

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

December 2017

\$3.00

Farewell to our friends Loraine and Herbie Hansen who are relocating to Christchurch. We wish you all the best in your new home. Best of luck to Sarah Tranmer who leaves us to work on boats in Auckland.

Condolences to Rebecca Brown-Thompson whose husband Bob died suddenly on Stewart Island last month. Rebecca: we are truly sorry for your loss. The Rakiura community sends our love to you and your family.

Janet Malloch and Brian Anderson are a Wanaka couple who fell in love with the island. This has produced a beautifully restored bach, and in its front yard an exciting new feature for the island: an art gallery in the boat shed fronting Main Road. They are calling this new venture Art in the Boat Shed, and the community is invited to the opening in mid-January (details on back page). The shed maintains all its rustic boat-sheddy charm, replete with nets, life vests, tools, and Ben Hopkin's beautifully restored clinker dinghy. Interspersed amongst the nautical stuff, Janet will display artwork. An artist herself, Janet is keen to represent local island artists, so get in touch with her at 027 339 6026 or [jmalloch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmalloch@xtra.co.nz) if you're interested in becoming involved. She's considering any artistic medium. Several well-known artists from around New Zealand have agreed to contribute their work in the gallery and Janet will share some of her own paintings as well. She is doing this purely for the love of art and the island, so there will be no commission, and 10 percent of sales will be donated to the new museum. For the start it will be a pop-up seasonal gallery, and possibly will be open on a more regular basis in the future. "We'll see how it evolves," said Janet. With the island getting busier and bursting at the seams of its shoulder seasons, it will be awesome to have another place for our visitors to go. Janet recognizes that the village already has arts and crafts represented at Rakiura Jade Gallery and at the Stewart Island Gift Shop, and she hopes Art in the Boat Shed will complement these other businesses.

Venture Southland has been exploring the possibility of Stewart Island being designated a Dark-Sky Sanctuary by the International Dark-Sky Association. There are presently only three in the world so this could



Saddleback at Ulva Island. *Photo from Sandra Whipp*

be a draw-card for astrotourists and aurora chasers. Debate and discussion has already begun regarding the implications on our village lights and private home lighting.

A suspected rat poo was found on the kakapo sanctuary Codfish Island/Whenua Hou and DoC has responded with "all hands on deck" — heaps more traps, tracking tunnels, chew cards, and Gadget the rat-detecting dog. The scat has been sent to a lab for genetic testing.

We will be printing a lot fewer issues each month so if you'd like to be assured of a copy, please subscribe. And hey, if you're stuck for gift ideas, how about the gift that keeps on giving (for 12 months) ... a subscription to this inky little pile of island newsiness? Details on back page. See page 9 for a lovely interpretation of the Christmas story.

Thanks to everyone for your support over the past year.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!** —Jess



**Men's  
fashion,  
Island-style...**

Left:  
Bruce Ford  
ready for  
Christmas  
partying.  
*Photo from  
Sue Ford*

Right:  
Richard  
Squires  
aka Squizzy  
ready for a  
refreshment at  
the Pub.  
*Photo from  
Aaron Joy*





I met Anna 21 years ago when she first came to the Island. I was a waitress at the hotel and she was employed by Pat & Keith Smith as our new chef. We had great fun as colleagues and became excellent friends. She encouraged my love of rugby and due to her son's playing for the teams we became (and still are) loyal supporters and fans of Otago and the Highlanders! Over the years there were dinner parties, birthdays, Christmases, weddings, rugby games, muttonbirding, nights in the pub and coffees in the mornings.

My favourite time with Anna was our trip to Thailand in 2010 for her sons wedding. She pretty much just told George she was taking me and so of course that's all there was to it! We travelled together easily, enjoying each others company and the fun adventures we got up to. I thought it was going to be great because Anna was always so good at bargaining and I thought she'd be able to get me heaps of cheap stuff!



Oh no she had other ideas and told me I had to barter for myself, I was gutted! I watched the master at work though and ended up surprising myself with my bargaining talents eventually!

In recent years Anna became not only a special friend to George and I but also to our children. Leeym was lucky enough to be one of her muttonbirding "slaves" (as she called them) and he will forever cherish the time he had there with her and Storm. All four of us have special memories of Anna and we will miss her terribly.

*Nicolette*



**Wild horses, Ruapuke Island.** In 2013 Anna led a "delegation" of 16 Stewart Islanders with a deck-load of booze to her beloved Ruapuke. (Anna had deep ties to Ruapuke: she was a direct descendent of Chief Tuhawaiki.) She proudly gave the group a tour and introduced them to the locals, showed them the site of her future house, and took part in the merriment and shenanigans you'd expect from such a bunch on a sunny day. Lots of laughs ... it was a truly memorable adventure. Read more about the trip and see more photos in the February 2013 SIN (available in the Archives at [www.stewartislandnews.com](http://www.stewartislandnews.com)).

Like many, Matt and I were saddened to hear about Anna Brown's passing and would like to offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Anna, or Anna Spanner as we fondly called her, was our neighbour. Down our lovely quiet gravelled Kowhai Lane, we hear the odd vehicle drive past but not often the crunch of footsteps passing. So it was with a great deal of surprise that I heard someone running, and even more surprising to see Anna legging it down Kowhai Lane past my kitchen window as I washed the dishes. Matt looked at me quizzically, "Has Anna taken up JOGGING?". THUMP, THUMP, THUMP up our wooden steps followed by and Anna yelling, "Jules, Matt, are you home??".

I opened the door to a shaking, distraught Anna. "What's up mate?", we sang. Before she could answer, my mind whirred through the possibilities: burning house, somebody hurt, tsunami, car accident, meteor heading for earth ...

Anna's slightly breathless, gravelly voice halted my frantic listing of possible disasters with, "I've f—ked up my Sky TV and the rugby's about to start ...".

We laughed. She didn't.

"Do you know anything about Sky?", she wheezed.

Matt looked at me, the 'anything remotely technical' geek in our house.

My lame reply leaked out, "But we don't have Sky and I've got my pyjamas on, let me just change...".

"No time. Game's started. No bugger's going to see you. Come on!".

And so I went up to Anna Spanner's house wearing my PJs, and crawled around on the floor, checking cables, and fiddling with buttons on the TV remote and Sky remote, as she cracked open a beer and offered words of encouragement from the sofa. It turned out to be an easy fix. She'd changed channel on the TV remote instead of Sky and had only missed the first ten minutes of the game (no scores, phew!), and I left with blood pulsing back into my body after a super tight bear hug squeeze from a very grateful Anna!

A few months later, she did the same thing. We weren't at the kitchen window this time, but I heard someone running down the road. We looked at one another and both said, "Anna!". It was, except this time she just yelled from outside. "Aw Jules I'm sorry, I've done it again, I'll duct tape the f—king button when you fix it this time ...".

So, our lovely funny great neighbour, we miss you.

*Jules & Matt*



The island won't be the same without Anna Brown. She was one out of the box, with a distinctive raspy voice and big laugh and a very funny, blunt way of phrasing things. She had an enormous and generous heart and was beloved by her family and many friends. I met her 15 years ago when I was a fresh-off-the-ferry loopy at the Pub. She invited me to drink with her, play pool, hang out... she couldn't have been more friendly or welcoming, and through all the years I always experienced that friendly positive attitude from her. Even when she was grumpy she was entertaining.

