

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

August—September 2014

\$3.00

Nanu Nanu Rakiura. Much thanks to Vicki for covering for me while I was away. (I got a taste of my own medicine when I saw she'd poached a photo from my FB page and put it in *SIN*.)

Ice challenges have flooded social media and many residents have taken part. Basically you dump a bucket of ice water over your head and challenge friends to do the same, then upload it to Facebook. It sounds nuts but it's good fun and all for a good cause (participants are encouraged to donate to a charity of choice). I took part in the ALS awareness challenge in honour of a high school classmate and it was great to reconnect with old friends, I didn't think much of it until I read that \$4 million has been raised for ALS in the past two months, and the grassroots movement has gone celebrity: famous musicians, athletes and actors are participating and President Obama has just been challenged. So far the funniest and most hard-core ice challenges I've seen take place in New Zealand, many of them on the Island. Go Charlotte who had ice shovelled into her cold bath until she could hardly talk. And the boys getting hosed off the wharf into winter water made me laugh.

The whole island is getting ice water bucketed on it these days, and we even had a day of snow!



Our little ones are keeping warm and cosy thanks to the Knit and Natter ladies who knitted beautiful

jerseys for all of the pre-school local children who needed or wanted one.

It's a kaka... it's Raymond... it's... a *DRONE*?! Yes, we have a drone on the island, bringing delight and wonder to some; concern and apprehension to others. I chatted with the island's first drone owner Peter Tait and after observing footage from this doodad I am certain he will not be the *last* drone owner here. See page 6 for more.

Please support our Heritage Centre and spread the word that this wonderful and inspiring project needs help. See article below.

Don't miss the SPCA cupcake stall on 25th August at the Noticeboard, when else can you stuff cupcakes in your mouth guilt-free?



Summer and Leeym playing in the snow, *photo from their mum*

Rakiura / Stewart Island, Peace of My Heart.

by Margaret Hopkins

As I lie awake at night worrying about how we are going to raise the remaining \$2.5m for our new Heritage Centre on Stewart Island it suddenly occurred to me that throughout New Zealand (and the world) there are thousands of people who have connections to Stewart Island who may be willing to help and through Stewart Island News I may be able to reach some of those people.

Maybe your ancestors lived on Stewart Island? You might have lived or worked here? Peaceful Rakiura may have been your holiday destination of choice or maybe you honeymooned here? You might have visited on a dreadful rainy day and wished there

(Continued on page 15)





I'm back on board to assist with all your travel needs now working at Air New Zealand Holidays Invercargill. I look forward to helping with all your travel, accommodation, cruise, tours, Airpoints and insurance needs domestically and internationally. I have been helping locals on the island for the last 10 years with their travel arrangements and

would love to continue to do so as well as welcome all new clients on board.

Air New Zealand also offer Fly Buys, 12 months interest free on GE finance (conditions apply) as well as full and part payment with Airpoints for accommodation and cruises.

My hours are Wednesday through to Friday 9am-5pm.

Contact me on lea.melrose@airnz.co.nz or 032150000 extn 80011.

Thanks, Lea

AIR NEW ZEALAND 
Holidays



Snow Day on the Island, photo from Charlotte Bates



WISE UP TO WEEDS



SPANISH HEATH (*Erica lusitanica*)

Spanish heath is found around Oban from the airstrip down to the township. It will take off and become very dominant, so remove it while there's not too much around.

What is it?

Spanish heath is a woody shrub that can grow up to 2m high. The flowers form in sprigs, with a large number of small white flowers browning with age. The leaves are small, thin, soft and bright green.

What is the problem?

Spanish heath is often found in grasslands and other short vegetation and can form dense stands to exclude other plants. This shrub is very tolerant of harsh conditions.

How to control it?

- Pull out seedlings by hand.
- Cut and paste the stems with a herbicide gel – follow up control may be required.
- Spray with a glyphosate (Roundup) at 10ml/L – follow up control may be required.

Please contact the Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email service@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115



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The ultimate
protection.
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**Between the Pub & The Shop.
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photo from Carolyn Squires

www.stewart-island-news.com



photo from Nicolette Thompson

CUPCAKE DAY
FOR THE
SPCA

**Fight animal cruelty
on August 25, 2014**

Cupcake Day is the sweetest fundraiser of the year!
There are many different ways you can get involved.

LETTERS ☒☒☒☒

I hasten to be clear before I start that I have not had personal first hand experience. My concerns are based wholly on what I have been told and what I envisage as a result.

I am aware of a recent experience had by a fellow islander when seated on the rocks at Lonnekens Beach. On this occasion this person became aware of a drone being deployed in their vicinity and felt extremely uncomfortable by the presence of this unsolicited presence. When they endeavoured to walk away from the location the Gizmo follows as they retreated the beach area. The word "stalking" comes to mind which I believe is not a lawful pursuit.

I find this action is an invasion of ones privacy and furthermore, would quite reasonably cause a person to feel threatened. Now, while the operator of said machine would be fully aware of his/her intentions, honourable or otherwise, there is no way the person being pursued could possibly be aware of innocent or other intent and I myself can imagine I would indeed feel very threatened.

It has been said apparently in answer from official circles that there would be no difference if one was on the wharf and someone was taking photos. Now as far as I am concerned, there is a huge difference. If I was on the wharf and someone was taking photos, causing me to feel uncomfortable then I would walk away. (As was done on Lonnekens) Now, if the photographer was then to follow me continuing taking photos (as per the drone) then I believe I would be fully in my rights to request Police support to resolve the intrusion to my privacy.

