

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

August 2015

\$3.00

There was no July 2015 issue.

The fancy new airport has opened in Invercargill... if the cheese rolls and muffins in the old place excited you, you won't believe your eyes when you see the new café! Sausage rolls as big as your head! Plus a gourmet spread! Not to mention Stewart Island Flights being listed importantly on the monitors, and a HEATED FLOOR. There's no kids' corner and no paua laminate in the bathrooms, but other than that, the place looks great.

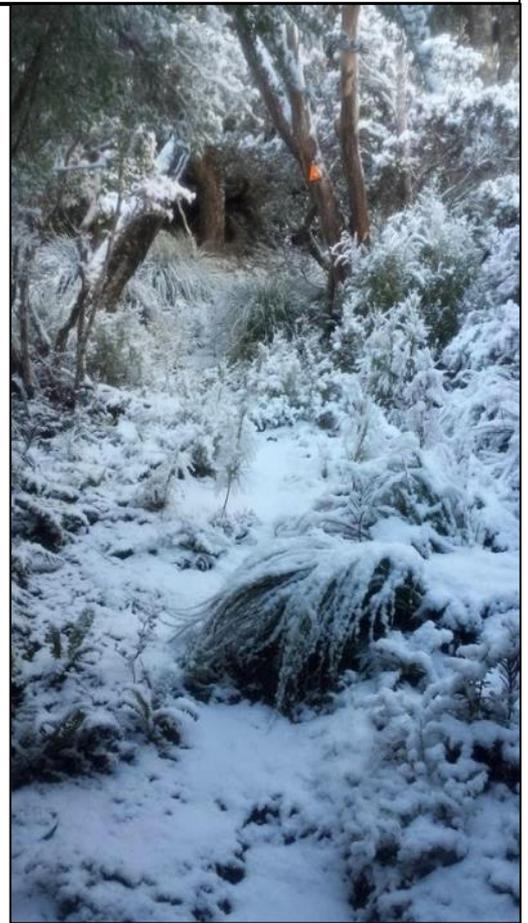
Speaking of flying, our poor stork is going to have a bent beak if he has to wing another newborn to the island anytime soon...FIVE Island babies born in the past couple months! (Little Charlie saw the wooden stork parked outside of his Auntie Liz's house and exclaimed, "Look! The bird caught a fish!" There was so much to explain in that moment I took a shortcut and just said: "Yup.")



Last month a school of dolphins visited Halfmoon Bay, coming right up to the steps of the wharf and letting the children pat them... much to the wonderment of the two new families we enticed here through the school's Trade Me promotion.
Photo from Carolyn Squires

People who attended the latest shark cage meeting said they went to it feeling annoyed, and left feeling furious. Read more below.

Please take note that the SIN website and email address are now:
www.stewartislandnews.com
stewartislandnews@yahoo.com



Snowy trail. Photo from Josephine Shepard

Shark Diving Meeting Held at Stewart Island *by Margaret Hopkins*

Locals have to be pretty passionate about something to give up their Friday night when there is an All Black rugby test match on. Despite very little advertising nearly 50 people turned up at the Stewart Island Community Centre to hear Allan Munn, Conservation Services Director for DOC's Southern region, discuss the review currently underway for Great White Shark Cage Diving Operations.

DOC has carried out an internal review of the conditions for the permits and is soon to meet with the operators to

discuss this. The community meeting is part of that review, although when questioned, Allan Munn admitted there are no terms of reference for the formal review and no requirement to consult.

Despite very succinct questions from community members Allan Munn seemed to be ill prepared for the meeting and unable to answer pertinent questions. One person in the audience said he had never heard such a muddled presentation from a DOC officer. Another said Munn's answers to questions were 'confused, muddled, evasive

(Continued on page 3)



RIP Philip Ballantyne, also known as String, and affectionately known as "The Man". 1958-2015

After a service in Invercargill, Joel brought String to the island aboard the *Stratus*. Many of String's friends and family came across on the ferry, and as it entered Halfmoon Bay the *Stratus* came alongside and escorted the ferry toward the wharf before heading round to "String's Wharf" at Thule. After an evening in his beautiful new home at Thule Point, the legendary fisherman was laid to rest on 10th August at the island cemetery.

On the day of String's homecoming, Lania took this photo of a rainbow ending at his Thule Point house.



SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

There's nothing like homemade baking, especially the recipes you remember as children. I have my Stewart Island church recipe book which is filled with many baking delights. But we all have our favourites, and I must say when I pick something from this trusty recipe book it's usually one of Marion Whipp's recipes as she was and still is known as the baking queen when I was a child. I remember visiting Marion a bit and without fail she always has some delish treat she had baked that she happily handed out. My older sister use to quite often go around on Sundays with her friend Jaime, one of Marion's grandchildren, for Sunday roast lunch -- I was always envious because I knew well Marion's tasty treats would be aplenty. I recently had the pleasure of sharing a medivac with Marion and it got me to thinking about Marion's part she unwittingly played in my love of FOOD especially home baking. Another person whom I think of often is Joan Buxton she made the best chocolate fudge. I often helped her (pestered her) to make it as a child. I spent many hours at her house practising piano, helping in the garden and using her canoe to paddle by the wee waterfall down by Mill Creek. She was like my grandmother and I am very lucky to have known her. These lovely ladies of our community sure have a lot of

knowledge to share when it comes to baking among other things! I can easily convert most recipes to gluten free, which is what I have done with Marion's Yo Yo recipe, as you can see also I have replaced the pink icing with pomegranate butter cream, I love the original recipe of course but I like to add my own twist too, and everyone loves Yo Yos, especially Marion's great recipe!! Enjoy all and a big heart felt thank you to all the baking queens out there that inspire me... we have many on our special wee island.

