

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

February 2019

\$4.00

There was no January edition.

Happy New Year! So, while we were busy painting the town red during holiday celebrations, the SIN slipped into the red! Due to the hefty price tag of printing and ever increasing postage rates, we've had to raise our costs so we are no longer operating at a loss. New charges are on page 16. You can help us by buying ad space and subscriptions. If you are a regular contributor, please consider making a donation to us to help offset printing costs (colour is pretty but it's a killer!). And to our eSinners: please refrain from sharing your copies around. Thanks everyone for your help while we get back on our feet financially. We're grateful to Quiz for a donation of \$1,000 this summer which has helped to keep us afloat...

Gordon Ramsey traded *Hell's Kitchen* for a *hangi in Paradise*... his visit to the island at the end of January caused considerable excitement among resident foodies and fans. The celebrity chef was here filming for the National Geographic programme *Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted* which will feature some of our own celebrities (ie Fluff and Zane). More page 17.



Unruly tourists dominated the headlines up north this summer. Over Christmas we had an unfortunate taste of unruly tourists here when visiting teenagers stole local children's bicycles and threw one off the wharf! Did you hear about the group of Wanaka friends staying at Horseshoe this summer who accidentally stole a vehicle? They were told their rental house included a car... but they picked up the wrong one outside the visitor centre and drove

it around for several days. Locals kept telling them "That's not your car" and they'd chuckle and say "We KNOW it's not our car!", not understanding the message was: *that's not the car you were meant to pick up.* The mix-up was eventually sorted out, but not before they filled the diesel tank with petrol!!

More visitors and cruise shippers mean more people wandering down the middle of our roads, oblivious to the presence of vehicles and seemingly allergic to footpaths. A phenomenon equal parts fascinating & frustrating. One family brought their dog and failed to secure him in their rental when they left for the day and the dog spent hours wandering around a local beach, home to kiwi and penguins. A timely reminder for rental owners to please educate visitors and newcomers about the importance of dog control. One dog could make a tragic dent in our resident kiwi/penguin population.

Speaking of vulnerable and special birds, did you hear that Codfish is running out of room for kakapo? Couldn't we create a space for them on



White fronted terns. Photo by Carolyn Squires

magnificent *Aquijo* doing a "drive-by" on our horizon, en route from Milford Sound to Lyttleton. This 86m superyacht is the world's largest ketch. If you're a boat busybody, check out marinetraffic.com and click on boat icons for their name, make, destination, etcetera. On

this page, read about the New Year's Day Regatta. And we have a whole bunch of yachts arriving this month as part of the SSANZ yacht race round New Zealand. See pages 4-5 for more.

The eight little letters that make up the words THANK YOU seem inadequate to express the island's immense gratitude for marine operator Maureen Jones who is retiring after 51 years. You are a LEGEND, Maureen!



CONGRATULATIONS Hannah Morgan!
On 12th Feb Hannah swam 32 km across Foveaux Strait in 8 hr 43m and raised over \$22,000 (and counting) for mental health awareness in NZ

If you're following the saga of the Stewart Island visitor levy, here's the latest lowdown: a \$15 visitor levy was proposed (\$10 hike from present \$5); this was subsequently slammed by Islanders and the proposal put to bed; and now a \$50,000 review of island expenses has been requested by the SDC. "Cr Gavin Macpherson believed the review could back the call to increase the visitor levy to \$15 at Stewart Island." (from *STL*) So... this \$50,000 review to uncover island expenses and justify a visitor levy hike after all would be paid for *how*? "Cr Brian Dillon asked if the Stewart Island visitor levy could be used to pay for the \$50,000 review."... Is it just me or does this sound like an Aesop's Fable where some daft creature chases its own tail and tries to eat itself for brunch?

Speaking of kai, Diddle has the Kai Kart up and running, drive by the chalkboard outside to see when it's open.

Thanks Shona for doing the SIN for the past several months and thank you everyone for your continued support. Heaps inside including another great crossword puzzle from Ben. Enjoy the first edition of 2019!

—Jess

New Year's Day Regatta 2019 by Raylene Waddell

It was all the Harbour Master's doing. Ken Jones mooted the idea of a regatta of old boats to be held on New Year's Day, 2019. Cautiously I agreed that *Else* would participate but I wasn't at all sure how many other boats would turn up.

O ye of little faith! Ken networked through the boating fraternity and on the day a colourful collection of old boats gathered off Golden Bay wharf. Harbour Master Ken had dressed up *Mr Lister* in bright bunting and *Elizabeth*, crewed by James Patterson and Carlos Bianchi, was defiantly flying the Jolly Roger. It was a busy day for the Bianchi family with Pedro and his daughter Valentina in charge of *Else*. Pedro, part owner



Photo by Delia Middleton

(Continued on page 16)

the island? How cool would it be to hear skaarks and booms at night on Rakiura?

Lots of boaty stuff happening! The school has been mustering up Optimists (children's sailing dinghies) to start a sailing program. Thanks to everyone who has sponsored a wee yacht. In the land of big boats, we had a massive one visit the island this summer. The 53m *Drumbeat* was moored at Butterfields, rentable for a mere \$175,000 USD per week. (Reality TV idea: put the unruly tourists aboard *Drumbeat* and let the cameras roll.) That same week we glimpsed the

The way open for Seniors Cottages project

As many of our mature residents know, this project has been in the pipeline for some years now. Venture Southland paid for all the initial work: the surveys, the research, the comparison of one sort of project against another, etc. Now it's all going ahead!

Stewart Island Seniors Cottage Trust, is a registered charitable trust and has purchased a plot of land on Argyle Street. Thanks to the P.H. Vickery Trust and the Estate of 'Sam' Sampson (Stewart Island legend), the funds have become available to make the land purchase. However, there have been several willing contributions of services to establish our Trust and deal with all the legal requirements to date. We can't thank the funders or contributors enough for setting us off on this exhilarating journey. Other Trustees are Sam Guest (legal) Dunedin, Stephen Falconer (financial) Invercargill, Ken Jones (buildings) Invercargill & Stewart Island, Jill Skerrett, Stewart Island.

The intention is to build six or eight modern, future-proofed, one- or two-bedroomed cottages for the comfort of some of the Island's mature residents, those looking to downsize. The cottages will be cosy, comfortable, independent living at an affordable rent. Habitat for Humanity Invercargill is a Government-approved community housing provider, and under the guidance of General Manager, Paul Searancke, will supervise and manage the cottages and tenancies.

P.H. Vickery Trust have also contributed the opening

'build fund' and the Cottage Trust is now approaching potential benefactors and charitable organizations to raise funds to complete the building project. If you know of any such organization, please contact:

Sam Guest, Secretary/Legal of Stewart Island Seniors Cottage Trust
 Email: sam@guestcarter.com
 Bruce Ford, Chair of Stewart Island Seniors Cottage Trust
 Email: bruce@thefords.nz

It's a few years since I became aware of some distress amongst certain of the Island's seniors as they contemplated moving to new communities, away from friends and family. There just wasn't anywhere on the Island for them to downsize to, to rent and release the capital tied up in family-sized homes on large sections. I also became concerned at the huge gap there might be as these Islanders left the many voluntary and community projects always on hand on the Island. Then Practice Nurse Debs Dillon confided that she was dealing with distress from another angle: large family homes were difficult to heat and maintain, large sections were impossible to keep tidy, all on a limited fixed income. She was conscious not only of the strain on physical health, but the impact on the mental health of our Seniors. And so the Trust was born.

We will continue to raise funds for this project and our next report to SIN will outline how this is growing. The support of Islanders is – as always – the catalyst for a successful project and much appreciated.

Bruce Ford

WANTED

Person to operate

Stewart Island Marine Radio – ZLRZ.

Maureen Jones has looked after our boats at sea and monitored our maritime radio for over 51 years and has now decided she has done her bit and it is time for someone else to take over the operation.

The successful applicant would have our single side band and VHF radios installed in their house.

An Honorarium is paid annually.

Any inquiries may be made to Land SAR Stewart Island

StewartIsland@Landsar.org.nz

or contact

Garry Neave at: garryneave@gmail.com

Phone: 0274139629, 03 2191385 or

Dale Chittenden:

dchittenden@doc.govt.nz

Phone: 03 2191 223.



Celebrate the lives of
SHEILA NATUSCH and
ALEX TRAILL

The ashes of Sheila and her brother Alex will be interred at **Ringaringa Cemetery** at **11.15 Sunday 17 February.**

Following the interment, there will be a light luncheon at the Bowling Club pavilion at 12.30 to reminisce, and tell tall stories of the 'olden days'.

Everyone is welcome. Ladies bring a plate please.





Mamaku Point
CONSERVATION RESERVE

We're pleased to report that the last couple months on Mamaku Point have seen continued low pest detection within the biosecurity fence, with our trap network capturing just three rats, no cats and two possums that snuck around the Lee Bay fence end at low tide. Sandy King spent a day walking the bait trails with Gadget in December, which was pleasingly boring for Gadget who only indicated potential rat presence once.