I would also be interested to know how any such "drone operator" would feel should I acquire such a machine and while standing on public roadway or neighbouring property with that owners permission and then proceeded to operate my drone outside his/her bedroom windows. After all, I am told the official response is that it's no different to a helicopter. Sorry, what bunkum! A helicopter passing overhead is in no way comparable.

Cheers. *Ewan Gell*, Deep Bay

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem

Russell and Ann Beck at work on our archaeological collection

We learned so much about our archaeological collection from Russell and Ann Beck last month. How things were made into tools and what they were used for, what things were made by European hands, and many things that can only be seen under the microscope were just a few of the highlights we found out about. We would like to thank Stewart Island Experience, Stewart Island Flights, Stewart Island Lions Club and National Services Te Pae Rangī (Te Papa Tongarewa) for helping us make their stay special. They thoroughly enjoyed their time on the island through the many changes of our weather.

Many of you have got to know Jo Massey, our Southland's Roving Museum Officer as she comes each year to help us with our collections. This year we have accomplished a lot with more crating, photographing and marking of items. More has been added to our large E-hive data base and steps made to putting together a design brief with photos for the upcoming new museum.

The history of WWI is penings for this year asked to use one item the Southland Gallipoli the Southland at Gal-rations. We've found probably purchased mother or sweetheart passed on to the RSA. whom, how or when



connect it to a Stewart Island story. Please contact us if you can help.

playing a big part of hap-and next and we've been unique to our museum for oli Heritage Trail as part of lipoli 1915-2015 commemo-a piece of framed handwork, by a soldier overseas for his and brought back and then However we don't know by and would really like to connect

We are still taking orders to purchase the Whalers Base history with memorable bits from the Norwegian weekend that we held in April of this years. This will be later in the year. Cost will be approximately \$25-\$30. Phone or email us if you want to be put on the order list.

We will also be putting on the bulletin board copies of large photos we have left that were on display for Easter 2013 and the Norwegian Weekend 2014. These are high resolution and are beautiful when framed adding some real Stewart Island history to a home. They are black and white prints, 320 x 450 mm. You are welcome to come in and view them. The price is \$15 per copy.

Museum hours up until the end of September are Monday thru Saturday 10 am-12:00 noon, Saturday 10am-1:30 and Sunday Noon-2 pm. We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 or stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

Well winter has finally caught us up in the last few weeks hasn't it, but with it also comes the influx of winter root veggies at nice family friendly prices, am loving the selection of veggies and fruit on offer at our local Four Square at the moment. Last week I had the pleasure of trying dragon fruit, it looked almost too pretty to eat, but I did! I found the white flesh tasted like a mild kiwi fruit, but not acidic at all. And mangoes! Yum one of my favourites, love mango salsa with squid! With pumpkin being yummy and sweet it's satisfying to the taste buds adding kumera to that, parsnips, carrots, potatoes and garlic, all which have been on special in the last few weeks, so of course have helped mould my recipe for today.

It's hard to keep full and satisfied in the cold snaps, without piling on the weight with rich fatty foods that we tend to turn to in the winter months, but veggies are great for filling the gap and keeping the pounds off, there are so many different ways to have them, hearty soups, pumpkin and ginger is a favourite in our home, or kumera and bacon, stews packed with veggies, roast vegetable lasagne, veggie curries, roast veggies the list goes on...

Which brings me to this month's recipe, it's simple, tasty, gluten-free and versatile.

ROAST VEGGIE SALAD WITH BALSAMIC REDUCTION

(this serves around 4-6 people large portions!)

Quarter of a pumpkin
 4 medium potatoes
 2 medium kumera
 3 medium parsnips
 3 medium carrots
 1-2 bulbs of garlic
 1 small red onion
 1 packet of feta cheese
 2 tsp of mixed herbs, or fresh if you have them!
 1/2 a packet of pine nuts
 1/2 cup of balsamic vinegar
 2 tbsp of brown sugar
 Salt n pepper to season
 Olive oil

METHOD:

Set oven to 200 degrees fan forced if you have it. Cut veggies into around 2cm cube sizing, don't be too fussy! You can peel skin off if you like I don't bother I like pumpkin and kumera skin plus a lot of goodies are in the skin too so it's a bonus! Place in large oven roasting dish, drizzle with oil, add herbs and sea-

son with salt n pepper, lightly toss veg to coat evenly. Put in oven to do their thing.

Cut top of garlic bulbs and dice red onion, put in small oven dish and drizzle oil over exposed garlic tops and red onion salt n pepper and add to oven. Cook veggies for around 35-50 minutes depending on how crispy you like you roast veggies, remember garlic and onion won't take as long so check at 30 minutes.

Heat a dry pan on stove at medium heat and put pine nuts in pan, the secret to toasting these without burning is to keep them moving whether you use a spoon or gently shake the pan it's up to you. It only takes a few minutes to lightly brown pine nuts so watch all the time, remove from pan and put into a dish to cool down.

BALSAMIC REDUCTION

Add balsamic vinegar and brown sugar to a pot on a medium heat and let it lightly bubble, stirring all the time so it doesn't burn to the bottom. Reduce liquid by around half, you will notice as it's near being ready it will start to stick to side of pot. Test it's ready by using a spoon if it coats the back of a spoon and you can run your finger through the middle without it joining back up it's ready. Sauce will be glossy looking.

