

RAKIURA RAMBLES

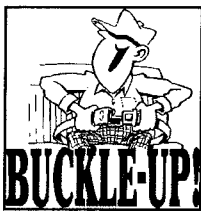
A STEWART ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 4

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August 1999

A FEW THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY!



look well.

feel well.

stay well.

A Brief History of the Stewart Island Library

The library at Stewart Island has gone under several names - Stewart Island Athenaeum; Oban Public Library and Stewart Island Community Library. It was first opened in 1885 with books costing 80 pounds (\$160) and was housed in the Halfmoon Bay school run by William Peterson, the first government appointed teacher to the Island.

Members paid 10 shillings (\$1) per year and 6 pence per fortnight. Non-members paid 5 shillings (50c) a quarter and 6 pence per book. Some of the books available were - complete sets of Shakespeare; Dickens; Kingsley; Burns; Cowper; Moore; Longfellow; Scott's novel, Waverley; books on history, exploration and the sea as well as classics like Robinson Crusoe; Tom Brown's School-days and Mark Twain's 'choice works'. Some of these books are on display in the new library.

After a community hall was built in 1906 the library was added to the side of the

building and was run by Cedric Smith, County Clerk/librarian for many years.

After Cedric Smith's death Mrs Margerie MacDonald became librarian, a position she held for over 25 years.

When Mrs MacDonald died in 1985 I took over and we started to modernize the library and build up the current collection, but it was not until the Southland District Council took over the administration of libraries in their district that a yearly allocation was made for the purchase of books.

The library was moved from the Community Hall to the Playcentre room on 30th June 1998 so that a new Community Centre incorporating a library could be constructed on the site of the old hall.

After a year in temporary premises the library will open in late July in brand new premises. Those who attended the library in the past will be, I hope, im-

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Attack On Mainland!

Better than expected sales of T-shirts on the Island over the summer have given Rakiura Art the confidence to prepare an invasion of the mainland market for next summer. According to Dil Belworthy (one half-wife Cath being other half), "We were really pleased with the number of shirts sold on the Island this year. The Island market alone certainly isn't large enough for us to make a living off at present, but it does give us a good foundation to build on. We also sold quite a few shirts on Maud Island (Marlborough Sounds) and The Sub-Antarctic cruise ship, the *Akademic Shokalskiy*, all of which has encouraged us to hope we can produce shirts that can capture a little bit of the huge mainland market for printed T's."

Cath and Dil have been working on exploring the possibilities new technologies are opening up, in particular the potential to produce very high-quality and complex designs in

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Where in the World is Wally?

M. Hopkins

Stewart Island DOC officer Wally Hockly recently departed on an adventure of a lifetime. As his postcards back to Stewart Island convey, every day is bringing him a hard earned change of scenery.

Wally is walking the famous Appalachian Trail in the U.S. A, which at 2050 miles, is the longest marked continuous footpath in the world. The trail traverses Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and extends from Katahdin, Maine, through 14 states to Springer Mountain, Georgia.

In his first postcard from Franklin, Maine, Wally wrote "Hiked 100 miles in first week, all going well. No blisters or sore muscles. Carrying a pack full of National Geographics while training has proved worthwhile. Started the track with 75 lb. pack and now down to about 65 lb."

Next postcard Fontana, Pennsylvania.

"Less than 2000 miles to go! Tomorrow heading into the Smokies, said to have the greatest variety of plant life of any similar sized area in the world. Also the worst

bear problems of the trail." Hotsprings, North Carolina. "I've done 106 miles in 7 days. It took 5 days to do the Smokies. They were amazing both for the views and the vegetation. I didn't see any bears but did see my first snakes. The first one was about 12" long and initially I watched it cross the trail and wondered what it was. I was expecting them much bigger. The other I saw was about 3 ft long and I nearly stood on it.

