

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

December 2004 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island



Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

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Kaka nesting within the safe zone

Kari Beaven: Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project.

On Saturday 27th November, during a routine trap-check in the restoration area, we made a wonderful find. Tucked inside a tree cavity, a female kaka was in her nest, feeding her young chicks. The sight redoubled our incentive to return on Sunday and set up rat traps, completing protection of her area.



These charismatic parrots, which seem to be in such abundance around Halfmoon Bay, are struggling for survival throughout much of New Zealand and even Stewart Island/ Rakiura. Their nests are in the trunks of trees, making them easy for rats and feral cats to access. Their chicks hatch at a very small size, just a mouthful really, and if they make it through to leaving the nest, it is still a while before they develop their strength and experience; a lot of this time is spent on the ground feeding.

So how does such a vulnerable bird remain so common in Halfmoon Bay? In part this is due to the pest control efforts Stewart Islanders have always made around their homes, but the main saviour for kaka so far has been nearby pest-free islands such as Ulva Island. The few kilometres that separate Ulva from Halfmoon Bay are a short distance for an adult kaka to fly and anyone watching the skies will often see them crossing the ditch.

As the restoration area expands, more of the land around Halfmoon Bay will be like Ulva Island. Kaka, kakariki and kereru (to name but a few) will safely nest throughout our gardens. The flow-on effects this will have for our island are too numerous to begin naming here. Lets hope this kaka is the first of many to try their luck within the safety area.

If you would like to know more about the project, or you are available to help, please contact Kari Beaven on 533 or e-mail habitat@glowingsky.co.nz. Information, including an aerial photograph of the protection area is also available on our website www.glowingsky.co.nz.

**A Very Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year to all our Readers**

MUSEUM NOTES

GENERAL: A quiet period, with several committee people away off the Island for various reasons. There have been no additions to our exhibits since last month.

OPENING HOURS: The point has been made by the new Tourism Operators (and others) that they would like to see the Museum open for longer hours – particularly through the summer period. To achieve this we would need more volunteers, and a notice has been placed on the Notice Board asking for interested people to put their names forward. Sadly, to date we have not been swamped with offers!

PLEASE! If you think you could spare a couple of hours to meet and talk to our visitors – most of whom are very interesting people – have a yarn with Lorraine Hansen or any of the Committee Members. They'd be glad to hear from you!

NEW BUILDING: After more consideration, the decision has been made to go ahead and combine with the District Council and others in a new building on a site adjoining the DoC centre and Fire Brigade building. This will, when completed, solve the longer opening hours problem, and give more display and storage areas. A lot of work has to be done yet, but at least we're moving.

BOAT of the MONTH:

FLYING SCUD

This vessel hit the headlines around 1865-66 when she was involved in the rescue of two men from the southern part of the Auckland Islands. But let's go back to the start - - - - .

She was built in Invercargill in 1860, by Robert Graham, on a site in Tay Street near the intersection with Deveron Street. Owned by Tom Cross, she was based at Port Adventure in 1865 when a small boat arrived from the Auckland Islands. This safe arrival after a hazardous voyage brought Captain Thomas Musgrave and two of his crew to seek help with the rescue of two further crew who were left behind at Carnley Harbour, where their vessel **GRAFTON** had been wrecked more than eighteen months earlier. Cross took the men to Invercargill, and was then engaged to make the rescue attempt. He succeeded in getting the men back after some false starts caused by the weather.

Another adventure was when she was commandeered as a Revenue Cutter by Sergeant Morton to chase a vessel called **POMONA** – suspected of rum-running and smuggling – from Codfish Island south around South Cape and up to Port Adventure, where **POMONA** went ashore and was wrecked on Tia Island. She was involved in the early days of the oyster industry, and also transported survey parties around Stewart Island.

Her final task was when she was hauled ashore at Papatiki and used as a home by Andrew Jose, the Malay who was later murdered at Horseshoe Bay.

I hope you found this of interest? By the way, thanks to "Anon" for the chocolates last month!

I'll close off for the year by wishing you, one and all, the Compliments of the Season.

Merv King.

STEWART ISLAND PROMOTION ASSOCIATION

* New Stewart Island Brochure

This should be ready for distribution early this month. We are sure you will like the finished look. A big thank you goes to Helen Cave, Sue Munro, Raylene Waddell, Holger Lachmann, Jill Skerrett & Lesley Gray for the many hours they have spent on this project. Thanks for all the time and effort put in to achieve the end result.

