

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

AUGUST 2005

\$2

## Singles Ball a Big Success



Some of the Organisers greeting guests, from left: Terri Gibson, Doug Beck and Jaimee Blythe

A lot of hard work by a whole bunch of people had its rewards last Saturday evening with the successful running of the Singles' Ball at the Stewart Island Community Centre.

An estimated 240 people enjoyed two bands, a sumptuous seafood buffet and a great atmosphere. HMNZS *Kiwi* crew members skewed the male/female ratio slightly but were a big hit with the visiting ladies who mentioned local males seemed to be a bit shy.

However some local males were spotted leaving the venue with a new conquest so the efforts of the organisers did not go in vain. Hopefully a similar event will be arranged for next year.

**A big thank-you to all the sponsors and businesses who helped with support.**



Moths had cleared when the camera clicked.

**Singles Ball not "Inaugural" apparently.** Reports from Jim Watt (Friends of Rakiura) support evidence that Norwegian Whalers were holding Single's Balls back in the 1930's to meet local ladies. See story on the back page.

## STORMBIRD



Photo: Joe Cave.

Some of our older residents will no doubt recall this little vessel bobbing about the Bay in the early 1970's. She was actually Joe Cave's second boat, the first being an outboard-powered open aluminium dinghy which he called "RASTUS", and fished the waters of Breaksea Sound in Fiordland. **STORMBIRD** was one of two built by Miller & Tunnage at Port Chalmers in 1970, to a design based on the Cape Cod Dory – the other was **ST PIERRE**, built for Mike Symes.

Built of macracapa timber on the reverse clinker principle, they measured 27'7" x 9'5", and were fitted with 20 hp P4 Kelvin diesel engines. **STORMBIRD** was taken by road to Milford Sound where she was launched after Joe (so the story goes) spent some time on the trip in sitting aboard her finishing off the many small jobs that needed attention!

Beach Harbour in Breaksea Sound was "home", where Joe and Mike lived in a hut ashore, with a freezer (which also served as a venison depot) to store their catch. Floatplanes from Te Anau and the amphibian from Invercargill took the fish out and bought in stores etc when needed.

After a time working this area, Joe steamed up the West Coast and around to Kaikoura where he spent some time longlining for groper before heading south to Stewart Island. Here he and Helen settled, and Joe worked outside Halfmoon Bay, crayfishing as far as the "south-east" grounds, away outside Bunkers Island.

**STORMBIRD** was sold to Les Tubman and it is known that she sank later, but where and when remains a mystery.

And so a little boat with "character" disappeared from the scene. I hope you enjoyed the story – see you next month.

Merv King.

## Museum Notes.

“I have a crazy, crazy love of things,” wrote the great Chilean poet Pablo Neruda in his Ode to Things. One wonders what the author of Ode to the Spoon would have thought of the monster spoon at our local museum. The *uber*-ladle from the whale station’s cookhouse measures 15 cm across the top of its scoop, which is as deep as a pot. (You’d need a ladle for your ladle!)

You don’t have to be as loco as Pablo to appreciate our local treasure trove of Stewart Island stuff... even a standard *fondness* for things will keep you enthralled as you make the rounds. It might take a second visit before you notice the china moustache cup (the top has a cover on it to protect a man’s whiskers from tea). A closer look will reveal that the Captain Cook-inspired globe depicts Stewart Island connected to the South Island. You might finally see the fiddliest little thing (a whalebone fid) on a third round of the place.

The museum celebrates a wonderful collection of Maori artefacts, shells, and displays about the island’s rich history of whaling and timber. But, as Pablo points out, it’s not just the well-known objects that impart a true sense of history. “Many things conspired,” he wrote, “to tell me the whole story”.

It’s time to re-visit your local museum. It’s guaranteed you will see something you never noticed before.

**CORRECTION: In the July issue, a story about Operation Cover-Up (knitting for Ukrainian orphans) included an incorrect contact number for Pat King. If you have any interest in donating time or wool to this on-going charity, contact Pat King at 219 1156 or Elaine Hamilton at 2191 027.**



**Caption Contest time again.**

Last month Jess produced a fairly challenging crossword but forgot to give me the solution to print in this month’s issue before she left for New York. So we will have to be very patient and wait until she returns before finding out how many answers were correct.

