

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

December 2012–January 2013

\$2.00

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Hope you all make it to the Stewart Island Community Christmas Party on 22 December. All are welcome: details on page 2.

The island has received some fun press recently including Food TV featuring Erica Donovan and Chook; Pearson cooking on Maori TV; Rob Emmett being clever with undaria; Vicki and friends in the Anchor ad, and *Kia Ora Magazine* (Air NZ in-flight read) had a nice write-up on Rakiura last month.

Congratulations to Storm and Rastus who raced motorbikes at the Burt Munro Challenge at Oreti Beach. Storm won Third overall in the Junior Solo 125 cc; Rastus won Second overall in the Post Classic pre-82.

I can't say I enjoyed being pregnant, but there were a few perks. One was wearing elastic waistband pants with impunity. Those days are over and I'm retiring my comfy trousers and purging the house of a heap more stuff including dozens of cloth nappies and lots of useful baby gear. So if you are an expectant mum check page 3 for some great deals on big belly and tiny bum items. All proceeds go to Rugrats so it's a win-win-win situation.

Finally, as wee Isla the Island Santa says (her squeals have been interpreted):

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
MUCH LOVE AND JOY TO
YOU ALL.**



Scattering of Sam

by Vicki Coats

After four years of residing at Barry's house, we decided it was probably time to scatter Sam

around the Island. (He would have been proud of our procrastination!). Sam's wish was to be dragged behind Billy in a paper bag until the arse gave out and he flew everywhere! This wasn't possible, alas, but we endeavoured to try and fulfill his wishes as closely as we could!

It wasn't a bad day out, everyone assembled promptly at 2pm at the Pavillion and jumped aboard the two Flight Centre vans with the stragglers being rounded up in Sinky's truck. First stop; off to the airfield. Waddsy got the hang of shaking Sam out of his box without inhaling most of him or scattering him over the onlookers! (after Bruce and Barry had managed to break in and release him!)

We toured round, going to Mapua Road, Lee Bay, Lonnekens and Observation Rock, all on Sam's route.

(Continued on page 12)

**INVERCARGILL
GLASS & MIRROR**



Retro-fit Double Glazing into Existing Homes

Professional tradesmen, friendly service

03 214-0918

Cnr Bill Richardson Drive and Fox Street

LETTERS

Yes the rumour is true I'm leaving the Island and moving to Christchurch to work building subdivisions. I'm off early January. As someone said to me "You have been living here for eleven years on holiday it's time to go back to work." LOL So true.

So I would like to thank you all for your support over those eleven years there are a lot of very nice people who live here and yes I will definitely miss the island. I will do my utmost to get back for as many holidays as I can maybe even move back — that I would like very much I have had a blast living here.

I would really like to thank all the people who have sponsored the Singles' Ball over the years all the helpers in front and behind the scenes. This would not have happened or been possible without your help so a big thank you to all.

But what about the Singles' Ball you say. We discussed this at the Lions and it still goes on. I will do what I can from Christchurch and the crew will do their bit here on the island. If you would like to be involved chat with Spragg, Jack or Mona. So keep those dancing shoes handy! There is a Singles' Ball page on Facebook have a looky.

Thank you all and stay safe.

Doug Beck

S.I.N. came today: as ever a good read. Yes of course there has to be a feasibility study before the great pest eradication gets under way, and I'll no doubt be dog tucker long before then. But it was good of you to print my brother Alex's feelings about his cats — though far too many of them cleared off into wilderness doing goodness knows what damage to birdlife while at the same time zapping rats — and not coming home. The paua history by Storm Stanley, and the not-for-the-squeamish gut intake/output notes, makes me wonder whether any Stewart Islanders still owns a pressure cooker? I used to go out in my dinghy, tie her to a bit of kelp, hop over the side and collect a couple of good sized specimens for breakfast. No pounding required: into the pressure-cooker they went with a cup of water, and when the gadget bobbed up they were done. Amid much hiss and pother I got the lid off, and the shellfish were then easily forked out of their shells whole, tender all over (except for the radula that had to be nicked out). I'd then chop up the paua and process it in one of those whizz gadgets, and fry the smooth-textured goo in a little oil till browned on both sides.

Unfortunately — aue, aue, whatapaka e — the coast here is now marine reserve, so even if I still had the stamina I couldn't help myself to a modest feed. But there must be parts of the Rakiura coast that aren't off-limits. *Bon appetit!*

Sheila Natusch

P.S. All power to the wood-burning stove!



CUPCAKE LADIES' GET TOGETHER.

Photos from Debs Dillon



STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY 3 pm, 22 DECEMBER COMMUNITY CENTRE

Order of events (ish!)

2pm set up tables, any help appreciated!

3pm Start!

4pm Shhh! Santa!

then craft table and carols

5pm Dinner

then Karaoke

Please feel free to invite all your guests, please advise of any kids (under 12) names that don't normally reside on the Island. Email me if you need a poster to print out.

