

Stewart Island news

Celebrating RAKIURA

August 2017

\$3.00

Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Minister of Conservation Maggie Barry visited the island with Sarah Dowie and Gary Tong to make announcements about funding for the new Heritage Centre and Predator Free 2050. After all the bad news associated with the oyster cull it was great to have some positive news. It is wonderful to see this project getting off the ground. Museums are not just awesome places to visit **when you're on holiday but a crucial repository for the stories of people who went before us.** More about the new Heritage Centre on page 3, and Predator Free 2050 on page 17. In more exciting news, the new owners of the Dancing Star land, now known as Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve, have plans to open to the public again. We have an interview with one of the new owners, Roy Thompson, on page 6.

Our condolences to the Hicks family on the passing of George Hicks. A tribute to him appears on page 2, along with the certificate of appreciation presented to him by Stewart Island residents for his war service.

Finally, don't forget that September 23rd is the General Election. There is still time to enrol if you haven't already or to check or update your details. And keep an eye out for Stewart Island has Talent!

Shona



Above, left to right: Margaret Hopkins, Chair of the Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust, Maggie Barry, Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Sarah Dowie, MP for Invercargill, Gary Tong, Mayor of Southland. *Photo by Matt Jones* Below: Participants at SIRCET & Love Your Water's Lonneker's Beach planting day on the 5th of August. *Photo by Te Kawe Robb*



George Elliot Hicks

6 July 1919- 5 July 2017



George Hicks served King and Country from 1940, serving in the 14th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment where he fought in the infamous battles at Minquar Qa'im , El Alamein and Monte Cassino. He also was seconded to the navy at one time, where his Stewart Island knowledge of small boats was useful in training to land troops in Italy.

But George's story started long before. His grandparents Charles and Ethel came to Stewart Island in 1894/95 to work in Murdoch's Mill (strangely enough, Murdoch descendant Kirsten is now married to their descendant Quin).

When Charles died leaving a young family, Ethel established the first of what would be 2 Ferndale Boarding Houses (Hicks Road, then later at the Ferndale Camping Ground, by Gwen and Gary Neave's home).

The Hicks family is also remembered in the naming of Hicks Point, which lies between Hicks Road and Butterfields Beach. This site is now commemorated by a recently installed park bench.

George is survived by his wife of more than 70 years, Brenda Hicks (98 years), brother Cyril Hicks (96 years), son Kenneth, and numerous grandchildren/great-grandchildren in New Zealand and Australia.

Stewart Island's Got Talent—30th September 7pm

Get your acts together. AMAZING PRIZES!

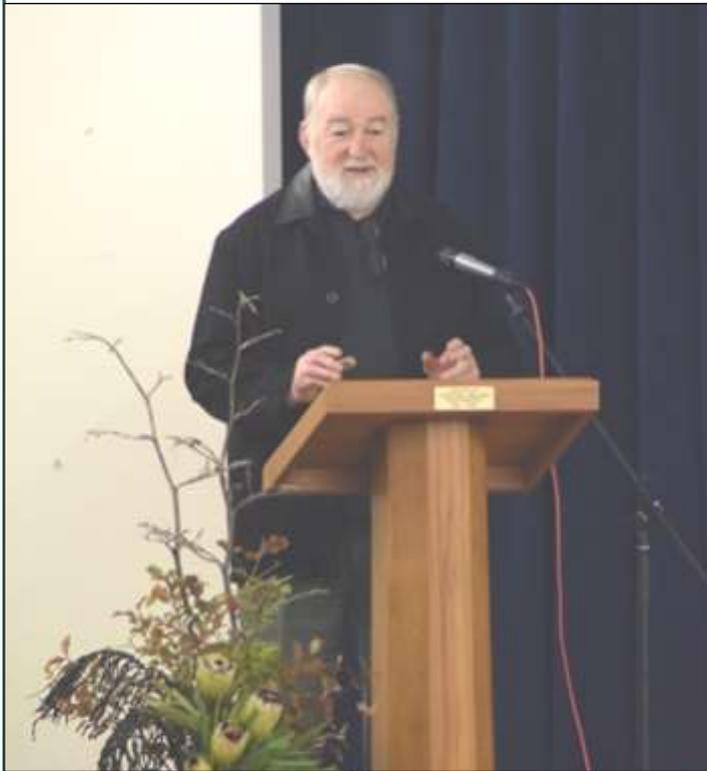
There will be a grand prize for the Most Entertaining Act as well as prizes for:

Best Junior Act (solo or group), Best Solo Act, Best Act by a Community Group, Best Act by a Business, Best Act by a Family (adopting extra members is OK) .

Entry forms will be available soon.

RAKIURA

HERITAGE CENTRE TRUST



Alan Wadds speaking at the announcement of the funding for the new Heritage Centre.

Photo by Jennifer Ross

from the Regional Culture & Heritage Fund had been awarded towards the proposed new Rakiura Heritage Centre. Minister Barry acknowledged the cramped space in the existing Museum and that it was time the Island had an appropriate facility for the Islanders and visitors to enjoy.

This is \$148,095 more than we initially asked for and along with the \$1.08 million granted from Lotteries in June, it means that we have now secured \$3.48 million of the \$3.6M budget – building can begin! We also got notification during the gathering via Mayor Tong that resource consent had been granted which is another major milestone in the project.

So what happens now? The Heritage Trust have contracted Ian Sutherland from Opus Consultants to Project Manage the construction phase. Obtaining building consent and securing a building contractor are **Ian's first priorities and we hope that this will be completed in the next few months.** It is anticipated that the build will take approximately 12 months although some of the pre-work constructing pre-cast concrete slabs will be done in Invercargill. It is hoped construction on site will begin in early 2018. In the meantime, fundraising continues to obtain the remaining funds required for the Heritage Centre fit-out and preparations will begin to get the collections and millennium log ready for transfer and display at the new centre.

Huge congratulations to Margaret Hopkins and the Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust, and Alan Wadds and the Rakiura Heritage Trust. There has been a massive amount of volunteer hours and commitment over the last 15 years to get this project to where it is today and it has been no small feat. There will be now definitely be a wonderful new facility on the Island in the not too distant future, that we can all be proud of, that will not only house and protect the stories of our past but provide opportunities for our future.

Jo Learmonth

On Friday 21st July, the Hon. Maggie Barry, Minister for Culture and Heritage, visited the Island along with our local MP Sarah Dowie and Mayor Gary Tong. Around 50 guests gathered at the Community Centre for an **'exciting announcement'** and were **not disappointed** when the Minister announced that a grant of \$1,088,595

Congratulations to J. Edgerton (Anita Geesons's granddaughter) winner of the Heritage Centre Raffle for the Dave Goodin Pakohe/Argillite pendant. Ticket number 108 DUPS on 5th August.



