

RAKIURA RAMBLES

A STEWART ISLAND NEWSLETTER

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August 1998

CELEBRATING
125 YEARS



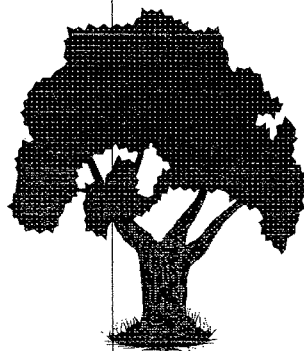
HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL WILL BE 125 YEARS OLD NEXT YEAR, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION. WOULD ANYONE INTERESTED IN FORMING A COMMITTEE TO ORGANISE THIS CELEBRATION/REUNION PLEASE CONTACT LEE WADDS, OR RING 2191299 (TUES. - FRI, 1.00 - 3.30 P.M.). WE WOULD REALLY LIKE THIS TO BE A SPECIAL OCCASION, ALL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED.

WE NEED YOU!

ULVA ISLAND TO BE SHOWCASE

Ulva Island, in Paterson Inlet, is to be developed as an "open sanctuary showcase" project by the Department of Conservation.

The 250 hectare island was made a sanctuary for the preservation of "nature, game and flora" in 1899. Charles Traill established a post office in Post Office Cove which was operated from 1872 until



1894. The old Post Office, the first in the Stewart Island region, can still be seen alongside the privately owned houses near the landing.

The Maori name, Te Wharawhara, comes from the astellia plant which grows on the forest floor, or sometimes in the debris trapped in the forks of a mature tree. In ancient times, fruit from the plant was ground and mixed with

hinu mako (shark oil) to form the distinctive deep blue dye used in traditional Kai Tahu moko (facial tattoo marks of the Kai Tahu people). Te Wharawhara is also an ancient reference to a burial cave where the dead were laid out until only the bones remained. These were then interred in a secret place.

Ulva Island is presently managed by the Department of Conservation as an "open sanctuary" and this status will be retained so the general public can see the results of pest control projects which have returned the island to a place where once common native birds can be seen at close quarters.

The Island is one of New Zealand's few offshore islands which is free of rats, cats, possums and other exotic animals which have had an adverse effect on native birds and plants elsewhere. Keeping the island pest free is a high

(Continued on page 2)

COMMUNITY GRIEF

M. Hopkins

Tragedies occur all over the world every hour of the day bringing inconsolable grief to so many people. Wednesday 19th August was one such day for our small Stewart Island community.

That people we know and love should leave the Island on a crystal clear day, on a regular journey, never to return, is the saddest event we have known here in many years.

The stunned disbelief of that day has been replaced by the sadness and grief so evident on the faces of Stewart Islanders and the whole wider Southland community.

Our hearts have gone out to the families of those who died and to the staff and management of Southern Air who are all so personally involved in the tragedy.

We have watched, uncomfortably, the media frenzy over the event, and have been deeply moved by the

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ULVA ISLAND

(Continued from page 1)

priority for the department and the Stewart Island community, many of whom were involved in voluntary work with the eradication project. Conservation Department Southern Islands Area Manager, Greg Lind, said that following the \$100 000 rat eradication project, and with no further sightings of rats for two years, it was time to move on to the next step. "The main reason for removing rats from the island was to sell the conservation message that we can make a difference and restore important habitats to their former standing," he said. Incorporated in the plan is full consultation with the Hunter family who own property on the island, and the rest of the community. "We want to have everyone fully involved with the ongoing planning and we will discuss each stage with the community as we proceed," he added. Increased popularity of the island had however created some problems with track deterioration, and Stewart Island Field Centre Supervisor, Dave Howell, said some upgrading work had been pro-

posed. "Visitors are staying longer than before and getting out on tracks which previously only had low usage. Some sections will be upgraded, but others we will leave for a more natural experience," he said. According to Mr Lind, the department, according to its planning time frame, aims to have a proposed plan completed by April next year. "If all things come together in April, there could possibly be a population of South Island Saddlebacks released on Ulva. Anyone who is aware of how much of a drawcard to Eco-tourism that would be, will also see the benefits to Stewart Island," Mr Lind concluded. Other species such as kiwi, Stewart Island robin and fernbirds will be evaluated for release on the island as part of the plan. The island is presently inhabited by South Island kaka, kakariki (parakeet), kereru (wood pigeon), korimako (bellbird) weka and tui. The six walking tracks on Ulva Island lead from Post Office Bay to various points of interest.

