

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

February 2018

\$3.00

January was New Zealand's hottest month on record. Many long-time residents can't recall a summer so scorching. After weeks of drought and empty water tanks, we welcomed the rain from Cyclone Fehi. The unusual weather patterns could be the cause of unusual insect patterns. We've experienced a lot less sandflies this season and seemingly a lot MORE bumblebees. And no, it's not your imagination, bumblebees do love blue. Blue and violet-coloured flowers are generally the most nectar-rich and therefore rewarding for a bee. Bees' eyesight is also tied up with their preference — they see in the ultraviolet spectrum blues and blue-greens and violets, but they don't see the colour red.

Reminder: We will be printing a lot less SINS for the shop so if you don't want to miss out, subscribe. Details on back. With a new year come new additions to SIN. A column by Bev Osborn "400 Words" will bring a touch of theological philosophy to our pages. Artist Kylie Baaker will be sharing her beautiful renditions of birds along with a few words (p3). We've got The Galley back with recipes (p14) And we now have a SIN quiz alongside Pictograms and the Rakiura Riddle (p12). Get your smoko game face on...

Veni, Vidi, Vomiti... Stewart Island Man of the Year was a spectacular spectacle as usual. Rakiura Rugrats raised over five grand and the crowd was treated to an entertaining show of manly shenanigans. Well done to all the participants, supporters & sponsors, and to the team of mums who do all the organising. Luke Simeon won Man of the Year for the second time, Morgan Hamilton came in second and Riki Rudin-Jones took third place. Rhys Leask earned most popular, and after two tie-breakers Jan Keen won the wood-chopping (and beer-skulling) in the audience participation category. There are some pictures in these

pages and if you want to see more check the Stewart Island Home Land page on FB where Sandra Whipp has posted a big album of the event there. (Check the page anyway if you're a fan of island history, as it is an excellent and entertaining repository of island photos and stories.) I also have a bunch of video clips from the event which were too pukey to post... if you want to see yourself chundering paua guts give me a bell soon before I purge them from my phone.

Farewell and best wishes to two island families who have shifted to the mainland: the Learmonth's (Jo, Kyle, Zoe & Guy) and the Lachmanns (Holger, Chris & Nate). You will all be missed! Halfmoon Bay School and the entire community welcome two new teachers: Ms Pettinger and Mrs Fitzsimons (Jade and Alison to the grownups).

The carcasses of two dog-mauled little blue penguins have been found at Lee Bay recently. Dog owners: PLEASE be responsible and KEEP CONTROL OF YOUR DOG AT ALL TIMES. If your dog is at the beach, please have your dog in your sights and under your control. Stewart Island birds are taonga and should be treasured, cherished, respected and protected. Island wildlife are not meant to be chew toys for wandering canines!

Emma Feenstra will be embarking on a study of Stewart Island kiwi with a focus on the chicks. Her meeting to touch base with locals was fascinating as everyone threw their observations into the pot. There are many intriguing unanswered questions about our island tokoeka. To keep abreast of Emma's study, follow her Facebook page Stewart Island Kiwi.



Moulting Snares crested penguin. Penguin news page 5
Photo by Carolyn Squires

Rakiura Marine Guardians had a well-attended and productive meeting last month. Rebecca Guest spoke of how the Fiordland Marine Guardians was established and organised, and the room brainstormed about concerning issues for our local waters.

A rat was found in a coastal trap at Ulva Island...see more page 15.

Sanford are inviting the public to chat with them about their proposed salmon farm at Big Glory Bay from noon to 6pm on Friday & Saturday 16-17 February at the South Sea Hotel.

Congratulations to Maureen Jones who was honoured at two recent events for her many years of service as a marine radio operator here. More page 8.

Rakiura Hummingbirds is having a working bee to make more boomerang bags starting at 10am Tuesday-Wednesday 20-21st February at the Community Centre. All welcome, no experience necessary. More p14. —Jess



Congratulations to the winners of the Ambrose golf tournament: Trinity, Riki, Luke & Tim Photo from Aaron Joy

Sevengill shark research – now and into the future

Earlier in 2017 an article was published in the Stewart Island News giving a brief look into the sevengill research that has been going on in Paterson Inlet. This article is to give a bit of an update of findings from the last time, as well as introduce some of the new research we've got planned and the people behind it. Since the research is ongoing, our findings may change as we come to understand more. That being said, these results are not completely finalised but rather our best current understanding.



A cheeky sevengill shark spy-hops out to get a better look at the boat

The data collected from the last year and a half has painted a reasonably clear picture of what these animals are doing throughout the year. Summer has shown to have the highest abundance of sevengills in Paterson Inlet with a steady decline into winter which is when numbers are at their lowest. The population is female dominated with males making up 23% of the population in summer, and less than 5% in winter. This information backs up our previous prediction that males seem to be temporary, arriving in summer, staying through autumn, and then departing elsewhere before winter. This is most likely linked to breeding.

The females meanwhile are more resident. At this point pregnancy is the most likely cause for whether a female sevengill remains in Paterson Inlet or leaves. Pregnant females have been seen in other areas (Tasmania for example) to head offshore to pupping grounds during the winter months. This movement strategy is helpful to the species as it splits the resources available to sevengills more evenly, and provides new born sevengills a fighting chance to make it to adulthood. As previously mentioned the research is ongoing and as we discover more we will continue to keep the community updated about these wonderful animals.

Onto the new research we have planned within Paterson Inlet. We have two new post-graduate students joining the research focussing on sevengill sharks. Firstly, we have Rosa Edwards who will be investigating how sevengill sharks use the habitat around Paterson Inlet. Eventually this will provide a much clearer picture on the fine scale distribution of the sevengills in the inlet, and what conditions they prefer to reside in.

Secondly, we have Michael Heldsinger who is going to be looking at gauging the health of marine protected areas using predator species (like sevengills, rig and skates). Typically, healthy areas have strong predator abundances that help maintain the eco-system structure removing sick or weak prey from the population. To achieve this, we will be deploying underwater cameras in and around the Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve. We will not be harming or removing anything from the environment other than video recordings and there will be no direct negative impact of any kind on the area.