You'd need a knife and fork to eat these gigantic oysters! *Photo by Greg Northe*

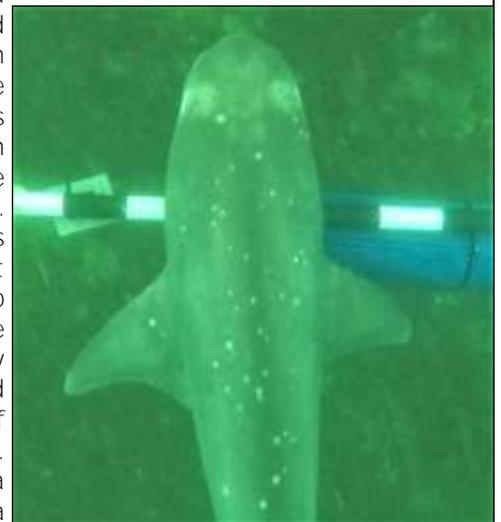
Stewart Island sevengill shark research *By Rob Lewis – Masters candidate, University of Otago*



Over the last year and a half as a part of my masters research I have been lucky to be able to come study the local population of sevengill sharks that inhabit Paterson Inlet. I've worked with sharks and their conservation for roughly the last decade in South Africa, Australia and here in NZ. I am now at a point with my current research where the data from the project is starting to form a picture of what is going on with the sevengill sharks in the inlet. I want to share what I've found with the Stewart Island community as the people that live closest to these important animals. The results are still preliminary however, and further work is required before I can be fully confident in my conclusions. The sevengill sharks themselves like most shark species are understudied and little is known about their population structure, movements and much of their reproductive biology. They are a species that prefer shallow coastal waters and act as an important apex predator in these environments. Their diet consists mostly of other smaller sharks and bony fishes, but they can eat larger prey such as seals and small dolphins by working in a group. They are not thought to be harmful to humans. Being coastal species they are susceptible to being caught as bycatch commercially and often end up on the lines of recreational fishers also. As they are not a quota managed species their catch numbers are unreliable and we cannot say what effects this may be having on the environments they inhabit. The point of my research is to establish the basic population demographics of sevengills around southern New Zealand so that in future these effects may be quantified. Notably we are looking for their abundance, size and sex structure, survival rates and rates of immigration/emigration to different areas. To achieve this, I need to be able to tell individual sharks apart. Luckily sevengills have black and white spots that cover their dorsal surface which are unique to each individual. These are used as a type of fingerprint to figure out if a shark has been seen before or not. Using a paired set of video cameras that look downwards I film a bait box which attracts the sharks in. The only thing in the water with the sharks is the camera rig and the bait box. The



bait is not obtainable by the sharks so they do not get fed, they just investigate the area to find the source of the scent. This is to minimise conditioning or influencing the animals' natural behaviours as much as possible. As the sharks swim into frame to investigate I get a top down view of the animals which I can then use to create a picture catalogue of different individuals. At the same time by using a set of paired cameras I can also measure anything in 3D as long as both cameras have the object in view. With this information it is possible to characterise the previously mentioned demographics of the population. So far the data has shown a seasonal trend between summer and winter with an increase in sevengills utilising Paterson Inlet during the warmer months. Winter time has relatively fewer sharks which are mostly larger (1.5-2.5m) females. Summer has shown a larger abundance of sevengills with an almost 50/50 ratio of males to females. The size structure also contains smaller individuals during this time which are mostly males. Collectively this starts to give us an idea about how sevengills may distribute themselves. Females may be more resident remaining in home territories with transient males that visit in the spring-summer months for breeding purposes. Again this is still preliminary but with more time things will become clearer.



I would like to thank the Stewart Island community for allowing me to conduct my studies around your beautiful island. Everyone I've talked to has been welcoming, helpful and interested. It is fantastic to see the care given by the locals to the welfare and conservation of the Island, and I hope to be able to do my part in furthering this in future as well.

Employment Opportunities

Stewart Island Experience

We have several opportunities for employment with Stewart Island Experience this coming summer season, and beyond...

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Customer Services Consultant - Red Shed, Oban (full time Oct - May)

Driver/Nature Guides - Oban (full time Oct - May)

Wharf Assistant - Oban (full time Oct - May)

Housekeeper - Stewart Island Lodge, Oban (part time Aug - May)

Boat Crew - Stewart Island based (part time Sept - May, full time Jan - Feb)

Skippers - Stewart Island based evening role for Wild Kiwi Encounter

In the first instance, please contact Marilyn Spinks:

Red Shed Visitor Centre

Phone 03 219 0056 or

Email mspinks@realjourneys.co.nz

**Red Shed Visitor Centre
Phone 03 219 0056
12 Elgin Terrace, Oban**





A 2 day LandSAR First Aid course was held on the 5th and 6th of August. Hope all the 'patients' have made a complete recovery.

Photos by Jennifer Ross



Mamaku Point Conservation Trust

After a recent Southland Times article announcing that the establishment of the Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve and saying the new owners of the land at Lee Bay planned to open to the public I asked Roy Thompson, one of the family behind the trust, some questions.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your family, the Southland Times article describes you as an Auckland businessman, what is your background? The property has been purchased by a family trust associated with myself and my wife Rachel. We both grew up on farms in Central Otago and have spent much of our working lives in Dunedin, Alexandra and Queenstown, but recently moved our family from Queenstown to Auckland for business reasons. We have business interests in the investment management, hospitality and construction sectors.

In that article, you said "We'd been considering the purchase of a property on Stewart Island for more than 20 years". What was it that drew you the island initially, what is your connection to this place? Could you see yourself residing on Stewart Island? I've been a regular visitor to Stewart Island since 1974, and in fact my first memories in life are of hunting for crabs on the beach in front of the South Sea Hotel and then "liberating" them in our friend's house on Main Road (which turned out to be a fairly unpopular stunt of course). I've also been deer hunting and diving around the Island almost annually since the mid 1980's. Purchase of the Reserve is a family project and our children, Angus and Samantha are very much looking forward to an active involvement in the conservation work. We don't have any plans to move permanently to the island at this stage but look forward to being able to visit more frequently and for longer than in the past.

You also said "While we were considering the purchase we happened to attend a talk by Sir David Attenborough, and that helped convince us to take the leap" can you tell us more about that, what was it that made up your mind? While we were considering the purchase, we took our kids to a talk by Sir David Attenborough, during which he was asked by a couple of children in the audience what state he thought he would find our natural environment if he could teleport forward 50 years. Although he obviously wanted

to respond optimistically, after some contemplation he had to admit that he didn't think it would be a good picture, and that no doubt helped persuade us to take the leap.

It is great to hear you are thinking of reopening the old Forest Service accommodation and education centre. Will it need a lot of work to be brought up to modern standards? Do you have more concrete plans for this education centre yet? The Education Centre has been well maintained by Dancing Star and is regularly used as a base and accommodation for people doing biosecurity work within the Reserve. So it doesn't need too much work, but we will be completing some improvements over the first few months to make it a bit more comfortable, including removal of some of the exotic trees around the Centre which are now getting very large.