Young Ones on the move

Well done to *Annabel Frew* who has been accepted for the E.F. High School year exchange programme. She will leave in mid-January to spend a year in the U.S.A. Annabel said she will not find out where she has been placed until November, but that she is looking forward to the experience very much.



Laura Cavanagh, on the other hand, will also be leaving the island, but she will be going somewhere a little closer to home. She is preparing herself to attend the Outward Bound course at Anakiwa in early September. Laura follows in the footsteps of other Stewart Island young people who have gained enormous confidence and enjoyment from this course. Good luck, Laura - have a wonderful time.

Community grief

(Continued from page 1)

heroic actions of pilot Robin Andrews and the courage of Caroline Frances and John Chisholm in keeping the two Chisholm children alive. Admiration for the Riverton Coastguard; the many others in the frantic search, and the ambulance staff on the scene, has been expressed by so many, and we can be truly grateful that five people have

survived. Questions remain in our minds about the process for initiating Search and Rescue operations from centres further north when local knowledge and initiative could have had boats at the scene within 35 minutes. It is hoped that there are lessons to be learnt from this tragedy. The touching service held on the Island for Caroline Francis was a poignant and joyful

memorial to a friendly, hard-working wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend who will be sadly missed. The crowd of about 250 people listened to tributes paid by friends, neighbours, colleagues and school children which all added to the heartfelt memorial service led by Gwen Neave, J.P.



SCHOOL ENROLMENT ISSUES

by Kirsten Meads

Following recent media interest regarding falling school rolls in Southland, it is timely to take a look at our local Halfmoon Bay School. Over the past ten years, the roll has fallen from approximately 60 children and three teachers, to its present state of 27 children and two teachers.

Many reasons can be suggested for this decline, but the most popular theory is the decrease in the island's fishing fleet. Ten years ago, there were 26 cray boats at Halfmoon Bay. Each boat supported its skipper, crew and families. It is argued that the decline in boats could be attributed to the changes in fishing legislation, but whatever the reason, there are now approximately 7 cray boats in the Bay. New industry has come to the island, but often this attracts single people who may stay

for a season or two, then move on. Very few families with primary or pre-school children move to the island. Our local Playcentre went into recess last year when the roll dropped to only two children.

Unfortunately, our school is in a serious position as a result. This is our projected roll:

- * One more child is due to start in 1998, four will be leaving to go to senior school;
- * No children are expected to start school in 1999, two will leave;
- * Our next intake of any size will be the five due to start in the year 2000.

Obviously these figures are based on children resident on the island now. There is always the chance that more will shift here, but equally, there is the likelihood that some will leave.

Our school is regarded by the Ministry of Education as having special issues to be considered. Any mainland school with a similar roll would be under threat of clo-

sure. But, naturally, we are unable to drive our children down the road to the next school.

Our school roll is submitted to the Ministry biannually for their review. It is quite likely that soon we will be advised that our teacher hours will be cut. Unless the school trustees are able to come up with an alternative source of funding, one teacher will be required to teach all twenty-seven children, ranging from 5 years to 13 years of age.

If things decline to the point of a sole charge school, it will mean that one person will be required to meet the differing educational, social and emotional needs of ALL these children on a full-time basis. Added to this would be the increasing burden of administrative requirements expected by the Ministry of Education. This would not be an easy position to fill.

The school enjoys excellent community support, but it's children we desperately need! Employers are encouraged to consider this aspect when employing new staff.

A THOUGHT

A small child said
it best:
If you don't let me
help when me ain't
no help,
me ain't gonna help
when me could be
some help!

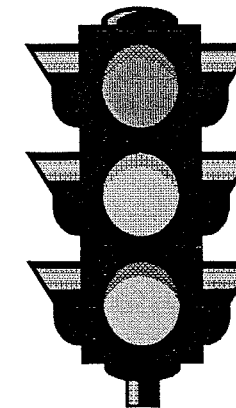
BERNIE'S

CHAIN LETTERS

Once again a series of chain letters are doing the rounds of the Island. The only one to gain any benefit from these letters is NZ Post.

