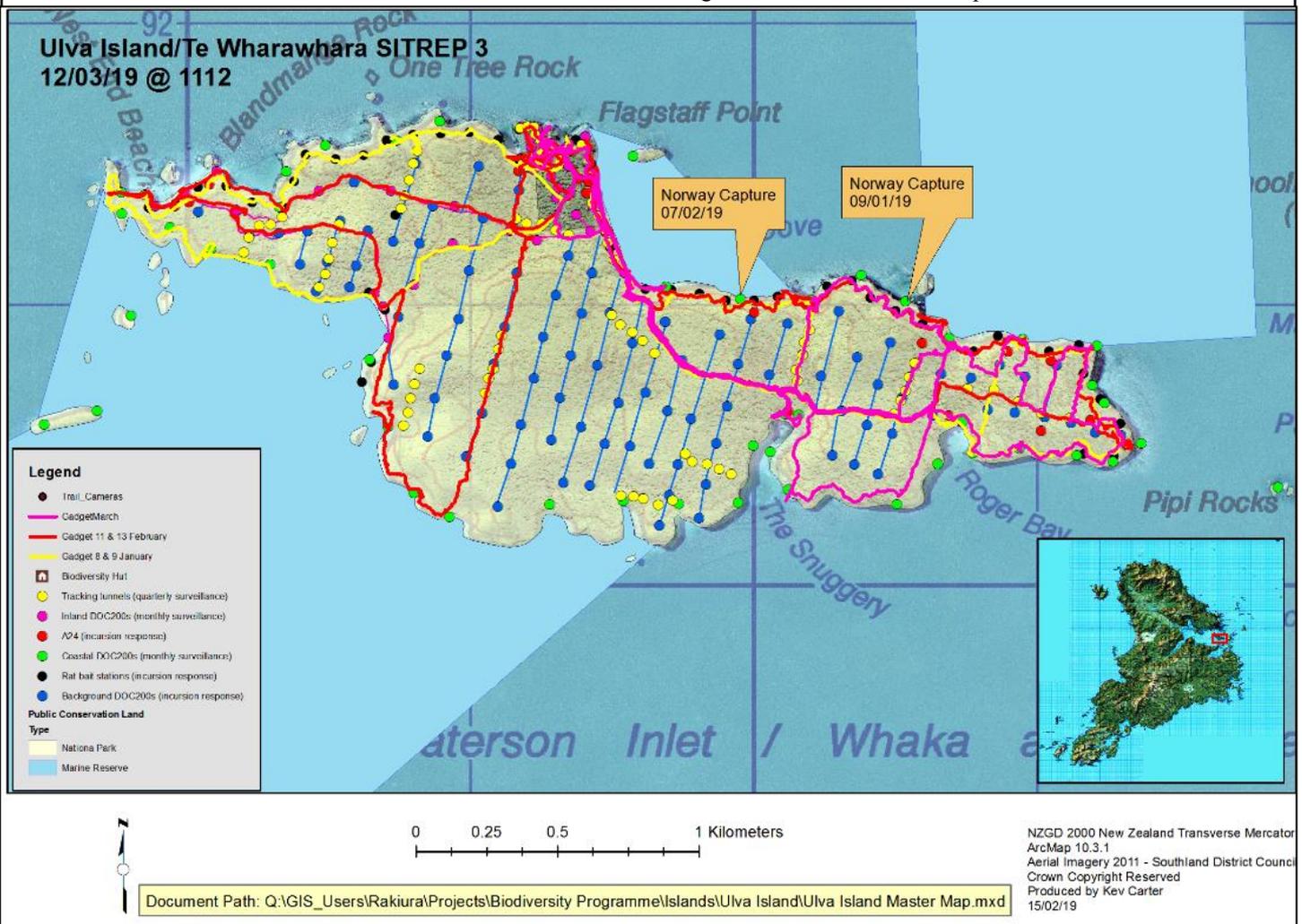
Two adult Norway rats were captured in two different coastal DOC200 kill traps (on the 9th January and 7th of February 2019)

on pest-free Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Recent genetic testing results from EcoGene has identified that these rats came from The Neck. After the second rat was caught biosecurity surveillance was increased to a Tier 2 response, where Rangers visited the island daily to reset all 190 traps, lay out tracking cards and trail cameras. Four additional rodent dog checks were undertaken in February & March 2019. No further rats or rat sign were detected. Two rodent dogs completed 2.5 days of surveillance on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara from 18 – 22 March 2019 with no detections made and we have now returned to routine biosecurity surveillance of Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara.

**The Department would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Ulva Island Charitable Trust for its generous donation toward the recent Ulva Island Incursion Response!**

## Successful Southern New Zealand Dotterel Banding

Ranger Rose Collen has teamed up with DOC Rakiura staff mem-





Southern New Zealand dotterel being banded by Rose Collen at Mason Bay/Te One Roa.  
Photo by Bec Baxter DOC

Clippings found behind the wall of Island Hill Homestead, Mason Bay from a 1901 newspaper. The one on the right presumably would have been pretty risqué to publish at that time! Photos by Andrew King DOC



bers Mike Douglass, Monty Williams, and Bec Baxter to band the Nationally Critical Southern New Zealand Dotterel. This banding is scheduled annually and alternates between sites at Awarua Bay, Southland and Mason Bay/Te One Roa, Stewart Island/Rakiura. Two trips took place in March 2019 with 9 birds being banded at Awarua Bay and 21 banded at Mason Bay/Te One Roa! For an estimated population of 167 (in 2018), those 30 birds make up nearly 18% of the entire population! There are two banding trips planned in April 2019, one at each of the sites.

**Recreation/Historic**

**Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Tin Mining Maintenance Volunteer Trip**

DOC Rakiura Recreation/Historic Rangers Ty Conner and Christina Patterson led a nine-day volunteer trip from 4 – 12 March 2019 to perform maintenance on the Tramway and Surveyor’s Track at Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti. Four volunteers helped



Volunteers with old chimney (above) and applying metal preservative onto historic asset (below) at Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti.  
Photo by Christina Patterson DOC

to cut windfalls, dig drains, and cut back trees near the historic tin mine tailings. The team cut wind falls and cleared vegetation near the dam site and painted metal preservative on the historic artefacts that needed it. The volunteers were a fantastic bunch and Christina (with her archaeology background) brought the history to life.

**Rakiura Track Huts Water Testing Results**

Throughout March 2019 with prolonged dry spells the water tank levels at Port William and North Arm huts along the Rakiura Track as well as backcountry huts were getting extremely low. Water testing has been carried out at the Great Walk huts and campsites on the Rakiura Track and unfortunately test results have shown signs of contamination (Coliform & Escherichia were detected). The water at these sites has now been treated and the Department is also advising all trampers to treat or boil their water as a precaution. Since then we have had heavy rain and plan to clean all water tanks, roofs and gutters prior to the beginning of next season.

**Mason Bay/Te One Roa Historic Homestead Maintenance Volunteer Trip**

The Mason Bay/Te One Roa historic homestead maintenance volunteer trip took place from 28 January 2019 – 5 February 2019. The trip had five Winton Rotary Club volunteers and was led by DOC Rakiura Recreation/Historic Supervisor Andrew King and Ranger Wayne King. The team undertook work including recladding and a full paint of the Homestead building changing it from light blue (Fort Dorset) to white (Sandfly Point). The reason for this change was to bring the hut (built around 1900) back closer to its original colour. The painting preparation took four days to complete while other staff did other work on the building.



Volunteers kept busy replacing exterior cladding, internal wall bracing, borer control, and insulation. Under the building also got some attention and volunteers helped replace piles to lift the Homestead to level again. The team also did some wall papering using the old techniques with scrim and flour paste! This was interesting to do and

(Continued on page 11)

*Reiki Master Teachers, Dr. Cathy Cremen & Diane Smith*

**WELCOME ALL to a**

**FREE INTRODUCTORY EVENING of REIKI**

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm to 8pm Venue - TBA**

**To register see contact details below.**

**What is REIKI, the USUI SYSTEM of NATURAL HEALING?**

*A simple, effective, practical 'hands on' technique for mind and body health; restores natural balance in your life.*

*Provides deep relaxation; relieves effects from stress; reduces pain.*

*Restores vital energy; enhances healing and recovery of illness and injury.*

*Improves confidence, mental clarity and quality of relationships.*

*Complements all health modalities; safe for everyone; easy to learn.*

#### REIKI TRAINING

**REIKI 1<sup>st</sup> DEGREE** introduces the practise of Reiki: what it is, where it came from, how it works and how to apply it. Each student will learn the foundational 1st teachings and receive the unique empowerment process to apply Reiki, with confidence, in their daily lives. Theory and practice share equal time.

**REIKI 2<sup>nd</sup> DEGREE** deepens the student's understanding of Reiki in the healing process and addresses the subtle aspects of transformation, self-responsibility and the power of intention. This is available for those trained in 1<sup>st</sup> degree.

