

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

December 2022

\$4.00

There was no November SIN

Stewart Island/Rakiura Farewell for Peter Goomes. All are welcome to attend Memorial Service 11am, Community Centre, Saturday, 14th January 2023

TRIBUTE TO PETER GOOMES

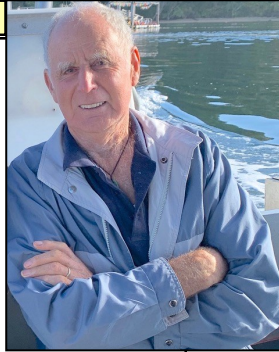
Peter Godward Goomes, was born 12 March 1938 in Invercargill to Frederick and Daphne Goomes (nee) Godward. Their second child and first-born son named Peter after Peter Pan, because his mother so much loved the story of Peter Pan. Often over the years if Peter were asked his age he would still answer that he was only 12. Now regarding his siblings, Wendy, Michael, Rosemary and Simon, Peter liked to say that if he would have had one more brother, he probably would have been named Captain Hook. Peter's middle name Godward is named after his Grandfather, Ernest Robert Godward, the Invercargill inventor. At the time that Peter was born the family was living in Arrowtown and then at age 5 the family moved to Rangiora.

Though Peter always liked learning new things and enjoyed school, he would often comment that his school report cards would many times have the letters CDB written on them; meaning 'Could Do Better.' Now, Peter being Peter, always strived to do his best and was never one for sitting still very long, so he would mow lawns or work in orchards for spending money and every chance he got he would ride his bike. He was known to pedal his bike from his home in Rangiora to Redcliffs in Christchurch to help out his Grandma; a distance of roughly 40km, then bike home again.

As a child Peter was given a Meccano set which he added to over time, while teaching himself many engineering principles he used throughout his life. When it comes to making things it seemed there was little that Peter couldn't make or at least give it a go. Peter loved a variety of music, so naturally he taught himself how to make radios. As a young boy Peter enjoyed working with his Dad's tools building or fixing things, though he also loved drawing and maths; which is why Peter planned to finish his last year of school and go into Architecture for a career. However, that plan was short-lived when Peter's Dad came home one day saying that he had lined up an apprenticeship for Peter. So as the saying goes, 'the rest is history'.

At age 15 having passed his School Certificate, Peter left school to start his Builders apprenticeship, which led to more opportunities and responsibilities; all the while gaining a variety of building skills from Sawmill and Joinery to House Shifting and Bridge Building; as well as valuable life skills. At age 17 when the family moved to

(Continued on page 6)



The giving season?

There's a lot of charity in this little community. For example, Kate from HMB School and her Gumboot Friday supporters raised \$3003 for services that help children in

need; Iris organised a Christmas collection for disadvantaged Southlanders; and Rose shared her herb seedlings. We're pretty lucky to see these good deeds done regardless of season.

Helipad update - Stu Newton

On the 3rd of December 2022, Stewart Island/Rakiura community celebrated the opening of the Stewart Island emergency helipad at Traill Park. Approximately 2 years ago, following a Medivac at Traill Park, Doc Marti raised concerns of the ambulance and stretcher potentially getting stuck in the muddy, soft ground and the need to link a helipad site to enable the rescue helicopters to operate in low light and adverse weather.

Doc Marti, Bruce Ford and Graeme Gale from Otago Helicopters were

instrumental in starting the process. Doc Marti suggested we approach the Health Committee and Community Board to see if they could get some gravel extended onto the reserve to make things a bit easier.


From that, things progressed to the point that Stewart Island Health Committee recognised the significance of what the navigation system and helipad would mean to the community and started working on a plan headed by Mary Chittenden to get feedback from the community and rescue

(Continued on page 11)

Rakiura Support

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
NOTICE - BY THE 31ST
JANUARY 2023

To support our Rakiura Wellbeing we are looking for interested Rakiura community members to volunteer for training opportunities in being a 'listening ear' and taking turns to man a phone line to help direct those in need to the right services. If you're interested and want to know more please get in contact with any of the people below.

Cherie 027 236 2006 

chemsley@awarua.nz

Dick Langdon 027 244 8680

richardlangdon21@gmail.com

Julie Asher 027 495 2953

info@swallowscrossing.co.nz



Mahi Ngatahi

Working Together

DECEMBER 2022

REFLECTING ON 2022...

Tēnā koutou katoa,

PFR has made great strides in 2022, with lots of progress to celebrate. From building our project team to securing funding from DOC and Manaaki Whenua, 2022 has been all about the 'set up'.

We're continuing to explore funding and relationship opportunities which we're confident will set Predator Free Rakiura in good stead for the work ahead.

In this month's update, we'll share an exciting update about some fieldwork Predator Free Rakiura has begun this month, we congratulate Halfmoon Bay School on their fantastic rat catching Competition, and we highlight some of the activities we've been up to since our last update in Stewart Island News.



Most of all, we'd like to thank those of you who we've already worked with thus far for all of your support and wish the entire Rakiura Community a meri kirihimete and hope you have a fantastic summer.

We're looking forward to updating you again in our next issue of SIN! If you would like to stay in touch with us our Facebook page will also keep up to date on what we are doing as well:

www.facebook.com/PFRakiura

Hei konā mai,

Campbell.

MOUSE RESEARCH STARTS THIS MONTH!

Research and Operations Manager Kev Carter has been wading into a few waterways around Oban this month, taking water samples to be sent to Wellington!

These samples will be processed by Wilderlab, a company which specialises in eDNA, to see if there are any traces of mice around Halfmoon Bay.

eDNA is short for environmental DNA, and it refers to small traces of genetic material left behind by living organisms in the environment. A sample of soil or water which is tested for traces of DNA can reveal the species that have lived in or travelled through the area.

We'll be taking samples from streams close to Oban, and some a little bit further out, too. The results will help us to understand

if mice are present only close to town, which might suggest that they come and go on boats or with visitors. If we find traces of them further out of town, then that might suggest there's a bigger population of mice than just one or two.

It's important that PFR finds out whether there are mice present on Rakiura, because if they are here, and we eradicate rats and feral cats, then we could see the mouse population explode - creating a new problem for our taonga species!

We are expecting the results from Wilderlab in early 2023, and we'll determine our next steps from there. We'll keep you updated throughout this process.

If you'd like to know more about our mouse eDNA sampling work, visit our website.

HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL'S RAT CATCHING SUCCESS

PFR was delighted to sponsor a few prizes for the phenomenal tamariki at Halfmoon Bay School, who caught more than 600 rats over the past few months as part of their rat catching competition.

Bella here caught the most rats - 64!

Congratulations to every one of these inspiring students for their mahi. We were really impressed by these young people's passion for their environment, and we know that



as Stewart Island / Rakiura residents, they are the most important part of protecting this awesome place and the special taonga which live here.

Their efforts have meant a lot - it shows the community and the rest of Aotearoa that "if kids can do it, why can't we?".

SOME VISITORS, AND SOME CATCH UPS!