If you have an uncontrollable urge to support them and send out about 20 letters, PLEASE think about the recipients.

There are some people out there who just can't afford the sort of money requested in these types of letters.



OFFENSIVE AND DISTURBING PHONE CALLS.
Just like the chain letters, it

BACKCHAT

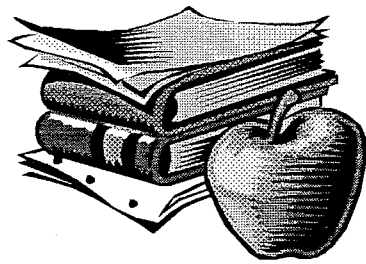
would appear that "no speak" phone calls are in vogue again. Please consider these three points on this subject:

- i) it is an offence to make disturbing telephone calls;
- ii) it is pretty weak to hide behind anonymous phone calls, and
- iii) we can trace the calls!

Catch ya later
Bernie

Library

News



PAWPRINTS IN THE BUTTER

BY Joy Cowley

Be your cat brave, apricot, sad, or mean, the chances are that Joy Cowley has captured the spirit of your pet with one of her poems.

Aimed at children (and found in the picture book section of the Library), there is also much to appeal to adults. My special favourite would have to be *Mean Cat*.

"Some cats eat chunky cat food.

Some think that milk is nice. My cat eats dead blowflies And chews the heads off mice."

If your tastes, and those of your children, are rather less revolting, there are eighteen other cats ready to delight. This book is illustrated by NZ children, and is a fun introduction to simple poetry.

REVIEWER: Kirsten Meads

BOOK REVIEWS

Books from S.I. Community Library

THE PERFECT STORM

BY Sebastian Junger

Can there be a perfect storm?

This novel, based on a true incident, sets out to answer the question. We are taken from the beginnings of a weather depression, through its increasing intensity, until it erupts into a full-blown storm.

The vivid descriptions of the weather patterns; the people who interpret and follow them; the effects it has on people on land and sea, their work and families, are detailed and fascinating.

This is a great read for yachties, fishermen and anyone who enjoys a good sea story and also for those interested in weather patterns.

Just remember, this has been written according to Northern Hemisphere conditions.

REVIEWER: Margaret Rooney



ETHNIC EMBROIDERY

BY Margaret Ohms

Embroidery is described as the decoration of cloth using needle and thread. Ethnic embroidery, whether free style or counted thread, is that of specific peoples or areas with individual motifs or styles developed in isolation. Modern transport and communications have merged countries and styles, so this book uses Chinese, Indian, Palestinian and Yugoslavian embroidery styles of earlier times.

The reader is guided through thread counts, needle and thread choices, so satisfactory results will ensue. While planned for embroidery, the motifs can be used for knitting, crochet, or collage to obtain original results.

Margaret Ohms lives in Auckland, so most of the embroideries pictured are from the Auckland Museum. Her book will provide inspiration and fresh ideas for every Reader.

REVIEWER: Helen Bissland

LIBRARY HOURS

(CORRECT TIMES)

Wed 2 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Fri 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Sat 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

LIBRARY NEWS

by Pat King

We conducted a Traffic Count this month beginning the week 10th August. This was for a report for the Base Library at Winton.

Over forty people visited the library during the 3 hours we were open that week. The majority of the of visitors wanted to change books, while the rest had inquiries, or were passing through. Let's hope that we will be eligible

for more funding as a result of this survey.

Isn't it great to see a start being made on the new Hall Complex? I am looking forward to moving into the new library when it is completed. It will be even bigger than what we now have!

Did you know that we have videos, covering a wide range of topics, available at \$2 for four nights? A catalogue is available

in the library.

Some recent arrivals are:

FICTION: *The Cure for Death by Lightning* by Gail Anderson Dargatz.

The Eleventh Commandment by Jeffrey Archer

NON-FICTION: *Kids and Drugs* by Paula Goodyear
The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger.

HAPPY READING!

Rakiura Museum Records - Highlights

by Margaret Hopkins

Rakiura Museum holds among its records countless photographs, journals, letters, newspaper and magazine articles dating back to the 1880's. While it is not practical or possible to display many of these items, I hope to bring you a taste of these in future issues and encourage you to take an interest in our local museum.

