

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

April—May 2011

\$2.50



*We will miss Murray Schofield. Our sincere condolences to his family.*

Grim is back, loitering around Herekopare and scarier than ever. (Grim the white pointer, not Grim Davis!) Sharks have hogged too many of the *SIN*'s front pages so you'll have to look inside this month for some toothy pictures. See DoC Spot on page 10 to read about shark team Kina and Clinton's tagging efforts this season. Shark cage diving is now operating in Foveaux Strait and was featured on TV3's Campbell Live. Ian Wilson was interviewed and spoke his mind as a local paua diver in these waters.

Speaking of creatures that can sneak up on you at sea... MaF and the Navy have been spending time in these environs. The Navy has boarded at least two local vessels,

so fishermen: make sure your ducks are in order.

Trampers near North Arm Hut were not impressed to find they were sharing the trail with two Jack Russells. The scampering scamps were apprehended and the situation resolved in court (p10).

This issue contains Lil Skipper's obituary (p6); the proposed wave power scheme (p3); Jahdan's sailing adventure (p8); Les Pullen's prize in Oz (p14); more Wondrous Tales from the Tuk Tuk (p5); immunisation (p2, 14); school news (p13) *and more.*

The island was rocked by news of the boating tragedy in Doubtful Sound. It was terrible to hear of Bluff fisherman Jason Cowan's death and Dan Young's horrific injuries. Dan has many friends on the Island who are immensely relieved to hear he is on the mend. If you'd like to help Dan and Ange there's a collection tin at the shop.

Moby is lately fixated on a board book called *The Going to Bed Book*. It features a menagerie of animals on a boat doing various silly things. Like most baby books it doesn't have a strong plot. They all have a bubble bath, brush their teeth, exercise, and then clamber below to go to bed. I've read it so many times that the last words are a strangely moving mantra in my head. I will exorcise them here:

*The Moon is high  
the Sea is deep  
They rock  
and rock  
and rock  
to sleep.*

Have a wonderful and safe Easter weekend.



PHOTO: Jeanette Mackay

Steve Lawrence affixes a mast riding light to the top of the steeple. You may have noticed an extra twinkle in the sky over our township: it's the new light on the Oban Presbyterian Church. See more on page 9.

### Remember the Gumboot Theatre? Do you want the movie theatre to open? Then read on!

Hi it's Aussie Pete here,

I am hoping to open the Island's theatre next season (Yes – movies for Locals).

To be able to do this I need to create a short film that provides tourists with an understanding of Stewart Island life. The film will have a similar style to the Gumboot Theatre. Nikki will even be providing the voice over.

To create the film, I need your help in finding film footage (or photos) about what life is really like on the Island, from the good times (e.g., Cray boats full of fish, the Demolition Derby, social events on the water front, etc) to the hard times (e.g., Boats full of salmon after the algae bloom, Boats on rocks, Cars on rocks, sea lions hogging the toilet, the generator days, etc) and in between times (e.g. underwater footage, wild bird life, etc).

Everything will be appreciated and also needed to make the movie theatre happen. So if you have it, I need it.

*Cheers, Aussie Pete*

Ph. 027 867 9381  
[oznzpete@hotmail.com](mailto:oznzpete@hotmail.com)

(Please note I will be leaving the Island on 6 May 2011 and hope to make the film over the winter months whilst in Melbourne)

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**LETTERS to the EDITOR**

Dear Editor

I recently attended the community presentation given by Southland's Immunisation Coordinator Rachel Hall and Paediatrician Dr Vili Sotutu on Immunisation. This is a very important and topical issue, especially for parents of babies and young children, as there is a lot of information to digest when making the decision to immunise or not to immunise.

In New Zealand we are fortunate that vaccines are free and available for a wide number of diseases that in other parts of the world where vaccines are not available have devastating impacts on the health and mortality of whole communities. Dr Sotutu has had 21 years experience in Paediatrics, specialising in vaccines, having worked all over the world in both the first and third world countries. He has seen first hand the disturbing impacts of Tetanus, Measles, Hepatitis B, etc and has spent many years studying the pros and cons of immunisations.

I was therefore (along with most others in the room) very much looking forward to hearing what Dr Sotutu and Ms Hall had to say and having the opportunity to ask questions. Consequently, it was extremely infuriating that the presentation was then 'high-jacked' by a local resident whose lengthy and irrational outbursts ruined the presentation for all. This resident continued to rant in such a way and about such non-related topics that the flow of the presentation was lost pretty much from the onset and subsequently much of the information was not given. Any opportunity for others (especially those with small children) to ask questions was also lost by the continued interruption of this one resident, whose behaviour was embarrassing, inappropriate and socially rude.

The anti-immunisation drive is gaining popularity worldwide especially with the backing of some A-list ce-

lebrities. There are also those who believe that immunisations are part of a larger conspiracy by international drug companies to push non-essential and harmful products onto consumers. I think that those people, some of whom were at the presentation, have a right to their opinion, a right to ask questions of the professionals. It is good to put those concerns out there in a polite way so that they can be discussed rationally and people can make an informed decision for themselves.