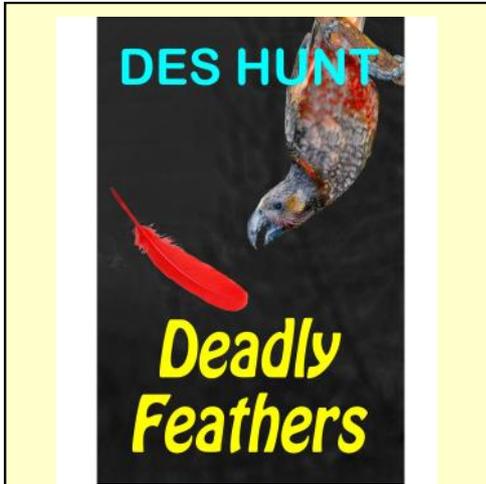


Michael Heldsinger and Rosa Edwards - happy to be on Stewart Island

(Shark Research Continued from page 2)

If you happen to see us around the island don't hesitate to come say hello and ask anything you may be interested in. We're thankful for the opportunity to conduct research around Stewart Island and would be happy to give back any way we can.

Rob Lewis, Rosa Edwards, and Michael Heldsinger
MSc candidates, University of Otago



BOOK RECOMMENDATION FOR KIDS

Parents: I just read a kids' book to the boys that we all loved. You may have already heard of it but if not, check out *Deadly Feathers* by Des Hunt. The author visited HMB School before he wrote the book to get ideas from local kids about what would make a good island-based story. It's a great adventure with Rakiura and Ulva as backdrops and plenty of familiar references and themes. A boy moves to Stewart Island and tries to adjust to island life and the new school. He sees a mysterious parrot and encounters a strange yacht and suspects foul play and a potential eco-disaster. Nobody believes him and he must convince his new friend and the community before it's too late! Fast-paced and well-written, a great read-a-chapter-a-night aloud for children. Available at the school library.

—Jess

The South Island Saddleback (*Philesturnus carunculatus*) is known in Maori as Tieke. At the beginning of the 20th century, Saddlebacks were extinct on the mainland and limited to the Big South Cape, Pukeweka and Solomon Islands off the southwest coast of Stewart Island.



In 1963 there was a catastrophic ship rat invasion that destroyed these populations and was also responsible for the extinction of the Stewart Island snipe, Stead's bush wren and greater short-tailed bat.

In a monumental ecological win, the remnant population of 36 individuals were rescued by the Wildlife Service (later to become the Department of Conservation) just five months after the rat invasion and moved to nearby Big and Kaimohu islands. This was the first time a translocation successfully rescued an endangered population anywhere in the world. The birds are now spread around various islands around Stewart Island and the southern mainland. In 2000, they were successfully translocated to Ulva Island. They are no longer considered endangered (their conservation status = recovering) and many consider this one of New Zealand's greatest conservation successes.

Watercolour from Kylie Baaker's Birds of Ulva available at Art in the Boat Shed, Main Road



The Reel People of New Zealand

(NZ Independent Documentary)

screening Saturday 24th February 2018 at 7.30pm.

Prof. Geoff Lealand will present to you this documentary by Nick Holmer winner of the Fulbright Award for 2015. It had its world premiere at the prestigious Documentary Edge 2017 Film Festival in Wellington and Auckland and will be screened on Sky.

This short documentary was "Inspired by Geoff Lealand's Cinemas of New Zealand website, the film takes a journey through New Zealand, visiting small and independent cinemas along the way. Audiences encounter projection booths from years gone by, cinemas returning to Christchurch post-earthquake, local communities bringing back film to their town, a wedding in a Waikato cinema, and a very unique viewing experience on Stewart Island. This film is about the past, present and possible future of film-going in Aotearoa."

Film to be followed by a Q&A with Geoff Lealand.

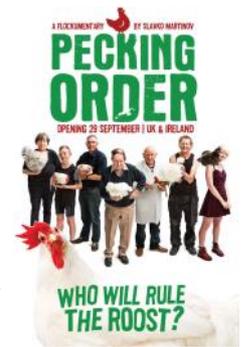
All Tickets \$7.50. All proceeds to be shared between Toi Rakiura Arts Trust and Rakiura Museum.

Pecking Order (NZ Independent Documentary, 2017)

screening Wednesday 7/03/18 & Saturday 10/03/18 at 7.30pm.

Join members of the 148-year-old Christchurch Poultry, Bantam and Pigeon Club in the lead up to the NZ National Show, as they battle history (and each other) in their quest for glory. Audiences will be introduced to an endearing and eclectic group of 'chick fanciers', each hoping to take away the top prize, including Doug the determined Club President, Rhys the young upstart, Sarah the chicken whisperer, Ian the exacting judge, Mark the voice of reason and Brian the lovable champion. 'Pecking Order' is a hilarious, unique, and heart-warming slice of Kiwiana which is sure to delight and surprise audiences of all ages.

Tickets: Adult (\$15.00); Senior/Student (\$13.00); Children (\$10.00) Bookings Recommended.



'No Ordinary Sheila' coming soon. Stay tuned!



Birdseye view from the steeple of Oban Presbyterian Church 2012
Photo: Rakiura Museum

Church Chatter by Jo Riskem

Back in 2012 we had some work done on the church and while up in the steeple had some photos taken. I guess you could call it a "birdseye view." Some people think the Lord is looking down on us from lofty heights but in reality He is walking by us each step of the way, always near and never far, ready to be asked for help but never pushy. Nice to have a friend like that. I know He has been guiding me for over 60 years.

Speakers for March

4 March 2018 – Rev. Fiona Thomson – If you didn't hear Fiona at the end of February come and meet her in March. Fiona Thomson was baptised as a Presbyterian at St Paul's, Timaru. Fiona now works as an Anglican minister in the Parish of Pauatahanui, to the north of Wellington. Fiona and her husband Julian are celebrating 30 years of marriage this year. Together they enjoy music, gardening and the outdoors.

11 March – Rachel Trevathan – a welcome return of our doctor from Gore who speaks from the heart and who we love to have back. Rachel is widely travelled and we love hearing about her travels here in New Zealand as well as overseas.

