

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January 2023

\$4.00



MEDIA RELEASE
Boaties looking forward to using new Bluff boat ramp
[First released] Friday, 23 December 2022 /Rāmere, 23 Hakihea, 2022

After several years of travelling elsewhere to sail, Southland Trailer Yacht Squadron life member Colin McDonald is looking forward to sailing in Bluff Harbour once again.

The current boat ramp at Bluff, which was once all-weather, all-tide, has deteriorated and is no longer suitable for him to launch his yacht from so he mostly travels to Te Anau when he wants to take his boat out. Invercargill City Council committed in its Long Term Plan to upgrade the Bluff Boat Ramp as part of the Bluff Tourism Masterplan, which also includes the Bluff Hill Motupōhue Active Recreation Precinct.

McDonald, along with several other boat enthusiasts, is assisting the Invercargill City Council with designs for a new ramp and floating pontoons in place of the current ramp at Bluff.

Plans are coming together to build a new boat ramp and two floating pontoons either side that will be able to withstand all weather, including the howling westerly winds that often obstruct boaties coming into Bluff Harbour.

Council has engaged with the Bluff community, Bluff Yacht Club, Recreational Fishermen and Southland Trailer Yacht Squadron to determine the needs of users and the design that would best fit everyone using it. McDonald said it was important to get the opinion of people who will actually use the facility, to get it just right.

“It’s about getting boats out of the water safely. It’s not so much of a problem for powerboats to just drive on to the back of trailers, but it’s not possible for trailer yachts.”

It was exciting to be able to have a say on what the new set up would look like, and he was looking forward to getting back into Bluff waters.

“It will most likely draw people back to sail in Bluff. We’re trying to return to the community the benefits from all those years ago.”

Council Programme Director Lee Butcher said the steering group was currently in discussions to make sure the ramp and pontoons were placed in a way that would benefit everyone.

(Continued on page 5)

Happy new year to you all!

With 2022 behind us, we say goodbye to the driest year on the island in the last 30 years. According to rain data collected by Ann Pullen in Oban, we received 1095mm of rain in 2022. Fingers crossed we see some more rain soon to fill up the tanks, and replenish the forest and gardens. However, some plants thrived over the dry summer. For example, the native garden outside the museum (photos below).



Native landscaping at the Rakiura Museum coming into its own



(left) Chatham Island Forget-me-not. Credit: Raylene Waddell

The museum’s garden was designed by Ricki Everest. He chose the planting to resemble billowing waves and the blue of the sea.

Whether these dry years will continue is anyone’s guess. NIWA predicts a trend of wetter years in the long term. Their models forecast an increased mean annual rainfall between 1980-99 and 2080-99 of about 7.5-10% (NIWA 2008).

Condolences to Herbie Hansen’s loved ones on his passing. Herbie spent many years on the island before he went into care.

WEED OF THE MONTH



Chilean Flame Creeper - *Tropaeolum speciosum* (also known as flame nasturtium or Flame flower)

This is an invasive climbing vine that grows up to the canopy and can smother native plants. Once established it can be difficult to remove.

Leaving root fragments in the ground can mean new seedlings will sprout. It is

most active over summer, and dies back over winter. Birds spread the seeds.

To identify - look for five rounded leaves, and on established plants, bright red flowers or blue berries..

To remove - Dig or carefully pull out young seedlings. The aim is to not leave root fragments. Dispose of plant matter in general rubbish.

Plants of any age can be sprayed with herbicide. If you can, pull the vine down and spray foliage. Environment Southland recommends using glyphosate (20 ml + penetrant/L water) or Grazon (6 ml/L water) taking care to avoid spraying other plants. If the spray is likely to harm other plants, use Organic Interceptor (100 ml/L water).

Plant instead - Puawānanga / Native clematis (*clematis paniculata*) or Akakura / climbing rata (*Metrosideros diffusa*)



Feral Cats

Lately we have seen a large increase in cat and kitten sightings in the community. It seems that due to the rat plague and dry winter, feral cats have been breeding in large numbers. The kittens are skinny and getting desperate for food. They have also been fighting with pet cats, and are a threat to the health of pets as diseases such as feline aids can be spread via bite wounds, and bites can also cause abscesses that need veterinary care.