Ulva's Guided Walks and Beaks and Feathers are now both fully operational with their kiwi spotting and Nature's Pantry walks respectively, and reporting growing interest from people wanting to experience the biodiversity within the Reserve.

We also have our first school camp for 2019 booked in for two

weeks in March, and have been racing to complete upgrades to the old Education Centre before the children arrive. Richard Wilson has done an outstanding job of painting the main lodge building, bathroom and shower blocks. Antony is aiming to have the new wood burner that was kindly donated by Noel Bulman installed before winter sets in, and our kitchen is sporting a new fridge/freezer and pantry generously funded by ANZ Staff Foundation. We will also shortly be upgrading the pedestrian access track from Horseshoe Bay Road, with support from the Mazda Foundation - volunteer help with this work would be most appreciated!

Finally just to mention that our website gallery is featuring some stunning new photos taken by Josh Jones and Britta Sisam-Jones from Snapping Wild photography, including the great shot of the Fiordland Crested penguin and chick featured in this SIN edition.

STEWART ISLAND – RAKIURA COMMUNITY BOARD

Following on from several unfortunate incidents over the Christmas New Year period which have resulted in some serious injuries and in one case complaints to Fire and Emergency NZ and Police, the Community Board along with the Police and Fire and Emergency have met to see if we can organise the celebrations that are often associated with this period in a safer manner.

Key points raised by those involved highlighted the irresponsible behaviour of a few in relation to fireworks and flares, the factor that we were in an open fire season and therefore no permits were required for the fire, the dryness of the local vegetation which could have resulted in a major fire from fireworks etc, and the method by which members of the public extinguished the fire on the beach.

The lighting of fires located on Council land was also discussed and in particular, who was responsible for the fire, and safety around it. Under today's Health and Safety rules these matters need to be considered by us all, as no one wants to find themselves responsible for injuries resulting from their actions.

Several ideas that were expressed as part of the discussion included:-

- Informing the Community that fires on the beach should not be covered with sand as a means of extinguishing them.

- A requirement that all fires on Council land should require a fire permit which would list the responsibilities of the permit holder in relation to the fire.

- A safe area for letting off fireworks etc on the Halfmoon Bay foreshore.

- Asking that Stewart Island becomes a fire region in its own right so that a closed fire season can be declared when it is needed here, rather than when the rest of Southland requires it.

As a group we want to be able to continue to celebrate major events as in the past, but we need to ensure that in doing so everyone's safety is considered.

We would be interested in hearing further ideas and thoughts on these matters from the local community before taking any further action.

Contact the Community Board Office at the library or email those listed below with your thoughts.

Kirsten.Hick.southlanddc.govt.nz or jspraggon@realjourneys.co.nz



Toitotoi Toys

Rakiura's toy library is almost ready to open!

Save the Date:

10am, 17 February, Traill Park.

Grandchildren turning up and you don't have wet weather plans? Desperate for a pogo stick and don't know where to turn? Toitotoi Toys can help!

We have a selection of toys, games, puzzles, dressing up clothes and sports gear, ready for borrowing. Insanely low pricing and a sustainable ethic. But wait, there's more! We have equipment to make the life of a visiting family easier,

such as cots, strollers and baby toys. This is just the beginning.

We can help your old toys find a new purpose, donate now! And tell us what toys and equipment you'd like to borrow... Check out our website to find out more

<https://rakiuratoylibrary.setls.com.au/> or catch up with Mel Miller, Liz Cave, Charlotte Jenkinson or Bridget Carter to get the low down. See you there.

Thank you to all the people who have helped make this possible. To Southland District Council for the use of the Traill Park building and to those who donated carpet, carpentry skills, toys, equipment, advice, time and energy to coordinate the growing collection. We salute you.



Fiordland crested penguin & chick from Snapping Wild Photography

Rakiura Heritage Centre Well Underway

by Margaret Hopkins

Progress on the Island's new Rakiura Heritage Centre continues ahead of schedule with roofers due to arrive on the 12th February. Despite bad weather the great team from Amalgamated Builders Ltd has managed to keep on working and a big thanks to Rakiura Shipping for keeping the materials coming over on time. Structural steel workers erected the framing late January so we are really getting a feel for the shape of the building now. If work continues to remain on track then the building should be finished early July and work on the fit out and exhibition gallery will begin. Rakiura Heritage Trust is in the process of finding an exhibition designer to carry through with the details of Chris Currie's design. We were sad to learn that Chris passed away in December after a long illness. His final job at the new Waikaia museum had just been completed with the opening held in November. We are fortunate to have Chris's design drawings and scale model to work from. Exhibition fit out will take at least 12 months so we are predicting now that the new Heritage Centre won't be open until late 2020. In the meantime the Rakiura Museum will remain open in its current building. The museum building will be offered for sale next year and proceeds go towards the Heritage Centre fit-out.



SSANZ Choose Stewart Island – AGAIN!

by Sue Ford

Were you on the Island in February 2012? Do you remember: Cameron Thorpe, Steve Ashley, Tom & Vicky and "Sunstone", "Vingalot" (to pick a few names at random)? Well, they're coming again. The Short-handed Sailing Association is once again running a round-New Zealand yacht race. These are two-crew yachts which will set sail from Mangonui on 18 February on the Second Leg (Auckland to Mangonui is Leg 1). Seven of them will sail north, then down the west coast of NZ, "round the bottom" – and end the leg on Stewart Island. After repairs and time ashore for R&R, they will depart on the third leg, to Napier.

Garry & Gwen Neave are co-ordinating this end with the Race Organiser, Geoff Herd, in Auckland, but they need our help in making this the kind of event that the yachtsies will never forget, and that we can enjoy with them. Some things are already coming together. For example, a loose "working committee" has formed (and will reform over and over as more people volunteer time and effort), and some responsibilities already handed out:

Luke has volunteered to find moorings; Chris Dillon has volunteered to run a computerized tracking system called 'Yellow Brick', based at the hotel, the ideal place for a sweepstake (see Jack for details!); Aurora Charters (then the Hopkins family) donated a trophy in 2012 and Ian & Philippa – who are now Aurora Charters, have agreed to continue the sponsorship; Bonnie has her thinking-cap on regarding the involvement of the children; Sue Ford is making up a list of people who want to be on an irregular email news-update on progress, and as the leaders inch closer she'll start a text-alert for anyone who wants to be part of the arrival celebrations (sue@thefords.nz with your details please); Garry Neave heads the Boat Committee to officially time the boats across the finish line with Colin Hopkins running back-up, etc.; Aaron Joy is talking to SIPA as well as offering Backpacker facilities and his own organizing ability, and so it goes on.

See the Notice Board for full details of crews and boat descriptions, but our boats are: *Krakatoa*, *Coppellia*, *Arbitare*, *Katana*, *Titanium*, *Gale Force* and *Motorboat 11*. Last time, we ran a scheme called "Adopt-a-Boat" which turned out to be fun for the yachtsmen, their supporters, their families who made the trek South to greet the sailors, and not least, for the Island's Adopting groups and families. Perhaps your household or organization would like to adopt-a-boat? Contact Gwen (2191 385) for these details.

Other ideas on the table are to be fine-tuned as February creeps closer. By the time you read this, the publicity machine will be churning out ever more details. Watch the Notice Board! (Somebody please tell Arky.) But if you have ideas to put forward or help you can offer, contact the Neaves or any of the above-mentioned – they are eager to hear from you.

End of February (projected arrival of the first boat) can be a difficult time for a tourist-orientated community to squeeze up to make room for a national event like this, involving hundreds of people overall. But if Stewart Islanders can't do it, no-one can. And no-one does it better anyway. Maybe a bit of fun, a flutter, and some excitement is just what is called for to give flagging spirits and energy a lift. So, hoist the flags, find the bunting, check the car horns work, and join the celebration.

Round New Zealand 2019

NZ'S ULTIMATE YACHTING CHALLENGE!

Welcoming the SSANZ yacht race to Stewart Island

HOST A BOAT

Adopt a crew and share our southern hospitality with them!

