

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

February 2017

\$3.00

Windy, rainy, muddy, slightly bloody... our Waitangi Day Maori v Pakeha Rugby game aptly summed up the summer holidays. *Who won?* this reporter asked. *Who knows? Who cares? Maybe a tie?* were the various cheerful vague replies. It was cold and wet -- the only sun was a chalk picture of a sun on the wall of the club room — but nevertheless the guys showed up to play, the crowd showed up to cheer them on, Friday showed up to ref, the kids showed up to puddle-jump and everyone was smiling. Up North politicians postured and squabbled, overseas Lady Gaga flew over the Super Bowl in silver knickers, and honestly there was no place better to be on 6th Feb than good old muddy Traill Park! Great spirit, muddy fun, sportsmanship, and camaraderie prevailed. Plenty of photos inside.



SIRCET needs volunteers to help with the nursery and the rat lines. If you have time to check a line at least a couple of times a month, I highly recommend signing on. Sure, on the down side is icky dead rats, but the plusses far outweigh that: exercise, fresh air, a walk in a beautiful place, knowing you're doing something good for the island... and if those aren't enough reasons let's appeal to the competitive side of you. Prizes! Fame! Fortune! Glory! Well, maybe just prizes.

The island's been in the media... the crew from the TV series *Coast* was down here recently. Also, Ulva Island made it into a CNN list of top 15 happy places in the world!

It's not uncommon to find a measuring stick on a boat, normally used to ensure catch is of legal size. But it's disturbing to see, for the second time here now, a ruler used to measure shark bite punctures in an inflatable dinghy. Is this our "new normal": great white sharks drawn to the sound of boat engines, bumping, mouthing and biting boats in our local bays? Salmon farmers have video footage of great white sharks circling at the farm up the Inlet. More page 4.

It's been raining cats and dogs and according to this month's DoC news they're *all* causing carnage: torrential rains ripping up the tracks; wild cats killing dotterels; and, disappointingly, wandering dogs an ongoing concern. (p10)

Detector Gadget is heading to Campbell Island, follow his adventures on his FB page.

Here's the latest from the Apologies/Corrections/Clarifications Desk: Ange and Ants had a baby GIRL, not a boy as reported last month. Sincere apologies for my mistake and CONGRATULATIONS!!! Corrected Birth announcement on page 19.

Finally, much thanks to Jenny Gell for her many years volunteering at the Library. See below for more.  
—Jess

"Many thanks for your commitment and dedication to Library Services on Stewart Island over the past sixteen years. Contributions such as yours enrich the community and your assistance with helping young library users was of particular importance."

These are the opening words of the citation presented to Mrs Jenny Gell on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. The citation, prepared by Lynda Hodge, Southland District Council's Head Librarian, went on to note Jenny's commitment to the Friends of the Library Group, both as a member and as treasurer, and the energy she has provided to the various fund-raising initiatives over the years.

The framed certificate, along with its accompanying generous and imaginative hamper of goodies, was presented at the lunch held to mark with appreciation Jenny's retirement from volunteer library service to the Stewart Island community. She be-

gan that service with Pat King, continued with Jess Kany and increased her commitment when motherhood necessitated a change of focus for Jess. After the SDC moved to the appointment of a paid librarian, Jenny and Pat continued to share the voluntary responsibility of the popular Saturday morning opening. Jenny, herself, says she has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the library and really wants to encourage others to become similarly involved as Saturday

morning volunteers.

Our community certainly has cause to be grateful for the services and dedication of volunteers like Mrs Jenny Gell.  
—Beverley Osborn

*From Jenny:*

I want to say I have enjoyed the challenge of our little library loved the contact of the people especially the kids and the stimulation it gave me. Thank you to Pat when 16 years ago she asked me to have a go at the library something I certainly hadn't had anything to do with before, and her patience in showing me the ropes, then to Jess for all the fun we had with book sales, kids parties craft exhibitions etc I certainly have no regrets having been part of it all.

Our little community library is no more, progress has caught up with it and I wish it all the best in the future.









**Shark encounter** reported by Roy Barnsdale:

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 Roy and Melinda Barnsdale along with Buzz and Helen Jaine and their three children (twins 4 & daughter 6 ) were on their way home from Millars Beach in the Sea Rover towing a Force 4 Rubber dinghy when they stopped off at Ackers Point to let the kids fish .While Roy & Buzz were cleaning the fish all the birds flew away and suddenly we saw our shark .



The shark cruised around the boat from various directions, 3 seagulls had perched on the dinghy and the shark had given the dinghy a nudge and then for no apparent reason it rolled and bit the dinghy puncturing one side.

While we all were in our launch and were towing our rubber raft, we still all had to get ashore at Braggs Bay with one side of the rubber raft fast deflating!

**OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER – Jo Riksem**

It was with great pleasure that on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrated with friends and family the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of this young girl in the above photo, Lorraine Squires (nee Bailey) and Lindsey Squires. May there be many more milestones such as this in their lives.



**Ministers and Speakers for February 2017:**

Mar. 5 & 12 – Speakers for these Sundays have yet to be confirmed but there will be someone so come along for a surprise.