Anna was one of this newsletter's more vocal critics: when I'd pick up the batch of new SINs fresh off the press at the post office she'd sometimes take the time to flip through it page by page, tapping on one column or article or another, saying *That's rubbish, That's a f—king waste of time, We could all do with less of this, What the hell is this mad bugger on about, This is just awful...* and I'd be laughing too hard to be offended. Then she'd sit and help me stuff envelopes or just chat and anyone who knew her knows that to hang out with Anna meant plenty of laughing. It's a bittersweet *SIN* moment putting together this tribute. I'm imagining Anna tapping this very page and barking out some colourful commentary and I would have to agree... This is just awful. Gone too soon, Anna. Arohanui.

*Jess*

**Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club  
invites participation in the  
Annual SBS supported Golf  
Tournament**

**Saturday 6th January 2018**

11am start

\$20 entry, includes Barbeque

**\$1,000 Hole in One prize**



**Jointly sponsored by  
Stewart Island Backpackers  
& Stewart Island Electric Bikes**

enquiries & or expressions of interest to  
Pete Bayne 027 248 1306

**Village Centre, Oban : [glowingsky.co.nz](http://glowingsky.co.nz)**



**Glowing Sky. Southern Clothing.**

**Have you seen gunnera on Rakiura?**  
*Please let us know*

- ▶ Gunnera (Chilean rhubarb) looks similar to rhubarb and has leaves that can grow up to two metres long. It can form dense patches that exclude almost all other plants.
- ▶ Our biosecurity team will be visiting the island in January and February. We need to know where gunnera is so it can be eradicated.
- ▶ Please report any sightings to Environment Southland, phone 0800 76 88 45 or email [shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz](mailto:shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz).



## ALL ABOUT THOSE KIWI

Locals on Rakiura know the call of the kiwi... which is something most New Zealanders have never heard, especially not from their back porch! Locals and visitors on Rakiura also know how easy it can be to spot kiwi, around town or out in the National Park, even during the day - which is a special sort of kiwi spotting (being a predominantly nocturnal species). What no one knows about Rakiura tokoeka (or, Stewart Island Kiwi), is how many there really are, if their population is stable or declining, why they might be in decline, if cats are having a serious impact on the survival of chicks and if they can be found evenly across the island or whether some areas/habitats are more important for them than others... All important information required to manage their population into the future. Recent research indicates that the tokoeka population at Mason's Bay is declining, which may be a result of the farmland regenerating into less desirable habitat, or something else entirely. Another population at Port Adventure appears to be more stable and with plenty of juveniles, but it is too early to say just yet.

As a seasonal DOC Rakiura field ranger, I began asking questions that couldn't be answered about Rakiura tokoeka. I had become rather enamoured with the antics of these feathered balls of fluff and attitude, and wanted to know more. It just so happened the timing was perfect, and there were lots of other people and organisations wanting to know what was happening with the Rakiura tokoeka population as well. And so here I am, starting my PhD and spending the next few years hoping to discover just that. This project is a partnership with Massey University, Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation and we are currently planning our 2018 field season to begin uncovering the Rakiura tokoeka population's secrets!

Stewart Island Flights is helping to bring us to the island in mid-January, when we will be hosting a hui at the DOC visitor centre for the community to come along and talk to us about the project, offer advice & feedback and get involved! In the meantime, my virtual door is always open, email me at [emmafeenstra@gmail.com](mailto:emmafeenstra@gmail.com) for more information and follow my journey and learn more about your local kiwi at <https://www.facebook.com/Rakiuratokoeka/>

Looking forward to being back, and seeing you all soon. *Emma Feenstra*



Discussions about Stewart Island Rakiura's future continued with a round of community meetings at the end of November.

Community facilitator Sandra James has spoken to more than 100 people, either at workshops or individually, including a group of young people and senior pupils at the school.

The aim is to develop a community leadership plan based on what residents want Stewart Island to be like in three, 10 and 30 years' time.

"There is a common theme of everyone wanting to retain what is special about Stewart Island, and also the desire to see managed, sustainable growth," Sandra says.

"One 10-year-old even said they wouldn't like to see a McDonald's on Stewart Island!"

Ideas are being gathered on priority investment proposals that will be forwarded to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for consideration in early 2018.

Sandra says "this is a great opportunity for the residents and ratepayers of Stewart Island to think about priorities that align with the Southland Regional Development

Strategy and progress some key infrastructure or development areas for funding consideration by the government".

Engagement with Island residents is continuing. There is still the opportunity to have your say in the residents, business owners and stakeholders surveys that are open until 15 December.

All surveys are online on Southland District Council's website and Facebook page, and paper copies are available at the library. There are suggestion boxes at the post office, library and South Sea Hotel. All suggestions for the future of Stewart Island Rakiura are welcome.

A meeting with those who want to be involved in moving this work forward will be held in the pavilion on Tuesday 12 December at 7.30pm, with another in late January to progress the plan and themes for MBIE which will be presented back to the community in February for further discussion.

For more information, phone Sandra on 027 290 7550 or email [sandra@connectingpeople.co.nz](mailto:sandra@connectingpeople.co.nz)

## Church Chatter by Jo Riskem

Oban Presbyterian Church 1904

As we come into the new year of 2018 our church building celebrates 114 years. What are we celebrating this year; special days, birthdays and anniversaries? Facebook has a nice way of showing you photos you have shared over the years that pop up on your page every so often. It's a nice way of remembering where you were at a certain time and place. The Bible is also full of memories too, of long ago but many of the memories are still relevant today as they were then. This year, don't be afraid to take a peek into its pages and learn from it.



### Speakers for January

**7 January 2018 - Rev Bob Sidal and his wife Morven** – If you didn't hear Bob and Morven on the 31 December be sure and come along on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Bob is an Indo-Fijian from the Island of Taveuni, Morven is a rugby-loving, Crusaders supporting Kiwi! They met at a church training course in Sydney in 1989 and Morven moved to Fiji to marry Bob in November of that year. They served the Methodist Church in various areas of Fiji for 19 years before re-locating to NZ in 2007. Bob is now a New Zealand citizen. They come to us from Timaru where Bob is the Minister of the Timaru-Temuka Methodist Circuit, and Morven is part time Lay Minister to St David's Union Church (a Methodist Presbyterian cooperating venture). They visited Stewart Island for a short stay several years ago and Bob said the community island life-style reminded him very much of his home island in Fiji.

**14 January – Don & Justine Pilgrim** - I'm nostalgic about growing up in the 1950's. I started at Waltham primary school in 1961 and in 1969 went to Hagley High. In 1972 I attended what were called "Jesus Marches" and started to grow in personal faith. I began working in the Botanic Gardens in 1973 and whilst there I felt called to the ministry. I was ordained in 1982 and have worked in Masterton, Taihape and South West Christchurch parishes. Currently I have a half time role as chaplain for Wesley Care, Christchurch, which offers hospital care along with a range of other options.

**21 January – Deborah Bower** - Deborah has over sixteen years experience in biblical based preaching, pastoral supervision, mentoring/pastoral care, and spiritual formation. She has worked across all streams of Christian expression, and with various groups. Her area of expertise is in encouraging and equipping people to regain, or develop spiritual and emotional health. Deborah has a passion for opening up the scriptures to reveal the heart and character of God.

**28 January – Aaron Douglas** – Aaron served in the Navy and was here on the island for our last Anzac Day. He is a delight and very down to earth. He will also be at St Andrew's Anglican Church for a 7pm communion service.

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 and quiet.