JOIN IN THE FUN

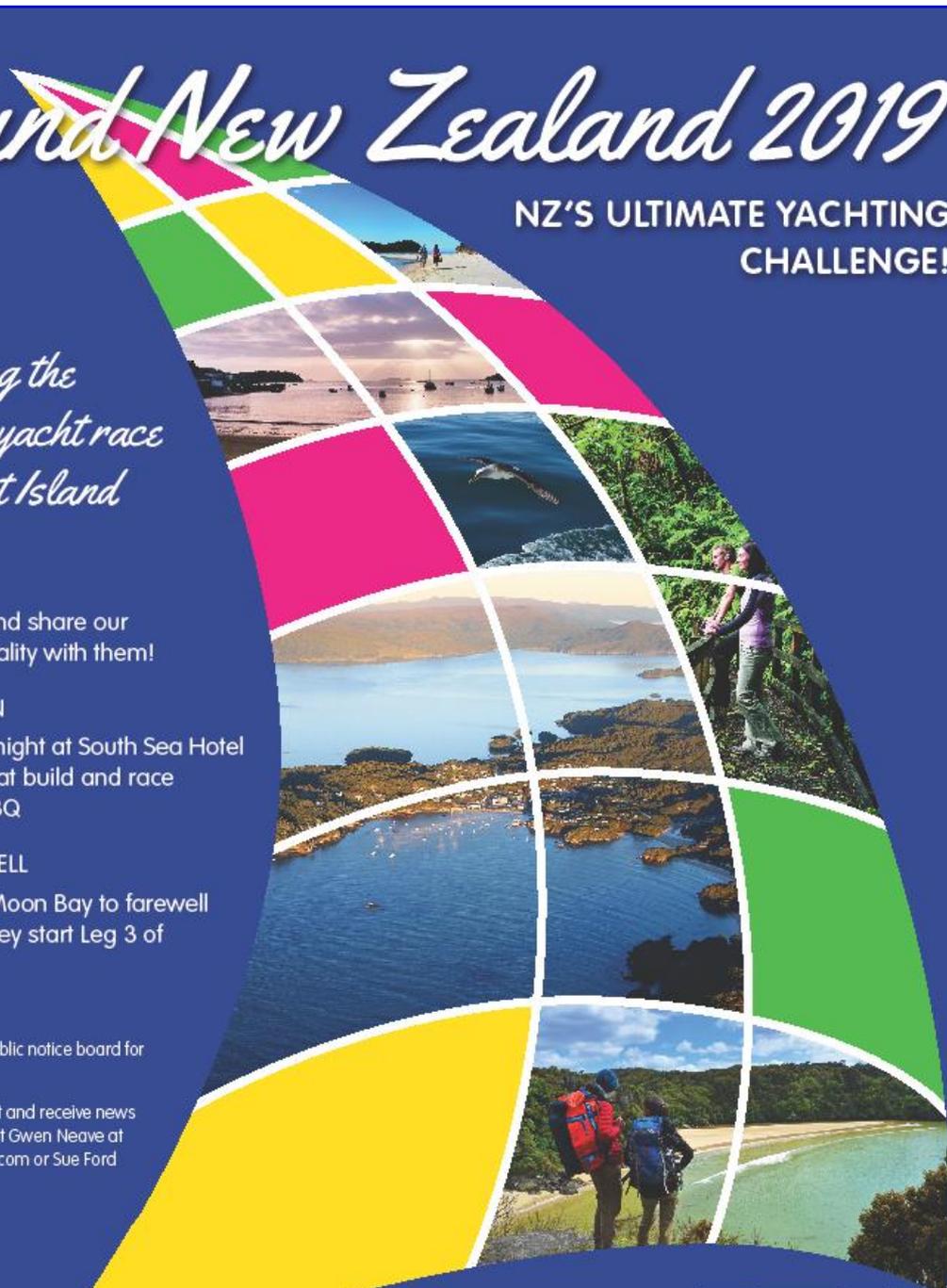
- Yachting quiz night at South Sea Hotel
- Cardboard boat build and race
- Prize-giving BBQ

FLOTILLA FAREWELL

Gather at Half Moon Bay to farewell the yachts as they start Leg 3 of the race!

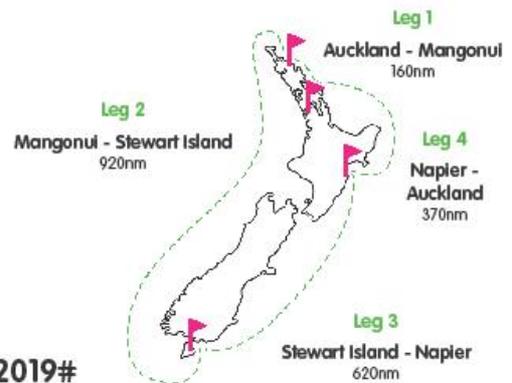
Keep an eye on the public notice board for more details!

To register your interest and receive news updates please contact Gwen Neave at gwenneavenz@gmail.com or Sue Ford at sue@thefords.nz



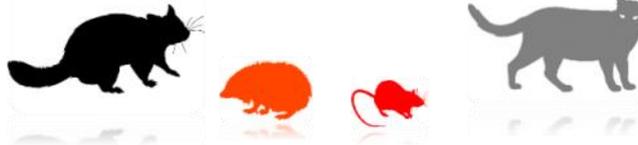
Race starts February 16. Arrival to Stewart Island estimated between February 21 – 28.

TRACK THEIR PROGRESS ONLINE AT: yb.tl/roundnz2019#



CHOCOLATE AWARDS

<p>Thanks to Pete Ross for running swim squad for the kids.</p>	<p>Thanks to the Byfield family for donating so many lovely books to the school library</p>	<p>Thanks to the Rakiura Hummingbirds who have organized a toy library.</p>
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2018

After a busy and productive year, the Predator Free Rakiura Leadership Group reflected on the achievements of 2018.

The Group held five meetings and set up management, engagement and technical working groups, incorporating **professionals** in each area to accelerate the Group's progress. We secured **funding** from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to progress the project, including the appointment of an island-based Project Manager Community role (Bridget Carter).

We drafted a Memorandum of Understanding describing the **commitment** of the Group to progress the Project.

We **sought additional members** to the Group from the Stewart Island Promotions Association, Stewart Island / Rakiura Community Board and an open invitation for further community representatives. We welcomed new members Ali Meade (Environment Southland) and Jon Thomas (DOC). We thanked Jill Skerrett, Phil Tisch and Richard Bowman for their contributions over the years. We submitted on Environment Southland's Proposed Biosecurity Strategy and Regional Pest Management Plan and will attend hearings in February.

Keen to gain from the experience of others to deliver our vision, **the Group engaged with individuals, groups and agencies who are working towards Predator Free goals** and improving their community through restoration. We met people from Taranaki Mounga, the Waiheke Collective and Predator Free Dunedin, the Lorde Howe Island Rat Eradication project, Zero Invasive Predators, DOC's Island Eradication Advisory Group and University of Auckland technical and social scientists. We shared our vision with Predator Free 2050 Ltd, all of the South Island mayors, SIRCET, local Real Journey's staff, the Stewart Island / Rakiura Community Board, Stewart Island Promotions Association and Mamaku Point Conservation Trust.

We provided updates in every Stewart Island News, shared the story in First Edition magazine and in Southland District Council's radio podcast First Word. We started work on a website and are developing an engagement strategy to help better communicate and connect with our people.

2019

Save the Date: An informal public meeting is to be held on Tuesday evening, 26th March. More information is to be circulated in the March edition of the Stewart Island News. We'd love to see you there.

Looking forward into 2019 we will establish the technical working group to recommend the **options for testing techniques and assumptions of how a Predator Free Rakiura could be achieved** so that the technical barriers can be explored and overcome. Intertwined with this will be work to ensure robust engagement and connection with community and stakeholders, so that a clear understanding and strategy can be developed for maximising community benefits.

We will **secure multi-year funding** to progress the technical questions and community benefits and to support quality engagement with the people who can make this dream possible. We intend to produce a **3-5 year operational plan** with discrete parcels of work to address the challenges, with which we can inspire investment in the both the medium and long term.

Plans for 2019 in summary

We want to **UNDERSTAND** the barriers for Predator Free Rakiura

We will **IDENTIFY** the parcels of work needed to explore the barriers

We will **SECURE** the resources needed for the next 3-5 years

We want to **CONNECT** with the people throughout

We will develop a website and communication **tools to help us explain the vision and the intended path to get there**, to help foster the conversations and understanding needed before any steps are taken.

We want to meet with individuals, groups and agencies with an interest to **understand our connections**, work out how together we can find acceptable solutions to the challenges and to progress the work.

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809), or resident representatives Sandy King and Garry Neave.





SIRCET Update February 2019 – by Tanya Dann

You may have seen our Pest Manager Willy driving round in our stylish new white ute! At the end of November, **Environment Southland** very generously donated the vehicle to us after our previous vehicle failed. We are very grateful for the donation.



Photograph supplied by Environment Southland. Environment Southland Strategy and corporate planning manager Ken Swinney, Biosecurity and biodiversity operations manager Ali Meade and Chairman Nicol Horrell handing the vehicle over to our SIRCET trustees Anita Herbert, Shona Sangster and Di Morris.

Environment Southland also have use of the vehicle for work purposes, such as their recent trip to the island to search out Gunnera aka Chilean Rhubarb. Gunnera plants have large rhubarb-like leaves (hence its common name), and vertical flower heads (see picture below left). If you see these plants on coasts, roadsides or clearings, take a note of the location (and a photo if possible) and contact Rachel at Environment Southland on (03) 211 5115 or 0800 76 88 45.