Please BYO drinks, there will be free tea and coffee, and cordial for the kids
Please bring a plate for a cold buffet dinner that is ready to go; doesn't need heating or preparing so people don't get stuck in the kitchen!

Be prepared to have a go at karaoke; you're welcome to mime if you don't want to sing!

Vicki stewartisland@xtra.co.nz

MATERNITY AND BABY GEAR

This is \$1,000 worth of stuff all being sold for the Best Offer I get by January First

If the best offer I get is \$5 then that's what it will sell for!

If you want it now there's a "Buy Now" option too.

Make your offer by New Year's Day.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO RAKIURA RUGRATS

CHANGE TABLE

Looks pretty much like the one pictured here. Includes cushy mat.

BUY NOW \$175 Or Best Offer

18 COTTON AND MUSLIN SWADDLING WRAPS

BUY NOW \$30 OBO

MEDELA SWING BREAST PUMP

Plus bottle and storage bags

BUY NOW \$180 OBO

28 CLOTH NAPPIES

Fuzzy Bunz, Pea Pods, My Baby

Each includes two inners. All you will need to keep your baby in cloth nappies until potty training! These cost between \$5 and \$10 EACH in shops! This is an amazing deal. I'll throw in a heap of liners for free.

BUY NOW \$100 OBO

ROCKING CHAIR

Wooden and wicker with tie-on cushions. Rock-a-bye baby to sleep...

BUY NOW \$100 OBO

PHIL AND TED'S WRIGGLE WRAP

Use as safety seat or in cot to keep baby on back or for safe sleeping while travelling. We used this heaps with Mo it was really useful.

BUY NOW \$30 OBO

MATERNITY CLOTHES & BREASTFEEDING TOPS AND BRAS

Mummy Matters, Old Navy, Hot Milk, La Leche League, and the best ever pair of "For All Mankind" preggy jeans from Pea in the Pod in NYC. Heaps of cute tops.

Jeans and corduroys. Sizes Small & Medium

BUY NOW \$300 for the lot OBO

(will sell individual items if you like)

ORGANIC BABY FOOD

(I over ordered and Charlie's no longer interested)

18 jars organic baby food: lasagne and rice pudding. Yum.

BUY NOW \$15 OBO

BOOKS: Mayo Guide to Healthy Pregnancy and What to Expect the First Year

BUY NOW \$5 OBO

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO RAKIURA RUGRATS!

MAKE YOUR OFFER BY JANUARY FIRST. WELCOME TO COME BY AND SEE.

THIS IS A HUGE BARGAIN FOR YOU ON INVALUABLE BABY GEAR with no extra cost for shipping to Island, all in good condition, *and* your purchase will help support Ruggies!

SO DON'T HESITATE, MAKE AN OFFER or BUY NOW

contact Jess at 367 or editor@stewart-island-news.com



Gardens of Southland

Gardening and Garden visiting has increased exponentially in New Zealand. Southland has many beautiful public and private gardens. Many of these gardens are featured on various websites and publications. A group of garden owners have got together and addressed this gap and have set up a garden website <http://southlandgardens.co.nz>.

At present we have 18 gardens on the website but we are looking for more gardens to be involved. We are looking for a diverse group of gardens from small city gardens to large country gardens, formal, informal, quirky, native or exotic. The area that they would like to cover includes: Gore, Winton, Riverton, South Catlins, Stewart Island and the areas in between. The main criteria being that you would be available by appointment for people to visit your garden, be available for two open weekends one in Spring and one in Autumn. If you are interested in this project we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Lynne Huggins 03 214 1796 southlandgardenstovisit@gmail.com

Stewart Islanders 'Wise Up to Weeds'

by Gail Jefferies

Locals took advantage of recent workshops to get skilled up on the weeds that could become problematic and potentially threaten the national park.

Earlier this month, Environment Southland held two 'Wise Up To Weeds' workshops on Stewart Island. The workshops were designed to help locals identify the weeds in their gardens that have the potential to 'jump the fence' and impact on Rakiura/Stewart Island.

Biosecurity Pest Plants Officer Amy Lagerstedt and Environmental Education Coordinator Nikki Tarbutt facilitated the workshops. Amy then continued her annual monitoring and control work of *Gunnera* on Stewart Island during the following week.

After gathering as many weedy samples as possible, the first workshop was with the senior students from Halfmoon Bay School on the Friday afternoon. Students tested their weed identification skills first, then in pairs, selected their favourite weed to report back on to the group. It was really impressive that most of the class identified *Gunnera* (Chilean Rhubarb) and knew about the eradication programme for *Gunnera* on Rakiura/Stewart Island.

On Saturday a keen bunch of residents attended another workshop. The two hour session flew by as participants identified weeds and learnt appropriate control methods. Having examples of the weeds made this more meaningful, as everyone could look at their size and shape, and how woody or vine-like the weeds were.