Cut feta into small cubes, once roast garlic has cooled enough peel cloves and set aside. When everything is ready add veggies to a serving dish toss through garlic pine nuts and feta, drizzle balsamic reduction over the top and enjoy.

This is great with a roast for something different or a juicy ribeye! You can add roasted red peppers for another level of sweetness, change feta for creamy blue, change the nuts to toasted almonds or walnuts, even use a pesto sauce if you don't like balsamic. The balsamic drizzle is yummy over roasted lamb or hogget or a good steak, so add your twist to this winter filler and get some veggies in ya!!



TE ANAU – MANAPOURI / CHATHAM ISLANDS (Pitt Island option available)

We have the facilities. We have the aircraft.
We have the opportunity.

Let's do it again!

We have again chartered a 45 passenger Convair aircraft for a direct flight from Manapouri to the Chatham Island where we will have 4 fully guided days to explore our most eastern island before returning home direct.

Depart Manapouri airport Monday 5th January & return Thursday 8th January 2015.

Total cost from \$2,120 per person.

Enquiries; merv@teanau.co.nz

Subject: Chatham Islands

Merv Halliday



Look at this magic M&M birthday cake Simone Dawson made!

DRONES

Last month in Melbourne, my family was walking along a pier when I heard the whine of a giant mosquito, and what looked like a giant black spider robot whizzed past us about three metres up in the air and disappeared into St. Kilda. I jumped and said “What the [bleep] was that?!” My street-savvier brother-in-law didn't break stride, “oh, just a drone,” he said. Personal drones are becoming more commonplace in cities, but it was this country mouse's first experience with one. When I came back to the Island I heard immediately that Peter Tait now owns a drone. I visit him recently and he was kind enough to demonstrate his drone for me, and shared some of his footage.

The camera on the drone is stabilized, so the resulting image isn't shaky or jerky but smooth. I watched a 20 minute movie which was looking down on the township from the height of Ob Rock as the drone flew from Peter's deck out over HMB wharf. It was mesmerizing and quite beautiful, it looked like the opening to a movie about our island. Peter pointed out that to create similar footage without a drone you'd have to rent a helicopter and the venture would cost close to 7 grand. His particular gizmo, the DJI Phantom 2+, costs about \$2,000. If he rents it out for work (the useful possi-


If you want to view footage from the drone go to sailsashore.co.nz and tap on the blog entry dated 4th July.



bilities are endless: weddings, promotions, tourism, gorse hunting...) the drone could pay for itself. With a bigger and better camera fitted onto it one could imagine doing a movie about Stewart Island comparable to *Ata Whenua*, the Milford Sound film shown at the Te Anau Theatre. Drones are being employed by tourism agencies elsewhere in NZ and used in ski fields.

The presence of a drone on the island has sparked some interesting questions about privacy, the law, and ethics. A drone in the wrong hands could be a worry: it could interfere with aircraft, it could peek on other people's properties and see what they're up to. In the hands of a creep or a nosy unethical person or a pervert or criminal, the drone could become something alarming in a small community. Some people in this community are already concerned. A local lady was having lunch with her granddaughter when Peter's drone passed by and it made her uncomfortable. I watched the resulting footage and while she could see the drone, the drone wasn't seeing her. It's not easy to observe which way the little camera is pointing, and in this case Peter was making a video of the beach, and the woman is only seen briefly on screen and the rest of the movie is

(Continued on page 8)



Halfmoon Bay Beat

Reported Crime:

Overnight Monday the 28th of July offender/s have illegally shot a deer that was caught in the Dancing Star foundation Deer Trap at Lee Bay.

The offender/s have had to enter the predator fenced off area to recover the deer.

Every person commits an offence who hunts or kills or has in his possession any wild animal on any land or discharges a firearm into or over or across any land without authority of the owner or occupier.

Police would like to hear from anyone who has information about this incident.

Note the Dancing Star foundation land is private property. Anyone who enters onto any private property without legal authority or the authority of the owner or occupier is trespassing.

Senior Constable Dale JENKINS



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Buying Liquor regularly? Want it cheap? Why not buy it from the comfort of your home and get it delivered straight to your place. Liquormart offers a wide range of spirits and wines from all around the world at very sharp prices. Visit www.liquormart.co.nz to have a look at our wide range of spirits and wines.

- ★ We do special prices on bulk orders, ideal for weddings/Birthdays or any other event
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Creative Fibre Southland

Spinners : Weavers : Knitters Felters ; Dyers Extend an invitation to Stewart Island residents to come and visit us August 16th & 17th Venue:- Stewart Island Fire Brigade Display of Fibre Craft

Stewart Island contact Helen Bennett 2191 199

You know you are on Stewart Island when - 'the local storekeeper spots a workman standing in the snow while drain reconstruction is taking place and sends out a hot coffee and muffin to warm him up.'

Thank you Jill at Ship to Shore.



The Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community & Environment Trust (SIRCET) wish to clarify that as of 31 May 2014, our current staff members include Shona Sangsta (Project Administrator) and Nic Shaw (Trapping Assistant). The board of trustees are made up of 6 members of the SI community and include Di Morris (Chair), Letitia McRitchie (Treasurer), Alina Atkins (Secretary), Matt Hare, Sharon Ross and Jim Tait. If you have any queries at all regarding the Trust's staff, projects or how to get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us on (03) 2191 487.