Mar. 19 – Jill McDonald - Jill McDonald grew up on a farm that overlooks Stewart Island, near Wyndham. After completing a degree at Otago she worked for Presbyterian Support Otago where she managed the Buddy Programme – a befriending programme for disadvantaged children, and helped to establish it in other parts of NZ including Southland. She spent 3 years overseas working in Ireland, Scotland and Canada. The highlight was a year working for the Iona Community on the Isle of Iona on the West Coast of Scotland. Here she regularly passed through the other ‘Oban’ and visited the other ‘Isle of Ulva’. Experiencing God’s call to ministry at Iona, Jill then returned to NZ to begin her theology studies. Along the way she established her own celebrancy business taking numerous weddings and funerals while also working at Highgate Presbyterian Church as their pastoral worker. She met and married her husband Chris and moved to Oamaru where she began completed her ministry internship two years ago. She has now been the minister of the Waitaki Parish of North Otago for two years.

Mar. 26 – Rachel Trevathan – Rachel is a lay preacher who loves getting to know God in the midst of the ups and downs of everyday life. She enjoys travelling, particularly anywhere across the Himalayas, as well as tramping and kayaking in our great New Zealand outdoors. Her day job is a doctor. She is a regular to our church and we always look forward to her visits and the way she speaks straight from the heart.

Services every Sunday 11 am and Prayer Circle every Saturday 11:30 a.m. Church open every day to visit and enjoy the peace.

## Obituary

### Reverend John Carruthers

Dear John,

I learned today that you have been called to your Lord. I cannot but rejoice for you, who have been lost to us these last few years by the cruel oppression of Alzheimer's, but I mourn a loved and faithful friend.

The year escapes me but I remember the moment when I first watched you climb into the pulpit, so closely did you resemble my late father. The slight frame, the haircut – short back and sides. And then you preached. And what a preacher you were! Sermons, spare, to the point and brought to such compelling conclusion with a telling phrase. More than once you brought me up short, conscious of my own guilt, with your opening prayer asking us to confess our sin of 'slaying others with our tongues'.

Year by year you returned to this island which you came to love so deeply. Your gentle presence was noted round the village. Like your Lord, you were a great walker. Residents and tourists encountered on the way were left with a sense of your wonderment and delight in being in this place.

To Ronnie and me you became a much loved friend, whose yearly visit was long anticipated and deeply relished. Many the time I waved the two of you off on a walk, knowing how much you enjoyed each other's company. Many the meal and many the glass of wine shared with laughter and reminiscences of your time as a hospital and then an army chaplain. Your chuckle as you told the story of counting the collection after divine service at the barracks. The young recruits, having no option but to attend, frequently slipped nuts and bolts into the plate!



So good it was to have you with us, when Nurse Marty had to break the news to Ronnie that things were not good. The promise freely and unequivocally given that you would come back, no matter what. Which you did.

Your favourite hymn was *Be Still, My Soul*. I can think of no better way to illustrate your gentle, strong, steadfast faith than by quoting its opening verse:

*Be still my soul; the Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

Thank you, John, for your friendship, your fellowship and for your shining example of Christian love.

Rest in peace.

Arohanui,  
Raylene

## Rat Tales

*This month's story was written by Maui Fife*

Rats have been cyclic for decades on and around the offshore Islands of Rakiura.

In 1961 I was once again on the muttonbird island Te Wharepuitaha, (Breaksea Island). The outer most island in the Breaksea Group just south of Shelter Point on the east coast of Rakiura. We went for the 'torching'. The latter part of the muttonbirding season when the young are harvested at night. Instinct draws the young muttonbirds out of their burrows to flap their wings to expel the outer layer of down from their feathers. They need to do this before they are able to fly.

Rats have been a problem on and off for decades on the island. My father told stories how he and his brothers would stand on the rocks in the passage between Breaksea and Kaihuka, the next island inshore in the chain, with waddys made from teteaweka branches (a coastal tough scrubby tree with daisy like flowers), clubbing rats as they came ashore after swimming the passage between the islands in daylight. They travelled in the water like elephants in a parade. The rats held the tail of the rat in front in their mouths forming a chain. Wave after wave they came. This was an annual occurrence in the 1920s & 30s when the family would attend the island for the full season from March until early May.

In the 1961 season I took with me 5 possum traps for the express purpose of catching rats. There were no possums on the island. My father being a fisherman fishing the waters around the island had been ashore to check the houses and the possible presence of rats prior to us going to the island. He found rats were thick on the ground and they had invaded the houses.

The first night ashore the noise of the rats calling in the flax bushes close to the houses was so intense they drowned out the call of the parent muttonbirds. We were later to discover the rat population was so big that year the muttonbird chick numbers were dramatically down on previous years. Even though all food indications were up. Rats eat muttonbird eggs and kill young muttonbird chicks.

The following night it was time to put the possum

traps into action. To supplement the traps and to, in my view, eradicate the local rat population around the houses I rigged up an old Millar Lang metal bread crate in a similar fashion to the method employed to catch seagulls on the beach years prior, as kids did.