* Your details

Remember to keep the Visitor Centre, here on the Island, and the Invercargill i-SITE stocked with your brochures and details.

* Promotion Website

Check that your details on the website are correct and if not, bring them up to date. A form can be obtained from Colleen at the Museum.

* King Island

David Kerr and his wife from King Island visited Stewart Island recently for the second time. They were here about 7 years ago. At that stage they suggested setting up a Sister City/Island exchange. Nothing was done then because everyone was too busy. They have asked again. Some brochures were handed out at the general meeting to enable everyone to see what a special place it is. It is situated just NW of Tasmania. They feel we have things to offer them. Their tourism numbers are about 10,000. They feel there are a lot of people who just like visiting islands and that is where they could help us. King Island Tourism Inc has invited 2 members of this Association to visit as long as they can get themselves to and from Melbourne. A couple of Executive members are interested in taking up this offer. From there they will be flown, accommodated and fed and later, returned to Melbourne. Any others, who would like to visit as well, would be made very welcome.

* Canterbury A & P Show

Another successful A & P Show has just been completed. Our thanks to Barry Rhodes, Jo Leask & Diane Smith. They represented Stewart Island at the show and were inundated with a huge enthusiastic crowd. There were a record number of entries for the competition. Thank you to Sharon Pasco for arranging the competition entry forms. Thanks also to those operators who donated product for the prize.

* Street Map

The new map is olive coloured. We ask that all the aqua coloured ones be destroyed. This is in fairness to all the new members and to give correct information to everyone. This leads onto an unfortunate mistake on the map, which was proofed by so many. It is being amended by having to get 30,000 stickers printed and put on each map. Pads or part pads are available from the Visitor Centre or the Ferry Terminal.

* **Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre Trust**

Venture Southland has set up this trust. Three members of this community put their names forward to be part of it. They are Gwen Neave, Peter Tait & Phil Caskey. They will be asked, along with other trustees, to try to find ways of raising funds to set up the centre and then work out how it will operate successfully.

* **Monthly VIN Reports**

August, September & October reports were distributed at the General meeting. Please contact Lesley if you would like copies of these or previous months.

* **British & Irish Lions Tour of New Zealand 2005**

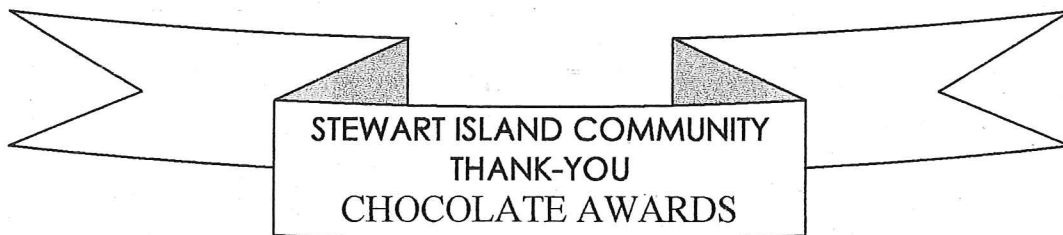
You may be aware that the British Lions are bringing up to 10,000- 15,000 supporters with them next June & July with the visitors staying an average of 20 days. A lot of these people will be middle aged, travelling as couples, are well behaved and have pounds to spend. Some of you may have been approached about advertising in the Official NZRU Travel Guide and if you are interested in being part of this you could check out www.nzrugby.com or phone 04 499 4995

* **Visitor Centre**

Many thanks from the Visitor Centre staff to all those operators who keep them updated when their accommodation is full, with cancellations or when they are away.
The Vacancy charts go through to April.

Opening hours at the moment are 8.30 am – 5.00 pm weekdays and 9.00 am – 4.00 pm at weekends. From 26 December the hours will be 8.30 am – 7.00 pm weekdays and 9.00 am – 7.00 pm at weekends.

The phone number for the Visitor Information is 219 0009 and for DOC information 219 0002. Stewart Dovey & Jan West will be working alongside Sharon, Ann & Lesley this season.



This month, being Christmas, there are three Chocolate Awards:

1. Debs Kennet (on her return) as a thank-you-very-much from Noeline Fife.
2. Kerry Squire for all her work with Sea Scouts, the Museum, etc from Elaine Hamilton.
3. (Embarrassingly) Stewart Dovey for keeping SIN going, nominated by Chris Visser. Thanks.