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Following is a series of questions put to Peter about his drone from some concerned residents, and Peter's responses:

1) Why did you decide to buy a drone?

Because I could see a use for the filming and photographic projects I do

2) How high and how far can it fly from where you operate it?

Up to 1000 Metres in line of sight

3) In what areas do you see yourself using it? (geographical and commercial)

Stewart Island Local

4) Are there laws or guidelines about flying drones?

Yes, in short, I can fly below 400ft altitude, and if within 4k of air-field after notifying airport owner. If for example I was filming in the Freshwater area, even below 400ft I would notify the Invercargill tower, as that is an area where aircraft MAY choose to fly below their normal legal minimum.

5) Though some people will be excited about this new technology, others will be dismayed at the possibility of further invasion into personal and property privacy. What would you want to say to these people?

If you are in a public place people may be filmed. In my case if folk indicate they do NOT wish to be filmed I will give them the opportunity to move, or turn their back. But think of the issues of conventional filming in the village. If an individual does not wish to be filmed by whoever, then keep out of shot.

6) How would you define the differences in privacy invasion between a Google satellite photo, a helicopter photo and a drone photo of an individual on his/her own property?

Beyond (say) 2 or 300 ft the definition of my machine with a 5mm lens takes makes a person effectively unidentifiable. At minimum legal altitude for a helo, my Canon 60D with 300 mm lens will almost show how many freckles a subject has. Commercially available satellite pix can identify people now. This will only get better

7) How clearly can you see what your drone is seeing as you fly it?

Not well, I intend to improve that capability somewhat

8) How clearly can you see what your drone was seeing when you transfer its information to a computer?

See stills from footage.

9) What are some of the benefits you see in the use of privately owned drones?

Real Estate Promotion, Weed Survey, Animal management (seal counts ??) SAR (maybe) general scenic filming

10) What are some of the dangers you see in such use of drones? (Peeping Toms, information for hopeful burglars about homeowners' timetables or backyard possessions, home security, overseas holidays by someone who has had their diesel tank filled before departure, etc)

I doubt that would really be much of an issue. My machine, although small and airborne, is far from stealthy, unless so far away as to be not all that good at looking closely at things. But it possibly might be. But I could see an issue for Paparazzi type intrusions.

11) In view of such dangers, do you think there should be rules about operation of drones or licenses to own one?

Yes, this is being addressed by CAA at the moment

12) Do you see a difference between the way people of a small community, where most people know each other, might react to the use of a privately owned drone and the way people in a city might react where the use of drone is more anonymous?

I doubt I can answer that

13) Do you see any possibility that there could be danger to your drone from anyone who disliked it intensely?

Yes, but seriously not a good idea. Really only a firearm would be capable of downing it, and discharging a firearm in such circumstances would probably not make Dale very happy.

14) What will be your own personal rules about the use of your drone?

Other than with permission from the landowner concerned I will not film (or as far as possible fly) low over anyone's property. Anyone who objects to being filmed while on public property (say a beach) will be given time to either turn their back or to leave, and if possible I will advise folks I will be filming. And anyone who believes they have been filmed in an inappropriate way will be welcome to look at what I filmed at that time.

Taken from approximately 70-100 m



(DRONES Continued from page 6)

coastline. However, because the woman didn't know this, it didn't change how uneasy she felt. I will say that the drone would have a hard time sneaking up and spying on a person: it's noisy and noticeable.

To live comfortably amongst drones we will need to trust that their operators are abiding the law (ie avoiding aircraft) and also acting within the realm of basic decency and courtesy (*whatever that means* I can hear you readers ask, fair enough). Technology is changing so quickly that social rules are still catching up—iPhones are constantly recording and uploading video footage of people without their permission. Is this OK? Not necessarily...But it's happening. In society we live amongst people who own guns, matches, recording devices, vehicles, fists, pointy sticks...all of these things have the potential to seriously mess with your life, property and privacy.

When I encountered the drone in Melbourne it scared the wits out of me, it just looked like something out of a Terminator movie. Now that I have seen one up close, observed its capabilities and some resulting footage, I understand the draw of owning one. I recommend learning about these gizmos because like it or not, drones are here and I anticipate there will be more on the island in time.

—Jess



OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem**Zac, Travis, Shay, Nate and Joshua, the day of Shay's birthday**

It's been a great few months studying the book of Mark with "the Locals" and we've learned a lot. One thing the good Lord never forgot was the children and they're certainly a very special part of our church too.

In September we have some wonderful people here to visit and take our services. They are:

7th Sept. 2014 Kingsley and Barbara Sampson - this is a first for these folks and we'll look forward to meeting them.

14th Sept. Ian Lang - a member of Woodlands Presbyterian Church for about 60 years. Also a member of Gideons International. He and others will be coming and will speak about their work in Southland during the Sunday service. During the weekend Gideons will try to contact all places of accommodation to place free Bibles and replace any damaged ones. They hope to cover hotels, lodges, motels, backpackers, homestays and any other types of accommodation. If you wish the Gideons to call please contact Ian Lang Phone 2313096 or ring the local Presbyterian manse (2191-339) during that weekend.

