

Stewart Island News

February 2004 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

Scottish Comedian Arrives in Style



Billy Connolly sets foot on Stewart Island for first time.

Billy Connolly Popular Act

Big smiles on faces after Billy Connolly's Stewart Island concert told the story well enough. The audience was in fits of laughter for the whole two hour show, lapping up the atmosphere and charisma of this international performer.

Islanders may be unaware a lot of work went on behind the scenes to make the show happen. Billy performed free of charge, sponsors donated services and material, volunteers donated and prepared food. Income from ticket sales was used to pay expenses and any surplus will bring further shows to the community.

A Gentleman Beneath by Stewart Dovey

I had the privilege to be chauffeur and unofficial tour guide, and enjoyed a breakfast coffee with Bill Connolly during his recent visit to Oban. Underneath his stage persona lies an old-fashioned gentleman. He was obviously impressed with the island in general, going out of his way to ask questions about the community, its history and aspirations.

Spending his one night at *Port of Call* after a hectic day of travel, filming and the concert, Billy impressed his hosts Phillipa and Ian Wilson with his intelligence and humanity. Apart from praising Phillipa's muffins as "the best he had ever tasted" (always a good opening line), Billy chatted about repressed minority groups, charities and seagulls. No celebrity ego trips, just a down-to-earth guy.

Filming on his trike for his television show took in Lee Bay and the road back to Oban. During a brief sail on Paterson Inlet a pod of dolphin was spotted and captured on film. Hopefully the film editors will be kind with the footage allowing the Island to benefit from world-wide exposure. This should provide a significant ongoing benefit to our local economy. Buying this sort of advertising would be well beyond the budget of any local business so was an opportunity not to be missed.

All accommodation on the island was fully booked on the day with several local businesses joining in the theme. Black tee-shirts abounded, autographs snapped up and photo opportunities grabbed.

Billy's comment "I really love this Island, it has a good feel about it" sums up his experiences. Don't be surprised if he comes back to visit one day. Kai Kart fish and chips; Port of Call muffins; salmon, oysters and (mostly) friendly locals combined with the scenic beauty are hard to beat.



FEB 04



Halfmoon Bay Beat

The past few months have been busy for me here on Stewart Island.

With the usual influx of people comes the usual lost and found property, trampers with injuries and petty thefts.

I am also investigating the fires down south, both of which appear to have been deliberately lit. People have asked me why take so much trouble to put out scrub fires? The answer to that question is that rural fires must be put out and this is written under Statute. Something has to be done, just as you would expect the Fire Brigade if *your* house or property was on fire.

There is no differentiating between fires no matter their size, geographical location or closeness to people or property and they are always risky to put out. In this case the risks were with the Department of Conservation staff and helicopter pilots who fought the fires, one helicopter nearly hitting the hillside while unloading people and a tail rotor strike. This sort of foolhardy action by the person(s) lighting the fires that put lives at risk will always bring on a full Police investigation and the full weight of the law should the perpetrator be apprehended.

The costs of these fires in machine and man time were immense, especially working in adverse conditions and rough terrain, the cost of helicopter flying time alone amounts to over \$30,000, a huge burden to the tax payer

Talk is that it is a historical act to burn coastline vegetation around Stewart Island to provide foraging deer with new growth at a later date and the chance of an easy shot from the coast edge or a boat. However, in the eyes of the lawmakers it is Arson and will be treated as such. If lives are lost in having put out an intentionally lit fire then it becomes more serious. This could have happened down at Tupari Bay.

If anyone has any information in relation to the fires at Port Adventure and Tupari Bay please call me, your information will be treated in strict confidence.

Recently Sergeant John De Lury and myself have had a traffic campaign to tidy up the disgusting state of unwarranted and unregistered motor vehicles on Stewart Island. This is the last time warnings will be given. From now on drivers will be issued with Infringement notices unless you can provide me with good reason why your vehicle is unwarranted or unregistered and is being used on the road.

Those who own Motorcycles and Quad Motorcycles be warned in the near future they too will have to be warranted and registered for use on public roads, there are no exceptions. Vehicle testing NZ and the Land Transport Safety Authority will be working to be able to provide motorcycle owners with an opportunity to warrant and register Stewart Island motorcycles.

Also a pat on the back for all those who are wearing their seatbelts, well done. The majority of crashes I have attended here have been low or moderate speed crashes. All those who were not wearing safety belts impacted onto the steering wheel or windscreen.

Remember you only have one face and as ugly as it may be you don't deserve an even uglier one – BELT UP.

Rob Fox
Stewart Island Police



New Zealand
POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

FEB '04



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MUSEUM NOTES.