A Farewell Message from Nurse Catherine

To all my friends of Stewart Island. Thank you all for making this year such a special experience for me. I have enjoyed my time down here enormously. It would be impossible not to enjoy the gorgeous natural setting, the dawn chorus, the fish, and the laid back pace of life. This is a very beautiful and peaceful place. There is much I will miss about Stewart Island but what I will miss most of all, is you. You have welcomed me with warmth and kindness. You have trusted me and shared your lives with me. Thank you for the fish, the trips out on the boats, the meals (most still unreciprocated!), the endless cups of tea, the stories and the laughs. It has been a great privilege to spend a year working in such a unique setting with such a variety of characters.

I don't have an address for next year as yet, but can be contacted by email at clynch@paradise.net.nz.

Thank you all for everything.

Nursie (I remain a little disappointed you didn't come up with a slightly more imaginative nickname!)

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

A group of members plus locals gathered at the Pavilion on the 21st November to be shown by Anita Geeson's daughter Dale how to make Hypertufa pots. On the 25th November, Anita kindly showed those unable to attend on the 21st. The result of both workshops was very pleasing, with everyone talking about having another workshop during the winter months.

A Christmas Luncheon at the Empress Restaurant was held on the 9th December, with a good turn out and good time enjoyed by all. The Christmas hats were certainly something to see, and talk about. The winner being Anita Geeson for originality. We finished with a lucky dip, and all went home feeling ready for the festive season.

The Garden Circle were delighted to be asked once again to do the flower arrangements for the Carol Service to be held at the Presbyterian Church on the 19th December.

Garden Circle would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Basin Award

This month the choice was another very easy one. Hardly news to Island residents but the opportunity to spread the story further afield could not be resisted. Most of the fuel supplies to the Island are retailed by Jack Frew of Island Transport. Jack is a keen fisherman and HMS Halcyon is seen scampering across the bay on a regular basis.

Imagine the merriment when a local water taxi operator was called (from a *Cellphone*) to ferry diesel to Jack who was "not under command" off Ackers Point. Yes, he had forgotten to check the fuel tanks before departing! Maybe you should run the engine on DB Export Dry, Jack? There's always a good reserve aboard!

**Halfmoon Bay School
End of Year Report
Fiona Hall**

We've reached that time of year when everyone is just holding out for the last day. The teachers are run ragged trying to ensure every "homefile" is complete and up to date, and the children can't figure out why the holidays are taking so long to come around. We have had a great term, though. The new Board have settled in to their roles, and Cath, our Principal, is about to complete her first year in the Bay. We have had great reports of the 2003 Year 8's who went on to High School twelve months ago, including school prizes for one of them. So WELL DONE! students and congratulations to Mrs Wadds for setting them up for success.

In the first few weeks of term we had a visit from Mr John Dashney (a story teller from the USA who really knew how to spin a yarn), Room 3 went to Ulva to witness the Fernbird transfer, and Netball Southland came to us and taught us some moves. The big event was the school trip to Invercargill, with a major focus on swimming lessons. The teachers saw a big improvement, especially in the youngest children, as a result of the intensive lessons from Splash Palace instructors. The school also visited Southland Museum, the public library, the climbing wall and squash courts at Stadium Southland, and sampled eating out in Invercargill. The senior class had a day with Adventure Southland to try out both caving, and abseiling from Clifden Bridge. The juniors went to the Environment Centre and Chipmunks. Together with a visit to Queens Park and shopping at the \$2 store, this made for a busy but enjoyable time. The trip was only made possible through the huge support of the Winter Sports Club, and of the parent helpers who came along, and stayed with us at Tuatara Backpackers. Thanks!

Since the camp, events have included a visit from the Dog Control Officer who taught us heaps about how to train your dog, and be

safe around strange dogs. We had a combined Kiwi Can day with St George's and St Theresa's Schools who were on the Island for a camp. This included a yummy barbeque lunch. Kari and I delivered another Wastebusters' Unit on behalf of Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust. This time we looked at paper, where it comes from, the issues around its production, and ways to reduce the paper waste we create. On the final day we all had a go at making recycled paper. Not everyone was keen to put their hands into the porridgy gunk we'd made, but the end product was deemed very cool. A final visitor was Lloyd Esler, who spent time in the junior classroom discussing whales. The children were very impressed with his drawings of different types of whales (on the white board).

