

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

"CELEBRATE STEWART ISLAND"

December 2002 \$1.00

Editor's Bit.....

Chris Visser

Welcome again to this month's issue of Stewart Island News – issue four and I haven't cracked yet! Christmas 2002 is looming – and the looking around the place things are starting to get busy as we prepare for, what is, for most Island residents, the busiest time of the year.

I have just come home from a shopping trip to town with Fiona and Cari (as it is important to have a support crew when doing the shopping frenzy in a day in town). While a trip to Invercargill is awfully good fun, I can't help feeling incredibly pleased and even quietly smug to be living in a place where Christmas is pretty simple. Fiona, Cari and I are all absolutely exhausted from being bombarded by singing Santas, flashing decorations and the almost panicked consumer frenzy that was downtown Invercargill last Saturday morning. How wonderful to come back to our quiet and laid back home – where the biggest news of the day seems to be that all the ducklings at Mill Creek have disappeared (probably eels...).

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, and a happy new year. Enjoy your friends and loved ones, and celebrate what is important to you - whatever that may be.

My fellow SIN contributors and I will be back next year – in February – please send contributions to me by Friday 14 Feb. As always - all contributions and assistance welcome.

In this issue :

- ◇ What Stewart Island Women REALLY want (for Christmas)
- ◇ Basin Award
- ◇ Sleeping Cutey a Beauty
- ◇ Sam on Arkie's Shed
- ◇ A great Christmas Cake recipe...
- ◇ And a wonderful new business opportunity for the enterprising islander who isn't afraid of RATS...

And more ... Read on....

Sleeping Cutey a Beauty

Chris Griffiths

The bright lights! The greasepaint! The air of excitement! Men in frocks! For two nights our hall was transformed into a fairytale palace. Here was the royal family, the gorgeous princess, a spinning wheel - all the classic ingredients - but something was askew.....

Think way back now; did Disney's King seem fond of an old malt? Were Walt's good fairies really punks and motleys? Did his Ladies in Waiting have such hairy legs (and was that a moustache)? I don't remember the Prince wearing skins and I'm sure I would have noticed such a large, such a bouncing, such a robust, baby princess.

But wait! This isn't Sleeping Beauty, but its funky-up, cross-dressed naughty cousin The Sleeping Cutey. It is 4 years since Oliver and 2 years since the last Stewart Island Players effort and they were back with a pantomime by C.R. Cook. This was their 21st production, directed once again by Owen Gerrard. And what fun they all had. The house was packed and keeping one eye on the action and one eye on the audience was a treat - some watching faces wore cartoon expressions of shocked surprise and delight.

The casting was inspired. David Noakes, Johnny Leask and Chris Dillon as the Ladies Purl, Plain and Twist, were superb. Such bloomers were sported as haven't been seen since the parachute regiment last dropped in. John Leask was a joy; almost unrecognizable in matronly wig and nylon dress. David Noakes is obviously wasting a great talent for comedy at DoC, then again, he is on the barberry team, so perhaps not. A demure Chris Dillon looming prettily in a giant frock and court shoes (where do Wardrobe get such enormous women's shoes - Trannies-R-Us?) was a sight possibly burned forever on the retinas of some islanders.

Joanne Leask was perfectly cast as a goose-bumpily wicked Fairy Adenoid. And fulsome commendations to Noel Pascoe for a gigantically cherubic, nay, toothsome baby princess wearing his pram. There's something about men in frocks that has that dangerous whiff of end-of-year-school-play about it. You remember, when you saw your hirsute phys-ed teacher dressed as a schoolgirl, and oh how you laughed. So, the perfect show for a small community!

But the stand-out act had to be Dawn McLellan as the Prince and hero, played as Tarzan, come to awaken the slumbering

princess. She was a revelation, and what great legs.

The singing may at moments have been what you might call off-off Broadway, but still was always very entertaining. And if a few cues were almost missed and a few lines were slightly fudged, hey, that's style. Ulva's piano playing, the fetching royal pages, the sneaky references to local life, Scratchiquill and the Narrator, the wild costumes and makeup of the hard-rocking fairies, and the set, were all delightful. It was excellent, also, to see Katy McGinity join her mother Aggy on stage as bad-good fairies. (If anyone has been missed out, it is only because a whole month has gone by since the play and one's brain is middle-aged).

Owen Gerrard has directed all 21 of the Stewart Island Players productions, from their 1981 debut performance of Cinderella to such am-dram musical favorites as Pinocchio, Oklahoma, South Pacific and Oliver. Gerrard has enormous affection for Stewart Island and Players old and new. This was his first Players show in the new hall, and despite the backstage area being a little restrictive, he found it had better facilities for lighting and other pluses. Like many, he does miss the character of the old building, but, of course, it was approaching dereliction and would possibly not have stood up to another year of dancing feet.

So thanks then to the cast, director, production crew and sponsors that obviously worked so hard to bring this play to the boards. Judging by the laughter, applause and shining faces of the audience (some more shining than others thanks to the bar being open), Sleeping Cutey was a resounding success. Many said the best ever. We look forward to next year's production.

What Stewart Island Women REALLY want (for Christmas) **Chris Visser**

In response to that "possum stuck in headlights look" that results when I ask the average Stewart Bloke if he has thought of a present for his wife / girlfriend / daughter /

any other female of his acquaintance that he should buy a present for - I have taken it upon myself to "do my bit" for male/female relationships this coming festive season - and

so – I bring you - the definitive "What women do and do not want for Christmas" Guide.