18 March – Aaron Johnstone – Aaron is ministry intern at Upper Clutha Presbyterian. He grew up in Lumsden and Gore, and lived 3 years at Invercargill while working as an engineer at Tiwai. Since then his wife Laura and and him have lived three years near Philadelphia, who's football team just won the Superbowl! We have two young children, Luke (turning 3 while we're on the island) and Phoebe (8 months).

25 March – Alan & Averil Bennett - Rev Alan Bennett, with Averil, has part-time ministries in Gore and Edendale, after 42 years in Thailand with OMF International. Alan enjoys amateur radio, both operating and fixing; and pastoral visiting. Averil's academic career began as a new entrant in Oban School! She is a writer and plans a short play-reading: 'Retrial', in Oban during Easter.

Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.

A Southern Visitor

January's exceptionally warm weather would have been enjoyed by most visitors, but not so much by a Snares crested penguin that appeared just past the boatsheds on Elgin Terrace one hot afternoon. Penguins are more suited for swimming in cold water than standing in the sun on a hot road edge, and this one was obviously heat-stressed. Its feet were bright pink and its mouth was open, panting. Attention from a gathering crowd of passers-by must have added to the stress it was experiencing.

This penguin was probably about to start moulting - replacing its old feathers with new ones. All birds moult and for most birds this can be done gradually, a few feathers at a time so their activity isn't limited - it's business as usual. Penguins however rely on an intact covering of feathers to keep them waterproof and warm while at sea; they have a dense covering of feathers which they maintain with a waxy substance from their preen gland. This keeps them streamlined and waterproof, and traps a layer of air beneath the exterior surface to keep them warm - a bit like the dry suits worn by scuba divers. Losing a patch of feathers would mean they would be diving in a dry suit full of holes. They would get wet and cold, and suffer from hypothermia. So penguins need to moult all their feathers in a short time, usually in the space of about four weeks and they have to sit out the entire process on land. They can't go to sea to feed and lose a lot of weight over those four weeks; if they aren't fat enough when starting their moult they will starve before they finish. A stressed penguin will burn up more calories than it needs to, depleting its valuable fat reserves.

Generally, penguins will find a secluded, sheltered place in which to spend their moult period but some, especially young birds, will find themselves in an inappropriate place as had this one. As well as being out in the glaring hot sun it was on the edge of a road (think cars, dogs), and surrounded by on-lookers (think selfies with the penguin...). However with the help of locals and DOC staff, who ensured people kept a respectable distance, and produced a bucket, towel and even an icepack, the penguin was relocated to a quiet shady beach where it stood for a while enjoying a cool(ish) breeze and was last seen heading for shelter in the bush.

Over the next couple of months it's likely that more penguins will turn up trying to moult. Unless they are in a place unsafe for them, the best thing to do is leave them alone so they can get on with it. They will wander around a bit looking miserable (don't be fooled, they're usually ok), leaving piles of old feathers, then disappear back to sea wearing a brand new "dry suit" and with a four-week appetite!

Thanks Pip, Ange, Anyta, Malisha, Bec, & Troy.

Sandy King

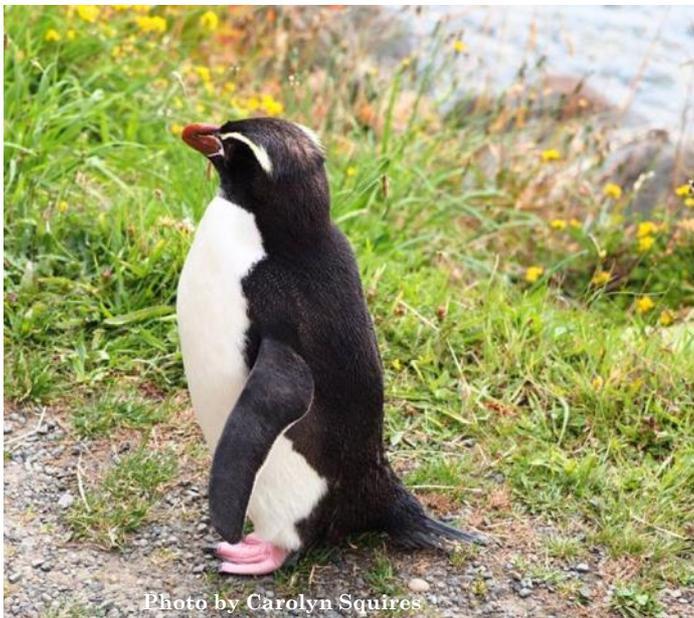


Photo by Carolyn Squires



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has continued monitoring penguin breeding at selected sites on Rakiura/Stewart Island (Rollers Beach & Golden Beach on the Anglem Coast, Tommy, Goat, Groper & Crayfish Islands in the Bravo group) and Whenua Hou/Codfish Island this season with a mixed bag of results that again raise more questions than answers. Nest numbers were down at all sites, but the most startling and concerning decline has been on Whenua Hou where only 16 nests were located, down from 24 in 2016 and 61 in 2001. Given the predator-free and protected status of Whenua Hou it seems that the problem lies in the ocean as all the usual land based issues can be ruled out. A check of nest sites in December found that most eggs (97%) had hatched but only 11 chicks were still alive.

Hatching was also good on the Bravo group (96%) and in early January 19 chicks were found alive from 26 eggs. On the Anglem Coast 90% of eggs hatched and in January 12 chicks were alive from 21 eggs. However there was quite a difference between the two sites with only 2 chicks surviving from 9 eggs at Rollers Beach and 10 chicks from 12 eggs at Golden Beach. Why the difference when the two sites are relatively close?

The final check for the season is still to be completed for the Anglem Coast and Bravo group, but was completed on Codfish Island in early February. One chick had died since December, and four more were still very small and almost completely covered in down. At this time they should be almost fully feathered and these four were so far behind that it seems unlikely they will survive to fledge. However, there are always some surprises! Like the chick that looked really ill in December (small, with short sparse down and bald patches, and swollen eyes and throat) that was found in February alive and well, weighing 5.4kg. We would love more surprises like that!

Sandy King

For the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust



Tommy with a bagged chick



- Events List:
1. Stag Do
 2. Show us ya wood
 3. Men of War
 4. South Sea Circuit
 5. Mother Shuckers



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LETTERS

Dear folks, Please, I would like to add my name to the ex islanders who valued the Islander, Barry Rhodes. He was the first and last face I saw on visits to The Island. He was lovely, was Barry.