As compensation, try thinking up a caption for the photograph above!

Greetings all,

Firstly thank you all for the warm welcome back. It really made Heather and I feel like we were coming 'home'. For those who didn't notice we were gone, no worries just carry on! A bit of travel is a great thing and many islanders do seem to travel.

One of the best things about it is the realisation that we're really fortunate to live in such a beautiful place in the world. We tell ourselves this, but you have to see it to believe it sometimes. We have none of the problems of over-crowding, filth, smog, real poverty and security risks which plague the rest of the world. Drinking water from the tap.....?! We can even generally find a park right outside the local shop. A couple of (very poor) attempts at surfing in Taiwan convinced me of how good it really is here. Paddling around amongst floating cardboard, plastic bottles and jelly fish was no fun. The beach looked like a tip. Eating the seafood.....?!

Thanks also for all those who looked after Duncan while he was here. He enjoyed his stint which sounded like more fishing and snorkelling than work!

Getting back to work, it has been fairly quiet of late which makes things easier. It is a year since I took up the position here and a good time to reflect on some areas of interest and changes in that year. I think the town seems a bit more settled which is good. There have been some challenges facing me as the policeman here and some of them have had to be met head on. Ignoring problems may seem easy at the time, but that does not make them go away. I am a firm believer that common sense can still sort most things out.

I am pleased with the improvement in vehicle standards. Keep it going as it requires constant attention from yourselves and hopefully then not me. I will be having a round up again soon of any sub standard vehicles, so check your one please.

We had the drink/drive squad over here. Get used to it. They will appear again soon. 'Anytime, Anyplace'. Having said that, I am pleased that we seem to be taking more responsibility in this area on the island. It involves everyone and it is a matter of modifying behaviour, not trying to 'beat the system'. Those days have well and truly gone.

I haven't had any recent reports of drug problems. If you have concerns in this area, see me. The island is better off without this scourge and it will not be tolerated. The effect on everyone's lifestyle is too great. If you are not convinced of the detrimental effect, the correlating crime statistics on the island may change your mind.

Road safety is another area that has received a push in the last year. This is a combined effort which has included various organisations and members of the public. Jane Ballantyne from Road Safety Southland is committed to addressing issues and seeing improvements made. She is planning to be back on the island soon with a follow up to her first meeting here.

I think it is great that the island community take an active interest in matters affecting them. This means that everyone continues to have some influence over their lifestyle on the island.

Finally. Have fun at the ball and please don't do anything stupid. I'm sure there will be enough lovely ladies to go round.

Look after each other. Catch you next month.

Constable Tod Hollebon  
Half Moon Bay Police.

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## CAR BOOT SALE

- What: Anything you can (LEGALLY) fit in your car boot.  
When: 10 am, 27<sup>th</sup> August (weekend after Singles Ball).  
Where: Anglican Church Car Park. Free parking for vehicles involved in sale.

Morning tea and baking available for gold coin donation.

See you there – 10am. For more information, phone 2191 353.

### Stewart Island Experience – Update on ferry discount ID cards

There has been a steady uptake of the new cards. There are around twenty cards still awaiting collection at 20 Main Rd, would those people who have not yet collected their cards please do so as soon as possible.

Please note: our camera and printer will not be available after the end of August. You will need to supply your own passport-sized photos (4 needed) with all new applications as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005.

Southland District Health Board (SDHB) is seeking Stewart Island residents' feedback on the health priorities of the region, with a public meeting scheduled for Friday 26 August at the Stewart Island Community Centre Hall.

The meeting is being held as part of a series of public consultation meetings around the Southland region, as the Board develops its SDHB District Strategic Plan 2005-2010. The long term strategic plan is reviewed every three years to respond to the changing health profile of the region, to build on achievements and progress in previous years, and to provide a vision for the Board's future direction.