In order to avoid any accusations of sexism - I have also consulted extensively with a wide range of our finest Stewart Island Males

to bring you this insight into what men want for Christmas...

(disclaimer – I personally, or SIN in general, accept no responsibility for any adverse reactions to any gifts bought based on the following advice...)

STEWART ISLAND WOMEN;

DO Want

- Champagne
- Expensive French perfume

- An all expenses trip paid to the Mainland
- Flowers
- Chocolates

- Food that is already prepared

- Cups of tea in bed

- Chocolates (did I say Chocolates?)
- .22 Rifle

- Clothes – also very tricky – a purchase not for the faint – hearted....

DO NOT want

- Camo Swannies
- Anything paraphernalia to do with gutting or skinning dead animals
- Wheelbarrows

- Splitting axes
- That dodgy Land Rover that is an incredibly good bargain and we need it dear....
- That dodgy boat that is a bargain and we need it dear...
- Anything in fact, that is petrol or diesel driven (apart from small, economical, and road legal cars)
- Cattle or livestock of any description
- Household appliances of ANY description can be VERY VERY dangerous ground – do not go there unless you have consulted widely with your girl's buddies. If it doubt – DON'T DO IT.
- Anything that men want (not always true but if you are excited by a Predator Cordless Drill on sale at Placemakers for \$49.99- do not assume your girl will be likewise excited....)

STEWART ISLAND MEN;

DO Want

- Stainless Steel Rifles
- Camo Swannies

- Anything paraphernalia to do with gutting or skinning dead animals

- That dodgy Land Rover that is an incredibly good bargain and we need it dear....

DO NOT want

- Windchimes
- Frocks (unless you are Noel Pasco, Chris Dillon, John Leask or David Noakes who do look fabulous in frocks)
- Hair coloring products (yes some bloke did say this, the mind boggles....?)
- Ties

Beer (Speights dear)

Rum (Black Heart dear)

That dodgy boat that is a bargain and we need it dear...

A tonne of Quota (paua / cod /cray) – which is why they need the dodgy boat...

Personal Hygiene products of any description...

A fashion makeover and /or manicure

Stuffed Toys (not a universal truth – but do NOT give your man a stuffed toy in front of other Stewart Island Bloke...)


Clothes generally (unless camo-gear of some description – gumboots are a bit predictable... sandals are very dodgy ground. Toweling hats NO)



BRETT TWADDLE BUILDERS LTD

Would like to wish our Stewart island Clients and friends a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year - from Brett (Lucy), Jenny, Stu , Jarrod and Nathan.

For all your building requirements (new houses and alterations) phone 2191 - 366



KAI KART RE-OPENS!!

Hilli and Ag are re-opening the "Kai Kart" on;

Saturday 21 December

Hours 11am - 2 pm

5pm - 9pm

Come on down and check out their menu of Fish and Chips - Burgers - and new to the 'new' Kai Kart - Mussels! (Don't you love it when mussel farmers open up take-aways - YIPPEE!!)

Hilli and Ag thank you all in anticipation of your patience as they are both new to the Fish and Chip business - "please be patient of the two middle aged women learning to do something new..." But knowing those two they will make a real success of their new venture, and SIN (and I'm sure the rest of the community) wish them all the best, and for sure we will be supporting your business.

◊ **Keep an eye on the noticeboard and at the Kai Kart for opening hours and contact details**

Minnesota here I come ... Tony Pasco

Hi - my name is Tony Pasco and although my family moved back to Stewart in 1999, they have let me travel back to the mainland regularly so I could continue to play ice hockey. This year I was lucky enough to be selected to represent the Southern Ice Hockey League team that is to attend the Friendships international tournament in St Paul, Minnesota, USA at the end of March 2003.

The Friendships Tournaments have been held every two years since 1989 and were originally started in Japan by a group of businessmen and citizens who saw the opportunity to promote the game of Ice Hockey by bringing together youths in the 12 - 13 years old age group from all over the world in an atmosphere where the emphasis was placed on fair play, sportsmanship, mutual respect and cultural exchange.

This year's Southern Ice Hockey League team is made up of members from as far afield as Twizel, Ranfurly, Dunedin, Gore, Alexandra, Queenstown and Stewart Island - which makes fundraising very difficult to coordinate. Therefore everyone is pretty much out on their own when it comes to raising money for airfares, uniforms, food and accommodation - approximately \$5,500 per player, plus spending money! The Queenstown players have allowed me to join in with their fund-raising radio auction and I am most grateful to Stewart Island Marine, Bay Motel, Church Hill Café Bar, Thorfinn Charters, Sam & Billy the Bus, Ulva's Guided Tours and Seaview Water Taxi for

donating their services to a Stewart Island Package to be auctioned on December 18, which should be a very big help.

Over the holidays I would like to run several sausage sizzles and have raffles on sale, I also have chocolate bars to sell and will be hard at work mowing lawns and doing whatever odd jobs come my way - so if you need someone who is strong and not afraid of hard work, please give me a call on 2191 009.

Thank you,

Tony Pasco

Property Investment

Glen Wilcox (Investment Adviser, Swains - the investment + insurance company, Invercargill)

(Continued from September Issue)

Some Pros & Cons of Each Property Sector

Residential

Relatively low capital cost - you could start your property portfolio with \$30 - \$40,000 (or even less if you borrow).