Some participants were surprised by how many weeds were in their own backyards or just down the road. It was encouraging to hear that one participant plans to be 'more vigilant and energetic' with respect to weeds, and another wants to get rid of Indian Knot Weed. The feedback showed that everyone went away with an increased awareness and knowledge about weeds.

The specially produced *Wise up to Weeds* identification guide was well received by the participants, many taking a copy for their neighbours and family members. If you would like a copy of this identification guide or want to report the presence of a *Gunnera* plant on Rakiura/Stewart Island, please contact Environment Southland by emailing service@es.govt.nz or telephoning 0800 7688 45.

**STEWART ISLAND
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

by Kirsten Hicks

Next time you are passing bring your kids into the Library to test drive our new child sized stripey & dotted bean bags – just the perfect thing for our smaller visitors to curl up in.

No matter what our rather damp weather might be doing, Ally Eade’s efforts with the heating system should mean we can now enjoy a constant 21 degrees. Thank you Mr Eade!

The Library will be closed over the Christmas break. Last day for issues is Saturday 22nd December. I’ll be open again on Friday 4th January 2013. Returns can be made at any time through the slot in the wall nearest the school. The APNK wifi is up and running 24/7 so all our visitors can keep in touch with family, and the world at large over Christmas.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank volunteers Pat King & Jenny Gell for their hard work & support this year. Because of their efforts, the popular Saturday morning session is possible. Also thank you and happy holidays to all our readers (& computer users, & jigsaw enthusiasts, & talking book listeners...).

My cup runneth over.

Thank you so much to everyone who makes the *Stewart Island News* happen and thrive.

THANK YOU to

- Stewart Island Flights for bringing SIN here
- Ship to Shore for selling SIN
- The Pub and Bunkhouse Theatre who are also now selling SIN
- Margaret Hopkins for doing the banking and paperwork and offering advice and support
- Jamie of Southland Trader, our new printer
- Joe, and Chris and Steve who help me with my computer issues and nobly try to keep straight faces during my idiotic prattle about my computer problems
- Kari who makes herself available to edit if I can’t
- Everyone who contributes photos, articles, ideas, criticism
- All the people who buy ad space
- All the people who buy subscriptions
- All the readers who send lovely notes
- Everyone who drops coins in the box at the Shop
- Finally, to the endless source of inspiration and tales small tall and wonderful all: Stewart Island.

*Sincerely from Jess
SIN Editor*



Scene from a Lions' Club meeting: Mona, Sinky, Doug and Jack. This picture begs the question: WHAT IS JACK DOING??? And the other question: DO WE REALLY WANT TO KNOW?? Photo from Vicki

Quiz night

now has a new website:

www.stewartislandquiz.co.nz


and

new T-shirts available from the Flight Centre, ideal for Xmas!


We're always wanting ideas on where we can spend the money too, just let us know!



Eco Bottle



Rakiura Rugrats



5 Groovy Colours

Food Grade Colour Coated Stainless Steel
BPA Free
Dishwasher Safe, Odour Free and Recyclable
Capacity - 750 ml

Only \$20 each

Available for sale at Ship to Shore

Rugrats (Stewart Island Early Childhood Centre) Fundraiser,
Support Local and Help the Environment

St Andrews Anglican Church

Christmas Services



Monday 24th December, Traditional Midnight Carol Service, Commences 11.45pm
Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day Service, 10AM, (30 minutes)

Voluntary Offering both services to the Priests Discretionary Fund (Comfort in Crises)
All welcome. Transport can be arranged

Regular Services 4th Sunday each Month



Officiating Priest shared between
Rev Airdry Dyson Leask
 and a visiting Priest from All Saints
 Church, Gladstone

Rev A. Dyson Leask
 Iris Tait, Warden

Stewart Island Community Vision Workshop Saturday 20 October 2012 1.30pm – 7pm

40 community members gathered with some curiosity around what could be the vision for our community. Trying to develop a clear community vision for the island is important, not only to ensure that we are all on the same page, but also to present a united voice to any external organisation (for whom what we want isn't as obvious as the nose on your face) who may be making decisions that affect how we live on this island.

The workshop group discussed hopes and dreams, shaped a draft vision, gathered ideas on how to get there and formed a commitment to continue working on the vision with the community and to establish a road map for action.

The room included displays from local children on their favourite things about the Island, and wishes from 35 community members (collated prior to the workshop).

The buzz on arrival moved to focused conversations. Helen (the external facilitator) introduced the session and Kath (the school principal) gave opening thoughts. In the discussions many common themes and points of difference were found. The discussion centred around three questions:

- **What connects us to the Island?**
- **What do we most like about this Island?**
- **What is the future we want for our island?**

After much discussion, a picture started to emerge around Stewart Island being a place of strong identity, proud of our diversity and uniqueness, where there is a:

- Safe and connected inclusive community
- Sustainable environment which supports our community
- Stable, diverse employment and healthy economy
- Locally controlled change

Venture Southland has written some draft notes from the workshop that will help shape the "vision" for the island. These draft notes are available from any of us on request if you want to catch up in more detail on the outcomes of the workshop. In the meanwhile, we need a group of people to come together and take all of the ideas from the workshop and help shape them into something that this community can use. If this appeals to you and you would like to be involved, then please contact one of us.