General Manager Planning and Funding, Christine Miller, said that the community plays an important role in helping to review the plan and feedback is encouraged.

"This is the community's health board and we need to know if we understand your needs. The Stewart Island meeting will provide a good opportunity for residents to come along and give us feedback on the key health priorities as they see them, and also to have some discussion around local health issues that they are facing."

Ms Miller said that the District Strategic Plan is based on health information as identified from the recent Health Needs Assessment, and is also consistent with national health strategies.

"The recent Health Needs Assessment has reinforced several key health issues for our region and we are seeking feedback on whether we are heading in the right direction to address these key health priority areas."

Ms Miller said the key strategic planning areas included Maori Health, Chronic Disease (eg, Diabetes), Mental Health, Child/Youth Health, Healthy Eating Healthy Action, Oral Health, Community Support and Rural Health. CEO Dr Gershu Paul will join Ms Miller at the Stewart Island meeting to hear feedback from local residents.

"We receive \$210 million each year to fund health services and we want you to tell us if we are heading in the right direction, what we could do better, and what we are doing right," Dr Paul said.

"We look forward to meeting local residents at the meeting on Friday 26 August, and encourage as many people as possible to come along."

Public submissions and feedback will close on Monday 29 August 2005, however residents will also have the opportunity to provide feedback through newspaper advertisements in the Southland Times and Southland Express during the week 6 August - 13 August, or complete a feedback form on the Board's website from 6 August at [www.southlandhealth.co.nz](http://www.southlandhealth.co.nz).

**Stewart Island Meeting: Friday 26 August, 2pm-4pm,  
Community Centre Hall, Ayr Street, Stewart Island**

## STEWART ISLAND LIONS CLUB.

A very big thank you to our Stewart Island community who supported our recent fund raising activities.

The raffle ( in support of training a puppy for future use as a Guide Dog ) was won by :

( 1 ) Duncan Molloy of Invercargill.

( 2 ) Les – c/- Provincial Hotel, Chch.

The prizes for this raffle were generously sponsored by “Ship to Shore” and Glowing Skies.

HANZ ( Hospitality Assoc. N.Z. ) made their annual pilgrimage to Stewart Island for their fishing competition recently. Their patronage, at our mussel pattie barbecue, plus sales to the public ( who couldn't resist the aroma ) resulted in a profit of approximately \$1000. The excellent fishing, good weather and local hospitality made for a successful weekend – thank you to all involved.

Together with South Sea Hotel we are providing a weekly Meals-on-Wheels service to all residents aged 65 and over. The meal is available each Wednesday at a cost of \$8:00 p.p. If you would like to take advantage of this service phone the hotel ( 2191059 ) or Anita Geeson ( 2191014 ) by mid-day on Monday. Your dinner will be delivered around 6:30 pm.

Our next project is to assist with catering for the supper at the “Singles” Ball on August 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a community project with a difference. Single ,or not, you can support this project by purchasing a ticket and joining in the fun.

On September 10/11<sup>th</sup> we are assisting with the programme and catering for the Camp Quality Family Week-end. This organization supports the families of child cancer patients. Many islanders have already pledged support to this event by offering help and prizes for the fund raising dinner to be held in Alexandra on Aug. 13. Our thanks go to Stewart Island Flights, Bay Motel, LoLoma Fishing Excursions, South Sea Hotel, Empress Pearl Aquarium and Seaview Water Taxi for their sponsorship.

Stewart Island Lions Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in coming along contact the president ( ph.2191136 ), secretary ( 2191545 ) or any member. You will be welcome.

### **How did Lucky Beach gets its name?**

**According to Olga Sansom's *In the Grip of an Island*, a sealer noticed a barrel bobbing in the waves one day in 1857. He got it ashore and broached it, expecting to find some tallow. No tallow but – *hallo!* – the cask was filled with rum. The runaway rum came from the *Workington*, a brig that had run out of luck in the fierce Foveaux Strait. The sealer must have felt like he'd won the lottery that day, and he named the beach *Lucky*.**

### **Garden Circle**

The next meeting of the Garden Circle, which is the A.G.M., will be at Wendy Hallett's at 2.0 on 8th September.