We're also on the warpath against Chilean Flame Creeper (pictured below left from www.weedbusters.org.nz), which is out in flower at the moment. The most effective method of stopping this weed is to pull the fine stems out as close to the ground as possible and leave it hanging in the surrounding vegetation.

We had our first 0% rat tracking result in our core zone during our last round of monitoring. This is a fantastic result and reflects all the hard work of our volunteers who check our trap lines every week.

WELL DONE TEAM!!!



Church Chatter by Jo Riksem

mother with three daughters and has always been involved in the Presbyterian Church.

There are many people with musical talents and it is wonderful when they are able to share with us. We had a lovely surprise in December when a phone call at the spur of the moment produced three talented Gomez

10 Mar. - Dirk van Garderen. - Dirk has served as a pastor of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand from 1978 (Christchurch, Bishopdale, Avondale & Reformed Presbyterian church of Bucklands Beach) until his retirement. Have relocated to Christchurch about 15 months ago.

children who played several times at one of our services. It was truly a delight and we hope they return. Please feel free to call me any time if you would like to share talents with us or know of others that would like to participate. Sharing and caring is what it is all about.

Speakers for March 2019
3 & 17 Mar. - Naomi Wilson – We are pleased to have Naomi for two Sundays. Naomi lives in Athol, part of the Mossburn parish. She is a solo



Sarah, Josh, Ben, Hannah Gomez

24 Mar. - David Monteith - David Monteith is Assistant Pastor at Harvestfield Church in Invercargill.

31 Mar. - 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.

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

New bylaw and policy for Stewart Island

Southland District Council would like to announce the adoption of the:

- **Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Bylaw (Revision 1, 2019)** - the bylaw will come into force on 1 July 2019.
- **Stewart Island Rakiura Visitor Levy Policy** – the policy will also come into force on 1 July 2019.

The new policy and bylaw will be available on Council's website from 1 July 2019. Copies of the bylaw and policy may be inspected and obtained free of charge at your local Council office.

The amount of the visitor levy is to remain at \$5. Additional members have been added to a subcommittee who make decisions on where levy funding should go, and there has been changes to how levy funding can be allocated. There will no longer to be a technical advisory group supporting the subcommittee.

Council would like to thank all the people who submitted and gave their views on the changes proposed to the visitor levy.

LETTERS

Well done to the Southland District Council for listening to the 'people' and not increasing the Stewart Island Visitor levy. I did not expect a positive outcome.

I was also present when Jon Spraggon presented his own submission and the Community [Boards]. Jon was certainly bombarded with questions which he answered well without and hesitation. Well done. Remember submissions can be worth the time and effort.

Elaine Hamilton

I read with interest your article on the new seat outside the 4 square in Halfmoon Bay.

My sister, Inga Hopkins, wrote this poem the last time the seat was replaced. She talks of her father sitting on the seat, he was John Eriksson. Accompanying him on the seat was Uncle Nay Bragg, who on boat days would walk into the bay and need a rest when he got there. Mr Pollock from Butterfields beach was often there as well.

Kind Regards,
Astrid Jamieson

In a place where I once lived
There was a seat outside the store
Where old men sat to have a chat.
Their ages together would be many score.

They had yarns to tell of bygone days
Of life when they were young and fit.
Making their living from the wealth of the sea
Back then they didn't have time to just sit.

Yes they were mainly men of the sea
Who fished in good weather and foul,
Good humoured they rest now and watch the next generation
And it matters not a jot when the strong winds howl.

My father was one of these men on the seat
Who'd sailed the world many years before.
And an old dog used to sit with them there
But sadly none of them are left anymore.

I went back and saw a seat is still there,
Not the same one, a new one, for old men to share.
They probably talk of the same things today
Because it's a fishing village called 'Halfmoon Bay'.

Salmon Tales

FRONT FOOTING ON SCIENCE

Many of you know that Sanford has been using Skretting salmon feed for more than 25 years. It's a good relationship.

Skretting are experts in fish, like us they are passionate about sustainability.

About three years ago we started to collaborate with Skretting to build a land based 'farmed-fish feed research centre' at Okiwi Bay, in the Marlborough Sounds.

Okiwi Bay will specialise in future proofing feed specifically designed for New Zealand king salmon 'Chinook'.

At the moment we feed our fish a diet originally designed for trout and they perform exceedingly well on it. In the future we expect to feed a bespoke 'NZ King salmon' diet that is specifically tailored to our fish, our customers' needs and Big Glory Bay environmental conditions.

We would have preferred the research centre to be closer to us in Stewart Island but the Okiwi Bay site (owned by Sanford) had some big advantages – flat land, existing consents etc.

With Sanford so closely involved with Okiwi Bay research, we aim to be front runners in refining our fish husbandry. We want healthy strong, great tasting fish and a small environmental footprint.

Jaco (our salmon farm manager in Big Glory Bay) and I sit on the Skretting Okiwi Bay advisory group. We will report back to you what we're learning.

Kind regards

Ali | aundorf-lay@sanford.co.nz | 027 293 7795

FACEBOOK FOOLISHNESS

A rule of thumb for Facebook: if something seems too good to be true, it's likely a hoax.

An airline company is offering free tickets? You might want to doublecheck that. Click the source of the post, or make a direct inquiry to airline, or go to hoax-slayer.net and check the validity of the offer. Sorry, if you share a post about a cute little cabin, you don't stand a chance of winning it. That thing about the FB algorithm limiting your feed to 26 friend and if you cut and paste blahblahblah... HOAX, FOLX. Cutting & pasting a bunch of legal-sounding babble into your newsfeed will not have any effect on Facebook policy. And FYI: sharing images of sick children doesn't garner them \$1 per share, comment or like.

While some of these posts are the work of bored keyboard a**holes just looking to see how many people they can fool, many of these hoaxes are more insidious.

From hoax-slayer.net:

"Once the bogus Facebook Page has substantially increased its like numbers via a scam giveaway, the scammers can then use it to launch further scam attempts, this time to a much larger audience of potential victims. Alternatively, the scammers may sell the Facebook Page on the black market to other scammers. The more likes a Page has the more it will likely sell for... Be wary of any post or page that promises valuable prizes just for liking, sharing, commenting, or filling in surveys."

A couple other basic tips: DO NOT accept friend requests from strangers; Be cautious opening any kind of attachment sent via FB messenger (contact sender first asking if they sent you anything); Do a bit of extra digging before you share posts on FB, see what the source is or check Snopes.com which keeps tabs on common conspiracy theories/garbage fake news sites/hoaxes on social media. When you share hoaxes and on-line crap you are bolstering scammers and becoming part of the problem.

Don't be a social media muppet!! Be aware before you share.

My kiwi experience, or, Careful what you wish for

This summer my family befriended a group of five families who were visiting the island and staying along the beach from us. They were all New Zealanders who had never seen a kiwi in the wild before, so we invited them to come view kiwi which were regularly frequenting our yard. Three of the women came up and were amazed that the kiwi approached them and pecked their feet, at one point the kiwi slid its beak into one of their socks! They were so excited they went back to their rental house and woke up all the kids (ten children aged 6-11), put head torches on them and got them all on their bikes and the whole group made their way back to our place in the middle of the night (the *E.T.* bicycle scene comes to mind) and they all crept up and stayed very quiet and the kiwi pecked around all their wee feet to everyone's delight.

My husband and boys had similar experiences this summer. One kiwi pecked my husband's bare sole as he knelt in the grass! And while I'd seen the kiwi aplenty, I hadn't had the foot poking thing and I wanted a piece of that action. So one drizzly night I approached a kiwi in socks (me, not the kiwi). Just as I had desired, he started pecking at my feet and it was a champion moment! He was a

large bird, and the prods felt like getting mildly stabbed by a weakling with a blunt pencil. But then the tone shifted, and he really started going for it. I'm no scientist but I suspect the squishy texture of my rain-dampened cotton socks made the bird hopeful – and the prods turned into a sort of frenzied typewriter. The pecking started feeling more like getting stabbed with a not-so-blunt chopstick by a mid-weight on Weetbix. Difficult to describe but in one word: *unpleasant*. The charm turned to alarm, as it often does with my wildlife encounters, and this zero-*fka*-hero found herself awkwardly backing away, trying to extricate myself from the situation, and the bird was now frantically weaving its way around my feet, pecking harder all over the tops of my feet and my ankles and *OW!* *Ow-ow-ow!* Which is how I found myself, one dark and drizzly night, stumbling backwards in the wet grass and then sprinting across my yard, a flightless half-blind bird hot on my heels, leaping at my door, and rushing into my house and slamming the door behind me with my heart beating out of my chest and laughing hysterically like a horror movie nunny. So that's my kiwi experience. With enough therapy and courage I might someday share my hedgehog story with y'all.

—Jess

Stewart Island Community Visit

If you're part of a community organisation and have a project on Stewart Island that needs funding, Community Trust South may be able to help.