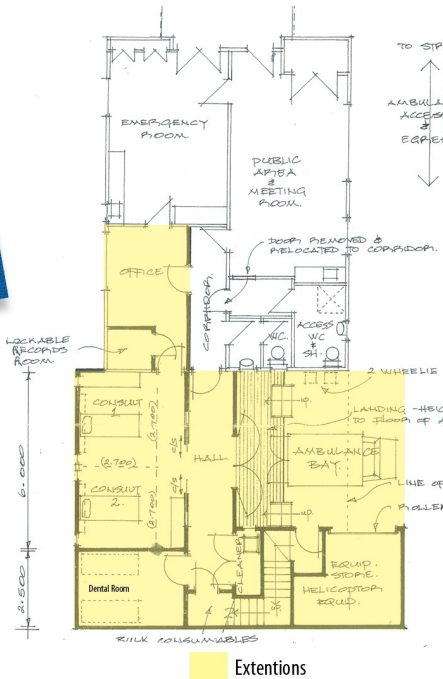
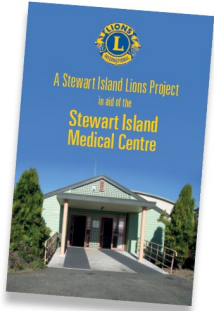


Thankyou to everyone who gave some of their time at the workshop, thanks to Emmerson Group for a very discounted professional facilitation service, to Juanita from Venture Southland and a big thankyou to the Community Trust of Southland for supporting this initiative.

Brent, Kari, Gwen, Di, Anita, Jill, Sharon.

Stewart Island Passports

Stewart Island Health Clinic proposed alterations



By purchasing a Stewart Island passport you are supporting these proposed alterations.

Passports \$3.00

Or 2 for \$5.00

(Donations gladly accepted)

Passports kindly sponsored by Stewart Island Lions Club

New Stewart Island Passport Stewart Island Health Clinic Fund Raiser

The Stewart Island Health Committee is committed to raising funds towards the proposed alterations and extensions of the clinic.

The Stewart Island Lions Club have kindly supported us by resurrecting their original S I Passport for this purpose and have donated the first 1000 passports.

The new version is credit card size so it fits easily in your wallet or purse and is made from teslin synthetic non rip card.

It is hoped islanders and visitors to the island will get behind this project and buy one for themselves and more for friends and family! ALL proceeds go to the extensions.

Great as a gift or stocking filler. They will be available at

Ship to Shore
S I Flights

Stewart Island Ferry Terminal
Also available on the
Stewart Island Events page on Facebook
and Trade Me

1 for \$3 or 2 for \$5



Thanks everyone for your valued custom this year and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013.

Megan

The Fernery - Gallery & Gift Shop

DOC Spot

Submitted by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor



Merry Christmas

Christmas and the New Year are almost here and the team at DOC would like to wish everyone a wonderful festive season. We hope that you can all find time to rest, relax and take enjoyment from having a national park literally right on your back doorstep. For those hosting visitors over the holidays, please let them know that the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre will be open everyday throughout the holiday break, apart from Christmas Day, and staff will be only too happy to meet them and answer any queries they may have. The field centre office however will be closed from 4.30pm on the 21st December through until 8am on the 7th January, so things like fire permits will not be available during this period...

DOC / Air New Zealand Partnership

There has been a great deal of media interest in the Rakiura Track, and the island in general, since our Great Walk celebrated its 20th anniversary in November. That interest is likely to increase over the coming months as Air New Zealand releases more details about the partnership it has entered into with the Department and will hopefully have spin-offs for local businesses. As well as marketing the Great Walks as premier visitor destinations, the airline has provided a significant level of funding for biodiversity projects around some of these walks, including the Rakiura Track. Projects here are to include dune restoration, kiwi monitoring, a predator trapping programme and some species translocations. We have recently distributed information about this partnership to residents, however if you did not receive a copy and would like one, please feel free to pop into the visitor centre to collect one – or email [stewartis-](mailto:stewartis-landfc@doc.govt.nz)

landfc@doc.govt.nz and we will forward you a copy.

Clean-up effort by Geraldine High

Recently 25 students from Geraldine High School and 9 adults headed off on their annual school tramp on the North West Circuit. As part of their environmental education they learnt about the way currents move flotsam lost from boats or washed out to sea around the world and the effects on sea life. While at Mason Bay, the students undertook a massive clean-up at Duck Creek finding a huge variety of items from bits of old rope to light bulbs. Thanks to their efforts, three fadges were filled and removed. Well done, Geraldine High School."