Have you been able to spend much time exploring the property? Seen any kiwi yet or anything else interesting? How is the bush regeneration out towards the point going? We've been able to have a good look around the property over the last few months and have enjoyed seeing a tremendous number of native birds, lizards, bats etc. The regeneration of the undergrowth within the bush is fantastic, and we're impressed by how well the former farmland on the seaward side is rewilding.

Do you have a plan for opening the area up to the public? Access to the Reserve will be via local eco-tourism operators and these arrangements are being worked through at the moment.

I know it is early days but have you considered covenanting the land at all? Yes, we are very interested in exploring a QEII covenant on the Reserve area. This is something that we will work through with the Trustees of the non-profit trust that has been established to operate the reserve.

What kind of monitoring (pest/native species) has been done? Do you plan to do any? And will the results be made public? The biodiversity within the Reserve has been regularly monitored by Dancing Star Foundation and we will certainly be continuing these activities (I think some of the historical information is freely available on Dancing Star's website by the way).

LETTERS ☒☒☒

The process to explore the environmental, cultural and commercial feasibility of salmon farming in the north arm of Port Pegasus at Stewart Island is ongoing. The detailed analysis of the scientific data to understand the environmental and economic suitability of aquaculture is still to be finalised. We remain committed to sharing the results of this work with the community and other stakeholders when it is right to do so. The reference group will then be in a position to make a recommendation on whether or not the proposal should proceed.

Graeme Todd, Independent Facilitator of the Southland Aquaculture Reference Group (SARG)

☒☒☒

I would like to thank the Stewart Island community for taking the time to complete my survey about the proposed Salmon farm in Pegasus as it was a vital part of my Southland Social Studies Fair school project.

I made a Survey Monkey and put it on several Stewart Island Facebook groups. I also went around the township with an iPad and asked locals if they would like to complete my survey. I got a really good response with 134 people doing the survey.

The results showed that 81% of the 134 people were strongly opposed to the idea of salmon farming in Pegasus.

Sarah Dowie came to the Social Studies Fair in Invercargill and I talked to her about my project.

I told her that Pegasus is a very special place because it is remote, has amazing wildlife and scenery. It feels like no one has been there before, you get a real sense of the wilderness and solitude, there's no place like it! I explained that I think Pegasus should be left the way it is and I feel lucky to have been there. I wanted to thank everyone who helped by doing my survey and a special thanks to Rachael Sagar who helped me create the survey. I got two prizes, a merit prize for the Best Place Southland section and a first place in the Conservation Section. Kind regards, Tommy Dobbins

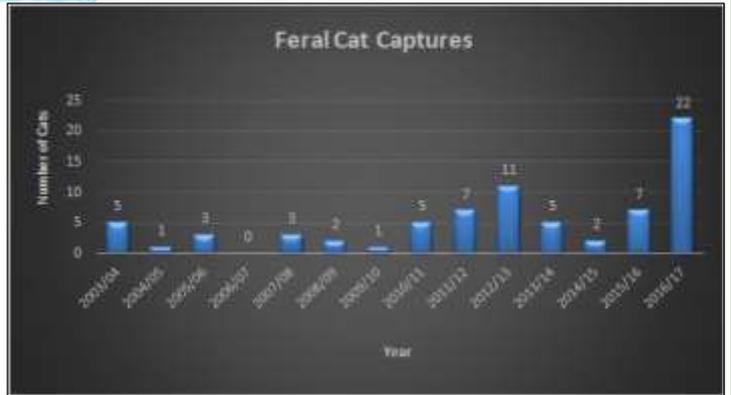


Tommy Dobbins talks to Sarah Dowie, MP at the Social Studies Fair



SIRCET update *by Shona Sangster*

The SIRCET Community Native Plant Nursery is moving! We can confirm that the Nursery will be shifting to Traill Park. This new location will make us more accessible to visitors and give us more space for storage and to host school groups learning about propagating native plants. We will need volunteers to help us shift, if you might be able to help it would be much appreciated. We are also having regular Nursery working bees every Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting. If you are able to help out get in touch with Willy at: pest-manager@sircet.org.nz or on 0274694504.



2016-2017 has been a huge year for feral cats, possibly following on from the rat population boom. SIRCET caught twice as many feral cats as in our highest ever year previously. We also offer free collars to cat owners in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project area. Collars are a good way of helping protect native birds from our feline friends, as well as helping us to identify any domestic moggies who might wander into a live capture trap.

Jars wanted! We need clean plastic jars with lids to put our bait for rat trapping into. If you've got some you don't need, you can drop them in the SIRCET volunteer box at Stewart Island Flights.

WAR*ON*WEEDS *By Letitia McRitchie*
Fighting for Nature

SIRCET has recently received funding from DOC's War on Weeds project. We are going to use the funding to control Darwin's Barberry across part of the township. A dedicated SIRCET team will work their way through the town, finding every plant in their way. This work will occur in September and October, when Barberry's bright orange flowers should make it easier to find! The majority of the area we would like to work on is private land and we will be sending all landowners in the control area a letter asking permission to access their property. It would be great if we can get to every property. **If there is only one seeding plant that we can't remove, it will reinfest all the neighbouring properties and make our control efforts less worthwhile.**

I've found some old photos (bottom of page) from when the barberry control started back in 2002, there were massive infestations around the town. Barberry produces a ton of



tasty berries that birds have carried far and wide and left to its own devices, this is what our township and surroundings would end up looking like again.

This year we are going to work in the part of town from Main Road towards Nichol Road, though to the end of Rankin Street (different colours are private land, DOC land and council land). We have applied for funding in



future years to continue on to Ackers Point and also to work from Main Road to Mapau Road.

Left:: Looking up Morris Street, with a thick hedge of barberry
Below: Looking down Morris Street with the barberry on its way out (before Bay Motels was built)



Stewart Island-Rakiura Community Board

Parking

Over recent months the board has been receiving comments about the parking situation on Elgin Terrace near the wharf and on Golden Bay Road near the Community Centre/Library and the School. It seems that many of these parking spots are being filled by long term parking and as a result no space is available for those picking people up from the wharf or wanting to use the Community Centre, Library or visit the school. The long term parking is legal under the present situation. The Board has, for more than 18 months, been in communication with the Southland District Council to resolve the problem in the vicinity of the wharf without success and it has now been suggested by the Council that rather than regulate and putting in parking restrictions that we negotiate with, and educate the locals, crib owners and visitors around these concerns and parking problems we have. The Board is asking for feedback from the community as to what they see as the best approach. Are you in favour of an education programme to encourage people to not park long periods of time in areas such as the hall and wharf? Do you believe that a programme to educate the users would work? If you favour parking restrictions, in what areas do you see them as necessary? i.e.:- Wharf, outside **Community Centre, Golden Bay....** **If restrictions were to be implemented,** what length of time should any parking period be? i.e.:- 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 4 hours **Should the board be planning for additional parking,** and if so where, for overnight and long term parking? These are a few questions we would like your ideas on. You may have others? Feel free to discuss this matter with Board members, but we would appreciate your thoughts in writing over the next 2 or 3 weeks for consideration while we finalise our long term plan on parking.