An article which appeared in the February, 1937 edition of the New Zealand Railways Magazine is of particular interest. Titled *Isle of the Glowing Sky - Stewart Island and a Glass Box*, by "Robin Hyde".

For those unfamiliar with her writing, Robin Hyde was the pen name for New Zealand author Iris Guiver Wilkinson, whose autobiographical novel *The Godwits Fly* has always been one of my favourites.

Born in Cape Town in 1906, Robin came to New Zealand as an infant and settled with her parents in Wellington, the town described in *The Godwits Fly* and her poetry book *Houses by the Sea*. On leaving school at 17, Robin Hyde became a journalist with the *Dominion*.

She had begun writing poetry at school and continued to do so, but her journalist career provided her with income and allowed little time for creative writing. Severe physical and mental illness dogged her early adult life, leaving her lame and on morphine for periods of time, which contributed to her bouts of depression and at-

tempts at suicide. While living in Sydney in 1926, she gave birth to the first of her two children in circumstances of great misery; the child died shortly after birth. She returned to New Zealand and worked on the *Christchurch Sun* before joining the *Wanganui Chronicle*.

In 1930 she moved to Auckland where her second child, a son was born. The following years saw her work as a part-time journalist and live as a semi-invalid in an Auckland mental hospital, still writing to try and earn a living.

During 1937 she made a long journey over the length of New Zealand, part of which is documented in the article we have at the museum. She left for England in 1938, visiting China enroute. Here she was the only woman granted a pass by General Chiang Kai-Shek to visit the Eastern Front.

She was in the village of Hsuehowfu when it was captured by the Japanese, and Robin was reported missing for two months. She eventually escaped and arrived, penniless, in England, too ill with a tropical disease contracted in China to work as a journalist. In her book *Dragon Rampant* she recounted her experiences in China. This was written in the first six weeks in England. Her life became a struggle, coping with illness, financial problems and depression, and she finally took her life in 1939 at the age of 33. Her collection of poetry, *Houses by the Sea*, written in the last years of her life, was not published until 1952.

I think Robin Hyde deserves

far more recognition as one of New Zealand's great writers. I shall leave a copy of her Stewart Island article at the Library. Here is a short extract from the article:

"How does it look, this ignored but beautiful tailpiece of New Zealand, if you come seeking not for curiosities, but for rest and new scenery? Even in the most inhabited part of the Island, Halfmoon Bay, the houses stand out against a soft background of bush, and a rock scarcely a stone's throw from the perfect harbour is a colony of nesting seagulls, screaming so loudly that you can hear their very unseemly invective on the mainland. Wild fuschia trees line the roads, and out of them tumble fat tuis. The fuschias were in blossom, and the tuis - not to mince matters - were drunk as lords."

A remarkable piece of descriptive writing which describes our tailpiece even today!

NZ Marine Transport Association

M. Hopkins

Stewart Island Marine Services director Ian Munro has recently been reappointed to the Governing Committee of the New Zealand Marine Transport Association.

This is a national body for charter boat operators, promoting the safe operation and protecting the interests of marine transport operators in New Zealand.



The Missing Link?

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
 Discussing things as they're said to be.
 Said one to the other, "Now Listen, you,
 There's a certain rumour that can't be true
 That man descended from our noble race
 The very idea is a disgrace!

No monkey ever deserted his wife
 Starved her babies and ruined her life,
 And you've never known a mother monk
 To leave her babies with others to bunk
 Or pass them on from one to another
 Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see,
 A monk build a fence round a coconut tree
 And let the coconuts go to waste,
 Forbidding all other monks to taste.
 Why, if I'd put a fence around the tree,
 Starvation would force you to steal from me.

Here's another thing a monk won't do,
 Go out at night and get in a stew,
 Or use a gun or club or knife
 To take some other monkey's life.
 Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss,
 But, brother, he didn't descend from us!" ANON

S.I.S.A. NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Lesley Gray	Gwen Neave
Sue Munro	Nikki Davis
Jayne Wilson	Isabella Broughton
Murray Cavanagh	Alan Aitchison
	Bruce Ford

Stewart Island Promotion Association

by Lesley Gray

There was a good turnout of members for the General Meeting of the S.I.P.A. last Wednesday. Mike Noedl from NZTB and Anne Pullar from Tourism Southland were present, showing their support for members and this community after the tragic air crash. Members were updated on the new Street Map. This is planned for release in Septem-

ber. 300 clearfiles have been purchased, and members have been asked to supply A4 pages. These will be put together and then distributed through N.Z. The Canterbury A & P Show is being held from 11 - 14 Nov. with the Southern Region having a large presence. Gwen Neave, Sue Munro and a Southern Air Staff Member could be attending.