Feral cats were first introduced with the arrival of ships in 1769. They hunt to survive and will eat rats, but also eat native birds, insects, bats, and lizards. They can make 10-20 kills per day. Our ground nesting kiwi, penguins and Titi are particularly vulnerable. They have played a role in the near extinction of Kakapō, and the local extinction of Pateke (Brown teal duck)

Feral cats are usually many generations away from having been pet cats. Only the best hunters are likely to survive and breed. They are often tabby or black.

Pet cats are required to be microchipped and neutered so that there is no chance of them breeding and adding to the feral population. SIRCET are currently trapping feral cats in the project area. The microchip is used to identify if a cat caught in a trap is a pet, or feral, and pet cats are released.

If you have seen a suspected feral cat or kitten on your property then we have live capture traps for loan.

We also have free cat collars available at the Environment Centre next to Glowing Sky.

SEA KAYAKING WITH BILL



‘Local’ Paddle

The bays, islets and inlets between Golden Bay and Ryans Creek or Te Wharawhara (Native Is). 2 – 2/12 hr on the water. 1 – 2 people. \$90.00 each

‘Secret waters’

Water taxi one way. Explore the northern shore of Te Whaka a Te Wera (Paterson Inlet) between Millars Beach and Golden Bay. A day trip involving 3 – 3 ½ hr paddling. Min/max 2 people. \$200 each.



Settled weather only. Prior booking essential. Bill Watt 027 495 9288

Advice for your device

Gadgets, laptops, computers ... we live in a digital world. Need some advice?

Drop into the Stewart Island Rakiura library with any or every one of your devices and ask our tech guru James for his guidance or opinion on your technical or digital woes.

Late February 2023

Bookings required – chat to your library staff or phone 0800 732 542

Church Chatter

by Jo Riksem

Our wee church on the hill is not just a Presbyterian Church, it is a Community Church. Our speakers are from many different denominations but our faith in the Lord is universal and the love that he teaches is for everyone. We're not about differences, but about pulling together, united and kind to all. Come along and be part of a caring, loving community that has no barriers.

Services for February 2023 are:

Sun 5 February 2023 – Susanna Sampson - from the Salvation Army in Christchurch

Sun 12 February – No service – Go have a picnic and enjoy the Lord's creation

Sun 19 February – Local Talent

Sun 26 February – Rev Richard Aitken – Anglican minister from Invercargill. Communion will be served.

All services start at 10:30 am.

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



Oban Presbyterian Church at Halfmoon Bay

Have something you want to contribute to the SIN? Email stewartislandnews@gmail.com to discuss a one off contribution, or be added to the contributors mailing list to receive regular content requests. Examples of

contributions include: advisories, letters, poems; the world (or at least Stewart Island) is your oyster. If your contribution celebrates Rakiura it will be considered for publication.

Kate's Good Food Guide to Rakiura

by junior correspondent
Kate Asher

Here's a guide to Stewart Island's main eateries. I thought it might be useful for people to have a list on hand so they could easily decide what treat might be for breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner.

Penguins like myself appreciate the great range of choices we have in Oban. At the time of writing all opening hours and offering descriptions were correct, but these may change based on the discretion of the Operator. Food providers are mentioned in alphabetical order.

Church Hill (36 Kamahi Rd)

Run by Deanne and Chris. Set menu evening meal prepared by renowned chef Deanne, showcasing the best of Rakiura's local fish and game delicacies. Fresh garden herbs and greens. Strictly limited availability. Reservations essential.

Fin & Feather (Main Rd)

Run by Kayden. Currently operating Saturdays/Sundays 5-8pm for dinner. Legendary Sunday Donuts & Coffee 10-2pm. Emphasis on local or Southern produce. Unique, playful and tantalising flavours and combinations. Meals made from scratch and in-house.

Four Square (20 Elgin Tce)

Run by Sam and Charlotte, kitchen by Julie. 7 Days. On-site fresh takeaway sandwiches and slices made daily and available from 8am. Daily counter treat of a fresh muffin, savoury or slice. Delicious dressed salads sometimes available. Hot, cooked chickens, pies and sausage rolls. Cottage Lane specialty breads.

Healthy Food Café (Main Rd)

Run by Brit and James. 7 Days. Fresh daily offerings 8am - 4pm of coffee, yummy scones, smoothies, slices, made to order toasted sandwiches and delicious iced drinks.