Mail - Stewart Island-Rakiura Community Board
 PO Box 21
 Stewart Island
 Email – kirsten.hicks@southlanddc.govt.nz
 Deliver – SDC Office – Library



Chris McCarthy planting a tree at the SIRCET/Sustainable Coastlines Lonnekers Planting Day. *Photo by Te Kawe Robb*

Sarah’s Rakiura Remarks

Braving the winter storm, on Friday 21 July Hon Minister Barry and I travelled to Stewart Island/Rakiura to make a series of fantastic and exciting announcements.

The first announcement was the **Government’s investment of over \$1 million** for the development of the Rakiura Heritage Centre. As a strong vocal supporter of the Centre, I was personally delighted that the **Government’s investment pushed the development** of this modern fit-for-purpose facility over the line. The Centre will increase awareness of **Southland’s cultural heritage through telling the rich story of Rakiura’s** history and will boost local economic and cultural development. The Centre will also provide tourist information so visitors easily experience all the great sites the island has to offer.

In light of recent events regarding Bonamia and its effects on local oyster farms, this announcement is a welcome breath of fresh air and good news for the community. The

Bonamia case highlights the importance of having a diverse economy which this Centre helps ensure.

This is a project the entire Rakiura community can and should take pride in. I would like to thank the Rakiura Heritage Centre and Museum Trusts for their tireless effort in developing and fundraising for this fantastic project. Without your energy and determination this project would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister Barry for her unwavering support of arts and taonga in the region and the commitment the Government has placed on constructing the Centre as soon as possible.

This project has my complete support and I am excited to see the Centre strengthen local tourism, create jobs and be a lasting asset for Rakiura.

The second big announcement made on Rakiura was that DOC is progressing plans to eradicate introduced predators on the Auckland Islands in the Subantarctic. During

her trip, Hon Minister Barry announced that a specialist team has been established to develop a feasibility study for the total eradication of pigs, cats and mice from 50,000 hectare Auckland Island, the largest in the Subantarctic which lies 465km south of Bluff.

Pests were introduced to Auckland Island in the early 19th century. These pests are responsible for decimating many species of bird on the island and continue to prey on chicks from species such as the endangered yellow-eyed penguin.

A successful eradication would be a significant contribution to meeting our Predator Free 2050 target of wiping out predators on our offshore island nature reserves by 2025.

These announcements show the government is committed to working for all New Zealanders including those on Rakiura by help creating infrastructure to grow local economies and ensuring a healthy and clean environment for future generations.

From the Office of Sarah Dowie. MP

Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

An article appeared in the New York Times in 1967 called "Discovering the Beauty of New Zealand's Forgotten Isle" which proves interesting reading. Some of the quotes from this article follow:

- "the two hour voyage across the strait is made in stabilized comfort at a roundtrip fare of \$7",
- "the natural pace here is a saunter",
- "the tourist may see most of the population in an hour,"
- "the young women have fresh complexions. The men with their pronounced squint gained from the oceans glare, greet the visitor with an angular nod of the head and "How-ya?"
- "two general merchants sell everything from post cards to refrigerators"
- "little danger exists of being run down by any of the 30

- vehicles or mini-bus"
- "they switch off all the lights at 11 p.m. just to save their generated electricity!"
- "there is one hotel and three guest houses cost \$7 to \$9 a day and tipping is unknown"
- Those were the days.

A special thank you to SBS who granted the museum \$1000. It is very much appreciated and will be used towards the running costs of the museum. We also have a special sale on 10 x Margaret Fairhall cards (5 varieties 2 of each kind) normally \$35 now only \$25. This is a good time to get these lovely Stewart Island paintings of Margaret's that can be used for all occasions. Acquisitions for July:

Trees of New Zealand by Lawrie Metcalf - a good book in full colour for tree identification

Searches for June were: Potiki, Gilroy and Anglem families and Shipbuilders Cove

Winter hours now are: Monday - Friday 10- 12, Saturday 10-1:30, Sunday 12 - 2:00.



The second "Wairua" which the reporter from New York came over on in 1967



Predator Free Rakiura – a concept worth engaging in

Predator Free Rakiura is an idea that's been talked about for some time. The first document examining this idea and discussing how it might happen was released by SIRCET in 2008. The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group was formed in 2014 and has since released several comprehensive technical papers which looked in more detail at the feasibility of the idea. We learned a lot from these technical papers, and from community feedback; for example that the original idea of erecting a predator fence to separate the Halfmoon Bay area from the rest of the Island is not feasible.

Based on feedback received we still believe most in the community support the concept of living without rats, possums and feral cats, but have reservations about possible removal methods and **the impacts on life here. While we've received a lot of useful feedback, we know not everyone has had their views and concerns heard. So, to help shape**

the next steps, we are looking at ways to better engage with our community and develop more understanding of what you want the end goal to **look like. We've engaged Auckland UniServices** to lead this work on our behalf.

Over the next three months, they'll be in touch with as many residents and stakeholders as possible to gather views, ideas and hopes for the future of Rakiura. With Predator Free 2050 gaining momentum nationally, it is an exciting time to think about what this could look like here on the island, and we look forward to hearing more feedback.

For more information visit: <http://predatorfreestewartisland.org.nz/>, or talk to members of the Governance Group. Local members are Jill Skerrett, Garry Neave, Sandy King, and Bridget Carter (DOC). From the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group



Book Reviews *From Sue Ford*

“Acts of Love” by Talulah Riley – now here’s something different for me! Classed as a ‘novel’, it verges on ‘rom-com’ - contemporary Austen, modern vocabulary,

19th Century pacing. Bernadette is a ruthless journalist who uses a seductive personality to charm interviewees – and to cover up a whole heap of insecurities. Tim, the current object of her affections, is engaged to a worthy woman. **Bernie comes to like her very much; then there’s Radley Blake who is impossible: a genius, good-looking young billionaire. Does she still prefer faithless Tim? Well, that’s the premise of the story. The characters are unbelievable but amusing – and sometimes sad. The humour is subtle and you assume a happy ending ... But then comes the wry twist. Won’t win any awards but is a pleasant change.**

No secret that I struggle with Scandinavian ‘who-dunnits’ and the dark side of the investigators’ characters which – in my view – detract from the story of the crime and the criminal. Stieg Larsson was my exception; Leif G.W. Persson is not. “He Who Kills the Dragon” wasn’t a favourite. D.S. Evert Backstrom is a fat, alcoholic, self-aggrandising racist, sexist – and every other negative ‘ist’. I didn’t realise the story was supposed to be humorous for 2/3rd of the book. So, an old drunkard (most characters seem to be drunk) is found murdered by a young Somali refugee delivering newspapers. The paper boy is later found murdered. Add various Middle-Eastern gangsters and internecine warfare in the police department, all equally distracting – supposedly funny, but missed the mark with me.