A Triathlon is being planned for Sat. 21 Nov. Alan Aitchison updated us on how the working group are progressing with the planning. Anne Pullar showed us the Tourism Southland Web Site, explained how it works and how successful it has been. The S.I.P.A. are now planning 12 pages of generic information to add to this web site.

Japanese Exchange Student

Chisa Tsuda arrived on Stewart Island recently as part of the International Teaching Assistant Internship programme and will be working closely with the school for about 3 months. Chisa is a Computer Science graduate and worked for the Omron Software Co. as a Computer Programmer. She was previously in Gore for a few months, and is using this period of internship to improve her knowledge of English and of New Zealand. She also hopes to promote friendship and understanding between the two countries as she shares her culture and traditions with the pupils. Chisa is billeting with Lee and Alan Wadds while here.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Margaret Hopkins who has recently been appointed for a further one year term to the Southland Conservation Board.

Board numbers have been reduced to 9, and in future 3 of the positions will roll over each year to avoid a complete change in members, and so help to provide continuity in its working structure.

WICKED WHISPERS?

* Seen: One short, young lady having trouble with a very large vehicle while trying to shift house. I've heard of outdoor furniture, but parking it in the fuschias, I ask you?

* Wharfies will be wharfies. Where can you do donuts without being on a public road and use a vehicle with solid rubber tyres? Said wharfie had the largest grin of anyone enjoying the snow.

* From the "doing it the hard way" files: a mature gentleman rowed out to his boat, off for a pleasant day's fishing. On returning, he discovered that years in the Boy Scouts had done nothing for his knot tying ability.

Thank heavens for an easterly, aye? He arrived home to his blonde bombshell absolutely exhausted - not from fishing - too much walking and rowing!

* So is there any truth to the rumour there is hair on Italian FIAT motors?

* Proverbials caught! A heartfelt plea from the Whisperer to pool players: Only "down-trouser" people who

can manage to get their pants back up. I suspect the poor bloke was still shaking from the mother-in-law's visit.

* Are Corbans relocating their headoffice?? Certain gun-club members seem to think so as they, with the Corbans crew, inspected the security element - up really, really close.

Funny, I hadn't realised the gate was child-proofed. Thank heavens there were bottles of medicinal Chardonnay on hand.

* Slip-sliding away. Well, those at Horseshoe and Butterfields had trouble getting up hills in the snow, one lady had problems on the down-side. A large dent in the front (it has been cunningly disguised with dirt) is a small price to pay to keep a smiling face.

* Would someone please tell the established property man that boats only have (legal) holes above the waterline.

* When the cats away ... The old cliché was proven true the other day when the female partner went to town. Wise girl, she took the automatic pilot for the car with her. Once again her man tried to carve a whole new route home...

* Oh darn. A new craze of

removing more than just your hat and boots to take a drink was introduced in the pub and I missed it. The educational barman looked bemused as (I'm told quite gorgeous) young men went about their drinking business. They say you could spot the only local brave enough (or silly enough, or just too warm) to join in.

* Over the bar - the local publican is adding a little "Hollywood" to the public bar by starting a Boardwalk Of Fame. The first one up - the Dancing Man's shoes nailed to the wall. I just can't wait 'til they start encasing hands and feet in cement tho'.

* After a lovely holiday in the sun - and dare I say warmth - a well-known couple (twin-floaters you might say) hit New Zealand shores, and, via a local call were informed of the snowfall. They still decided to return to the island despite the temperature, but the big question is - just how far does that suntan go??

* And finally... it was so nice to be told that that good-looking ponytailed young fisherman finally got up dancing ... there's more with an attractive woman. Only problem, mate, no points if she's your auntie. Keep trying.

A village
 is
 a hive of glass,
 Where
NOTHING
 unobserved
 can
 pass.