Kai Kart (Ayr St)

Run by Dids. Lunch (12-2pm) and Dinner (5-8pm). 7 Days for January. 6 Days February (closed Tuesdays), then TBC. A Rakiura MUST DO. Delicious fresh battered or panfried blue cod, burgers and chips. See the blackboard for Specials. Fresh fish on the beach, suits Penguins perfectly!

Old Butcher Shop Café

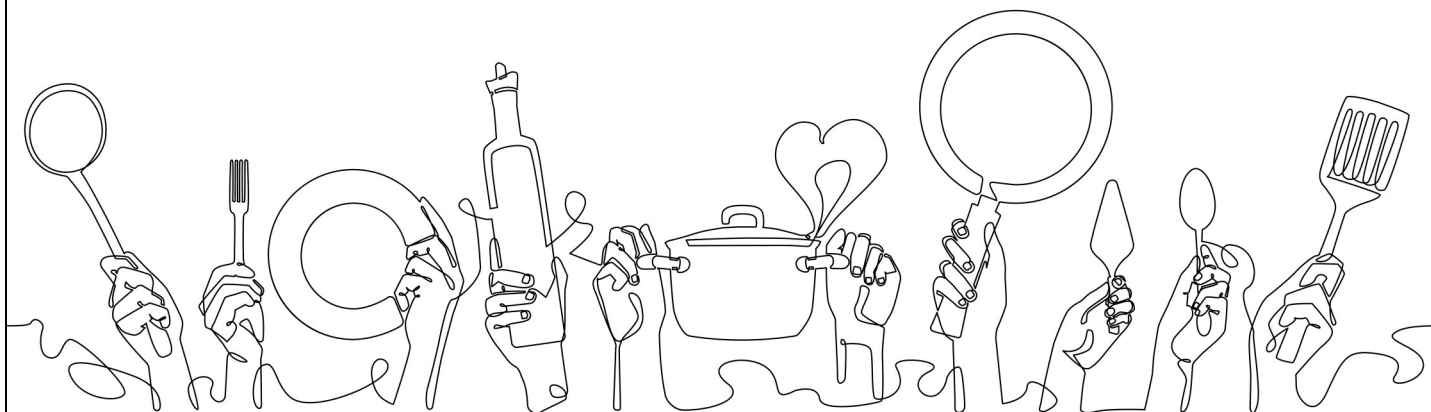
(Main Rd) Run by Ulrike. 7 Days. 7.30am - 2.30pm. Coffee, hot and cold drinks available. Fresh baking and homebaked German goodies. Refreshing fresh fruit ice-creams. Outdoor Pods available for exclusive booking. Watch this space for upcoming evening food and drink options.

The Snuggery (Ayr St)

Run by Maggie and Simon. Wednesday - Sunday 8am - 3.30pm and NOW also Saturdays 5pm - 10pm. Effortlessly catering to all dietary requirements. All scrummy food items made onsite daily. Fresh vege and herbs from the garden right outside. Locally made kombucha by the glass or bottle. Farmfresh milk ON TAP. Crunchy, fresh sourdough bread made by Simon available Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am. Maggie and Simon encourage you to bring in reusable vessels for takeaway food and drink.

South Sea Hotel (cnr Elgin Tce & Main Rd)

Run by Helen and Thorsten (Kitchen). 7 Days. Café 7am - 2pm. Breakfast menu 8 - 10.30am / Lunch 11.30 - 2pm / Dinner 5.30 - 7.45pm. Bar opens at 11am. Menu food in the Bar from 11.30am. Dinner bookings possible and required for groups of >10 people. Quiz in the Bar every Sunday Evening, starting from 6pm. Karaoke and Live Music Events as Pop Ups. Wide range of dining options and a large amount of local seafood on offer. Penguins like me welcome, actual penguins not ;)x



Kia ora

Coming into 2023 we have been privileged



to experience an exceptional spell of weather and sea conditions encouraging people to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

If you are enjoying the opportunities provided by the taking of kai moana it's recommended limit your catch, not catch your limit.

As you travel about the Island, it's recommended for comfort, and more importantly safety, that passengers sit on seats not the cargo areas, boot or tray of a ute, or in a boat being towed along the road. Five seats means you can carry five passengers maximum. Would you buy a four fingered glove?

Take a moment to check your vehicle registration and WoF, if they have expired it would be best if you remedied the situation promptly.