We really appreciated being able to host representatives from Predator Free 2050 Ltd (PF2050LTD) on Rakiura at the end of October.

PF2050LTD is a possible funder for Predator Free Rakiura, and it was important that we were able to show them not only how wonderful Rakiura is, but to chat with them about some of the logistical challenges an eradication on this scale will present.

We introduced them to the SIRCET team, and even visited Ulva Island during the trip - where we were able to meet tieke, koramiko, and weka, of course!



There is no doubt that PF2050 Ltd recognises the value in PFR's goals and aspirations, and they're keen to support us in some way. We'll let you know as soon as we do what that might look like.

In November, we visited the SIRCET team, and were treated to a mini tour of some of their traps on Ackers Peninsula.



As always, we're inspired by the mahi of SIRCET and others like Mamaku Point and RMLT on Te Onecki and grateful for their time. It was awesome to be able to properly meet each other, and for our teams to get to know one another a little better.

TUTURIWHATU MISSES OUT ON THE CROWN

PFR endorsed and supported the campaign for Tūturiwhatu - Southern NZ Dotterel for NZ Bird of the Year - you might have spotted some of the posters around town!

While we didn't manage to get into the top 10, the tūturiwhatu landed at roughly 11th place.

While we congratulate the rock wren for taking out the crown, we've got our feathers crossed next year's campaign will see tūturiwhatu rise to the (mountain) top!



REMEMBER!

You can get in touch via the website: www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz

You can email us at info@predatorfreerakiura.org.nz

You're welcome to stop for a chat any time you spot a team member on-island!

We look forward to catching up in 2023!



Restoring our natural haven
Rakiura, mauri ora



Litter Intelligence.

Data. Insights. Action.

Litter Intelligence is tackling Aotearoa's litter problem. Sustainable Coastlines harness the power of citizen science to provide high-quality data to inspire insights and action.

Litter Intelligence on Stewart Island Rakiura

Come and see what Litter Intelligence is all about!

Gets hands on and be the change! Sustainable Coastlines is looking for individuals, families and community groups to be citizen scientists conducting beach litter surveys on Rakiura

23 and 24 February 2023

Thursday 23 Feb — Beach Blast with Halfmoon Bay School

Friday 24 Feb—Drop in session, training workshop and beach fun

Come along and talk to Bronwyn, see what is found on beaches around NZ, check out the litter kits on the island, and express your interest in being involved! (you may want to become trained as a local lead citizen scientist – meaning you can officially add data to the litter dataset nationally). A training litter intelligence session based on level of interest may run. More details to come. Have any queries or questions? Get in contact with me.

Data, insights and action for a litter-free world

All the litter data collected is freely available to the groups and individuals involved as well as to the wider public and decision makers. Access to this litter data allows a number of insights into understanding the litter problem, optimising solutions and inspiring action.



Hi all. I am Bronwyn (based in Invers) and work for Sustainable Coastlines coordinating the Southland Litter Intelligence Programme. It would be great to have the litter intelligence programme on Rakiura (sites at Deep Bay and Ulva Island were set up 2020 but covid interrupted!).



Bronwyn Graham
Litter Intelligence Southland Regional Coordinator

021 152 1857

bronwyn@sustainablecoastlines.org

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



SUSTAINABLE COASTLINES

Find out more – check out <https://litterintelligence.org>

The Schofield family would like to thank everyone who joined us to celebrate Nancy’s life, at both Invercargill and the Bay. Special thanks to Gwen who guided us so well, and gave two beautiful services. Also J Fraser and Sons for their help and professionalism.

Thanks to everyone who:

- * Sent cards, messages, tributes, texts plus phone calls and visits.
- * Sent beautiful flowers. To Diane who was so creative with flowers from our Ringaringa and local gardens.
- * Provided the delicious ‘plates’, baking, sandwiches,

- salmon, Reece and Joel for the crayfish - great feasts.
- * Stewart Island Rugrats catering ladies.
- * Family for setting up, then packing up the venue.
- * Speakers who bravely gave the interesting, historic and loving tributes.
- * Technology gurus, and HMB School for equipment, so we could view the photographs and play Nancy’s favourite tunes.
- * Family and friends for travelling from near and far. and to everyone who attended or ‘watched’ the services.
- * Special thanks for the care and compassion shown by the team at Rowena Jackson in recent years.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO YOU ALL



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Notice of increase to metering charges and update to policy documents

Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority – From 20 December 2022

Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA) will increase its fees and charges for customers from 20 December 2022.

This follows the endorsement of a resolution by Southland District Council on Wednesday 5 October that unbudgeted expenditure of \$709,475 for increased fuel costs during 2022/2023 be funded from Stewart Island Electricity Supply Authority reserves. Council also resolved to increase the price of power to SIESA customers.

SIESA is making these changes to reflect changing costs of supplying electricity to customers. All prices shown are inclusive of GST:

FEES AND CHARGES			PERCENTAGE INCREASE
Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority	Current charges (2022/2023 GST inclusive)	Proposed increase from 20 December 2022	%
Connections			
Standard rate (per unit)	\$0.6200	\$0.6500	4.84%
Night rate (per unit)	\$0.5600	\$0.5900	5.36%

SIESA has taken this opportunity to review policy documents and terms and conditions to ensure they remain relevant and align closely with electricity industry model agreements, regulations and requirements.

This includes updates to the Customer Service Agreement and implementation of the Customer Care and Complaints policies.

You can obtain copies of these documents by calling us on 0800 732 732, emailing siesa@southlanddc.govt.nz or visiting our website at siesa.co.nz.

(Tribute to Peter Goomes. Continued from page 1)

Stewart Island, Peter continued his apprenticeship and at age 20 still being an apprentice himself, was put in charge of 2 other apprentices while building cribs in Arrowtown. One of the best parts of that job Peter said, was that he was the only one allowed to drive both his boss' Ford Pickup and the newer Ford V8; which he believed increased his appreciation for nice vehicles.

Before age 21, Peter was a tradesman, building his own first house (Te Tahī and thus Stewart Island Holiday Homes began) to have his 21st birthday party in, as he wasn't allowed to have a party at home. He was living on Stewart Island then and enjoying being his own boss. Peter took a year off to go fishing, occasionally also driving the Carrier's truck. At age 22 Peter went to stay with an aunt in Invercargill to shop and catch up with friends. It was at the Fire Station Christmas Dance where Peter met a country girl that got his attention, by the name of Jeanette MacPherson. After several trips to the farm, lots of letters and many dances, Peter and Jeanette were married 1 December 1962. They lived in Invercargill as their family grew with Tony, Donna and Doug; then later as their children had families of their own, Peter and Jeanette were able to enjoy grandchildren as well. At the time of Peter's death he had 8 grandchildren: Stephanie, Brianna, Max, Ella, Josh, Hannah, Sarah and Ben; all of which he loved greatly and enjoyed watching them grow up and to see what they would become.