Baited with fresh muttonbird hinu (fat) the bread crate was set. A string was run to the workhouse door to be pulled when there were sufficient rats feeding on the bait. At this stage no thought was given to the method of dispatching the rats should any fall foul of my trap.

The same bait was used on the plate of the possum traps. The possum traps proved very successful at catching rats. However as the rats were so thick I was unable to get the 5 traps prepared and set together. I would set one trap and move on to set traps two and three when tarp one would go off. Then whilst emptying that trap one of the others would go off. I was only ever able to have four traps set at anyone time. This went on night after night for a full two weeks. The tally was forgotten when 256 rats were dispatched. This became monotonous tiring work. My work in the workhouse with the muttonbird harvest was neglected during the rat catching.

***—it was not uncommon to shine our torches around us as we knelt on the ground to be met with a ring of beady eyes looking back at us—***

During our nightly forays into the bush hunting muttonbirds by torchlight we could not leave the harvested birds on the ground. Rats would attack them and chew the best parts namely the breast, ruining the birds.

When ten birds were caught we immediately tied them up into what is termed a hui. Five birds were attached to either end of a narrow strip of flax approx. 3ft long. The hui would be hung from a stout branch of a tupare tree for collecting on the return to the workhouse. During this hui up process it was not uncommon to shine our torches around us as we knelt on the ground to be met with a ring of beady eyes looking back at us – rats everywhere sometimes by the dozen. They could smell the fresh blood from the freshly harvested birds and also remnants of their stomachs if the birds had recently been fed.

Depending on food sources on the mainland (Rakiura) rats would and will remain an issue on close-by outlying islands. Scarce food sources on Rakiura mean the rats will forage further afield, offshore. So the cycle continues.



## BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford

February Reading

Calling all Harry Potter fans! **“Harry Potter & the Cursed Child”** by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany & Jack Thorne. A warning: younger readers may struggle with the play-script format. Albus, younger son of Harry & Ginny, is the traditional “middle child”, unsure of his place in the world, exacerbated by having a famous father. Scorpius is Draco’s son, rumoured to be son of Voldemort, but is gentle, kind and geeky. At Hogwart’s, it is natural that these two outcasts be thrown together. When Albus comes up with a plan to go back in time and save Cedric Diggory, mayhem and horror is the result. Enter Harry and the old gang to help put things right – sort of! The values of love, loyalty, friendship and family, are all encased in a good yarn, with humour and tension in equal parts. Albus and Scorpius are excellent Potter successors.

**Bernard Cornwell’s “The Flame Bearer”** is masterful writing, the characters entirely believable as are the events, even though the latter two are often fictional. Uhtred of Bebbanburg is fighting to regain land which he sees as rightfully his own,

but is sidetracked by various factions from the southern Saxons through to re-activated invading Scots. The action never stops and the reader is swept along in the wake of this redoubtable warrior. A swashbuckling story told by a master. Good fun!

**“You Will Know Me”** by Megan Abbott – a tense psychological drama/thriller. The foundation is a family who have given up everything to finance the prodigal gymnast daughter – out of guilt. Then gorgeous Ryan enters their lives for a brief time before he is killed. But who exactly did kill Ryan - and why - is quite the conundrum for the reader, but for the characters, it leads them all into a nightmare. Very well done, a bit slow towards the end which I found a bit awkward, deservedly on the Hot Pick shelf though.

**“Stalker”** by Lars Kepler is 523 pages of Scandinavian id, ego, deep thinking, dark doings and psychological misdirection. Half-way through, I was disappointed to note that I was still only half-way through! All characters have either serious mental or physical issues to deal with. The least of these is that chief investigator Margot is due to have a baby any day. The ‘hero’, Joonas, ex-policeman, is in terrible shape. His best friend and ‘co-hero’ is Erik, a

psychiatrist addicted to prescription drugs. Get the picture? Despite the over-abundance of minutiae, Kepler blends enough tension to keep you reading. It begins when Erik realises that a man convicted largely on his evidence might not be guilty – or Stockholm has a copy-cat serial killer with a particularly gruesome *modus operandi*. It ends – not well, but spectacularly. I was pleased I stayed with Joonas and Erik to the bitter conclusion.

**“The Beautiful Dead”** by Belinda Bauer - a tense thriller centred around our prurient need to see blood on the TV screen! Eve is a TV reporter and Joe is her cameraman; together, they report from London’s worst crime scenes – until an exhibitionist serial killer points out that his requirement for bloody exposure is similar to Eve’s! Sounds ghoulish and macabre but good writing and excellent plot keep you on your toes. **“Don’t You Cry”** by Mary Kubica is written in two voices: Quinn is the original daffy blonde and Alex is the bright boy who was left behind in his run-down Chicago satellite town. Then Esther, Quinn’s roommate goes missing. Maybe Alex has found her? But if not, who is the strange woman around town – and where is Esther? A good read despite my impatience with “2-voice” format!