MARION WHIPP'S YO YOS (made gluten free)

- Butter 170g soften butter
- 55g icing sugar
- A few drops of vanilla essence
- Pinch of salt

Cream these together then add:

- 115g custard powder (Edmonds is gf)

- 115g bakels gf flour (or similar gf flour)

Roll mixture into golf ball size and press with a fork onto trays lined with baking paper. Bake in a slow oven (so set to 160 I used fan bake) bake for 20-30 minutes, check at 15, you don't want them to brown!! TIP: because you join these together I find you get 6 and 1/2 out of one batch so I usually double batch to get 13 yo yos. You can easily make these with wheat flour the ratio is the same.

POMEGRANATE BUTTER CREAM

- 75g soften butter
- 120g icing sugar
- 1 1/2 TBSP milk
- 4 drops of pink food colouring
- 2 TBSP pomegranate molasses (I use Lebanon garden brand)

Cream butter and icing sugar, add everything else taste to check flavour and ice biscuits when cool and join together.



Obviously these little beauties are a treat not made to eat every week, but man are they good! Pomegranate molasses can be found in some international isles at supermarkets, also Bella Kai and possibly Bin Inn, it's my new favourite thing to use, you can also add orange or lemon zest instead or raspberry essence if you can't get your hands on the molasses.



Bring on Spring! This is meowing out to be a caption contest... send ideas to editor. Photo by Carolyn Squires.

Village Centre, Oban : glowingsky.co.nz



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Monday 24th August

(Shark meeting Continued from page 1)

and unsatisfactory.’

Munn stated that when operators are in breach of permit conditions then that permit should be forfeited. He then went on to say that during recent monitoring involving 6 views using mystery shoppers and DOC officers in uniform, one operator had serious non-compliance issues but as the decision maker Munn felt the operator should be given another chance. This raises the question of just how seriously DOC takes the NZ Wildlife Act and the protection of species covered by it. If the same breaches had been made by an operator under the Marine Mammal Protection Regulations you can bet that operator would’ve faced very serious consequences. The meeting was very vocal about the fact that sharks aren’t being protected.

When the previous Minister of Conservation Nick Smith met with locals he assured them that terms and conditions would be very strict. ‘If they can’t abide by the rules of the permit then they will be shut down. There is no grey area if they are in breach.’ Now further down the track it seems that we are going for some kind of sloppy ‘three strikes and you are out – maybe’.

Storm Stanley representing the Paua Diving industry admonished the Department of Conservation for not acting quickly to cancel permits for operators breaching permit rules. He understood that 3 breaches had been observed by secret shoppers. Munn’s response was ‘in the past DOC has been criticised for being anti-development and anti-tourism’. Surely encouragement of this type of tour-

ism is not a logical reason for failing to act when breaches have occurred.

Several tourist operators at the meeting asked if this is the appropriate kind of tourism that DOC wants to encourage when Stewart Islanders have worked very hard in recent years to set up and carry out eco-tourism activities in keeping with the protection of Stewart Island’s native species and the environment.

Storm asked if research has been done that could inform any reasonable decision on whether these operators are having an effect on the ecology of great white sharks and their behaviour, and another member of the audience asked if there is room to strengthen conditions of the permit at this stage? Munn’s response was ‘I can’t say’. He did add that he was going to strengthen the commitment to make them comply.

Local crib owner Ken McAnergney, a Waitaha descendant, told the meeting that he was now going to lodge an Article 2 grievance claim against DOC because of their support for the Great White Shark Cage Diving Operations. ‘The great white shark is a sacred beast and two permittees are modifying the behaviour of these protected animals’.

Despite being tackled on the GWSDO’s performance taken from DOC’s own records and all the issues that this community are concerned about the single clear message Munn managed to get out was that ‘while nothing was settled, it was very likely the GWSCDO permits would be allowed to continue.’

Stewart Island Women's Institute was presented with the E J Sawyer trophy for most increased membership in NZ in 2014/15 and four ladies and one husband came over to present the trophy to us. Alison (presenting the trophy to me) is the Southland Federation President. A great night was had by all and the ladies loved Ulva Island and Kylie's bus tour!

—Vicki Coats



Stewart Island Ball Labour Weekend

Saturday 24th October

Stewart Island Community Centre
7.30

the theme is B for Ball

Now is the time to start thinking of what you
could wear that starts
with the letter B
Butthead, Bob the builder, Beautiful Babe, Blackbeard

Bountious Supper and Cash Bar
The Band is Quantum from Invercargill and we
hear they are
bebopping beauts

Courtesy Car will be available

Pete Ross Automotive

Have Available for Hire

- Rug Doctor – for your spring cleaning!!
- Lawnmower
- Chainsaws
- Waterblaster
- Chimney Brush
- Rotary Hoe
- Spare Printer and Screen (New)
- Laminator (New)

Have For Sale

- Hydraulic Hose Gear
- 9 kg and 18 kg Gas Bottles

- Fire Extinguishers
- Bicycle Tyre Tubes and Repair Kits
- Weedeater Cord
- CRC and Degreaser
- Fuelite and Meths
- Emergency Tyre Weld Kits (New)
- Coal and Kindling
- Wood - can order in fadge lots
- Weedkiller
- Jumper Leads
- Funnels, Fuel cans and plenty more!

Winter Hours (From May 1st)
 Mon - Fri 8 am – 5 pm
 Sat 10 am - 2 pm
 Sun Closed

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Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter – Jo Riksem

One of my favourite photographic subjects are doors and windows and our church door is a particular favourite with it's big hinges. Doors come in all sorts of shapes and sizes with some very decorative and others just plain. Kind of like people. Just before you get this door there's a little sign that says "Welcome" and that's what our church is all about, welcoming people. It's not a door that can be opened just on a Sunday but all days of the week and I hope in our homes we're like that too, open and welcoming to people every day.

The month of September brings something different to our church.

6 Sept. Local flavour

13 & 20 Sept. Babara Sampson – Barabara, who has been here before is not to be missed with her bubbly personality and warm and caring nature. She is a retired Salvation Army officer living in Christchurch near to our daughter Joanne son Michael, daughter-in-law Katrina and their ten children.