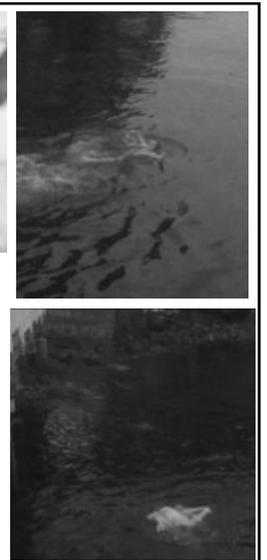
Make a time to meet with Dianne Williams, our Grants Manager at the upcoming visit to the island to have a chat about working together.

EMAIL: dianne@communitytrustsouth.nz
PHONE: 0800 500 185

Thursday, 14 March 2019




What a wonderful sighting penguin watchers had at the wharf the other night: the very rare brown eyed penguin *Hamiltonii*. DoC staff will follow up the sightings by looking into its nesting and breeding habits.



Communities are Like Rugby Teams

'Most communities can often be compared to a rugby game where 10,000 people who need the exercise, turn up to watch 30 players who don't,' says Peter Kenyon, renowned community development specialist.

Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade has 14 members, serving an island with a population of 400. These 14 volunteers interrupt their work day, get up in the middle of the night and leave family gatherings in order to respond to people in need, in their community.

They do it because they have a desire to serve their community and understand that everyone has a role in making a community function.

The team responds to a wide variety of calls, including house fires, vegetation fires, medical call and salvaging boats.

Oban Brigade are keen to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer, the good news is you don't have to be a fire fighter!

If you would like to help your community, the brigade would be interested in hearing from you. From equipment maintenance to assistance with logistics to fire-fighting, there is something for everyone and a great way to learn new skills.

Great brigades are made up of people with different skills that come together to care for their community. By volunteering your skills, you can be part of a great team.

To discuss volunteering contact Jarrod Baird on 021 029 79403

Your Fire, Your Responsibility

Summer days are great, long hot days enjoying the good weather and maybe cleaning up the section. Good company of friends and family with a brazier or wood fired BBQ. As enjoyable as fire is, it comes with inherent responsibilities, Fire and Emergency ask you to:

Plan ahead to ensure a safe burn.

You may require a fire permit for your burn, go to www.checkitsalright.nz

Ensure you have enough insurance cover for property loss and public liability

Check with the District and Regional Councils who have rules around burning

Keep your fire safe

This means complying with burning conditions

Check the latest weather, wind speed and direction. Only light your fire when there is little or no wind forecast.

Select an appropriate site at least 10 to 30 metres from, and downwind of shelter belts, hedges, fences, buildings, neighbouring properties or anything else that could catch alight and burn.

Make sure smoke from the fire will not be a nuisance to your neighbours or cause other issues.

Let your neighbours know you intend to burn

Have a way to put out your fire encase it gets out-of-control.

Once you have burnt

Make sure the fire is out, this means cold to touch. Stir water into the fire until there is no steam and you are able to touch any remains.

Keep in mind while you are relaxing or working this summer your Volunteer Fire Brigade is still working; they do this as a service to your community for free.

Be considerate and follow the rules around fire use to ensure they are not called out unnecessarily.

After all, if a fire fighter turns up to your fire it means you are having a bad day.

Your Fire Your Responsibility

If you require a fire permit go to www.checkitsalright.nz or ring 0800 658 628

What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



Introducing Community Ranger (Monitoring) Catriona Dempsey



I am excited to introduce new member of the Rakiura Community Team Catriona Dempsey. Catriona is joining DOC Rakiura for three months from January to April 2019 to undertake Rakiura's pilot concession monitoring program. I'll hand it over to Catriona to introduce herself:

“My background is in conservation, but I am used to working on the other side of the world. I have spent four seasons working in Banff National Park in Canada, mainly working as a part of a team that ensures responsible viewing of bears and other wildlife. I understand how special it is to live in a community where public conservation land is your backyard. I am excited and honoured for this opportunity to work with the community to protect such a unique place.

Routine monitoring is a condition of concessions and permits granted by the DOC, but this has not been carried out in the Rakiura district for a number of years, so it is very exciting to be a part of this new program. My main duties include observing concessionaire and visitor activity and conducting spot-checks to ensure proper permit and concession information is carried. You may see me in popular areas such as Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara and the Rakiura Track or in more remote areas such as Mason Bay/Te One Roa.”

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Norway Rat Incursion Response Continues

Community Ranger (Monitoring) Catriona Dempsey
Photo by Cherie Hemsley DOC

An adult Norway rat was captured in a coastal DOC200 kill trap on the 9th of January 2019 on pest-free Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Biosecurity surveillance was increased to a Tier 1 response, where Rangers visit the island weekly to reset all 190 traps, lay out tracking cards and trail cameras. Two rodent dog checks have also been undertaken in January 2019. So far, no further rats have been captured or detected and so we are hopeful that the incursion surveillance will be stepped back to routine levels in a couple of weeks.

Ranger Alasdair Burns checking Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara tracking tunnel cards. Photo by Jennifer Ross DOC



Ulva Island Tracking tunnel card featuring weka prints and feather. Photo by Jennifer Ross DOC



Mason Bay Dune Restoration Programme

Field rangers have completed the 5th and final dune restoration trip to Mason Bay focussing on completing the remaining marram control in the northern part of the dunes as well as lupin control. The team next move to Doughboy Bay dunes before heading to the North-Western coastline. Weed control enables natural sand movement in a dune system that is dynamic by nature. This variable environment is crucial habitat for a range of threatened species including skinks, plants and of course winter habitat for the Southern NZ Dotterel.

Southern New Zealand Dotterel Breeding Season Wraps Up

The Nationally Critical Southern New Zealand Dotterel have vacated the open tops of Rakiura with their newly fledged chicks thus concluding the 2018/19 breeding season. Rangers found a total of 17 nests this year as well as chicks on the Mount Anglem/Hananui ridge. Rangers will now focus on brining equipment in from the field, closing traps and retrieving toxin baits. Preparation is underway for another couple of months of bird identification banding and monitoring. The main flock count is scheduled for April 2019 and this will tell us how the population is trending. Over the last two years



Ranger Michael Douglass building conibear trap boxes

we've seen an increasing total population estimate, rising from 126 to 153 in 2017 and again to 167 in 2018.

Upgrade to Facilities on Rakiura Track

The Rakiura Track facility upgrades have now been completed by contractors and include a new hut wardens' quarters and upgrades to the greywater and the drinking water systems at North Arm, and upgrades to all three campsites. At each campsite there has been an increased capacity to 10 tents (approximately 20 people), new large shelters, and new containment toilets. Already the facilities are being well utilised with visitor numbers up 20% on last season. Just a heads up, gravelling work will be undertaken on the North Arm end of the Rakiura Track in late February 2019.



Ranger Michael Douglass highlighting the weather conditions the Dotterel Team often face up on the 'tops'.

Annual Backcountry Track Maintenance

Recently we've had teams hard at work trimming our backcountry tracks.

These have included: Freshwater to Mason Bay; part of the Southern Circuit near Cavalier Hunters Hut that was exceptionally thick; Port William to Murray River. A number of the Recreation and Historic team have recently undertaken chainsaw training which will enable us to be on top of windfalls and to cut fire wood for the Great Walk huts.

Weed Control & Partnering with Environment Southland

In mid-January Environment Southland (ES) staff made their annual trip to Rakiura to control Gunnera. This invasive weed has spread all around the town and has the potential to go much further. Mature seed heads can be nearly a metre tall and covered in thousands of seeds.

DOC assisted ES with a coastal survey, covering the area from Mamaku Point to just past Ackers Point. It was heartening to see sites that had Gunnera two years ago be Gunnera-free this time. Mature plants were found at two sites and a short scramble over the rocks cut and paste soon dealt to them.

If you have seen Gunnera around the town, please let Letitia McRitchie at DOC know and she can pass them onto Environment Southland. Sustained control is having a visible difference on the number of Gunnera plants around, but new sites are also being continually found/identified.

MUSEUM MATTERS

by Jo Riksem

HOUSE OF THE MONTH

Bill Todd's home

Originally purchased in 1924 by William Skuse Todd (Bill's grandfather) from Mr Hardy, of Hardy's Liver pills fame, but registered in his wife's name Grace Hope Todd (nee Garden). From then on into Geoffrey Mervyn's wife, Peggy (nee Bain), then onto Bills wife Robyn (nee Clark) until her death, and is now in Bill's name. It was and still is used as a family holiday home for their families, and other relations.

Numerous renovations have been done over the years including a new kitchen, new bathroom, verandah closed in with an extensive front deck, and a separate bunkhouse. Over the years this house would have a lot of stories that could be told.

Addition to last month's article on Stirling's Bakery - There is more information coming in on this but we just need to get verification.

Acquisitions for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

Copy of Whites Aviation photograph of Oban Township around 1947

Book - Last of the Whalers by Heather Heberley

Stewart Island books x 11 and articles

Thank you to all our donors.