## Sarah’s Rakiura Remarks

Justice and the safety of our communities is something that is very dear to me. As a daughter of two police officers, I grew up knowing to never take the safety of our streets for granted. Even in a tightknit community, such as Rakiura, it is the immense work and sacrifice our police make that keep New Zealand as one of the safest countries in the world. That is why I am delighted to see the Prime Minister, in his first major announcement of election year, unveiling a significant Government investment in police and justice to reduce crime and keep our communities safe. This package unashamedly targets offenders to ensure they are off our streets and addresses the underlying drivers of crime. We are increasing the funding for rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Rehabilitation includes addressing issues, such as alcohol and drug addictions. We are also funding the costs of processing more of the most serious offenders through the Courts. Auckland is not the centre-of-attention for this package. The Government will significantly increase regional and rural policing. There will be an increase in regional staff-

ing numbers, meaning more New Zealanders will be in reach of a 24/7 police presence. New mobile police stations will also visit and support small towns and rural areas. Most importantly for Rakiura, a new national non-emergency number will be established that is designed for historic or low-level crime. The new number will replace 300 local police station numbers, not all of which are answered 24/7. The new number will reduce pressure on 111, which people often call for non-emergency issues. Knowing there’s a nearby police presence at all times is something communities expect, and this new non-emergency number will make sure communities like Rakiura have officers on call 24/7. I welcome this fantastic initiative and it’s great to see the Government continuing to work to keep our Southland communities safe. We Southlanders look out for each other. That’s why Southland, especially Rakiura, have safe and thriving communities. The Government realizes this and wants to make sure our streets remain safe. That’s an outcome worth investing in.

*From the Office of Sarah Dowie, MP*

### Cost for Travelling on the Ferry

Most people will know that we recently increased our ferry prices for the first time in 3 years (refer previous article in SIN). I just want to confirm to everyone what the rates are, and how they are applied for residents as opposed to ratepayers and the effect of charging your ferry travel to an account.

**Residents:** Residents who pay cash/eftpos at the time of travel, the cost is \$50 each way. If a resident has an account, they may charge their ferry to that account but an Admin fee will be incurred of \$7 per crossing. If you are an agent and actively sell Real Journeys product, you will receive an additional benefit of only being charged \$50 if put on account.

**Ratepayers:** For those who are land/property owners on the Island, but do not reside permanently on the Island, and do not usually hold accounts anyway, the charge is \$57 per trip.

Real Journeys continue to provide free ferry travel for all Stewart Island children who live on the Island, who either attend the Oban School or who travel to attend high school in Invercargill and further afield. Parents should be reminded that authority for these children to travel unaccompanied is monitored by our wharf staff, so please ensure the appropriate form is completed once any child starts to travel on their own.

### Transport of Small Freight for Local Residents

We would also like to clarify our policy regarding the carriage of personal items/freight on the ferries.

In order to define "luggage" for residents, half a bin per booking (usually 1 or 2 people) is what most people use when travelling to shop in town etc.

The Bluff Terminal staff have been advised that if resident/ratepayers require a bin to be solely put aside for their luggage/freight, then charges will apply. \$35 is the cost of a full bin.

Remember that if you are a business and transporting goods regarding this business, then freight charges will apply to all items.

**Carriage of Perishable Food Items:** If you are ordering your food online and it includes perishable items, every consideration will be given to prioritise the transport of these items. Our Bluff Staff, who sign for the boxes from the courier, are usually told when boxes contain chilled or frozen items and provide an added service of putting your food in our fridge / freezer prior to the goods travelling.

I would like to emphasise that it is not our responsibility to do this but we are happy to do it as a service to the Island residents.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If for any reason your food order does not get on the ferry on the day of delivery to Bluff, could you please make contact as soon as possible, to ensure items are put in fridges/freezers overnight – please don't presume it has been done. Please call direct to Bluff on 03 212 7660 or contact Jane Grant on 02102400344 who can then contact staff after hours if necessary.

# SIRCET Update—by Shona Sangster

Congratulations to Don Goodhue, lucky winner of Jason Hosking’s beautiful picture of a tui. Thanks to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, nearly \$700 was raised thanks to your generosity.

Overindulged at Christmas? Made a New Year’s resolution to get more exercise or spend more time outdoors? We have some rat lines free in the Deep Bay area that need volunteers. If you’d like to take one on, please contact Willy: [willy@sircet.org.nz](mailto:willy@sircet.org.nz) or 0274694504.

Kiwi avoidance training for dogs will be happening again over Easter.

Using data from our new online trapping system, Willy has produced these maps showing the rats caught in the Core part of the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project area from January 2016 to January 2017. It also shows how we’ve moved A24 Goodnature self-resetting traps, and where we have had a positive result on the rat monitoring lines (RML). These yellow dots indicate that a rat (or more than one) has run across our ink cards.

And finally, a big thank you to the World Wildlife Federation’s Habitat Protection Fund, who have helped to fund SIRCET’s work this year. The WWF Habitat Protection Fund supports communities to run projects that conserve and restore New Zealand’s natural environment - freshwater, coastal, wetlands, forest and dunelands. The WWF Habitat Protection Fund is supported by the Tindall Foundation.