One aspect of the presentation that I was particularly interested in and which got rushed through due to the interruptions of others was that of Herd Immunity. This is where if there is a small percentage of the community that are not immunised, they are generally protected by the larger immunised group. However, if this balance tips and there is larger group of non-immunised people within the community then Herd Immunity ceases to exist and the community as a whole is put at risk of contracting these preventable diseases. This is particularly true for a small place such as Stewart Island, where it does not take a large number of people to decide not to immunise for the balance to tip, and particularly as we are subjected to a large number of tourists each year who bring in various forms of disease and whose health we cannot control.

I think that it is real shame that the presentation was not heard in its entirety especially for those who are currently having to make the decision for their child. I applaud Debs and Marty for taking the initiative to bring the issue into the public discussion arena. I would also like to publically apologise to Dr Sotutu and Ms Hall for the behaviour of a few, for most of us we were and still are interested in what you have to say.

*Jo Learmonth*



To the (charming) wonderful people of Stewart Island

Our sincere thanks for the warm wel-

come, and for making us feel like a part of your community. Being from Canada, we thought that assisting our daughter Serena Kuhni and our future son-in-law Chris Dawson with their wedding would be extremely difficult. We were mistaken! We found an abundance of kindhearted individuals offering their help. Their generousities are unequalled.

Special thanks to Allan and Colleen Dawson for their kindness, generosity and for welcoming us as family, your support truly added to making Chris and Serena's wedding memorable. Helen Cave, for constantly going out of her way to lend a hand, your big-heartedness was overwhelming. Stewart Island Experience, the extraordinary bridal party, Thorston, the kitchen, bar and serving staff, the Lions Club and each and every one of you amazing people. Your support made our time on the island and wedding exceptional.....what else can we say? May your kindness come back to you tenfold!

Thank you Dawson family, friends and the Stewart Island community for embracing our daughter Serena as one of your own, it makes the distance between Canada and New Zealand a little more tolerable knowing she is loved and cared for.

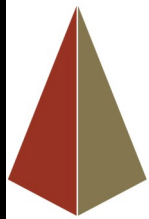
Stewart Island possesses a magnetic natural beauty, but it does not hold a candle to the people that makes the island truly great. Wishing you continued strength; good health and an everlasting appreciation for the exquisiteness of the island and its people. May your lives be filled with lots of love and laughter. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!

*Gunter, Nadia and Ryan Kuhni*



Hello from sunny Waikouaiti, I am trying to find a photo of John for a family book I am writing. He was the Headmaster at Halfmoon Bay School from 1935 - 1943 then retired to the Island in 1949 where he remained until his death in 1967. The Museum does not hold a photo of him. I wondered if it would be possible to place

*(Continued on page 3)*



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**Bonisch Consultants  
have a Land Surveyor and  
a Civil Engineer  
working on the Island  
from the 10th to the 13th of May.**

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engineering assistance  
please call Craig Ireland on  
**0274-753 102**  
to arrange an appointment  
or contact him at  
**craig@bonischconsultants.co.nz****

(LETTERS *Continued from page 2*)

a small article in your publication asking if any of the locals may have a photo of him please. Thank you, Regards

Allan Steel  
21A Kildare St,  
Waikouaiti, 9510.a  
03 465 8246



After 52 years and many previous attempts my wife and I recently managed a visit to your Island.

We stayed at the hotel and were in room 6 which overlooks a vacant section cluttered with rubbish. On making enquiries about this section I was surprised to hear from locals that the section has been in this condition for quite some time and no one has taken the time to tidy it up.

If this person is a local then I feel that he or she has no pride in the town or Island and is doing no favour for other caring people on the Island or tourists.

If my letter manages to excite someone to clean up the mess then it is my way of thanking the people of Oban for their hospitality.

Your truly,  
Gordon Bruce  
Tauranga

## Wave Power Scheme Proposed for Island

*by Erica Donovan*

Stewart Island presents an ideal place to launch a new wave power scheme but don't expect a cut in power prices, developer Kevin McGrath says.

But is wave power what we need? That was the question on everyone's lips at the Tangaroa Energy wave power public meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Mr McGrath says it would be a win-win situation for his company and the Island, but would not be bringing electricity prices down, a fact that disappointed many locals.

Mr McGrath and his Norwegian company investors want Stewart Island to be part of a pilot scheme that will bring a new kind of wave power to New Zealand.

The technology is not new overseas, with wave power being utilised in Norway, Scotland, Britain and Australia.

The difference is that while some systems are huge and fixed to the sea floor, Mr McGrath's company is proposing a floating structure off Ackers Point.

The structure would be connected to the sea floor by an umbilical cord and then have an underwater cable that ran to the Island, he said.

The company would trial a smaller size structure, if that is a success then a larger 25x25 meter one would be installed permanently, he said.

"A full scale unit could power the whole of Stewart Island," he said.

At the moment the Island is powered by diesel but in the future this may not be possible, he said.

"At the moment the price of fuel is \$100 per barrel... fuel is a finite resource," he said.

In light of the recent nuclear crisis and global warming, governments are looking into environmentally friendly ways of harnessing energy, he said.

The success or failure of the project ultimately rests in the hands of government and the marine energy deployment fund.

The main concern from the community was the technology is still untested and money may be used and no benefit gained.

The statement was made that if it is valid to put in a cable 12km, why can a cable not be connected to Bluff.

Questions were raised about the ecological impact on oyster dredging and if how marine growth on the underwater cable would be handled.

There was also issues around who would be selling the power and what the price of electricity would be.