Bless You all down there. You still enfold one another at the bad times as well as the good. Could you please pass my sympathy on to Barry's family.

Mavis Hicks

Recently Environment Southland staff visited the island to complete our annual search and destroy programme for the pest plant *Gunnera* (Chilean rhubarb). This was a very successful operation, which would not have been possible without the support of the local community. The community was fantastic in identifying locations where the plant was growing and allowing us permission to access these areas.

We were encouraged to see that within the township there was a decline in numbers of mature plants found and, although there is still an active seed bank, this is reducing. Unfortunately there are still some areas where *Gunnera* is proving a nuisance, particularly in damp and coastal areas, as far away as Mamaku Point, which affects the natural beauty of Stewart Island.

To keep this plant from spreading, we will continue to need your help. Please notify Environment Southland of any new *Gunnera* sightings, so they can be removed before spreading seed.

If you wish to learn more please visit our website www.es.govt.nz and click on environment, pest animal and plants, pest plants.

Once again thank you for cooperation and I look forward to visiting again soon.

Shawn Johnson
Biosecurity Officer
Environment Southland

Rat Tales *by Jess Kany*

Fifty-two is an auspicious number. There are 52 white keys on a piano. There are 52 weeks in a year; 52 letters in the alphabet (upper-and lower cases combined); and the Eagles beat the Patriots in the 52nd Superbowl football game in the US recently (much to Crash's excitement). Maureen has been operating fisherman's radio for 52 years. Likely the most well-known LII fact is it's the number in a pack of playing cards.

Well, here's a new stat: There are now 52 traps around our golf course at Ringa Ringa. Puts new meaning to the term "rat pack." During a single check last month, SIRCET volunteer Anita Herbert discovered 26 rats!! Thanks to Anita for putting a serious handicap on these golf course varmints.

Once again, rat traps were used during the Stewart Island Man of the Year competition. The Southern Circuit race entailed dragging a buoy to the beach, hammering a nail, and then setting a rat trap and springing it hands-free by using a wee stick held with one's teeth. Yikes. As if that weren't tricky enough, extra points were offered if you *didn't* use the wee stick. Any ratter who's had a whoopsie with a trap knows the pain of a spring-zinged finger... hats off to Rhys Leask who gained extra points for deploying the rat trap with his tongue!

If you are interested in volunteering for SIRCET and having your own rat line to check, contact Willy Gamble at willy@sircet.org.nz



Stewart Island Marine Radio- ZLRZ

by Deborah Dillon, SIMR Secretary

Thank you for supporting Stewart Island Marine Radio ZLRZ, channel 65. The repeater for channel 65 is situated alongside the Maritime New Zealand emergency channel 10 repeater on Mt Rakiahua Stewart Island. Presently it is maintained and managed by a group of representatives of all emergency services on Stewart Island including SAR, Police, PRIME Nurse, Fire Service, St John, Civil Defence, Victim Support, local SDC Councillor and Stewart Island fishing. The group operates as a sub committee of Stewart Island SAR.

The Radio service has been operating since 1966, serving those at sea and their families for 52 years!

Maureen Jones has been the Radio Operator for all those years (assisted by her husband Ted Jones until his death).

Together in 2000 they received QSM in recognition of their service, and very recently Maureen's service was acknowledged at a special Southern Fishing industry dinner and she received the Kiwibank Local Hero Award in recognition of her continued dedication.

Many, many messages have been relayed, weather reports broadcast, rescues co-ordinated and lives saved by Maureen's continued service. Several books could probably be written but the most important would be about the companionship and support Channel 65 has provided to those at sea, and their families over the years!

The repeater and radio maintenance and associated costs are funded by your annual fees.

The annual fee to use Channel 65 is \$35 for a recreational users and \$70 for commercial users, and includes hand set, base sets, boat radios and aircraft.

If you are new to Channel 65 please talk to Maureen, the Radio Operator, directly so she can become familiar with your operation and circumstances.

Details required include boat/operation name, call sign, your name, address, ph number and email if available.

Again thanks heaps for supporting Channel 65, your local marine radio channel.

And huge thanks to you Maureen!



Rakiura Mātauranga Māori/Stewart Island Māori knowledge

by Cherie Hemsley

This initiative supports Rakiura community members who want to be more culturally diverse and is part of a long term project for the Rakiura community to increase our cultural competency. The project aims to support and engage with local ahikā Waitaha, Kati Mamoe and Kai Tahu to foster the growth and development of a better understanding of the Māori people and their identity by giving visibility to the Māori culture, focusing on the establishment of bilingual signage, improved and more frequent use of Te Reo and the insertion of Māori pou or other forms of Māori art into the community. This project also aims to tell the stories of the locals that call Rakiura home.

Every month in the SIN and on the Facebook page **Rakiura Mātauranga Māori** will be some pre-European information about the Island and her places. Also point to note is in the Ngāi Tahu dialect, the ng is replaced with a k, so Ngāi Tahu becomes Kai Tahu in the correct dialect.

This month it is Halfmoon Bay or Oban
Māori name: **Kairākau** (said like Kai – raa- co)

Kairākau is the traditional Māori name for Halfmoon Bay, on the eastern coastline on Rakiura sourced from <http://www.kahurumanu.co.nz/atlas> Created by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, it's a pretty cool mapping tool for finding out the Māori names of places, check it out if you want.

Kairākau is said to mean *a party of warriors*.

Also some say the Takirakau is the Māori name for Halfmoon Bay. Takirakau is said to mean *the crying or the singing trees* sourced from Place Names by Harold Ashwell.

If you have any questions or would like to know the Māori names of specific places here on Rakiura and their history, Please feel free to visit the Facebook page or email me at cherie.hemsley@hotmail.com

I would be interested to hear your feedback, both positive and negative to help create this space to be what we want it to be.

Kia pai tō rā/have a good day



Scenes from SI Man of the Year

Left: Jan Keen competes in audience wood-cutting comp. Right: Lorraine & Lindsay Squires enjoy the day.