A number of people have been caught out with expired NZ Drivers Licences by not renewing their driver's licences which are valid for ten years. If the licence lapses and is not caught in time, you could have to go through the whole graduated licence process to obtain it again.

Firearms Licence holders are advised to check their licence expiry dates as well; it is best to start the renewal process at least six months before the licence expires. The application can now all be done online at the following website:

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/>

The Southland District Council is reviewing several policies and bylaws including roading. Rakiura's roading is a contentious issue here and I recommend, instead of complaining about this with libation fuelled conversation, to get online and contribute at: www.makeitstick.nz

Kia pai to ra.
Constable Stuart NEWTON

(New Bluff boat ramp — Continued from page 1)

“We are being very careful to make sure this facility will be functional for all users, from those with dinghies to those with pleasure crafts.

“We're so pleased to be able to deliver this for the Bluff and Southland communities. Once it is finished, I'm expecting it to be a drawcard for boat users all over the country.”

Butcher said consent had been granted for the east jetty, including the boat ramp, but Council was still in the process of gaining consent for the west jetty.

Engineering consultancy Offshore & Coastal Engineering Ltd (OCEL) have come on board for the design and implementation of the ramp and pontoons.

The floating pontoons will feature safety lights, an electrical outlet and a tap with fresh water. The pontoons have been designed to withstand the harsh weather Southland is known for, and because they are floating they will rise and fall with the tide, no matter how extreme, Butcher said.

“OCEL designed the floating pontoon on Ulva Island and anyone who has travelled there will know how rough conditions can get there, so I am confident that the team will deliver something equally as impressive for Bluff.”

Geotechnical investigations had recently been completed, which examined the physical qualities of the site to ensure it was suitable and safe to complete the work proposed, Butcher said.

Bluff Community Board Chairman Ray Fife said he was pleased the project was beginning to make headway. “It's been a bit frustrating waiting for the project to progress but I'm pleased to see some significant advancements being made now. I look forward to seeing the end result and more boaties making the most of the stunning southern scenery.” The ramp will still be able to be used for most of the work, however, boaties may be directed to the ramp on Foreshore Rd on the other side of the South Port bridge while some of the more intensive work takes place. Preliminary concept designs had been developed but as discussions continue it was expected that the concept may change, Butcher said.



ENDS

Enquiries For further information please contact Georgia Weaver, Senior Communications Advisor Phone: (021) 678 501 Email: Georgia.weaver@icc.govt.nz

Media release: Arts Murihiku set to open community arts space in Invercargill



development of the capability of the arts sector over 18 months.

The three components are:

1. An arts incubator programme
2. Resourcing and activating the new community arts space in Invercargill
3. Record the journey to show the impact of these actions

“By having a dedicated space for all of the arts, we can help arts practitioners from all around the south not only grow their skills and passions but connect with one another. We know there are many artists in our region doing amazing things, and Whare Taupua will help in making their creative endeavours more visible within our region,” Amundsen says.

“Our hope for Whare Taupua is also to have a positive impact on access and participation in the sector, and build a ripple effect that will support the development of arts within the wider Southland region.”

The funding will allow Arts Murihiku to staff Whare Taupua and open it to the public, enhancing opportunities for its use.

Whare Taupua will be officially opened at an event on Thursday 26 January at 4pm.

For more information please contact Arts Murihiku chair Rebecca Amundsen:

Phone 027 225 2664

Email kiaora@artsmurihiku.co.nz

About Arts Murihiku

Arts Murihiku is Southland’s regional arts body. Funded by Creative New Zealand, Arts Murihiku’s purpose is to support, connect, grow, promote and advocate for the arts. Its focus is doing this through capability-building activities for, and with, the arts sector across Murihiku.

A new community space – with a vision to help make Southland’s art scene more visible, valued and vibrant – is set to open in Invercargill, thanks to Arts Murihiku. Arts Murihiku chair Rebecca Amundsen says Whare Taupua – The Rest Room Community Arts Space in Invercargill will provide a dedicated space where the arts can grow in Southland.

Whare Taupua will be a dedicated arts place for community exhibitions, meetings, workshops, small gigs and performances, practice and rehearsal space, short-term working artist space, storage, temporary office use and more. It will be available for use by people and groups across the sector and will be low-cost, ensuring there are as few barriers as possible. “Opening the community arts space has been a long time in the making, but our team is hugely excited we are now able to offer arts practitioners here in the south a space in which they can continue to grow and build upon their creativity,” she says.