A Spring retreat will be held on Stewart Island from Monday 14 - Friday 18 September. This will be led by the Rev. Major Barbara Sampson. Barbara has preached here on the island twice and has a wide experience in leading spiritual retreats.

The retreat is open to everyone who would like to participate. There will be no charge for Stewart Islanders apart from a small koha for the leader of the retreat. For those further afield accomodation and meals will be provided at a total cost of \$300.00.

The retreat will start mid-morning on Monday 14 September and conclude with lunch on Friday 18 September. Each day will begin with shared prayer, information for that day's meditation and an early evening gathering and discussion.

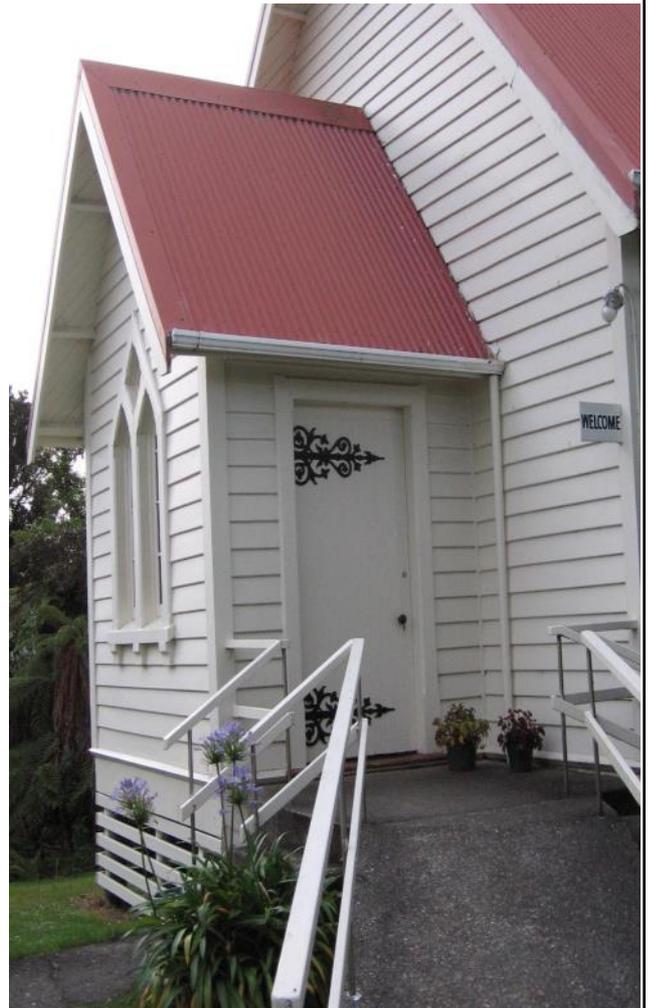
For further information contact Raylene Waddell (03 2191092)

27 Sept. Local flavour

Prayer circle every Saturday 11:30. Phone Raylene 2191092 for venue.

The church is open every day so come and enjoy it's history, it's beauty and it's peace.

Sunday service: 11 am followed by a cup of tea or coffee and goodies.



Oban Presbyterian Church door



Book Reviews

From Sue Ford

I've usually felt that NZ-ers don't do well in the thriller genre, but I've nothing but praise for "**Something is Rotten**" from The Matakana Series by **Adam Sarafis**. It's an intriguing who-dunnit based in Auckland, but is truly international in flavour. Sam Hallberg is "retired" from his Wellington desk job working for the Government as an advisor on terrorist activity. Following the brutal but unsolved murder of his wife and a breakdown, he's now an Auckland

car mechanic, but despite wishing the world would go away, agrees to investigate the suspicious death of budding author, Brent Taylor, at Auckland University. Where is Brent's manuscript now? Why is it so important that all trace of Brent and his manuscript should disappear? Meanwhile, Sam's journalist friend, Lynette Church, has her instincts for a good story fully alerted by the enigma of a local multi-millionaire businessman and his inside connections to Government officials. The pair finds a cross-over of information and then things get interesting! Tense writing, clever and believable plot, well-rounded characters (except for a 'villain with a scar' – that's a bit old-school eh?), this story has the lot and is highly recommended (by me anyway). Published this year, it is supposedly the first of a series – I do hope so! It's my book of the month so far (but early days yet).

"**Unravelling Oliver**" by **Liz Nugent** is billed as 'A compelling whydunnit' – sums it up nicely. Oliver Ryan is a popular children's author, happily married to his mousey illustrator-wife of many years, Alice. But then something shocking happens and people who have known Oliver over the years start to tell *how* they know him and *what* they know of him. One thing clearly illustrated is that we all know different sides of our friends and acquaintance, seeing them from our own standpoints. Oliver tells the story of his life from his own point of view too. The picture that emerges is startling. It may be a bit confusing to begin with, all these characters speaking, but the sequence settles down and becomes exactly what the blurb promised: a compelling whydunnit! An excellent read.

"**She's Gone**" by **Rebecca Muddiman** is another cold-case missing girl story –until a body turns up. DI Michael Gardner had a lot on his mind when he was first investigating the apparent runaway scenario, 11 years ago, and now his already over-burdened conscience has that fact to grapple with. DS Nicola Freeman has her own issues currently, but unravelling the mystery takes priority. The story bobs about in time – which I don't generally like, and this is no exception. Annoying, but I'll admit it was the only way to tell the story. The ending was drawn-out, but otherwise, decent writing and a clever plot.