Photos from Carolyn Squires

HEALTH & SAFETY

What do I need to know?

The Stewart Island Promotion Association and Venture Southland invite you to a presentation by Worksafe on health and safety.

7.30PM
WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
Stewart Island Pavilion

GUEST SPEAKERS
Ron Woods & Rob Cleary
Worksafe

Overview of the health and safety legislation
Requirements on businesses and employers

GUEST SPEAKER
Karen Duthie
Venture Southland

Support available for local businesses
How to access business planning, mentoring, and subsidised training.

Q & A

For more information:
Contact Anita Geeson on 03 219 1014
or Amy Bird on 03 211 1803.

PROFESSIONAL YOGA

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-  Gentle stretching, restorative yin yoga
-  Guided meditation, savasana to assist a deeper and longer relaxation and stilling the mind

Bring a yoga mat, a cushion and a blanket. Some yoga mats are available.

Where: The Pavilion, Stewart Island

When: Sunday, 1st April from 10.30 to 12.30

Cost: Donation / Koha

Register: contact@professionalyoga.net

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

from the office of Sarah Dowie MP

Employment law changes will cost jobs for Southland

New Zealand is a country of small and medium sized businesses, and that's particularly true here in Rakiura.

These businesses drive our economy, and provide a significant proportion of the job opportunities and incomes for our families.

The Southland region has been performing well in recent times and we all want that to continue. So it's important we don't do anything that upsets the apple cart.

The new Government has launched the first wave of their employment law reforms that could do just that. The reforms, as proposed, will increase risks and costs for small and medium sized businesses that can only slow our region down.

The changes include the end of the starting out wage, the removal of 90 day trials for businesses with more than 20 staff (including casual and part timers), big leaps in the minimum wage, reduced employment flexibility (through meal break requirements), and 1970's style standardised wage bargaining.

The collective bargaining that comes from these industrial reforms can only be expected to increase strikes and industrial action disrupting trade and the public, whilst reducing the competitiveness of our businesses. These legislative changes are simply not needed and only tip the balance in favour of union officials.

Together, these changes will mean fewer jobs for Kiwi workers and increase the cost of living. We are already seeing businesses across the country lose confidence as a result of the policies of this new Government. These reforms are one of the contributing reasons for that decline.

New Zealand has had an enviable track record over the last nine years for lifting employment and growing wages. Under the National Government, New Zealand saw growth of 245,000 jobs over the past two years, with New Zealand having the third highest employment rate in the developed world. Wages have consistently grown at nearly twice the rate of inflation. Unlike the Government, National backs workers and businesses to have modern, grown-up conversations about employment policies like pay, leave and allowances.

Given that track record, the Government needs to explain the reasoning behind these reforms - or are they just a payoff for their union backers at the expense of our economy? Forcing extra costs on small and medium sized businesses is not 'working with them'. And you cannot improve things for New Zealand workers by increasing the cost of goods made in New Zealand.

Southland's economy is growing strongly. Let's not do anything to upset that growth.

Should you wish to discuss anything with me or you would like me to visit you or your organization or advocate on your behalf, please don't hesitate to contact my office on 03 218 6813 or email sarah.dowie@parliament.govt.nz.



Books Reviewed from Sue Ford

“Behind Closed Doors”

by **B.A. Paris** is my Book of the Month! Jack and Grace – to the outside world – are the perfect couple. We know that this is far from the truth, which is that Grace has married a monster. He appears to be kind, wealthy and good-looking, caring of Millie, Grace’s Down’s Syndrome young sister, but Jack has a horrific agenda of his own. Grace is in no position to thwart his plans which revolve around Jack ‘feeding’ off fear. ‘Brilliant, chilling, scary and unputdownable’ raves one review – and I agree. Don’t be put off by the size of the book – the last third is a teaser for another book. How mean is that? Same theme, different circumstances: **“Never Let You Go”** by **Chevy Stevens** features a manipulative husband, but Andrew is jailed after a hit and run, leaving Lindsey and her daughter to start over. All’s well until Andrew comes out of jail.... It’s not bad actually!

A must-read is **“The Stranger”** by **Melanie Raabe**. Not my preferred who-dunnit style at all, but suspenseful and thrilling. Seven years before, Philip, wealthy businessman, goes to Columbia on business, but doesn’t return. His wife Sarah lives in limbo with their wee boy throughout those years until a phone call tells her that not only is Philip alive, but he’s coming home. The trouble is, the man she meets at the airport in the full glare of publici-

ty is a stranger! So where is Philip and what does The Stranger want from her? Hang in there with her behaviour – which is a bit ‘wet’ to say the least. The story demands she behaves this way, this is her character being revealed to us. And the ending – and I mean the very last chapter, not the ending of the thriller a chapter before – is worth it.

“A Dead Man in Trieste” by **Michael Pearce** is hereby damned with faint praise.

When a British Consul goes missing in Trieste in 1906, a London member of the Special Branch goes undercover to find out what’s happening in this political hotbed. Bit of an odd bird, interesting more for the historical ‘facts’ than for the who-dunnit it purports to be. **“You Said Forever”** by **Susan Lewis** is the 3rd in a series which I’ve not come across before, but it’s not the sort of book I especially enjoy so I’ll not be reading Nos. 1 & 2. Chloe is a traumatised little girl who has been rescued by her adoptive mother, Charlotte, from a paedophile ring. The problems that beset Charlotte and her family in New Zealand are legion, very moving, and ultimately bring Charlotte to the understanding that she must have Chloe fostered out for the sake of her marriage and other two children. Sensitively written, just not my cuppa.

I haven’t looked for it on the Library shelves, but I did enjoy a particular Xmas gift, fantasy story **“Uprooted”** by **Nami Novik**. Possibly aimed at a young adult market, there is only one scene between 17-year old heroine Agneiszka and her wizard mentor which might cause parents to pause a moment... Otherwise, an exciting and scary ride as Agneiszka discovers her magic powers and uses them to help wizard Sarkan deal to the evil Wood. The atmosphere created has stayed with me – a sign of good writing.