I was disappointed by my last David Baldacci, “No Man’s Land”, but “The Fix” redressed the balance! Amos Deck-

er is an investigator who has synaesthesia and a photographic memory, but he and his partner, Alex Jamison, and the rest of the team, have their work cut out for them. Why did successful businessman and loved husband and father, Dabney, on his way to a business meeting with the FBI at the Hoover Building, suddenly stop and shoot Anne Berkshire? What’s the connection between Dabney and the substitute teacher/hospice aid – if that’s who and what she is! Despite the side issues, which somewhat cloud the main story, this is quite the page-turner. Baldacci on form. But Mark Billingham’s “Die of Shame” was never going to be fun. A member of a group of recovering addicts is murdered, and it looks as if a member of the group was a murderer. It’s not as if there aren’t enough contenders – in theory. But I found the motives weak, the characters weaker and the ending ambiguous. I’d hoped for more from the plot.

Jojo Moyes’ “The Girl You Left Behind”: Edouard Lefevre paints a glorious picture of his young and adored wife. When WWI breaks out and they are separated the painting goes with Sophie. When Sophie’s village is occupied by the invading German army, the local Kommandant takes a liking to the painting – or is it Sophie that he has his eye on? 90 years later, Liv has the painting, a wedding present from her much-loved, deceased architect husband. Beginning to move on from her tragedy, she meets Paul McCafferty – who specialises in returning stolen art works to their rightful owners. Is “The Girl You Left Behind” one such? Without a murder in sight, this is not just two intertwined love stories but a mystery of twists and turns. The Epilogue is intriguing! Earning B’s: “The Girl in the Woods” by Gregg Olsen (overly complicated); “Fear in the Sunlight” by Nicola Upson (relies more on name-dropping than plot); but A+ for Mary Norton’s “The Borrowers”!

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg
Silencing the talk - aisle be seeing ya!

I can’t quite believe it was more than five years ago that Jess approached me about writing a regular column in this fabulous all-seeing, all-knowing, brilliant informative publication that we fondly call the SIN. Hopefully my small contribution of random blathering has produced an interesting and light-hearted look at retail life - the Four Square has certainly provided me with ample fodder to write about!

From the Great Marmite Shortage of 2012 to robots working in supermarkets, hybrid fruits, shrinking packets and tins, the arrival of the ATM, kiwi spotting in the aisles, newspapers versus computers, training for the Olympics’ marathon TV-watching, comparing London life to Stewart Island, deep frying giant novelty pens, why onion marmalade is not a chutney, eating my body weight in Caramel Easter Bunnies and Santas, being defeated by packaging, and grocery orders as tall as Dog Island Lighthouse! Not forgetting plastic bag sales funding the purchase of medical equipment for our Health Centre.

But things change and dear old Shop Talk is being retired. Jess may regret saying that I can write about anything I want to in the future - watch this space!

Before that though, let me share some exciting news. Every Four Square in the South Island (and Stewart Island!) will shortly have a defibrillator installed in its

supermarkets. **It’s a fantastic initiative and further enhances the Four Square commitment to support St Johns and local communities.**

38 people are treated for cardiac arrest (heart attack) every week in New Zealand and an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) can increase survival chances by up to 40% if it’s used with 5 minutes of an attack. You don’t need to be a medical professional to use an AED as it talks you through the whole process and it could help to save somebody’s life.

The AED battery lasts for four years and will be regularly tested to ensure its readiness if the need arises. Of course we are very lucky to have our nurses virtually on the doorstep, but **astonishingly it’s a bystander that performs CPR in around 64% of cardiac arrest cases before help arrives.**

Writing Shop Talk has been a huge privilege and great fun, even though I’ve questioned my sanity many times when my thoughts have run riot on the page! To those that have enjoyed my retail rambles, thank you for the compliments and encouragement. I must thank Matt for contributing what he considers to be “doodles” but what I think is awesome artwork - his sketches never fail to make me smile and capture what I’ve written about so well.

See you at the Four Square ... I’ll be the one not in a uniform!

Clarification to last month's Visitor levy funds information

The Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy subcommittee gave out \$171,863 in funding in this last round, with \$42,183 left over. The subcommittee decided any remaining funds would go to the Ulva Island wharf project, which had already received \$80,000, as the project was urgent.

Possum Control Poison Warning

Contract Wild Animal Control Limited wishes to advise that a ground-based possum control operation will be taking place to reduce possum numbers. This operation will be conducted as part of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust restoration project.

Areas to be covered are The Neck, Stewart Island (part-only).

Date of toxin application will be in the first period of fine weather from: 14th August 2017

Possum habitat may be targeted using 1080 cereal pellets, dyed green, in raised bait stations. The public is asked to avoid entering these areas and not to remove baits or carcasses. Baits are dangerous to people and dogs.

General Warning • Do not touch poison baits or traps • Do not touch poison bait carcasses • Keep pets under supervision; do not let dogs eat poison carcasses • Do not leave children unattended • Follow the advice on the poison warning signs

If You Suspect Poisoning • Contact your local hospital, or dial 111 • National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON – 0800 764766 • In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact the local veterinarian

Please check a current pesticide summary or contact Adrian Gutsell directly for information. All enquiries to A Gutsell, Contract Wild Animal Control Limited, Te Anau on 0274 319 906



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ban **G**lobetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

South and Central America by Josephine Shepard

At this time of the year, when the days are short and the weather not so flash, I start considering all the tropical locations I could be in instead. Some of you will be aware that generally during the slower winter months I head to a warmer destination, typically with an international flavour. This is a collection of memories from one such trip.

Last year Riki and I left Stewart Island behind for three and a half months to head to the bright lights and dirt roads of South America. Our first stop was Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Olympic Games, an event that I have always wanted to attend at least once in my life. (Bucket List – Check) We visited 10 Countries in 111 days; all on our own with only a backpack and guide book for assistance. What an experience! Too many stories to tell and over 2000 photos, here is a basic run down of our time.

We spent 10 days in Rio experiencing everything this city could offer. We tasted the cuisine, climbed up to Cristo and Pan de Azucar and sunbathed on the infamous Ipanema and Copacabana beaches. We wore our jandals into a fancy hotel to collect our game tickets, held onto our bags and cameras like our life depended on it and consumed many cerveza and caipirinha. Constantly the streets were filled with military personal with automatic rifles and tanks. Out past the breakers was a Navy boat patrolling and choppers flying overhead. We never felt **unsafe despite the international media's portrayal; as per everywhere: walk tall, walk strong and don't wander alone at night.** We attend the Rugby Sevens, watched **some Rowing heats and even a women's hockey game** between NZ and the Netherlands. The atmosphere was passionate and addictive, worth every dollar spent to be part of that feeling.