Nora Roberts needs no introduction from me to readers of romantic fiction, but this re-issue of two of her early books is cringeworthy. "**The Plan**" is two stories, 'Loving Jack' and 'Best Laid Plans', and the first is the worst. Budding author (she works on a typewriter) meets successful architect in trying circumstances, sparks fly, romance kindles, misunderstandings ensue and all ends happily ever after. The second is a little different with an element of suspense and a villainous third party, but the ending is equally predictable. Read only if you are weary of a seemingly endless stream of 'intellectual' novels, gory thrillers and fantasy. I have to admit that the style is good - despite the naive plots, and I do appreciate decent grammar, good editing and proof-reading in a book. Damned with faint praise. Meanwhile, I'm re-reading **Samantha Shannon's "The Bone Season"**, because sequel – "The Mime Order" is due out any day now!



Patting a dolphin at Halfmoon Bay Wharf. Photo from Carolyn Squires

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 Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589
 for current listings.



**RAKIURA MAORI LANDS TRUST & REAL JOURNEYS
 JOIN FORCES TO GROW RAKIURA (STEWART
 ISLAND) TOURISM**



Rakiura Maori Lands Trust and Real Journeys are looking for new tourism opportunities, following a partnership agreement to help grow world class visitor experiences on

Rakiura - Stewart Island.

The Rakiura Maori Lands Trust and its beneficiaries have a long history in the area and are the largest private landowner on New Zealand's third largest island. Real Journeys has over 60 years' tourism experience and operates the ferries to the island, Stewart Island Lodge and various tours.

The agreement will see the organisations work together to develop joint commercial tourism opportunities on a profit sharing basis.

Dick Ryan, RMLT Chair, says that the respective strengths and values of both parties work very well together and should result in some exciting new visitor experiences. "We have spent the last few months working on our long term strategy and we are now at the stage where we are actively looking for the right opportunities," says Dick. Kiwi-spotting on The Neck, land owned by RMLT, is one option that is being considered.

Richard Lauder, Real Journeys Chief Executive, says the company is delighted to partner with the Rakiura Maori Lands Trust. "We regard the natural beauty of Stewart Island as an area of growth for tourism and are keen to find more reasons for people to visit and to stay longer. This is something that will benefit the whole of Stewart Island."

The agreement is the result of many years' discussion and is expected to be a long-term relationship.

About Rakiura Maori Lands Trust www.rmlt.co.nz

Rakiura Maori Lands Trust is a collection of Trusts representing beneficiaries' interests for the majority of privately owned Maori freehold lands registered with the Maori Land Court on Stewart Island. These interests stem from the sale and purchase of Rakiura to the Crown in 1865.

About Real Journeys www.realjourneys.co.nz

Real Journeys is a privately owned tourism business that was founded in 1954 by tourism and conservation pioneers Les and Olive Hutchins. Today the company remains true to its founders and their guiding principles of conservation and hospitality.

Based in some of the most untouched areas of New Zealand, Real Journeys has operations from Stewart Island to Queenstown – including world renowned cruises through Milford and Doubtful Sounds and the heritage steamship TSS Earnslaw.

For further information please contact:

Richard Manning 021 382 590 rjm@rmlt.co.nz or Tsehai Tiffin 021 523 899 tiffin@realjourneys.co.nz

If you want to see a really cool Stewart Island video, go to YouTube and search for "Regional Councillors Go Kiwi Hunting." Filmed by the Graf Boys at the North Arm hut.



While a lot of operators have taken off on exotic holidays in far flung corners of the world, as a well-deserved break after a busy and successful summer tourist season, Promotions and those of us who have stayed behind have been taking the opportunity to kick things into action in preparation for the upcoming season. To help with knowing who was around and who isn't, we have done up a Winter Trading schedule of local businesses which can be found on the noticeboards.

At the beginning of June we approved our new Marketing Plan with the aim of increasing the economic benefits from Tourism on the Island. The plan is ambitious and comes with a sizeable list of actions but Promotions is committed to its implementation and moving forward. If interested, please contact me for a copy of the Marketing Plan.

The first step of the Marketing Plan was to develop a Stewart Island brand so that we can promote the Island collectively and consistently under one banner. Our initial brainstorming session on what our brand identity needs to encompass was very productive with some great ideas. We would like to extend an invitation to the rest of the community to also have a say in what our Island brand should be. Either contact me directly or watch out on the noticeboards for ways to contribute your ideas.

The Rakiura Artists Residency has received some funding from the Creative Communities Fund and so this project is underway in conjunction with Toi Rakiura and the Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust. The Artists will be on the Island from 13th-16th November and a full programme of experiences is currently being planned. The exhibition of works and print making workshop is planned for April 2016. We also hosted a Feature Film Production team who were here looking for character and location inspiration last month. Thank you to all those who shared their time and stories. At this stage, it is looking positive that at least a part of this movie will be made on the Island next year.

The 2015/2016 updated Stewart Island brochure has been launched and are currently being distributed around the country. We are also updating the layout of the stewartisland.co.nz website which is going to give it a much fresher and visitor centric look, as well as being mobile and tablet friendly.

Cheers
JO
Promotions Officer
Stewart Island Promotion Association
visitus@stewartisland.co.nz

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Update from Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group

The Governance Group has asked for detailed options to be prepared on how any removal of predators from the Halfmoon Bay area might be achieved. This work has been concluded and we expect the papers to be published and distributed in the first few weeks of September. Once the documents are released, anyone with questions or feedback can approach members of the Governance Group, or submit a question through the website predatorfreerakiura.org.nz.

We are also planning a series of workshops on the island in order to discuss the options in detail and answer any technical questions that the Governance Group representatives can't cover off. We tentatively expect those workshops to be held on the 5th and 6th of October, depending on exactly when the papers are released. The September SIN will confirm these dates and contain more information on the format of those workshops.

Museum Matters. *by Jo Riksem*



Monkey Fist knot used on the boat "Grace Darling"

This Monkey Fist, a sailor's craft knot used on the boat "Grace Darling", is one of our latest acquisitions. The Monkey Fist knot was used for tying on the end of a hauling line to cast it to the wharf or another ship.