Fairly simple to obtain bank finance, they will generally lend up to 75% on a residential rental (depending on the credentials of you - the borrower).

You can collect the rent in person thereby keeping an eye on your property (remember that tenants have rights with regard to your access to the property - read a Residential Tenancy agreement).

No specialist knowledge required - you don't need to worry about Ratchet Clauses, Right of Renewal or know the Resource Management Act inside out. It would be advisable to get some tax advice.

Costs such as Rates, Insurance, R & M, Legal Fees (a portion of), Depreciation and Interest on borrowings (if any) are normally Tax Deductible.

No Capital Gains tax in New Zealand.

- * Relatively high management time - Adverts, Interviewing & Cleaning between tenancies. Repairs & maintenance - you need to be a DIY person because the returns are generally not high enough to pay a tradesman.
- * Leases are short-term (or non-existent), this increases the probability of vacancy thereby reducing your yield.
- * Tenants can play to your weak side and blame the sick dog/car/boat for delays or non-payment of rent.
- * Lack of Liquidity, as is the case with most property, it can be difficult and time consuming to convert to cash at a fair market price. Also you can't sell a portion (say \$5 or \$10,000) as you can with shares or deposits.
- * Capital gains have been minimal in the low inflation environment of recent years.

Things to Look For

- Near transport, universities, schools, Low maintenance.

Industrial

- ✓ Mid range capital outlay, start at \$100,000+, bank will generally lend around 60% of valuation but this would depend on the lease term.
- ✓ Low management time – tenants will normally pay by direct credit and the rent with normally be a relatively small cost of their overall operation. They will normally attend to reasonable repairs or give you adequate notice.
- ✓ Tenant will normally pay outgoings such as Rates & Insurance.

- * Could be cost inhibitive to give you adequate diversification. This is where buying property in a large syndicate (or several) can be effective.

Things to Look For

- Located on/near arterial routes and ports/airports.
- Scarcity of land available in the vicinity for similar development which could decrease the demand for your property.
- Good car parking & access/turnaround space for larger vehicles and large doors which allow access for container trucks, forklifts etc.
- Adequate office space.

Commercial

Considered 'Blue Chip' as long (depending on the quality of Building, Location, Tenant & Lease).

Normally leases are long-term (commonly 5-10 years).

Regular rent reviews at least in line with inflation are generally acceptable.

Once again, costs are usually care of the occupier.

Building can enjoy a high profile – could be known as the "IRD Building" etc.

Costly to refurbish between tenancies, unless stipulated in lease that the building must be refitted to its original state (carpets, wall coverings etc) upon vacancy. Expensive equipment such as air-conditioning systems will wear out over time.

\$500K+ entry level for reasonable holding although will probably need to look at \$1M+ to start at quality end of the market.

Capital value declines as you get closer to lease expiry.

Specialist management skills required to negotiate leases & abide by legislation.

Things to Look For

Tenants such as Law Firms, Accountants, Government Departments & Banks are preferred.

Retail

Generally high yielding (for higher risk).

Entry level is broad due to huge range in quality.

Can once again enjoy a high profile – could be known as the "Lighting Direct" or "Ship to Shore" building.

Can very quickly be affected by economic slowdown, majority of tenants are small businesses which have higher rates of failure.

Shopping trends change affecting demand – look at the Glengarry Shopping Centre or parts of Esk Street in Invercargill.

Things to Look For

High foot traffic, growth areas which have all services such as banks, cafes, car parks (and the Warehouse!).

Halfmoon Bay School Winter Sports Club Quiz # 2

A big thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to enter this year's quiz and congratulations to the winners:

1st with 77 correct answers - Margaret Hopkins (wins a return trip to Invercargill courtesy of Stewart Island Flights)

2nd equal with 74 correct answers – Robyn Todd and Heather Smith (who share the \$50 meal voucher courtesy of Church Hill Café Bar).

Lucky prize draw - #11 J.A. & H. Bissland - \$15 voucher from Justcafé.

Most creative answer – Dee for her answer to # 52

7 C was actually 7 Continents, not Mort's Boat (which is named the Seven Seas).

The questions were obviously slightly harder than last year because there were a number that completely stumped everyone – mind there was one that was impossible to answer correctly as the computer gremlins had added an extra digit to the clue!!

(# 39 should have read 3 B and G not 83 B and G as the answer was Bears and Goldilocks but maybe we could start a whole new fairytale ...)

Well done to the three who each provided the only correct answer to the following questions:

# 66	7	P on the S of L C	<i>Points on the Statue of Liberty's Crown</i> (Margaret Hopkins)
# 77	12	H F on B S	<i>Hurricane Force on Beaufort Scale</i> (Sue Ford)
# 79	3	W in S M	<i>Witches in Shakespeare's Macbeth</i> (Dee)

Questions that stumped everyone were:

# 31	1980	B S B D	<i>Baby Snatched By Dingo</i>
# 38	3	A P M	<i>Austin Power Movies</i>
# 40	4	P on M R	<i>Presidents on Mount Rushmore</i>
# 59	78	T C	<i>Tarot Cards</i>
# 69	1902	F T B S	<i>First Teddy Bear Sold</i>
# 82	9	D in a T N (I the A C)	<i>Digits in a Telephone Number (Including the Area Code)</i>
# 83	10	G – K I S	<i>Guitar – Kiwi Icon Song</i>
# 89	4	T	<i>Teletubbies</i>

Finally, a very big thank you to those who kindly sponsored prizes – we couldn't have run this competition without you – Cheers!