## A MESSAGE TO SAY "THANKS"

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank *everyone* who was involved in helping us at the scene of my accident. Your assistance in whatever capacity is very much appreciated. A special thanks to Debs and Chris. It made me realize even more so just how fortunate we are to have very capable, caring nurses and reliable rescue services. I do feel sorry for the poor unsuspecting tramper who was walking along enjoying the view, no doubt and ended up attending to us! I never got to thank him in person but I hope it didn't spoil his afternoon.

I'd also like to say how lucky it was that Tia and I were wearing *seatbelts* and Leeym was in a car seat with proper restraints. It all happened so quickly and of course, very unexpectedly (as all accidents do). As we came to a very sudden stop, I don't like to think what might have happened had we not been wearing seatbelts. So I would encourage you all to belt up, especially our precious children!

It might also pay to beware of heavy or sharp objects in the car that could cause injury in the event of an accident, speaking from personal experience that is. Lastly thank you to all those who called, popped in, inquired after my health and sent messages for a speedy recovery. They all worked.  
Cheers! Bonnie

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### Community library book review by Jim Flack

#### The Colony of Unrequited Dreams - Wayne Johnston

If you missed a golden opportunity to get romantic with someone and it has haunted you the rest of your life then you will have something in common with the lead character in this novel based in bleak Newfoundland. But this is far from a love story. It's chocker-block full of flawed characters that keep you chuckling throughout. The heroes are drunks who sleep in flophouses, drunks who stay up late to harangue the night and are desperately poor. The villains are the privileged members of society who drink responsibly and always act with decorum.

Joe Smallwood is the classic underdog. He is a 120-pound weakling from the rough side of town - the fishing port of St John's. He has a forever repentant but reliably alcoholic father, a fervent born-again-Christian mother and an endless line of younger siblings. Yet he still manages to become the first Premier of Newfoundland when it becomes part of Canada in the 1940s.

But this man who overcame all the difficulties of class and upbringing cannot get over a girl who tried to get him expelled from high school. He loves her and only her, but can't see it and this drives him to distraction, perhaps even to greatness. She sits cynically on the sideline and criticizes his progress, first personally, then from her position as a newspaper columnist.

Another huge feature of the novel is the island of Newfoundland with its coast dotted with fishing villages and uncharted heartland. Joe Smallwood is equally infatuated with Newfoundland but the geography makes it just as difficult for him to embrace his homeland. He tries to tackle it by ship, on foot overland and finally walking around the coast on pack ice. The weather always beats him in the end.

At 560 pages, this was an entertaining and amusing read and a great shame to finish.

## Sewerage Scheme Extension Opened

The extension of the Oban sewerage scheme represents a major investment by the community, the Council and the Government in partnership, Mayor Frana Cardno said at the opening on 17 August.

The Associate Minister of Health, Pete Hodgson, formally opened the scheme during a brief ceremony at the Community Centre.

The Government has met half the cost of constructing the scheme through the Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme, and has contributed another \$750,000 as part of the special funding announced last month through Vote Conservation.

The Southland District Council is also paying a sixth of the cost, in recognition of the district-wide benefit in raising environmental and public health standards in local communities.

This has left the Stewart Island community to meet less than a third of the cost of this sewerage scheme extension. Mrs Cardno said that this was still “a great burden on a small number of ratepayers.”

The Council has also applied for funding through the new Tourism Demand Subsidy Scheme. If successful, this will reduce the cost of each connection even further.