The project began in 2022, but faced delays including the Covid-19 pandemic and challenges associated with renovating the space.

The initiative was given a huge boost in the form of a successful application to Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage’s Regeneration Fund. Arts Murihiku received \$448,000 in funding from the ministry, with the money earmarked to support the organisation’s *Pathways For the Arts in Murihiku* initiative. *Pathways For the Arts in Murihiku* comprises three interlinked components to build the capability of the arts sector in Murihiku, with an aim to develop a framework that supports the long-term

BY-ELECTION VOTING OPEN

Please take the time to vote in the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board by-election. Voting is taking place from 26 January 2023 until noon on Friday 17 February 2023 in order to fill two vacancies on the board.

Candidates for the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board by-election are: Mike Douglass, Ulrike Herzhoff and Andrea Young.

Voting documents will be posted out, and completed documents can be posted to the electoral officer at a specified address, or returned to either the Southland District Council office at 10 Ayr Street, Oban, or to Council’s main office at 15 Forth Street, Invercargill. Special votes will also be issued at those offices.



BLUFF OYSTERS (“Waiau”)

Poem found among papers dating back to the 1940s— provided by Bev Osborn

Now, long ago, at the dawn of Time
 Did the Lord of the Seas decree,
 I will make me beauty out of the slime,
 And sweetness, and pleasantry:
 I will take me fish of the rocky bed
 Down beneath Foveaux Strait,
 And give them a shell and a luscious spell,
 That will make mankind elate.
 So, the Lord of the Seas, with all due ease,
 He called to the oysters to be,
 And he said to men, “Success again
 Doth crown my alchemy.
 Go, take and eat, and so complete
 The gastronomic sum,

For here, at last, is a fit repast
 To strike a gourmand dumb.
 And Bluff shall be the Oyster Port
 Where tons of bivalves pour
 Upon the wharf, to be sent forth
 To merchant and to store.
 And up to Auckland in the north,
 Dunedin in the east,
 And Melbourne over Tasman Sea,
 There will be right good company,
 As folk sit down to feast.”
 And the Lord of the Seas, he has kept his word,
 And the work he has done was good,
 For here is a two-fold luxury,
 Part healing grace and part rich food.
 And sail you far to the Yangtze Bar,
 Or down to the South Pole’s State
 You will find never shell fish, nor never a dish,
 Like the oysters of Foveaux Strait.



RAKIURA MARINE
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Rakiura Marine Guardians will now be held on **Friday 10 February at 5.30 pm in the St Andrews Church Hall**, Excelsior Road.

(Please note change from that previously advised)

All are welcome, and your support and interest would be appreciated.

W J (Bill) Watt
(Chairman)

Stewart Island Seniors Cottage Trust

By Bruce Ford

The Cottage Trust are actively seeking finance to facilitate the building of three duplex cottages at 11 Argyle Street. We have purchased the property and plans are drawn. As usual, finance for the build poses its challenges and we are receiving small donations and have had some saleable items to grow the fund. Applications are continually being made to major funders who are encouraging and enthusiastic regarding our ethos of “aging in place”. However, we are still short of practical help from these funders so any community help would be appreciated. Even small amounts start to add up, so if you are putting anything on Buy, Sell, Exchange “for free”, even requesting a small donation to our Trust would be wonderful. If you know anyone who might be interested in being a major funder, don’t hesitate to contact one of the Trustees: Bruce Ford, Jill Skerrett, Ken Jones, Sam Guest or Stephen Falconer. Thanks to those who have already donated, in both cash and kind, and we hope to have a positive report to make to SINners in a couple of months.

Stewart Island News
archives and contact
information can be found at
www.stewartislandnews.com

Keep up with island news on our Facebook
page

Find subscription information for SIN
on the back page

400 Words – by Beverley Osborn

This month, the 400 words are going to be mostly other people’s.