Saw white tailed deer in the Smokies which I walked to within 2 metres before they slowly moved a few paces away. Also met some rangers heading off to work on the trail with pack horses loaded with their gear, including a rock drill and explosives. All the shelters in the Smokies have a fence to keep the bears out and the shelters must be used. No tenting. Since the Smokies I've got back to tenting. As long as I don't have food in my tent I should be O.K.. Life is good."

Damascus, Virginia. "450 miles down, lots to go. Just entered the 4th state Virginia. I've seen a bear. Watched one from a distance

for 10 minutes. Hopefully will still see another one closer to get a photo.

Have had a problem with my big toe but after self performed minor surgery with a Leatherman, I think the problem has gone. The toe's still there too. I'm 2 days behind my very loose schedule of getting to Maine early October. Easily make that up. Shortest non-town day is only 8 miles.

There are so many beautiful spots to camp. The rhododendrons are starting to flower, a brilliant purple. It's said that the trail starts to get easier soon but looking at the maps it's still at least a week away. Today was a very easy 14.5 miles but we still had climbs totalling 2100 ft.

So far there have been 2 deaths on the trail, both with heart attacks. Out for pizza tonight. Good to get real food after all that rice and rubbish for the last 7 nights."



There is so much good in the worst of us,

So much bad in the best of us,

That it doesn't do anyone of us

To talk about

Stewart Island Featured

M. Hopkins

It seems like Stewart Island is a major topic of interest in several national publications lately.

Ansett's inflight magazine for April featured an article about the island with a lovely photo of Sam on the cover. The New Zealand Geographic magazine April-June had an excellent article about the tin mining at Port Pegasus which

has been well researched and written.

The hot topic of the month also featured in the May Forest and Bird magazine with an article about the Stewart Island National Park investigation.

In the Autumn edition of the New Zealand Professional Skipper magazine there is an article on our new ferry Fo-



veaux Express with photos on the cover.

Then there have also been the articles in the Southland times about our very own Fluid Druid - apparently notorious from here to Wellington.

Quite a feat for our small island. A place of beauty, great individuals and idyllic lifestyles, no less.

Hill Cafe

M. Hopkins



Recent approval for the establishment and operation of a cafe/bar in Halfmoon Bay was granted by the Southland District Council's Resource Planning Committee.

Deanne McPherson and Alan Booth recently shifted to Stewart Island from Gore and have purchased 'Tenola', former holiday home of Ernie and Rene Squires and

more recently Kirsten and Karl Hansen. Work has begun on developing the old house into a cafe which will seat up to 48 people with the potential for a further 20 people to dine outdoors in fine weather.

The resource consent application for the cafe/bar was supported by the immediate neighbours, although

concerns were expressed by a nearby neighbour and the Stewart Island Community Board regarding provision for off-street parking and 7 a.m - 3 a.m. hours of operation.

Ms McPherson told the consent committee that operating until 3 a.m. would not be a normal occurrence and generally they would be closed by midnight. It is likely that only in the event of special occasions such as weddings that a 3 a.m. closure would be a possibility.

With regard to car parking, the consent committee agreed to the provision for 6 off-street car parks. Ms McPherson said that there are 27 parking spaces available within 150m of the site and she believed that customers will park their cars in the bay/wharf area and walk to the site. Ms McPherson explained that the bush path-

way from the corner of the church property to the cafe will be lit.

As part of the cafe's management policy, monitoring of noise, lighting effects and the car parking situation will be undertaken and solutions would be put in place to remedy any problems.

The Southland District Council will review the conditions of the consent in 12 months time to deal with any unanticipated environmental effects. Aspects which may be the subject of this review are: noise levels; hours of operation; car parking and signage. With a planned opening date of October 1st, the Church Hill Cafe will add a welcome dimension to the community's social environment by providing an outlet for residents and visitors to the Island, to dine with a view of the surrounding bay.



Outdoor Dining in good weather

DOC Staff Changes

M. Hopkins

We were all sad to see Robyn Metcalfe leave the Island after working as VIN Centre Manager at DOC over the past two and a half years.