SIRCET rat monitoring and catch count in core zone - January 2016 - June 2016



SIRCET rat monitoring and catch count in core zone - July 2016 - January 2017



# What's Up, DOC?

*From Jennifer Ross*

## **New Staff in the New Year**

Our team continues to grow with two new Rakiura Track maintenance staff (Monty and Jack), another Weeds Ranger (Thea) and another casual Visitor Centre role (Colette) starting in January 2017. We have also added a permanent Community Ranger role to our structure (me)!

## **Rakiura Track Issues**

A weather bomb combined with seemingly endless rain in January has created several issues on the Rakiura Track. When one river was in flood a huge rata tree floated down, got hung up on the Maori Beach metal truss bridge and bent it! A wooden bridge at Kaipipi was pushed around and off its foundation by flooding and the upper Sawdust Bay bridge experienced flooding. A six-metre section of the Rakiura Track slipped 10-metres near Kaipipi and was re-routed immediately following its discovery. The rest of the track will be visited by DOC Structures Engineer Tim Cross in early February to assess all issues and provide advice.

## **Local Walk Treefalls**

Every single local walk track has had trees down recently due to extreme weather. The team has done a phenomenal job clearing windfalls very quickly after they are discovered or reported. If you see a tree down on a local track making the track difficult to pass or unpassable, please report this to the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre.

## **Dog Issues**

We have had recent issues with dogs that have left us concerned, as dogs pose a very real threat to our



*Above: Rata tree hung up on Rakiura Track bridge near Maori Beach. The position of the tree shows how high the river level had been. Photo Credit: Dale Chittenden DOC  
Below: Rakiura Track bridge at upper Sawdust Bay in flood  
Photo Credit: Aristya Marzuki DOC*



*Below left: Rakiura Track six-metre section slip at Kaipipi. Below right: Rakiura Track slip re-route at Kaipipi.  
Photo Credit: Andrew King DOC*





Above: Carcass of banded bird discovered by rangers in November 2016, likely cat predation according to Massey University's WildBase Photo Credit: Mike Douglass DOC  
 Below: Raised Timms cat kill trap Photo Credit: Mike Douglass DOC



Fuschia track staircase pulling away from the track after a large treefall. Photo Credit: Andrew King DOC

wildlife, particularly kiwi. Remember that there are no dogs permitted in Rakiura National Park and dogs are only permitted on the Ryan's Creek, Fern Gully, and track to Kaipipi. All dogs on DOC tracks must be on leads. Thank you for the reports and please practice responsible dog ownership so we can enjoy our dogs and keep our wildlife safe.

**Rakiura Track Visitor Numbers**

Although the weather has been less than desirable we have had 10% more visitors on the Rakiura Track compared to this time last year.

**Restricted Fire Season**

Stewart Island/Rakiura is currently in a Restricted Fire Season. Incredibly, peat soils can still burn in the wet conditions, including under water! This means that restrictions are placed on some burning activities. You may still be able to have a fire provided you obtain a fire permit. Contact Southern Rural Fire to obtain a permit: 0800 77 33 63 or [info@southernruralfire.org.nz](mailto:info@southernruralfire.org.nz).

**Saving the Southern New Zealand Dotterel**

As the southern New Zealand dotterel faces possible extinction, the Rakiura team are working hard to save them. The population has been experiencing an on-going decline and the total population is currently estimated at 126 birds. They are listed as Nationally Critical, which means that they are at immediate risk of extinction.

Based on discussions and a technical review, a broad management plan was designed to include new predator control methods to target feral cats: kill trapping, spotlighting, and using a new toxin – PAPP. The number of targeted predators were increased with the addition of white-tailed deer and spur-winged plover control. The area receiving feral cat control was significantly expanded. Disease screening, on-going nest monitoring and banding work has also been incorporated. Field cameras have been used to monitor nests and capture nest, bird and bait-station interactions.

The decline was raised as a national issue, funding was confirmed in late July 2016, and by early September a peer-reviewed plan was put together and the necessary consents gained to proceed. There was no time to lose! We changed from having one to two Rangers for a few days per fortnight to having multiple Rangers on the tops every week. Two existing Rakiura bivvies were shifted into the southern New Zealand dotterel project area and work began on the feral cat control grid. First, the proposed area was looked over in detail by helicopter and then Rangers starting scouting and flagging new tracks.

Track cutting contractors have cut new tracks through the demanding sub-alpine scrub surrounding the breeding habitat. These lines  
 (Continued on page 16)



Read more about the Southern New Zealand dotterel on page 11. *Photo Credit: Ty Conner DoC*

Village Centre, Oban : [glowingsky.co.nz](http://glowingsky.co.nz)



**Glowing Sky. Southern Clothing.**

**FOVEAUX FOODIES** had a Mexican Fiesta in November hosted by Sarah Tranmer. The dinner marked the group's one year anniversary! This past year FF has travelled gastronomically around the globe, with meals celebrating the cuisine of Morocco, Jamaica, India, Thailand, Italy, Mexico, and a pink-themed evening to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The next theme is **Wild Foods** on 1st April at the RSA. Open to all. If you are interested join Foveaux Foodies on Facebook or talk to Shona or Jess.