### Health Centre Matters

Christmas Greetings to all from the Health Committee. We wish you all health and happiness over the Christmas season and the New Year. When things in our life aren't healthy or happy, we are so fortunate to have our wonderful nurses, Marty and Emma, to help us pick up the pieces. Big "thank yous" to you both.

We know how hectic the Island is in summer, when all the statistics rocket skywards. By respecting the clinic opening hours (10am – 12.30pm daily) and keeping non-urgent calls to a minimum, we shall help Marty, Emma and our relieving nurses to cope with the increased summer workload.

For medical emergencies dial 111.

For non-urgent calls please use the Nurses' Bleeper phone: 0800 426 285

In the mean-time enjoy the summer and keep you and yours safe in and out of the water.

Merry Christmas, everyone, and a Happy, Healthy, Productive New Year!

*Raylene Waddell,*

Chairperson,

S.I.H.C.

## RAKIURA RIDDLE

HORNS AND DOGS FOLLOW ME  
SOMETIMES IT'S TRUE

I'M NOT A HORN-DOG BUT I'LL  
CREEP UP ON YOU

OVER YOUR EYES I'LL PULL  
THE GRAY WOOL

NOT SOFT MERINO... SOMETHING  
WET AND COOL

YOU CAN GO TO CHURCH AND PRAY  
I GO AWAY

AND I WILL DISAPPEAR  
ON A SUNDAY



In early November a party visited the Hunter Hut at Upper Lords River. The hut is approx 7 kms upriver and only accessible by boat at high tide. What they found was tress cut, beer cans littered around and the hut very untidy. Worst was an axe had cut through the water tank leaving very little usable water. The door had been smashed off



In the seventeen years the Trust has been building and maintaining facilities for hunters on the Island this is the only instance we have had of damage such as this.

PS Rather ironic but the week after we get notified of this damage Trust members with Dale Chritenden from DOC were building a replacement hunter hut at Christmas Village. The old hunter hut there was built by NZ Forest Service in the early 1960s and had deteriorated to the extent that we could not justify spending any further funds on it.—*John DeLury*



clearlite forced off the veranda.

The last permitted party using the hut was in mid July. They are regular hunters well known to us and no suspicion is attached to them. Going by the vegetation decay, the damage could have been done late July/august or September.

If any of your readers have any information about this they could pass it on to Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust by phoning John DeLury on 0276925338 email [huntercamptrust@hotmail.com](mailto:huntercamptrust@hotmail.com)



**Books Reviewed from Sue Ford**

**“Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend” by Matthew Green:**

Budo tells the story. He is the imaginary friend of Max who is ‘different’, and who – despite the bullies at school, etc., lives a satisfactory inner life, with Budo as his best friend. Until Max is kidnapped. Budo knows where Max is physically, but as he is only imaginary, he can’t do anything about it. It not only works on the narrative level but also gives pause for thought regarding what happens at the moment of death. The Epilogue is stunning. A great way to start your ‘summer’ reading - odd, but moving.

**“Shut Your Eyes Tight” by John Verdon** isn’t a bad tale: retired detective Dave Gurney agrees – to the disgust of his wife – to investigate the horrendous murder of Jillian on her wedding day. Not saying any more because (*cough, cough*) I guessed the murderer and how it was done from the start! Maybe I’ve read too many of these. I certainly felt smarter than Dave by the very end when I wanted to yell at him not to – oops, nearly gave it away. He’s not Dan Brown, but **Daniel Silva** tells a good yarn

too in **“The Fallen Angel”**. Definitely not p.c. and as it was published in 2012, I can’t accuse him of being a Trump-supporter. Gabriel Allon, retired Israeli spy, is an art restorer in the Vatican when a researcher ‘falls’ to her death in the Basilica. Asked to investigate, Gabriel is soon dashing around Europe and the Middle East as the young woman’s death is soon proved to be the tip of an iceberg which could sink peace in the Middle East forever. Quite good.

**“The Boy in the Park” by A.J. Grayson:** the first half of the book is bewildering as we follow Dylan, a health-food shop assistant and poet, interspersed with tape recordings of Joseph, a convicted killer in a prison for the insane. Dylan likes to sit in his quiet corner of the park during his lunch break whilst he waits for poetic muse. A little boy arrives each day on the opposite side of the pond for 18 months. Then the child turns up with increasingly frightening injuries – after which he disappears. Dylan is scared for the child. Something is wrong, and he finds a clue to the boy’s whereabouts so sets off on an adventure to find him. What happens next is pretty horrific, but is ultimately brilliant storytelling. Recommended.

**Short List & Don’t-Bother List!** Unless you want to while away an hour with a couple of unbelievable women and worse plot, skip **“The Map of Lost Memories” by Kim Fay**. Obsessed Irene and drug-fuelled Simone battle it out to be first to find the missing scrolls in Cambodia in 1925. **“The Killing of Bobbi Lomax” by Cal Moriarty**, in contrast, is a bit of a romp, complex with fraud and murder, but good fun. Also something of a romp is **“If You’re Reading This I’m Already Dead” by Andrew Nicoll**. Otto Witte is an accomplished acrobat in a circus, a dead-ringer – according to a newspaper photo – of the missing King of Albania. So with a close knit circle of friends, he sets about claiming ‘his’ throne! Another book where the ending is stunning. And *do* read **“Thin Air” by Michelle Paver**, a ghost story which takes place on a Himalayan mountain-climbing expedition. It’s a story that is haunting me, like, well, like ‘thin air’. Brilliant story-telling and a real 5 star read, creeping tension and near-unbearable suspense! Next month is looking even better – except for Pat King’s retirement from Volunteer Librarianship – luckily she’s found good replacements! So Merry Christmas one and all, and Happy Reading in a Happy New Year.

**Photographer Danial Eriksen** is working on a project inspired by his dad (who works in mental health) which is a response to the shocking suicide stats in NZ. He’s creating portraits and stories of strong women which he hopes will empower and give hope to girls and young women and teens. He’s chosen Stewart Island as his focus and he's looking for a diverse group of women who are strong in their various fields. Anyone he talks to will ultimately get to decide if they want him to use their photos or stories in any resulting exhibit down the track. He has worked on some fascinating projects for Vice (ie living in a Filipino graveyard slum) — you can check out his work at [www.danialeriksen.com](http://www.danialeriksen.com) Danial plans on returning to the island in January for more interviews.



**Stewart Island Real Estate**  
 For all local listings -  
 houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.  
 See our website [TODDCO.NZ](http://TODDCO.NZ)  
 or contact our local representative  
**Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589**  
 for all Island real estate enquiries.

## Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

### 10 YEARS AGO



**Sheila Natusch in the home of her father, Roy Traill**

10 years ago in an article by the Dominion Post there was a quote from Sheila Natusch, "I feel pretty seaworthy." As the movie "No Ordinary Sheila" shows she was quite a woman. In the article she said "she had no plans of giving up swimming, sailing or writing." We are so glad she didn't and to honour this lovely lady we will be doing a special exhibition of her life and works at the museum over the next several months. Make sure to stop by for a look.

#### **Acquisitions for November:**

We've had a busy month of acquisitions over November. They have included

Relics from The Neck,

Old bottles from Kaipipi,

Home ware from years gone by,

Old tools,

Hats from the past,

Print of Oyster Dredging 1888 off Stewart Island,

Homemade model ship,

Kerosene lamp for a boat

Photographs

Books - these include "Garden Full of Wings" illustrated by Sheila Natusch and "E.A. Phillips

Southern Photographer." E.A. Phillips took many wonderful photographs of Stewart Island over the years.