Her cheerful personality and sense of humour won her many friends during her time here. She is currently spending time in Queenstown house-sitting for her parents and skiing over the winter.

The newly appointed VIN Centre Manager is Sharon Pasco who has returned to live on the Island with husband Noel and children Francesca and Tony. All their friends will be pleased to see them back and know that Sharon's knowledge of the Island and experience in the

tourist industry will stand her in good stead for the job. The Pasco's left the Island 12 years ago and moved to Opuia in the Bay of Islands where they owned and operated a motel and charter boat. In recent years they returned south to Sharon's home town, Gore, where she worked as sub-editor for the *Gore Ensign*.

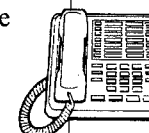
Ros Cole, who has been working as the biodiversity programme manager here on the Island, has also left to take up a position with the Southland Regional Council. We wish her well.

S I Playcentre & Telecom

The Stewart Island Playcentre has recently formally closed after being in recess for the past two years. While it was open, some parents took the option to support the centre with the Telecom 'School Connection' scheme. These funds have been accumulating over the time and continue to do so.

While the Southland Playcentre Association is grateful for the money, parents might like to change their donation to the school, or cancel the connection. If ex-parents wish to cancel the 'school connection' they should contact Telecom directly, as we are unable to stop the scheme for the Playcentre. It is also the policy of Telecom not to directly contact the subscribers to advise them of the change in circumstances.

The Southland Playcentre Association thanks you for your past support of the Playcentre.





Diver Jellyfish an anecdote

Another Urban Myth???
We're sure by now that everyone knows the hoary old legend of the scuba diver (in some versions it's a swimmer) scooped up accidentally in a helicopter monsoon bucket and dropped to his death into a burning forest. Here's a new one to replace it.....
Brian is a commercial saturation diver in Louisiana, USA. This is an email he sent to his sister: 'Just another note from your bottom dwelling brother. Last week I had a bad day at the office. Before I can tell you what happened to me, I must first bore you with a few technicalities of my job. As you know, my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office - a wetsuit. This time of the year the water is very cool. So what we do to keep warm is this. We have a diesel powered industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of machinery sucks the water out of the sea, heats it to a

delightful temp, then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose. Now this sounds like a damn good plan. When I get to the bottom, I take the hose and stuff it down the back of my neck. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a jacuzzi. Everything was going well until all of a sudden my butt started to itch. So of course I scratched it. This only made things worse. Within a few seconds my butt started to burn. I pulled the hose out from my back but the damage was done. In agony I realised what had happened: the hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it down my back. I don't have any hair on my back so the jellyfish couldn't get stuck there. However, my butt crack was not as fortunate. When I scratched what I thought was an itch I was actually grinding a jellyfish into my butt.



I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the comms. His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he, along with five other divers in the background, were laughing hysterically. Three in-water decompression stops and 35 minutes later I got to the surface wearing nothing but my helmet. My suit and gear were tied to the bell. The medic, with tears of laughter running down his face handed me a tube of cream. The cream put the fire out but I couldn't shit for two days because my butt was swollen shut. Anyway, the next time you think you have had a bad day at work, think of me, and think how much worse your day would be if you were to shove a jelly fish up your butt!'

FACT
John Foley spent 1271.5 hours voluntary work on the Community Centre building to 7th July

Way to go, John !



Maintenance

The following random excerpts from the Minute book of the Stewart Island County Council provides interesting reading.

10th December 1934
Council received a letter from George Turner Esq. in which he offered to make a donation of 50 pounds for the repairs to tourist tracks, provided RSA men were put on the work and to be under the

supervision of the County foreman. This was done owing to Mr Turner being led to understand that the Government was making no grant towards the maintenance of tourist tracks.

Application to cut grass in the recreation park for hay purposes was received from G. Aspinall - granted subject to usual conditions.