# RAKIURA RIDDLE

For **NICE** folks I'm a palindrome  
**HAMBURGERS** swap my **U** for **O**

I start with **S** here in **SI**  
**H** is for **Hg** and for **Hi**

First of **Twelve** is my day one  
 Some knock back **12** to say 'welcome'

Lo and behold an **L** moves in  
 Then all my fans feel chagrined

You put away your fans and **Ts**  
 'You're just a tease' you growl at me

I **HUG** **Hg** and squeeze and then  
 It goes up and you love me again

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It was an odd moment, opening a rat trap on a windswept Ringaringa hillside to find a politician's giant grin looming over a dead rat. The trap must have been made from an old corflute campaign sign! So here we have (drumroll please...) **SIRCET Rattling's first contest!** Come up with a caption for this photo. Winner gets a jug of beer or a rat trap. Send submissions to Willy Gamble at [willy@sircet.org.nz](mailto:willy@sircet.org.nz)



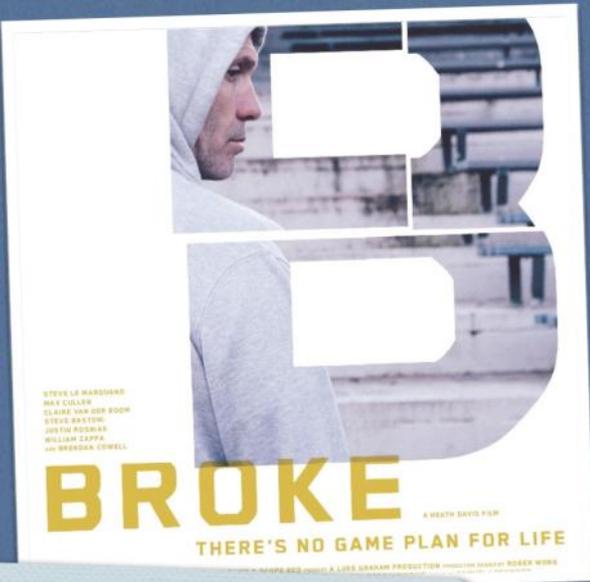
**Dogs can kill kiwi and penguins.  
Please do not let your dog wander.  
Report wandering dogs to  
0800 732 732**



**Stewart Island Real Estate**  
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**BROKE**  
@ Bunkhouse Theatre Stewart Island  
Sat 18 & Wed 22 Feb 2017 - 7.30pm



**BROKE**  
THERE'S NO GAME PLAN FOR LIFE

**Independent Feature Film (2016)**  
A disgraced rugby league star and gambling addict attempts to turn his life around with the help of his number one fan.

This is a feature debut from director Heath Davis, produced by Luke Graham, son of Kiwi league legend Mark Graham.

"Bound to be a hit" *Dov Kornits, Filmink Magazine* ★★★★★

"Steve Le Marquand ... shines as the lead in Broke" *Matthew Eeles, Cinema Australia* ★★★★★

Tickets: Adult \$15, Senior/Student \$13, Child \$10

If you want to know more check out our website  
([www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz](http://www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz))



**Shop Talk** by Jules Retberg

**Slip-slap-slop turns splish-splash-splosh**

Well, so much for the Four Square "Splash of Summer" promotion. Splashy it certainly was with weather bombs soaking us to the skin! Those lucky enough to win a beach towel, featuring the iconic Four Square Charlie image, may not have had a chance to use it on the beach yet. Hopefully it will have been useful to dry yourself off after walking from the shop to the car.

Swiftly following the "Splash of Summer" promotion was our "Endless Summer" promotion ... and with it seemingly endless rain, rain and RAIN. By the time this Stewart Island News goes to print one lucky local will know if they've won a \$1000 Prezzy Card. This is a pre-loaded credit card that can be used just like a regular VISA card - and maybe it will be spent on a holiday to somewhere that actually has a golden orb shining in the sky!

In keeping with the summer holiday theme, Mallowpuffs have launched two new limited edition flavours - Pineapple and Passionfruit - with the tag line "Grab a Taste of the Tropics". Perhaps once we've eaten them all, summer will magically arrive! Here's hoping.

In fairness we have had some bright days; one such day I was driving past Butterfield Beach and saw a funny yet endearing sight. A visitor, I guess he was aged in his thirties, had parked up his rental car by the swings. Here was a lone, grown man, on the swings, going as high as he could. Embracing the child within - what a happy sight!

A few days later, back at Butterfield Beach, as rain and hail pounded the sand a person wearing a billowing blue poncho was being buffeted by the wind. Had it been stronger the poncho could have become a parachute and she'd have taken flight a la Mary Poppins. OK it was me. I never thought I'd wear one of those bright plastic things that some of our visitors wear when tramping, but it turns out my 'waterproof' raincoat is actually a sponge. After a morning dog walk in torrential rain I got soaked so for my lunchtime dog walk I had no choice but to sport a bright blue parachute-ensemble to keep me dry. Even the dog refused to walk beside me.