Over the years Peter continued as a builder of homes, wool sheds, boats and anything that needed repair. No matter what direction a person looks on Stewart Island, Peter's involvement and workmanship can be seen. Whether it be The old Rakiura Museum, the New Museum, The Snuggery, or the Stewart Island Lodge; perhaps you've noticed the Memorial Garden with waterwheel and gazebo at the bottom of Peterson Hill, the Wharf or the Bulletin Board next to the 4 Square; you may have even wondered who had something to do with the way the parking is set up in front of the 4 Square and the footpaths in front of the hotel and school; just to name a few.

In the early 1980s Peter built another home on Stewart Island and branched out into the B & B tourist market. As well as the 2 cribs (Te Tahī and Te Rua as self contained accommodation) that Peter built. Winning several awards over the years. During the off season Peter and Jeanette were able to enjoy being tourists themselves and traveled to many countries. They visited Donna in Canada as well as Tony and Doug in the UK, coming back with many fond memories. They both continued working and enjoying island life, going back and forth between their home on the Island and their home in Invercargill; until Jeanette's health declined with cancer. Jeanette passed away in 2003. Though Peter continued to host family and friends he sold both cribs and retired Stewart Island Holiday Homes. However, Peter continued to be very involved in the community as he has been throughout his life and very much enjoyed being a help to others and to any

worthwhile project.

In 1970 when the school was fundraising for a new swimming pool, Rakiura Stewart Island declared independence and it was Peter that designed the flag for the new republic, 'Independent Stewart Island'. In 1991 to promote tourism for the island the 'Maritime Mardigras' was created with a variety of activities proposed by different organisations that were able to run their own projects. One night was the fashion show where all the local men could get dressed up and show their feminine side; with sports wear, bathing costume and formal wear. It was during the sports wear segment when contestants prepared to go on stage, that one contestant stood too close to the gas burner in the kitchen setting his crepe paper tutu alight. However, not to worry as Peter was right there in his tennis gear and with his trusty racket started to beat the flames into submission. Though bits of smoking paper scattered the room, others joined in to help and the fire, though it could have been a disaster, was short lived and as they say in Hollywood, the show must go on...and it did. The Maritime Mardigras was televised as a full length Heartland episode that can still be seen today if you Google it; however, the kitchen fire involving the crepe paper tutu was never filmed and will only live on in the memories of those that were there at the time.

Peter served on several community organisations up until the time of his illness, including from 2004 -2007 he served as Southland District Councilor where he helped make several improvements on the island such as some of the parking and footpaths, the Ulva Island Trust; where between 2005 - 2009 he helped promote the idea of having the Kakapo Ambassador 'Sirocco' visit Ulva Island, to showcase the rare Kakapo and Ulva Island to tourists. It was Peter that was in charge of building the enclosure and viewing area for Sirocco.

Both family and friends were very important to Peter and he would stay in touch with them wherever they lived around the world. Though no longer running holiday accommodation for tourists, Peter remained in contact over the years with some of those that had stayed in the past with him and Jeanette. One such former guest was a young lady from Minnesota, USA by the name of Donna Beall, who stayed for 2 weeks with Peter and Jeanette in 1996. After Jeanette passed away the friendship continued between Peter and Donna and over the next few years. Peter and Donna were married 17 August 2008. To avoid confusion with Peter's daughter of the same name, Donna adopted the nickname 'Donni', that her grandma used to call her.

Over the last 14 years Peter with Donni continued to serve in the community, travel and enjoy his retirement. Peter would often joke that he was never sure about retirement, because when he used to work full time he then at least got a day off. Though with a smile he would add that he loved doing odd jobs for people and helping wherever he could. Peter will be greatly missed by all who knew him and easily remembered by the difference he made in so many lives.

- Written by Peter's family

New Recruit for St John

— Sandy King, for Stewart Island Community First Response Group.

The St John Community First Response Group volunteers were pleased to welcome a new recruit last month. Her name is Anne and she's a real doll. An actual doll, a mannequin, aka Resusci Anne. Resusci Anne is designed to help elevate CPR training to a new level of precision and proficiency. By training with the same protocols, equipment, and techniques used in real emergencies, first responders can perfect both individual skills and teamwork. Anne will be available to help with training for all Emergency Services on the island, including the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade and Rakiura Land SAR group.

Anne comes with all the bells and whistles to help make training as realistic as possible. She is Bluetooth capable and with a selection of Apps can give real time feedback on the effectiveness of chest compressions – too deep, not deep enough, too fast, too slow, incorrect hand placement, or just right, and on ventilations. She has changeable chest springs which simulate different chest sizes and thus the force required to deliver effective compressions on different sized patients. She has an "Airway Head" which enables responders to insert intubation devices for effective ventilation. Get it wrong and her stomach inflates, just like it might in a real scenario. Another great feature is a ShockLink defibrillation training system which allows you to connect live defibrillators to training manikins and deliver a shock as required. The shock energy from the defibrillator is defused in the ShockLink cable. Using the ShockLink App also allows trainers to change the heart rhythm displayed on the defibrillator so responders can learn to respond appropriately as the situation changes. Resusci Anne will be an asset which we hope will make us more effective responders in emergency situations where CPR is required, helping our local community and visitors alike.

With all these features she wasn't cheap so we would like to thank the community groups who contributed funds to enable her purchase including the pub quiz fund for a very generous donation, the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade, Rakiura LandSAR, Stewart Island Promotion Association, and St John. Thanks also to the Stewart Island Health Committee for handling the funds, and to Mike Douglass for getting the whole thing underway.

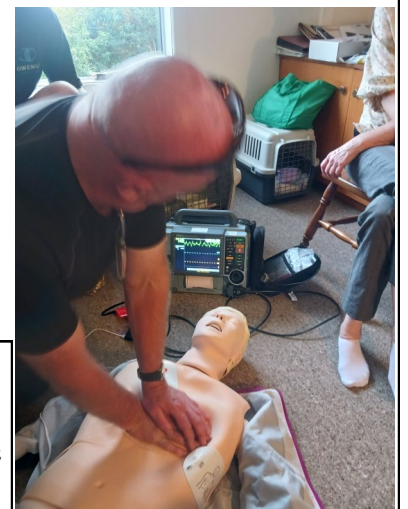
Resusci Anne will be an asset which we hope will make us



more effective responders in emergency situations where CPR is required, helping our local community and visitors alike.

Did you know?

- Resusci Anne training mannequins are made by Norwegian based company Laerdal.
- Laerdal was established as a children's book publishing and toy company in 1940 with the mission of "creating children's joy". During the next years, 100 million of Laerdal's Tomte cars were sold in 100 countries, and Laerdal's Anne dolls became popular throughout Europe. Laerdal's pioneering work with soft plastics would later be used to produce the first mannequin for resuscitation training, changing the course of the company.
- The need for a lifelike mannequin to train the new concept of mouth-to-mouth ventilation led Asmund S. Laerdal, together with Dr Bjorn Lind and Dr Peter Safar to develop Resusci Anne in 1960.
- The face of Resusci Anne was modelled after the death mask of an unidentified girl who drowned in the River Seine in Paris in the 1880's. Estimated to be about 16 years old she became known as *L'Inconnue de la Seine* (the unknown woman of the Seine).
- The mask of *L'Inconnue de la Seine* was reproduced and sold in souvenir shops in Paris, then the rest of Europe and became a sort of grizzly cultural icon. Described as a "drowned Mona Lisa" the mask with a frozen half smile could be found hanging in drawing rooms all over the continent.
- When making the first mannequin Laerdal felt it was important that the mannequin should be a female, suspecting that men in the 1960s would be reluctant to practise CPR on a male doll's lips. He had seen a mask of *L'Inconnue* hanging on the wall at his in-laws' house and decided to use that as the face of the mannequin.
- Since first becoming available in the 1960's Resusci Anne has been responsible for helping hundreds of millions of people learn the basics of how to save a life with CPR.
- Because of this, the unknown woman who died in the late 19th century is said to have the most kissed face in the world!