21 Sept. Scott Thomson - Scott has a strong interest in history, particularly international relations. He was a member of the government advisory committee on overseas aid, and is an honorary vice president of the NZ Institute of International Affairs. A self confessed internationalist, he finds Stewart Island fascinating. Scott and his wife Barbara have been coming to Stewart Island for many years and we look forward to their visit.

28 Sept. Rev. Dr. Jason Goroncy - Another first timer to Stewart Island. It's always great to meet and greet new people into our church family.

110th Anniversary of Oban Presbyterian Church at Labour Weekend, October of this year.
Watch this space for what's happening that weekend

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

Key Messages from July Governance Group Meeting:

The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group met for the fourth time on 29th July, in Invercargill. The key messages from the meeting are:

1. The Governance Group wants to reiterate that the project is currently in a consultative phase with a detailed proposal being worked up for consideration.
2. To reflect that we are still consulting and no decisions have been made, the legal process of forming a Trust has been delayed until decisions have been made to proceed with the project.
3. The Governance Group is making good progress on the three documents that make up the detailed feasibility study (covering biosecurity, the proposed fence and eradication methods).
4. The Governance Group will be contacting all non-resident ratepayers to inform them about the project.
5. So far the GG has concentrated on keeping the Rakiura community informed, but from now on will include the rest of NZ. The Governance Group has endorsed the Morgan Foundation informing the rest of New Zealand about the Predator Free Rakiura proposal generally. This is appropriate given the scale of the project, and because many New Zealanders share an interest in Rakiura.

As always people can stay connected with the project through the Stewart Island News, the website (www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz) and any of the Governance Group members.

Why do we need a fence?

One of the key principles for undertaking any eradication is that reinvasion can be managed. Some sort of barrier is needed to slow reinvasion, but so far the only barriers that have been shown to work are water (which is why eradications have happened on islands) and predator fences. So the reason behind a fence is to reduce the risk of reinvasion as much as possible.

In the case of the Halfmoon Bay project, managing reinvasion would be **impossible** without the predator fence. There is no other proven technology that could greatly reduce the invasions that will come from the rest of the island (beyond the Halfmoon Bay project area).

In order to undertake the Halfmoon Bay project, it is proposed that a predator fence is constructed from somewhere near North Arm to Maori Beach, stretching approx 7.5km (5km as the crow flies). The potential area for the fence location is entirely on public conservation land.

The best placement for a predator fence is to follow the ridgelines as it crosses from coast to coast. In this way, the fence does not have to cross any major waterways – waterways intersecting the fence line are recognised as points of weakness in preventing animals passing

though.

One common weakness with predator fences that run from coast to coast across peninsulas has been the way the fence ends, as animals seem to be able to walk relatively freely around the end of the fence. With the Halfmoon Bay project, it is envisaged that the predator fence would be built into the sea at both ends. Animals are less likely to swim around the fence ends than walk, so this will further reduce the risk of reinvasion.

The fence needs to be of a sufficient height to prevent all target species from crossing it - it is likely that the fence will need to be at least 1.8 metres high. In addition, the fence needs to have some kind of 'hood' on the top of it, designed to stop climbing animals from being able to get over the top of the fence. This will work from both directions, so that there is a way to reduce reinvasion from the Halfmoon Bay area, if predators ever re-establish, to the rest of the island in future.

As the potential location of the fence bisects part of the Rakiura Track, the fence will require gates in it. These gates will need to be designed in such a way that they can be passed through without the possibility of allowing animals to pass through at the same time.

It should be remembered that predator fences are not a 'build and walk away' strategy for predator eradication. The fence will require ongoing inspection (to ensure it is maintained in a good state) and maintenance on any faults. As an example, the predator fence at Maungatautiri is inspected more generally weekly and then intensively every month.

Furthermore, a fence is not a 'build and walk away' strategy for defence – it will not eliminate all predator invasions. It will greatly slow the invasion rate down, but (based on other fence situations) it will not completely remove them.

How noticeable would a fence be?

The vegetation needs to be cleared along the corridor where the fence runs, and maintained as cleared, to prevent animals from crossing between trees over and across the fence, and prevent damage to the fence from falling branches and trees. There is no denying that this gap will be visible when seen from the air or offshore. However, we do need to bear in mind that fence will be some 7km from the town and not visible from Oban – some people may never see it!

Without possums and rats to nibble at the undergrowth on one side, and given the extra light, the forest is likely to thicken up close to the fence. As such, this would make it very difficult to see, even from a few metres away. Following is a photo taken from twenty metres away from the Dancing Star fence. Trampers walking on the Rakiura Track are unlikely to see it for long stretches of the track, maybe not even until they pass through the gates where the fence crosses the track.



A photo taken from twenty metres away from the Dancing Star fence.

done would mean delaying any work on the Halfmoon Bay project area by several years. Furthermore, delaying the project in favour of technologies that may take a long time to emerge will put the benefits to Oban (mentioned above) at risk.

The final reason why doing nothing while waiting for the new technologies is fraught, is that there is no guarantee the required investment will be secured. At around \$50-100 million, creating a predator-free Rakiura is potentially a massive undertaking for funders – both private and Government. Being a populated island, the investment carries significant risk. It is extremely unlikely that funders would consider this investment unless it was clear the local community was behind the project. Undertaking the Halfmoon Bay project is the strongest indication we can give to funders that we are all committed to creating a predator-free Rakiura.

vestment unless it was clear the local community was behind the project. Undertaking the Halfmoon Bay project is the strongest indication we can give to funders that we are all committed to creating a predator-free Rakiura.