Finally, a question posed to Karen by a visitor in the shop today:

"You're a local - when will it stop raining?"  
If only we knew ...

## **Changes to the Southland District Plan: What do they mean for you?**

The District Plan guides how land and resources are managed in the Southland District. Legislation means the plan has to be reviewed every 10 years. Last time it was reviewed, some changes to the rules on Stewart Island were introduced. These came into effect at the end of 2014, after a public consultation process was carried out (including letters letting people know changes were proposed were sent to all affected properties).

There are two parts to Stewart Island under the District Plan. The first is the Urban Zone, which has the same zoning as the old plan. The rest of the island is covered by a new zone called the Fiordland/Rakiura Zone.

### **What do the changes to the Fiordland/Rakiura Zone rules mean for me?**

*If you're building a new house:* Under the old plan, sometimes a house or garage could be built without requiring a resource consent. If the title was newer than 1994, or if you planned to clear indigenous vegetation, you still needed consent under the old plan. Under the new plan, building a house in the Fiordland/Rakiura Zone now requires a resource consent.

*If you're subdividing:* Subdivision across the whole Southland District – including Stewart Island – has always required a resource consent so for most subdivisions, nothing has changed. However, if your property is outside the 'Stewart Island Transitional Overlay' and you plan to subdivide it into lots smaller than 10 hectares, you do have to provide some extra information when you apply for a consent. This includes information about how your development is consistent with policies in the District Plan and the impact level of your development.

Surveyors know about the information requirements and can manage this process for you.

### **Why were the changes introduced?**

Stewart Island has special landscape and wilderness values. The changes to the District Plan were introduced to help keep it this way. These unique values provide a point of difference for the island and benefits for the community's economy and environment. It's important development on the island is sensitive to the surroundings. These changes were made to balance protecting the island's special character while still allowing future development.

### **What does the resource consent process involve?**

You need to fill out an application form at [southlanddc.govt.nz](http://southlanddc.govt.nz)

An assessment of the effects of your planned development should go with this. Effects that may be considered include: how visible it will be from public spaces and roads, the materials and colours used and how these blend into the environment, if native vegetation will be cleared, if there is any water nearby, and proposed earthworks. If you're subdividing, this will also consider things like connecting to essential services or hazard risks.

If you are subdividing, a surveyor will need to draw up new property boundaries. They can complete the consent application as well.

A resource consent takes up to 20 working days to process – but it can take longer if not all of the required information is provided when you first apply. The deposit for a resource consent is \$600. If additional costs are incurred, these will be charged to you.

If you have further questions on these changes and what they mean for you, contact our Resource Management team on 0800 732 732.

## Museum Rambles by Jo Riksem



**Kelp bags hanging up to dry at Bragg Bay 1916**

Exciting news! We plan on holding a Titi Exhibition on the history of muttonbirds and muttonbirding, then and now at the Community Hall on Labour Weekend (end of October) of this year.

If you have any items, photographs, films, stories, etc. that you think might be of use for this exhibition please contact Raylene Waddell (03 2191-092 or glendaruel@xtra.co.nz) or Bev & Jo at the museum (03 2191-221 or stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz).

Also from the beginning of March we will have a special display of the Lockerbie Collection (artefacts found around The Neck area) in the main museum for about three to four months to celebrate Heritage Month in March and Archaeology week in April.

### **Acquisitions:**

**Photo of Thule taken by M.N. Watt** - Lovely photo taken from the back of Mab Prentice's house of Thule

**Photos of whaling and Stewart Island** - Taken about the 1920s

**Photo of Lawrence Guenter Rinitz** - German man involved in a kayaking accident in 2004

**Photo of Sheila Natusch** - at art exhibition in Invercargill

**Photo of chain sculpture** - installation at Lee Bay

**Documents about sewage scheme 1988**

**Poster and catalogue for Riverton & Rakiura art exhibition** - held by Dawn Barry  
March 13-30 (year unknown)

**Letter of appreciation to Robert Hicks 1962** - from Presbytery of Southland for 33 years of service.

**Searches for January** were: Captain J.B. Greig

We are lucky to have an extensive collection of books and information on Stewart Island and if you want to do any research on places, people or items just phone Bev Cowie 2191-350 or myself 2191-230 to arrange a time at the museum.

Summer hours are now Monday - Saturday 10- 1:30 and Sunday 12 - 2:00.

On Cruise ship days the museum will be open until 4pm.

*(DoC News Continued from page 11)*

will form attractive highways for feral cats traversing the landscape and bait stations will be placed on the freshly cut tracks.

Rangers have been completing grid searches for dotterel nests and have found 14 at the time of writing. Keeping track of unbanded chicks is quite a task, however, based on their location and their association with banded adults we estimate that at least 16 individual chicks have been sighted. The use of a cat-detecting dog occurred in late January. The dog provides an estimate of cat density in the core breeding area to give us an indication of the results of our efforts so far and where extra work may need to be focussed. Disease screening and banding work is targeted for the April flocking season when it will be easier to catch more birds.