## New Museum One Step Closer

by Margaret Hopkins

Rakiura Heritage and Information Centre Trustees this week spent two days interviewing architects shortlisted for the concept design phase of the new Museum, Information Centre and Council Office. Nine architects from Auckland to Invercargill had put in expressions of interest for the project and the RHICT had shortlisted four of these.

'It was not an easy task' explained Margaret Hopkins, Chairperson of the RHICT. 'All the applicants were of a very high standard with varying degrees of experience in Museum and Information Centre design work.'

The decision on the winning architect will be announced early next week and it is expected that within the next two months the RHICT will have a draft concept plan to consider. Once the Trust is happy with the design then a public meeting will be held to outline proposals.

There will also be the opportunity for residents to talk one on one with the architect and Trustees to discuss any issues. The site for the new building is on land owned by the New Zealand Fire Service Commission beside the Fire Station and the Department of Conservation, which several of the architects considered to be an 'exciting site with great potential and ideally situated within the foot traffic area of the township.'



All are welcome to a meeting on

### BIOSECURITY

7:30pm  
28th April

at the

Community Centre



**Stewart Island Land SAR** volunteers John Maylo (left) and Dale Chittenden, took time to try out the group's new hand-held radios at a recent training night.

**The group meets for training on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Fire Station.**

Numbers have dwindled a bit over recent months, however as the team that went to assist in the aftermath of the Christchurch Earthquake can attest, good training is vital when it comes to dealing with emergencies. Knowing what to do and how to do it can alter the outcome of a situation and when you are talking search and rescue that difference can be between life and death. It is essential that those sent out to search and those running the operation know what is expected of them. Training is fun (as you can tell from the grins on John and Dale's faces) and **everyone is welcome - you don't have to be member to come along!**

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[www.ruralwomen.org.nz](http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz)  
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YES we have the new Jean Auel book *The Land of the Painted Caves*.



This is book six of the Earth's Children series which began in 1980 with *Clan of the Cave Bear*. Book Five, *Shelters of Stone*, was published in 2002.

Is this book worth the nine-year wait for Earth's Children fans? You be the judge.

## *Wondrous Tales from the Tuk Tuk*

### *To Earn A Crust Around Here as a Tuk Tuk Driver!*

*by The Mother Tucker*

The other day I saw two women checking out the tuk tuk as they do.

One of the women had a zimmer frame and I thought to myself "here are two potential customers!"

After their meal they wandered outside a stood by the tuk tuk. I rubbed my hands together and thought "Ha ... easy money!"

So I went over and introduced myself and started discussing the price with the younger of the two. To my surprise the one with the zimmer frame was a lot harder customer than I first anticipated! She was a spritely spirit for her age and stature, and still had a hell of a lot of kick still left in her.

The daughter in-law insisted that she should take the tuk tuk home as she was staying at one of Deb's places up the end of Kaka Ridge Rd. The daughter in-law was trying to keep out of monster in-law's ear shot, but "boy mother in-law could still hear a pin drop a mile away!", and insisted that she was ok and the she was happy to walk and needed the exercise anyway!

I thought I may have to change my game plan and with this one? I knew she wasn't going to be coming easily! So in my sweetest voice I said to mother in-law. "Mama I don't want to get the ropes out and have to wrestle you to the ground and hog tie you!"

I then winked at her to acknowledge that she would be a fighter and harder to take down, and that I might be the one that comes worse off! But I was prepared to do it if needed!

Mother in-law smiled at me and appreciated the banter and the negotiation skills and kindly got in the tuk tuk.

Then it took me a few more minutes to convince daughter in-law that I was able to take her as well, and that she had to have to hold onto the zimmer frame across her lap. After packing them both in along with the zimmer frame we sped off from the pub & laughed all the way home. This reminded me of the old nursery rhyme :

*This little piggy went to the market  
This little piggy stayed home  
And this little piggy had roast beef  
And this little piggy had none  
And this little piggy went wee wee wee all the way home*

Remember how cute your kids were when doing this to them and the laughter and joy it brought to their faces as well as your own! Well this is what it took to taking them both safely home.

Later on during the week I was blessed to have met the rest of the family. They had just completed the Rakuria Track. I relayed the yarn to them all and how tough their Grandma was to get her in the back of the tuk tuk. With hugs and well wishes from the family I said my good byes to them all.

The moral of this story is that you never count your chickens before they hatch & never judge a book by its cover!

This mother in-law was truly an inspiration to me and I hope when I reach her age that I still have that fight still left in me.

Oh well I better hit the road once again and get back to tucking around, catch up with you all later! *The Mother Tucker*





# Lilian May Skipper

29/1/1914 — 18/2/2011



Lilian May Skipper, Lil to all her Island friends, passed away peacefully on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. As news of her death rippled round Halfmoon Bay, we Islanders shared our sense of loss. "An era had ended." A matriarch had gone, an upright, good woman, an enthralling raconteuse, whose memories of Island life were a living link back to the days when there was still a community at Pegasus and the fish freezer there

was in use.

Lilian May Skipper, nee Small, was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 1914, at Lumsden. Her parents, Charlie and Jessie, were farmers there, moving later to Waimea and then to Grove Bush, where Lil and her older brother Herbert attended the local school. By the time the family moved to Makarewa, the family of 4 children was complete: two boys, Herbert and Leslie, and two girls, Lil and Doreen, the youngest

A further shift took them to Invercargill – to Crinan Street. The four children attended South School. Father worked for the Invercargill City Corporation and Mother went out to work doing laundry for other people. Later, during the Depression, Lil's mother took in boarders to help make ends meet. At an early age, Lil knew the reality of hard work.