Thank you to all the donors for helping us preserve our Stewart Island history.

#### **Searches for November** were:

Thomas family

What the Maori name for The Snares meant in English

William Cook

First car on Stewart Island - Fred Traill

#### **School Groups for November:**

Arthur Street School

Fairfield School

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

**The tale of the three wise men is one of the favourite Christmas stories.** It's exotic, absurd even, in most of its details. After all, when we think of great scholars, we tend to file them in our box for unadventurous, sedentary egg-heads – but THESE three set off on a long and gruelling physical journey, following a star, of all things.

It's a story that challenges power. Herod, the deceiver, is thwarted. The worldly-wise, the people you would expect to know everything about events of great importance, haven't got all the answers, even though they were supposed to be the guardians of all such knowledge. The ones who find out are the ones who follow their dream, dare the journey and all the risks that might entail.

It's a story that strikes chords for us

in New Zealand. Many of our ancestors, too, were intrepid travellers, who steered by the stars of an unfamiliar sky to find what they were seeking.

It's an open-ended story. Those wise men gave their gifts to a baby and went away again. They knew they weren't the whole story. They did what they needed to do without imposing conditions about how the gifts should be used or what the baby should do when he grew up.

They came late, but they and their gifts were accepted into the heart of the Christmas story.

And what odd gifts for a new baby! Or were they? Gold is practical, to provide for daily needs. Frankincense is a perfume – a reminder that sweetness and goodness can overcome and transform what is foul. Myrrh is a

preservative -- maybe a sign we should preserve only what is very dear and precious to us, rather than hold on to past bitternesses.

The story of the three wise men encourages us to search for what matters most to us, truths on which we want to build our lives. Herod wanted to obliterate the truth of their quest but they were too wise to fall into that trap. They went home another way.

The three wise men remind us that faith is a choice. Those who risk and travel and question, arrive. Those who accept or deny without troubling to explore, who never venture, never win. The call is to follow the dream, embark on the journey and look for a different way if our first chosen route is closed to us.

—*Beverley Osborn*

**The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group** met again on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. The purpose of the meeting was to get an update on SIRCET's Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, to discuss how the PFRGG could work more closely with other environmental community groups on the island, and to hear how innovation company ZIP (Zero Invasive Predators) is getting on with developing new techniques.

Di Morris (SIRCET) gave an in-depth presentation, explaining the group's vision, goals, methods and results. She also outlined a number of the challenges the group face such as enlisting and retaining volunteers in a community where everyone is so busy, and the difficulty in resourcing the project adequately. SIRCET has done a great job working with the community to tackle the ongoing issue of predator and weed control as well as replanting endangered, native plants on Ackers Point.

Al Bramley, CEO of ZIP talked about various techniques the company are trialing that might help make Predator Free Rakiura a reality in the not too distant future. These included trap networks that can talk to each other, update trappers on catches, and are capable of being turned off remotely.

This means, traps only need to be checked when they have been triggered, or if bad weather is on its way. They've also worked out how to detect families of rats in the event of an incursion. In addition to this great news, it looks like ZIP will have systems that can operate at significant scale within the next few years.

The group were greatly encouraged by these talks. They were also pleased with feedback from Auckland University regarding the Social Impact Assessment. The group will decide how to implement the recommendations at the next meeting.

*Phil Tisch*, on behalf of the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group

**Predator Free Rakiura – your thoughts**

In September, researchers from the University of Auckland came to find out your thoughts on the idea of Predator Free Rakiura.

Specifically, they were interested in understanding how people thought the idea might impact their way of life – both positively and negatively. In total 44 people including locals and key stakeholders were involved in the survey as part of an open day, individual interviews, and a group discussion.

The results are now in – here's what you had to say.

Overall, the team noted there is strong support for increased predator management on Rakiura, primarily for biodiversity benefits and a desire to see action.

Common themes raised were:

- is it feasible to take on such large-scale predator management?
- what methods will be used to knock down predators?
- how will it be funded?
- what are the biosecurity implications?

Other findings show Predator Free Rakiura is likely to have a positive, long-term social impact assuming it is well managed and engagement with the community continues. There will be opportunities to develop tourism, which would bring secondary benefits of employment and economic development, as long as key capacity constraints such as accommodation are addressed.

This work was funded by DOC on behalf of the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group. A summary of the results will be pinned on the local notice board. The full report can be found on the DOC website or you can pop down to DOC and view a copy – it's a good read and we would like to thank you for taking part.

## Library thank you to Pat King

For 50 years Pat has been heavily involved at the Stewart Island Library, whether at work behind the counter or a mere glimpse of her reminding your guilty conscience about your overdue books. Some of you may remember the County Council library in the old hall. Usually freezing cold but orderly and as welcoming as Pat and her helpers could make it. Fast forward a few years and the old hall was demolished to make way for the Community Centre. The library was then housed at the newly vacated Playcentre (now Rugsrats). These photos show a slightly younger Pat presiding over the temporary library, and 2 young readers (Nicholas & Daniel Meads). September 1999 saw the opening of the Community Centre with its purpose built library. Back came the collection and everyone rejoiced in the pleasant and spacious surroundings. Through it all Pat has been involved at every level. She has kept the library functioning through good times and bad, has painted, stitched and stamped with the best of them. December will see the last of her days behind the desk (volunteers Shona, Tash and Rachel will keep the Saturday sessions happening). Pat will still be involved with the Friends of the Library group. They are currently gathering a collection of Stewart Island books to be held in a special cabinet. We would all like to thank Pat for the enormous contribution she has made to the Library in particular and community in general.

—Kirsten Hicks





**Stewart Island / Rakiura  
Community & Environment Trust**  
*for people for environment*

**SIRCET Update**—by *Shona Sangster*

Merry  
Christmas and  
Happy New

Year to all our volunteers, sponsors and supporters from the trustees and employees of SIRCET. We hope the holiday season is a wonderful one for you all, and we'd like to thank you for your support and hard work.

We'd also like to welcome our new trustee, Lynn McPherson. Lynn has been a volunteer with us for a while, so we're thrilled that she's agreed to become a trustee. Thanks for stepping up Lynn!

Our Victor rat traps are now available for purchase from Glowing Sky for \$20, they are open 10 am to 5pm every day so you can pop in and pick one up.

We've got lots of different things going on at this time of year, from nursery watering to trap building to rebaiting and re-gassing our

Goodnature self re-setting traps so if you're keen to help out get in touch with Willy at [pest-manager@sircet.org.nz](mailto:pest-manager@sircet.org.nz) or on 0274694504. Or just have a look in the Environment Centre if you'd like to find out more about what we do.



Visiting volunteers Carolina, Anna and Denise establishing a new trap line at the golf course

**S' ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**



**Christmas Hamper Appeal for disadvantaged Southland children**

On behalf of the Anglican family, thank you to everyone who kindly contributed towards the South Centre Anglican Care Invercargill annual appeal.  
The appeal closes 11th December.

All Saints Youth Group will assist at the Christmas party at Anglican Care South City where up to 60 children from disadvantaged homes will receive gifts, entertainment and share in carols.  
Special thanks to Stewart Island Flights for looking after the hamper and for freight.

Stewart Island Christmas Service, - details on Public Notice Board  
January service at St Andrew's held on the 28th with Rev'd Aaron Douglas, 7pm  
(Aaron was at last ANZAC memorial service)  
Season's greetings to all residents and visitors.  
Vicar Richard Johnson, parishioners and friends of St Andrew's.