**REIKI TRAINING DATES: May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> DEGREE: 4<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> 9.30am - 12.30pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> DEGREE: 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm - 5.30pm**

**VENUE: 10 Petersons Hill, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island**

All inquiries please contact either:

Diane Smith: ph: +6427 672 4405

e: [philldismith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:philldismith@xtra.co.nz)

Cathy Cremen: ph: +6427 262 2448

e: [cremenclan3@gmail.com](mailto:cremenclan3@gmail.com)

### Stewart Island Clay Target Charity Shoot April 2019

#### THANK YOU

to everyone who contributed and supported the event including:  
The NFA Trap Shooting Team  
Rakiura Shipping  
Stewart Island Flights  
Sheet Metal Craft  
Sanfords  
Nudge & the guys at the farm

Helen Cave  
Stacey Wilford  
Church Hill  
Ricky Kershaw  
Josephine Shephard  
Joanne Leask  
Sharon Pasco  
Greg Everest  
Fire Brigade  
DOC  
Lions  
and all of the Ruggies and HMB  
School parents who helped out with  
an epic weekend of fundraising.



**Stewart Island / Rakiura  
Community & Environment Trust**  
*for people for environment*

#### COMBAT that RAT ATTACK!

Victor rat traps for sale, complete with wooden base and corflute covers.

Poison free and easy to use.

\$20 per trap.

Funds raised go towards trapping at Ackers Point.

Available at Glowing Sky or contact [administrator@sircet.org.nz](mailto:administrator@sircet.org.nz)

They work!





**Tired of drowning in paperwork?  
Tired of paper bills?**

**You've got the p@wer**

**Get your SIESA account emailed straight to your inbox.**  
Registering for emailed invoices is as simple as visiting the SIESA page on our website  
[www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz)  
You'll then get a confirmation email from our friendly team.



## Kiwi Aversion Training Day

SIRCET is running their bi-annual kiwi aversion training this month. This is a follow up for dogs that have attended a previous session and also for dogs that have not yet been trained.

The workshop will be run by a qualified local trainer, Sandy King. Please register for a time with Di or Sandy

**The Training Day will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April .**

**It will run all day, with 15 minute slots available.**

**Location: Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club**

Please bring your dog along. It only takes a few minutes and with the number of kiwi being seen around town, let's all help to keep them safe



A kiwi in Alina Atkins garden

For more information or to register please contact Di Morris on 027 7599773 or email [pete.di1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pete.di1@xtra.co.nz)

## POTENTIAL FOR ROADKILL OF WILDLIFE

By William J (Bill) Watt

Member- Southland Conservation Board

*The topic of accidental roadkill on wildlife on Rakiura came up at a recent Southland Conservation Board meeting. The Board was concerned about the potential risk to wildlife and the possible backlash of opinion nationally (and the effect of that on the community) if an accident received media publicity. I was asked to write to the Council and the Community Board. Their reply suggested the Board air the issue in Stewart Island News.*

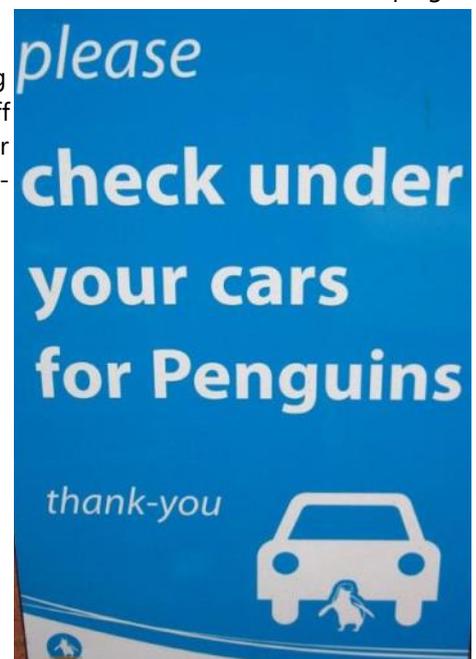
The first and obvious point is that by and large wildlife and Stewart Island drivers (increasingly, not just residents) DO co-exist on Island roads and incidents when they don't are few.

However, the point that might usefully be made – back to the Southland District Council – is that the need for wildlife and people to co-exist on Island roads needs to be **part of the brief** for any roading design/improvements.

Traffic engineers traditionally measure the 'success' of roading works by such measures as reduction in accidents and reduction in average travel times. But on Rakiura, 'reduction in travel times' is hardly relevant (it takes a very few minutes longer to drive from Halfmoon Bay to Horseshoe Bay on a Ferguson tractor than in a car – I know, I've done both, many times!)

Some additional advisory signage might help. I'm a fan of signage flavoured with humour because I think that helps get a message across in a way that does not 'threaten' wildlife – either human or avian.

An aside – years ago when the Ringaringa foreshore road was open I recall driving Ron Tindal's Landrover up the hill toward Leask Bay and having to stop and turn off the motor while a large group of little blue penguins waddled up the road, under and round the vehicle on the way to their nests. This kind of interaction with wildlife is part of what makes Rakiura special.



### 400 WORDS by Beverley Osborn

A Christmas Eve service was taking place in a church which had been decorated for the occasion. One feature was a backdrop of shimmering, synthetic fabric which would magnify the beauty of flickering candlelight.

The pastor speaking was puzzled that people seemed to be looking past him instead of at him. And then it happened!

A puff of air from the vents directed the flame from the candelabra, centimetres from the backdrop, to that shimmering fabric and a peaceful occasion became a melodrama of screams and sirens, occupants fleeing outwards and firemen racing inwards.

Most in the church that night had noticed the dangerous proximity of candles to cloth – that's what they'd been looking at – but no-one had stepped up to move the candela-

bra further back. Why?

Did they lack the courage to stomp up front while the pastor was speaking? Did they think it was someone else's responsibility – that the decorators must have figured it was safe?

Last month our nation was rocked by the terrorist attack in Christchurch and some of us may have started to ask ourselves hard questions about our own attitudes.

Have we supported our right to free speech, no matter how divisive and hate-filled it may be? Or have we not even recognized that our society has blindly accepted generation old prejudices, without thinking to explore them for ourselves?

Besides the motivation of personal betterment, white colonization of New Zealand was accomplished by people who didn't differentiate much between Christian mission and a desire to bring "civilization" to a native community. They would have seen

themselves as benevolent educators but evolving generations have come to realise that Maori culture and civilization is a treasure, a valuable gift that is a component of being a New Zealander today.

Jacinda Ardern has pointed out that Aotearoa now is home to many ethnicities, religions, languages and cultures. Instead of being benevolent educators to the people of "lesser" ethnicities and religions, we need to educate OURSELVES about the values we have thoughtlessly disregarded or denigrated. That could be our path to becoming a nation that discovers the cure to the viruses of hate and fear.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Not to speak, is to speak. Not to act is to act."

May understanding enable us to speak and act with courageous, informed love instead of ignorance, respecting the diversity that enriches us as a nation.



**Winter Fire Safety**

The nights are drawing in and the leaves on the tress are starting to turn, it's time to think about insurance. Yes, that's right, how to ensure your home

remains safe (and warm) this winter.

**Fireplaces**

There is nothing like a toasty warm fire on a cold night! Chimney's need cleaning to keep you safe and to ensure your fire works well.

A build-up of soot can cause a fire in your chimney/flue (not good!) We want the fire in the wood burning area, not spouting up to the roof.



Burning of wet wood (left) and dry wood (right)

A fire in the chimney can cause a rapid build-up of heat in the ceiling cavity. This can cause a fire in your ceiling space (and you won't even know it until it's too late!)

Soot is flammable and creates the biggest potential hazard when using a fireplace. It's wise to try and limit the amount of build-up that occurs. Failure to re-

move soot from the flue can result in a deadly chimney fire. Always have your chimney cleaned before you start using your fire place, the best time is now!

**Firewood**

To get the most out of your firewood, ensure it is dry. Wet wood creates more soot build-up in your chimney, smokes out your neighbours and doesn't burn as hot as dry wood.

It takes between six months and one year for cut wood to dry, so make sure you have enough. So start thinking about next year's wood supply now!



Chimney fire

**Disposing of Ashes**

This may seem obvious, ashes are hot! And can stay hot up to five days. Stewart Island Fire Brigade receive calls each year to put out fires from ashes not disposed of correctly - don't be a statistic.

Put ash in a metal bucket with a lid and soak with water.

**Gas Heaters / Diesel Burners**

Are you and your heater too close? Keep kids, curtains, couches and washing at least one meter away from any heater / burner (that's one big step). Radiant heat from a heater / burner is enough to ignite things.



Build-up of soot in a chimney (left) a clean chimney (right)

Set the scene: The Woods. (Yes I still say *woods* instead of *bush*; very American-silly.)

So, I'm in the woods. It's a sunny day but dark in the woods. A muddy track twists through trees and ferns and I walk slowly, carefully, placing each foot just so. I'm cursing the fact I'm wearing my fancy gumboots because it's actually very muddy in places and yes, fancy gumboots is a thing here on the island.

I'm also wearing my "Free Melania" Tshirt which I wear not for the sentiment - Mrs Trump can go to Mars on a moped for all I care - but because it has the softest cotton weave and the perfect length and feel and shade of gray. (I wore it into the post office a few weeks ago and a guy approached me with a pained expression, as if he had heavy and awkward news to share. Turns out he misread my shirt: "Sorry, Jess, but did you know Mandela has passed away?")