I have read some bad proof-reading in my time but nothing to top **“Our Little Secret”** by **Claudia Carroll**. They waxed their ‘lags’ (legs), packed a bag on the table (parked), used ‘what’ for ‘want’, ‘do’ for ‘go’ – endless! Every page had its error. Pity because the story was good: busy solicitor Sarah Keyes befriends a qualified but unemployed law graduate – who wants everything that Sarah has. A shame that spotting the errors became the fun thing



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Museum Matters by Jo Riksem**HOUSE OF THE MONTH**

**Early photo of Myrtle Cottage before additions made.
Note three girls Annie, Robina and Bessie.**



**Mrs & Mrs William Peterson with
daughters Annie & Robina**



**Rout 4 generations 1959
Harold, David, Neil & Charles**

Myrtle Cottage has had a long history. It was built in 1875 and was the home of Mr and Mrs William Peterson. William was our first schoolmaster at Halfmoon Bay School. A shingle roof was put on in 1883. Charles Rout later married Robina Peterson, (his second wife) and the Peterson-Rout connection was established. The deck out front and railing was added by Harold Rout in 1958 so little Neil wouldn't fall off making the deck 60 years old. The attic was turned into a lovely room for guests with an added window overlooking Halfmoon Bay.

The Rout family continues to use the much-loved house when on regular visits to the island.

Acquisitions for January:

Glass mug inscribed with "M.V. Wairua Final Charter 27 July 1985" - This was a charter by the Otatara Lions which proved to be quite a wild ride followed by great food from the Stewart Island Lions group and then them going back the same evening.

Bible - belonging to Catherine Bruce who later married Charles Robertson of Horseshoe Bay given to her when she left Glasgow to move to New Zealand.

Searches for January:

Eadie & Fraser families
James Greig
Newton & Cross families
Raymond Harold Bates (but possibly under a different name when he lived on the island)
Leask family
Captain William Stirling

Groups for January:

Cruise ship - Maasdam 11 Jan. - 1300 pax, Seabourn Encore 13 & 29 Jan - 600 pax,
Caledonian Sky 14 & 20 Jan - 120 pax

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

Make sure to stop in and see the Sheila Natusch exhibition.

SIN Quiz

1. What is the image on the Stewart Island post office's frank?
2. Which is the highest: Gog, Magog, Adams Hill or Pryse Peak?
3. Maori name for fantail.
4. Spider, Lady's slipper and Easter are names of what kind of plant?
5. Where are the Snuggery and "Tiniko" located?
6. Name the islands at the Gutter.
7. What we call *Haliotis iris* (local edible sea snail).
8. Whitetail deer whose obituary appeared in the July 2012 edition of SIN.
9. Surname of Bravo Island settler "Yankee."
10. Stewart Island's smallest bird.
11. What river does the Gorge Creek feed into?

ANAGRAM: Write down the first letter of each correct quiz answer and combine them to spell a Stewart Island place name.

RAKIURA RIDDLE

Her Majesty and I have opposite views
 Yet I can be close to QE2
 To coin a phrase, "we're in the same boat"
 (Our 8-gram "boat" can be flipped but won't float)

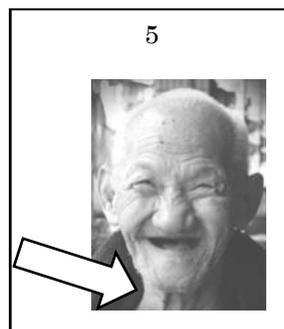
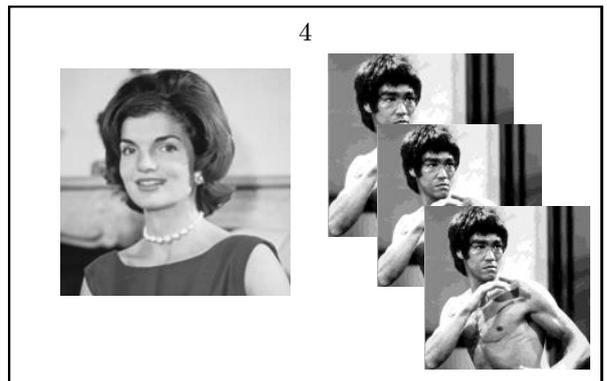
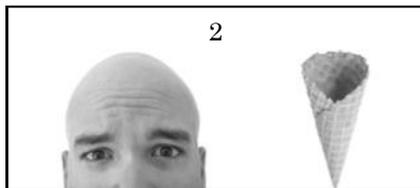
I'm a runner with an Achilles's heel:
 Like a raft, I don't have a keel
 (The homophone for raft in Latin
 Is what you get when you go rattin')

Spots mark me if I'm great or little
 Double spots that are dots are my wee tittles
 I've another title — scientific — my friend,
 X marks the spot aptly at the end

You'll not see me in Dictionary nor Encyclopaedia
 But you will spot me when you see Wikipedia
 (Lightly scrambled but you can bet
 My name's in the initial graphemic quartet)

[Answer to last month's riddle:
 Portuguese Man o' War or Blue Bottle]

Pictogram Fun: Island locations



Rakiura/Dark Sky update

The Rakiura /Stewart Island Dark Sky survey closed on 26 January. Stewart Island Promotions Association and Venture Southland would like to thank residents for taking the time to complete this survey at a busy time of year.

Initial survey results are that a total of 90 completed surveys were received and of those 79 (91.9%) indicated that they supported the concept of developing a Dark Sky Sanctuary on Stewart Island. Most (73% of respondents) wanted to be kept informed, reflecting the high rate of engagement and interest in this project.

Numerous ideas were put forward about potential benefits, and some issues were identified that will be considered moving forward.

Of the 7 'no' answers 4 indicated they were more 'not sure' and 'needed more information'. We will be working to ensure residents receive the information that they need, and that any concerns are understood and addressed.

The Venture Southland team will analyse the survey data in more detail and distribute a summary to the community by the end of the month.

Now that strong of community support has been confirmed, planning will commence around next steps - including progression towards an application for Dark Sky Sanctuary status.

For more information contact Amie Reid or Amy Bird at Venture Southland on **03 211 1400**.

400 Words by Beverley Osborn

It's cruise ship season again and we're getting used to monsters from abroad in our local waters.