And for those who have friends, relatives or guests looking for something to do over the Christmas break – here's the complete list of questions (but hide the answers before you give it to them!)

Example: 7 D in a W (Days in a Week)

1.	09/03/2002	R N P O	Rakiura National Park Opened
2.	1	H on a U	Horn on a Unicorn
3.	1963	B T N Z	Beatles Tour New Zealand
4.	4	S on a U	Strings on a Ukulele

5.	9	P in E S S	Planets in Earth's Solar System
6.	04/06/89	T S M	Tienanmen Square Massacre
7.	1080	L F D in I D P N	Last Four Digits in Innes Dunston's Phone Number
8.	10	C	Commandments
9.	1587	M Q of S B	Mary Queen of Scots Beheaded
10.	1941	J A P H	Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor
11.	90	G F and R M	George Fife and Rueben Morris
12.	15/08	W S O	Whitebait Season Opens
13.	1977	E P D	Elvis Presley Dies
14.	6	D L for R L	Individual Daily Limit For Rock Lobster
15.	1988	B B to I G on S I	Bye Bye to Individual Generators on Stewart Island
16.	6.35	K in a S	Kilograms in a Stone
17.	14	N P in N Z	National Parks in New Zealand
18.	1876	T P	Telephone Patented
19.	5	S - T, T, S, S and H	Senses - Taste, Touch, Sight, Smell and Hearing
20.	2000	P W S at M B	Pilot Whale Stranding at Maori Beach
21.	06/10/98	D W G on B I	Dong Wong Grounds on Breaksea Islands
22.	5	S in the S C	Stars in the Southern Cross
23.	24	L in the G A	Letters in the Greek Alphabet
24.	1978	F T-T B B	First Test-tube Baby Born
25.	1987	D of C C	Department of Conservation Created
26.	31	D in D	Days in December
27.	1957	F L C in S	First Living Creature in Space
28.	2190020	P N for H B P	Phone Number for Halfmoon Bay Policeman
29.	12	H T D B E and N Z	Hours time difference between England and N Z
30.	1.609	K in a M	Kilometres in a Mile
31.	1980	B S B D	Baby Snatched By Dingo
32.	05/12/2001	S P B K	Sir Peter Blake Killed
33.	16	B S on a C B	Black Squares on a Chess Board
34.	32	F P of W in D F	Freezing Point of Water in Degrees Fahrenheit
35.	86400	S in O D	Seconds in One Day
36.	8	D a W - S by the B	Days a Week - Song by the Beatles
37.	86	C K P	Current Kakapo Population
38.	3	A P M	Austen Power Movies
39.	3	B and G	Bears and Goldilocks
40.	4	P on M R	Presidents on Mount Rushmore
41.	4	R S in a G of M	Railway Stations in a Game of Monopoly
42.	1930	F C G	First Commonwealth Games
43.	2	D N on S I	District Nurses on Stewart Island
44.	1998	H B G S S	Halfmoon Bay Gets Sewerage Scheme
45.	1866	G G S at A I	General Grant sinks at Auckland Islands
46.	08/75	P O R A in P I	Penrod Oil Rig Arrives in Paterson Inlet
47.	25/09/60	F M O on S I	First Museum Opens on Stewart Island
48.	7	D - D, D, S, S, H, B and G	Dwarfs - Doc, Dopey, Sleepy, Sneezy, Happy, Bashful & Grumpy
49.	1904	P C O on S I	Presbyterian Church Opens on Stewart Island
50.	15/03	The I of M	The Ides of March
51.	3	P C - R, B, Y	Primary Colours - Red, Blue, Yellow
52.	7	C	Continents
53.	09/09/85	W D H B F	Wairua Departs Halfmoon Bay Forever
54.	31/08	O S C	Oyster Season Closes
55.	1989	B W F	Berlin Wall Falls
56.	8	L on a L	Legs on a Lobster
57.	4	C in the H H	Chambers in the Human Heart
58.	15	N B in a G of P	Numbered Balls in a Game of Pool

(All I have to say is, having struggled over these for hours myself – is that Sharon Pasco and whoever helped her put these together has a mind that works in mysterious ways... Ed)

Moturau Moana Margaret Hopkins

Tucked away on the north shore of Halfmoon Bay with views down into Bragg Bay, Butterfield Beach and beyond, are the gardens of Moturau Moana. Originally the site of Miss Noeline Baker's fine Dutch colonial home, this property was gifted to the government of New Zealand in 1940. Miss Baker's vision was that the property would become a biological research station for university students. Her garden contained an amazing array of native plants, many of them collected from areas on Stewart Island with limited accessibility such as Mt Anglem. Miss Baker traveled extensively throughout New Zealand with her father the surveyor, John Holland Baker.