First, a story which recently touched two of my friends. A retired boat builder was asked by an acquaintance if he would be prepared to earn a few dollars by painting his dinghy. He accepted the job and was paid for it. A few days later, the dinghy owner returned, eager to press a lot more money on him. Puzzled, since he had already been adequately paid, the retiree asked for an explanation. The emotional dinghy owner told him it was because he’d not only painted the boat, but had also mended a small hole he had noticed as he painted. The owner knew about the hole and intended to fix it but he’d come home from work that day to hear from his wife that their children had taken the dinghy to go fishing. The children were not strong swimmers and, terrified they would have drowned, he raced down to the shore – and found them cheerfully beaching the dinghy. No amount of money, he felt, would have been enough to show his gratitude for the lives of his children.

Our smallest acts of kindness may have effects beyond our imaginations.

With his permission, I attach another poem by Brian Bilston.

KINDNESS

To recap what we now know: it did not begin in a laboratory in Wuhan, nor with a pangolin or bat, but it already lay dormant within us, like a seed waiting for the right conditions to thrive;

the symptoms of kindness are many and various, and may include some or all of the following; tear drops, sudden laughter, a feeling of warmth, and a peculiar uplifting of the heart;

it leaves its traces everywhere: from boxes left on doorsteps to conversations over fences; it can be transmitted over vast distances, through a phone call or from a smile across a street,

or a certain softness of tone spoken beside a hospital bed; it affects young and old equally; there is no race or gender immune from it; it has the power to topple corrupt governments;

if one person were to pass it on to just three others, and they, in turn, were to pass it on to three more, in no time at all, the world would be full of it, and where, we might ask ourselves, would we be then.



The gardening year has started dry and looks to continue that way. Suddenly I'm conserving water, emptying the teapot on favoured plants and saving the cold water that arrives in the shower before the warm water flows through. Difficult to educate guests in the economy of water if they have never needed to think about it.

But the real bugbear continues to be the deer, which are a constant conversation piece with local gardeners. Short of building a high fence round one's garden, what can be done? In their care of Moturau Moana, Elaine Hamilton and Malinda Barnsdale have both had to tackle this problem. They have found that an organic product called Plantskydd is very effective. It comes in powder form and is mixed with water and sprayed on. Warning! It stinks! – but it works! The leaves may temporarily take on a brownish tinge but better than no leaves at all.



Blood-and-Bone sprinkled around plants also works, serving as both deterrent and fertiliser, but it needs replenishing after rain. Maybe not so often this summer Or try

crushed garlic soaked in water and sprayed on your darlings – plants, that is! Another suggestion is good old soap. Deer avoid strong fragrances they are not used to, making deodorant bar soap an inexpensive option. And because this repellent doesn't physically touch plants, it's perfect for vegetable gardens.

1. Cut 1-2 bars of smelly soap, the smellier the better, into several pieces.
2. Put the pieces into old socks or pantyhose.
3. Tie these to trees or big shrubs.
4. For smaller plants, tie socks/pantyhose to wooden stakes.

Good luck with these suggestions and, please, if anyone knows of other homegrown deterrents, let us know.

So what plants do deer not like? In my garden the following get left alone: azaleas, rhododendrons, camelias, lily-of-the-valley bush, the myrtle family, rugosa roses, red hot pokers and their kniphofia cousins, day lilies, winter roses (hellebores), arum species (but not the luscious lilies!), marguerites, chrysanthemums and geraniums. Lots more of course, including native flaxes, astelias and the colourful



Bellbird investigating Red Hot Poker

lophomyrtus tribe. The plantspeople have done some great work with the latter to create stunning varieties such as Red Dragon and Black Beauty. And so far my great garden loves, fuchsias and hebes, have not been hit. Deer are not the only voracious critters hereabouts. If I were not a law-abiding bird lover, there would have been pigeon pie at my place this year.

The toads have taken a fancy to my crab apple trees, leaving nary a skerrick of fresh spring leaf or bud and consequently no hope of crab apple jelly. They leave the japonicas alone, so that is something but I sorely miss the swags of apple blossom along the trellis. Solutions, anyone?



Stunning in spring, a daylily found in old gardens here, possibly the species *Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*. It produces big clumps of attractive long leaves which are easily removed in autumn.

Happy, pest-free gardening!
Raylene.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Through the pages of SIN, I wish to say thank you to all those people who have congratulated me on my recent mention in the New Years' Honours list. It is indeed an honour to receive the Award, but the truly rewarding thing has been that I have tried so hard for so many years and have managed to achieve a few things for Stewart Island and our community. There is still quite a lot that I can do and though I am retired from a "front line" role, I'll still be working in the background for the community that has given me so much over so many decades. It's a privilege to be able to do so. Thanks again to everyone who has expressed their pleasure for me – that's an honour in its own right!