**Need a Resource Consent?**

*... I can help!*

**40 years' experience in local government  
and I know how to achieve results.**

- planning
- resource management/consents
- mediation
- facilitation



WILLIAM J WATT CONSULTING LTD

phone 03 217 0114 mobile 027 495 9288  
[williamwatt@ihug.co.nz](mailto:williamwatt@ihug.co.nz) [www.williamjwatt.co.nz](http://www.williamjwatt.co.nz)

**Thank you to the pub quiz** for supporting Joz Sheppard in offering swimming lessons to the local children. We have 23 kids from age 4 to 11, each getting 5 lessons. Joz has been doing a great job with the different groups, installing water confidence for the younger kids and teaching the different swimming strokes for the older groups. The warm temperatures in the pool have meant the kids have not turned into icicles this year!!

## **STEWART ISLAND EXPERIENCE**

With only a week or two before Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. The weather recently has been just fabulous and we have seen higher than normal numbers travelling to the Island. We are now in the traditionally quiet two week period prior the holidays but if this weather holds, we are all going to be very busy very soon!

### Summer Ferry Schedule

From 27 Dec – 28 Feb we will be operating an additional return sailing from the Island to Bluff. This will depart from Oban at 12noon and return from Bluff at 1.30pm. I'm sure you will all appreciate this extra service and already bookings are very positive. And also remember that the Southern Express will be operating that additional return from Bluff from 26 Dec – 5 January – 8am ex Bluff, 9.30am off the Island.

### Busy Wharf Areas

With the increased operation of the ferry, this will add pressure to our already busy wharf areas. Our ferry and wharf staff are all very conscious of the safety risk in the immediate area of our operations at the wharf, especially with people accessing the end of the wharf for connection to either fishing or other charter boats as well as local operators dropping off/picking up linen, passengers or collecting freight when we are operating our forklift.

For the safety of all concerned:

Be very conscious of when the forklift is operating – keep yourself, your families and your guests safe.

We will be putting safety cones in place to protect everyone when we are loading bins on to the ferry – this may be seen as restrictive but it is purely to keep everyone safe

If you are on the Oban Wharf to assist or collect freight from the Rakiura Freighter, PLEASE wear either a High Vis Vest or a Safety Helmet, preferably both especially if you are anywhere near the crane when in operation. Many may not realise that although the Freighter is not our business, we are contracted to supply support to load and unload and all our staff involved are required to wear safety equipment so if you are there to help, please make sure you do the same otherwise you may be asked to clear the area while our staff are working. This is just common sense to keep you all safe. You might think you are helping but you may just be putting yourself, and others, at risk – legislation is now very prescriptive so both Rakiura Shipping and Stewart Island Experience will be held accountable should any harm come to someone not wearing basic safety equipment in these areas – that's why we need to take action and enforce these safety issues to ensure the operation is safe at all times.

All our staff operating on the wharf are briefed to make safety their number one concern so please don't be offended if you are asked to move – they are just doing their job and keeping you safe.

### Collection of Small Freight from Oban Wharf

With all the safety concerns that we are accountable around our operations, please be considerate when collecting freight that you don't bring vehicles to load / unload at times when the forklift is delivering luggage to the road end of the wharf, just check with the Forklift driver when it's safe to bring your vehicle to collect your goods.

I am also concerned about the security of freight items at the Wharf – we need to check off items to manifests when freight arrives so please allow time for this to happen when the ferries arrive. If something goes missing and we haven't receipted the item, then we can't follow up if items go missing, so please let us do our job before we can release items for collection.

Delivering luggage to passengers is our first priority, once this is done then staff will process the freight and then it will be available for collection and not before. I have often noticed people hovering to collect freight not long after the ferry has arrived – please wait away from the area preferably inside or behind the gated area until the staff have finished checking freight, as you will only be adding to the risk of injury by being in a forklift operating area.

## TRANSPORT OF UNACCOMPANIED FOOD TO THE ISLAND

Many of you now use online ordering at the Invercargill supermarkets. The couriers deliver all unaccompanied freight directly to our bins on the wharf - so please make sure that all chilled and frozen items are well packed by the supplier so they can be kept in acceptable condition for the duration of their transport – unfortunately we don't have adequate facilities at Bluff to look after chilled or frozen items and with the weather lately, this will be putting extra stress on your fresh/chilled/frozen goods.

*One stop Plumbing & Electrical*



**Plumbers & Building Services Ltd**

**ELECTRICIAN**

**We are available to come to Stewart Island for your electrical needs.**

**Please phone or email to discuss your requirements (due to travel costs we would be happy to combine jobs for different residents into a single trip to save costs)**

**Grayson Dolan**  
**Plumbers & Building Services**  
[grayson@pbsnz.com](mailto:grayson@pbsnz.com) - [www.pbsnz.com](http://www.pbsnz.com)  
**03 215 7077**



**Mamaku Point**  
 CONSERVATION RESERVE

I would like to introduce myself, Antony Simpson, General Manager of the Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve. Mamaku Point, previously known as the Dancing Star Bioreserve, is back in Kiwi ownership and currently being upgraded in a number of ways. The reserve is a very special place and it only takes a moment after you enter through the quarantine gates to realise this. We work very hard to keep this place predator free and it shows. The regenerating bush is something to be seen, as with no rats the undergrowth is amazing. It takes a lot of work to keep this place predator free and we would certainly appreciate any voluntary help that we can get, because every little bit helps. The future for Mamaku Point is looking very exciting and we would like the community to get behind us and to be involved.

Check out [www.mamakupoint.nz](http://www.mamakupoint.nz) for more details. Looking forward to having you visit this truly amazing place.

*Stop Press:* The Mamaku Point Conservation Trust has just announced the appointment of its third Trustee, University of Otago Professor of Zoology, Philip Seddon. Fellow trustee, Roy Thompson, said that it was fantastic to have someone with Phil's depth of knowledge and experience in ecology joining himself and Stewart Islander Phillip Smith on the trust. Phil's background and interests can be viewed at [www.mamakupoint.nz/reserve-life/](http://www.mamakupoint.nz/reserve-life/).




**Show Me Shorts, NZ's international short film festival, back on the Island in January.**

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan – My Generation (PG)  
 Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jan – Light in the Dark (M)  
 Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Jan – Quebec Focus (R16)  
 Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – Made to Move (R16)  
 Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Jan - Worlds Collide (M)  
 Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan – Daring to be Different (R16)  
 Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – The Sampler (M)

All sessions start at 7.30pm.

Tickets  
 Adult \$15, Senior/Student \$13, Child \$10

All Shorts Multi-Pass - Adult \$75, Senior/Student \$65 (includes all 7 sessions for one person)




Detector Gadget at Codfish/Whenua Hou. The rat-detecting dog is part of a response to a suspected rat scat seen on the kakapo sanctuary.

Dear Residents,

At a recent information session on the **Dark Skies Project on Stewart Island**, and at the SIPA general members meeting, the following opportunity was identified.

SDC/the community board are currently undertaking a replacement of street lights on Stewart Island. If residents have any concerns about particular lights, they can feed this back to the community board.

Feedback for the board can be emailed to [kirsten.hicks@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:kirsten.hicks@southlanddc.govt.nz). Residents can also speak at public forum for a maximum of 10 mins if they give 2 days notice.