Born in 1878 Miss Baker spent her early years in England and returned to New Zealand with her father in 1920. She edited a book written by her father of his travels as a surveyor. While in England Miss Baker was instrumental in establishing the Landgirls movement to maintain agricultural production during the war and was later awarded an MBE for her effort. Miss Baker was awarded the Loder Cup in 1948 for her keen interest in New Zealand native plants and the work she did at Moturau Moana in making the gardens available to the public. The management and care of Moturau Moana has had a chequered history. The property had 3 resident caretakers over the

years when it was used as a home for the NZ Forest Service rangers but unfortunately burnt down in 1967. The Forest Service continued to maintain the gardens until 1987 when the property came under the Department of Conservation's jurisdiction. Lawn mowing and limited garden maintenance meant that the gardens were nothing like in their former days. In 2000 the property was transferred to the Stewart Island community and administered by the Community Board with some assistance from DOC. In October the second Conservation Volunteer programme was run at Moturau where a group of 4 from the 'Mainland', plus a couple of locals under the guidance of Chris Rance from DOC, made a concerted 4 day effort to restore order to the overgrown paths and gardens. A big thankyou also goes to the Stewart Island Lions Club who replaced spouting and did repairs to the lookout building. Elaine Hamilton whose property adjoins Moturau Moana has put in much time and effort over recent years helping to maintain the gardens. Her interest is both neighbourly and historical as her mother Maude Johnson first came to Stewart Island as a maid for Miss Baker. If you are out walking this summer or looking for a sheltered place to take your visitors for a picnic call in and have a look at this wonderful community asset so close to town.

Stewart Island Community Board (Colleen Dawson (Oban Area Officer) and Chris Visser (Community Board))

There is to be a Port A Loo placed at Golden Bay for a period of five months with the comfort of tourists and senior citizens in mind.

It is felt that there is a proliferation of 'AA type' finger signs being erected around the township. It has been obvious that many of these sign have been erected without permission. This has been identified in the

'Stewart Island-Rakiura Guidelines for Development' as something that needs to be dealt with, as it is very easy for signs to look ugly and messy. The community Board has decided that, from Easter 2003, the signs with- out permits will be removed. The Community Board feels that signs that point to public amenities/services and places of interest or used by residents and most visitors are appropriate - but that signs pointing to

individual businesses are not. Trying to keep in mind the big picture – the Board agrees that there is a risk in future for more and more signs to be crowded into the Bay pointing to every single business on the island and that this could easily get out of hand. The Promotions Association put out an excellent map where visitors can find businesses of interest to them and these are freely available on the island, so the Board does not see a need to have signs pointing every single business on the island.

There appears to be quite a bit of concern in the community about the Oban Sewerage scheme extension proposal. Rumours and gossip do get a lot of people upset. The fact is that an Engineer consultant will be engaged to prepare a design report and costings for extending the scheme and Council staff will conduct investigations into any cost reductions and/or subsidies available before any thing

From Bill Todd (District Councilor)

Don't you just feel sorry for everyone who can't spend Christmas on the Island?

The end of another year approaches, and looking back there have been some successes and some frustrations.

I learned this week that the Ministers of Regional Development and Tourism have agreed to the proposals to treat Stewart Island as a test case for funding tourism

Halfmoon Bay Beat

Christmas Greetings from New Zealand's most southern Police Station.

Firstly a thank you goes out to all in the community for all the support throughout the year, especially in relation to Search & Rescue. Without your voluntary support the tasks would a whole lot harder and those in need of assistance could be in a whole lot more danger.

is set in concrete. Nothing is definite yet although it is the wish of the Community Board for these extensions to go ahead if issues regarding costs and potential environmental impact can be dealt with properly.

Some of you may have noticed by now that there is a counter on Elgin Terrace near the monument. This is for collection of data as an indication toward looking at growth impact.

We have been made aware that Southport are planning to install floating pontoons to be attached to the wharves at Golden Bay and Fred's Camp.

The Community Board would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year. Take care as you travel or have fun on the water.

infrastructure, and that's a good sign. But it hasn't translated into any money yet.

However, Mayor Frana's taken the matter right to the Prime Minister, and we're hopeful of getting at least an interim payment.

In the meantime, I wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Bill Todd
Southland District Councilor

For the end of year news I would like you all to think about Crime Prevention. This is the time when we have lot of visitors to Stewart Island and there will be a small percentage that are not totally honest in their actions and ways.

Think before you leave your car keys in the ignition, wallets and valuables lying around as there are opportunists out there who will steal or use.

The Community Centre will be open through the festive season

Opening hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday 9.00am till 4.30pm

Weekend's 10.00am till 4.00pm

Please feel free to bring your visiting family & friends through the Community Centre to show them this amazing facility, if they would like to use the facilities I will be in the office and available for any enquiry's, these hours will be displayed on the Centre's front door and office door from 20th December.

Stewart Island Community Centre Trust & Centre Manager would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Arkwright's Shed.... SAM SAMPSON

Years ago, so 'tis said, Arkwright built a shed.
Lil Skipper was all out for slaughter.
She thought it was piss poor, she'd be living next door,
To the Island's industrial quarter.

It's a "shed", for the yarn, but it's more like a barn,
You could near fit a footie pitch in it.
Arky vowed and declared, no junk stored in this shed,
Now of course it is filled to the limit.

There's a boat that won't float, like a duck with the bloat,
Arkwright scored it in one of his deals.
There's pukaru truck, that ran out of luck,
Brakes, clutch and a couple of wheels.

There's old dozer treads, stuff you'll find in most sheds,
But the things that astound are the tools there,
There's stuff Mr Melhop won't have in his workshop
You could damn near build a battleship in there.

There's a lathe in that shed, with a ten foot long bed.
Fair turns up a storm when rotating.
If my whiskers got caught, my life would be short,
I'd be spinning, there is no debating.