Other Predator Free Areas: Zealandia

In 1998 a predator fence was built around a valley in Karori, Wellington, and in 1999 the predators in the valley were eliminated. Over time new species have been introduced, so that there is now double the number of bird species (32) in the valley than there was when the sanctuary was created. Numbers of certain bird species in and around the sanctuary, particularly tui and kaka, are also up substantially. This has had a real positive spin off for the residents of Wellington City, providing the capital with a genuine tourist attraction as well as improved quality of life. It is now not uncommon to see flocks of kaka in neighbouring suburbs, and even birds like bellbird, kereru, kakariki and saddleback are venturing out into the suburbs. Anecdotally real estate values close to the predator fence have increased because of the 'halo effect' of birdlife it has created.

Since opening, Zealandia (formerly known as the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary) has steadily attracted more visitors. Since data collection started in 2002 visitor numbers have more than doubled to almost 100,000 per year. International visitors are the fastest growing segment of the market.



A view of the Zealandia fence line amongst the bush

Why don't we wait for new technology as an alternative to building a predator fence?

The issue of whether the fence is needed has been raised in a letter to the Stewart Island News by Ron Morrison. Ron points out that as part of the larger project, DOC will be exploring options for how to eradicate predators off the entire island, so he asked why we don't wait for those options to come to fruition instead of building a predator fence and undertaking the Halfmoon Bay project.

It is a good question, and deserves a detailed answer. There are three reasons why this is not the preferred option:

- The economic & ecological benefits to Halfmoon Bay,
- The uncertainties of the research into large scale eradication techniques / technology, and
- The socio-political reality of achieving the goal of a Predator Free Rakiura.

As set out in the Economic and Social Benefits paper, we expect the majority of the tourism benefits from a Predator Free Rakiura to be accrued as a result of the Halfmoon Bay project. This was conservatively estimated at \$10m in annual tourism revenue, an additional 88 jobs and an increase of 119 people to the population of Oban (including 9 extra children in the school). Given the scale of these benefits to Rakiura, not to mention the ecological dividend, it seems preferable to proceed with the project earlier rather than later. Further those purely economic benefits will accrue whether or not the eradication proceeds over the bulk of the island.

At the moment the concept of eradicating predators from the whole of Rakiura is purely theoretical. We don't yet know whether it is possible, let alone the how. One of the reasons behind breaking the project into two parts was that research into methods to complete the second phase (the rest of the island) could be done while the first project (Halfmoon Bay) was being completed. It is expected to take around 5-6 years in total to complete and confirm a successful eradication within the Halfmoon Bay area, depending on the method used. Waiting until the whole island methods research is

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Name Change for Local Trust

Rakiura Information & Heritage Centre Trust, the group working on building a new museum for the community has recently changed its title and objectives to better reflect the purpose of the proposed new building. Trust Chairperson Margaret Hopkins said, "We feel that by renaming as the Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust we would be more likely to emphasise the importance of the Heritage Centre which would perhaps more successfully attract funds for the new building. 'Information Centre' implies that it is a business giving out information and doing bookings. There is also the stigma attached to the failure of our recent Stewart Island i-site."

When the Trust was first set up in 2005 the vision was for a multi-purpose building and to have a staffed position for visitor information services within the building as well as the Heritage Centre function. "Lessons learnt from the demise of the Stewart Island i-site have shown us that the through-put for such a service is not high enough yet on Stewart Island. Current thinking for the building is that there will be provision for brochure stands for local businesses, a computer and perhaps a phone for visitors to contact operators directly to find out about activities on offer", explained Mrs Hopkins. "Sometime in the future if visitor numbers increase enough to make it viable, a staffed visitor information centre could still operate from the building but that is a decision for the Stewart Island Promotion

Association and the Stewart Island Community Board to make. Reception staff, as at the current museum will still be able to assist with basic enquiries or to hand out street maps, brochures etc."

Advice on procedure for changing the name and objectives was sought from Venture Southland and with agreement from the various stakeholders represented on the Trust it was decided to go ahead with the move.

"The intention to have Southland District Council as a tenant for the building, as in the current museum, is still the case. This has been confirmed by SDC and will assist when applications are made for external funds as it will indicate that we have looked at and planned for long term running costs", said Mrs Hopkins.

The Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust recently held its AGM and the following Trustees were appointed. Margaret Hopkins; Sharon Pasco, Sharyn Hensman, Loraine Hansen and Allan Wadds along with the following representatives - Bruce Ford, Southland District Council; Jon Spraggon, Stewart Island Promotion Association; Elaine Hamilton, Rakiura Museum; Phillip Smith, local Iwi; Greg Everest, Stewart Island Community Board; Bruce Stubbs, NZ Fire Service and a representative from the Department of Conservation. Margaret Hopkins was elected Chairperson and Jon Spraggon, Secretary / treasurer.

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Winners of the Super 15

- 1st Jill (don't forget my grocery package)
- 2nd Vicki (Sunday quiz worth a couple points)
- 3rd Richard (what can be said apart from 1 point)

**I'm sorry,
if you were
right, I'd agree
with you.**
—Robin Williams



Starts 14th August 2014

\$25 per person for the whole season

All monies from the tipping will go into prizes.