The month of August has been quite exciting with Tracey Wedge, a textile conservator coming over for three days to assess our textile collection. One might think that textiles are just clothing but in fact it covers things like rope, leather, flax, etc. Tracey is also the collections manager at Southland Museum and Art Gallery.

These items can quickly get damaged if not looked after in the proper manner and is a great loss for important historical items. It was great to have someone like Tracey to look over each item and say what things needed special care and which items are worthy of exhibition.

Along with Tracey came her husband Stephen who is the manager of the Anderson Park Art Gallery and is very knowledgeable about art, so it was nice to get his comments on certain art pieces we have.

We have a new book about Dorothy Jenkin which has been written by her daughter Eve Ritchie along with Eve's friend Naomi Miller. It is a beautiful book and worthy of Stewart Island shelves. It is priced at \$40. We only have about 15 left so be in quick.

Some of our other books for sale that make great gifts or something to add to your library:

Stewart Island Boats - \$75

Rakiura Heritage by Neville Peat - \$35

Whaling and Sealing by Lloyd Esler - \$36

Diary of M.E. Wiig on trip to Norway - \$15

The Whalers Base by Jim Watt - \$26

Descendent of Bailey and Wiig (not just for these families but a lot of Stewart Island stories) - \$25

Dorothy Jenkin Orchids by Ian St George - \$12

Captain Chales Bayley, Whaling Master by Rhys Richards - \$20

Dvd of Norwegian Celebration Weekend - \$20

Dvd of Whalers Base Now and Then - \$15

Also lots of lovely cards by Margaret Fairhall and Dorothy Jenkin

Museum Hours - Monday - Friday 10.00 - noon. Saturday 10.00 am - 1.30pm.

Sunday Noon - 2.00pm

The House Sitter

by Jeff Hawkes

As my House Sitting on your most beautiful Island nears an end, I look out over the little township of Oban and think: how much I will miss the "Island life." This wonderful and friendly Island, where everyone waves and gives you a smile as you drive or walk past. This peaceful, Island where the native birds live happily in their natural lush habitat alongside the "Islanders." How also, could I *not* miss the fabulous views, the crystal clear waters of Stewart Island, this amazing, magical place of peace and inspiration?

It's going to be a sad day, the day that I leave here, and I will have many mixed feelings but I have a loving wife and grown up family with grandchildren, all of whom I have missed dearly.

I am going to miss the friendly team at the Four Square store, especially Sam, the friendliest shopkeeper of all shopkeepers! Wonderful to go into a shop and be greeted in such a genuinely friendly way. It's a fabulous store, and such a pleasure to shop there. Keep up the great work, you put so many shops around New Zealand to shame.

Pete Ross Auto's: Thanks must go to Pete, and Sharon, for all the help with keeping me warm, with the Gas Bottle deliveries. It was most appreciated!

To Squizzy Squires: Thanks so much Squizzy, for putting me on to "Chook" (Ant O'Rourke) and his boat Tequila. I had an awesome trip that day. Seeing an Orca was one of the many highlights of my stay here, along with a beautiful: **Tequila** Sunrise! Oh and also: Not to forget the **great** catch that day either Chook!

House Sitting is a privilege for me. It is a way for me to be able to help people, in a way that I know, I can do very well. It's about doing something for nothing, something that gives other people a chance to go away and enjoy themselves, which makes me feel *real* good. You know that people appreciate your services, and in that knowledge, that is payment enough.

To be given the opportunity to House Sit here at Brett and Kate Hamilton's house, here on Stewart Island, has been the best, of all my many House and Pet sitting jobs. This job has helped me appreciate not only my surround-

ings here, but the lifestyle, which to be honest, sometimes is not easy for you. You have to be very hardy people to live here. When the ferry can't sail or the plane can't fly, that makes it tough. You are isolated from the rest of New Zealand, but we never hear you moan, not like the Aucklanders do. You just keep on, keeping on, and give a smile or a wave to whoever you see.

To the wonderful people who gave me this chance to live on Stewart Island: Brett and Kate Hamilton, who trusted me with looking after lovely house on the hill, with their precious and adorable pets, I sincerely thank you. The memories of this extra special House Sitting job, will remain with me forever.

Thanks Stewart Islanders,

Jeff Hawkes

House Swapping

If you wish to have some time in Invercargill, possibly a House Swap could be arranged. Maybe you want a week in the city or have a Hospital appointment?

I live in a very nice warm, clean, user friendly home, situated close to Southland Hospital, shopping, and cycle/walking tracks. Our home is 3 bedroomed, has all the mod cons, a Yunca, Heatpump, and very nice indoor/outdoor area with a covered Patio area, a BBQ, and beautiful Rose gardens. Oh, and a beautiful friendly pure bred Cocker Spaniel, called Toby.

House Sitter

If you, or anyone you know of, here on the Island, want a very clean, reliable, and trustworthy, House Sitter, don't hesitate to give me a call, or email. Contact Brett or Kate Hamilton, if you need a reference.

Contact: Jeff Hawkes

Ph: 032161167

Cell Ph: 0273342072

Email: jeffhawkesnz@gmail.com



LETTERS

Thanks so much for including that photo of you and your wee boy by the tree. I am sure a lot of your readers will recognise it from Island walks to Horseshoe.

A thought has lingered. If That Tree Could Talk!! What tales it could tell. All ages have lingered by it. I can vouch for it being well over one hundred years. I remember a young school teacher and her fisherman

boy friend (and his dog) found their way there. Now the young girl has a son turning sixty one tomorrow. We go driving past that same 'Top of the Hill' tree on each visit to the Island.

Now we enjoy bitumen roads, but I recall the winter when they were laid and the only vehicles to 'make it' round the Lonnekers Road were the Police jeep and Brags truck, (driver one Henry Whipp.). Only thinking back, there were two boy Whipp

driving the Island trucks. Porky, (whose wife Shirley still lives in the Bay.) Also Henry, who lived in Jo Riksem's house. They, along with their brothers Albert and Stanley (all being six foot plus) formed a formidable basketball team.