Like so many of her generation, her schooling was cut short by the necessity to support her family. At age 14 Lil left school to care for her mother who had been seriously injured in a tramcar accident. Caring for her mother involved, of course, taking on the tasks of looking after the whole family.



Aged 15, she went to work at the Southland Laundry and Dye Works in Bowmont Street where she stayed for nine years, working with nine other women and two men. After seven years there she reached the position of "Head Girl" Supervisor

Swimming and dancing were favourite pastimes for this energetic lass, who retained

into sprightly old age a slender, upright silhouette, the envy of much younger fry. Lil loved dancing! She told of going to dances, often biking some distance to the dance halls, on **Friday night, Saturday night, Monday night and Wednesday night**. This caused her parents some consternation but to one young gentleman in particular, Max Skipper, by name, who met her at one of these gatherings, it was a great delight.



Belltopper Falls, Pegasus.

Before her marriage, Lil had visited Stewart Island several times with friends, her first visit coinciding with the funeral of Hans Nilsen. Why, she wanted to know, were all those boats clustered together in Leask Bay? This was Lil's introduction to the moving Island tribute to one of its own who had passed away. Little did Lil suspect that day that Hans Nilsen's son, Bruce would stand as best man to her future husband. Max and Lil were married on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 1939 in St Paul's manse, Invercargill, Lil's sister Doreen their bridesmaid.



How many people can fit in one dinghy!? "The gang" at Whaler's Base.



Nightingale at Pegasus

The happy couple spent the winter months of that year at Pegasus where the fishermen were bringing their blue cod catches in to be processed at the Freezer. Pegasus was a busy little village with several families living there and fishing boats calling in frequently.

On her return to Halfmoon Bay, Lil faced the necessity of setting off to Invercargill to await the birth of her first child. She and Baby Maureen returned to the Island and the following year Mother and Babe made the trip south to Pegasus for another fishing season.

Life for Lil was always full.

The Lions Club and Country



Lil with May Nilsen





Lil and Max with little Maureen. Behind them on the right is the old police station.

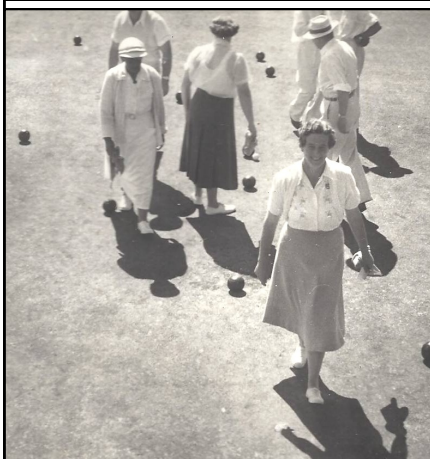
Women’s Institute benefited from her long and committed membership. Her grandchildren remember her helping with Lions Club barbecues at Moturau

savage easterly blow, Lil would turn up at Garden Circle with an exquisite bloom that knocked the battered offerings of the rest of us into the shade.

As the years rolled by, this lovely lady, who had helped so many, became the recipient of help from many others. In particular, the Fabulous Five, Pat King, Ann Pullen, Margaret Rooney, Kerry Squire and Barbara Wilson, provided sustained loving care and friendship for an increasingly fragile but gracious lady. In the words of Margaret Rooney Lil gave her two precious gifts – her time and her friendship.



At a dance hall.



Island bowling tournament. Lil is in forefront; behind her to the left are “Ma Fife” and Molly Smith.

Moana when the Linblad Explorer used to visit the Island in the late 1970’s.

She cooked for the children of friends, when parents were away or ill or awaiting the arrival of another baby. With son-in-law Ted away fishing and Maureen working in the shop, Lil provided a cooked lunch every school day for her three grandchildren

Our Island nurses, Debs and Marty, cared for Lil, with compassion, understanding, superb professional expertise and common sense. Inevitably the time came when Lil’s safety and wellbeing required that she move off island and into residential care. A painful transition was eased by the love and ongoing support of many friends, who visited her at Warmasley House, maintaining the bonds of friendship and respect forged by a lifetime of giving to others.



Val Johnson, Molly Smith & Lil



At the Ob Rock tea kiosk.

Lil loved sport. She was a member of the Island’s RSA Bowling Club where she played “a mean bowl”. With Max she went to Invercargill as a member of the Is-



Lil (right) with her sister Doreen.

land Badminton Club. In later years she played darts “with a good eye and throw”. An abiding passion was Rugby, a passion she indulged by signing up for Sky TV.

Rest in peace, Lil, and garden in glory.

Then there were Friday nights at the Pub. In those pre-politically correct days, the Geriatric Table, so named, was reserved for the senior citizens who came in to enjoy conviviality and the fun of Raffle night

**Blessing For Lil**

*May calm be widespread,  
May the sea glisten like greenstone  
And the warmth of eternal summer  
fall upon you.*

Lilian May was aptly named. She loved flowers and cherished her garden. In the long years of her widow-

hood – for she lost her beloved Max when she was only 56 – her garden was a great solace. Resolute and independent, she gardened on in all weathers. Her garden produced magnificent blooms. In the depths of winter or after a

*Thanks to Raylene Waddell for writing this, and to Maureen Jones for sharing her lovely family photographs.*



Dressed in the height of fashion.