Left: Mike and Ulrike practice delivering ventilations
Right: Marti practices chest compressions

Health Committee Garden Tour

On the 26th of November, a bright and breezy Saturday afternoon, 30 garden enthusiasts embarked on a tour of five fabulous Island gardens. Pete Ross Autos, Beaks and Feathers and Real NZ donated the use of their smart passenger vans and this was especially kind as some of the garden approaches were a challenge. Thanks to our intrepid drivers, Pete, Megan, Shona and Ian!

First stop was the expansive grounds of Ian and Philippa's property, which includes the historic *Ye Travellers' Rest*, one of the very few old boarding houses to survive the ravages of fire or flood and now happily undergoing restoration. New landscaping melds with old and seascapes are framed by vegetation; towering macrocarpa planted no doubt for shelter and still doing a magnificent job, cliff top gardens snuggled below tough native shrubs and loving the micro-climate, venerable rhododendrons, a walnut tree, an impressive greenhouse and vegetable garden. A highlight was the very old garden shed, made of pungas, and with a thick thatch of that Correa look-alike, orange-flowered creeper. A bewitching plant-lover's garden, no stranger to the deer which seem to leave their calling cards in every garden.

Then on to Colin and Margaret's home Vaila, another historic homestead, handsomely situated on a grass sward above the sea. Colin's care and skill with the lawn mower were obvious and of special interest in the lawn were patches of the ground creeper Gunnera and little starry flowers a friend had given Margaret. These plants create a tapestry effect – stunning! Hard to drag the eyes away from perfect lawn and sweeping sea view to the rest of the garden; again magnificent macrocarpa, a whopping cabbage tree (the grandkids pressed into service to pick up the leaves but Colin worries they may soon start expecting payment!), and rhododendrons, planted over the years by Margaret, in full bloom. Again, the deer have forced the gardeners to erect strong fences around the vegetable plots.

Next stop Ty and Emma's hilltop garden overlooking Paterson Inlet. Old rock walls and steps carefully cleared of unwanted plants and re-incorporated into an intriguing suite of terraces and 'garden rooms' which surround the house and maximise the space available. A well stocked tunnel house and strawberry plants flourishing in ingenious containers. The pièce de résistance is the big fruit cage made of re-cycled netting from Central Otago orchards. A variety of fruit trees are flourishing beneath the dark, discreet netting. So discreet, it takes the eye a while to realise the cage is there at all. Another huge macrocarpa is a child's delight, complete with ropes, ladders and tree hut. On round the corner into Rankin Street, to the home of Laire and Tomas. The house, originally built at Millers Beach for the manager of the Norwegian shipyard, was bought by Mab Prentice. A beautiful, 'Hansel-and-Gretel' house, prefabricated in Norway in a 'Lockwood' style, easily de-constructed and re-constructed, and which Mab surrounded with lawns and lush plantings. Laire and Tomas, maintaining the lushness and the intrigue of this garden, have built a handsome platform from pungas, a lovely spot on which to sit and view the results of their labours. There is a strong sense of this being 'a secret garden', tucked up into a bush setting of mature kamahi and rimu and approached by a winding path, which opens out on to a sweeping lawn edged with mamaku tree ferns,

rhododendrons and azaleas. Oohs and aahs, as we discovered unusual plants – towering angelica, a tree dahlia, a blaze of yellow from a clump of old-fashioned irises, a sequoia, a nikau palm and most intriguing of all a lacy-foliaged shrub, its delicate little white and mauve, yellow-throated flowers reminiscent of orchids.

Next, upwards and on to another hilltop garden belonging to Aaron and Sue. Again glorious views and a sun-drenched north-facing walled vegetable garden. Deer don't stand a chance here! The gasps of envy this time were for the lemon tree, laden with luscious, healthy fruit, in the big productive glasshouse. The brick wall at the back of the glasshouse is a very effective heat sink and it is obvious the plants love the conditions.

Last but by no means least we meandered our way to Moturau Moana, the garden established by Noeline Baker and effectively gifted by her to the Stewart Island community. Its custodian and carer for many years, Elaine Hamilton, was on hand to explain something of the history of the garden and its importance in her own family history. Her mother Maud came to Stewart Island as the personal maid of Miss Baker. There Maud met her future husband who, when he wasn't away fishing, worked as a gardener for Miss Baker.

This is a garden of many delights, featuring native plants from all over New Zealand, all flourishing in this sheltered, beautifully maintained, park. There to welcome us were beech trees (New Zealand specimens but they had to have human help to make it to Rakiura) a puka, its broad paddle-like leaves glistening in the sun, a rare NZ broom, karaka, tainui, kawakawa, variegated Kermadec pohutakawa, a manuka smothered in big pink and white flowers a truly gorgeous sight. And much, much more. Such a treasure for all to enjoy!

Garden visiting is thirsty work and by this time we were hungry too. We just fell upon the luscious finger food provided by the Snuggery's Maggie and Simon. Special thanks to Pete and Sharon Ross for donating this wonderful treat and to Simon who delivered it all to Moturau for us.

A lovely occasion which raised \$780.00 for the Health Clinic. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this garden frolic, the passenger van providers and drivers, the gardeners and the generous participants on the day. And a special thank you to Kirsten who put so much time, effort and expertise into organising such an enjoyable event.

- Raylene

P.S. Two birds with one stone! This is also December's Mahi Mara Rakiura/ Stewart Island Gardening column.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone. Happy Gardening! R.

Photographer: Sharon Ross



Margaret Hopkins' garden



The pā Rakiura is a space, borne out of the dreams and aspirations of Rakiura Māori, those who whakapapa (genealogy links) to Rakiura. In January 2020 there was much discussion about building a marae at Rakiura oneday, following the opening of the whare taonga Te Puka o te Waka (Dec 2020) the reality of dream is starting to emerge.

The name which derives from the area in which the whare (house) is on was affectionately named by Pip Hakopa becos it reminds her and keeps her deeply connected to her whakapapa and own pā in Huntly (Waahi Pā) Waikato Tainui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Tokaanu, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, Hastings and Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoe, Ngāi Tahu ki Temuka. The whare is also called '**Manawa Titi**' (one of great stamina) personifying the strength and flight of the mutton bird which in turn reflects the strength of Rakiura Māori in their reclamation of identity and pursuit of knowledge to hold fast to the traditions of our tūpuna (forebears) so that it will never be lost again.