The term has come to a close with a group of events: our "Tryathlon" happened despite the weather (thanks very much to Liz Cave, Daniel Young, Richard Cave, Luke Simeon, Hannah, and Tomas Cripps for making the kayaking possible). We were very proud of the three senior students who ran, cycled and kayaked in the cold and rain. The juniors' event moved indoors to the Community Hall, was heaps of fun, and well supported by our parents. The family assembly on Friday included Christmas carols (thanks Ms Amos for piano accompaniment), drama, a violin piece from Olivia and some impressive Irish dancing from Taylah. The older children were also rewarded according to their level of effort they put into our new Lexile reading programme. Assembly was followed by a shared afternoon tea.

The final event is to be a family barbeque in the early evening. We are expecting a special visitor who has asked to see all of the children! There will be a small prize giving and farewell ceremony. The school will be acknowledging the extensive contribution of

Bonnie Leask, who has worked here for 16 years, teaching full time since 1991. She is now officially working in the role of Principal Release Teacher, and will work part time from 2005. Bonnie is very well loved and respected by all who have been part of our school, and we are lucky to hold onto her for a while longer. I will be moving on to some new challenges after three years at the school, both in the office and as teacher-aide. I didn't realize that I was going back to school to learn, but boy did I learn heaps – for which I am very grateful to all the teachers, students, and others I have worked with! Visitors often tell me how lucky we are to have such a special wee school in our community, and we need to treasure it.

Other very important people are also moving on this term: Julius Herzhoff headed to Christchurch in November, Terri-Leigh Baker and Jordan Bernard-O'Connor are both moving to live and attend school in Invercargill, and Rhys Leask and Nic Meads (who have both spent their whole school career at Halfmoon Bay) are going up to High School. We shall miss them all dearly, but wish them the very best as they head off into the big, wide world.

So, as we head off for Xmas, we leave the old behind us and look to the new. 2005 will see the students in one classroom. The Board will be providing support for Cath in her sole charge role by funding more hours for her Principal Release Teacher (Bonnie), some new furniture, and (minor) building interior modifications. Things will be different, and that's exciting. See you in the New Year!

Merry Christmas from everyone at Halfmoon Bay School.

Take over.

Something has happened to some of the women of Stewart Island.

Workrooms, bedrooms, studies and dining tables are spread with paraphernalia and, in some places, housework and meals are only given a passing thought. One male had to make his own lunch and eat it in the Conservatory and all in the name of making one's own cards. At this time of year especially, Christmas cards. Coloured card, stickers, glue sticks, rubber stamps, ink pads, embossing powder and pads, fancy scissors, punch cutters and guillotines are the tools of trade and they need space - lots of space.

It is a great hobby, especially with the wet weather we are experiencing. The hours just fly by as they cut, stamp, stick, ponder, deliberate on that crucial positioning and then sit back at the end of the time with a lovely sense of satisfaction. Their own unique cards.

We held a card making day on Saturday 13th November from 10am to 3pm. Eleven people came for the day and eight others for half a day plus two children. If you had looked in the Hall, it was a hive of industry and great concentration and some wonderful creative cards were made. Thank you to Jill Skerret, Hilli Maass-Barrett and Pat King for help in setting up, and to every-one who helped clear up at the end of the day. After the hall was paid for and \$50.60 reimbursed for card and stickers, \$45 was given to the Community Centre as a donation so all benefit.

Margaret Rooney

MANIC OPERA RETURN

Yes, the girls are back with their sweet harmonies and their naughty lyrics. Taking the Mickey out of some of our best known icons – Paul Holmes, Russell Crowe, the Brothers Finn to name a few – the three wicked wenches are back with reviews from Edinburgh to Christchurch proclaiming their new show, “Cake Sucker!” as a riot.

Last year’s show was a knock-out and this time the ‘Pom, Scot and Maori are once again in truly in fine voice and form. They’ll be appearing at the Community Centre 17 January 2005 at 8.00pm so don’t miss this great show. Tickets are just \$15.00. Be warned, this is an adults’ show so children will not be admitted unless with a parent or legal guardian.

Presented in partnership with Arts on Tour New Zealand, this is the first of Toi Rakiura Arts Trust’s visiting events for 2005.

Don’t miss Manic Opera - they sing like angels but their lyrics have a wicked punch.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Do you have a good supply of firewood stacked and drying for the winter? Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club has a good supply of firewood split ready for delivery.

\$50 per trailer load

Call Donn on 2191552 or Sinky on 2191045
The golf club wishes you all a very merry Christmas
and thank you for your support.

Stewart Island Community Centre Trust, announces:

Midge Marsden

Bullfrog Rata

The Undergators

Four hours of great Kiwi music – just \$20

Thursday 6th January 2005 at 8pm. Bar opens 7pm.