October 1935
Halfmoon Bay Horseshoe Bay Harbour Board decided to place notices on Ladies waiting room 'Men are re-

quested not to lean against wall of ladies waiting room'.
28th January 1937
Councillor Jensen moved that the hall engine attendant be advised that he must be in attendance all the time the engine is running as complaints had been received that he was not always standing by when the engine was running.
27th May 1937
Sister Peters made a complaint about the hall engine causing considerable interference with her wireless.
3rd August 1940
Council met with representatives of John Edmond Ltd regarding the company's proposal to start milling operations on the old whaling base property now owned by J.Edmond Ltd. Council agreed that the starting of a timber mill again would be a good thing for the Island.
30th July 1942
Cutting at the top of Argyle Street. It was decided to give further notice to the public regarding digging into banks and cuttings, especially this one, and ask the parents supporting in taking action to see

Rakiura Museum

(M. Hopkins)

that children did not offend. Mrs Hansen to be requested to see that her cowboys did not make use of the cutting as a cattle track.



29th March 1945
Electric Light Scheme. Engineer's report on the suggested power scheme from Rakeahua was unfavourable mainly on account of the large cost involved but in a large part also due to the difficult country to be traversed. They were however returning later to explore the possibilities in other directions.

12th November 1945
Hydro electricity completely overruled because of cost.

1949
Mr Cedric Smith requested an extension to the library as he held over 1000 books. Extension granted.

St Andrew's Church Information

We wish to advise that we will not be holding a Children's Flower Show this year.

We intend having a "Pet Blessing" ceremony later in the year in the grounds of the church and would like to encourage everyone, especially all the children in the community, to bring their pets along to take part in the ceremony. Keep a look out for further information closer to the time (possibly in the fourth term of the school year).

We hope to bring you little pieces of information from time to time to keep you informed about interesting activities we are doing.

Bluff Oyster & Seafood Festival

It was a cold, breezy day when nearly a dozen locals sailed to Bluff to participate in the second of this annual event. Organised by S.I. Promotions Assn., the stall sold fresh blue cod kebabs, marinated mussels and hot squid rings. Once again our stall proved very popular, both by price and food quality. And, with both BBQ's going, we kept the whole marquee warm. This year the chefs and servers sported aprons with the S. I. logo, printed by Rakiura Art. About \$500.00 was raised. Thanks to the hard "cook and sell" all the food was sold before the All Black game started. Well done everyone and heaps of thanks to our sponsors who again kindly donated so much to the successful effort.

PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE!

New Zealand Conservation Authority



Margaret Hopkins was recently appointed to the New Zealand Conservation Authority. The NZCA provides for interaction between the community and the Department of Conservation and represents the long-term public interest in conservation. It is an independent statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation to advise on the department's priorities, policies and practices at the national level. The NZCA focuses on policy and strategic direction, not day-to-day operational detail. Major responsibilities are the approval of conservation management strategies and

national park management plans. The NZCA may also investigate issues of national importance, advise on national strategies such as visitor use and pest or weed control on conservation lands, and advise the Minister or Director-General on overall conservation policies and directions.

Stewart Island Community Board News

M. Hopkins

Refuse Collection

A reminder once again that all rubbish put out for collection should be securely fastened in bags or boxes. It is unacceptable to have loose items sitting in an open container which may blow around the roadsides on the way to the refuse site.

Local Tracks

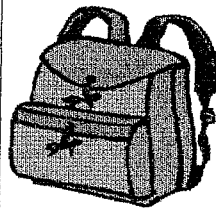
Greg Lind from DOC met with the Stewart Island Community Board to discuss the future maintenance of local walking tracks owned by Southland District Council which have in the past been maintained by DOC. The Department can no longer secure funding for these. The Community Board resolved to upgrade and maintain the Bathing Beach, Evening Cove and Horseshoe Point Tracks. Urban engineer Trevor Grey said that the Community Board could put forward an application for funding these upgrades. Future management of Moturau Moana gardens was discussed and the Stewart Island Community Board has agreed in principle to taking over the management, subject to a report from the Southland District Council staff.