Searches for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019:

Sarah Timu & Jacky Lee

Newton family



Groups for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019:

We have been busy with cruise ships and enjoy meeting the passengers from all over the world and they have certainly enjoyed their time on the island. Ships these last two months have been the Caladonian Sky and Seabourn Encore.

Thinking of putting a local touch to your home we have **Large old B&W photos** from past exhibitions for \$5 each.

"Snippet" - From the booklet "Halfmoon Bay School Nature and History Magazine #2 1975 there was a piece concerning "Laura's Leg" It said, "This does not appear on the map (it now does). It is a purely local name for a spot that has no other label than "Boat Landing;" it lies between Tearatekaha and Chew Tobacco. A picnic party was landing here when one of the members fell over the rocks and hurt her leg. One of the lads in the party gave the place the above name as a piece of private fun; but the title stuck." - this gleaned from Olga Sansom. But a variation of the story came from Ann Kirtlan of Form II - "A man named Dan and his cobbler took Laura and another girl to Chew Tobacco. When they were getting ashore from the dinghy, Laura's long skirt came caught on part of the dinghy and a great deal could be seen of Laura's leg."

Summer hours October through April:

Monday - Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm, Sunday 12 pm - 2:00 pm.

Pre-swim questions for Foveaux Strait swimmer Hannah Morgan

What are your Stewart Island connections?

Mum and I are from Invercargill and used to visit a friend who had a crib on the Island when I was younger. However at Christmas we had family friends staying from Australia who were wanting a visit to the Island, so Mum and I tagged along.

I heard you were training with Storm LeQuesne, how did that get organized?

Storm and I trained together in Invercargill when I was still at school and when I come back down [to Invercargill] and swim with the squad.

Runners can listen to music to relax/zone out/get inspired during long races, but what about you? Do you meditate? Concentrate hard the whole time? Are there certain things you think about to keep calm/inspired/etc? How do you cope mentally with such a long swim?? What do you think about?

I've never listened to music when I swim because I like to be able to come back into my own head if I need to. When I'm in a rhythm I let my mind wander but if things become difficult I bring myself back to every stroke and remember exactly WHY I'm doing this - which for me is to improve mental health and well-being in New Zealand. It's going to be the hardest mental challenge of my life, but in all honesty it's nothing compared to what some people deal with daily - this is the least I can do to show my dedication to improving the state of well-being for these people.

The question everyone here wants to know is what about sharks? Is that a concern at all or a non-issue with you?

It's one of the things I'm least concerned about. I trust my crew to monitor the situation and get me out of the water if need be. Mum's managed to source an electronic shark shield that should keep them far away (hopefully!!).

Why are you considering no wetsuit?

The no wetsuit rule adheres to the International Marathon Swimming regulations, which if I want my swim to be recognised accordingly in the books, I'm stuck with togs. But because of the cause and reason for this swim, I'm not definitely going no wetsuit - I'm keeping it as an option.

Who came up with the recipe for the stuff you rub on your skin to keep warm? [wool fat, vaseline and zinc]

When I was in Australia, we met a lady who had connections to an English Channel swimmer who had used the concoction before.

Will you hydrate/eat at all during swim?

Absolutely, it's one of the most important aspects of the swim. I'll be 'feeding' every half an hour to make sure I'm adequately hydrated and fuelled for however long the swim may take. Feeds must be short though, they should be within 10-20 seconds to ensure the current doesn't take me off course.

Who is going to be in the support boat?

Skipper/Navigator oyster/support boat: Peter Leask and crew
 Paramedics: Anne Marie Hamilton (for 12th/13th) - Tony Fryer - (12-14th)
 IRB handlers: Oreti Surf Life Saving Club members
 Coach: Lapaquatics - Lisa Pankhurst
 Coach support/feed and hydration preparation: Lilly Tomlins
 Support swimmers : Nick Hyde, Harrison Finnerty
 Spectators/supporters who are invested deeply in the swim.

In your wildest dreams with everything going perfectly what overall time are you shooting for?

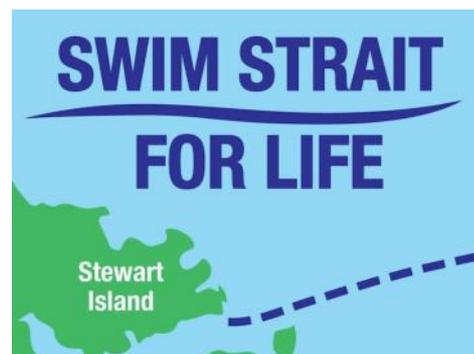
Well before dark!!! The tides, the wind, the currents all play a part - it would be presumptuous to make a prediction on the Foveaux Strait!!

Are you nervous or just excited?

A bit of both - I'm so excited to put my hard work and training into action, but naturally nervous about all the itty bitty things along the way.

When you are swimming a long race are you just wanting to get to the finish or do you enjoy the entire experience start to finish?

I take each race stroke by stroke and try and connect with the water and my love for it.



**Follow Hannah at Swim Strait for Life on Facebook and swimstrait4life on Instagram.
 Please donate to this cause (Mental Health Foundation) at Swim Strait for Life at givealittle.co.nz**

400 Words by Beverley Osborn

One of the films I really enjoyed many years ago was the musical called "The King and I", starring Yul Bryner and Julie Andrews. It was based on the fact that a king of Siam once hired an English woman to teach his many children. The film was so popular that it has been re-made at least once.

In the original film there is a scene in which the king contemplates new knowledge that seems to clash with traditional knowledge – things that don't make sense and things that do. The title of his song then, "It is a Puzzlement", has kept playing over in my head every time I read more headlines about violence and atrocities.

As far back in history as we can look, people have been killing, robbing, torturing and starving each other in order to satisfy their own desires. In the lifetimes of all of us living on the Island, tens of thousands of people have been killed for political or private reasons all over the world. The violence is frequently committed in the name of something that appears good, like human rights, peace enforcement, religious beliefs, control of rebels.

The "puzzlement" for me lies in my astonishment that these things keep happening even though humans actually know better – know that reprisal doesn't work, just creates further pain and bitterness.

When a disaster seems imminent – like the Grenfell Tower fire in London or a plane that seems about to crash – we hear about the cell-phone calls to families from people who knew they were about to die. Each time the message the caller was desperate to deliver was, "I love you!"

And love is also the reason for reassurance calls to families from survivors, enquiry and comfort calls between families and people away from home, calls sharing concerns about a person who is unwell or the victim of an accident or crime.

We actually KNOW that love is the most important and powerful commodity there is. It's in our genes that love is the ultimate game plan for living, and that realisation breaks through all our inhibitions at a time of crisis, proving that caring for and respecting each other and our world is our human destiny.

Why ever do we still leap to repay violence with further violence?

Why don't we LIVE what we actually know?

IT IS A PUZZLEMENT!

Last month's crossword puzzle solution: Across: 1 Acker, 2 Epilogue, 13 Entomology, 15 End, 16 Team, 17 Haulers, 18 Oars, 20 Plenty, 21 Soothe, 24 Ma, 26 Oi, 27 Granite, 29 Edge, 30 Toi, 31 To, 32 Arid, 34 Bless, 36 Drum, 37 Fantail, 39 Ra, 40 On, 41 Ayr, 43 Dancing Star, 47 Eg, 49 Phi, 51 Err, 52 Mao, 53 Aurora Australis, 57 Nets, 58 CT, 59 Tip, 60 Also, 62 Yankee, 64 Ma, 65 Pour, 66 Em, 68 Crouch, 70 Mirage, 73 Curl, 74 Reem, 77 IMO, 78 Tee, 79 Iron, 81 Civilians, 84 Nearer, 86 Cigar, 87 Dials, 89 Tours, 90 Reggae, 91 Grin, 94 EPL, 95 AD, 97 Uni, 98 Candid, 99 Rags, 101 Pet, 103 State, 104 Stamen, 106 Easy, 107 Rhyme, 108 Upon. Down: 1 Anemometer, 2 Kudos, 3 Retro, 4 ETA, 5 Pompeii, 7 Lohengrin, 8 Olan, 9 Gout, 10 Ugly, 11 Eye, 12 Lass, 14 Nest, 19 Aotearoa, 22 Hood, 23 Timely, 25 Ado, 28 Abba, 30 Tim, 33 Runner, 35 Liar, 38 August, 42 Reassure, 43 Dirty, 44 Crack, 45 Irate, 46 Tarpaulin, 48 Go, 49 Pandemic, 50 Hue, 52 Milo, 54 Osaka, 55 Timor, 56 Laphroaig, 61 Or, 63 Eccentricity, 67 Mimic, 69 Rues, 71 Roving, 72 Gelatin, 75 Enrage, 76 Morsel, 78 Ta, 80 Redesign, 82 IG, 83 Ironic, 85 Elapse, 88 Sparse, 92 Rusty, 93 Gnome, 96 Data, 100 Gas, 101 Pop, 102 Ten, 104 Sh, 105 Am. Highlighted word: Lonnekers.