At the Stewart Island Community Centre

Ticket Sales: contact Centre Office 219 1477 or Alister Eade 219 1103

Stewart Islanders turn out for local body elections 2004.

Chris Visser

You might have read in the Southland Times that the general turnout for local body elections across the country was very low. Tim Shadbolt and Frana Cardno have been reported bemoaning the fact that "the only winner in local body elections 2004 was public apathy". This was not the case here on Stewart Island.

In 2001 local body elections eight people stood for the six seats on the Stewart Island Community Board. This year 12 people stood for Community Board. This alone shows that there is an increasing number of people on Stewart Island are willing and prepared to put their hands up and put their time and effort into our community. This is stark contrast to one community in Southland which doesn't actually have a functioning Community Board anymore because not enough people stood to even fill the seats available.

Across the Southland District the overall voter turnout of the 2004 local elections was 49.7%. On Stewart Island our overall voter turnout was 79.4%.

To compare 2001 with 2004;

52 ratepayer electors returned voting documents in 2001 elections as compared with 61 ratepayer electors returned voting documents in 2004 (that is 9 more "off Island" voters voted this time as opposed to last election)

220 residential electors returned voting documents in 2001 as compared with 223 residential electors returning voting documents in 2004 (that is, only three more residents of Stewart Island voted this year as opposed to last election)

So overall -- 12 more people voted in 2004 than in 2001. Clearly here on Stewart Island, while our numbers are low, in comparison with the mainland we are proportionally more interested in having a say on issues that affect us.

From personal point of view, I would like to thank all those who put their hand up and stood for the Community Board in these last elections. Any combination of any of the people who stood would have been a good Community Board. For those people who were unsuccessful this year - 2004 was quite a different 'race' to 2001. When I first got on the Community Board in 2001 I got on with 50 votes. This time I needed 131 votes to be on the Community Board - and everybody who stood this year got more votes than I did in 2001.

Our Community Board for the next three years is a diverse and strong bunch of people. With Ward Councilor Peter Goomes, Chairman Barry Rhodes and Deputy Chair Bruce Ford we are all looking forward to working together in the best interests of our community as a whole.

(Thanks to Lindsay Forbes, Electoral Officer Southland District Council for information regarding voter turnout)

Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre

On the 1st of December the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre saw in it's first birthday. A lot has happened over the course of this first year – the centre shared an environmental Green Ribbon Award from the Ministry for the Environment, the second allotment of prepaid refuse bags started being handed out in July, and the worm farm is already looking to expand to cope with the volume of foodscraps being collected.

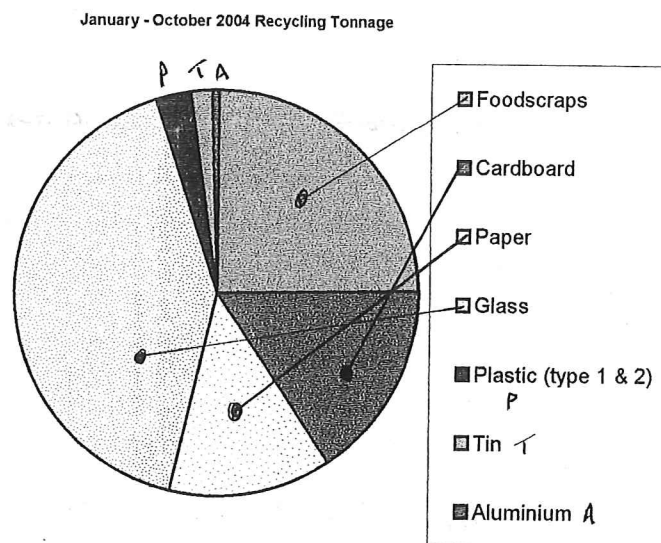
It has been an extremely busy year for the staff of the Centre with the start of a new business venture (in handling Waste and Recycling) - learning about recycling and worm farming, dealing with the high rainfall and shipping recyclables and refuse over to the mainland.

As well as the ups there have been some downs - reports of illegal dumping of greenwaste down banks have occurred despite the Resource Recovery Centre's facilities for handling greenwaste and the logistics of transporting waste off the island become even more difficult when there's rough weather and the boats aren't sailing.

On a more positive note it has been great to see the Centre's second-chance shed being put to good use. We've heard numerous success stories for example the 'old' mattresses from the DoC huts have been put to good use as insulation and cushions. The Council has received praise for the quality of workmanship shown by both David and Craig.