Volunteers to boost conservation effort

Over the coming summer we will be joined by a small number of long term volunteers. These enthusiastic and committed people will be with us for 2-3 months each. They will be integrated into our biodiversity and visitor asset programmes to help us with this work. They will also spend a portion of their time helping SIRCET. We aim to provide them with a variety of practical work experiences as well as have them take away some great memories of their time spent on the island. They will be housed in DOC accommodation in the village, if you see them around the bay please make them feel welcome.

Delivery Project update

Permanent staff based on Stewart Island / Rakiura travelled across to Bluff on the Hananui earlier this month to attend a briefing in Invercargill about the Department's Delivery Review. The review aims to develop a new, effective and efficient, future focussed operating model for conservation delivery that:

- Supports the achievement of DOC's vision and outcomes
- Helps DOC achieve more conservation through working with others

- Ensures we have a consistent operating model based on best practice
 - Delivers cost savings
- A number of different models are currently under consideration, each of which would result in significant changes to the way DOC is structured. How this will affect staffing on Stewart Island in the future is still very much an unknown at this stage; however staff are endeavouring to support each other and achieve what has been set in this year's work plans.

Other items in brief:

- Improved venting has been installed on the Ulva Island toilets and sewage removal has just been completed from various front country sites.
 - Possum control has been undertaken around the Traill's Hill Block and monitoring of this work is currently underway. The contractor will be carrying out control around the forest block on the northern side of the Mason Bay to Freshwater track over the month.
 - Weed work continues around the village, with local resident Jamie Adams hired on a temporary contract to undertake the selaginella work.
 - The biodiversity team have carried out weed work at Smoky and West Ruggedy and over the next few months will check the remaining northern beaches for weeds.
 - Regular 10-day field trips into Mason Bay to carry out Marram control and other weed work will continue over the summer.
 - Volunteer hut rangers will be in residence at Port William and Mason Bay huts through until Easter.
- A restricted fire season has been imposed by the Southern Rural Fire Authority, which means a fire permit is required for all fires in the outdoors, apart from BBQs. DOC issues fire permits on behalf of the SRFA, here on Stewart Island, so please be sure to contact the Department well in advance if you require a permit as these can only be issued by staff who have been designated Rural Fire Officers.



It's not all saving Kiwi and cuddling Kakapo when you work for DOC - there can be some real shitty days ...

Christmas Dinner at Church Hill Restaurant & Oyster Bar

Cost: \$75 per person

Time: 12.30

Traditional Kiwi Xmas dinner buffet style with everyone together at one sitting as family and friends.

More details on www.churchhill.co.nz under 'events'

Church Hill Restaurant & Oyster Bar

Deanne and Chris Sara



Most of you will know Deanne from her past time on the Island, establishing Church Hill Cafe. Chris however is not as well-known and likewise not as familiar with most of you so that is a good place to start. Chris was an engineer before coming to the Island to start a new life with Deanne to re-establish Church Hill, this time as Church Hill Restaurant & Oyster Bar. He has a mechanical engineering background and is originally from the West Coast. He once, many years ago, worked in a fish and chip shop and a souvlaki shop. Apart from that he had no experience in the food industry, but after all Deanne has enough experience for them both.

Deanne and Chris met in Lyttelton, Christchurch, mid-2010, and by February 2011 were living together in Lyttelton. They were happily entrenched in life for around 3 weeks before the February 22nd earthquake turned everything and everyone upside down, figuratively and literally. The earthquake had nothing to do with their return to the Island however. It was inspired by a trip back to Stewart Island in the New Year 2012. Deanne wanted to see the restaurant and catch up with friends to see how things were going. After seeing the restaurant and with the lease due to end mid-year 2012 they started to talk about the option of returning and re-establishing Deanne's dream from so many years passed. The rest is history now, the lease expired, they returned and rebuilt the restaurant.

Thirteen years since first opening the restaurant it was due for a refit. New gear and sprucing up was required and a planned opening day of labour weekend was set. In between their return in July were a pre-planned African trip and a wedding. This of course was all to fit around the refurbishing of Church Hill. That brings you up to where Deanne and Chris are now at.

Overall the restart has gone well. There were a lot of long days and nights working to rebuild the restaurant and they really appreciate those of you who have helped in making things happen. Since opening there have been even longer days and nights. They have had their usual issues with a new enterprise but have, and continue to, work them out and above all not let them get in the way of the plan; great food, great company, and all based around local and homemade products.

It is being part of a great community that made the decision to return an easy choice. They look forward to being part of Rakiura life and community and for Chris especially he looks forward to getting to know everyone.

They look forward to contributing to the experience of the visitors and the locals and giving everyone another option for their entertainment.

So you know where they are, on the hill next to the Church, the food is still the great cooking Deanne built the place on and they both look forward to your company.



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

These beautiful festive arrangements are from the Floral Display in November by Jill Jones (Matt's Mum).