SOMETHING FOR LANDLUBBERS: DID YOU KNOW...?

by John Bonn

While sitting on your porch or out in your garden, you could be on infra-red candid camera. That unknown boat sitting in the bay could be checking for signs of activity at your crib. Or it might be hubby in his wheelhouse checking up on what's happening around home. How?

Thermal Imaging. It's found on many types of vessel for navigation, collision avoidance, threat detection, surveillance, and Search & Rescue. It's common on commercial boats which operate at night. It's legal and for many has become part of a boat's standard operational kit.

Thermal Imaging works by picking up "heat" (thermal radiation), rather than "light". So it can be used during the day as well as at night. Everything emits or reflects an infrared wave-length regardless of its temperature, so Thermal Imaging is even used to detect ice-bergs. It can detect logs in the water, and it can see through fog. It can see things that radar might miss.

The Coastguard use these Units to find a person in the water. Law Enforcement use them to observe suspicious activity - but a vessel doing something illegal would use one to detect any such surveillance.

There are some limitations. Infra-red energy cannot pass through glass (so it's back to the drawing-board for any Peeking Toms out there). An infrared image doesn't enable a person to be identified, it can only show what they doing.

Many Units have 360° pan/tilt, display on the boat's chart-plotter or TV, have immense image zoom, are electronically stabilised (no rolling and pitching of the image due to boat-motion). A good Unit can see a 30 foot vessel at a range of 5 nautical miles, and can see what a person is doing at 2 nautical miles. Some Units can be viewed and operated remotely over the internet.

So, landlubbers, now you know what's been going on behind the closed wheelhouse door of that moored up boat! The crew are sitting around with their feet up, panning around the bay with their joystick, watching the shenanigans of the local young and restless on their infrared TV.

HMB School students recently created sand sculptures. With gull feathers, seaberries and a bit of seaglass (for a beak), these kids made a beach chicken!



Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust
for people for environment

COMBAT that RAT ATTACK!

Victor rat traps for sale, complete with wooden base and corflute covers.

Poison free and easy to use.

\$20 per trap.

Funds raised go towards trapping at Ackers Point.

Available at Glowing Sky or contact administrator@sircet.org.nz

They work!



Vitamin Sea Studio

Some of you may have noticed that Vitamin Sea Studio has opened alongside the Beaks and Feathers booking office at the Island Garage (14 Ayr Street). Local photographer and artist Lairka has set up this art space to share her work with everyone.

"I am truly inspired by mother nature and like to play with textures and different methods to transfer these images into art forms. My style of photography is about exploring my own creative journey, to discover my own sense of style and narrative."

Stop by and see Lairka's beautiful and environmentally sustainable Island artwork.



Can't make IT work?



✓ Computer and technology support for home and small business

Our qualified technician will be coming to Stewart Island each month. The next visit is 19th February.

03 217 0477 or 021 842 850 needanerd.co.nz



Mona (aka Mrs Brown) & Spragg partying at the Seniors' Xmas Party
Photo by Alison Undorf-Lay

HOPETOUN BROWN AND THE GENIUS OF FINN SCHOLES

You may recognise Hopetoun Brown as the Supergroove horn section, but now Tim Stewart and Nick Atkinson are a parping, stomping soul blues band.

They've got a very special guest with them for their Oban show: Finn Scholes, arguably the finest trumpet player in the country and a hell of a piano player to boot!

What's more ... Nick is sailing to the gig on his 38' ketch Sé Swalker all the way from Auckland.

**HOPETOUN BROWN AND THE GENIUS OF FINN SCHOLES
FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY
COMMUNITY CENTRE**



Glowing Sky Merino
Between The Shop & The Pub, Rakiura
glowingsky.co.nz

On Monday the 10th December 2018 Maureen Deuchrass (Road Safety Southland) and Snr Constable Marty Lohrey helped me to spread the seat belt safety message to Rugrats children, Half Moon Bay School Children and the wider Community on the importance of wearing your seatbelt.

Under Land Transport Act 1998 everyone in a vehicle on a road must wear a seatbelt. (There are a few exemptions such as a medical certificate for recent surgery, taxi driver or a meter reader).

Seat belts prevent serious harm and injury and most importantly they save lives. This is a proven fact so why would you choose not to wear one?

Our road toll this year is absolutely tragic, the highest in some ten years. Let's work together and change this.

Please PLEASE be a role model to your friends, whanau and mokopuna, lets encourage our friends and the next generation of drivers to be really safe on our roads.

Please ensure everybody wears a seatbelt and drives safely.

Many thanks.
Tracey Bransgrove, NZ Police



One stop Plumbing & Electrical

Plumbers & Building Services Ltd

ELECTRICIAN

We are available to come to Stewart Island for your electrical needs.

Please phone or email to discuss your requirements (due to travel costs we would be happy to combine jobs for different residents into a single trip to save costs)

Grayson Dolan
Plumbers & Building Services
grayson@pbsnz.com - www.pbsnz.com
03 215 7077

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE HALFMOON BAY HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT?

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRECT) undertake a habitat restoration project in Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island. The aim of the project is to protect vulnerable bird and plant species unique to New Zealand and to Stewart Island.

The project needs help to achieve its goals and we are currently looking for **NEW VOLUNTEERS** to help check, clear and reset rat traps placed along well marked tracks in the bush.

- **Experience is not needed** as traps are easy to check and reset. However, you must be comfortable dealing with small dead animals (we provide gloves etc).
- Some walking fitness is required. Track lines follow well marked paths through the bush. There are a variety of different difficulties to suit most people, so you need not be super fit but be comfortable walking off the main track.

To become involved or for more information, please contact:

Willy Gamble

Ph: 020 4167 4160

pest-manager@sircet.org.nz

P O Box 124, Stewart Island

www.facebook.com/SIRCET



New SIN costs:

SIN: \$4/issue

Ad costs based on full page (513 sq cm)

Colour ad

Full page \$200

Half page \$100

Quarter page \$50

40 cents per sq cm

Black & White ad

Full page \$160

Half page \$80

Quarter page \$40

30 cents per sq cm

Subscription

(for 12 issues)

Island \$48

NZ \$66

Overseas \$96

Email \$36

(Continued from page 1)

of *Elizabeth*, had divided loyalties. But he soon cheered up. ‘*Else* will win, she has the cleanest bum!’ he assured us. He should know. He cleaned her!

Laurie and Mona Edmonds, with their little mascot dog Coco resplendent in a trim life jacket, swept smartly round the flotilla in *Taihoa*. This nifty craft was built, so Bill Hamilton tells me, in the 1950’s by Ernie Squires. Originally sporting an outboard motor, she was modified by Douglas Johnson, with changes to her keel, the addition of a cabin and an inboard motor.

It was a beautiful day, the sea was calm, the air balmy. Locals and visitors gathered on Golden Bay wharf. How many old boats would turn up? Then a cheer rang out. *Arvid*, owned by the Hunter

family of *Ulva* and a sister ship to *Else*, was spotted in the approaches to Golden Bay. Neil and Mary had valiantly made the run across from *Ulva* in time for the race.

Else and *Arvid* are two of the three surviving snekke from the Norwegian Ship Repair Base days. *Else* was brought out from Norway in 1927 and *Arvid* was built a year or so later. So, they are a good age but nowhere near the age of *Elizabeth*. It is thought she must be close to 150 years old. She came to Stewart Island in the 1950’s as a sprightly 80 year old.

A comparative youngster, the Harbour Master’s *Mr Lister* was built on the Isle of Wight in 1965, one of two tenders for the cable ship which laid the Cook Strait Cable.

The craft that stole all the attention however was a beautiful dinghy, *Joyce*, built by Dr John Vercoe to a John Wellsford design. Three generations of family, John and Sue, their daughter and grandchildren, were putting her through her stylish paces.

Peter Cox at the helm of the stately *Ranui*, marshalled the contestants into a semblance of a start line and sounded the horn. Off swept the boats, racing round Iona. *Else* led the way. Hot in pursuit, a very gentlemanly Laurie allowed her, I suspect, to cross the finish line first. The prize? A chocolate fish for each member of the crew. Thanks, Ken!

A lovely fun event and one to be repeated. Ken is already thinking ahead to next year and pondering categories of races – kayaks, sailing dinghies. Messing about in boats – nothing beats it!



L: The dinghy *Joyce* and her family. Photo from Ken Jones R: Bill Watt discussing the relative merits of *Else* and *Arvid* with Mary and Neil Hunter.

Gordon Ramsay *stories and photos by Joanne Leask*

In October 2018, I was contacted by Sally from Global Film Solutions. I had interacted / worked with GFS for several years, this time however a bit more was being asked...

GFS were looking at facilitating a filming project on Stewart Island and the host was an internationally known celebrity chef. All going well the shoot dates would be end of January 2019. Was I interested in being involved? Of course -- especially if the host was my idol Gordon Ramsay I jokingly responded. Never in my wildest dreams did I think he would be the one!