Pip is also connected to Rakiura through her husband Donald and daughter Jacqueline Bragg descendents of Waa and John Bragg and is the chairperson of the newly formed Te Kāhui Manu Titi Charitable Trust March 2022 which leases the whare at 38 Miro Crescent that was kindly offered by Fern Davis. The name of the Trust reflects a group of people who have connections to the mutton bird islands.

The design of the pā was created by Rakiura's very own Teal Stonyer daughter of Craig Stonyer and Natalia Davis, who on her own accord used cuisinaire rods one day when she visited the pā. Teal is a part of a homebased whānau group called Pīpī reo who attends the pā once a week for te reo Māori me ōna tikanga lessons. Pip felt it was fitting to use her design showcasing not only her skills as an artist, but the Ngāi Tahu whakataukī (proverb) used to remind the descendants of Ngai Tahu and Rakiura Māori: '**Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri a muri ake nei**' (For us, and the generations after us). E kore e mutu ngā mihi Teal, with unwavering greetings to you Teal.

The pā's primary purpose is to emulate the functions of a marae and is a training ground for tauira (students) to apply their learning and enact the rituals of encounter of whaikōrero (ceremonial oratory), karanga (ceremonial call) during pōwhiri (ceremonial welcome) and mihi whakatau (informal welcome) when welcoming guests to the pā.

To date Te Kāhui Manu Titi Trust in collaboration with Whiria te ao, an organisation that provides Te reo Māori me ōna tikanga programs, cultural competency and awareness training throughout Murihiku (Southland) has hosted a number of kaupapa (events) at the pā for visitors

to the island and locals. Weekly te reo me ōna tikanga Māori classes for some REAL NZ, Te Papa Atawha (DoC) workers, Rakiura reo rangatira, homebased Pīpī reo group, cultural supervision and monthly kaupapa wānanga.

Two tukutuku panels were created by whānau whānui of Rakiura under the tutelage of experts kaiako Cheree Te Oranganui Downes and Sheryl Henare. At the completion they were both gifted to Te Puka o Te Waka and Rugrats

The pā was also privileged to host the Ātea project creating a Māori experience in the digital realm, lead by Massey University Professor Dr Heemi Whaanga a direct descendant of Mere Pī and Lewis Acker who brought his team of experts from Waikato, Massey, Canterbury and Otago Universities to Rakiura in June. While they were here staying at the pā, some of our Rakiura whānau members got to experience this technology and were transported virtually to their tupuna whare Tahu Pōtiki at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff, a significant moment in time becos many of them had never been there physically before, until four months after. A Matariki evening was also provided by Hemi Whaanga and his team at the Pavillion during this time.

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/atea/28-09-2022/how-cutting-edge-virtual-reality-is-making-marae-more-accessible>

Rangatahi Tūmeke - <https://rangatahitumeke.maori.nz/>
Rangatahi Tumeke is a youth leadership programme designed to establish a strong sense of cultural self in Murihiku. The purpose of the programme is to ensure all rangatahi have a strong sense of hope and purpose, that is the foundation of building a pathway into early adult life.

He Waka Tūhono - <https://nkmp.maori.nz/service/te-waka-tuhono/>
aims to build cultural resiliency and wellbeing for young Māori aged 14-17 years engaging in Māori practices such as Māra kai, Waka Ama, Waka Toi, Ngahere Hīkoi and Noho Wānanga that resource rangatahi to reduce harm (alcohol and other drug / impact from others addiction).

The pā also hosted hui (meetings) with different organisations Ngai Tahu Seafoods, Predator Free Rakiura, Awarua Whānau Services to name a few. This is just the beginning of a journey of learning and manaaki tangata (taking care of people). The pā welcomes anyone to our venue accomodation is also available for visiting groups, and any kaupapa Māori wānanga.

OPEN DAY –

An open day was held on 17 December 2022 for the community to view the whare and kōrero to our whānau who take care of our whare.

Watch this space for up and coming kaupapa at the pā 2023.

Mahi whakairo: carving

Mahi rāranga: weaving

Moko whakapapa (tā moko)

Taiaha wānanga

If you have any inquires please contact Pip Hakopa 027-8247118

Church Chatter by Jo Riksem

The Community Carol Service on the 9th December had the church full with many from the community and visitors all making a “joyful noise unto the Lord.” Many thanks to Gwen for being our MC and to all the performers; Halfmoon Bay School children, Te Reo Group, Emma, Ulva, Rowan, Annett, Mary and Bill. It was nice to have Mary Chetty there as she has been such an inspiration to the children with her music and her new composition, “Christmas in Rakiura.” was sung with great gusto. She will be missed but wish her well on her retirement.

Services for December 2022 and January 2023 are:

Sat 24 Dec – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - 10 pm

Sun Dec 25 – Christmas Day Service – 10:30 am –

Sun 1 Jan. 2023 New Year – 10:30

The above services will be taken by Rev Barbara Walker – Barbara was a midwife and aid worker in war zones like Thailand, Cambodia and Mozambique. She has taken on roles of nurse, eye surgeon, anaesthetist, dentist, car mechanic, vet, plumber, carpenter, health manager, Anglican minister and QSO receiver. She is very down to earth with a lovely sense of humour calling Invercargill her home.

8 Jan – Linda Beebe - surgical nurse at Southland Hospital – a regular to Stewart Island.

15 Jan - Dayle & Ian Wright - have been in pastoral ministry for 37 years, and absolutely love it.

22 Jan - Richard Aiken - Richard is a former primary school teacher and principal who has been in ordained ministry since 2012.

29 Jan – Barbara Sampson – has been a Salvation Army officer for over 40 years and is now residing in Christchurch. Barbara is another regular to our shores and we will be glad to welcome her back.

During these uncertain times with covid still in our midst, our church will stay closed except for Sunday services. If anyone would like to visit the church on other days please contact me at jriksem@gmail.com or 027 455 2191 and I'll do my best to arrange a time.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe Holiday Season.

Halfmoon Bay School children at the Oban Presbyterian Church Community Carol Service



Rakiura Education Trust

Last year we placed a short article in the SIN highlighting the funding difficulties facing the Rakiura Education Trust in a low interest rate environment. We appealed for donations or ongoing support from the community or those connected to the Island and were very pleased that one generous benefactor committed to providing a regular donation. This helps a lot with providing opportunities to fund applications. However, we are still limited in our resources and not always able to meet requests for funding in their entirety.

The Rakiura Education Trust was established on the 13th March 2002 with the purpose of providing financial support to Rakiura/Stewart Island residents seeking qualifications which will benefit this community. The trust also funds opportunities for the local school and preschool children. To kick-start the Trust a grant of \$10,000 was authorised by the Minister of Conservation to coincide with the opening of the Rakiura National Park and on the weekend of the opening a further \$3,450 was raised by locals. Other fundraising included \$1,000 from the sale of t-shirts, \$5,000 from the Community Trust of Southland and \$9,000 from a private benefactor.