After the Olympics we spent another 10 days or so exploring the South of Brazil. We visited the jaw dropping Iguazu waterfalls from both sides. We almost got stuck in Argentina because of a passport stamp mistake. Long story, lesson learnt. Heading south we crossed into **Uruguay, a country most people skip. A friend's mother** lives there so we visited and stayed with her, experiencing a true Uruguayan meal cooked on an open fire. The country reminded us of NZ a little with a lot of paddocks! We also stayed in a tiny coastal town called Cabo Polonio without electricity. We spent a little bit of time in both Argentina and Chile, tasting their steak and wine. Both delicious and worth experiencing in your lifetime! We choose north rather than south because of the temperature and headed towards Bolivia. We crossed at San Pedro de Atacama, the driest place on Earth. A four day jeep trip took us across the desert into Bolivia and the



Machu Picchu

Salar de Uyuni. We were in a jeep with 4 girls from Brazil, luckily they spoke a bit of English; our guide did not. By this time we had basic Spanish under our belt but could still understand more than we spoke. There were a **lot of hand gestures, nodding and use of "Si, si".** The salt flats are incredible, something that has to be seen to truly believe. We stood gobsmacked as we watched the sun come up over a pure whiteness for as far as you could see. We also hit a height of 5000m which provided painful headaches and meant chewing a lot of cocoa leaves. A brief stop in La Paz afterwards saw us learn some history of Bolivia during a free city walking tour, something we did a lot during our trip which is a great way to see around the main towns and gain local insight.

A marine iguana on the Galapagos



(Continued from page 13)

Peru had us heading into the Amazon Jungle for a four day excursion. We saw capybara, tarantulas, monkeys and parrots. We had an absolutely fantastic time and meet some amazing people, friends to hopefully catch up with on future adventures. Next we headed up into the mountains to experience the wonder that is Machu Picchu, another site that regardless of how many photos you see of it, a real life encounter is a completely different thing. We met some friends of ours from NZ up the top which made it all the more special. Peru was one of our favourite countries that we visited. Along with the big ticket items we sand-boarded down some of the largest sand-dunes around, visited the capital and beach hopped our way up the coast. Still plenty left to see if we get to return some day.



Playa Ancon in Trinidad, Cuba

We only spent a little time in Ecuador; it was the stepping stone to get across to the Galapagos Islands. They are one of the most incredible places I have ever been in my life. There is nothing else like it. We stayed on two of the Islands; saw marine iguanas, blue footed boobies, and giant tortoises. We swam with friendly sea lions and sea turtles. We walked through lava fields and made friends with a lovely old local lady. Not sure of half things she was saying to us but we laughed together. For those wondering, the Galapagos Islands are completely do-able on a backpacker budget. You don't need to spend thousands on a cruise boat. Sure, one day we'd like to do that too but once you arrive on land most of what the Islands are famous for can be seen free of charge!

Our last country on the continent was Colombia, a place many people had been concerned that we were visiting. Again same advice as in Brazil and don't stray too far from the tourist routes. We fell in love with this country, it is so beautiful, the people are friendly and there's so much to see. We were running out of time by this point so rushed through a little but managed to see what we really wanted to. We made coffee from scratch and saw the world's tallest Palm Trees in Salento. Here we meet a British couple we will hopefully be friends with for years to come. We stayed with a family who helped improve my Spanish with fun lessons and went horseback riding in the jungle. My life may have flashed before my eyes during this experience as the horse slipped on the wet rocks beneath me. We headed to the drug capital of

One of notorious drug lord Pablo Escobar's mansions



Medellin with our new friends and spent Halloween partying the night away after playing paintball in one of Pablo Escobar's holiday homes. After that we hit the coast at colonial Cartagena, again disregarding the guidebook and staying the local area.

Our final Spanish speaking destination was Cuba. We wanted to experience it before too much change occurred. For those who haven't been and want to experience it the local way (i.e not in a resort) you stay in Casas, most of which you can't book beforehand. You also need at least basic Spanish. We found it hard work and we'd been working with the language for 3 months by this stage. There was a lot of guess work and use of 'google translate'. Note to self: Not always accurate. Despite all this we loved it. There is so much history and culture. We went to a local bar and ordered "le cerveza, por favour". It came in a sawn off glass and we got laughed at by the locals but we loved it. Most of you know we're big fans of classic cars and Cuba did not fail to provide. They're everywhere. There are actually little old men hanging out of the windows smoking pipes watching the world go by. It was hard and eye-opening and completely rewarding. We want to go back.

The conclusion of our trip was spent visiting a friend on the tiny island of Grand Cayman. Not a regular holiday destination for most due to its usual clientele but we experienced it like no other. Our friend worked on a dive boat so we went diving, played with Stingrays, snuck into a beach front event and even attend a party on a pirate boat during their annual Pirate Week festival. It was incredible!! I even got to drive a convertible Mustang on our visit to "Hell".

We had one hell of experience. I've only briefly touched on what we saw and did. There are so many more stories and feel free to ask us to elaborate on any particular country. We learnt a lot, not just about where we visited but about how lucky we are to live in New Zealand. The most important lesson brought home; clean up your rubbish. The consequences of not doing so are some of the worst things we saw. With so much to see and do we have many more places and events to tick off on the list. The more we see the more it grows.

Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter
By Jo Riksem

In the last couple of years the Presbyterian church and others in the community have been supporting a Spring Retreat on the Island led by Barbara Sampson (retired Salvation Army Officer) and Rev. Glenda Hicks (university chaplain). It is being offered again this year from 25th – 29th September and is already booked out. If you would like to get in on this for 2018 retreat please contact Barbara at barbara.sampson.nz@gmail.com

This year we are holding a One Day Retreat for locals which will be held on Saturday 30th September 2017 from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm at Lorraine and Lindsey Squires home. BYO lunch and tea and coffee will be provided. \$10 per person. We do recommend this as a good opportunity for spiritual refreshment in the context of our beautiful island. Please contact Jo Riksem (2191-230 or jariksam@clear.net.nz) if you are interested as we will need to know numbers.

Speakers for September 2017:

3 September – Watch the notice board for confirmation

10 September – Watch the notice board for confirmation

17 September – Bill Worley – Bill and his wife were here in January of this year and will look forward to see what they have for us in September.

24 September – Major Barbara Sampson - retired Salvation Army officer, Barbara and her husband live in Christchurch, near to their daughter Joanne and our son Michael, daughter-in-law Katrina and their ten children. Their almost 40 years of Salvation Army officership gave them appointments in pastoral ministry, a short stint of missionary service, many years of education-based work at our national training college in Upper Hutt, and for Barbara, some years of writing devotional material for a worldwide readership.

Services every Sunday 11 am. Prayer Circle Saturday 11:30 in the vestry at the back of the church. Church open daily to enjoy the peace.

Daffodils in Queens Park, Invercargill



My Winter Holiday By Ian Sangster.