Here we are again, after missing last month's edition – seems I'm always apologising!

The holiday season is almost over, and we have had quite a busy time with the visit of the "CLIPPER ODYSSEY" on 16th January giving us a high number of visitors. The previous day was a bit "bumpy" for them as they bashed their way up from the Auckland and Snares Islands. I think they welcomed the quiet day ashore!

ACQUISITIONS.

We continue to receive articles of interest, the latest being donated by Sheila Natusch (nee Traill). These are a set of her father Roy Traill's field notebooks from his days as Ranger on the Island – very interesting.

Ian Munro also donated a book outlining the history of the Stewart Is Fishermen's Co-operative

This type of thing is always welcome, along with photographs, sketches letters etc which may be regarded by some as "junk". Please think of us before you throw those old books and letters out!

This month's boat – TE WAIPOUNAMU.

There will still be a few people who remember this vessel when she fished the Island waters for Eric ("Bones") Mackay in the 1960's, and before him the Johnson Brothers – Arch, Bert, & Ken, but her history goes back a long way before this.

She was built in Bluff in the 1880's for Captain Charles Bradshaw – great grandfather of Sir Tipene O'Regan – and was one of the early oyster fleet. Ketch rigged, with a noble bowsprit, she was some 60 feet long – quite a boat.

In February 1896 she was chartered by a group of Gore businessmen for a Stewart Island cruise. This was the start of a tradition continued until Xmas 1899 as described in a lighthearted publication called "Lee Ho", which can be found in the Invercargill Public Library.

In 1921 she was purchased by the Marine Department for use in supervising the rock oyster industry in the Auckland area, and she remained "up North" until July 1952, when she was bought by the Johnson Bros and came south to join the local fleet again. She was granted an oyster license, and the first day's work netted 6 bags – all sold in Halfmoon Bay. "We'll get better!" said Archie.

She fished 13 years for the Johnsons, with her petrol engine being replaced by a 6LW Gardner, a freezer and wheelhouse added to bring her up to date! Then, in 1965, she was sold to Eric Mackay – one of the founding members of the Stewart Island Fishermen's Co-op – and continued crayfishing the South Cape area. In May 1967, while on a coddling trip to the Smoky/Ruggedy grounds she dragged ashore on East Ruggedy beach overnight, and sadly, during the subsequent salvage attempts, Island fisherman Tana Dawson was drowned. After 10 days ashore, she was finally refloated and taken to Bluff for repairs.

She was later sold to Dunedin interests, and her long life ended when she sank at Weka Island, Preservation Inlet, some time later – her hull can still be seen there.

That's it for now – see you next month. Merv King.

Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

If you have been wondering what is happening with our Ackers Point Possum and Rat control project - I can inform you that this project is alive and well. The Stewart Island Community and Environment Trust is maintaining possum and rat traps on Ackers Point to increase bird numbers. The work is voluntary and exists on donations of labour or money. Our biggest donation to date has been from the Department of Conservation who gave us about 100 possum kill traps and a heap of rat traps.

The trust has finished covering Ackers Point in an intensive grid of possum kill traps and has covered the very end of Ackers with rat traps. These are all kill traps and only need to be checked every two weeks or so.

So far the trust has invested 76.5hrs of labour and killed 51 possums and 14 rats. There are already signs of vegetation regrowth throughout the area – hopefully we will soon notice an increase in bird numbers.

If you wish to contribute to this work in any way, please contact Jed Lewis or Chris Visser on 2191 494.

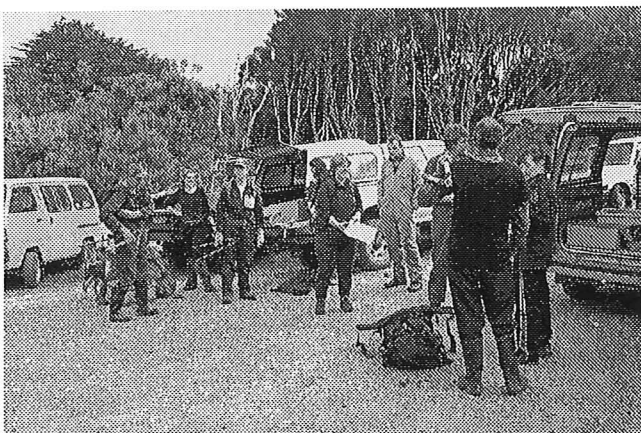


Photo supplied by Brent Beaven

Expedition hunts giant meteor

An international scientific expedition will fly to Stewart Island on a quest to track down a meteor that may have sparked a tsunami that possibly wiped out a legendary Chinese fleet 500 years ago.