Grants issued since inception include contributions to travel and course or conference fees for the likes of Early Childhood Education, Victim Support training, parenting workshops, naturopathy courses, Te Reo courses, school swimming fees and many more. We have also covered expenses involved in bringing tutors/instructors to the Island. Grants have ranged from a simple ferry fare right up to \$2,000 – \$3,000 for full-year course fees with each application carefully assessed by the trustees against our criteria of benefit to the community.

In October 2014, a private benefactor approached the RET offering to “help parents of eligible secondary boarding school students living on Stewart Island” and has generously provided for this ever since. Then in November 2018 the family of Bid Hopkins offered RET a Memorial Grant of \$255,000 to be invested so that ongoing funds would be available to gift all families of Stewart Island children \$2,000 per child to assist with their secondary school expenses. The first grants were given out in 2019. The trust maintains a resolution whereby it *aims to make as much money as possible by continuing to invest the principal in the local SBS Bank at the best current rate of return to mitigate any financial risk and to gain the highest*

return the bank has on offer.

Unfortunately with only \$30,000 on term deposit, the interest earned is minimal and makes it very difficult to continue making grants whilst maintaining a core fund (the Hopkins family contribution is a separate fund so is not included in the Trust’s available capital for general grants).

We are hoping through this report to highlight our financial situation and to seek offers of financial support and/or suggestions for on-going fundraising. As with all charitable trusts, personal donations over \$5 are eligible to receive a 33.33% tax credit from the Inland Revenue Department.

If anybody would like more information on the Rakiura Education Trust or to make a donation to help us maintain or boost our operational fund, the present trustees are more than happy to help. A Give-a-little page has now been set up (www.givealittle.co.nz and search Rakiura Education Trust) which is another easy way to make a contribution. Presently the 6 trustees are Ben Hopkins (Chair), Raylene Waddell (Secretary), Rachael Sagar, Cherie Hemsley, Leah Rudin-Jones and Natalia Davis.

- Ben Hopkins

(Helipad update. Continued from page 1)

helicopter operators, and investigate the options for a purpose-built emergency helipad on the island. During this time, the residents and homeowners in the amphitheatre of Traill Park around Golden Bay Road, Leonard, Excelsior and Rankin Streets were consulted, and general information was made available through community presentations, SIN and information sheets. Locals were approached and asked for feedback, and concerns were addressed during workshops which showcased plans for an emergency helipad including images of its location. Potential impacts on the use of Traill Park along with the benefits to the community were discussed.

With that, The Rakiura Emergency Helipad Committee was formed including Mary Chittenden, Julie Asher, Kirsten Hicks, and Stuart Newton. We set about providing information for a land status change, a resource consent, land lease arrangement and securing funding which was a big learning curve for us as we sought the advice of professionals.

Applying for funding and trying to predict costs in a changeable financial climate, far in advance, was a challenge and we knew it would take time to coordinate. As a committee, we have gone through and considered several things to minimise the cost of the helipad's construction and subsequent maintenance costs. Hence the windsock with a stainless-steel pole and the pad being round which means there is not the wasted space of a square helipad which requires more material.

We were lucky to secure funds from three major funding bodies, Visitor Levy Funds, Sanfords 10c Salmon Grant and Community Trust of Southland to initiate construction.

The IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) was installed prior to the construction of the helipad. It has already proved its worth in being

able to lift somebody in poor weather conditions with limited visibility.

After months of work behind the scenes it was not till September 2022 that the building supplies began arriving and the first signs of work appeared. Levelling the ground and using the opportunity to clean up the immediate area around it, including the destruction of an old concrete dam and filling in the space with backfill and dirt, then going from little to see to having concrete being laid in a reasonably quick timeframe forming the 12-metre diameter circle and subsequent Ambulance pad.

Beside the helipad is an old water bore that has been retained so that in the future, a pump could run from it to protect a good water source. Grass has been sown and thought is being given to planting low growing plants on the slope next to the helipad for stability and appearance.

The opening was well supported, many came along to see the blessing of the helipad by Kaumatua Phillip Smith along with the Te Whenua o Te Manawa Titi Group, the formal cutting of the ribbon by Doc Marti, and "Doris" the Otago rescue helicopter.

This helipad has enabled a navigational link for rescue helicopters between Stewart Island and mainland hospitals improving the ability of safely extracting patients under difficult and night conditions. On behalf of Mary, Julie, Kirsten, and I, I would like to thank the community, the supporters, funders, and constructors helping us make it happen and creating an asset that will benefit visitors and residents alike.



Kia ora



It is a privilege to be involved in the construction and organisation of the new emergency helipad located on Traill Park and also be present for its blessing and launch. As a result of having the helicopter on the island and show for the launching of the helipad, it was almost put to use immediately with a Land Search and Rescue incident for an injured tramp on the Rakiura Track, such as timing.

With the coming summer months, there will be more and more people out on their boats on the water and advise that I am not in a hurry to use the emergency helipad. I am sure no one wants to be the subject of having to be uplifted from one. I have seen people as they go about doing their boating not wearing life jackets and it is perhaps a foolish thing to do and some complacency on the use and frequency of boats within our environment here that the dangers of boating can be easily overlooked so as a responsible skipper, whether it be your dinghy or floating gin palace, having a responsibility for all passengers and crew, is falling on the skipper and if there were to be an incident with a drowning, these questions will be asked at the Coroner's enquiry. To avoid being a statistic, I recommend you wear your life jackets. 78 drownings in New Zealand so far this year.

I also ask people with their dogs to take heed of the requirements of securing dogs in an effort to protect the native species of wildlife as there has been a number of kiwis taken by dogs and if you should have any issues in regards to the rules in regulations, I suggest you get in contact with the Southland District Council on 0800 732 732.



For those of you driving on our roads, this sign says what it means and you are required to stop. If you fail to do so, you could find yourself on the receiving end of a \$150.00 infringement fee for failing to stop at a Stop sign.

Kia pai tō rā

Constable Stuart Newton

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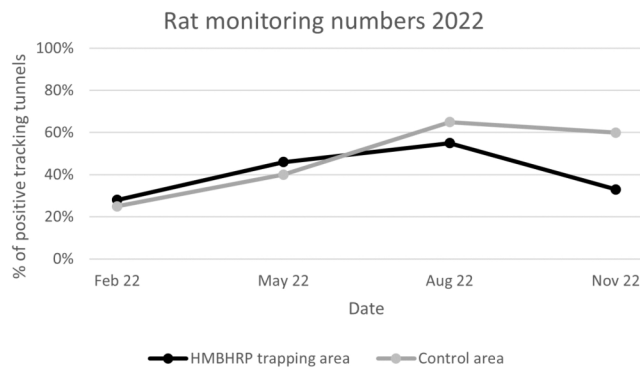
SIRCET UPDATE

It has been another busy year for SIRCET and the Jobs for Nature team. We are on track to meet our targets to sweep for barberry in our control area, and continue to suppress predators in HMBHRP core area. Six new staff have started or will be starting soon, including some students over summer who will get paid work experience in conservation. Al Burns has moved on to be a full time Dad to George. Jimmy Tulloch is our new Project manager. See below for introductions for Jimmy and our new Community Liaison Emma .