The presence of these exotic vessels reminded me of a story I heard long ago. A man entered a bookshop and asked if the owner had a copy of a famous poetry book by an author with a foreign name. He was uncertain about the title but thought it had something to do with boats – perhaps “The Pink Ship”? Unsurprisingly, the bookseller couldn't help him. A few days later he returned to suggest “The Red Boat” as another possibility and the following week he offered “The Ruby Yacht”. Light dawned for the shopkeeper and the customer happily departed with a copy of “The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam”.

Omar Khayyam was a very talented mathematician, astronomer, philosopher and poet, living in Persia from 1048 to 1131. As a mathematician he is notable for the classification and solution of cubic equations – which, I have to admit, is incomprehensible to me! As an astronomer he reformed the Muslim calendar into a form nearly as accurate as the one we use today.

Many of his conclusions as a philosopher are expressed in his poetry and in 1859 an English writer, Edward Fitzgerald published the translated Rubaiyat. It gradually became very popular, both for the beauty of its imagery and for the chords struck in its teachings.

It is some of Omar Khayyam's wisdom sayings that I want to share, especially since they seem like good road - markers for the start of another year's life journey.

“As far as you can avoid it,” says Omar Khayyam, “do not give grief to anyone. Never inflict your rage on another. Feel the pain yourself but don't hurt others.”

And two that go together for me – “It's too bad if a heart lacks fire and is deprived of the light of a heart ablaze” and “Be happy for this moment.” It's easy to get bogged down in the mechanics of daily life and miss out on the wonder caused by a shaft of light or the way a smile changes a face.

And the last gem to share echoes the desire expressed in the Lord's Prayer –Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. “Although all religions promise paradise, take care to create your own paradise here and now on earth”.

Ours is the task of helping that to happen.

Rakiura Hummingbirds

By now, you will have all noticed the Boomerang Bags stand at the shop and hopefully enjoyed the pleasing option of a cloth bag instead of plastic, especially in those moments you forgot to bring your own bag from home.

We've had a number of people asking to buy these bags and wanted to explain why we say no!

The boomerang bags are "borrow and bring back" with the intention that you will use them as you need them and then return them for someone else to do the same. This has been working pretty great but understandably, as we all practice the concept of borrow and bring back, there has been a little more borrow and less bring back. We take it as a compliment that they are so souvenirable!

Basically, we want this to be a community-driven project, so, rather than your money, we want your time. We will be having another bag-making bee on February 20th and 21st and invite all willing hands to sew, cut, iron, print and overlock. Beginners welcome.

We hope the non-commodification of the boomerang bags allows this project to become part of the community as well as fostering the mentality of sustainability and reuse. It also reduces waste in a fun way. Let's all think about what it is to buy stuff, evaluating what's important in our lives and pave the way for more positive changes. Simply being able to buy a boomerang bag doesn't engage with these important ideas. Besides, we like that it feels like sharing our toys.

—Kylie Baaker



Steph Clark proudly holds her catch of grop-er (hapuku). Grop-er can weigh up to 20kg and measure up to 150cm long!

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The GALLEY

Cod two ways

Cod á la Clyde

A Clyde visitor recently shared this marinade for cod: just mix a splash of Worcester sauce with a squeeze of lemon juice and lay your fillet in it for a few minutes, then pan fry. Simple, elegant, and delicious.

Popcorn cod burritos

Something a bit less sophisticated but quite kid-friendly. With hungry kids but only a couple of fillets of cod in the fridge, I stretched the meal by chopping the fish into little bite-size bits, squidging them in a bowl of whisked eggs, then dredging in breadcrumbs. Fry until all the bits are a crunchy brown mess. Then fold into tortillas with cheese, sour cream, and Uncle Ben's Mexican rice. (If you want to simplify, skip the breadcrumbs and just add some flour to egg mix).

Do you have a favourite cod recipe? Please share it!
stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



Rodent Incursion Detection on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

A dead rat was found in a coastal DOC 200 trap on the northern side of Ulva Island/ Te Wharawhara on Monday 29 January during a routine monthly trap check. As a response to this we have initiated a number of actions which will happen over the next month as follows:

- 4 weekly trap checks of all traps.
- 3 ten-day tracking tunnel placements to detect rodent footprints.
- Rangers on the island being vigilant for and recording details of any further evidence of incursion.
- Rodent dog check as soon as possible.

Keep stakeholders updated.

On Tuesday 30 January a team of rangers visited Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara to set all background traps. On Wednesday 31 January a team of rangers placed out tracking cards in tracking tunnels spread across the entire island. These cards will be left in place until Friday 9 February before being retrieved, replaced, and checked for rodent prints.

Southern New Zealand Dotterel Recovery

The southern New Zealand dotterel team are approaching the end of the nesting season and after have carried out extensive nest searches they have found and monitored 17 nests and seen at least 12 chicks.

The Dotterel team have installed new leg hold based traps on Table Hill and Blakies, to increase our predator control and help protect the southern New Zealand Dotterel. Alongside existing work, this should help control feral cats on the tops of the hills where the Dotterels are nesting. Many of the nests have now hatched and there are currently chicks up on the hills. We are now carrying out predator control on Rocky Mountain after finding Dotterels nesting there.



Southern New Zealand dotterel with leg bands.

Photo by Monty Williams DOC

Snares Crested Penguin



Snares Crested Penguin on the side of a 'busy' road in Oban, Stewart Island/Rakiura.

Photo by Troy McDonald DOC



Snares Crested Penguin relocated to a safe beach.

Photo by Troy McDonald DOC

A Snares crested penguin appeared on the side of Elgin Terrace road in January. Since this wasn't a safe spot for him/her to stay, DOC staff (under the instruction and guidance of local resident and penguin expert Sandy King) relocated the penguin to a safer place on a local beach.

Sand Dune Restoration Rakiura

Mason Bay/Te One Roa dune work has almost been completed for the season. There will be one more trip to helicopter spray 20 hectares of the central dune area between the beach and large stone field south of Duck Creek. We are also hoping to spray the lupin east of the big sandhill.

This month we are focusing on East and West Ruggedy and Doughboy Bay dune systems with a team of five in East Ruggedy for seven days and another team of five in Doughboy for nine days.



Volunteers Nancy, Rebecca, Finn and John with Biodiversity Ranger Tabi Kime and one of the larger Darwin's Barberry plants that were removed.