Morning after a party people were seen down the Bay sorting out matching gum boots. Gladys Hopkins will remember the dos we had in the Hall.

Mavis Hicks

Wisdom Corner

Did you know that it takes 65 muscles of the face to frown and only 13 for a smile? So why waste the energy?

(Bev Osbourne has suggested this "Wisdom Corner" so if you have any pearls to contribute to it go ahead and send to editor.)

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP: WITH AN ISLAND CONSERVATION TWIST

12-13 Sept. Community Centre 10-5pm Sat & Sun

* Try **Solar Print** or **Gelatine printmaking**, or **Wood Block** carving for print. We'll supply materials, equipment & helpers on hand to assist. *Lynn Taylor* heads the workshop; she's a professional printmaker who has exhibited/sold at The Fernery for years.

* Drop-in it's **informal**: take a look, have a quick try, or settle in for an afternoon or a day! Everyone welcome (wee ones bring adult supervision).

* Make some prints showing **your view** of island conservation: maybe a map of traplines or a personal rat tally; maybe a cherished plant or animal; maybe the most feral dangers the island faces ... what story might you tell: celebration or concern ?

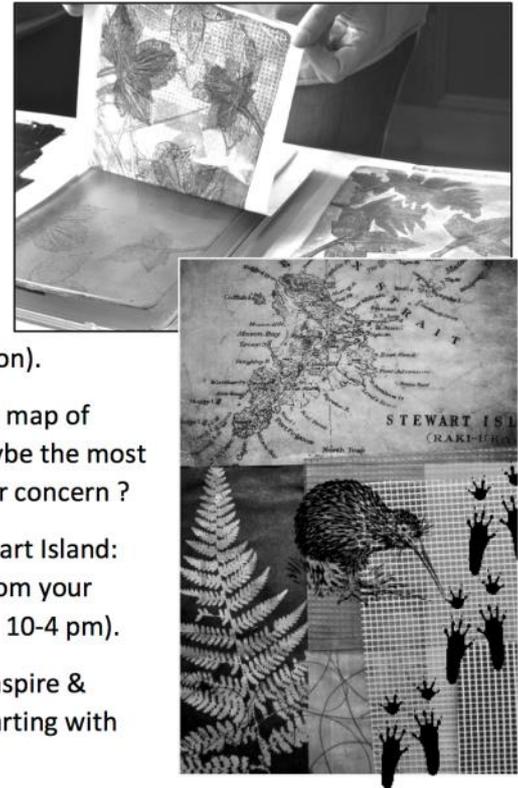
* Show people what you think is important about conservation on Stewart Island: be part of an **island-made exhibition**. We'll create a group exhibition from your extra workshop prints for a local show (19-20 Sept. Community Centre 10-4 pm).

* Be a **talking point**: then we'd like to take your exhibition on tour to inspire & challenge other communities starting locally-run conservation work (starting with the Otago Peninsula, & NE Otago communities 'Beyond Orokonui').

3 more reasons to come to this event (supported by Toi Rakiura, The Fernery, SIRCET & more):

- you don't have to be an artist: we'll have premade material if you want to construct your own composite images.
- you can print directly off flat things like leaves, feathers, stencils... and onto different types of paper & even fabric.
- it's addictive fun (!) - there is always a lot of visual surprise & unexpected discovery in printmaking.

Bring: clothes for getting messy, flat materials you'd like to try printing from (feathers, flat & dry leaves/seaweed, fishing line, mesh, discs, black & white text, maps, drawings...). Contact for more info: TheSandpitCollective@gmail.com



Voice of a Girl Mechanic by Sharon Ross

It is great to see the days getting a little longer and even on some days some real warmth in the sunshine. It has been a pleasure to get planters planted out and see the start of spring bulbs blooming in the garden – yay summer is on its way!!

We seem to have been particularly busy with tyres, and batteries lately. The cold weather which we had had a run of, always seems to drain the last of a batteries power, sometimes charging it up fully on our industrial charger will prolong its life but if it is over 5 years old its often time for a new one – we do carry a full range of batteries and can usually get one over on the same day if we don't have it in stock.

Just a reminder of the safe legal tread on a tyre - The minimum tread depth to pass a WOF for any vehicle is 1.5 mm over three quarters circumference of the tyre, unless the tyre is a Mud and Snow tyre when the minimum depth is 4mm. Keeping the tyres at the correct inflation also helps them wear better and is more cost efficient for your car running as well. If ever you should see wires poking through your tyre that is a very bad sign, you have worn them right down to the canvas and are at risk of them blowing out – not something you will want to experience! I do have an easy to read gadget in my office for anyone who wants to check their tyre tread depth.

It is pleasing to see nearly everyone on the Island has a current WOF, both the locals and cribbies alike. I am often asked which way round do you have to get your registration/WOF combination. You need a current WOF in order to register your vehicle. We are planning a short holiday from Sept 5th to 18th so if your WOF is going to fall due then it would be best to get in early. Mona will be covering the office in my absence and Jack and Bryan will still be on hand to assist with freight, gas bottles and the like. Of course Ralph will be supervising and reporting back!!

Enjoy those lengthening days and the start of spring rapidly approaching!!

Stewart Island / Rakiura
Community & Environment Trust

SIRCET Update by Shona Sangster

It may be a bit early but we would like to celebrate spring by welcoming two new conservationists to the SIRCET family, Alina's son Jakob and Kelly's daughter Maya. As Matt Hare pointed out, there's something about children that makes you want to try and improve the natural environment for them, so they can have the amazing outdoors experiences we remember from our own childhoods.