It was last Wed-nes-day, that OSH came our way,
To check out the Island for safety,
All tools must have guards – no junk in our yards.
I panicked for Arky, my matey.

I swore its for sure, Arky ain't locked the door,
All the time that the shed's been erected.
Anyote can walk in, with a skinful of gin,
Use the tools there with safety neglected.

When they saw Arky's folly, OSH would go off their trolley,
And insist that his door he should lock it.
Yes, bolp up the tools... but alas the poor fools...
Lock the door? When he ain't even got it?

An Interview with Owen Gerrard Katy McGinity

Owen Gerrard has just finished directing Stewart Island Players 21st production The Sleeping Cutey (he's directed all 21). I caught up with Mr Gerrard on the final weeks of rehearsals to ask him some questions, and the secret for his awesome ability and energy.

Growing up in the rural area of Winton and wanting to be an actor, director or make up artist was a far away dream for Owen, but with help from early childhood teachers he succeeded. Having directed his first play when he was at primary school over 50 years ago is a pretty impressive thing not many people can say they've done that.

Though he hasn't been a director all his life in fact he's been a retail buyer and seller of china glasswear, men and women's footwear and he's worked in a bank. He's also a great make up artist and quite regularly uses these skills on his performers during shows.

A Christmas Recipe

With pleasure SIN brings you this wonderful "pre Christmas" Cake recipe. It pays to experiment with this one well in advance....

Ingredients:

1 cup water
1 cup sugar
1 cup butter
4 large eggs
2 cups dried fruit
lemon juice

1 teaspoon soda
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup brown sugar
nuts
1 bottle whiskey

Method:

Sample the whiskey for quality. Take a large bowl. Check Whisky again, insure it is of the highest quality, pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on electric beater and beat butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one tablespoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure Whisky is still ok. Cry another Cup.

Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in a cup of dried fruit. Mix on the Turner. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters then prise loose with a drawscraper. Sample the whisky again to check for its consistency. Next sift in 2 cups of salt - or something. Who cares anyway? Check the whiskey. Now sift in the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add a teaspoon of sugar or something - whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake time 350 degrees f. Don't forget to beat off the turner, throw the bowl out of the window, check the whisky again and go to bed.

Coming back to the island each year for 21 years is very admirable and includes a lot of perseverance. Owen claims that he likes the people and loves giving the Stewart Islanders opportunities like this.

Having directed 21 Stewart Island productions he has to have a favourite, right? Wrong, he likes them all and couldn't pick just one. Though he does have an all time favourite apart from the ones he's directed, and that's GOD SPELL and LE MIS. Also, like us, he does have favourite actors and actresses such as Glenda Jackson, Judy Dench and Sir Laurence Oliver.

So if you want to be a famous actor, director or make up artist here's a few tips from the horse's mouth.....

- *Read lots of plays
- *See lots of live theatre
- *Be prepared to discuss productions
- *Take subjects such as speech and drama

Rakiura Museum Stewart Island Map for sale

The Stewart Island Map that hangs on the wall in the Museum has been reproduced for sale. It would make an ideal Christmas present. It is selling for \$15.00 inclusive of a tube for mailing. Reminder of Museum Hours--Monday to Saturday 10am to 12pm, Sunday 12pm to 2.00pm & is open over the holidays season except for public holiday.

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas.

Margaret E. Rooney,



In order to give recognition to those people who do good work in the community, and for the community – SIN is delighted to organise the fourth Community Thank You Chocolate Award. Readers are again invited to nominate anyone whom they think deserves a thank you from the community – and SIN has arranged for a local business to sponsor a box of chocolates by way of a thank you. This month I have boxes of chocolates to give away from **the Oban Fire Brigade, Oban Tours and Taxis, and Aurora Charters (big thanks to those sponsors)**

This months winners are.....

- ☉ Elaine Hamilton –For her volunteer work at Motorau Moana Gardens
- ☉ Pat King – For her work at the Library
- ☉ And a collective Award to the group of people who have been a support network for George and Noeline Fife (picking up mail, sorting out coal and gas bottles, picking up groceries etc). I won't list who is in this group in fear of missing someone out – but these people are known to the community and we applaud you for the great work you do.

The above people/groups will receive a box of chocolates sponsored by the Fire Brigade, Oban Tours and Taxis and Aurora Charters. Thank you Elaine, Pat and all of you who are involved in doing work for George and Noeline for the difference you each make to our community.

Rat Restaurant??

Following on from Sam's commentary on the large numbers of rats around at the moment in a previous issue of SIN – this article has come to my attention which I thought I should share with you on the off – chance some enterprising local is looking for a new business opportunity - perhaps an joint venture with DOC? Read on.....

Source: Wall Street Journal, May 31, 1991

GUANGZHOU, China -- The Cantonese people of south China are legendary for eating anything that moves -- and some things that are still moving. The food market

here features cats, raccoons, owls, doves and snakes along with bear and tiger's paw, dried deer penis and decomposed monkey skeletons.

Now, this rich culinary tradition, along with rising disposable income in this most prosperous city in China, has inspired kitchen utensil salesman Zhang Guoxun to open what is believed to be China's first restaurant dedicated to serving rat.