Also wearing my favorite pair of jeans which are a weird fusion of mom-jeans and hip-hoppy hang-down saggy-nappy jeans. Flattering they are not, but it's Saturday and I'm into comfort. But I'm not comfortable. Here's some more scene: plastic crime scene tape flutters along the side of the track, strung from tree to tree, bright white-and-red discordant with the muted greens and browns of the woods. DANGER DO NOT CROSS DANGER DO NOT CROSS

Staccato cracks of gunshots fill the air. I stumble, curse, pause and regain my footing before resuming my awkward trek. The acrid smell of gunpowder makes my nose twitch, but I can't scratch anything. My hands hold precious, unwieldy cargo. Reaching back to the third paragraph: heavy and awkward cargo. Against my body I'm holding a massive steel stock pot by its two handles. The pot contains the remains of a seafood chowder and the whole shebang weighs 22 pounds. I'm not

known for my upper-body strength so carrying this weight would be challenging at the best of times, and here I am, on a muddy slippery track, a big stock pot containing heavy liquid held in front of me, twinges in my lower back alerting awkward weight distribution. There's no place to happily put the thing down for a rest so I keep moving, hoping I don't gummy an ankle, regretting my choice of footwear, and now regretting I've worn my favorite jeans and Tshirt because I'm pressing the thing against my front, sort of falling forward against it, and the sides and bottom are blackened from a fire which is coating my belly and crotch area in inky black soot.

Another crack of gunfire startles me, I whip my head to one side, start to lose my balance in the mud, right myself but feel a pull at my scalp. My hair has caught in a prickly branch of brambles at the side of the track, stopping me in my tracks as I feel the heavy chowder slosh forward in a slow-mo muselly tsunami in the pot. I'm stuck: head cricked awkwardly to alleviate the discomfort of bramble-snarled hair. Now I'm sweating, gasping, and there's a tremor in the sad little muscles of my forearms. I've often been *tsked* about my lack of arm-strength and rightly so -- living here I should be able to pull myself into a dinghy and I should be able to comfortably carry a pot of seafood chowder through the woods.

Comfortably? Not my adverb. I can hear my heart beating in my ears, the ladle handle inside the pot vibrating against the metal, the distant call of kaka and the nearby sound of gunfire and at this point, I start to laugh, because absurdity. Because ridiculousness. Because the lengths I've gone to for a bowl of chowder.

The scene: a woman in the woods, holding a giant pot of seafood chow-

der, her hair caught in a bramble, all to the tune of birdsong and gunfire. Is this a dream? A twisted Stewart Island fairy tale? An Aesop's fable gone Quentin-Tarantino-wrong? What the hell is going on?

The background: The community catered an on-site luncheon for a visiting gun club's clay bird shoot last weekend, in exchange for a donation to our school. The access to the shoot was a muddy track through the woods, and when I volunteered to help clean up, I was told that everything had been brought back except the seafood chowder. The seafood chowder had been left behind! Egads! The stock pot belonged to generous new island parents; the ladle belonged to the fire brigade kitchen; and the leftover chowder was, apparently, up for grabs. I had been duly warned that the chowder pot, much like the news of Mandela's 2013 death to a would-be wearer of a FREE MANDELA Tshirt, was heavy and awkward. And the track muddy and slippery. And no one could have foreseen the soot smear on my favourite jeans, or the hair caught in track-side prickles, or the further besmirchment of denim due to laughing fit and dotage.

I'll fast forward: from the necessary head-jerk to tear head free from bramble, through the remainder of the hellish hike, the five-point turn to extricate car from dead-end parking, the bumpy drive home etc. I just hope this explains to any concerned bush-bashing woods-walkers why a tuft of brown hair with possibly some

grays is hanging on a branch off the side of the back road track. And to anyone who got this far in this absurd ridiculousness who wants to know how I know the pot + chowder equals 22 pounds, it's because I weighed it when I got home so I could skite to anyone who'll listen about my Saturday fitness regime. —Jess





HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND  
POUHERE TAONGA

## Shipwreck artefact returned to Stewart Island

The archaeological remains from a shipwreck removed without permission from Stewart Island by fossickers has been taken back to its rightful home.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's Otago/Southland Senior Archaeologist, Dr Matthew Schmidt, recently returned a wooden keel from the *Pacific* – which was wrecked in 1864 – back to Stewart Island.

“In March last year residents spotted some suspicious behaviour in Paterson's Inlet with some individuals seen to be taking a large piece of timber from the site all the locals know as the *Pacific* wreck,” says Matt.

“All research undertaken so far indicates that this is the 1864 wreck of the *Pacific* with historic records both locally and from overseas identifying the wreck. There are also a number of local artefacts from the ship including a canon.”

All New Zealand shipwrecks predating 1900 are protected under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act, and so when Matt was advised that this had happened, he followed up.

A little teamwork involving the local community, Fisherman's Radio, DOC, Fisheries and Maritime NZ saw the recovery of the keel.

The recovery of the artefact prompted the need for some quick action however.

“It was really important that we prevented the keel from drying too quickly and cracking. Because I don't have a conservation tank I sought some advice from experts and worked hard to keep the timber wet,” he says.

“This meant using face cloths, towels and even a garden sprayer during summer to cool it down. I'm very fortunate to know Andy Dodd and Matt Carter – two of Australasia's finest marine archaeologists – and their advice was invaluable.”

The improvisations worked well and the keel was handed over to the Rakiura Museum with no cracking or damage earlier in March.

Returning the keel to Stewart Island was particularly important given the community's close involvement in reporting the theft of the artefact. The Southland District Council and Real Journeys sponsored the return covering costs for Matt's visit.

“The Stewart Island community has been incredibly supportive,” he says.

“We held a session with people a few years back about the importance of communities being proactive in looking out for their archaeological heritage. People have really taken that to heart – without their vigilance

we would have lost this important piece of New Zealand maritime heritage forever.”

Built on the Thames outside of London in 1826, the *Pacific* served as a whaling vessel based out of Hobart and from here it worked a number of hunting grounds, including the Solander Grounds off Stewart Island – sometimes up to 18 months at a time.

It was in 1864 that the crew of the *Pacific* under Captain William Sherburd found themselves landlocked in Patterson's Inlet in the teeth of a hurricane with eight tons of Sperm Whale oil on board.

“Newspaper accounts record the *Pacific* was riding ‘with both anchors ahead’, though the ship subsequently ended up dragging her anchors and going stern-on to the rocks,” says Matt.

“The ship was smashed as a result with water pouring into the vessel. Within half an hour the ship was full of water, and the crew were forced to take to the lifeboats. Sherburd saved all 26 crew.”

Sherburd and eight of his crew were subsequently taken to Invercargill by the *Cosmopolite* – a vessel that had tried to render assistance to the *Pacific* during the storm, though with no success.

“Captain Sherburd returned to Stewart Island, and his wife Waimea, a local Maori woman, and children lived out their days at The Neck,” he says.

“In an obituary published in the *Otago Daily Times* in 1883, Sherburd was described as ‘one of the old Pakeha-Maori whalers’ who ‘settled upon the Neck’. It also went on to describe him as being ‘completely identified with the Maoris’ and for whom ‘the funeral honours of the race were accorded him’.

“He was also noted as a man ‘greatly respected and beloved throughout the island for his sterling and kindly qualities’. Ironically, perhaps, the place where he lost his ship was eventually the place where he settled, and is today buried with his wife.”

Sadly, the *Pacific* has been the subject of considerable fossicking over the decades as people have helped themselves to bits of the shipwreck. Attitudes have changed, however, and today there is a greater understanding of the importance of leaving archaeological shipwrecks alone.

“There used to be a bit of a ‘Boy's Own’ approach to shipwrecks, where people would dive on them and take objects off them,” he says.

“There's now a greater awareness of the need to leave these objects in their original context, though there are still a few divers who persist in breaking the law and uplifting objects. Thankfully they are becoming a minority.

“People are increasingly seeing intact shipwrecks as important examples of our maritime heritage as well as tourism assets in their own right. Visitors who dive shipwrecks appreciate being able to explore wrecks that are complete and in context – as opposed to wrecks that have been stripped by treasure hunters.”

Conservation of the keel is continuing at Rakiura Museum.



Dr Matt Schmidt gives a talk at a public meeting on Stewart Island..



The keel of the Pacific now back home on Stewart Island.



# Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust

for people for environment

**We need your help to keep Stewart Island / Rakiura's environment safe from pests, diseases, and weeds.**

To make reporting biosecurity risks as easy as possible, there's a new NZ smartphone app; Find-A-Pest. You can use the app to learn about the most important weeds and pests to look out for, and to report / map them and any other unusual new species that you find.

We are fortunate to be one of first groups in NZ to pilot the app, from now until the end of April. The app developers are keen to get your feedback and ideas on any improvements that are needed before the app gets promoted across New Zealand.

We need your help. We need people on / Stewart Island / Rakiura who are interested in protecting the island from weeds and pests to download the Find-A-Pest app, and report / map exotic species, especially those new or still spreading.

The Find-A-Pest app has been developed by Scion and Lincoln University in conjunction with the BioHeritage National Science Challenge and regional councils, supported by the forestry and kiwifruit industries.

The app is available for **Android or iPhone** and is free and simple to use.