Photo by Letitia McRitchie DOC

Conservation Volunteer Holiday: Halfmoon Bay Weeds

In early January four volunteers spent a week helping to remove Darwin's Barberry from around Halfmoon Bay. Two volunteers came all the way from Oregon, USA. On previous visits to New Zealand they loved the natural environment so much they wanted to come back and help! Our other volunteers were from Southland, wanted an active holiday and to do something useful. A hot sunny week was spent removing large numbers of Barberry from a heavily infested area. The volunteers had a great week and especially enjoyed the

chance to do a weed survey from Port William to Lee Bay along the Rakiura Track. They checked on sites controlled last year and spotted and removed Barberry from beside the track.

Possum Control

Possum control work is due to start in February in the Rakeahua area, using bait in bait bags, which will be removed once the operation has finished. Reducing possum numbers will have a beneficial effect on the forest diversity, preventing the possums from destroying the forest canopy and reducing predation on chicks and eggs. This is important in protecting rare species such as the Rakiura tokoeka, amongst other important wildlife.



Trainee Ranger Troy McDona and Ranger Tyron Conner compacting the Rakiura Track.

Photo by Mike Douglass

Rakiura Track Graveling

So far 477 metres of the Rakiura Track has been upgraded between North Arm and Port William hut.

The team have been making the most of the fine weather and repairing sections of the Rakiura track. A further 114 tonnes of gravel has been flown onto site and the team "as pictured" have spread and compacted it. Work in February will see the team shift focus to the section of track between Burnt Boat Beach and Sawdust Bay. If the weather holds out then the next boat load of gravel will should be down by the end of the month.

Winton Rotary Club Island Hill Historic Homestead Maintenance at Mason Bay/Te One Roa

During the past 15 years the Winton Rotary club has painted, repaired, and built water tank stands and decks for huts, done historic work, built rat traps for Ulva Island/ Te Wharawhara, dug toilet holes, built board walk for Enderby, Campbell and Anchor islands, roofing and alot more.

On the 21st of January 2018 the Winton Rotary club departed Invercargill Airport for Mason Bay/ Te One Roa as part of an annual volunteer trip the club has participated in for the last 15 years.

This year the work was undertaken on the Island Hill Historic Homestead, Mason Bay/ Te One Roa during a nine day trip and included recladding the building, putting a new roof onto the implement shed, and a lot of general maintainance.

The first day the team got straight to work. The team were very motivated and loved getting started on their tasks. Over the next few days the group had a few of issues with the resident bumble bees and some fog drizzle and low cloud that slowed down some progress.



Winton Rotary Club members working on the Island Hill Historic Homestead cladding, Te One Roa / Mason Bay.

Photo by Winton Rotary Club



The group didn't have to go far to spot Rakiura tokoeka – the kiwi continued to feed on the front lawn of the homestead even when the team were using saws and hammers.

All the planned work on the homestead was completed for the year and the trip was enjoyed by all.

Rakiura tokoeka / kiwi on the lawn of the Island Hill Historic Homestead, Mason Bay/ Te One Roa.

Photo by Winton Rotary Club

Halfmoon Bay Weeds

Chilean Flame Creeper is making its annual appearance with its red flowers blooming. This plant has the ability to spread and smother native vegetation and has been slowly spreading around Halfmoon Bay and further afield. It's a very difficult plant to remove permanently but by allowing it to flower and then snapping the vines, it will use a lot of the energy it has stored in the underground rhizomes and you will also prevent seeds from forming. DOC no longer controls it around town as there is no effective method to permanently remove it (you need to dig the rhizomes out and make sure you get all of it).



Chilean Flame Creeper



A tiny piece of regrowth from a German Ivy that covered about 2 square metres last year

DOC is continuing to manage the eradication of German Ivy and Old Man's Beard on Stewart Island/Rakiura and it is looking very positive this year! Several large plants were found at new sites last year and removed. All of those sites have been checked this year and some small regrowth at two sites was found and dealt to.

Old Man's Beard is easily confused with native clematis. The notable difference is the timing of flowering and seeding. Native clematis flowers early and there are many fluffy seeds around now. Old Man's Beard will be flowering now and producing its fluffy seeds in the next couple of months. If you are

unsure, please report any sightings to Letitia McRitchie and she will be happy to come and have a look.



Old Man's Beard with flowers and seed heads starting to form

Below articles to please be re-printed because they were printed in the wrong order or cut off in January edition:



Photos below show the progression of marram eradication at Doughboy Bay, Stewart Island.

1998

2004

2008

Hut Wardens

This summer hut wardens are present at four locations on Stewart Island/Rakiura:

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara - Volunteers are present on Ulva Island for four months from December to March ensuring that the facilities are clean and to a good standard, hence improving the overall visitor experience.

Rakiura Track Great Walk huts (Port William and North Arm) – Both paid hut wardens and volunteers are present over a period of six months from November to April. Paid employees undertake a portion of compliance, upkeep of facilities, community liaison, and track work.

Mason Bay – Volunteers are present for approximately two months (December and January). The volunteer tasks include a mix of compliance, track maintenance, ensuring clean facilities, and assisting with the visitor survey.

As always, we'd like to thank all of our volunteers, staff, and the Stewart Island community for the support they offer the Department.



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SI Community Planning "Next Steps" Meeting

**7.30pm Monday 5th March
at the Community Centre**

Mayor Gary Tong will host a meeting to discuss the results of the recent community leadership planning. CEO Steve Ruru will also attend. In addition MBIE will talk about priorities and next steps for the Investment Proposal process. Contact sandra@connectingpeople.co.nz for further information.



Stewart Island Handyman Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Lawn mowing | General fencing |
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| Section maintenance | Gutter cleaning |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree pruning | Water blasting |
| Tree removal | Spider proofing |
| Chainsaw work | |
| Hedge trimming | And more - just ask |



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 Mobile 027 253 3106
 Email handyman@acadia.co.nz

Help support the island pre-school Rakiura Rugrats and buy a copy of the children's book *Seaberry Stomp!* All proceeds go to Ruggies. Book available at Stewart Island Gift Shop, Ship to Shore, and the Bluff ferry terminal.

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