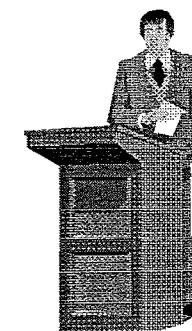
C.H. Spurgeon

Conservation Week Speech Competition - M. Hopkins

Gwen Neave and Margaret Hopkins were recently asked to judge the first Department of Conservation Secondary Schools Speech Competition held in Invercargill's State Insurance Theatre. This is to become an annual Conservation Week event and this year the 15 contestants were of a very high standard. Topics ranged from Market-

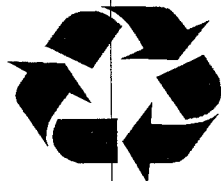
ing N.Z.'s Clean, Green Image to Environmental Problems; Care for the Environment; Habitats and Endangered Species. Both judges were impressed by the research and thought that had gone into preparing these 5 and 10 minute speeches. Entrants came from 6 different schools and we look forward to seeing a

Stewart Island contestant up there one day.



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Most Stewart Islanders may not be aware of the Department of Conservation's Volunteer Holiday Programme, or that each year for the last nine years, up to four projects have been run on the island. Field Centre Supervisor, Dave Howell, fully supports the opportunities presented for volunteers getting into conservation. He said the longest term project had been the plastic clean-ups of the western beaches from Doughboy Bay to East Ruggedy. The work has been ongoing since first initiated by Ron Tindal, and some 15 tonnes of rubbish has been collected in that time. The volunteer parties, led this year by Robyn Metcalfe, usually number three to six. "It would be an understatement to say it's hard work, but the volunteers all go away with a sense of pride and achievement, coupled with the feeling of having done something



to improve what are some of the most beautiful and natural beaches in New Zealand," Robyn said. Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator in Invercargill, Robyn Lelievre, maintains that there has never been a problem finding volunteers. "Even though they pay up to \$250 each for the opportunity, the beach cleanup project on Stewart Island is booked out within days of advertising in August," she said. Southland Conservancy runs 14 events each year, with two beach clean-ups proposed this year, as well as continued restoration of the Island Hill Homestead, led by Wally Hockly, and the new work preserving the historic tram to the Tin Range at Pegasus. Copies of the programme are available at the DoC Visitor Centre, and events are spread over the whole summer period.

Dried flower course

by Margaret Hopkins

While residents were huddling around their fires during the snowfall earlier this month, a group of fourteen local women enjoyed a weekend of tuition in dried flower arranging. June Flint from the Queenstown Flower Barn arrived with boxes and boxes of beautiful dried flowers grown on her property near Queenstown. It did not take very long before participants began creating imaginative wall hangings, topiary and other floral arrangements. St Andrews Sunday School Hall was soon transformed and the cold winter weekend was enjoyed by all the budding amateur florists. The course was arranged by the Stewart Island Garden Circle and assisted by a community grant from the Southland District Council.



Obituary - Caroline Gay Francis 1959 - 1998

Born in Christchurch to a family of six children, Caroline spent her early years on the family farm near Koromiko in the Picton area. She was educated at Queen Charlotte College and then worked in Blenheim before meeting Jim and eventually moving to Stewart Island with him.

Caroline was a woman who embraced life's opportunities and challenges with enthusiasm. She had an immense capacity for learning new skills, for working tirelessly alongside and supporting Jim, for providing for her children's education, and for finding time to help others through her

walking and running, the latter two making her a familiar figure to other users of the Halfmoon - Horseshoe Bay road.

Caroline had high standards of workmanship and was widely respected in the paua hatchery for her meticulous work. Those who worked on committees with her had complete faith in her ability to organise or co-ordinate events - and to deliver positive results.

Caroline embraced life's challenges with courage. When, at times, she was faced with danger, she responded immediately to divert or defuse the menace. The courage she displayed during the tragic air crash last week was no less than we would have expected.

From the early years of her partnership and marriage with Jim, they formed a team with a deep commitment to each other. As a wife and mother, she was dedicated to her husband and two boys. Her strong support was greatly valued by Jim. We offer Jim, Stacey and Tristan our sincere condolences.

by Gwen Neave, J.P.
The poem "A Measure of a Man" by A. G. Swinburne was adapted by Gwen as a tribute to Caroline.