Thanks to Stephen Horn for his fascinating talk on his experiences with pest control on Macquarie Island and the upcoming work on the Antipodes, his photos and insights made our pest control work seem easy! Great to see so many people there on a pretty rugged evening. And a huge thank you to our invaluable volunteer Alasdair Burns who arrived just at the right time when Kelly was off having her baby, and Nic Shaw who very kindly helped us out. We're also welcoming another long-term volunteer to the fold, Kelly's partner Miguel Rodriguez. Kelly has already had him hard at work clearing out some of the Deep Bay rat lines, so they are all spic and span and ready for new volunteers.

You may be wondering what is involved in taking on a volunteer rat line. Maybe you are worried that it will take up heaps of time, or that you will be tied to it forever and never be able to go on holiday again? Not the case at all! Any help at all is appreciated. It usually takes an hour of your time once a week, or you might like to share the responsibility with a friend or family member, each person checking the traps once a fortnight. Each line contains 7 to 15 traps but on a given day I find only 3 or 4 traps at most will have caught a rat, so mostly it's a case of quickly rebaiting and moving on. And the rats are actually more interesting than disgusting after a while! Kelly provides great support, dropping round new traps and bait as required, or more supplies are always available from the volunteer box at Flights. If you are going to be away for a long time, or aren't able to do your lines for any reason, just let Kelly know and arrangements can be made to cover it. If you'd like some more information on volunteering to check rat traps or helping at the community nursery please call Kelly Bunce on 0278382300.

SIRCET is also proud to announce that our trustees have been nominated for the TSB Pride of NZ awards, South Island region, in the Environment Category. There is also a People's Choice award, so if you think our hard-working volunteer trustees deserve a vote please go to www.prideofnzawards.co.nz

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

Sand Coprosma (*Coprosma acerosa*) tātarahake, tātaraheke

Coprosma acerosa is a low, spreading shrub/groundcover. It is a coastal plant found naturally on Stewart Island, usually on the landward side of sand dunes, where it forms a tight tangled mound of fine brown needle-like foliage. Tolerant of hot dry conditions, it is best in full sun and a light well drained soil. It doesn't like wet feet. Fast growing and easily maintained. Prune to maintain foliage production. The word 'acerosa' refers to the leaves and is from the Latin word 'acus' meaning sharp or pointed. Looks excellent hanging over banks and walls. The fruit is its most attractive feature, producing a lovely bluish-white berry. This is supposed to appear in late summer though some of my plants had berries in the middle of winter! *Coprosma acerosa* is declining over large parts of its original range due to competition from marram grass, so by planting it in your gardens you are ensuring its survival.



Kiwi monitoring update by Sandy King

The monitoring of four kiwi released in the Ackers Point area in 2013 has been possible because of a small transmitter attached to a leg of each bird. Each transmitter emits pulses at a unique frequency which become audible beeps when picked up by a specialised receiver and aerial. The transmitters are powered by a tiny battery which can last for up to 3 years. The battery life is extended by programming the transmitter to turn on for predetermined periods. The Ackers Point kiwi have transmitters which are 12/12, that is they are on for 12 hours and off for 12 hours each day. The 12 hours on are during daylight times – there is no point in having them transmitting at night when we are not out looking for them.

The transmitters, which weigh just a tiny fraction of the bird's body weight, are attached using hospital identification bands and electrical tape – a typical example of good ol' kiwi ingenuity which is effective, doesn't damage the bird, and is cheap and relatively easy to apply. However they do need to be checked and replaced regularly to ensure they don't wear out and break, which would mean the transmitter falling off and the bird being "lost". These checks are carried out annually at the end of the breeding season.

In late May Brent Beaven, Kate Richardson, Klaartje Van Schie (a.k.a Claire), Shona Sangster and Sandy King attempted to catch all four birds to check their transmitters and replace the bands. It sounds straight forward, especially when the aerial and receiver are used to track the birds' signal right to their burrow, but that is the easy part. Once the burrow has been located the occupant has to be extracted – sometimes easier said than done. The catch team was lucky with the first bird – the unnamed male known as 22 (his transmitter number). He was tracked to a burrow which he was sharing with a female; being somewhat gallant he let her hide right at the back while he took the reachable position in front of her and was removed without fuss. Brent demonstrated the band change technique while Klaartje held the bird, which was a real treat for her being just days before she left the Island. The old band was in still in perfect condition, and the bird himself was given a quick health check and pronounced fat and healthy.

Next on the list was the pair Matatika and Ngaio who were found in one of their favourite burrows. However this turned out to be longer than anybody's arms so they remained where they were. The bonus was that they were easily viewable, along with a third bird which was snuggled up with them. The colour and size of this bird suggested that it was young, probably the past season's chick. Good news!

Finally the unnamed male 52 and his mate Takiti were tracked to a burrow opposite the golf course. Both were caught; the male had his transmitter band changed and Takiti had her failed transmitter removed. Takiti eluded capture in 2014 so her transmitter band was 2 years old but was still in very good condition, as was the male's. Both birds were also fat and healthy, showing that the habitat must be well suited for kiwi.

All in all it was a good day's work, in spite of not catching Matatika and Ngaio. The good condition of the other transmitter bands leaves little concern for the state of theirs, so there won't be any attempt to catch them until after the coming breeding season. Monitoring of all four birds will continue for another year when the project will be reassessed.



What's Up, DoC? by Jen Ross

Saying Goodbye to Brent Beaven, Conservation Services Manager



Top: Brent with Prince Harry on Ulva Island in May 2015; Right: Jen dressed Brent up as a bee before his Stewart Island/Rakiura leaving party speech! Photo credit: Jake Osborne



From Stewart Island/Rakiura to the Beehive

Brent Beaven, former Conservation Services Manager for Stewart Island/Rakiura and the Subantarctic Islands has moved on to the Beehive in Wellington to begin his new role as Senior Private Secretary for the Minister of Conservation, Maggie Barry.

Brent was responsible for the delivery of field work on Stewart Island/Rakiura and the Subantarctic Islands for two years and was the Programme Manager for Biodiversity on the Island for 15 years. He led the team to develop biodiversity work on Stewart Island/Rakiura and worked in a secondment role as National Hunting Advisor for one year.