Get it at [www.findapest.nz](http://www.findapest.nz)

SIRCET will be running a Find-A-Pest event on

**27<sup>th</sup> of April 2018**

Followed by a **BBQ** (weather pending)

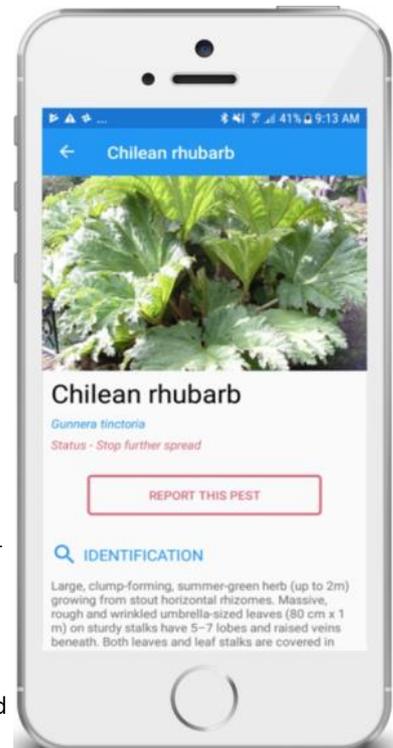
Time and location TBC

**Prizes** will be drawn for the most pest / weeds observations

**Please contact Willy Gamble for more info**

Email: [willy@sircet.org.nz](mailto:willy@sircet.org.nz)

txt: [0204 167 4160](tel:02041674160)



# FIND PEST

## Island Inspirations Art Programme 25-26 May 2019

**SIPA are pleased to present this year's programme. We have four courses running:**

- Textile Printing with Katie Smith 2 days  
\$150 + \$88 material cost**
- Singing Together for Fun with Robyn Bardas  
2 days \$150**
- Harakeke with Amber Bridgman 2 days  
\$150**
- Astrophotography with Les Ladbrook 1 day  
(plus evening if weather permits) \$75**

**For more information or to enroll pick up a brochure from the SDC Council Office/Library.**

## RAKIURA RIDDLE

FIVE HUNDRED BEGINS IT  
FIVE HUNDRED ENDS IT  
FIVE IN THE MIDDLE IS SEEN

FIRST OF ALL LETTERS,  
FIRST OF ALL NUMBERS,  
TAKE UP THEIR STATIONS BETWEEN  
JOIN ALL TOGETHER & THEN YOU 'LL  
BE RIGHT  
NAMING THE MAN WHO QUESTIONS  
SUNDAY NIGHT



# Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust

for people for environment

by Tanya Dann

The days might be getting shorter, but we're still packing a lot into them! It's been a busy month for SIRCET, and that looks likely to continue as we are currently experiencing a **rat explosion!** This is not unexpected, as it's a huge mast year this year (that is when forest trees which produce fruit and seeds produce much more fruit than normal). And where there is more food... there are more rats! In the last two months we've caught 352 rats all over the project zone, shown in the image below.

Thanks to all our local volunteers who have been checking trap lines, we appreciate all your hard work. Please remember to keep updating your trap data (contact Willy if you have any issues), and presently, you should be aiming to check your lines at least weekly. For any reason you are unable to check your lines, please get in contact with Willy who will organise cover for the time you are unavailable.

We need more people to check the lines – if you can help out please get in touch. We'd love to hear from anyone who can commit to a permanent line, those who'd like to share a line with someone else, or even people just wanting to fill when others are away or sick. You can contact Willy via email: [pest-manager@sircet.org.nz](mailto:pest-manager@sircet.org.nz) or phone: 020 4197 4160

This year we are back into our nightly bird monitoring. Kiwi, weka and ruru/ morepork are all monitored through the country by ver-

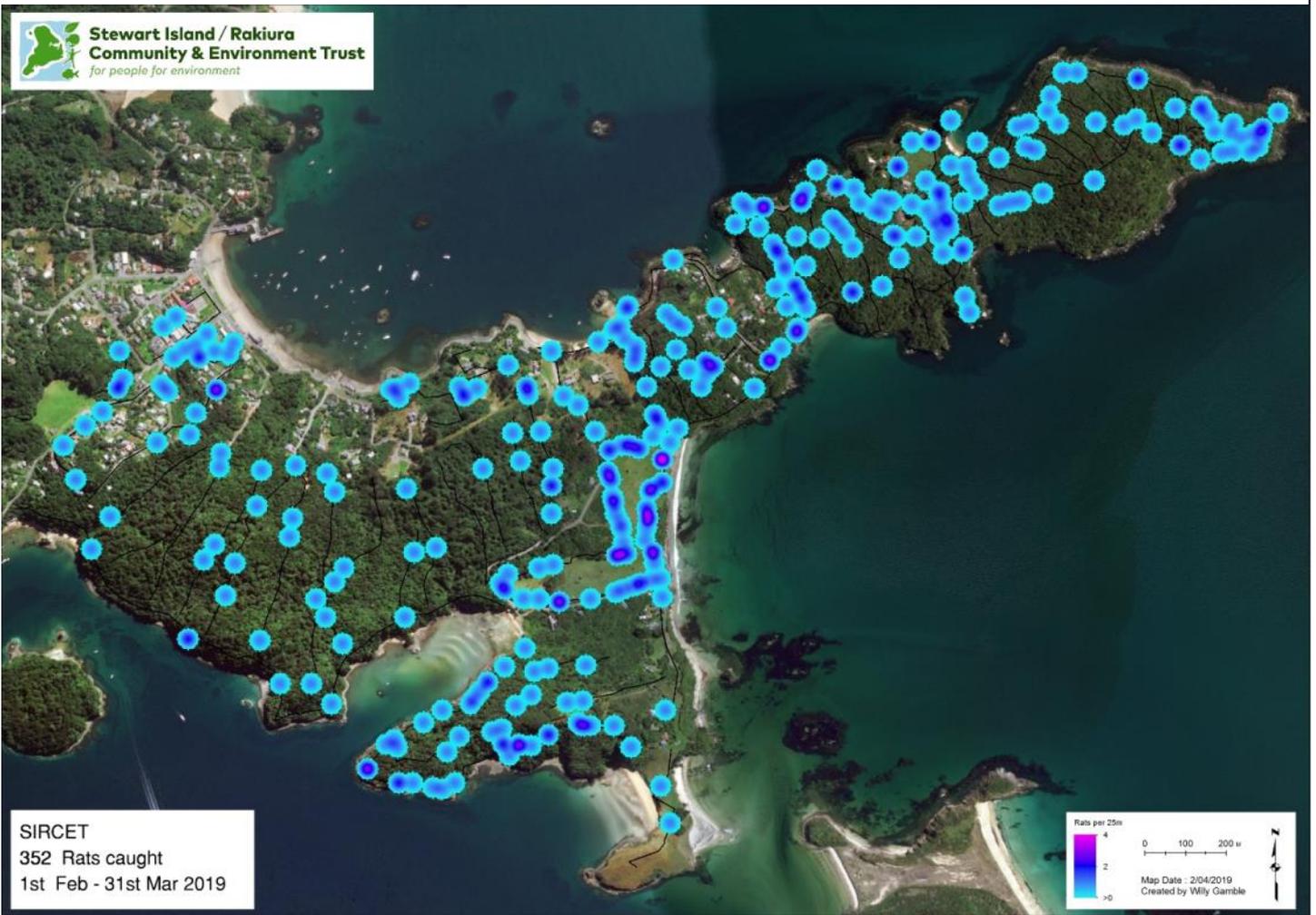
sions of call count schemes. In 2011, as a sub-project to the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, SIRCET adopted a modified call count scheme to monitor all three of these species at once. This simple population monitoring is set up with the aim of recording gross changes in their numbers over time.

We have 8 sites, which each need to be visited 4 times over the course of the monitoring period (April – June). Each count is done over a 2 hour period after dark, recording what you hear. Training will be provided so no prior experience is required, and you do not have to work on your own (unless you'd like to), so you can grab a friend (or two) and make a night of it!

If you are interested in volunteering for a night or two (or 3!) please get in contact with Wayne King. You can email Wayne at [admin@sircet.org.nz](mailto:admin@sircet.org.nz) please include a contact phone number so he can get in contact with you.

SIRCET trustees attended the recent island conservation talk hosted by Predator Free Rakiura and really enjoyed the talks given on the Bluff Hill/Motupohue Environment Trust, Maukahuka Pest Free Auckland Island and the update from Predator Free Rakiura. The next morning we showed members of the PFR leadership group around the project area (well, the inside of the Stone House at Harold's Bay as the rain was torrential) and discussed how PFR and SIRCET can work together.

We also want to take the time to thank two local holiday home owners who have made very generous donations during March. We appreciate your support! Anyone wishing to donate can check our website [www.sircet.org.nz](http://www.sircet.org.nz) for ways to donate.



*(DoC Continued from page 3)*

came out looking great. Behind the old scrim there was some old newspaper found in one small area. There was an article found that especially interested Winton Rotary members about two people that were injured in a crash in Winton since the surnames listed are still well known in the area! The paper was dated June 1901 and the small section that came off is going to be framed and brought back to the Homestead.



Community Ranger Catriona Dempsey monitoring between Freshwater River and Mason Bay/Te One Roa  
*Photo by Catriona Dempsey DOC*

Thanks to DOC Rakiura staff and volunteers we are slowly getting on top of the work on the Island Hill historic homestead at Mason Bay/Te One Roa. There have been significant changes to the building in the last 10 years making it warm, weathertight, and rat proof while still keeping its original fabric and character.