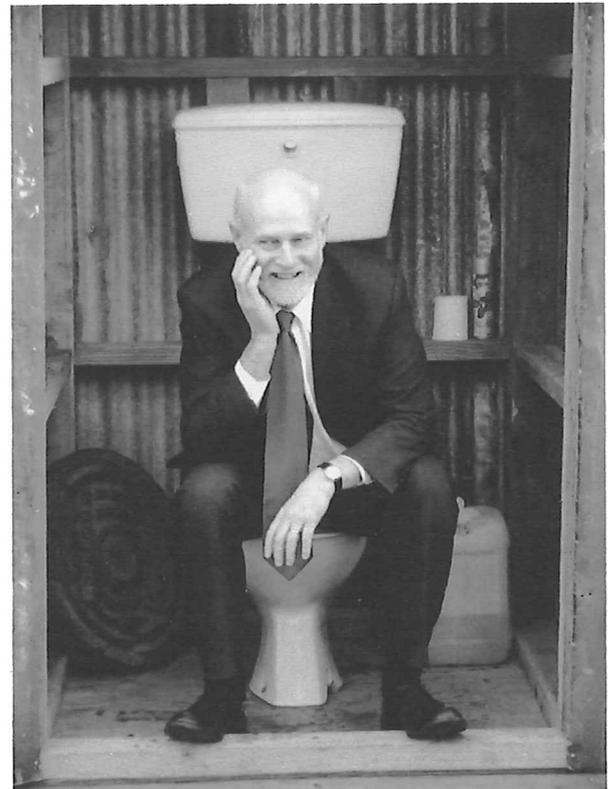
Community Board Chairman Barry Rhodes thanked the staff from Fulton Hogan, Provincial Contracting and Pro Drainage for their cooperation during the eight months they had been on the island.

“They have made a great effort to respect the wishes of the locals as far as possible when it came to shifting their machinery promptly to reopen roads.”

As Mr Hodgson is also Minister of Transport, Barry Rhodes took the opportunity to put in a plug for extra government funding to improve

the island’s roads. “We would be very receptive to any other funding for roading or other community upgrades that might be coming up in the future,” he said.

Properties inside the sewerage scheme extension area have until 1 July 2006 to connect to the scheme, but are encouraged to arrange connection as soon as possible. Connections that are inspected by 31 August will be charged the reduced fee, but after that owners will have to pay the full fee as the Council’s engineers will have left the island.



**Pete Hodgson In contemplative mood.**

### **Rugrats’ Parents Concerned about Litter**

Space this month has prevented the publication of a letter from Rugrats’ Parents worried about glass and litter in the playground. Look out for this next month but in the meantime, please be aware and report any unauthorised people you might see around the playground at Rugrats.

Back to Old Format this Month

Just for this issue, the News is back to the style used prior to Jess taking over. I do not have the same computer software that Jess uses to produce the great new look for SIN so I hope this issue is not too much of a disappointment. Editor for August was Stewart Dovey. P O Box 87, Oban.

**Singles' Ball Held before in Halfmoon Bay.**

During the few years the Norwegian whalers were using their Repair Base in Paterson Inlet (1926 - early thirties), a social highlight was the May 17 (Norwegian Constitution Day) Celebrations. These started with a mid-day dinner at Woodsleigh House when long speeches in Norwegian made proceeding pretty boring for the few Islanders who were invited. But then in the afternoon things livened up with 'The Sports' which were held on the beach. Adults and kids all joined in. Then in the evening came the fireworks and the rockets, followed by a dance in the old Community Hall. Music was Norwegian style with a fiddler and an accordionist, and a Norwegian supper was provided by the Steward and Cook at the Base. All the island girls wore new dresses, and a great fun time was had by everyone. Even the kids were allowed to attend - "We just loved it" was how the late Neta Rawle remembered it. What the evening perhaps lacked in style was made up for by the general hilarity, lubricated somewhat by hot rum that was heated outside in a kerosene tin over an open fire. (The Island was officially 'dry' in those days).

As told to Jim Watt in 1986 by the late Karl and Rita (nee Pollock) Johansen of Port Chalmers.



This month the chocolates have been kindly donated by Port of Call.

The nomination for the award was made by Oban Health Committee and goes to Chris Dillon for all his voluntary work keeping the ambulance in working order.

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email to the editor: Jess Kany@yahoo.com

Short written articles can be posted to the editor:

Jess Kany, P O Box 156, Stewart Island.

*The deadline for the September issue is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005*

If you would like this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 156, Stewart Island.

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