That's right: Rat. Rat with Chestnut and Duck. Lemon Deep Fried Rat. Satayed Rat Slices with Vermicelli. In fact, the menu lists 30

different rat dishes, even including Liqueured Rat Flambe, along with more mundane dishes such as Hot Pepper Silkworm, Raccoon With Winter Melon and Sliced Snake and Celery. And in the six months since the doors opened, customers have been scampering in at all hours to the euphemistically named Jialu (Superior to Deer) Restaurant.

"I was always eating out, but I got bored with the animals that restaurants offered," Mr. Zhang says during an interview over a plate of BlackBean Rat. "I wanted to open a restaurant with an affordable exotic animal. Then I was walking home one night and a rat ran across in front of me and gave me this idea."

Mr. Zhang's restaurant is as trendy as they come in China. The 15-table, two-story eatery is a mixture of blond wood furniture, stucco walls and wooden lattice laced with plastic vines. Tonight's crowd includes a young couple who stroll in hand-in-hand and nestle in a quiet corner for a romantic rat dinner. Other groups include engineers, office clerks, salesmen and factory workers.

Tonight's special is Braised Rat. Garnished with sprigs of cilantro, the morsels of rat meat are swaddled in crispy rat skin. The first nibble reveals a rubbery texture. But the skin coats one's teeth with a stubborn slime. The result is a bit like old chewing gum covered with Crisco.

But other dishes are better. German Black Pepper Rat Knuckle (rat shoulders, actually; the knuckles are too small) tastes like a musty combination of chicken and pork. The rat soup, with delicate threads of rat meat mixed with thinly sliced potatoes and onions, is surprisingly sweet. Far and away most appealing to the Western palate is Rat Kabob. The skewers of charcoaled rat fillet are enlivened with slices of onion, mushroom and green pepper and served smothered in barbecue sauce on sizzling iron plates that are shaped like cows.

Also on the menu: a Nest of Snake and Rat, Vietnamese Style Rat Hot Pot, a Pair of Rats Wrapped in Lotus Leaves, Salted Rat with Southern Baby Peppers, Salted Cunning Rats, Fresh Lotus Seed Rat Stew, Seven-Color

Rat Threads, Dark Green Unicorn Rat -- and, of course, Classic Steamed Rat. Generally, the presentation is quite elegant, with some dishes served with lemon slices or scallions forming a border and others with carrots carved into flower shapes.

Experienced rat eaters, however, warn that this is no meat to pig out on. "Watch out," warns Wei Xiuwen, a factory manager eating at an adjacent table. "If you eat too much rat, you get a nosebleed." Several customers take off their shirts halfway through the meal because eating rat, like dog, seems to raise the body temperature for some reason. That's why rat is considered a winter food. In the summer, the restaurant does most of its business during the late-night and early-morning hours, after the weather cools down.

The restaurant is popular -- Mr. Zhang claims profits of \$2,000 a month -- because it brings people back to their roots. The restaurant's cooks, and most customers, are originally from the countryside, where as children they ate air-dried rat meat. "If dried by a north wind, it tastes just like duck," Che Yongcheng, an engineer and regular customer, says wistfully of his favorite childhood snack.

For newcomers, Mr. Zhang has color brochures, featuring a photo of Rat Kabobs alongside a bottle of Napoleon X.O. In both the menu and brochure, the rats are referred to as "super deer" because Mr. Zhang says he wants to separate his fare from the common sewer rats that even Cantonese might find unappetizing. Mr. Zhang says his restaurant serves only free range rats, wild rodents that feed on fruits and vegetables in the mountains a couple of hundred kilometers to the north.

The brochure explains why rats are the health food for the 1990s. It says the rats are rich in 17 amino acids, vitamin E and calcium. Eating them promises to prevent hair loss, revive the male libido, cure premature senility, relieve tension and reduce phlegm. A rat's "liver, gallbladder, fat, brain, head, eye, saliva, bone, skin" are "useful for medical treatment," says the brochure.

The restaurant's basement kitchen is a Dante's Inferno where shirtless cooks sweat over huge woks atop howling gasfueled stoves that shoot flames five feet in the air. Dozens of fat, ready-to-cook rats are piled in a bamboo basket next to a crust-covered pump that noisily slurps up a small river of scum that runs off the stove and across the floor.

The senior chef is not here tonight. An understudy, Huang Lingtun, clad in rubber sandals and pants rolled up to his knees, explains how the rats are rounded up. They're captured and cleaned by farmers who free-lance as rat bounty hunters. Some smoke the rats out by setting fields on fire and snaring the fleeing rats in nets attached to long bamboo poles. Others string wires across fields to stun unsuspecting rodents with high voltage charges. The rats, each about a half-pound, arrive at the restaurant freshly gutted, beheaded and de-tailed.

Mr. Zhang says that the traditional recipes on his menu were suggested by Tang Qixin, a farmer honored as a model worker by Mao in 1958 for his prowess as a rat killer. Rat

eradication campaigns have been a staple of Chinese life since Mao declared war on the four pests – rats, flies, mosquitoes and bed bugs – in the 1950s.

In 1984, the last Year of the Rat, the government launched an all-out crusade in which an estimated 526 million rats were killed. In 1985, the government tried to maintain the momentum by promoting rat meat as good food, explaining that "rats are better looking than sea slugs and cleaner than chickens and pigs."

Like most successful entrepreneurs during these times of shifting political winds in China, Mr. Zhang is quick to highlight the patriotic nature of his business rather than the personal economic benefits. "I am helping the government by eliminating some pests and helping enrich some farmers," he says.