It was great to see the Halfmoon Bay children help with predator control during their rat trapping competition. We hope to carry this into a Junior Trapper of the Year competition starting in the new year so watch this space! We think it will be important for the Predator Free Rakiura Project that the community get involved, so these kids are off to a great start.

In August, 77 possum and 77 rat traps were placed on land around Horseshoe Point, to begin predator control on the peninsula.

Our plan for 2023 is to continue the Jobs for Nature project while finding further funding for continuing this work after August. We continue to train staff so they can find conservation employment post Jobs for Nature, especially in the Predator Free 2050 space.



Our November monitoring showed less rat activity in our trapping areas. It is good to see numbers falling after the recent boom in the rat population referred to as a rat plague.

Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers for traplines, penguin counts, and night bird call monitoring. Let us know if you would like to get involved in looking after our local environment – email community@sircet.org.nz for more information.



Jimmy grew up moving around New Zealand, studied a Degree in Outdoor Education and Sustainability, and a Diploma in Instruction and Management Outdoors. He came to Rakiura six years ago to explore the island and he found himself staying for the environment, the relaxed pace of life, and cool climate.. Jimmy first joined SIRCET as he wanted to get back into conservation work. He has been with us for 13 months, starting as a Jobs for Nature team member, then team leader, now Project Manager. His favourite part of the job is seeing the flora and fauna of Rakiura up close, especially insects and fungi, and learning what you can forage in the bush. He Would like to go into teaching or instruction in the future.



Emma grew up in Dunedin, but spent most summer holidays here on Rakiura at Myrtle Cottage. She has family ties to the island, her Gr.Gr.Gr. Grandfather William Walker farmed Island Hill and the family have been coming here ever since. She is a registered vet nurse, having worked both in clinic, and in education. She has volunteered with the Wildlife Hospital Dunedin and loved being so close to the native birds, especially the cheeky Tawaki and Snares Crested penguins .As our new Community Liaison she has been busy with visiting school groups, and has enjoyed chatting to them about how wonderful Rakiura ar the wildlife here is.

SIRCET Update contd.

Staff wanted

We are looking for more staff for our Jobs for Nature Project.

If you want to make a difference and get a start in conservation get in touch! We are looking for people who are over 16, fit have a good work ethic, and have accommodation on Stewart Island. If interested send a CV to manager@SIRCET.org.nz

Darwin's Barberry Update 2022



36,083 Adults

61,862 Juveniles

62,384 Seedlings

160,304 plants controlled



Rakiura Marine Guardians Inc

C/o P O Box 157, Oban, Stewart Island. **Annual General Meeting**

This is advance notice that arrangements are being made to hold the (delayed) Annual General Meeting of the Rakiura Marine Guardians Inc on **Thurs 9 February at 6.00 pm in the St Andrews Church Hall, Excelsior Road.** There are procedural matters that must be attended to and it would be helpful if members would note this in their diaries now please!

W J (Bill) Watt, CHAIRMAN

400 words by Beverley Osbourne

Let's think about stars, both the celestial and human sort. If we were to categorise people according to their quality, the "star" group would be large and varied. There are stars of virtually every kind of sport, film stars, music stars, political stars, business stars, neighbourhood stars. The media, in reporting fresh triumphs of widely known people, or, perhaps, their deaths, usually labels such people as stars and December seems the ideal time to look for links between human stars and the Christmas star that led the wise Men to the birthplace

of Jesus. I learned that a star is any self-luminous body of gas that shines by radiation derived from its own energy source. I have to admit that I have never heard of a large proportion of the "stars" accredited that title by the media and there is no way I could possibly know of all the people all over the world who are valued as stars by those close to them. Neither could I name all those stars that shine in our night skies. In both cases, there are too many to count. Every person has an internal energy source that radiates something of their personality, their values, their priorities, their choices about how they will live and that radiation affects not just the people with whom they associate, but also the world around them. We are very aware of that, when we consider the global effect of the decisions and actions of the dictators in our world, but the less obvious words and actions of

kindness, with their ability to change an atmosphere, also have an impact on their surroundings. From time immemorial, people have looked to the stars in the night skies for direction to navigate epic journeys across lands and oceans. The bright human stars in our world are also recognised as pointers in directions we choose. How often do we see media stories about children inspired by national sports heroes to follow in those footsteps? The Wise Men of the Christmas story followed a star that led them to a new baby, born in poverty. They were, indeed, wise because they were satisfied they had reached the one who would grow to teach and live the greatest wisdom – that love is the essential for this earth and all its inhabitants to thrive. What sort of star shine do we radiate?

Circuit and Animal Flow training

We have put our Tuesday evening HIIT circuit classes 'on hold' over the summer holiday season. However if the weather tuns 'crook' and you have a houseful of stir-crazy visitors needing some exercise, I'm happy to organise a special class! Price \$2.00 pp unless you are a gym member.

ANIMAL FLOW is ground based movement, made fun, challenging and effective. This system is designed to improve strength, power, flexibility, mobility, and coordination for all levels of fitness enthusiasts. A group of us trains regularly here on Rakiura. Please contact me for an introductory session.

- W J (Bill) Watt, Certified Level 1 Animal Flow Instructor, 0274959288.



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What's up, DOC?

Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre Opening Hours

Open daily	8:30am to 5:00pm
Closed Christmas day & as displayed on our door	

Annual sewerage removal

The annual effluent removal went without a hitch at the Great Walk huts and campsites. Approximately 26,000 liters of waste was removed along with 150 liters of solids. Both were slightly up (8%) on last season. Dead rats and discarded disposable (non-biodegradable) face masks were amongst the finds.



Sewerage being removed from the toilets at Port William.
Photo by Dale Chittenden DOC

Great Walk Hut Rangers

Visitor numbers on the Rakiura Track are ramping up and we transitioned from volunteer to paid Hut Rangers from the 28 November 2022 and will continue until 30 April 2023. DOC Rakiura has been successful in changing these positions from temporary to permanent six-month roles. This should mean less time spent training and inducting new Hut Rangers every season and will enable an increase in capacity and capability throughout the Visitor and Historic program.

We have two new Hut Rangers for the season: Scott Van Leeuwen and Quin Burrell. Scott is from Great Barrier Island, has a background in farming and building, and enjoys hunting and fishing. Quin just got back from six months working in South America. You might hear him playing the guitar down at the pub or running past you super-fast on a local track. Both are enjoying meeting new people and Island life.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Observation Rock viewing platform update

We have been busy responding to several Official Information Act (OIA) requests and preparing Departmental responses to letters about the proposed Observation Rock viewing platform and safety barrier. While we have had some negative feedback on the project, we also have received positive feedback and letters of support from local landowners and various Stewart Island/Rakiura groups.