During the period of January to October the Island has produced over **116 tonnes of refuse** and **saved over 55 tonnes** of material from going to landfill. That equates to an estimated **32.4% diversion rate**. This is a great effort.

The graph below highlights the breakdown of recyclable material collected in the eleven months.



With the peak season already underway, the Council would like to remind visitors to the island of the new waste management system – Bin, Bucket, Bag.

Prepaid refuse bags can be purchased from the local stores and can be disposed of for **free** at the Resource Recovery Centre at Horseshoe Bay Road. There are public recycling bins at the Community Centre, Information Board and on the Wharf.

If you would like further information please contact Southland District Council, Waste Minimisation Coordinator on 218 7259 or email waste@southlanddc.govt.nz

Stewart Island's image destroyed by thoughtless actions

"Welcome to Stewart Island, New Zealand's third largest Island and 14th National Park. We hope you enjoy your stay on the Island and please ignore the rubbish illegally dumped at the public recycling bins on your right-hand side as you make your way into Oban. Thank you for sailing with us today, we hope you enjoyed the voyage" - is this the message you want visitors to Stewart Island to hear as they get off the ferry at Halfmoon Bay?

During October Contractors collected 18 black bags of refuse, 6 official prepaid bags of refuse, 7 coal bags of refuse, 2 fish bags of refuse, two 4 litres containers of waste oil, 6 empty containers and 1 fish bin from the public recycling bins at the wharf. The public recycling bins are for the collection of **Glass, Plastic (types 1 & 2) and Aluminium Cans** only. When rubbish is dumped here people are unable to get to the Recycling Bins for fear of stepping in illegally dumped rubbish.



The Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre is open 5 days a week from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. It is only closed on Sundays and Tuesdays. Prepaid refuse bags can be bought from the local stores and can be disposed of for free at the Resource Recovery Centre (Horseshoe Bay Road).

Southland District Council will prosecute anyone caught illegally dumping refuse (especially those people illegally dumping refuse at the public recycling bins on the wharf).

Come on Stewart Island - Keep it Clean!

Donna Peterson
Waste Minimisation Coordinator
Southland District Council
Phone: 03 218 7259
email: waste@southlanddc.govt.nz

Rakiura Museum

The trustees of Rakiura Museum are looking for additional volunteers to enable us to extend the hours of opening during summer. Anyone interested will find the short training period very easy to follow and the time there very rewarding.

For further information please contact:-

Lee Wadds Answer Phone 2191 271 or Loraine Hansen 2191 133

Christmas is an excellent time to acknowledge the help I receive from a wide range of people to ensure the Stewart Island News appears every month. Everyone listed goes out of their way to smooth the rocky path between my printer and the counter display at Ship to Shore.

Therefore, sincere thanks to:

Stewart Island Flights

Spitfire Shuttle

Craigs Printing Co (Melissa)

Ship to Shore (Jill, Richard, Wendy and Wayne)

And, of course, all the Stewart Islanders who send me their stories and articles every month.

Stewart Island's Drivers Need to Know Their Limits

By Jane Ballantyne, Road Safety Southland

Complaints about speeding drivers are not unusual but when they come from a peaceful, tranquil paradise like Stewart Island it comes as a bit of a surprise. In the last few weeks I have been fielding calls from Islanders worried about vehicles' speeds. Maybe the issue of speeding vehicles is becoming more pronounced with the growth of tourism and more people and traffic as a consequence.

There is no question that Stewart Island's driving environment has changed. It's now much busier and more challenging, a situation that is unlikely to change with the predicted boom in tourism. This makes it imperative that anyone who drives on the Island keeps their speed down and expects the unexpected.

Imagine you are about to drive down through Butterfield Beach. You motor down the hill a bit too fast. Not too fast though and besides you have driven this road plenty of times before. SUDDENLY a child appears in front of your vehicle and you are going too fast to stop in time.

If a child did step out in front of you, could you stop in time?

At 40kph it will take 35 metres to stop (provided your vehicle is in top mechanical condition).

At 50kph, **45 metres to stop.**

At 60kph, 65 metres to stop.

If a child steps out 45 metres away and the vehicle is travelling at 60kph, by the time the alert driver reacts and brakes, the car will still be travelling at 44kph when the child is hit. Research clearly shows there is a one in three chance the child will die and a 100% chance they will be seriously injured. This in itself is incentive enough to keep your speed down.

Think of your own child, a family member or a neighbour ... they are on the Island's roads too. Watch your speed and do your bit to ensure safe and happy Christmas motoring on Stewart Island.