**Annual Backcountry Track Maintenance**

The Recreation/Historic team have been busy working on backcountry track trimming and maintenance tasks. Over the next three months the main focus will be on the Rakiura Track resurfacing. The end of February 2019 saw the

first boatload (66 tonne) of gravel unloaded, spread and compacted into 400m of newly resurfaced track between North Arm and Sawdust Bay. Two more boatloads of gravel are anticipated between North Arm and Port William. Maintenance on local walks and work on the Southern Circuit track has also been completed in March 2019 with the team undertaking maintenance on tracks, bridges and boardwalks around Rakeahua Hut.



Island Hill Homestead before and after the Historic Homestead volunteer maintenance trip in January and February 2019  
*Photos by Andrew King DOC*



Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara volunteers doing some track maintenance & enjoying Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara  
*Photo by Christina Patterson DOC*

**Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Volunteer Ranger Season Comes to a Close**

The Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara volunteer Ranger season has ended after another successful year. The volunteers helped with checking traps, track maintenance, weed surveillance, cleaning toilets, biosecurity advocacy, Norway rat incursion response, and monitoring visitor behaviour. The food for all Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara volunteers was generously donated to the Department from the Ulva Island Charitable Trust and we are extremely grateful for their continued support and generosity toward this volunteer program. We are so fortunate to have so much interest in this program year on year and look forward to another successful season next year.

**Another huge thank you to the Ulva Island Charitable Trust for making this annual volunteer activity possible!**

**Community Concession Monitoring Program Update**

Stewart Island/Rakiura's pilot concession monitoring program is well underway. Rakiura's concession system permits a variety of activities including commercial guiding, kiwi spotting, inland water taxi services, and wildlife research. Community Ranger (Monitoring), Catriona Dempsey has been busy undertaking the monitoring duties of the project to check that all concessionaires hold the proper permits and are operating within their conditions.

Catriona has been conducting spot checks in popular areas for concessionaire activity, such as Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. She has also joined several guided groups on the Rakiura Track, Mason Bay/Te One Roa, and Ocean Beach Track to observe the conduct of guiding activities. Wildlife researchers and local kiwi spotters have also been observed. While most concessionaires have been found following the rules, there have been a few instances of non-compliance that are currently being followed up on by the Department's National Compliance Team and the Department would like to acknowledge those concessionaires who are operating within the conditions of their concessions/permits.



# RAKIURA CHALLENGE

## trail run

STEWART ISLAND  NEW ZEALAND

**WELCOME** to New Zealand's southern-most trail run,  
**The Rakiura Challenge.**

Rakiura, the Māori name for Stewart Island, translates as “glowing skies” and the island is renowned for gorgeous sunrises and the Aurora Australis. The island also features lush native bush, spectacular rugged coastlines, abundant bird and sea life, and one of New Zealand's famous Great Walks.

Now, for the first time, the Rakiura Great Walk will host a “Great Run”: The Rakiura Challenge.

The 33.7km (20.9mi) traverse is usually a two or three day walk. Participants in the inaugural event will take in the historic Māori trails, colonial logging sites and spectacular bush and beaches in the course of a single day. But then... Rakiura/Stewart Island is somewhat accustomed to spectacular feats of endurance. The ancient Māori name is *Te Punga o Te Waka a Maui*. This refers to the legend of Māui, who used the South Island as his waka or canoe, to fish up the North Island while using Rakiura as his anchor stone.

Today, Rakiura/Stewart Island is home to 400 residents who are working together to bring you this “Great Run.” The Rakiura Challenge is destined to be a must-do event.

## **LOCALS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Accommodation** on the island has been filling up fast for both competitors and supporters who are making the journey over for the race. Organizers are hoping that all competitors will arrive in Oban on Friday 4 October for the Friday night race briefing meeting.

If Stewart Island home or crib owners have spare accommodation available for the weekend of the 4/5 October can you kindly contact Aaron Joy on [aaron.joy2012@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.joy2012@gmail.com) and we will do our best to place those who have not obtained accommodation.

**Local businesses** might want to think about offering special deals and discounts. Brainstorm running & Rakiura Track-themed menus, drinks, promotions, activities etc for the Rakiura Challenge visitors over the race weekend.

Race organizers are currently developing **merchandise** for this event... “watch this space”!

**All race information and developments will be communicated through the following channels:**

**Facebook - The Rakiura Challenge**  
**Instagram – Rakiura Challenge**  
**Website – [www.stewartisland.co.nz](http://www.stewartisland.co.nz)**

*A dream come true...*

For a number of years Stewart Island Promotions has talked about developing a running race covering the Rakiura Track.

This dream has now turned into reality and the team heading the race are:

**Aaron Joy – Chairman**

**Chris Cox – Race Director**

*For any race-related enquiries phone Chris Cox at 027 293 8309*

**Morgan Shepherd – Event Manager**

**Adele Larsen – Volunteers**

*Stewart Island Promotions would like to thank DOC, Rakiura Māori Lands Trust, Stewart Island Flights and Real Journeys for their support.*

## **WAIVER**

The following waiver will be applied to this event:  
I/We accept all conditions of entry, while recognising and agreeing that trail running and walking are inherently risky and physically challenging undertakings. I/WE attest to having read all information supplied in the entry form of website, and enter this event knowing the risks and demands involved.

Therefore I/WE take all responsibility for my/our fitness, experience, actions and occurrences during this event. As such I/We, my family, heirs and executors of any estate discharge the event organisers, sponsors and all other persons involved in the event of and liability, claims or damages relating to personal injury, loss or damage of equipment, or and matter arising from the event. I understand that if extreme weather or other “acts of god”, force changes, postponement or cancellation of the event, that the entry fee is non-refundable. I authorise my name, voice and picture to be used, without payment, in any capacity relating to the event.

## RACE FACTS

**Friday 4 October**

Race briefing meeting at the Oban Community Centre at 7:30pm

**Saturday 5 October**

**RACE DAY**

All competitors staying in Oban will be transported to the Start Area on race morning

Race Starts at 8:30am  
cnr Horseshoe and Lee Bay roads

Race finishes outside the  
Oban Community Centre

Prize giving will be held at the  
Oban Community Centre at 6:30pm  
followed by a prize giving dinner

**WAITING LIST:** As registrations are full a waiting list has been generated should cancellations accrue. Organisers will inform the next person on the waiting list of their availability to join the race.

**REFUND POLICY:** A refund of 50% of the entry fee paid will be made if you advise race organisers of your withdrawal from the event before 1 September 2019. After that date the entry fee is not refundable.

**THE RACE** Starting from the corner of Horseshoe Bay and Lee Bay roads, the 33.7km course begins with a 1km run up Lee Bay road to Lee Bay, the gateway to Rakiura National Park. At the entryway, you will pass through the famous sculpture representing Maui's anchor-chain. The Lee Bay track offers stunning coastal views as you make your way towards picturesque Little River.

At Little River, you will run across a bridge (the course follows the high tide tracks) and continue onto the track across the bridge. More stunning coastal views greet you as you round the tip of Peter's Point, bringing you to spectacular Māori Beach

The course takes in the entirety of the beach – look for the tracks of kiwi, penguins, and whitetail deer in the sand. At the north end of the beach, a swing bridge crosses the lovely tannin-tea coloured waters of the Wooding Bay estuary, before the climb up the forested ridge overlooking Port William.

The course heads inland now, climbing to the high point at some 200m above

sea level. Your uphill efforts will be rewarded with the combination of beautiful regenerating podocarp forest and lush, dense virgin forest.

Along the way you'll pass massive old log haulers dating back to the late 1800s, when the giants of the forest were dragged to the coastal saw mills. You'll be wanting to watch your footing, but if you do look up you might see a buoy hanging from a tree, the unofficial marking of the Rakiura Track's "halfway point."

Descending to North Arm, you'll be following in the footsteps of early Māori, who since the 13<sup>th</sup> century have used the island as a traditional food gathering site (mahinga kai).

Following the western coast now, the track undulates through a myriad of hidden bays, crossing tidal mudflats and passing historic milling sites.

And then it heads inland again for the final stretch through regenerating bush, climbing for the last 100m before a downhill to the finish line in Oban outside the Community Centre.





April 25, Remembrance Day. On Stewart Island Anzac Day is observed with a dawn service, the community gathering in the dark, in front of the war memorial on the foreshore of Halfmoon Bay. The sound of waves, the keening cries of gulls, the tramp of feet as the Honour party approaches, speeches, prayers, the Last Post. Wreaths are laid. The sun rising at the end of the service is a poignant moment. The colours of the flowers in the wreaths can now be appreciated, often the bright red of poppies, real if the weather has been

mild or our traditional man-made ones, set off by dark green foliage.

Two evergreen plants associated with remembrance and often used in wreaths are the bay tree and rosemary. They are hardy plants, common all round the Mediterranean, where they originated and where they figure prominently in local cuisines. Both grow exceptionally well on Stewart Island and when I look at my bay tree, I am reminded of my mother's frequent quote from scripture: *The wicked flourish as the green bay tree.* We might not have done anything naughty but it was always a sobering, conscience-checking moment!