After spending 17 years in the Southern Islands Brent said that he could either stay here forever or move on to something else. A new opportunity came up that was hard to refuse and the move up to Wellington means that he will be closer to his family in Taranaki. Brent will miss seeing the rewards of the hard work DOC does on the Island and said that the current team is a "bloody good team." He will miss the programmes of work he help to set up from the start: The Mason Bay Dune Restoration project – an internationally significant piece of work, Ulva Island and local conservation projects. Brent will also miss the Island itself since he got married here, raised his children here, bought a house here and it has been a big part of his life.

Brent achieved many things during his time here but was very clear in stating that these achievements can't ever be put down to an individual. A few of these achievements

include: possum control, restoration of Ulva Island, bids and funding for Mason & Doughboy Bay Dune Restoration Projects with the University of Otago, Darwin's Barberry Project funding, and the Southern New Zealand Dotterel programme of work. Other achievements during Brent's time here included the Bench Island rat eradication, the open zone hunting permit online booking system, Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, and work with SIRCET to be able to release kiwi into Ackers Point Area. Brent spent two years on the Council Community Board, was involved with TOI Rakiura for a few years, and acted as the Players President during which he performed in a series of skits and a multi variety show.

Thank you for all that you've contributed to Stewart Island/Rakiura Brent. You will most certainly be missed!

Possum Monitoring

The Services team has been busy through the long cold winter with possum monitoring. There have been three possum monitoring trips so far and the purpose of these trips is for teams to go out into specified areas and monitor possum numbers. The data collected will then be used by Management to make decisions about where on Stewart Island/Rakiura possum contractors will do intensive trapping later on in the year.

The team set lines facing North along predetermined GPS lines with each trap spaced 20 meters apart on the nearest trappable tree using a "hip chain" which is a counter that rolls out 20 meters of string at a time. They walk their lines North and make a 90-degree turn East or West if they encounter any unsurpassable obstacles. Each trap is set at least 700mm off the ground (so that there is no chance of a kiwi or weka getting its beak caught) and painted with a flour and icing sugar mix above the trap. The flour is unscented because during monitoring we are



Snowy conditions while possum monitoring in July!
Photo: Josephine Shepard

not trying to attract possum from outside the immediate area. The goal is to monitor the number of possum in that exact area. That number is then extrapolated to get idea of total possums in the area. Leg hold traps are set each night since possum are crepuscular (most active in the dawn and dusk hours) and must be checked every day (within 12 hours).

Different blocks are monitored each year on rotation and pre-monitoring is done to see whether we need to do control in that area. This gives us a baseline to use to see if possum contractors have done an acceptable job with a target of 5% or lower. At 5% possum levels a forest will survive possum browsing.

Whitebait Season

Whitebait are the young of native fish such as giant ko-

kopu, shortjaw kokopu, banded kokopu, koaro and inanga, collectively known as galaxiids. They are a variety of native fish species that spend six months at sea and then make their way up rivers and streams. Whitebait are in decline-we are losing more of them each year.

The whitebait fishing season is open between 15 August and 30 November (inclusive). The taking of whitebait at all other times is prohibited. Fishing is only permitted between 5am and 8pm OR between 6am and 9pm when New Zealand Daylight Saving is being observed.

Unlawfully taken fish must be immediately returned to the waters from which they were obtained, taking care to ensure their survival. No person shall discard or dump on shore any fish taken when fishing for whitebait.

No person shall fish for whitebait within 20 m of any tide gate, floodgate, confluence or culvert, or fish from any bridge, or from any vessel. Nothing in these regulations permits any person fishing for whitebait to interfere with, alter or modify the natural bed or banks of any river, stream, estuary or channel.

Under the National Parks Act 1980, it is an offence to carry out whitebait fishing in national parks without authority.

Persons offending against these regulations may be fined up to \$5000.

For more information please visit the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre and pick up “The Whitebaiter’s Guide to Whitebait”.

Working at Heights Training

On the 14th and 15th of July most members of the Services team undertook a “Working at Heights” course with Chris Cox from NZ Safety Worksafe Training. The course covered the use of fall arrest systems and work positioning – using ropes and harnesses to make working on steep slopes and roofs safe for the rangers involved. The team learned when it is appropriate to use a rope system and the legal requirements for their use, learned and practised the appropriate knots to use, and finally had a go at belaying team members down a steep slope at Braggs Bay. These skills will be very useful in the upcoming summer season for regular hut maintenance and weeds work, as some of our huts have steep roofs which are quite high off the ground and there are a number of sites the weeds team has been unable to reach due to the dangerous terrain.



Dan Lee on the rope at Braggs Bay. *Photo credit: Jennifer Ross*



Michael Douglas spotting George Nicholas on the rope at Braggs Bay. *Photo credit: Jennifer Ross*



You’ve got to start somewhere. Jake Osborne, Dan Lee & George Nicholas learning rope techniques outside the DOC office. *Photo: Jennifer Ross*

CONGRATULATIONS

Parents	Parents	Parents	Parents	Parents
Pedro & Andrea	Petra & Abel	Charlotte & Sam	Liz & Heath	Alina & Matt
Welcome Baby Boy	Welcome Baby Girl	Welcome Baby Girl	Welcome Baby Boy	Welcome Baby Boy
Matteo James Bianchi Thayer	Harper Anne Gear	EsJay Bella Jenkinson	William ("Billie") Walker Allen	Jakob David Atkins

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Q3 are a very popular professional three piece cover band with a tight modern sound — hits from the 60s 70s 80s 90s and today. They will be sure to have you dancing the night away at the **Stewart Island Ball** on Saturday 24th October.



Left: watching the *Stratus* from the ferry; Above: *Stratus* at String's Wharf at Thule. Photos from Jess and Lania

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