VICTIM SUPPORT STEWART ISLAND (Gwen Neave – Co-ordinator)

Victim Support is a community based organization with trained volunteers available to assist all victims of accidents, crime and emergencies..

The volunteers are trained by professionals to help with people on an emotional and practical level. The service is free. Victim Support volunteers work closely with the local policeman and his replacements and must train to reach a standard acceptable to the regional organisers in Invercargill. Training includes sessions dealing with appropriate support for Court appearances of victims, sessions with Invercargill funeral directors regarding grief counseling, awareness of practices of different cultures, and learning of various Acts and Laws relating to victims' rights.

Victim Support workers are trained to deal with people in crisis situations. They will:

- Listen
- Help identify your support networks and needs
- Refer you if appropriate to other agencies
- **Be absolutely discreet and confidential** in their dealings with you.



Halfmoon Bay Cat Study

My name is Vanessa Wood and in 2005 I shall be studying towards an Honours degree in Zoology and Ecology at the University of Otago. As part of my degree I will be conducting a research project looking at the movements and diet of domestic cats in Halfmoon Bay – work that is being supported by your Department of Conservation (DOC) office and the Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust.

Oban appears to have a large and thriving population of domestic cats and many cat owners would be interested to learn more about how their cats move through and use the surrounding areas. The aim of my project is therefore to track the movements of a sample of domestic cats and to record the different types of prey that cats bring back to their homes. To be able to do this I need the support and permission of Oban residents to use their cats as study subjects.

There are three elements to my research:

- (1) A census of domestic cats currently in the Half Moon Bay area.
- (2) A record of the different types of prey (birds, mice etc) brought back by a large sample of domestic cats over the course of one year (2005). This will entail cat owners using a simple recording sheet I will provide to keep a record of the types of prey brought back home by their cats.
- (3) An assessment of the distance moved and areas used by domestic cats. To do this I will place a small radio-transmitting collar onto a sample of cats and then follow them over the course of 1-2 weeks as they range away from their home base. This component of my project will be completed during the month of February 2005 and may be conducted during both night and day.

By conducting this project I hope that I will be able to learn more about how domestic cats use their environment allowing an assessment of what, if any, impact domestic cats may be having on the rats, birds and other wildlife in the Halfmoon Bay region.

A survey form will be sent out in the next month that will enable you to participate in this exciting study. If you have any queries or concerns about any aspect of this work please feel free to contact me. Alternatively you can contact Brent Beaven (2190007), or my supervisor at Otago University, Dr Philip Seddon (03 479 7029).

Thank you for supporting this work.

Council News

Sewerage Scheme Extensions -All residents and non-resident ratepayers should have received a newsletter from the Southland District Council with the latest information on the sewerage scheme. If anyone missed out, please phone Michele Poole on 03 2149787.

The scheme has been given final approval for the 50% government subsidy. This, with the one sixth contribution from the Council, means that people connecting to the scheme during construction will only have to pay one third of the capital cost.

Connections which are arranged and paid for after the scheme is built will not qualify for the two-thirds subsidy. Connections will cost at least three times as much per pan. The capital contribution cost for subsequent connections will be assessed by taking the depreciated value of the total scheme (existing and extended) divided by the total number of connections (pan charges).

For this reason, land owners who will foreseeably require additional connections/pans anywhere within the area serviced by the existing and new parts of the scheme have been advised to purchase them in advance, at the subsidised rate.

However, paying for a connection in advance does not guarantee Council approval or support for any activity or land use the sewerage connection/pans may aid.

All necessary regulatory consents and approvals will still be required. Land-owners are also liable for all plumbing costs related to connecting their property to the scheme.

Applications for extra connections/pans must be received by the Council by 24 December 2004.

Plan Change Number 2 to the Southland District Plan relating to Stewart Island provisions of the Plan is progressing. Mr Alan Cubitt of Dunedin, the Hearing Commissioner, recently heard submissions.

He has prepared decisions on the matters raised in submissions and these should be released by the end of January.

Key measures proposed by way of this plan change, which was prepared following community workshops and in response to issues raised by the community, are:

- a specific Industrial Resource Area
- more stringent controls to protect indigenous vegetation
- more stringent controls on earthworks
- an expansion of the Urban Resource Area to provide further scope for urban development
- more stringent controls on non-residential development
- a new method of height control which reflects the rolling topography of many parts of the Island

Submitters have a right of appeal to the Environment Court if they are not happy with the decision made on their submissions. The Council's planning staff commented on the high quality of the submissions received and the interest shown in the process by members of the community.