Rosemary, from *Ros marinus* – sea dew – thrives by the sea and comes in many different shapes and sizes. Carolyn Squires and her late husband Russell created a dramatic hillside garden with a distinct Mediterranean flavour, using both upright and prostrate rosemary as hedges and ground-cover. The photo shows a beautiful remembrance garden Russell designed using upright rosemary as box hedging and an old anchor and chains off family boats. Carolyn says she has no trouble propagating rosemary - 'just break a bit off and stick it in the ground.'

Phillip Smith tells me that he sometimes takes a little bunch of the tips of a ponga frond to a funeral and Ulva Goodwillie describes the tree fern as the whanau tree, the trunk representing all the ancestors who have gone before, its crown of green the living family which surrounds and nurtures the koru, the new life emerging.



The Silver Fern, *Cyathea dealbata*, was used as a cap badge for New Zealand soldiers in the Boer War (1899-1902) and has been part of their uniform ever since. It is also the emblem on the headstone marking the grave of a New Zealand service man or woman. It is always a poignant moment when you come across the silver fern in a war cemetery far from home. Even if it is the only one in the cemetery, it pulls you across the beautifully tended lawns. 'Lest we forget.'

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.**



And then there's the soldier's poppy, *Papaver rhoeas*, that brave, vibrant wayside flower which pushed up through the mud and bloomed, even in the hell of war, inspiring the poem '*In Flanders fields*' by Canadian physician, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae:

Remembrance. At this time in our nation's history let us make gardens in our hearts and share them with all who call New Zealand home.

Raylene



The highlight of the last month on Mamaku Point has been hosting the Queenstown Primary School's annual camp, between 18 and 29 March. 70 children plus supervising adults stayed on the Reserve in two groups a week apart, and by all accounts had a whale of a time. One of the students, Liam Rasmussen, sent a nice note back saying:

*"My name is Liam and I am a Year 6 student at Queenstown Primary School. I am writing to thank you for helping us have such an amazing camp. We all appreciate everything you did for us. Making paths, removing trees, and keeping the field mowed made our camp so much easier. I loved learning about plants on the Nature's Pantry Walk and I still remember the taste of the produce that Steve shared with us. At Mamaku the kitchen, lounge with board games, clean and lovely bathrooms made us all feel at home. It was the best camp ever and thank you so much for allowing us to come and stay. Yours sincerely Liam Rasmussen"*



As Liam mentions, during their stay on the Reserve each child had the opportunity to experience Beaks and Feathers' Nature's Pantry Walk hosted by guide Steve Black, and the feedback has been fantastic, with QPS planning to devote more time to the Nature's Pantry walk next year due to its popularity with the children.

Elsewhere on the Reserve the fight goes on against the recent rapid rise in rat numbers outside the fence, with 50 rats caught in our trap network outside the fence in March alone, and 6 within the Reserve itself. Ant and Ernie are on the case, conducting a full battle campaign to prevent further incursions around the fence ends.



A few weeks ago Peter Tait came across a kaka chick which had fallen from its nest. The chick was taken to DOC who assessed its health and cared for it for two days. The baby bird with big feet was brought to the school the children could have a peek at him. Lots of *ooohs*, *aaahs*, and *awwws*. DOC staff then returned him to his nest and mama on Ulva Island. Kaka nests are typically tree holes located an average 30m high. The average nestling period is 73 days, and then it's fledgling time! A kaka becomes independent anywhere between 2-5 months.

*Photos by Natalia Davis & Jake*

**MUSEUM MATTERS** *by Jo Riskem*

**HOUSE OF THE MONTH: Jensen to Frew Home**



**Original home for Hans & Mary Jensen**



**With additions as it is today for Jack Frew**

This home was built in 1890 by and for Hans & Mary Jensen (nee Leask) and was their home until 1910. After that it was leased out for several years until 1919 when Bill and Ellen Dawson bought it and made it their home, making alterations and adding extra rooms. About 1970 Noel and Averil Broomhall owned and occupied the house. Then Merv and Jill Howden who owned a carrying company. The house then went to Jack and Melanie Frew who bought the house and carrying business from the Howdens. The man sitting on the step in the old photo is Bert Cook who leased it for many years. (This information came from archives of Eileen Willa and Merv King.)

Addition to last month's House of the Month: After the Askerud family, the Norwegian house was owned by the

Charlie Thomson family

**Acquisitions for March 2019**

Old photograph of boat, "Kakanui"  
 Old tourist guide booklet for Stewart Island by N.S. Seaward  
 Old photographs of Stewart Island boats and buildings  
 Invercargill-Bluff Railway and Bluff School Train by Alex Glennie - We have three copies available for sale @ \$50 each.

**Searches for March 2019:**

Hardwicke Knight collection  
 James and John McKenzie  
 Mab Prentice

**Groups for March 2019:**

Outram School  
 Waiwera South School  
 Queenstown School

Cruise ships

**Snippet:** In the Southland Girls High 100th Anniversary Book in 1979 Sheila Natusch wrote an article called "The Sea Girls" explaining the ride home in the ferry, "Tamatea." - "From our point of view, the "Tamatea" waddled, lurched, rolled, rolled and ROLLED, surged up an oncoming wall of water, hung fire... then *plunged*, leaving our insides up in the air. It could be endured in short spells but three hours of it got us, one by one, in the end. All except Marjorie. I never saw my cousin, either in tears or with her head over the side."

Summer hours October through April:  
 Monday - Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm  
 Sunday 12 pm - 2:00 pm.

Visit the Rakiura Toy Library and check out all of these wonderful new games!

See page 23 For details.



**Kiwi and penguin tracks at Horseshoe Bay beach. A reminder to dog owners: the next kiwi aversion training day is 27th April. Details on page 5.**

*Photo by Jess Kany*

Stewart Island Lions Club Presents..

**A Night At The CIRCUS**

**APRIL 19 2019**

**7:30pm till late**

Stewart Island Community Centre

Live Band MOJO      Raffles      Black Tie Event

**Tickets \$30 each**

Limited tickets | 18+ |

Tickets sold at:

Glowing Sky, SI flights, South Sea Hotel, SI 4 Square,  
Stewart Island Experience Ferry Terminals

Courtesy Car Available | Cash Bar | Supper

**NO DOOR SALES**

Any enquiries call 0273240668



Caption contest winner (for chook on cat): Simon Gomez “Get off my back, us cats get enough bad press already, now they’ll add foul play to the charges.”

Can't make IT work? **needanerd**  
your technology partner

---

✔ Computer and technology support for home and small business

Our qualified technician will be coming to Stewart Island each month. The next visit is 6th May.

03 217 0477 or 021 842 850 [needanerd.co.nz](http://needanerd.co.nz)





The words that come to mind first this month are: thank you.

This month we hosted an evening of inspiring conservation talks for the Rakiura community. Facilitator Alison Broad coordinated introductions

and skilfully kept speakers to time, no mean feat given the complexity and sheer awesomeness of the projects. It was standing room only for the 60+ people as Estelle Leask, Chair of the Bluff Hill / Motupohue Environment Trust, Stephen Horn of the Auckland Island Pest Eradication Project and myself (for Predator Free Rakiura) provided an overview of the projects. Whilst the size of the job, species to remove and stages in the work differed, the three locations (Bluff, Auckland Islands and Rakiura) are intimately connected in so many ways. We know that the science and tools to make seemingly impossible things possible is strengthening all the time. We're certainly not alone. Island restoration work in Mexico, Africa, Australia and the Galapagos is pretty exciting and inspiring.

This month we reflect on and celebrate the life of Auntie Jane Davis, whose contribution to island restoration and safeguarding tītī, snipe, tieke (and others) for the future is humbling, to say the least.

We know we have extensive support for a Predator Free Rakiura. We are in this for the long run – we know it's a large and complex task and we're up for that. We have been working hard on an MOU, a document that describes our deep commitment to Predator Free Rakiura. We have many questions to work through and we don't want to rule out any options or techniques. We want to take it one step at a time with the best tools available to us and with full consultation on each step. We want to hear from you, have you alongside us and participate as best as is possible – now and into the future. And we want to thank you for sticking it out with us and walking alongside us and asking questions all this time.

We need to secure money and expertise and this is a focus for us this year. We are looking forward to the technical work which will define, explore and overcome the challenges. Workshops to progress this will start shortly. A funding application for the next three years has been written and will be submitted in April.

We don't want to shy away from the hard questions such as our decision to not include deer and pet cats in the list for removal. We haven't included them because we don't want them removed.

With kākāpo producing so many chicks this season, the pest-free island sanctuaries where they live are filling up. There is a real need for Predator Free Rakiura.

We are up for the challenge. *Bridget*

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809), or resident representatives Sandy King, John Cushen and Garry Neave.

**Dear Rakiura Community:**

On the 18th March, Elsie Jean arrived into our lives. Not in the conventional way though, and certainly not the easy way but the important thing was that both baby and mum were healthy.

We wanted to come back home as soon as possible to settle in to being new parents and for Emily to recover from surgery. We have had so much support from you all that we wanted to say a huge heartfelt thanks. Thanks to you all: the meal makers, the bread bakers, the star chart tracers. Thanks for the soft gifts of warmth from the knitters and talkers, and for the gift of peace from the collie dog walkers. Thankyou for lending us stuff! (It is a long way to Bluff!). Your gifts of clothes, from head to toes, she'll wear as she grows. You bought plates and seats and cups and clothes, toys and hats and shoes and bowls. To the chicken feeders and the enthusiastic readers. To the fresh faced aviator, to the stork decorator. You came around for a hold, you stayed away with your colds. Elsie Jean you don't yet know how lucky you'll be, to grow up in paradise, right by the sea.