Picks have to be done by each Tuesday because games start Wednesday through to Sunday for the week.

See Mona asap to sign up, come and join the tipping fun!



Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

What did I come in for?

“I don’t *do* gossip” was my reply to a suggestion that I should write a ‘gossip’ column in the SIN. I will concede that the shop is seen as a place to chat and catch up - and for visitors to ask questions - but do we really know everything?

What was the fire siren for last night?

I met a guy wearing gumboots here twenty years ago, does he still live here?

Do you know how so-and-so is, are they out of hospital yet?

My family used to own a house here, who lives in it now?

Can I walk to Ulva Island?

What did I come in for?

Granted, we could probably answer most of those questions, but are Four Square staff really like the human version of Google? Four Squoogle or Ship to Squoogle?! *Thanks Serena for those suggestions!*

But back to “*What did I come in for?*”

I work there every day and still struggle to remember what’s on **my** shopping list. That would be the shop-

ping list that is sitting on the bench at home because I’ve forgotten to bring it to the shop with me.

And I’m sure I’m not alone in going to the shop with the intention of just buying milk and I walk out with three bags of groceries, only to get home and find I’ve still forgotten the milk!

Or once our groceries are scanned and packed into bags and we’re just about to pay, we suddenly remember a vital item and race around the shop to find it.

Oh and I’m not mocking anyone - I am **THE** most forgetful person.

Why are so many of us like this? Do we have too much other stuff on our minds? Are we stressed and so busy with life that once we walk through the doors into the welcoming environment of the Four Square, we chat with friends and simply relax and forget everything.

Or is there a strange magnetic force at work around every shop entrance that wipes our memory clear of all grocery-related thoughts as a way to make us buy things we don’t need ...

I don’t know what the answer is. I’ve trawled the internet in the vain hope of finding some bizarre psychology study on the subject but the proverbial cupboard was bare ... just like my mind when I walk into a shop!



Hellers takes to the streets in the search for NZ’s Next Top Sausage

Kiwis are renowned for their ingenuity and Hellers is calling on the nation to inspire a new generation of sausages.

Building on the success of last year’s inaugural competition, Hellers is once again handing over the reins to the public by launching New Zealand’s Next Top Sausage 2014.

The unique competition encourages people to dream up their ultimate idea for a new sausage flavour.

The mastermind behind the winning concept will earn themselves a trip for two to Paris and have their sausage flavour developed by Hellers and sold in supermarkets nationwide.

The competition has the potential to open up a new realm of flavour possibilities, says Brand Manager Brydon Heller, who is one of the three judges alongside Product Manager and Professional Chef Fraeona Heller and comedic brand ambassador Leigh Hart. “Last year’s competition proved that the flavour combinations are endless and only limited by people’s imaginations,” says

Brydon.

“The whole idea around New Zealand’s Next Top Sausage is to provide an opportunity for the public to get creative and encourage good old Kiwi ingenuity.” More than 1700 entries were received last year and Hellers is looking to grow this number in 2014.

Auckland father of two and customs dog handler, Paul Ferguson, took out the top spot with his ‘New Yorker Porker’ creation inspired by American spare ribs – combining BBQ pork, honey, onion, garlic, chilli and paprika.

The New Yorker Porker went on to be one of Hellers’ best-selling fresh flavoured sausages in 2013/14.

Paul and his wife Michelle won a trip to New York, described by the couple as a “once in a lifetime” experience.

“The whole trip was absolutely amazing. Our hotel was right in the middle of Times Square and we got to experience the real New York,” says Paul, adding that the novelty of seeing his New Yorker Porker creation on supermarket shelves has not worn off.

The top five entries in 2013 also included ‘Cheesymite’ which combined vegemite, marmite and mozzarella, ‘Wasabi and Pickled Ginger’ which used bacon and poached pear puree, ‘Venison, Wild Raspberry and Red Wine Jus’ and ‘Pork Scorcher’ with roasted garlic, cumin, cayenne pepper, smoked paprika and oregano.

How New Zealand’s Next Top Sausage 2014 works:

Entry to the competition is via the Hellers

Facebook page or website - www.facebook.com/HellersNZ and www.hellers.co.nz

Entries open on 10 August and run through until 6 September. The public will be asked to provide their flavour idea (to go with a base meat selected from chicken, beef, pork, lamb or venison). All ingredients must be readily available for purchase at major retailers/grocery chains or convenience stores.

The top eight flavour ideas will be selected by the Hellers judging panel consisting of Brydon and Fraeona Heller and Leigh Hart.

A weekly wild card entry (four in total) will be selected by Hellers and will go straight through to judging.

The final winner will be announced on 15 September.

The winning flavour will be developed by Hellers and sold in supermarkets nationwide.

The mastermind behind New Zealand’s Next Top Sausage 2014 will win a trip for two to Paris, including return flights, six nights’ accommodation, \$3000 spending money, a guided tour of the city, a two-course meal at the Eiffel Tower and a Sony Handycam to document their trip.

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford
“Disordered Minds” by Minette Walters &
“Twisted” by Lynda La Plante

I've certainly taken a walk on the dark side this month, first with the Walters disturbing picture of child-abuse and mental frailty in the 1970's, and then into La Plante's world of child-abuse and mental frailty in 2014! It seems that we don't learn by our mistakes then. It's enough to drive me to Mills & Boon where at least everyone lives happily ever after!