We have enjoyed great weather, better than many other parts of New Zealand. One of my hobbies is amateur radio, and on this journey was able to carry enough equipment to set up a temporary station at Shona and Ben's house. **This has been a success and I have been able to communicate with other amateur radio operators as far north as Mangonui in the far north.** Topics of communication include comparing weather reports, and radio reception reports. I do not know whether there are any other amateur radio operators living on the island?

The people I have talked with on my radio have been pleased to have a contact with Stewart Island and some of the more senior ones can remember, contacts with the **island, going back to the A.M. days in the 1970's (that is pre SSB, single sideband).** I have 120 feet of wire (40 meters), strung between trees above the back of the house. A coaxial cable feeds from the center of this, down through the bathroom window, across the passage and into a spare room, where the antenna tuner, transceiver and power supply are set up. Reliable communications are experienced at 7am to 8.30 am on 3696 kHz and 3730 kHz lower side band, and on 3730 kHz at 8pm.

There certainly has been much reminiscence by people I have talked with on their experiences visiting and staying on the island in past years, some staying in boarding houses, which have subsequently burned down, and it may have triggered a desire to make return visit on their behalf. Thanks for letting me share my story, and for those interested in taking up amateur radio, it is a great hobby and the examinations are not overly difficult, there is now no requirement to learn Morse code to be on the high frequency bands.

Top: Antenna wire

Below: Ham radio set up



What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



Drones on Public Conservation Land Incident at Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

On the 4th June a group of four visited Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Later on that day a report came through that a member of the group was flying a drone that was **disturbing a New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka**. This incident was photographed and provided to us with a written letter from an eyewitness on the beach stating that the sea lion was clearly agitated and showing signs of aggression in response to the drone being extremely close to the marine mammal.

Unless a seal or sea lion is being harassed, entangled by marine debris or is severely injured, it is best to leave them alone. This includes keeping dogs, drones and loud noises away from seals and sea lions, as these can cause them distress and lead to an incident. If you do see serious injury or harassment, please call 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (1978) there are extensive penalties of up to two year imprisonment and \$100,000 fine for harassing or injuring marine mammals such as sea lions. There is also an issue with the use of a drone on public conservation land without a permit. A permit is required for all drone operations on the conservation estate and can be applied for easily at relevant Department of Conservation offices. There are also Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAA) regulations for drone use.

Drone Regulations:

Drones are increasingly popular and allow us to experience the land from a different perspective. DOC has concerns over wildlife disturbance and the potential for fire with some drone use, and encourage drone owners to understand the rules in place to keep our wildlife and wild places safe. All drones landing on, taking off from, hovering over public conservation land require a concession from DOC. Any drone flying over public conservation land without landing on, taking off from, landing on, or hovering over public conservation land, **requires DOC's consent as the landowner (but do not require a concession)**. To apply for a one-off drone concession contact the local DOC office to fill out an application form, which should be processed within five working days.

Drones are managed by the CAA under Parts 101 and 102 of the CAA rules (www.caa.govt.nz). Part 101 only applies to drones under 25kg. While DOC is not required to enforce civil aviation rules, we do request that every drone operator keep in constant communication with Stewart Island Flights. This means sharing all drone flight plans (even outside of scheduled flight times) for safety reasons.

Sperm whale washed up on Ocean Beach

A 15 metre sperm whale washed up on the North East end



Female sea lion on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara being harassed by a drone at close-range *Photo by Stephanie Forrester*

of Ocean Beach. DOC was notified by Chris Dawson from Rakiura Charters on Thursday 13 July, who was transporting a group of hunters who spotted the dead whale on their return from a hunting trip. Iwi were notified and joined DOC staff members to remove the jaw bone on Saturday 15 July.

While it is not unusual for whales to wash up from time to time, given their size a sperm whale always creates a bit of interest. It is a pretty impressive sight to see. The whale **looked to be a young male and at about 15 metres feet he's certainly not small**.

It is unknown what caused the whale's death, however it is likely it died at sea. There were bite marks visible along its side which may indicate that sharks had been feeding on it.

Phillip Smith, iwi representatives and DOC spent two **days at the site, removing the whale's jaw bone and teeth** as per custom.

"For Maori, the teeth and jaw bones are traditionally the most valuable part of a whale as they were used to make taonga such as tools and weapons," Phillip says.

Iwi has not yet decided what this specimen would be used for. About a year ago a sperm whale washed ashore near Saddle Point on the East coast of Rakiura. Given the location of this whale, that may not be an issue and it will be left to decompose.



Top: Large sperm whale washed up on Ocean Beach

Middle: Phillip Smith, Dean Whaanga, and Peter Goomes creating a plan to remove the sperm whale jaw, Ocean Beach

The jaw bone removal team from left to right: Ty Conner, Dean Whaanga, James Ware (DOC), Phillip Smith, and Cherie Hemsley (DOC), Ocean Beach
Photo by Peter Goomes

Predator Free 2050 Update

The Department of Conservation hosted an update on the **New Zealand Government’s Predator Free 2050** programme alongside Minister of Conservation Maggie Barry on Friday 21 July. The event was held at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre and approximately 40 people attended.

The ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of possums, rats, and stoats by 2050 was shared. Predator Free 2050 will aim to:

- remove the major threats to our native wildlife
- enhance economic return from agriculture and forestry and reduce risk of disease
- create new opportunities for regional development
- **reinforce New Zealand’s trade and tourism brand**
- provide a legacy for future generations.
- Interim goals (i.e. by 2025) were shared:
- An extra 1 million ha of land controlled for predators through PF2050 projects
- Areas of more than 20,000 ha protected, without fences
- Removal of introduced predators from offshore island Nature Reserves
- A scientific breakthrough capable of eradicating one small mammal predator

An online Community Toolkit is in development to provide easy access to information about tools, tips, funding. It was suggested that if Rakiura residents were interested in receiving funding for a Trap Library (where community members could borrow traps to use on their personal property or as part of a community initiative), to please get in touch with local Predator Free 2050 Rangers.

Local Predator Free 2050 Rangers are Community Ranger Jennifer Ross and Senior Biodiversity Ranger Kev Carter for Rakiura and we were introduced to Kerie Uren, who is the regional Predator Free 2050 Ranger for the Southern South Island. Please get in touch if you have any questions about Predator Free 2050 or ideas for Rakiura **initiatives that you’d like to discuss** jross@doc.govt.nz or kcarter@doc.govt.nz or 03 219 0009.

For further information check out www.predatorfreenz.org.

DOC Rakiura 2017/18 Business Plan

As we come into the new business year, we wanted to **share an overview of DOC Rakiura’s work programme** between July 2017 – June 2018. Overall, we have similar priorities, resourcing and work programme as last year, with a few changes of focus.