*Dan Lee and Emily Barnett*

**Sarah's Rakiura remarks**

A lot has happened, both inside and outside of Parliament since my last article for Stewart Island's local paper.

The terrorist attack in Christchurch on the 15th of March was a tragic event; it changed us and shattered our innocence. However, it was wonderful to see us come together as a nation during the aftermath and support one another.

I saw this in the weekend when I attended the Council's Multi-Cultural Food Festival in Invercargill. It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate our richness of diversity through food and dance and share in a comradeship of love and tolerance.

The proposed SIT mega merger and Tomorrow's Schools recommendations continue to be major local concerns for me. Decision making must remain local and National strongly rejects the premise of giving more powers to bureaucrats and less to communities.

The Government needs to put its 'I know best attitude' to one side and focus on policies that allows all New Zealanders, not just those in Wellington to grow and prosper.

Recent economic data shows the economy is losing momentum, which means that this is the worst possible time to impose new taxes.

Employment confidence surveys un-

dertaken by Westpac and ANZ highlight how many workers expect the economy to deteriorate. Businesses too have become gloomier about the economy and their own prospects. And according to the Reserve Bank's most recent quarterly survey, there is talk of cutting interest rates in order to support an economy that is slowing considerably under this Government.

Yet the Government's solution appears to be blind taxation. A case in point is the proposed Capital Gains Tax. Instead of honing in on the super wealthy as they say it does, a CGT would tax those saving for their retirement, investors, small business owners, farmers, and people on lifestyle blocks.

A weaker economy affects all New Zealanders: it means less money in your back pocket and underfunding for core services like health and education.

This should be a real warning sign for the Government. However, it has been all too willing to dismiss evidence that its policies are damaging New Zealand's economy.

National appreciates the highs and lows that the average working Kiwi goes through in their lifetime. That is why we have a proven track record as competent managers of the economy. National understands that it is the obligation of the Government to spend tax dollars responsibly and in a way that delivers results for all.

*From the offices of Sarah Dowie, MP*

**Across**

- 4. Inland sea bordering Azerbaijan (7)
- 7. Leask Homestead at Masons Bay (8)
- 8. Not artificial (7)
- 10. Savvy or sharp-witted (6)
- 11. Perched (3)
- 13. Revoke (6)
- 14. A mass of small loose stones covering a slope on a mountain (5)
- 17. Large cup (3)
- 18. Abnormal growth of tissue projecting from a mucous membrane (5)
- 19. Small parasitic arachnid (4)
- 21. Ayers Rock (5)
- 22. Fasten a door or gate (5)
- 23. Invercargill street and Scottish river (3)
- 24. Military control line between Indian and Pakistani Kashmir (1,1,1)
- 25. Shortened version of Isaac, Isaiah or Dwight (3)
- 26. Hello (2)
- 27. To transport or carry to a place (6)
- 30. Consume (3)
- 33. Backbone (5)
- 35. Fortified Maori village (2)

- 36. Spirit flavoured by juniper berries (3)
- 37. Poem (3)
- 40. Young goat (3)
- 41. A ruler who holds absolute power (6)
- 43. Bay near Chew Tobacco Point (6,3)
- 46. Australian Rules Football (1,1,1)
- 47. Solid, jelly-like materials (3)
- 48. Dense black hardwood (5)
- 50. Feline (3)
- 52. Sewing tool (6)
- 53. Flexible strip of leather for sharpening straight razors (5)

**Down**

- 1. Tiny (9)
- 2. The shape of a spheroid flattened at the poles (as in planet Earth) (6)
- 3. Measurement around the middle of something (eg. waist) (5)
- 4. 1/100 of a dollar (4)
- 5. An island seafood favourite (4,7)
- 6. Snowslide (9)
- 9. Powered fixed-wing aircraft (9)
- 12. Verbally disagree (5)
- 14. Smear (6)

- 15. Tumours or tumour-like masses on the gums (6)
- 16. Limp or floppy (7)
- 20. Unpleasant (4)
- 28. The lowest cardinal number (3)
- 29. A fleshy caruncle hanging from parts of the head or neck in birds such as roosters (6)
- 31. Nimble (5)
- 32. Connected with, influenced or powered by the rise and fall of the sea (5)
- 34. Of or relating to a foot (5)
- 38. Danish toy consisting mostly of interlocking plastic bricks (4)
- 39. To sterilize a female animal (4)
- 41. A sum of money that is owed or due (4)
- 42. Belonging to (2)
- 44. Second-hand (4)
- 45. Chemical element with the symbol Pb (4)
- 47. Firearm (3)
- 49. Egg of a headlouse (3)
- 51. Depart (2)

**Find the circled letters to spell a local business.**

	1		2		3		4			5		6	
7													
							8	9					
	10												
	11	12						13					
14				15		16							
17				18						19	20		
21								22					
23				24							25		
		26			27	28						29	
30	31	32		33	34							35	
	36				37			38		39			
40								41				42	
	43	44					45				46		
47							48		49			50	
							50					51	
52								53					

**Last month's solution:** Across: 1 Obituary, 5 Lorry, 8 FAA, 9 David, 11 Flatten, 13 Danforth, 14 To, 16 Skier, 17 Lami, 19 Aide de camp, 22 Koala, 23 Erebus, 25 Asunder, 29 Squall, 32 Lea, 33 Ode, 34 Time, 35 Contrail, 37 Skua, 38 Closet, 39 Nile, 41 Rain, 42 Mollusc, 44 Rye, 45 Strife, 46 Amend. Down: 2 Black house, 3 Undaria, 4 Ruffle, 5 Lattice, 6 Oath, 7 Rent, 8 Farmer, 10 Ideal, 12 Loader, 15 Or, 18 Emu, 20 Ablution, 21 Psalm, 24 Redouble, 25 Allen, 26 UAE, 27 Dock, 28 Rena, 29 Sarcasm, 20 Ails, 31 Leather, 36 Alice, 37 Semi, 40 ILT, 41 Rua, 43 Of, 44 RD. Highlighted words: Dark Sky

*Crossword puzzle created by Ben Hopkins*



Writing about the past season of monitoring yellow-eyed penguin breeding success is becoming a bit like Groundhog Day; “poor breeding success”, “downwards trend”, “continuing population decline” are recurring themes. So what did this look like at our monitored areas, the Anglem coast, Bravo islands, Whenua Hou |Codfish Island, and the Neck in 2019?

The Anglem coast sites Golden and Rollers beaches fledged 10 chicks from 12 nests and, with an average chick weight of 5.0kg, takes the prize for the best quality chicks from our monitored sites. The Bravo islands (Tommy, Groper, Goat, Crayfish and Refuge) fledged 12 chicks from 16 nests, with an average chick weight of 4.7kg. However, the prize for the heaviest chick overall goes to Goat Island with a 6.0kg fatty. Anyone remembering results from earlier in the season will notice that the nest numbers for both these areas are different from those reported in the November SIN – an additional nest was found at each in December.

By penguin monitoring standards these results from our two best areas are slightly lower than the expected average, and it gets worse. The Neck claims the lowest chick weight at 3.2kg from its single monitored nest and this chick isn't expected to have fledged. On Whenua Hou |Codfish Island 14 nest sites produced three chicks which survived as far as late January. However one weighed just 3.7kg and isn't expected to have fledged, so that makes a grand total of two chicks fledged from Whenua Hou |Codfish Island this season, with an average weight of 4.5kg. Only 10 years ago Whenua Hou |Codfish Island produced 54 chicks from 47 nests, showing the decline there is massive and rapid.

There are always bright spots however, and this season a juvenile was found on Crayfish Island. Sixteen micro-chipped adults were found, and all but two of these had been chipped as chicks, showing that there is at least some recruitment. Finally, some much needed research on what the penguins get up to at sea looks likely to occur around Rakiura |Stewart Island next season.

There was lots of support for the work again this season and the Trust would like to thank the following:

Volunteers - Dave Houston, Dean Nelson, Thomas Mattern, Kathryn Johnson, Tai Simpson, Jimmy Tulloch, Chloe Hamilton, Monty Williams, Tabi Kime, Niamh Edginton, and Annichje Riemersma. Supporters - the Department of Conservation (Murihiku and Rakiura), Rakiura Charters, Sanford Ltd (Stewart Island), Southern Institute of Technology, Stewart Island Flights, Aurora Charters, Rakiura Maori Land Trust (and especially contract workers Emily Barnett and Richard Wilson), Riverton Fishermans Coop, Talley's Fisheries, NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen, Urwin and Company Ltd, and Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust members.

*Sandy King*  
For the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

*All photos from Chloe Hamilton*



It's in the bag! Almost.



Bottoms up. How a chick gets weighed.



A juvenile yellow-eyed penguin.



An adult yellow-eyed penguin

# 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 \$180/day; conditions apply)

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



## Stewart Island Real Estate

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

See our website [TODDCO.NZ](http://TODDCO.NZ)  
or contact our local representative  
**Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589**  
for all Island real estate enquiries.

WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD, LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT (REAA 2008)

[TODDCO.NZ](http://TODDCO.NZ)

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you want Southland District Council to continue to manage your cleanfill and greenwaste at **Braggs Bay?**

SDC has applied to the regional council Environment Southland for resource consent to continue to discharge cleanfill and greenwaste at the Braggs Bay site for 10 more years.

The site has been used for this purpose since 2003.

This has proved to be an efficient solution in dealing with Stewart Island/Rakiura's cleanfill and greenwaste, and it has met the strict environmental standards required.

You are invited to send your feedback on Council's application to Environment Southland.

Submissions must be received by Environment Southland by 5pm on 6 May 2019.

Full details of this application and how to submit are available at [www.es.govt.nz/notices](http://www.es.govt.nz/notices)

**SOUTHLAND  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Te Rohe Pōtae o Murihiku



## RAKIURA PEST CONTROL

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

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

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

Need a

- **RESOURCE CONSENT?**
- **CONCESSION?**

Or just some advice about developing  
your property?

I CAN HELP you get 'over the regulatory hurdles' and find your way through the maze.

I specialise in applications under the Resource Management Act to both Southland District Council and Environment Southland - I can often help with matters under the Building Act and other legislation.

I can also help you prepare your application if you need a 'concession' for an activity from the Dept of Conservation.

*I have 40 years' experience in local government and 8 years' experience as a Planning and Environmental Consultant.*



WILLIAM J WATT CONSULTING LTD

027 495 9288

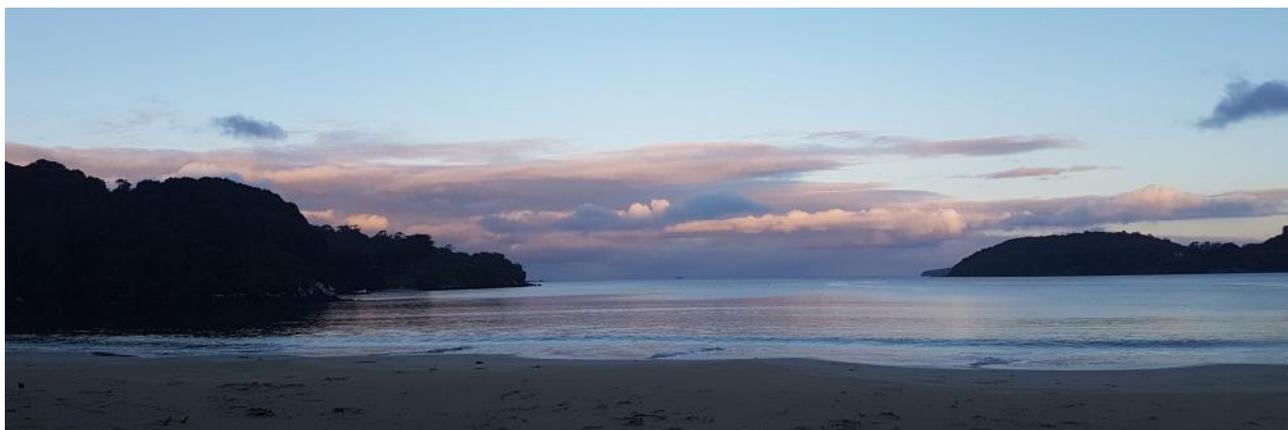
[williamwatt@outlook.co.nz](mailto:williamwatt@outlook.co.nz)

### Never is Forever

The women in our lives  
Are the carbon in our steel  
Her hand on the warrior's shoulder  
He would see what she could feel  
But mind-bound men in pointy castles  
Took her influence away  
Good men must help to fix this  
If we humans are to stay.

-Dick Langdon

## Church Chatter by Jo Riksem



**Bathing Beach in the pink.**

It is so wonderful to see love spreading throughout the country after the events in Christchurch. Our church had candles to light and a cuppa for those that wanted to come and send messages or donate to the families on the Saturday following and also donated the Sunday's collection to them. It was also lovely to see others in the community come out on the beach as well.

I would also like to thank all those who sent Rene, my daughter, and me messages in early March, at the death of Rene's husband, Keith, after a four year battle with cancer. A few words in a text, a hug or a smile can mean so much.

### Speakers for May 2019

**5 May. - Kylie Provan** - Kylie is the Stated Supply minister for St Davids Presbyterian at Edgecumbe in the Bay of Plenty. She has just finished her ministry training with the Presbyterian church and was formerly a tertiary chaplain in Auckland. Robert, her husband has two grown sons and a grandchild expected in June.

**12 & 19 May – Rev. Will & Rachel Cheeseman** – Will & Rachel have become regular speakers to our church and it is great to have them back for two Sundays.

**28 Apr. - Dr Rachel Trevathan** – That wonderful smile and laugh is always a pleasure when Rachel is here, another regular to the church on the hill.

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



# Stewart Island

## Star gazing

Ph Sandra 027 757 2166

2-hour experience, at a private location.

# Anzac Day 2019

**Poppy Day** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

**Anzac Day** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**0700hrs** **Parade will assemble outside Ship to Shore.**

**0715hrs** Parade marches to the Memorial  
Laying of Remembrance Wreath  
Public to lay poppies and wreaths

Readings of Official Messages  
Prayers  
HMB School talks  
Reading of the Ode  
Last Post, Minute's Silence observed & Reveille  
Parade dismissed



# KAI KART

**Hours:**

1130-3pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

530-830pm Monday–Sunday

I have a few **specials** on during the week

**Mars Bar Monday**

– deep fried Mars Bar \$3

**Waffle fry Wednesday**

– big scoop waffle fries \$8

**Curly Fry Friday**

– big scoop curly fries \$8

**Shoestring Sunday**

– big scoop shoestring fries \$8

These hours are until end of April.

From 1<sup>st</sup> of May I will be open on Friday and Saturday only 1130-230 and 5-8pm – and will see how it goes.

I want to say a **big thanks** for all your support, I have really enjoyed this new venture. I am especially grateful to the crew who have been helping me out – Hana, Tere (mumma T), Ed, Teri, Tai, Ange, George, and Molly and we have had a few other helpers - Sophie, Lynette, Andrew, Summer, Grace, Jen and Tam. Cheers Squirt and Ray for your help, it wouldn't have happened without you all. Thanks to Hilli and Jim and Holger for advice and support.



**The Rakiura Toy Library at Trail Park is up and running, thank you to everyone**

for donations, volunteering and general support.

**Every other Sunday:  
April 14th & 28th  
May 12th & 26th**

*Come and visit!*



**Happy 90th Birthday to Stewart Island girl Coe Hopkins (nee Armstrong)**  
*Photo by Margaret Hopkins*

# Ambergris



New Zealand's longest established dealer of Ambergris. AmbergrisNZ is wishing to buy all grades of Ambergris, please refer to our website: [www.ambergrisnz.co.nz](http://www.ambergrisnz.co.nz)

We are offering top New Zealand prices.

Contact: Terry & Wendy

Email: [info@ambergrisnz.co.nz](mailto:info@ambergrisnz.co.nz)

Or

Phone: 0274 991 881

# CONGRATULATIONS

New parents  
Emily & Dan  
Welcome baby girl  
Elsie Jean Lee



**Rakiura Marine Guardians**  
membership forms available now.  
If you'd like to join or want more information please contact: Rakiura Herzhoff  
0272898292  
[rherzhoff@outlook.com](mailto:rherzhoff@outlook.com)

**Our Boomerang Bags are made by local volunteers using materials diverted from landfill.**

**Please use these instead of plastic bags and remember to return them at your convenience for others to use.**



## Stewart Island Handyman Services

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance        | Wooden fences and decks  |
| Lawn mowing                          | General fencing          |
| Line trimming                        | General carpentry        |
| Section maintenance                  | Gutter cleaning          |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree pruning                         | Water blasting           |
| Tree removal                         | Spider proofing          |
| Chainsaw work                        |                          |
| Hedge trimming                       | And more - just ask      |
- Contact **Geoff**
- Phone 973 0959 (Local Number)  
Mobile 027 253 3106  
Email [handyman@acadia.co.nz](mailto:handyman@acadia.co.nz)



## Calling all Bird Lovers!

SIRCET is once again heading out into the night to begin another season of **Kiwi, Weka and Ruru (Morepork) monitoring** to gather information on the population health of these beautiful bird species in Halfmoon Bay.



We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in carrying out the bird call counts through the months of **April/May**.

The call counts involve a short training session, setting out before sunset on a calm evening, either on your own or with a team, making yourself comfortable at one of the monitoring sites, located near roads, and recording the calls of these three species you hear within a two hour period (~6.30-8.30pm).



To get involved contact **Wayne King** by sending an email to [administrator@SIRCET.org.nz](mailto:administrator@SIRCET.org.nz)



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to [stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)**

## Advertise in the STEWART ISLAND NEWS

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 crib owners, former residents, and other subscribers around the country and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too. So tell all of those people about your business! Contact editor for rates. [stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)

If you wish to have Stewart Island News sent to you or a friend, please fill out this form and send it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island 9846.

Or Direct deposit to Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 — please put your name as reference and don't forget to send me an email with your address.

- The cost is as follows:  
12 issues to an Oban address \$48  
12 issues to other New Zealand address \$66  
12 issues to international address \$96  
12 issues emailed \$36

Name of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_