I am still getting over the news of the Honour and trying to get used to the idea but will be proud to add the letters MNZM to official documentation.

Happy New Year to all and kind regards
Bruce Ford

Local musician looking to start a weekly jam group

I have an assortment of instruments, a space, and an excess of enthusiasm. If you have any instruments, musical ability, or just curiosity to make some music don't hesitate to contact Quin on 02108119633



If only... By Alison Undorf-Lay (Sanford)

If you had spare cash what great project would you fund in our community? Here is your chance to put that idea into action - if it benefits the people in our communities on Rakiura and Bluff.

In 2023, Sanford's **10 cents a Salmon** fund is investing \$100,000 into local projects.

For the fourth year, Sanford has put aside ten cents from every fish that went through its Bluff processing plant and will gift this money back to the community. To access this money applications are soon being called for, and they can come from anyone. You don't need to belong to a Rakiura group or a club, but your project must positively benefit the wellbeing of our Island and Bluff communities.

By wellbeing we mean the money has to be used for a project that helps bring people together for fun, happiness, pride, care and safety. If you need funding for a community led project, sport, art, culture or health we encourage you to apply.

Applications are called from 1 February to 31 March.

You must use the 10 cents a Salmon application form,

and its best to read the eligibility criteria to check what kind of projects are funded. In April six local decision makers from the Island and Bluff community will come together to review all the applications and to allocate the funds. This year almost \$100,000 is being gifted back to the community.

In previous years projects funded on the Island have included the gym mats and LED lights in the community hall, the ride on mower at the golf club, the picnic area at Butterfield's Beach, the Heli Pad for 111 emergency flights, Rakiura Rugrats, Te Kahu Manu Titi Trust that provides workshops and the Rakiura Toy Library. The museum has also benefited from funds, and the school swimming pool.



Email Ali if you need an application form salmonfund@sanford.co.nz

What's up, DOC?

New Operations Manager for Rakiura: Jennifer Ross



We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Ross is DOC Rakiura's new Operations Manager. Jen has lived and worked on Rakiura since 2015 and has been working for as Senior Ranger Community. She was the Acting Operations Manager from the beginning of November 2022 and started permanently in the role on 19 December 2022.

Jen grew up in Montreal and went to university in Calgary, Canada. She developed a passion for hiking in the Rocky Mountains before coming to New Zealand in 2011. A daytime kiwi on the Rakiura Track and a visit to Mason Bay/Te One Roa was enough to get Jen hooked on Rakiura. Shortly after starting with DOC, she met her husband Alasdair Burns here in 2015, got married in February 2020, and celebrated the birth of their son, George, in October 2021.

During her time working for DOC, Jen has enjoyed working closely with the Rakiura community and is looking forward to developing these relationships further in her new role. She is excited to be leading and supporting the DOC team and supporting the wide variety of conservation work on Rakiura.

Tūturiwhatu/Southern NZ Dotterel

We are pleased to announce that with the arrival of Harrison Talarico our permanent dotterel team are now fully staffed.

On the ground predator control continues with the final rounds of live capture and kill trapping on the alpine tops of Rakiura. This is to protect any remaining adult and juvenile birds that haven't fledged yet. We are anticipating that the dotterel breeding season will end shortly, around the end of January 2023.

From here our focus shifts onto installing the new track and trap lines as previously detailed during consultation. We will activate these lines as they are completed.

Alongside this banding work will proceed with multiple trips to Mason Bay/Te One Roa and Awarua Bay planned through February, March and April 2023. This provides us an opportunity to put coloured identification leg bands on birds so that we can accurately estimate population size.

Most importantly, we'll get an updated official population estimate in late April 2023 when we repeat our synchronised dotterel flock counts at their non-breeding feeding and roosting sites.



Unbanded Southern NZ Dotterel
/Tūturiwhatu seen on Rocky Mountain
during the breeding season.
Photo: DOC

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

If you'd like a more substantial connection to the Southern New Zealand Dotterel/Tūturiwhatu Recovery Project, then please consider signing up for our project updates.

These e-mails/letters will provide a greater level of operational detail than the summarised articles here in the Stewart Island News.