Cheers, Amy

**Amy Bird**  
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER  
 Venture Southland

## Rakiura Hummingbirds

### Recent project

A two-day working bee at the community centre resulted in SIXTY new “boomerang bags”. These cloth shopping bags are available at the shop as an alternative to plastic bags. Just use as needed and PLEASE RETURN! An assembly line of work goes into each bag which are made from donated unwanted fabric. Screening the logo, drying it, ironing, cutting out all the pieces, folding and ironing straps, sewing each individual component including pockets, then putting it all together. Lots of volunteers and sewing machines and busy busy bees... thanks to everyone who stopped by to help!

### Current project

Recycle Centre Shop sort-out! This is a BIG JOB and we need all the help we can get, so if you have an hour or two to spare please stop by a working bee. We have started with general cleaning, dusting, sorting and biffing stuff. There is A LOT to get through. The goal is to create a clean, tidy orderly shop and maintain it, perhaps introducing upcycled products down the track. Won't it be wonderful to have a first rate second-hand shop?

**Locals and visitors are welcome to contribute and help with any of these projects. Keep up with working bees and projects on the Rakiura Hummingbirds page on Facebook, or check the noticeboard.**

### Eco-tip

*Each issue of SIN we will include some advice or a tip about how to live with a bit less plastic and waste. If you have any ideas feel free to contribute, either by sending to SIN, or join Rakiura Hummingbirds on FB and post to the page. This month's eco-tip is from Jess.*

“Once you see it you can't un-see it.”

Someone said that to me recently about the amount of

plastic we use in our daily lives and it's true. We've all had our tipping-turning points... the moment we reckoned it was time for a change.

Last year the climate change deniers led by Trump turned my stomach and the last straw for me was one of those video clips circulating on social media of Earth's ice caps melting before our eyes, followed by another video of islands made of plastic trash in our oceans. It's one thing to be horrified and another to be inspired, and the latter's what Rakiura Hummingbirds has done for me. I'd like to share one little change I've made in my daily life which might be old hat for many of you but maybe I'll inspire a few of you!

I looked around my life's kitchen and a big bad “cringe-y” is how much plastic wrap and plastic bags I use every day. Plastic for my kids' lunches; plastic for wrapping leftovers. I noticed an ad for an alternative wrap on my Facebook feed a few months ago and tapped on it and decided to try it.

They are basically re-usable beeswax wraps. I bought a few and after a trial week I ordered a few more, enough for the boys' lunch-boxes every day and also wraps for all my leftover food, from hunks of cheese and bread to cauliflower to covering bowls... they come in all shapes and sizes. These wraps smell honey-sweet and are slightly tacky to touch and when you press on them with your fingers your body heat melts the wax just enough to make them sticky. To wash you just run them under cool water and wipe lightly with a sponge and dry.

So, I've been using them for a while now and here's my verdict: I LOVE THEM!! And I highly recommend them. They don't last forever but if you take good care of them they should last about a year. That's a year of not using plastic baggies and plastic wrap! The boys really like them too and have their favourite preferred patterns etc. I'm sure there are a bunch of places to purchase them, my go-to place is a small business run by a Kiwi family called Lily Bee Wrap ([www.lilybeewrap.com](http://www.lilybeewrap.com)).



**Left:  
a crowd  
(including a  
cheeky kaka)  
inspect the new  
name board at its  
recent unveiling  
at the cemetery.**



**Right:  
Lorna Hitchcock  
[Sinky's partner],  
Sinky and Mayor  
Gary after the  
presentation  
acknowledges  
Sinky's many  
years of volunteer  
contribution to  
our Community.**

## LETTERS



### Welcome to Stewart Island (in reply to Farewell to Stewart Island)

I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Stewart Islander and have now been on the island for the past 33 years. I'm just a spring chicken compared to many families on the island who go back over 10 generations and have lived here 50 years or more. I'm glad many of these families are still alive and kicking. There will always be families that move out but thankfully there are others that move in. It is lovely to see young and old people from the four corners of the world coming to live here. Some for a short time, some longer, but all become part of the Stewart Island Family.

It is also good to see children who have gone away to school come back to have families and get jobs here. There are always jobs on this island. It might not be what you want, but a job is a job and many find themselves with numerous. Never a dull moment.

There is still plenty of prosperity as each year sees businesses start and grow. Self sufficiency is still in full swing. One only has to see the flourishing gardens and a community garden that knows no bounds.

Yes, some expenses are high but where can you live where you can fill up your car with petrol and not have to fill it up for another two months. I know others on other islands who face similar issues, but like many of us, would never want to be anywhere else. It has been wonderful to see many homes and businesses selling and new blood coming to the island. This to me shows growth. History shows that there has always been comings and goings, but it is all a part of the island life.

I'm proud to see our island continue to look at alternative energies and I'm sure one day we'll solve the problem. As the saying goes, "Good things take time."

Both transport providers offer discounts for locals and workers. Both at times have provided free transport for many projects on the island, and for that we thank them very much. These providers offer amazing services to Islanders and visitors alike with several sailings and flights a day. There are farmers on the North and South Islands who have less access to essential services than us.

The way I see ex-islanders continue to return year after year assures me it is a place to always come back to.

Our health service would be hard to beat anywhere. We are so well taken care of. Even though it's sad when some services leave, it often opens doors for others to step in and I've seen at least six new services come to the island with more to come.

Networking is always a good policy and again I've seen many businesses helping each other by passing on customers. I'm sure this will grow and groups like Stewart Island Promotions are helping to promote the island as a place not only to visit but to live. The island has approximately 100 groups and organizations all working together to preserve and sustain our beautiful island. The amazing amount of volunteers for each of these groups should make all islanders proud.

Companies like Real Journeys have been good for the island providing jobs for many. I believe if you have issues with any business big or small go and talk to them one on one. Let them know your concerns. This is how we all grow and learn. Yes, there have been some severe set backs in the community but together we can overcome the hurdles.

Invercargill and Southland Councils are not worlds apart but close at hand and have shown by talks, meetings and workshops, they are willing to listen, but it's up to us to get involved and let them know our concerns. They benefit from us and we can benefit from them.

Most of all year in and year out, I hear from locals and visitors alike the amazing caring and sharing that comes from this island, and that is fantastic. One never has to feel alone. There is always someone to help. This above all makes Stewart Island a place that people will return to for many years to come.

*Jo Riksem*



### Less lighting round our village?

Are we prepared to use blackout curtains and pull drapes at night?

Not use outside lights, timetabled lighting and what about torches as we walk home or people look for our beloved kiwi.

I feel we will need more lighting for people's personal safety, and to discourage nefarious activities, as time goes on.

Especially in the winter when the ferry arrives and leaves in darkness, and we have to grapple with the psychological effects of extended darkness.

People have had to fight hard to establish these very human safety features.

We need to consider the lift to the human spirit a welcoming light has brought over eons of time. Think of lighthouses, navigation lights, boats at night and the fishing village.

After all the sea is still our main income provider, tourism is about a third along with conservation.

There needs to be more emphasis placed on the lives of our people and community.

We already have people gazing at the night sky very happily so why not enhance positions such as observation rock and the gardens M.. Moana so enthusiasts can enjoy and mingle.

Open up some areas of the DOC estate away from the village?

All the developing, transporting and navigating will create work for Islanders. Or is it one of those "big player" things where we sell our soul for tourism?

We all deserve safety and privacy to live our own lifestyles without the "not so subtle" at times Island pressures.

Food for thought!