Ninetieth Birthday Party



*During the summer holidays Halfmoon Bay School were generously offered an all expenses paid trip for one our senior students aboard the Elwing. Huge thanks to Arthur and Barbara White for their generosity. Jahdan Sooalo was chosen for the trip. Jahdan is in Year 7, he is the leader of the school kapahaka group, a hard-working student and an awesome role model for the younger students.*

—Kath Johnson



needs help with. She's friendly and kind to other people.

On the way to the other end of the island we stepped through slimy seaweed it was gross. Matthew said that it might have crabs in it. But we made it! Then it started to rain on us so we took some shel-

## Elwing Times

*by Jahdan Sooalo*

It felt good to be back on Elwing. It was calm, the water was warm, the area was sheltered. Me and some of my friends had a swim. Matthew jumped in first, I jumped in second, Nigel came in third, Sam jumped in forth. That was cool. We had a lot of laughs.

Later that day we slipped our wetsuits on and went to a rock beach. Arthur gave us a mask and a snorkel. We got in the water and we went snorkeling. Arthur gave us a few tips. "Look down so you can see things". "Blow out water out of your snorkel" and "Defog your mask when you need to".



I was the third one to get back to Elwing and I got on board and jumped over the side into the water 2 or 3 times. Then we got dressed and we got our lifevests on and started the engine and traveled to another place.

Later in the afternoon we were approaching a strange Island. It looked familiar. I told Arthur "Is that Mudflat Island?" Arthur said "Yes that is Mudflat Island we are going there to get cockles".

Oops I forgot to mention Karin. she is a helper on Elwing. She helps Arthur with things that he

ter under the trees.

Then Arthur told us to have some quiet time and close our eyes and think about nature. The rain was quite massaging but I got soaked. My vision went blue for a few seconds and then we made our way back to the dingy.

The next morning I got up on deck and I got in my shorts and I jumped in the water. It was freezing!

It was like ice! I'm glad I'm not in the Antarctic!

Later in the day we are in a bay called Sawdust Bay we are kayaking to the beach. Me and Sharny are the only 2 people that are almost there. Me and Sharny were chatting to each other while paddling. We are the 2 fastest kayakers so far.

We landed on the beach. Arthur and Karen were already there. Now we are going to the first rangers old letter box. It is pretty cool to see the letter box again. But it was a bit overgrown. On the way back when we got in the dingy Nigel got clotheslined by a

tree that was hanging over the side of the river. "You got to say that was funny don't you agree?"





**Oban Presbyterian Church  
Let There Be Light !!**

*by Raylene Waddell*

“Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have a light on the top of the steeple for Christmas,” suggested a senior member of our congregation brightly last November.

“Oh, ah, ...yes,” we agreed cautiously, wondering how and what and more particularly who...

“We’ll ask Jed for advice,” we said. And we did.

“Oh, ah, .... yes,” said Jed. “I’ll need to think about that.” And he did. He came up with the solution to how and what and more particularly who.

“Oh, ah, .... yes,” said Steve. “I think that I can do that.” And he did!



The photo shows the how and the who. The what is a mast riding light. Clever Jed! And brave Steve! Thanks, boys, and bless you.

Seriously, we love our new steeple light. And we love the fact that so many locals have told us that they love it too. Just as the church is opened every day and folk are welcome to visit, so the light will be switched on each evening.

*When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. Micah, 7:8*

**Here’s a thought.**

If you have friends or family in Christchurch, send them a parcel of goodies (chocolates, baking etc.) for Easter. We are so blessed to live here, and so many have

so many problems living there. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army would also welcome all the help you can give.

**Easter Services**

**Good Friday**            **8 p.m.**  
**Easter Sunday**        **11 a.m.**

**To mark the crucifixion of Jesus and in solidarity with all those who are suffering at this time, the light will remain unlit on the nights of Good Friday and Easter Saturday.**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the **Stewart Island Getaway** Auction on trademe. The final bid was \$1420, so after trademe's \$70 fee, another \$1350 has been deposited into the Red Cross Earthquake Appeal. The winners are Graham and Maureen from Wellington and they'll be here on the 30th April for four nights (or maybe more!). Keep an eye out for them, they're really looking forward to their trip!—*Vicki Coats*

**Thanks go to:**

- Stewart Island Flights
- Pilgrim Cottage
- Glendaruel
- Stewart Island Tees
- Ship to Shore
- Rakiura Kayaks
- Seaview Watertaxis
- Glowing Sky
- Lindsay & Lorraine Squires
- Beverly Osbourn
- Ruggedy Range
- Rakiura Adventure
- Townsmen Motor Lodge
- The Fernery
- Real Journeys

**the GALLEY**

*There is an email recipe chain circulating amongst Islanders, here is one from Gwen Neave:*



This is a tasty lazy fish dish that looks posh and is made so quickly.

**Camembert Fish**

- Place fillets of Blue Cod in a lightly greased dish.
- Layer Camembert cheese slices on top with a sprinkling of garlic granules and herbs if desired.
- Cover with layer of fillets and add herbs, lemon zest, pepper etc again if desired
- Pour over white wine – sufficient to moisten – and/or lemon juice.
- Bake 15-20 mins in moderate oven – do not overcook.
- Sprinkle with parsley or similar.