Ridge Road

The much talked about and planned proposal for an alternate route along the ridge from Traill Road to Excelsior Road on Stewart Island is back on the drawing board. According to Cr Peter Goomes, the proposed route was determined way back in 1958. The land required for a road was gifted by landowners and the proposal sent to Wellington, where it drifted slowly and painfully into obscurity.

Now the Southland District Council's area officer for the island, Mark Browne, has been asked to revive the project. "Our plan is a proposal for discussion and all affected land owners will receive a letter in the new year with details of the proposed route," Mark says. There will be group and individual discussions with all affected parties, as well as a meeting for the general public.

The proposed road is an alternate route from that offered by Elgin Tce, which is prone to coastal storms that could eventually isolate residents.

The road is back under consideration at this time before any future development in the area prevents the road being formed on the most practical and cost effected route. "We are taking a proactive approach rather than wait for the time when something has to be done as a reaction to an emergency with little or no preparation work or consultation," Mark Browne says.

Ideally, the route would be designated a road reserve, followed by a staged construction over many years depending on funds – unless storm damage to Elgin Tce or other emergency forces swifter action. But if that happened, the public should already have been consulted and agreement reached over the proposal.

Community Board News

Since the elections, the Community Board has held three meetings. The first to swear in all members, a general meeting and a special meeting regarding the sewerage scheme. At the general meeting various issues were discussed or commented on by the staff of the Southland District Council. Some of these issues have been on-going and take time to be resolved, so they will continue to be addressed and updates from our Engineers Mark Browne and Sue Peterson will be provided.

These include Rankin Street, Ridge Road, street lighting, the quarry investigations and road safety. Another important decision at that meeting was to hold general meetings more frequently in the hope that some issues can be resolved a little more quickly for everyone concerned. At the special meeting on sewerage it was agreed that we endorse the Council's decision to proceed with the extension.

Later I attended a meeting of Community Board Chairs and at this meeting our attention was brought to several issues which could affect us all in the future. Many of these are either going to be forced on us by Government or the Council's obligation to adhere to the rules. Changes to the Building Act are of great concern as this will increase the overall costs to new buildings and renovations. New legislation regarding dogs is imminent and the obligations of accommodation providers to have the correct resource consent were all discussed, but not without dissent from some attendees.

After that meeting we had been invited to the Mayors Christmas BBQ to which the Chairpersons, Ward members and senior SDC staff were invited. Not only was it a great night but it also gave us a further opportunity to informally talk amongst ourselves and agree that, while each community in Southland is different and unique, we do have a lot of issues in common.

Barry Rhodes, Community Board Chairman



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School Gives New Life to Old Paper

Kari Beaven: Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

The Halfmoon Bay School students have been creating new sheets of paper and card from old waste paper as a part of a paper-recycling unit being run by the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust. The unit was designed by the Wastebusters Trust Canterbury to teach our next generation how to plan their own impact on the environment.

We learned about different types of paper, how new paper is created and how it becomes so white. We looked at different products on the market that use recycled paper, including cereal boxes, pamphlets and even toilet paper (made from recycled office paper - not old toilet paper scraps - to match the standards of hygiene and softness demanded by the buyer). These products are easy to choose by the "recycled" symbol on the packaging.

Recycling paper, as the students learned, uses 1/3 the energy required to make new paper from trees, and creates more 6x more jobs than land filling or burning the waste. Paper made from new timber uses 6x more electricity than using combinations of recycled pulp and plantation pine.

Finally, we were able to get into our own, hands-on paper-making. Many people, students, teachers and parents, were surprised to find how easy the new paper was to make. Old sheets were shredded, soaked overnight, put in a blender with lots of water, then tipped into a tub before being scooped out onto fly-wire screens. The excess water was absorbed with a sponge and the paper laid out to dry.

The children concentrated on plain sheets to start with but we soon learned that we can put glitter in the mix for sparkle, lavender for scent and use a fern frond or leaf to emboss an image onto the card before it dries. All in all it was a pretty good experiment, which brought back lots of school-day memories for parents.

SIRCET are running these units as a part of the Rakiura Environment Centre program, using funds from the Ministry for Environment. ■

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. If you wish to send a contribution, please email to sdovey@es.co.nz preferably as an MsWord™ attachment.

Short articles can be posted to the editor: Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

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If you wish to have this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island. For ten issues posted to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, the cost is \$25

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