*Deborah Dillon*

# What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



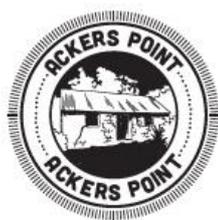
## Staff Update and Happy Holidays

We have welcomed former Long Term Volunteer Harriet Jones to the Biodiversity team, Julian Narvaez and Paul Graham as Rakiura Track hut wardens, and hosted the first Port William and Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island volunteers. Bec Baxter has finished up in her permanent Visitor Centre role and joined the field team in December. Olivia Bayne and Rachael Sagar have started in the Visitor Centre as casual staff, which brings us up to 14 permanent and 16 temporary staff.

All DOC staff would like to wish the Stewart Island/Rakiura community and its many visitors a safe and happy holiday!

## Invitation to Toyota Kiwi Guardian Site Launches

We would like to extend an invite for you and your family to attend the Rakiura Toyota Kiwi Guardian site launches! We will be officially opening up each of the Rakiura sites and hope to get as many Stewart Island/Rakiura kids along to participate as possible. We'll hand out treasure maps, and walk to the Guardian Post with the group to get the secret code so all the kids can send away for their medals and become Toyota Kiwi Guardians!



### Ackers Point 'Ackers Trackers' Site Launch

Date: Friday 15 December 2017

Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Ackers Cottage



### Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara 'Paradise' Site Launch

Date: Saturday 16 December 2017

Start time: 9:00am meet at Golden Bay Wharf and board the DOC vessel *Hananui*

Return time: 10:45am sharp - if people choose to stay on the island for longer they must make their own alternate transportation arrangements.

Location: Sydney Cove

## Kiwi Guardians 'Ackers Trackers' Site Launch Working Bee

Pip Fraser-Wilson and Ian Wilson organised an Ackers Cottage working bee on Thursday 7 December starting at 9:00am inviting DOC concessionaires who access Harrold Bay for their walks and any other interested people to attend. DOC and SIRCET staff members helped Ian and Phillipa clear, cut, and paste large areas of gorse throughout the morning. Well done to everyone involved! This is a great example of the impressive amount of work that can be achieved when landowners, agencies, and community groups work together.

We hope that families will come and enjoy the newly cleared area during the Toyota Kiwi Guardians site launch on Friday 15 December (details above) and we thank Ian and Pip for their support of this programme!

## Southern New Zealand Tuturiwhati/Dotterel Recovery Update

The dotterel team have carried out extensive Dotterel nest searching and have found and monitored 13 nests so far.

We recently found Dotterels nesting on Rocky Mountain, where they have not been found for the last few years. Predator control is planned to start on Rocky Mountain



Harriet Jones, Letitia McRitchie & Pip Fraser-Wilson getting the plan underway at Harrold's Bay  
Photo by Jennifer Ross DOC

shortly to protect these newly discovered nesting dotterels. This will involve hand placing bait into bait stations, with 1080 pellets to control feral cats and brodifacoum to control rats, the same method as in other dotterel habitats. We hope this will help chicks to survive on Rocky Mountain.

Regular predator control work and bird monitoring continues in areas including Table Hill, Blakies, 511, 464, and Rakeahua.



Left: Ackers Cottage before. Right: Ackers Cottage after! That's a lot of gorse gone. Amazing job team! Photos by Jennifer Ross DOC

### Possum Control

Possum control work in the Rakeahua area is planned to be carried out by contractors in February/March 2018. This work aims to reduce possum numbers to prevent forest canopy collapse, reduce predation on native birds and to restore the forest canopy to a condition similar to those found on Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island. This will be carried out by attaching raised bait bags to trees. The contractors will be allowed to use bait bags containing either 1080 paste/pellets or encapsulated cyanide, as well as leg hold traps. All bait will be removed at the end of operation. Pre-feed will be laid prior to the bait bags being laid. There is the potential that next year the pre-feed may be scattered with the use of a helicopter (prefeed only, not any toxin) and we are open to discussion on this matter.

### Christmas Village DOC Hut Roof Replacement

A team of contractors from Marshall Industries were appointed to replace the roof at Christmas Village Hut in November. The old roof got to a point where it allowed water into the building, which was a major concern to the Department. When the Department was looking at this issue, it was identified that the Christmas Village roof has a substantial fall height and for this reason full protection scaffolding was required to undertake the work. The main reason for contracting the work out was to address this fall height and ensure safe working practices. The crew enjoyed good weather and there were no issues with the replacement, with only minor disruptions to visitors.



Southern New Zealand dotterel sitting on eggs on 464. Photo by DOC trail camera

### Yankee River Bridge Replacement

In November the swing bridge at Yankee River came to the end of its useful life and has been replaced with a new three-wire bridge. A cheaper, rigid bridge was originally considered but did not meet the requirements or cover the required span of the creek. Construction of the bridge was undertaken by a regional team of DOC staff. The main objective was staff development and training opportunities for building and maintaining high risk cable structures. During construction there was no impact on use at the site since the old bridge was removed after the new bridge was constructed which resulted in an uninterrupted visitor experience.



Christmas Village trampers hut with scaffolding for roof replacement. Photo by Dale Chittenden

### Christmas Village Hunters Hut & Toilet Replacement

The Christmas Village Hunters hut was replaced by the Rakiura Hunters Camp Charitable Trust (RHCCT) in November. This asset had a number of issues and was at the end of its useful life. It failed building consent in relation to a stove replacement and was considered too far gone to be able to bring back up to standard. The existing six bunk hut was replaced by a new standard design six bunk hunters hut with basic facilities. The hut was relocated to a nearby open area with good drainage and access. A new pit toilet/long drop was also constructed. The old hut has been closed to the public and will be removed at a later date.



Yankee River three-wire bridge. Photo by Michael Douglass

### Upper Lords River Hunters Hut Vandalism

A hunting group has reported damage to the Upper Lords River Hunters Hut water tank and toilet have had an axe put through them and were destroyed. Beer cans were littering the site, and vegetation and trees were cut. This damage was done in a quiet time of the

year and following an investigation it's looking like it was a random act of vandalism with few leads to pursue.

### Rakiura Hunters Hut Inspections

Annual hut inspections were carried out by the Rakiura Hunters Camp Charitable Trust (RHCCT) and all other Rakiura hunters huts are in good condition.

### Department of Conservation Engineer Inspections

Annual engineer inspections have been completed by Tim Cross for:

- Yankee River bridge
- Christmas Village Hunters hut
- Christmas Village Trampers hut roof
- Freshwater jetty



Crew outside of new Christmas Village Hunter's Hut. Left to right: Nigel, Dave Howden (builder), Dale Chittenden (DOC), Ray Phillips (RHCCT)

(Continued from page 17)

- All local walk structures
- Ocean Beach track barrier

There were no concerns or structural issues highlighted and all met Department standards.

### Biosecurity Checks for Visiting School Groups

Visiting school groups have undergone bag checks in November before visiting predator free Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island. Handler Sandy King and rodent detecting dog Gadget have been catching up with schools as part of the Kiwibank Conservation Dogs Programme and making sure that groups aren't unknowingly transporting rodents or seeds to Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island. This is a great educational and preventative initiative that gets biosecurity messaging to the forefront of kids and teachers minds. After the checks Sandy hands out certificates to the kids showing that they've been checked and stamps the certificates with Gadget's seal of approval – her paw print! The checks have been a major success so far and also include Gadget checking the boat the group will travel on to Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island for any stowaways.