Halfmoon Bay School

The following Halfmoon Bay School students have had success at **Southern Zone level** (7 schools/ over 600 students) and **Southland level** during 2012:

Southern Zone Athletic Sports:

Keisha Wright - 2nd, 100m; 3rd, 60m

Winiata Edwards - 1st, 100m; 3rd, 60m

Billy Check - 1st, long jump & 60m; 2nd 100m; Champion 8 Years Boys

Timu Moxham - 2nd, long jump & shot put

Sophie Conner - 2nd, discus; 3rd, shot put

Jahdan Sooalo - 1st, discus; 2nd in 100m, high jump & shot put

8 year old boys 4x100m relay - 3rd (Billy & Jamie Check, Winiata Edwards, George Conner)

Southern Zone Swimming Sports:

Year 3&4 25m breaststroke - 3rd, George Conner

Year 5&6 50m freestyle - 3rd, Storm LeQuesne

Year 7&8 50m breaststroke - 2nd, Jahdan Sooalo

Southern Zone Cross Country:

9 years boys - 1st, Billy Check

6 years boys - 2nd, Tyler Dawson

6 years girls - 2nd, Sarah Taiaroa

Southern Zone Soccer Tournament:

Year 1&2 Section - 1st, Halfmoon Bay

Qualified for Southland Primary Schools Athletic Sports: (to qualify you must be placed top two from your zone + meet qualifying standards)

Keisha Wright - 60m

Winiata Edwards - 100m

Billy Check - 60m, 100m, long jump

Timu Moxham - shot put

Jahdan Sooalo - high jump, shot put, discus

Southland Primary Schools Swimming Sports: (top 8 receive finalists ribbons)

Storm LeQuesne - 1st, freestyle; 3rd, backstroke; 5th, breaststroke

Angus Kenny - 3rd breaststroke; 6th, freestyle

George Conner - 3rd, breaststroke; 5th, backstroke

Billy Check - 5th, freestyle; 7th, backstroke

Southland Social Studies Fair:

Year 5&6 Section - 3rd, Storm LeQuesne

Year 5&6 Section - merit, Sophie Conner

Year 7&8 Section - merit, Jahdan Sooalo

Other Cultures Section (open) - merit, Angus Kenny

Southland Science Fair:

Year 5&6 section - Soroptimists award & merit, Sophie Conner

Southland Primary Schools Speech Competition:

Round 1 (HMB School only) - 1st, Billy Check; 2nd, Sophie Conner

Round 2 - 1st, Billy Check

Round 3 - 1st, Billy Check

Southland Final - 2nd, Billy Check



Rakiura Track celebrates 20 years as Great Walk

This week the Department of Conservation celebrates the 20th anniversary of the official opening of Stewart Island's Rakiura Track as a Great Walk, the southern-most of New Zealand's iconic walking tracks.

Numbering nine in total country-wide, the Great Walks draw thousands of domestic visitors and international tourists annually. Last summer, over 2700 people walked the Rakiura Track, with almost half of these being New Zealanders.

Stewart Island/Rakiura Field Centre Supervisor, Sharon Pasco, is effusive about the popularity of the Great Walk. "Over the years it's been great to see the track develop. Since we have been included in the nation-wide booking system, lots more people have been coming to the island and enjoying walking the track."

"It's wonderful to see families and groups of visitors here and the big advantage is, they can do the walk at any time of year."

CONGRATULATIONS LIBBY BAYNE!

Libby has recently raced in the Southland Secondary School Champs Under 17 where she was awarded a gold overall, as a gold in the scratch and derby and a second in the time trial. She then raced last weekend in the Southland Champs as an U19 where she won a bronze in the time trial.

She has just received notice that she has been selected to ride in the Elite and U19 Nationals for Southland at the end of January, which is great news yet means lots of training....



THE ISLAND BEAT

Reported Crime:

Between the 10th and 17th of November a 15 Metre length of medium Stud length chain weighing about a Tonne has been taken from the drive of Island Transport. A considerable amount of effort has been used to load and unload the chain by hand. This chain has large links and was going to be used for a mooring. If you took this chain or know who took it give Police a call.

Traffic:

A one hour walk around check on island vehicles this month resulted in the following warnings being issued:

- Expired Warrant of fitness x 13
 - Expired Licence labels x 4
 - Outside Mileage stated on Road user Licence x 3
- Wrong class of licence x 1

The number of licensed vehicles and the road worthy standard of vehicles has improved over the last four years. However as above my 'unofficial' warning (compliance) system appears not to be effective in improving road safety.

So from next month (January 2013) I will be using the official **traffic compliance** system that the rest of NZ uses.

What is traffic compliance?

Traffic compliance is an alternative to paying a traffic infringement fine or prosecuting for minor offences that fall within the qualification criteria.

It involves waiving a prosecution if the (owner or driver) supplies evidence to Police, through the **Police Infringement Bureau (PIB)** that a defect has been remedied or a requirement has been met. Traffic compliance allows the (owner driver) to redirect the fine that would have been payable, into fixing the faults or problems that caused the offence.

Who can offer traffic compliance?