Mr. Zhang says he's too new to the business to think about a chain of rat restaurants. But he says he's unconcerned about anyone stealing his idea. "My quality is tops," he says, "so I'm not worried about competitors."

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE JENNY GELL

The sun came out for November's Meeting on the 14th at Myra Leask and we were able to explore garden. Anyone with a love for roses would enjoy a visit to Myra's during the coming months as her rose bushes promise to be spectacular.

We were all please to have Lorraine Squires join us.

Competition results were:

Hosta: (1) Jenny Gell, (2) Mavis Tait, (3) Peggy Wilson

Favourite Flower: (1) Nancy Schofield, (2) Anita Geeson, (3) Lil Skipper
Annual (1) Lil Skipper, (2) Myra Leask, (3) Anita Geeson.

In-house prize went to Raylene Waddell.

The Garden Circle has again been asked to arrange the flowers for the Carol Service on 15 December at the Presbyterian Church.

The Garden Circle would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR (Long live the SIN)

BASIN AWARD - AND SINS OF THE PAST..... CHRIS VISSER

I have been reading through old issues of Stewart Island News published from the mid 1980's through to the late 1990's. I'll reprint some of those 'old' articles in upcoming issues because it is fascinating how much and how little everything has changed.

When Sam was putting SIN together in the 1980's he was travelling to Invercargill to use a computer as there wasn't one here. Sam called for donations to buy an "Island Computer" as he saw real benefits in having a computer on the island so that people

could learn how to use one. He was trying to raise around \$9000 to buy an Apple Mackintosh which would reside in the museum office. Wow – how things have changed...

I was intrigued by the "Basin Award" awarded in SIN to those who had managed to do especially embarrassing / unfortunate things. If people are keen – let's resurrect this. The rules are – there are no rules, but if I think that nominations are mean or

especially embarrassing I won't print them – but if they are untrue I probably will anyway (on the premise that why let the truth get in the way of a good story...).

I'll kick off then – and the (only) nomination for this months basin award is:
'The unknown DOC person who asked Ship to Shore for a order form for New World in Invercargill'.

That will do nicely I think – yes we have a winner! For the next issue – send your nominations to me....

Clampett Industries Ltd.

Merry Xmas Everyone!!

Chris and Jed thank you all for the huge support this year and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

*For all your Electrical work (domestic and commercial) catch Jed,
or leave a message at 2191 494.*

Music Review Nathan Pasco

Sarah McLachlan
Surfacing
Recorded, mixed and produced by: Pierre Marchand
Arista records
Music type: pop rock

Born January 28 1968 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Sarah began singing at the age of 4 studying piano, voice and guitar during her school years. At 17 McLachlan was offered a record contract with her band October Game but turned it down because her parents felt it would be wise for her to attend art school.

The record company tried again later this time sealing the deal, without the band.

McLachlan's first album *Toch* went gold in Canada overnight. Then the albums, *Solace* and *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy* followed all doing very well on the charts.

In 1997 McLachlan released *Surfacing* and so far it has sold six million copies world wide so some one likes her music I guess. I had never heard her music until Britt got a copy

when she was in the states a few years back and played it to me. The first track she played was *Sweet Surrender*. I heard the first minute and was hooked. Now there's a lot of good female singers out there who can squawk higher and louder than the best of them but what really struck me about Sarah was her distinctive voice, she can sing 2 or 3 notes and you know it's her, she really has a unique voice.

Ok name an instrument and this girl can play it, piano, acoustic, electric guitars, she's no slouch on any of these and her playing on *Sweet Surrender* with its feedback toggle switching intro was for me very interesting. Tracks that really stood out for me were *I Love You* track 2 with some nice keyboard synth parts and a nice little acoustic guitar solo. If you get a chance to check out her

live album Mirrorball she does this song and really tops herself, better than the original!!! Track 7 Angle should have been called sung by an angel because that's how well she sings on this track. I get goosebumps every time I hear this song. You might have heard this song on the radio from time to time. Oh I just about forgot to tell you (yeah it gets better) not only do you get great music on this CD, if you have a computer you get a CD ROM with a interview with yours truly ,see her working in the studio, find out about her web site (which by the way is very well put together) It also has album info on it and the selling of merchandise, what more could you ask for.

Black and white is also another track that stood out. It features Some very in the

pocket drumming by her then to be new husband Ash sood. Mclachlans great keyboard parts and a really nice vocal line..... Hang on didn't I all ready say all this?? Well the girl is consistent there isn't a weak spot on this album as there is on a lot albums out there.

Whenever I go sailing I always take this disc its great for cruising up the inlet on a nice summers night. If you see this album next time your in town, buy it you won't be disappointed

I'm sold

9/10

cheers see you next month.

Nath

◇ **WELCOME TO... LEEYM TANE JAIMZ THOMPSON**
born 26 November 2002.
Congratulations George and Nicolette!!

2002 CHRISTMAS DIG FOR KIDS

To take place on 22nd December - 11am onwards on beach at Halfmoon Bay.
For Children 12 years and under - prizes donated by local bussinesss.

- Big Dig for heaps of prizes
- Prize for best dressed Christmas character so come dressed up
- Enjoy a sausage sizzle
- Santa's coming too!
- Lollie Scramble

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Please get in touch with your contributions, suggestions, offers of help, or if you wish to subscribe.

Merry Christmas all!! Cheers, Chris