Coordinating a film shoot on an Island right in the middle of its busy season is not as easy as it sounds.

Just finding accommodation for a crew of around 20-25, wait make that 28, oh wait, make that more, oh no Jo, we need two more rooms... Of course, separate bedrooms for all, no sharing, and as many with ensuite as possible please, is not an easy task. Then there was the logistics of transport and drivers for each "team", meals (and maybe on location) etc. etc. Of course none of that was even a priority until the scouts (producer, director, cameraman and a couple of the food team), had come down and checked the place out, and met some of the people I'd suggested might be the right ones to be involved in making this show come to life.

A trip out with Zane on the *Yahoo*, an adventurous ride in and on Fluff's truck at the Neck, and a good chat with Ang from Beaks and Feathers – these guys got the best of Stewart Island life! The day was sunny but really windy.

Stewart Island was go!

The next final scout trip was a lot more involved. More of the production team arrived and demanded more and more from us. This was not much of a worry as between all of us on the Island already involved at this stage, most potential hiccups were easily overcome, or could be. They were full on days involving some filming and a lot of scouting for locations. The biggest worry at this stage was the location for the final shoot- the most crucial part in making the show. The filming by this stage was less than a week away. None of the locations found currently ticked every box -- until the Schofield property at the end of Ringa Ringa

was suggested. After frantically calling Peter as he was sailing home from the mussel farms, we sought permission to "have a nose". It was deemed perfect! Peter and his family were very gracious allowing the use of the site (and subsequently, the use of the house for prep, loo etc).

The filming was imminent, but the weather was very wet and very windy.

Finally, the day arrived. Film crew, chefs, drivers, security, health and safety, p.a.'s and of course the host himself - Gordon Ramsay, were on Stewart Island for the next three days!

Lots of locals were involved over the next three days too, driver/p.a.'s Ian Herbert, Aaron Joy, Wayne Skerrett, Willy Gamble, Siobhan Hazlett and myself, Lania Edwards and Emily cooking great lunches, Ship to Shore, the pub, and Kai Kart providing meals,



Deanne and Chris at Church Hill hosting the "host", Ant Simpson and Ricki Ruden-Jones digging and preparing the hangi pit, Steve Black and Ang Karaitiana from Beaks and Feathers, Zane Smith and Rhys Leask, Gordon (aka Fluff) Leask. All of us getting a real insight into how the filming industry works!

The biggest highlight for me was meeting and spending time with the team I'd been assigned, the food team. The two days prior to the final shoot day were pretty much spent with them for 12 hours or more accessing whatever it was they needed, and driving them

anywhere they needed to go. Matt Abe the head chef from RAMSAY in London, Monique Fiso from HIA KAI in Wellington and the rest of the group, Mike, Glyn, Max and Ben were a great bunch of people to meet. The time made even more special by being invited to dine with them at Thule house and their guest GORDON RAMSAY!

Conversation was easy and Gordon seemed genuinely interested in the Island, asking lots of questions about life here. He even showed me pictures of his new bichon frise puppy and another of his daughter Matilda with the mumps!

It was a really relaxed evening, with a simple and delicious meal of steak from a charcoal bbq, and Stewart Island crayfish.

The time was incredibly busy, but it was exhilarating, and I look forward to projects like this again sometime in the future.



Back row: Peter Schofield, Willy Gamble, Jill Skerrett, Zane Smith, Gordon Ramsay. Front row: Jo Leask, Cyril Leask, Maureen Jones, Marley Morgan, Phillip Smith and Wendy Hallett



- Across**
1. Bay on Stewart Island's east coast (4,7)
 8. Advance (2)
 9. Largest artery in the body (5)
 11. Sound in SW Fiordland (5)
 13. Netherlands (abbrev) (2)
 14. Edge (3)
 15. Discreet or confidential information given (3-3)
 17. Of similar character (4)
 19. Ire (5)
 20. A liquid hydrocarbon (3)
 22. Sword used in fencing (4)
 23. A person who never drinks alcohol (11)
 26. Hawaiian garland (3)
 28. Continuous (7)
 29. An elastic polyurethane fabric used for close-fitting sports clothing (5)
 31. Called out (to somebody) (6)
 34. Overseas Experience (2)
 36. Cash-in (6)
 37. A mental disorder characterised by a disconnection from reality (9)
 38. Extinct flightless bird (3)
 40. Fishing traps (4)
 41. Gas commonly used for cooking (7)
 45. Root vegetable (6)
 46. Reclaim (property) (9)
 47. Armed Offenders Squad (3)
 48. Herb (4)
 49. Filters (7)
 21. Machines used for wood-turning (6)
 24. ___ and fro (2)
 25. To place cargo onto a boat or truck, etc (4)
 27. A thing that is very ugly, especially a building (7)
 30. Shoreline feature where crabs and small fish can be found at low tide (4-4)
 32. Citrus fruit (5)
 33. Feelings (8)
 35. Audible warning devices (5)
 36. Remove (3)
 39. Venomous snake (3)
 40. Cost (5)
 41. Poke (4)
 42. Gemstone (4)
 43. Donkey (3)
 44. Ray-finned fish (4)
 45. Emperor of Russia before 1917 (4)
- Down**
1. Nonsense (10)
 2. Extremely happy (8)
 3. Main harbour on Great Barrier Island (8)
 4. A ridiculous but amusing person (7)
 5. Tin (3)
 6. Coca ___ (4)
 7. This ___ that (2)
 8. The acrobatic trick of performing a backwards somersault while still moving forward (6)
 10. The first or second stomach of a cow or other ruminant, used as food (5)
 12. Tethered flying toy (4)
 16. Is the right shape and size for (4)
 18. Australian sheep dog (6)

Find the circled letters to spell an island near Halfmoon Bay.

1	○	2		3		4		5	6	7		8	
								9				10	
11			12					13				14	
		15					16		17	18			
19	○					20		21		22			○
		23			24				25				
26	27			28									
29			30					31				32	33
34					35		36						
37												38	39
				○						40		○	
41	○		42		43	○	44		45		○		
46													
			47										
48							49			○			

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Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

Catlins National Park could benefit the entire region

You may have read over the summer break that as part of my role as National's Conservation spokesperson I'm investigating the possibility of establishing a national park encompassing our many reserves in the Catlins.

We live in the best part of New Zealand (I would say that) and I want New Zealanders and international tourists be able to enjoy our country.

New Zealand has an incredible natural environment and I am committed to protecting it for future generations. National's smart, modern Bluegreen approach to conservation is about getting the entire country involved, combining the energy and enthusiasm of thousands of committed volunteers and the backing of business with the expertise and resources of the Department of Conservation.

As MP for Invercargill and Stewart Island, I know that New Zealanders identify with their surrounds and enjoy an innate connection to unimpeded access to conservation lands.

That's why I believe it's worth considering establishing a national park to encompass all of the pockets of reserves in the Catlins and if possible, link these with corridors to create a stronger connection between land and sea.

A Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park already exists, but I believe a national park would allow the area to be more easily protected by the National Parks Act and allow its framework along with that of the Conservation Act to better manage visitors to the estate and leverage funds for supporting infrastructure.

A Catlins National Park, would also be huge drawcard to bring people to Southland and Stewart Island. I believe many people will make the trip to Rakiura at the same time as visiting the Catlins. Drawing the dots together throughout Southland will ultimately mean higher visitor numbers and job creation.

It would also dovetail into the Southland and

Clutha district council's strategies, which would give better cohesion through the Catlins. I have the support of our mayors for the initial concept proposed.

The park would incorporate not only wildlife but the natural and social history of the area, including human settlement and shipwrecks.

However, we all know here on Stewart Island too well, over the establishment of the Rakiura National Park, just how important it is to involve the community when developing a national park.

Concerns about having a national park on residents and farmers immediate doorsteps while still protecting the region's conservation values do need to be worked through. It is essential that farmers, residents and other stakeholders are incorporated into any process of developing a park and, that the existing dynamism of the area is recognised. Social activities that have occurred for years need not be prohibited by the formation of a national park – conservation can be inclusive and should inspire appreciation of the natural environment. Farming and conservation used to go hand to hand, but now so many more farmers are blue-green in their views. You only need to look at the number of QEII covenants on land that have been set up.

Recently we've seen the yellow-eyed penguin population at Curio Bay in the south Catlins be reduced to a single nesting pair. That's down from three last season. As well as finding that heart breaking, it highlights that there is a need for greater protection and resourcing for the Catlins' endangered species in critical areas.

My next steps will be pulling together econom-

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I have 40 years' experience in local government and 8 years' experience as a Planning and Environmental Consultant.



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ic analysis and working with the community to develop this proposal.

I'm really looking forward to another year of working hard as National's Conservation spokesperson and I'd like to thank you all for your support.

Office of Sarah Dowie MP

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Bird watching. *Photo from Sandra Whipp*



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Gordon Ramsay with Summer Thompson, Tyler Dawson, Trey Brown and Lily Everest. *Photo from Jane Everest*



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