### Bush School Barberrry

On the last Bush School of the year Biodiversity Ranger Letitia McRitchie headed along to enlist the kids (and parent helpers) to get rid of barberry. The kids had a quick introduction to what barberry looks like and then split into four groups. Each group was tasked with finding as much barberry as they could in the next 45 minutes. The kids had sharp eyes and the adults soon worked up a sweat cutting and pasting all the plants pointed out by the kids. In all the group found 156 plants, of which 37 were flowering adults, great spotting by the kids!! Prizes were dished out to groups who found:

- The most barberry
- The largest plant
- The most adult plants.

The kids did an awesome job and showed lots of enthusiasm. Thanks also to Emily Joy, Luke Simeon, and Stu Cave for all your cutting and pasting. It was great to get some help in getting rid of this weed!

### Weed Control Assistance to Rakiura Landowners

To assist in landowners undertaking weed control on their property Environment Southland are again sending over a supply of 'cut and paste' product. If you would like some in the New Year, pop in and see Letitia McRitchie. This product is ideal for weeds like cotoneaster, barberry, buddleia and gunnera.

### Barberry Control 2017/18

Barberry control is continuing this year, with DOC focussing on areas within and near Rakiura National Park. So far we have conducted an aerial survey up the North Coast, checked the track and old rat trap lines to Port William and also conducted more searching at Kaipipi. A person tramping the Rakiura track reported a large barberry near Maori Beach (which was later dispatched by Letitia McRitchie and Bella McRitchie-King) and staff at Mason Bay also found a small barberry plant. Field teams have also been working through dense barberry around Back Road, removing hundreds of plants.

### Invasive Weed Found in Rakiura National Park

Biodiversity Ranger Phred Dobbins searched the tracksides from Te One Roa/ Mason Bay to Freshwater Landing for the invasive plant heather in November. Phred found and removed 17 heather plants from the track! A few years ago a couple of plants were found along this track and since then whenever the team walk out they search the track for heather.

We suspect the heather has come from seeds caught on the boots, clothing or tramping gear of people who have visited areas like Mount Ruapehu or the Tongariro Crossing, where heather has taken over huge tracts of native alpine and wetland plant communities. If this highly invasive pest plant species were to move further into the Freshwater and Ruggedy wetlands it would take a massive amount of effort and resources to control.

Above right: Sandy King and Gadget checking bags  
 Below right: Gadget smelling something ratty and giving a clear indication! Photos by Jennifer Ross DOC



Bush School barberry weeders, with a big bunch of barberry hung up in the tree to dry out and die .



Heather now covers much of the western side of Tongariro National Park Photo by DOC



The Kerbside Recycling Collection Service thanks you for your continued effort in recycling. This is giving us quality product that we can on-sell.

**Separate your waste into...**



**RECYCLABLES**

Thank you for recycling

**PAPER & CARDBOARD**

Flatten, tie together & place in plastic bag (to keep the rain out). Large recyclable items to be taken separately to the Transfer Station.



- Newspaper
- Junk mail
- Office paper
- Magazines
- Cereal boxes
- Flyers
- **DO NOT INCLUDE**
  - Food contaminated paper
  - Hard covered books
  - Photographs

**ALL PLASTIC BOTTLES**

Wash, squash & place in plastic bag

All tops must be removed



- Shopping Bags (Clean)
- Bread bags (Clean)
- Bubble wrap (Clean)
- Plastic wrap (Clean)
- Ice Cream Containers (Clean)
- Margarine & Semi Soft Containers ( Clean)
- Yogurt Pottles (Clean)
- Polystyrene white (Clean)
- Plastics 1-9 (Clean)

**DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- Unwashed bottles
- Polystyrene meat trays and tetra packs
- Engine oil containers

**CANS**

wash, squash & place empty cans in plastic bag

- Aluminium cans
- Steel cans



**DO NOT INCLUDE**

- Aluminium foil
- Unrinsed cans

**GLASS**

wash (place in the bottom of the bin)

- All bottles and jars
- Please remove all lids & caps into a separate plastic bag into the recycling bins



**DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- Unwrapped broken glass
- Unrinsed glass

**IMPORTANT**

- Please either bag or tie securely the recyclables, to minimise them becoming windblown litter
- Do not overfill the bin and bag - maximum 15kgs

**SAFETY**

- Do not throw out sharp objects, like knives or broken glass, or any hazardous material, such as needles, in your rubbish bags please.
- You can drop off any sharp objects to the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre.

**FOOD SCRAPS**

- **ONLY** fresh vegetable & fruit peelings

**DO NOT INCLUDE**

- Bones
- Bead
- Processed or cooked food
- Recyclables
- Excess liquid
- Plastics or aluminium foil
- Cleaning agents or non-organic material
- Meat or fish of any description
- Mussel, oyster shells & Cray Bodies
- Citrus fruit or skins
- Onions of any description or their skins.



**OFFICIAL PRE-PAID REFUSE BAG**

- Disposable nappies
- Bones
- Rubber items
- Items made from mixed materials
- Maximum weight 15kgs



**DO NOT INCLUDE**

- HOT ashes
- Recyclables
- Liquid
- Hazardous waste (like used oil)

**NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

The RRRC has facilities for the disposal of hazardous materials (like solvents, garden & pest chemicals, vehicle batteries, and kitchen and oven cleaners).

# Ambergris



New Zealand's longest established dealer of Ambergris. AmbergrisNZ is wishing to buy all grades of Ambergris, please refer to our website: [www.ambergrisnz.co.nz](http://www.ambergrisnz.co.nz)

We are offering top New Zealand prices.

Contact: Terry & Wendy

Email: [info@ambergrisnz.co.nz](mailto:info@ambergrisnz.co.nz)

Or

Phone: 0274 991 881

## SDC Kids' Holiday Programme

Stewart Island 19th January

10 am—3pm at the Community Centre

Kids aged 5-12 cost is \$8

Enrol your child at

[www.sdcholidayprogramme.co.nz](http://www.sdcholidayprogramme.co.nz)

**ART  
IN THE  
BOAT SHED**

popping up  
at 19 Main Rd  
on 15 Jan

**ALL WELCOME  
Drinks from  
4 to 6pm**

### Stewart Island Handyman Services

General repairs & maintenance	Wooden fences and decks
Lawn mowing	General fencing
Line trimming	General carpentry
Section maintenance	Gutter cleaning
Weed spraying (certified applicator)	Moss and mould treatment
Tree pruning	Water blasting
Tree removal	Spider proofing
Chainsaw work	
Hedge trimming	And more - just ask

Contact **Geoff**

Phone 973 0959 (Local Number)  
Mobile 027 253 3106  
Email [handyman@acadia.co.nz](mailto:handyman@acadia.co.nz)



**CHOCOLATE AWARD**  
*Joanne Leask would like to thank the Rakiura Hummingbird ladies who started making Boomerang Bags for the shop.*

Help support the island pre-school Rakiura Rugrats and buy a copy of the children's book *Seaberry Stomp!* All proceeds go to Ruggies. Book available at Stewart Island Gift Shop, Ship to Shore, and the Bluff ferry terminal.

*Stewart Island News* is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to [stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)**

If you wish to have *Stewart Island News* sent to you or a friend, please fill out this form and send it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island 9846.

Or  
Direct deposit to Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 — please put your name as reference and don't forget to send me an email with your address.

The cost is as follows:  
12 issues to an Oban address \$36  
12 issues to other New Zealand address \$48  
12 issues to international address \$72  
12 issues emailed \$24

Name of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Advertise in the STEWART ISLAND NEWS*

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 bach owners, former residents, and other subscribers around the country and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too. So tell all of those people about your business!

Contact editor for rates.  
[stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)