Enjoy - Delicious!



**DOC Spot**

*by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager  
Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor*

**Dog owner prosecuted**

Earlier this month DOC staff attended the Invercargill District Court for a Status Hearing to discuss a Stewart Island resident’s intended defended hearing into two charges of allowing his two Jack Russell dogs to go into Rakiura National Park, last December. After listening to the issues surrounding the case, District Court Judge Flatley quickly indicated to the defendant that he would have a hard job to convince the court that he had done all he could to ensure the dogs did not escape his property. Judge Flatley also added that if the matter went to court and the defendant was found guilty he would lose any credit relating to sentencing and would be facing larger fines than by pleading guilty now.

After speaking further with his solicitor the defendant pleaded guilty to both charges. The judge convicted him on both charges and, rather than impose a fine, ordered the defendant to pay DOC \$750 towards the prosecution costs. This related to staff having to search the area and locating the dogs some 29 hours after they had gone missing. The judge informed the defendant that he expected the Department would lay further charges if there was any future offending and that he would be likely to receive substantial fines as a result.

The Department's decision to take this prosecution was not made lightly. There have been ongoing issues with dogs from the defendant’s property entering Rakiura National Park over the past several years and this case indicates just how serious the Department regards this type of offending.

**2011 White Shark Research**

A combined Department of Conservation (DOC), National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and Auckland University research team returned to Stewart Island / Rakiura

in March to continue their studies into the behaviour of White Sharks, also known as Great Whites or White Pointers. Aims of this year’s trip were to:

- Deploy 25 acoustic receivers (attached to moorings, for which Environment Southland

(ES) consent has been granted for 2 years)

- Deploy up to 25 acoustic tags on sharks off the NE Titi islands and Ruapuke Island;
- Continue with photo-identification work, commenced in 2006

The Department’s vessel Hananui was again used for this work and during their 17 days down south, from March 21 – April 6, the team successfully deployed 24 of the 25 moorings with acoustic receivers – unfortunately the mooring to be sited at Fish Rock sunk, however it has been located and local staff will attempt to retrieve it over the coming weeks. Twenty-five sharks were tagged with acoustic transmitters, including one that was double tagged with an additional pop-off archival transmitting (PAT) satellite tag. A large female shark, previously tagged in 2009 was also fitted with a second PAT tag. This shark, nicknamed ‘Ella’ was tracked to Queensland and a group of sea mounts south of the Chesterfield Islands in the Coral Sea in 2009/10. Her tag popped off in January 2010. If her tag goes the distance this year it will be the first time the team has tracked the same shark from Stewart Island back to the tropics.

From research to date it is known that most of the sharks return to New Zealand, but as yet it is unknown whether they return to the same tropical destinations year after year. A large number of sharks sighted in 2010 were re-sighted again this year, however the team are still working their way through the video footage to determine just how many individual sharks were sighted this year.

While the team was here a pop-off tag



The shark team in action - Phred Dobbins waits with the tagging pole for the next shark to appear.  
Photo: Antje Leseberg.





was recovered from Ruapuke Island. The tag had remained on the shark for 368 days, before popping off in Foveaux Strait between the Saddle / Bishops area – the shark was later re-sighted around the titi islands.

The research team also hosted two film crews during their tagging trip this year: *Campbell Live*, which is due to screen a segment about the research in the week before Easter; as well as a segment for Craig Potton’s *Wild Coast* series, which is due to screen later this year.

The research team would like to thank Southern Seafoods for once again allowing them freezer space and also Chris Dillon who came to the team’s rescue on a number of occasions fixing technical problems with their camera.

**Ulva Island Update**

**Resource Consent Lodged** - A resource consent application has been lodged with Environment Southland for the Department to undertake an aerial drop over Ulva Island and outlying islets using Brodifacoum. Environment Southland has notified this consent allowing anyone to make a submission. Submissions must be lodged by the 27<sup>th</sup> April. May 11 & 12 have been set aside for the hearings. Forms can be downloaded from the ES website. ES runs a good process and we believe they will be a good independent evaluator of our proposed methods and controls. We encourage everyone to make a submission (in support or expressing your concerns), so that ES can fully evaluate this application.



These photos of Grim are from this year’s trip (copyright Kina Scollay). They were taken at Herekopare (Te Marama) Island, Muttonbird Islands, on 28 March 2011. He was tagged at the Bunker Islets, Muttonbird Islands on 29 March 2010. The SPOT tag attached to his dorsal fin is visible in both images.

**Biosecurity** - A meeting to discuss biosecurity is to be held in the Stewart Island Community Centre on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7.30pm. Biosecurity is the term given to all actions taken to keep an island pest free. On Ulva Island it consisted of traps and bait stations on the island, traps on people’s boats, quarantine procedures for gear going to Ulva, signage and regular publicity. While the biosecurity network on the island was effective at preventing a rat population establishing for 15 years, it has failed this time round. This has prompted lots of people to have ideas on how it could be improved to further reduce the chances of this situation occurring again. We would like to capture all of these ideas, so please bring them along to the meeting.



## SEASON WRAP UP FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

*by Kirsten Hicks*

The keen gardeners of the local community garden are quietly celebrating a successful first summer. The beans climbed over the fence, the courgettes multiplied, the herbs thrived & the scatterings of empty pea pods about the place proved that they were a hit too! We have been so fortunate in having great soil to begin with (thanks again Lions & Quiz Night). We have had rocks delivered, two very attractive signs created, beds built and a worm farm donated, all thanks to a supportive community. In turn we have been able to give back to the community – spuds, beans, kumi kumi, peas, radishes, cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli, courgettes, lettuce, silver-beet, herbs...