Minette Walters spins a good story however. Jonathan Hughes has written a book in the early 2000's about miscarriages of justice. A 20-year old Howard Stamp was convicted in the 1970 brutal slaying of his grandmother, and committed suicide three years later. Hughes contends that the verdict of guilty was 'unsafe', and with today's investigative procedures, Howard may not have been convicted. Hughes may be an anthropologist, but in his own eyes, he is firstly a coloured man, the product of a mixed marriage and a brutal and poverty-stricken childhood. His only friend and publisher, Andrew Spicer, knows that this background defines Hughes in his own eyes. Andrew has his own image problems, but unlike Jonathan, he embraces his challenges: lack of height, lack of hair, rotundity, etc! George (Georgina) Gardiner is the local Councillor for the Bournemouth ward where the murder took place. She is convinced of Howard's innocence – and is also a cancer-sufferer. If Howard was innocent, there's a murderer at large who won't be happy at the past being stirred up. And that's exactly what the unlikely trio do, managing to bury their personal 'tragedies' in pursuit of the truth. But how does the disappearance and possible murder of Cill Trevelyan fit in, only a few days before Howard's supposed rampage? Not as dark as some Walters' stories, and with several welcome flashes

of humour, but still grim reading.

La Plante's book is an enigma to me. The plot is intriguing: Amy Fulford is a 15-year old leading a triple life! Her time is split between her divorcing parents and her weekly boarding school. Then she disappears. DI Victor Reid of Missing Persons is assigned to the case, but shocking evidence emerges which – despite the lack of a body – points to murder. As I said, the plot is brilliant. You can see the 'but' coming, can't you? The writing was naive, so childishly rendered in fact that I had to read more La Plante to find out if I've misremembered her style! (I have.) There is none of the elegance that elevates a crime story into the realms of 'good fiction'. Instead, it's a plodding narrative with cardboard characters. Only curiosity kept me reading – and the ending, which should have been climactic, was quite the damp-squib. To make matters worse, our library copy is published by renowned Simon & Schuster, who are in urgent need of new proof-readers – the errors in grammar and spelling are frequent and glaring and did nothing to alleviate the feeling that this book was a most amateurish event. So I read her “Wrongful Death” in order to make a comparison – and there it was again: brilliant plot, naive and amateurish rendition with two-dimensional characters – and more proof-reading errors. I may have found some of the answer however – at the end of “Wrongful Death”, La Plante apologises to readers that some of the details in the TV adaptations may be different to the novels, and she is mindful when writing the novels that she will be adapting them for the small screen Is that why the attention to characters is limited maybe – because they will be re-interpreted by actors? And is the prose so naive because a script will require a different sort of finesse to a novel? Whether or not, it's a relief to turn to a master of the crime novel and Jeffrey Deaver's “The Twelfth Card”. The first chapter is very promising indeed.

photo from Carolyn Squaires



(HERITAGE CENTRE *Continued from page 1*)

were more indoor things to do or you may have wished you knew more about the history of this fascinating Island. You might wonder if there's a photo of Grannie's house or Grandad's fishing boat.

Imagine if all of the people with such connections would donate \$20, or whatever they could afford for this wonderful new Heritage Centre. They could then tell their children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends about it and all those small donations would soon make up a good sum. People grow up in cities, farms and small towns all over New Zealand but there is something about the way Stewart Island touches the lives of all those people who have lived here.

Someone recently posted on Facebook- 'Besides my hometown, the place that has had the biggest impact on me is Stewart Island. Probably because it's the first place I lived after leaving home. It quite quickly became part of me and it was everything I had imagined it would be and more. I wish I had grown up there!'

Stewart Islanders should be very proud of their museum – it has many items of national significance in its collection as well as thousands that are of local and regional significance. For a small museum with entirely volunteer staff it is highly regarded in the museum world and the new building will enable us to build on this reputation and better care for the items in the collection.

Applications are soon to be made to the first of the significant funders who may be able to assist with the project but we need to show local commitment and support from those with an interest in Stewart Island history.

If you would like to help, donations can be made directly to:

Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust – SBS 03 01355 0655721 00
 Or go to www.rakiuramuseum.co.nz and donate via the website.
 Or post a cheque to Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust, P.O. Box 184, Stewart Island 9846.
 Please contact us on rakiuramuseum@outlook.com if you would like a tax receipt for your donation.



Past museum (above) and present museum (below)



The FUTURE: Plans for the Rakiura Heritage Centre





CAPTION CONTEST. This month a photo of broccoli at the Pub caught my eye and reminded me why I love this place. Best captioner wins...broccoli and a jug. Send to editor email below.



A message from your Volunteer Brigade

In the event of an Emergency,

call **111**

(The boys don't mind being called out, we'd rather be safe than sorry)

If using a generator – make sure you are in a well ventilated area.

Make sure to keep your chimney clean. (we have attended two chimney fires already this winter, lets not have any more!)

Check your smoke alarms, they save lives. (if you need one installed contact the Brigade)



Flatman and Smiledial visit the Pub as they kick off their NZ trip. Check their FB page to follow their journey.

For information about suicide prevention, see <http://www.spinz.org.nz>



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

by Jenny Gell

Next meeting will be at
Carolyn Squires (Snr)
at 2 o'clock on
Thursday 11th September.

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