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

The future of Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

Thank you to all who engaged in the opportunity to let us know what your preferred options were for the management of Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara into the future. Feedback received has been consolidated and will be considered by the Southern South Island Operations Director, Aaron Fleming alongside a technical feasibility report. DOC will be working with our iwi partners to help agree on next steps.

We will be back in touch with everyone once the decision has been made, including more information on how the plan will proceed over the following months.

One thing that is very clear is that we all care deeply about this special place and the life that makes their home there.

Introducing the Southern New Zealand Dotterel team!



Guy releasing a Kākāpō on a remote island in Southern New Zealand.
Photo: DOC

Guy McDonald is a 24-year-old outdoorsman who has taken on the role of Field Team Lead for the Southern NZ Dotterel Recovery Project. Spending the past year working on the kākāpō breeding season, he's excited by the opportunity and the challenge of working towards saving the more vulnerable Southern NZ Dotterels which are on the brink of extinction.

Originally from Timaru, Guy has always loved the outdoors and spends most of his free time either paddleboarding, hunting or diving. He's always dreamed of living and working on Rakiura, so is stoked to be here embracing his passion for conservation.

Andrew Eastwood (who everybody knows as Easti) has been on the biodiversity team at DOC Rakiura for three years now. He joined the Southern NZ Dotterel team last September. He loves being in the hills and this job gives him the opportunity to spend lots of time on Rakiura's mountains. "We live in a very special place, and I feel very privileged and honoured to live and work on Stewart Island."



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Daniel Cocker a.k.a Dotterel Dan joined the Southern NZ dotterel team as a permanent ranger in November 2022 after recently completing his Bachelor of Science majoring in Zoology and minoring in Māori studies at the University of Otago in Dunedin.

He is born and raised in Southland and has been volunteering with the Southern New Zealand dotterel/tūturiwhatu since he was 15 years old. Now 21 years old, he is passionate about the dotterel and is keen to do whatever it takes to prevent them becoming extinct as their population continues to plummet.

In his role he will be undertaking predator control in dotterel breeding areas, nest monitoring, bird counts and bird banding.

Before he started his role on the team, he was the campaign manager for the Southern NZ dotterel for Bird of the Year in the annual Forest and Bird competition in an attempt to raise more awareness about the birds.

In his spare time Daniel enjoys playing sport especially football, being outdoors looking for birds, wildlife photography, skiing, learning Te Reo, tramping and advocating for the dotterel.

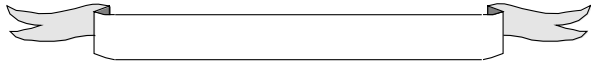
He is easily approachable and is always keen to talk to anyone about the dotterel.

Harrison Talarico made the journey across the Tasman to join the Southern New Zealand dotterel team in January 2023. Prior to moving to Stewart Island, Harrison worked at Arid Recovery— a fenced reserve in the Tirari Desert in central Australia. In this role, he gained experience in threatened-species conservation and feral-pest control. Harrison also has a background in seabird monitoring and bioacoustics.

A keen birder and Australian rules football fan, Harrison is eager to integrate himself into the Stewart Island community and help save the Southern NZ dotterel from extinction.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Abi Lovett
on the birth of her
baby boy



Glowing Sky
Merino



Between The Shop & The Pub / glowing-sky.co.nz

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Circuit and Animal Flow training.



Circuit training: I'm planning to start a 6-week progressive series of circuit classes in March at The Community Centre. Cost: \$2.00 for stadium use.

ANIMAL FLOW is ground based movement, made fun and effective. It is quite challenging. This system improves strength, power, flexibility, mobility, and coordination. A group of us trains regularly here on Rakiura at St Andrews Hall. I'm planning that we will move into more advanced Level 2 moves in 2023. Cost: Koha for use of the hall.

Times will be advertised in the Stewart Island (Buy and Sell) Facebook page. Please let me know if you are interested so we can find times that suit as many as possible.

W J (Bill) Watt, Certified Level 1 Animal Flow Instructor, 027 495 9288.
williamwatt@outlook.co.nz



Same, same, but different.
A familiar sight rendered unusual by the large cruise boat dominating the horizon.

Advertise in the Stewart Island News

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 crib owners, former residents, and other subscribers around the country and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too. So tell all of those people about your business! Contact editor for rates at stewartislandnews@gmail.com