Although we are slowing down over the winter (taking our cue from Nature) we will still be pottering around with some winter veges. The compost bins will still be composting so if you live nearby and wish to donate feel free (no meat scraps or citrus please). And because gardeners are always thinking at least a season ahead, we need to know who would be interested in receiving the gift of the odd cabbage or lettuce in the future!

### BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford "Family Ties" by Wendy Robertson

Four generations of women at the centre of this story: the harsh-seeming matriarch, Kate, approaching her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday as the story unfolds in 1991; her daughter, Rosa, born during the war and who – having suffered from an 'unseen nervous breakdown' (what we would call 'post traumatic stress') – goes on to make a mercifully brief marriage to a dull, older man (mercifully for Rosa that is, not for the husband who dies!) before emerging as a gifted writer; there's Bronwen, Rosa's daughter, who finds herself a mother by the time she's 16 so has to defer her education until she is 'a mature student'; Lily, Bronwen's daughter, a self-contained teenager who is beginning to wonder who her father might be.

There are men in the lives of these women. First, there's gentle Rob, Kate's husband, who works away during the war, and who – by his premature death – causes Rosa's breakdown. There's Charlie, Rosa's scapegrace brother, eventually a gifted musician in a small way. And there's Brock, the baby who suddenly appears in their lives. He's an acknowledged brother, but Rosa knows this isn't so – though who he is, where he comes from, is a mystery. Something happens to Brock, to which only Rosa seems privy, and he disappears suddenly from their everyday lives to pursue a free-wheeling (and dealing) life in France and Russia. He keeps in touch with his "brother" and his "mother" by letter, but never writes to Rosa.

Then Bronwen, embarking on life as a mature student, is at the local university in Durham – the North of England city where the story takes place

– and meets ex-pat English-American Richard who is to supervise her dissertation. This dissertation is on aspects of the second war, involving interviewing school children and their elders. Bronwen and her professor fall in love despite though Richard has a happy marriage on the other side of the Atlantic. Ah-ha! Tears before bedtime? The family meets not only Richard but his eerily alike twin-brother, a forestry worker in Cumbria. That's when Kate starts to be haunted by images of Brock, missing from the family now, but due to return to attend Kate's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party. And Lily sets about tracking down her missing father.

There seems to be one unfathomable secret: Brock. You think you have a handle on it, then you don't, then a new possibility crops up only to go up in smoke in the next chapter.

The story is wonderfully written with each of the four women being beautifully drawn. Any one of them could be the central character – but each relies upon the other for her characteristics. It does chop and change back and forth through time, but even that is handled with care and attention. Eventually, of course, enough loose ends are tied off for the story to make sense without a weird fairy-tale "and they all lived happily ever after" ending. All the mysteries are solved – except one: who was Cy? I do hate it when an author seems to leave a character behind! The only thing that would reconcile me to the lack of information on Cy would be if Wendy Robertson wrote another book, this time with Cy at the centre and Kate being a bit-part character! Otherwise, this is the romantic novel of the month, enough family suspense to keep you turning pages.



**Halfmoon Bay School has been on fire with sports this term.**

*by Poppy LeQuesne*

During term one the students at Halfmoon Bay School have been trained by Holger and Lorne (an athletic coach who helps primary schools in athletics) in their expertise of athletics. We are very grateful and we thank them very much.



On the 9th of March the whole school went to Southern Zone Athletics at Surrey Park. We had some great scores. Logan got 1st in everything except 800m where he got 2nd!; Sophie 1st in discus; Billy 1st in 100m and 60m and 2nd in quoit; Storm 2nd in 60m and Poppy got 1st in shotput and 800m and 2nd in discus. These were only some of the results. Also scoring placings were Timu, Wini and Leeym.



Poppy, Sophie, Logan, Billy and Storm then qualified to go to the Southland Primary Schools Athletics Champs at Surrey Park on the 2nd of April. Southland Athletics was a great achievement, with Sophie getting 3rd in discus, Billy 9th in 60m and 100m, and Logan getting 5th in 200m, 4th in high jump, 6th in discus and 10th in long jump.

After these successes in athletics on land we hit the pool.



On the 18th of March, 11 students went to the Southern Zone Swimming Sports at Gorge Road. The students got amazing placings. Storm 1st in 50m backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle; Poppy 2nd in 50m breaststroke; George 3rd in 25m backstroke; Logan 2nd in 50m freestyle and 3rd in 50m breaststroke and backstroke; and Billy 3rd in 50m freestyle. At the end of the day all the schools did a 200m relay with each swimmer swimming 50m. Our relay team (Logan, Poppy, Jahdan, and Storm) did really well getting 3rd.

Congratulations Halfmoon Bay School and we hope you get as amazing scores as these next year.