Constables and authorised officers issuing an infringement offence notice (ION) have the discretion to offer traffic compliance subject to the qualification criteria.

The relevant Qualifying Criteria are:

- **Warrant of fitness:** Expired by up to one month, Ticket issued and 14 days to comply. No compliance offered if expired over 1 x month.
- **Vehicle licensing:** Expired less than 12 months, Ticket issued and 14 days to comply. No compliance offered if expired over 12 months.

Minor Vehicle defects: Ticket issued 14 days to correct fault. (For full list of qualifying criteria ask police)

Ayr Street Boat park

The council has asked police to 'Police' vehicles parked in front of boats in the rental boat parks in Ayr Street (across from Island transport). Complaints have been received from boat owners not being able to get to their boats.

Note parking tickets will be issued to any vehicle parked between the no parking signs in front of the boat parks.

Found Property:

Police are currently holding the following items of found property:

- A set of Binoculars found on Ulva Island early last month.
- A quantity of Money Found near the school early this month.

If you think these items may be yours give police a call.

Christmas/New Year celebrations: Catherine and I wish Islanders a safe and happy Christmas/New year.

D.C. JENKINS

Halfmoon Bay School Prize giving
19th December 2012

Cross Country Champion – Junior (cup)	Tyler Dawson
Cross Country Champion – Intermediate (cup?)	George Conner
Cross Country Champion – Senior (cup)	Billy Check
Junior Swimmer of the year (cup)	Tommy Dobbins
Senior Swimmer of the year (cup)	Storm LeQuene
Newton Cup for Most Improved Junior Swimmer (cup)	Tyler Dawson
Hansen Cup for Most Improved Senior Swimmer (cup)	Harry Hamilton
HMB School Athletics Champion – Senior (cup?)	Billy Check
HMB School Athletics Champion – Junior	Dayton Cripps
Robin Andrews Memorial Cup for Technology (cup)	Sophie Conner
Waddell Cup for Academic Improvement (cup)	Timu Moxham/ Angus Kenny
HMB School Certificate for Academic Improvement (Y 1-3)	Kahu Moxham
HMB School Certificate for Achievement in English (Y 4-8)	Timu Moxham
HMB School Certificate for Achievement in Mathematics (Y 4-8)	Jack Dobbins
HMB School Certificate for Academic Achievement (Y 1-3)	Jamie Check
Contribution to Performing Arts (cup)	Sophie Conner
Inter-School Speech Trophy (cup)	Billy Check
Manda Trophy for Best All-Round Netball Player (cup)	Marley Wright
NZ Police Junior Citizenship Award(cup)	Summer Thompson
Nicol-Meads Citizenship Award (cup)	Caleb Marsh
HMB School Cup for General Excellence (cup)	Sophie Conner

Stewart
Island
Senior
Citizens



Winners of the Christmas raffle:

- 1st Joy & Andrew Knowles
- 2nd Grim
- 3rd Ann Dickens

A huge thanks goes to:

Jon and Sinky for selling ALL the raffle tickets
 School children for their cards, biscuits and singing.
 Judy Cronin for the Christmas cake
 Raylene for her *amazing grace*
 The hotel staff for the mighty feast (including Gavascon)
 Peter and Penny for the generous offer of a showing of "A Locals Tail"

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Jed also has a pretty good wood working workshop, arc welding gear and experience in construction and automation. So if you have an interesting project requiring a wide range of skills give me a call.

Ph/fax 03 2191494 Please leave a message. PO Box 123, Stewart Island



(SCATTERING OF SAM Continued from page 1)

A quick scatterby of Stewart Island Travel was in order too. After a great tour, pointing out various places where Sam had come unstuck years past, we retired back to the Pavillion with a seriously lighter box.

We had a few wines and beers and nibbly food to sustain us through the afternoon, culminating on Billy the Bus with a bottle of whiskey. Aussie Pete was in the driving seat for that; it's just as well Billy doesn't go anymore!

Thanks to everyone for turning up, Sam would have been proud!

—Vicki Coats



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Takahē birthday celebration launches chick naming competition

On the 20th November, 64 years ago Dr Geoffrey (DOC) Orbell, crouching behind a tussock high in the Murchison Mountains of Fiordland, excitedly identified a bird which had been presumed

extinct for 50 years – the takahē.

As part of a day celebrating the survival of the takahē, Mitre 10 Takahē Rescue has launched a nation-wide takahe chick naming competition.

The competition is open to all members of the public and every entry goes into the draw to win a camping prize pack from Mitre 10 worth \$200.

To enter visit the Mitre 10 Takahē Rescue Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Mitre10TakaheRescue





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Happy 25th Anniversary to Matt and Jules from your Island friends. We are so very glad you got to stay here. *PHOTO from Megan Cowley*

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford

“A Song of Ice & Fire” by George R.R. Martin – holiday reading!