The Measure of a Woman

Not "How did she die?"
But "How did she live?"
Not "What did she gain?"
But "What did she give?"
These are the units of a woman,
as a woman,
To measure the worth, regardless of birth.
Not "What was her station?"
But "Had she a heart?"
And "How did she play her own special part?"
Was she ever ready with a word of good cheer
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?
Not "What was her church?"
Nor "What was her creed?"
But "Had she defended those really in need?"
Not "What did the sketch in the newspaper say?"
But "How many were sorry when she passed away?"



**COURAGE
IS
GENEROSITY
OF
THE
HIGHEST
ORDER.**

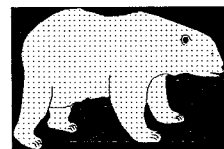
Charles Colton

involvement in various community groups. Her hobbies and interests were numerous. She was artistic and enjoyed icing cakes, dress making and creating craft gifts for family and friends. Caroline learned to dive, was passionate about ice-skating,

Young Islander N.Z.'s next author of renown?

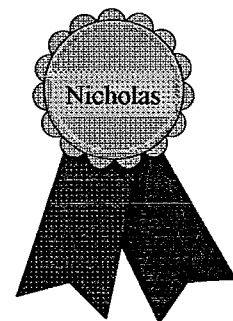
by Meryl Howell

Inspiring youngsters to read books can often be a most taxing topic for parents. Getting them to write stories can be even more difficult, limited as they are by spelling difficulties, the tiring job of holding that dreadfully thin pencil in a tiny hand, and, generally, the awesome job of concentrating long enough to get anything done. How wonderful it was then, to come across the following story written (despite the foregoing limitations) by Nicholas Meads:



The Forast
A baer went tho the forast. a fox went by. the sun was seting. an aol hoterd ho ho. now it was night. the sund of a wolf ekod tho the forast. but one of the stokgist of them wok up. it was the bran baer. sudinle evry thain went quait. then it rood. the anamalls ran away. tha wer sked becos he was

mad. the eko went all tho the forest. the end.
Recently turned seven Nicholas just loves writing, and will willingly read his story to you - when he can find the time in his busy lifestyle!



BIRTHS



Despite there being no births column in the last issue, there have been a number of babies born to island couples. Congratulations to all concerned.

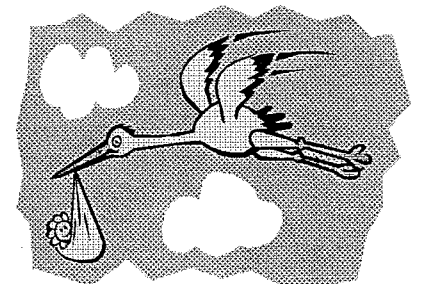
Keegan Mervyn Browne
born 11 January 1998, son of Jan and Derek.

Logan Dane Leask-Davis
born 14 March 1998, son of Amber and Grim.

Lewis Christy McLure
born March 1998, son of Corinne and Alisdair.

Kayne William Meikle-Wright
born 17 June 1998, son of Helen and Todd.

Samantha Tripp
born August 1998, daughter of Anne-Marie and Robert.



IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

1. Boatbuilding on the island
2. Letters to Laetitia - comments/praise/controversy - you write, she'll reply
3. More book reviews
4. Community news
5. Health issues
6. More from the Whisperer



AND MORE, MUCH MORE!

Ferry Summer Timetable

Just a reminder that the ferry will change to its summer timetable on Tuesday 1st September. The afternoon ferry will depart Halfmoon Bay at 3.30p.m and depart Bluff at 5p.m



New Ferry for Stewart Island

M. Hopkins

Work has begun at Gough Bros. Engineering on the new 100 passenger ferry for Stewart Island Marine Services. Construction of the new ferry is coming along very well. Company director Ian Munro said that the engines had been ordered, the fuel tanks made, and half of the frames are up, so it is starting to look like a boat. The new ferry is expected to be in service some time in March.

REQUEST TO ALL BUSINESSES

We would like to run a regular column with the correct opening and closing times of ALL Stewart Island businesses. Please would you be so kind as to let us have a list of these times. This can be dropped off at the Museum or mailed to Box 86, Stewart Island.

Due date: 22 September 1998.

RAKIURA RAMBLES

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COMPILED AND EDITED BY
M. HOWELL

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