**RAKIURA RIDDLE**

When I call by I often find	I'm full of knots but own no rope	I don't fly coach	almost out of room!)
You've shut the door and drawn the blinds	I shriek and howl but I haven't a throat	I'm an icy pilot I steer myself North	Think of the definition of <i>motherly</i>
You dislike me but your coal monger	Mercury shrinks as I approach	I'm no longer me if I alter my course	Well, I'm the opposite my name
Doesn't mind if I stay longer	I travel by air but	Gussed who I am? Need one more clue?	is
		Here's one (oh dear we're	

*The following article is from the 17th March edition of the Coober Pedy Regional Times and has been reprinted here with permission. To see Les Pullen's work go to [www.lespullen.com](http://www.lespullen.com)*

*Coober Pedy*  
**REGIONAL TIMES**

## Coober Pedy photographer captures winning cover shot

**Les Pullen, a Coober Pedy resident and photographer has captured the winning image which will appear on the cover of the latest publication of "Footprints" a South Australian souvenir book, soon to be released**

Les an experienced photographer of 20 years, told the Coober Pedy Regional Times that he was travelling to a wedding photography seminar in Adelaide at around 5.30 am. The sun's was beginning to emerge from below the horizon as Les approached Glendambo. "When I saw the colours of the narrow band of the early sun rising against this "tree", I knew I had to stop and capture the phenomenon," said Les.

It was at the seminar that Les was driving to attend that he heard about the Footprints photo competition and decided to enter his wonderful images.

Les, originally from New Zealand has already published a photographic information book called "Stewart Island - the Land of the Glowing Skies", based around his own home town Stewart Island in New Zealand. So far the book has sold over 5,000 copies..

In about 12 months time Les plans to travel the rest of Australia collecting images in remote areas.

Footprints, a coffee table book features work of up and coming photographers hoping to get their photographic art into the mainstream media.

Ashley Knoote-Parke enigma books publisher, says "Many a photography career has been launched off the back of Footprints."

"Footprints, which was first launched in 2007 is a momento of South Australia and will be available mid to late March 2011, from all good bookstores, select gift stores as well as online.

A "Footprints" photographic exhibition and awards evening will be held at the Light Gallery in Richmond (Adelaide) on Friday 1st April which Les Pullen will be attending.

## Jab jabber

A visiting doctor recently gave a talk about vaccinations. The ensuing discussion showed that this is an issue of interest for many islanders. Our nurses and some people are all for immunisation; other residents are adamantly opposed; and there are those sitting "on the fence" who feel they don't know enough about it.

Once you start researching this complex subject it seems everyone and their dog has a theory. There are boring graphs and charts full of numbers to peruse; there are boring paranoid rants to endure. Between the Ministry of Health, New Age bloggers, conspiracy theorists, die-hard homeopaths, what your friends say, what your neighbours say, and what your friend's neighbour's dog says...it gets confusing.

If you are a concerned parent trying to make an informed decision regarding your child, or if you are simply curious about vaccination, there are some books at the Community Library packed with information that might help.

Two books (both shelved under 614.47) contain useful chapters addressing common concerns (and misconceptions) about vaccines.

Chapter 15 of *Vaccines: What You Should Know* covers many concerns including

*It's better to be naturally infected than immunised;*  
*Children get too many shots;*  
*Vaccines weaken and "use up" the immune system;*  
*Vaccines contain poisons;*  
*Vaccines cause various diseases and disorders.*

Chapter 20 of the *Immunisation Handbook* tackles more concerns, such as

*A healthy lifestyle will protect children from infection;*  
*Breastfeeding protects against infection;*  
*Vaccine risks are greater than the disease;*  
*This is a conspiracy for profit, as the government and medical establishment are in alliance with vaccine manufacturers...*

If any of the above concerns sound familiar to you, come by the Library and have a look at these books.

And if this all sounds like a big fat snooze, then check out the new non-fiction book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Skloot (265.6) This is the fascinating account of a poor African-American woman who became the unwitting source of cells cultured for an immortal cell line for medical research. It won't help you decide whether to jab or not, but it's a great read for these rainy days.

—Jess Kany



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### Stewart Island Museum

There will be a showing of some **historical art** in the Community Centre over Easter. Some of the works on show will be T. P. Royds, Christopher Aubrey, Dawn Barry, Hodgkins etc, and of course, our own Margaret Fairhall.

All the art on show has been kindly donated by our generous locals and depict the island then and now. Topics covered include whaling, logging, fishing etc.

Opening hours will be Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm until 9pm, and Sunday 10am until 6pm. \$10.00 entry on Saturday entitles you to a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles. Sunday will be a gold coin donation at the door.

Bring your visitors along to view art inspired by our island.

Further information is available from Raylene Waddell 2191 092

Here's a couple of photos for the "Only on Stewart Island" file. Only on Stewart Island could you have a cuppa with cake and watch a kiwi in the middle of the day!

This kiwi visited Sandy King's home several times during the day and loitered on her lawn for hours.

He was more than relaxed: at one point he stuck his beak into the grass and the little quilled tripod took an afternoon nap!

Sandy hasn't seen him recently but she has heard a pair calling at night. *Photos from Sandy.*



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## Don't miss the Historical Art Exhibition

Easter weekend  
at the Community Centre

See page 15 for details.



Picking daffodils at Port William.  
Maureen Jones (front right) with mum and dad (Lil and Max Skipper back centre and right) and aunty and cousin.

www.stewart-island-news.com

## STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Will meet at the home of Jenny Gell  
at 2.00 pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May



Theme: small flower

# Congratulations

*Proud new parents*  
*Newlyweds* Kelly & Riley  
Kate and Brett *Welcome Ruby!*

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