I can't review this complex series of books properly – it's too, well, *complex*! I have been loaned the whole series to date: “A Game of Thrones”, “A Clash of Kings” and “A Storm of Swords” - in two parts, “Steel & Snow” and “Blood & Gold”. I didn't watch the TV version of Game of Thrones, not wanting to *watch* the end before I'd *read* it – however, I've been told that parts of the script and characters were compromised. I can't imagine any TV production being able to capture the strengths of this series anyway. But I do want to encourage you to read something completely different, even if blood and guts and fantasy are not your thing, because this is powerful writing with intimately drawn characters.

Because of the clever writing, it is difficult to distinguish if there are actual villains amongst the major characters, most are fighting literally and figuratively for what they see as right. Most fight with or for honour, they are knights, lords and ladies, a middle-class of merchants, skilled people like armourer or blacksmith, and at the bottom of the heap are the Smallfolk – the labourers, field hands, servants. It is medieval in tone, fantastic in make-up. It features countries that don't exist, but have a curious affinity with the Northern Hemisphere: cold in the North, warm in the South, exotic in the east, and oriental-sounding names from the furthest known eastly lands.

The principle family in the first book is the Starks of Winterfell, a northern province, led by Lord Eddard (Ned) Stark and his Lady Catelyn. The Stark children are 14-year old Robb (Ned's heir), younger sisters Sansa and Arya, little brother Brandon, toddler Rickon, and - equally important to the story - elder half-brother, Jon Snow. The country is ruled over by Rob-

ert Baratheon (a Henry VIII figure), and amoral and conniving Queen Cersei. In the most northerly mapped part of this country is The Wall – a monstrous wall of ice, beyond which live monstrous “things” (look, I can't tell you – it would spoil the story!). The Wall is guarded by the Night's Watch, a sinister company of men composed of men who might people a monastery, and for the same reasons - ranging from criminal complicity through to broken hearts, and with similar vows. Across the Narrow Seas, is a girl - Daenerys Stormborn Targaryen (called Dany for which I'm grateful), last of a line of people who are traditionally tied in to the world of dragons – extinct now of course. Yeah, right. She's married off to Khal Drogo, and is the strongest, most clear-sighted, most determined of all the people we have met to date (one of the serious script errors in the TV series apparently – this fiery character was depicted woodenly or blandly).

Book 2, “A Clash of Kings” was even more bloody, gruesome and tense – and even more enjoyable. I am going to have to start “A Storm of Swords” soon as I can't wait to know ‘what happens next’ – and if that isn't the mark of good writing, I don't know what is. It's as far from my usual definition of “a good read” as you can get, and yet I'm caught up in it all. And if you think it sounds too far-fetched and gruesome for you, let me tell you, persevere! It's my Pick of 2012 – I'm enjoying every complex chapter, (though it's a relief to leave the tension for short periods and turn to John Galsworthy's “Maid in Waiting”, a piece of 1920's whimsy with shades of Downton Abbey). Go on – try it this summer - if we ever get one.

Meanwhile, Merry Christmas to all, including our esteemed Editor, and may Santa bring you books! See you in the New Year with an update on A Song of Ice & Fire. And other stories.

Shop Talk

by Jules Retberg

The Follicle Chronicles - Yo Bro, how's your Mo?

A glance around the township recently may have had you wondering if the 1970s pop group "The Village People" were plotting to get back together. Not so. November is rapidly becoming known as 'Movember' and men all over the world are encouraged to grow their moustache (or 'mo') for a good cause. In doing so they raise money and awareness for mens' health issues, particularly prostate cancer and depression.

Five of our finest fuzz-free blokes bristled for the challenge to grow their Mo!



1. Graham Cowley proudly sports his handlebar moustache.
2. Chris Dawson displays his top lip topiary at Fire Brigade training.
3. Ty Jenkinson models an official Movember style, the "Undercover Brother".
4. Matt Jones shows off the handlebar moustache & mirrored-shades combo.

Unfortunately there's no photographic evidence of James Ware's moustachioed moniker, but well done to all for entering into the spirit of Movember and to those that sponsored them.

Thank you to everyone who bought a Movember raffle ticket at the Ship to Shore which raised a whisker over \$200 for the Cancer Society of New Zealand.

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*Condolences to the family of
Micky Squires.
Our love and prayers are with his daughter
Michelle.*



*This Holiday Season,
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keeps on giving...
a subscription to the
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Now We Are Six by A. A. Milne

When I was one,
I had just begun.
When I was two,
I was nearly new.
When I was three,
I was hardly me.
When I was four,
I was not much more.
When I was five,
I was just alive.
But now I am six,
I'm as clever as clever.
So I think I'll be six
now and forever.

Collection for Southland Disadvantaged Children

We would be grateful for donations of
Pre-loved or new Toys & Books,
Hamper at Stewart Island Flights
until Mid-December

Iris Tait,
Warden,
St Andrews Church

Are you pregnant,
or a new mum,
or know someone who is?

Check page 3
for some
incredible deals on
maternity and baby gear!

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