Southern New Zealand Dotterel chicks and egg in a nest . Photo Credit: Mike Douglass DOC

The 16/17 breeding season has been a great success with the largest amount of resource and effort being applied to the predator control programme since it began in 1994. We still have a lot of work ahead of us. Ultimately, the success of our collaborative efforts will be measured in the April 2017 flock counts and the years to come. Stay tuned...

**Port Adventure Kiwi Monitoring**

DOC Science and Policy Advisor Hugh Robertson and Advisor Rogan Colbourne will be undertaking kiwi monitoring research at Port Adventure between 18 February and 6 March, 2017. They will be using kiwi detecting dogs to catch and band kiwi in the Port Adventure area. They will be looking at population trends based outside of the Mason Bay area where they have been surveying over several years. According to the Mason Bay data there is a 2% decline in kiwi population per year. A Ngai Tahu rep will be joining the group and local DOC Rangers will be assisting with the work.

**HMB Weeds**

Even with the summer weather we have been having, weeds are still managing to grow! Chilean Flame Creeper (CFC) has now become more visible with its green foliage and bright red flowers. This is one weed DOC has controlled in the past but with no effective control method we are unable to continue this work. CFC is highly invasive, smothering anything in its path. It's hard to kill as it has a network of underground tubers that remain untouched by spraying the foliage and it just pops up again. If you have it on your property or see it on the roadside, simply snapping the vines will prevent it from flowering this year and sending its seeds further afield.



We are concerned about the impact that Pampas might have if it was to spread into our wetland areas. We are currently finding out how much of this plant is around the town and have found two large plants so far. It does look much the same as our native Toi Toi but an easy way to tell them apart is to try and rip the plant across the leaf. Pampas will rip, Toi Toi will not. If you know of any pampas, or suspected pampas, please let us know.



Left: Chilean Flame Creeper (CFC)  
Right: A large example of a local pampas



# Hawaiian Island Themed Party

*Break out your loudest Hawaiian Shirt, Sarong,  
Sunfrock, or Jeans, Jandals & Tee  
(Fancy Dress Optional)*

**Good Friday - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Stewart Island Community Centre**

**7pm - 1am**

**Live Music - Quantum**

*Great Supper - Cash Bar - Courtesy Transport*

**Tickets just \$30 & on sale now from:**

**South Sea Hotel, Glowing Sky,**

**The Ferry Terminal, Pete Ross Auto**

**NO DOOR SALES - ROAR**

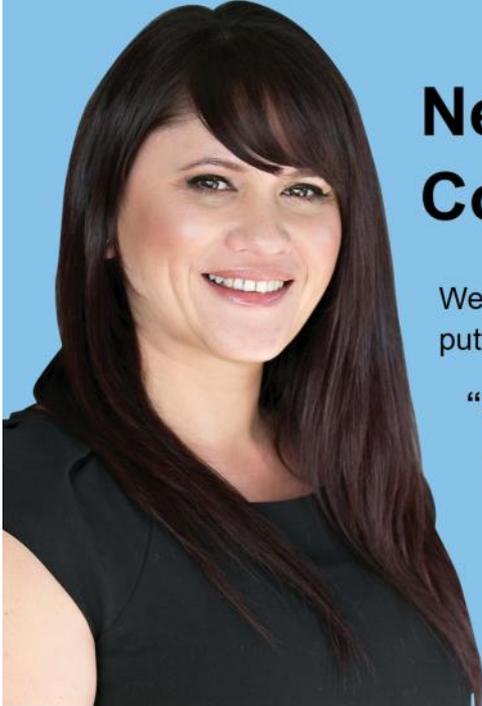


**A Stewart Island Lions Club Fundraiser for Community Projects**

# congratulations

*Parents*  
Ange & Ants  
*welcome*  
baby girl  
Luca Rohi Simpson

*Parents*  
Alina & Matt  
*welcome*  
baby girl  
Mila Rose Atkins



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Photo from Tessa Allen

## Quality Handyman Services Guaranteed

Experienced, reliable handyman (ex Green Acres contractor) available for work on the island

### Handyman Services

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance        | General fencing                       |
| Lawn mowing                          | Building dog kennels, chook runs etc. |
| Line trimming                        | Building/assembling garden sheds etc  |
| Section maintenance                  | General carpentry                     |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Gutter cleaning                       |
| Tree pruning                         | Moss and mould treatment              |
| Tree removal                         | Water blasting                        |
| Chainsaw work                        | Spider proofing                       |
| Hedge trimming                       | Rose pruning                          |
| Wooden fence and deck construction   |                                       |
| Wooden fence and deck repair         | And more - just ask                   |

### Office Services

can also be provided

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bookkeeping           | Brochure, flyer & business card |
| Office administration | design & printing               |

If you want something done, and don't see it in the lists above, just give me ring. You may be surprised just what I can do.



Contact  
Geoff



## Stewart Island Handyman Services

Phone 973 0959 (Local Number) Mobile 027 253 3106  
Email [handyman@acadia.co.nz](mailto:handyman@acadia.co.nz)



A traffic light on Stewart Island??!! Thanks to Ozzy Pete for the laugh.

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to [stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)**

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