Ayr Street Tidy Up

In response to three letters of complaint the Community Board has agreed to tidy up the boat park area of Ayr Street. An advertisement has been placed in the newspaper requesting owners of all boats and equipment in the area to contact the Area Office or unclaimed items will be removed at the owners' expense. Once the area has been tidied and ownership of boats ascertained there will be an annual charge for parking on the site.

Solo Trek

Those who went along to DOC to hear Richard Lepard talk about his epic solo trek the length of the South Island mountain ranges, were impressed with his achievement and endurance. As we looked at his slides of the spectacular scenery and mountain terrain he encountered on his 55 day trek from Cape Farewell in the north, to the Waiiau River mouth on the south coast we couldn't help but be amazed. Richard,

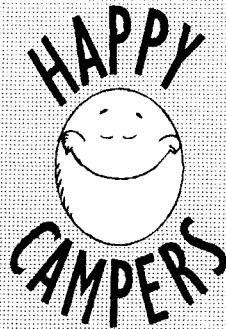


a local crib owner and frequent visitor to the Island, had long harboured the dream of this solo trek. With the help of his very supportive family who took over the running of his dairy farm and provided back-up on the journey, he was able to achieve his dream and experience some of the most rugged and trying conditions of New Zealand's mountain areas.

As we watched him show us the contents of the 'home' he carried on his back for those 55 days, we were amazed that anyone could put themselves through such a tough personal test.

Lightweight gear was important and his list showed us that his essentials weighed in at 12.5 kg.

His carefully planned food parcels were barely able to sustain the energy he was expending and his rendezvous with family members for 're-stocking', and his treats of ginger beer and apple charlottes must have been a welcome sight.



Stewart Island Library

The library at Stewart Island has gone under several names - Stewart Island Athenaeum; Oban Public Library and Stewart Island Community Library. It was first opened in 1885 with books costing 80 pounds (\$160) and was housed in the Halfmoon Bay school run by William Peterson, the first government appointed teacher to the Is-

land.

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exploration and the sea as well as classics like Robinson Crusoe; Tom Brown's Schooldays and Mark Twain's 'choice works'. Some of these books are on display in the new library.

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Attack On Mainland!

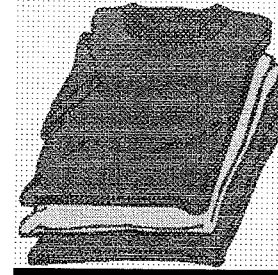
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small numbers. "Up until now, it has been necessary to think in terms of hundreds in order to make printing a complex design worthwhile, but we are looking at being able to print even a single high-quality shirt and still keep the price very reasonable. A good example of this kind of work is the fishing boat shirts we have begun to make recently, a few of which

are now in circulation, but we guess they won't be very visible until summer comes around. In the meantime, anyone who might be interested is welcome to come and have a look at what we're up to in our basement 'factory'. Hopefully you'll be amazed at the stuff we are doing now!"

Some sophisticated computer equipment is required for fancy T-shirts, and this gives Rakiura Art the capacity to handle a large range of services previously unavailable on the Island, from full colour copying to photo restoration, to all graphic manipulation and graphic designing. Dil and Cath say, "Check us out before you pay mainland prices for graphic services; we don't have large offices to maintain and we don't charge \$50 an hour for our services."

Rakiura Art
Crafting for
You!



Happenings at DOC

- Quite a few staff are having holidays at this time of year!
- Contractors have been working on structures on some of the local tracks and will then do further work in the back country.
- Grant Harper has been on the island setting up trials for monitoring cat behaviour in the N.Z. dotterel areas.
- Lynell Green from Otago University was based in the Freshwater area studying Stewart Island robins.
- Paul Sagar and team were on the Snares Island to study the albatross.
- The *Jester* and her skipper were used by N.I.W.A recently while doing their crayfish survey.
- Marie Kapene, a student from Southland Polytechnic joined staff in the Visitor Centre for two weeks of work experience.
- The visitor Centre and foyer refurbishment has been completed as has the new Hazardous Substance store.
- Sharon Pasco, husband Noël, Cheska and Tony are back on the island and Sharon is now in charge of the Visitor Centre and Field Centre Administration.