There has been an increase in resourcing for our Recreation and Historic work with a larger Rakiura Track Hut Warden programme and more backcountry maintenance. The biggest project will be to work on visitor hazards on the Rakiura Track Great Walk, which will mean we have additional temporary Rangers recruited to deliver this work over Summer. Other confirmed work for this year includes replacement of Little River and Yankee bridges and replacing the roof on Christmas Village hut. Resourcing of the Visitor Centre remains stable. We have two new additional historic projects this year; one to undertake remedial work on Island Hill Homestead and restoration of the Maori Beach sawmill. We are also working on a five-year plan to scope new work and catch up on some of the outstanding tasks associated with managing our huts, track, structures and signs. Our scoping and planning is initially focussed on planning

campsite, water supply and warden quarter upgrades on the Rakiura Track for future.

The Biodiversity work programme is similar but slightly smaller to last year overall, with resources moved between work programmes. Large projects are in the process of being considered that would increase the biodiversity work programme significantly in 2017/18. Biodiversity remains our most resourced work programme. Maintaining Ulva

exclude key weeds (**Darwin's Barberry, Old Man's Beard** and German Ivy) from establishing in the National Park will continue, but has been reduced in scale, focussing on responding to weeds already within the Park and a lesser focus within the township. DOC, Environment Southland and SIRCET are discussing a new War on Weeds project to manage weeds around Oban. Species monitoring of NZ sea lions and southern NZ dotterel will continue and

increased monitoring of Rakiura tokoeka (kiwi) will occur. The southern NZ dotterel recovery work including predator control, banding and monitoring is ongoing aiming to see population recovery to 300 birds. This project received a significant boost last year and we see similar resourcing this year.

Working with our partners and community continues with a focus on improving our partnerships with whanau, hapu and iwi where we intend to organise more field opportunities to work together and provide staff and vessel support to help with pest control on the Titi islands. We want to further grow relationships with concessionaires, community



DOC and the Minister for Conservation, Honourable Maggie Barry giving a Predator Free 2050 update at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre *Photo by Jennifer Ross*

groups, Trusts, businesses and the Halfmoon Bay School. We will support the successful DOC Community Fund recipients: (**Rakiura Maori Land Trust's possum control at the Neck, SIRCET's Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project** and the Southland Branch NZ Deerstalkers Association undertaking pest control at Mason Bay). Our volunteer programme will be similar to last year. See page 19 for more detail.

Island/Te Wharawhara and Bench Island pest free remains a priority. Forest protection through ground-based possum control is planned at Pegasus, Mt Anglem/Hananui and Rakeahua. Restoration at Mason Bay and other dune and beach protection continues. Work to



Indi Jenkinson enjoying (or destroying?) **June's** edition of the Stewart Island News.

Photo by Emma Jenkinson

Rakiura District Business Plan 2017/18



Natural Heritage

The diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored

Maintain Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara pest-free
 Continue landscape scale dune restoration projects at Mason Bay / Te one roa, Doughboy Bay and other beaches.
 Increase protection for Freshwater River and Saleahua freshwater ecosystems
 Expand the pest control programme protecting the southern NZ dotterel
 Continue forest protection with possum control at Northern Port Pegasus/Pihikahi, Mt Anglem/Januaru and Mt Saleahua
 Continue to exclude key weeds from Salsura National Park (Purver's Barberry, Old Mann's Beard, German Ivy)
 Participate in threatened species monitoring e.g. NZ sea lion (Port Pegasus) and Salsura takahoa (Mason Bay)
 Contribute to recovery planning for Salsura takahoa
 Respond to marine natural events
 Promote and protect the Ulva / Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve
 Progress seeking to grant a wilderness area in the southern part of Salsura
 Continue long term forest health monitoring deer exclosure plots on the North coast
 Improve storage and wet weather facilities at Island Hill Homestead area, Mason Bay, by progressing plans to install a storage shed

Historic Heritage

Our history is brought to life and protected

Historic sites are maintained:
 • Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara
 • Shipbuilding and Maori occupation sites at Port Pegasus / Pihikahi
 • Fort William / Potirangi settlement
 • Tin mining heritage
 • Island Hill homestead, Mason Bay / Te one roa
 • Maori beach milling
 Volunteers contribute to painting, building maintenance and clearing at Island Hill homestead and to maintenance at hauler and sawmill sites

Community and Partners

New Zealanders connect and contribute to conservation

Contribute to growing the vision of a Predator Free Salsura
 Improve relationships with concessionaires
 Grow relationship with Salsura Maori Land Trust
 Co-host a winter conservation trip with Seal Journeys
 Process and provide advice on concessions and permits
 Bring conservation to life with Heathcote Bay School and host a two-term teacher placement as part of the Science Teacher Leadership Programme
 Collaborate with Environment Southland and Southland District Council
 Work with Stewart Island / Salsura Community Environment Trust to continue biodiversity and community initiatives around Clean Township
 Work with 2017 DOC Community Fund partners to deliver conservation (Salsura Maori Land Trust, SIRECT & Southland NZ Deerstalkers)
 Work with Aie NZ to improve biodiversity and the visitor experience on the Salsura Track
 Generate volunteer opportunities to assist in the conservation of Salsura



Partnership with whānau, hapū and iwi

Whānau, hapū and iwi are able to practice their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters

Strengthen relationships with papatipu nungua and kaitiaki Ropu o Maritahi
 Improve DOC staff cultural competency and confidence
 Identify opportunities to work together in the field, especially at sites of importance
 Provide staff and travel support to deliver conservation on the Titi Islands e.g. support translocations of Salsura tokie, Salsura toatohawai and Squares Island snipe from Australasia to Mokonui and provide vessel support to assist in ongoing pest control

Visitors and Recreation

New Zealanders and our visitors are enriched by outdoor experiences

Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara remains an iconic daytime experience for visitors. Work with Ulva Island Charitable Trust to improve the experience
 The Salsura Track is maintained and improved as a good quality Great Walk experience, with significant improvement work on sections of the Salsura Track
 Planning progress for significant capital improvements to the campsite, hut warden's quarters, grey water facilities, bridges and shelters on the Salsura Track
 Salsura National Park Visitor Centre provides top quality information, great customer service and interesting and informative displays
 Visitors experience well maintained local walks around the Clean Township
 Salsura back country tracks and huts are safe with no surprises
 Continue to work with the Salsura Hunter Camp Trust to manage hunter huts and discuss the Trust managing three southern drouit huts (Doughboy, Saleahua and Fred's Camp huts)

Capability and Safety

Capable and safe Department of Conservation

Continually improving staff wellbeing
 Utilise our people management and performance learning from our incidents and near misses
 Improving our planning and scheduling



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Mission without Borders

Once again a big thank you to all the knitters who contributed to the "Mission without Borders" project. This year 367 blankets, [we contributed 6] 207 jerseys, many Hats, Scarves, Slippers, Socks etc: have been put in bales and sent. The countries the knitted goods go to are Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania & the Ukraine. Of course it is an on going project so keep up the good work. All your hard work is very much appreciated. A special mention for Raymond Hector Of Stewart Island Flights who is always happy to transport the goods.

Elaine Hamilton

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Bye bye oysters. Photo by Greg Northe

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