When DOC's Visitor Safety Team revisited the visitor risk assessment for Observation Rock, they assessed the level of risk that exists there as requiring some form of barrier. This is predominantly due to the fall height, change in use, change in visitor profile, and increase in visitor numbers particularly at nighttime. This means doing nothing at this site is no longer an option for the Department.

Tenders were received and a preferred supplier identified earlier this year. However, no contract for construction work has been signed. We are currently consulting with engineers to see if there are any suitable alternative barrier systems for Observation Rock that could be considered to reduce the visual impact while retaining the structural engineering integrity. The final decision on Observation Rock is going to be made by February 2023.

For further information please contact Dale Chittenden, Senior Ranger Visitor and Heritage on dchittenden@doc.govt.nz or 027 542 8583.

Rakiura Challenge

The Rakiura Challenge run around the Rakiura Track went ahead without a hitch on 1 October 2022. There were 165 starters on the day and all runners finished the race. DOC Rakiura staff spent two weeks clearing windfalls and dealing with trip hazards to prepare the Rakiura Track for the event. The track held up well to the event mainly due to the work carried out beforehand and there was only one minor injury reported on race day. The great spell of dry weather also helped! The post-monitoring report has been completed and can be made available on request.

Visitor and Heritage planned work

The focus of the Visitor and Heritage team during the next month will be getting local walks looking great for the summer season, Hut Rangers up to speed, and further (ongoing) maintenance on the Rakiura Track under way.

The future of Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

Consultation is being undertaken on the future management options for the rats on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara: Do nothing, ongoing suppression with trapping and toxins or eradication with aerial brodifacoum.

A stakeholder meeting was held on 22 November 2022 and a factsheet was distributed by PO Box drop to the Stewart Island/Rakiura community, asking for feedback by 5 December 2022. This deadline was extended to 12 December 2022 to allow more time for feedback to come in. Since this consultation period has ended, we will now collate all feedback received into the feasibility study and it will help inform the decision regarding which of the management options to progress with.

A decision will be made toward the end of January 2023. This will allow time for several pieces of work to be completed including summarising feedback, continued consultation, and time to review the Eradication Feasibility Report.

Dune restoration programme



Members of the Advisory Group traversing the central zone at Mason Bay. Photo by DOC

We have a smaller team than usual to start the dune restoration season this year but are looking forward to new staff joining us in the New Year. The start of the season was delayed but we have had two 10-day trips to Mason Bay before Christmas, focussing on marram and lupin control.

The annual Dune Restoration Advisory Group meeting was held in October 2022. For the first time in several years, we held the meeting at Mason Bay/Te One Roa. This meant that our group of experts could see the results of the work on the ground first-hand, which was extremely valuable. Their advice and insight has helped to develop a plan for the season ahead. We were all concerned at the spread of lupin in the central dunes and will be having a large focus on controlling it this year through both aerial and ground control.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New tūturiwhatu/Southern NZ Dotterel rangers hit the ground

Two brand new permanent rangers have joined the Southern New Zealand Dotterel/Tūturiwhatu Recovery Project. This is a big step forward for the project as it allows for building and retaining skills and experience. It also means we can maintain trapping and hunting pressure on key predator species year-round rather than just during the breeding season.

The new staff have been completing their project inductions and are now heading into the field to start the mahi. Some of our first tasks include familiarising the team with the areas they'll be working in and scouting out new predator control tracks to expand our dotterel protection halo. As new infrastructure is installed visitors to the National Park can expect to see an increased ranger presence in areas around Fred's Camp, Freshwater and Rakeahua huts.

Would you like to get regular and more detailed dotterel project updates?



Spot the dotterel! GMWY's band combination is green, metal, white, yellow. Photo by Sasha Smith DOC

If you'd like a more substantial connection to the Southern New Zealand Dotterel/Tūturiwhatu Recovery Project, then please consider signing up for our project updates. These e-mails/letters will provide a greater level of operational detail than the summarised articles here in the Stewart Island News.

To sign up please contact Kev Carter on kcarter@doc.govt.nz or 027 201 3543 with your e-mail address or physical mailing address. Kev will add you to a mailing list database which will be used for project news and information only.

Update from the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

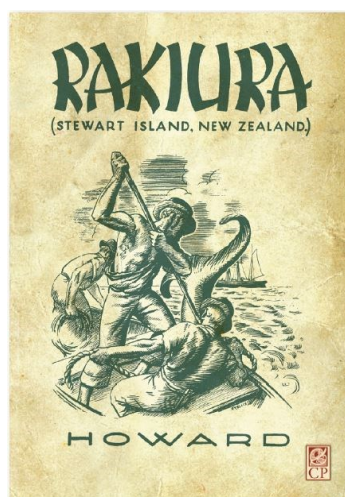
The annual yellow-eyed penguin (hoiho) nest hunt was completed on Rakiura in late Spring. Trackers diligently follow penguin trails through the bush with the hope of finding a hoiho sitting on eggs at the end. Seven sites were searched this season: three on Rakiura Māori Lands Trust Land, three on public conservation land and one, Whenua Hou (Codfish Island), is a Nature Reserve. Findings were less than rosy, with numbers of breeding pairs again declining. Two sites were particularly concerning; Whenua Hou dropped from 14 nests to only seven this year, and the Bravo Islands nests have fallen again, this time from nine to six nests.



In November, Sandy King and Trudi Webster (YEPT) carried out health checks on small newly hatched chicks. Each of the chicks were weighed, measured and thoroughly checked for any signs of sickness. They were joined by Janelle Wierenga, a researcher from Massey University who is investigating disease in hoiho, and hoping to help work out why birds are getting sick. The health checks revealed that, similar to the mainland, the chicks were getting sick with avian diphtheria (aka diphtheritic stomatitis) at only a few days old. In the future we hope to establish a treatment program for sick chicks to help increase their chance of survival.



Rakiura, The History of Stewart Island by Dr. Basil Howard. First released in 1940 and reprinted in 1974, copies of this esteemed book are increasingly more difficult to find, and expensive. Now reprinted in paperback format, and released in December 2022 we have limited copies of this book available for purchase **at the Rakiura Museum**, 11 Main Road, Stewart Island. RRP \$70.00



The Secret Waters of Rakiura

- Bill Watt

From 1 February *Stewart Island Sea Kayaking with Bill* (in association with *Stewart Island Water Taxi Service*) will be offering a day trip exploring the lovely 'secret waters' of Paterson Inlet by sea kayak.



The trip will comprise a water taxi shuttle, then we paddle our way back along the coast. (Or vice versa, depending on wind direction). Initially the trip will be available for a group of 2 people plus myself as leader.

There is much of natural and cultural historical interest, but the main focus of the trip is to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of these enclosed waterways.

This is a kayaking trip, not a bush scramble, so we will NOT be venturing away from the shoreline or foreshore reserve onto private property or DoC administered reserve without the requisite permission. However, if anyone has any concerns in this regard then please contact me.



We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity for people to enjoy the beauty of this wonderful area while enjoying an active recreational activity that has a minimal carbon footprint. *Sea Kayaking with Bill* operates under a 'leave no trace' protocol. The trip will operate only in settled weather but will be available for much of the year.