The Coastguard Boating Education Service have organised a Day Skipper Course designed for the sailor of small power boats or yachts and their associated crew and family members. It is also very useful for those working around water who are not commercial sailors and who need no commercial tickets. The course covers, amongst other things, emergencies, navigation, tides, weather, boat handling, buoys and beacons, distress signals, etc.

The cost of this course is partially subsidised by DOC and

(Continued on page 8)

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Dormitory sleeps 8
Caravans sleep 2
Power point sites
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THE WHISPERER

Nikki Davis

* Finally, the fashion industry is blossoming on Stewart Island. The recent launch of the ONLY T-shirt to be served a beer in proves that. Our local Versace beautifully captured the subtle details of "bar staff at work" while the resident drip-under-pressure ensured a capacity crowd of super(doooper) models to parade the T-shirts in the South Seas. Results: Punters 74 - Bar staff 1. (well the educated one had the last laugh by personal design)

* The Community Hall is rapidly nearing completion - the builders are looking relieved, the sub-contractors are hogging the pool table and the shopkeeper with the largest toy has managed to break the hall in.... (literally!) Using his huge equipment he can find the only waterpipe in a paddock or the only telephone cable in the (next door) property, but I don't think the side of the hall provided that much of a challenge!! And I'm still trying to decipher the purpose of his work on the hill - could it be that our elected representative has asked for her clothesline to be 20 metres lower? I wonder...

* And how does this 'digger' (no relation to Aussie Pete) fortify himself at the end of the day? By having a professionally cooked meal - although it may be his last since he left said chef lying in Dew somewhere up Tullamore way.

* Clearly Stewart Islanders are ahead of their time. July 10th was BLACKOUT DAY but heaps of locals decided to knock themselves out to black up early. I haven't seen so many black eyes since Norm Hewitt started wearing waterproof mascara.

* And kids - after blithering on about looking after your eyes, remember, it's always fun until one falls off!!

* Are plans underway for a secret coup d'etat?? (that's a revolution for those without School Cert. French) First I see the island's finest child-bearers performing stunning defence and attack manoeuvres on the tennis courts. Then (horror) I hear they go to Tie-Bow. Is this where instruction is given on correct double windsors??? No! (gasp) women learning to kick and punch to music. (sigh) Will there be a take-

over? Can they be wrestled to the ground?? Should we all go fishing??? Watch this space.

* It must be harvest time. The council has just erected a "No Green Waste" sign outside the tip. Actually I wasn't planning to dump any surplus until

there was a nice wee easterly on a Tuesday... light it up boys!

* Oooh arrrh, hoist the mains'l, swab the decks, mind those brass monkeys! A salty invasion on Saturday from yonder seaside resort. In true seadog style the

Guards of the Coast descended upon the Bay to imbibe a spot of rum and yarn of boating days gone past. (oh yes - and when the wind blew up on their return they fell about like landlubbers causing havoc and screams and breakages - and that's before they got on the ferry!!)

RAKIURA RAMBLES

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THE AUSPICES
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STEWART ISLAND
TOURISM
STRATEGY GROUP

COMPILED AND EDITED BY
M. HOWELL
P.O. BOX 86, STEWART ISLAND

Day Skipper Course

(Continued from page 7)

Sanfords, and although the course is held in a classroom, they make full use of video and OHP activities. The cost is \$75.

If interested, please
contact

Tom Sawyer
at 2149040



WHEN: Wed 11 August and Thurs 12 August

TIME: 08:30 - 14:00 (approx.)

WHERE: Social Room, Oban Fire Station

WHAT TO BRING? Writing materials. Lunch if you want to.

WHAT'S SUPPLIED? All course notes. Morning & p.m. tea

COST: \$75 per person - exam fees included