Expedition leader New York oceanographer Dallas Abbott has found survey evidence of a huge undersea crater caused by a meteor impact 20km wide and more than 153m deep just south of the Snares Islands, 120km southwest of Stewart Island. The expedition is going to remote Mason Bay on the west coast of Stewart Island to look for evidence of a "mega-tsunami", sparked by the meteor, which may have dumped sand up to 150m above the present sea level.

Wollongong University geographer Ted Bryant, who will join the party, believes the tsunami may have swept as far as the east coast of New South Wales, where he has found evidence of waves up to 130m high that hit about AD 1500.

Australian author Gavin Menzies has claimed the mega-tsunami as a possible cause of the destruction of all but one of more than 100 ships which he says were dispatched by China to circumnavigate the globe in AD 1421. However, New Zealand tsunami expert Dr James Goff visited Mason Bay in December and said there was no evidence either that the tsunami occurred there as recently as 1500, or that it was caused by a meteor.

Follow up story next month ■

2004 Board of Trustee Elections, Halfmoon Bay School, Stewart Island
Five Parent Representatives for the ensuing three year term

Time Line

1. Returning Officer, Iris Tait appointed by **25 February 2004**
2. Compile list of eligible voters include full name and address (parents or caregivers with children at the school) **Saturday, 28 February**. (School Office Manager, Fiona Hall). List of names for inspection at the school.
3. Call for nominations, advertisement in the Southland Times on **March 4th**.
4. Follow up with notices around the school, Public Notice Board, School Newsletter and Community Newspaper.
5. **Nominations open, forms posted by Friday, March 5th** to parents and available at the school and Stewart Island Flight Depot.
6. **Close nominations noon Friday, 19th March** – accompanied by candidate's statement.
7. If five nominations for five Parent Representatives declare candidates elected.
If over five nominations:
8. Voting paper & statements from candidate's with an envelope addressed to the returning officer posted to all eligible voters **before Wednesday, 24th March**.
9. The poll closes **noon Friday, 2nd April**.
10. Votes counted, sixth day after poll closes **Thursday, 8th April**.
11. Declare results and publish in Southland Times within a few days.
12. Ministry of Education paper work to be completed/ district Court copy of roll and voting papers.

Six Move to Town by Fiona Hall

The island has had to say farewell to the McGinity family. and while we might feel a little sad for ourselves, we can't help but feel excited for them. The family moved here from Rotorua in 2001, and quickly showed themselves to be the sort of folk to "get stuck in". While Phil helped build a shed for the new "Clampett Industries" and then many other projects, Aggie was busy working at the hotel, running Lettuce Inn and helping with the senior generation. Later on Ag was Hilli's mainstay in re-opening the Kai Kart, and Phil began mussel farming with EEC. In between many jobs they both found plenty of time for community efforts, especially the school and Winter Sports Club. They brought a family of four children, popular with adults and other kids alike. Here is how their schoolmates remember them:

Ruby: *Kind – funny - a good friend - a good writer - always helpful and nice.*

Charlotte: *Always has a nice smile - cheered us up when we got hurt - really funny.*

Harvey: *Good sportsman - chucked shampoo on Ruby and my hair (it was funny) - good at tricks.*

Katy: *Katy was cool - always saying something positive – brainy - a great sharer.*

As for Phil and Aggie, well.... it's great that you can never be sure when Phil is pulling your leg, he loves hunting, fishing and island life; and Ag is multi-talented, always there to help, and a mother in a million. Phil's still around for now, catching a few last fish, and Ag and the children are settling in to life and school in Invercargill. We wish them all the very best in the future, and look forward to hearing their news when they visit. *(or please send us some articles for SIN – Ed)*

Dancing Star Foundation's 4th Annual Island Fest Stewart Island 5th to 7th March 2004

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday March 5th

Friday morning: Jane Morrison and Michael Tobias present a whale shark discussion, with film clips, to **Halfmoon Bay School** students.

Stewart Island Community Centre

7:00 to 8:15 pm: Illustrated lecture by Don Merton of the Department of Conservation.
Saving the Kakapo. The Ultimate Challenge.

"I've been passionate about the kakapo since childhood," says Merton. "It's a most remarkable bird and we just have to save it. To me, averting its extinction and facilitating its recovery was - and still is - the ultimate challenge in endangered species conservation". Don will present an illustrated account featuring highlights and tracing progress during his many years of involvement with this remarkable bird.

Intermission/Nibbles

8:45 to 9:45 pm: Illustrated lecture by Dr Ian Jamieson of Otago University.
Effects of Inbreeding in wild bird populations:

Is New Zealand out-of-step with the rest of the world? There is growing scientific evidence world-wide that inbreeding often impacts negatively on small, isolated populations of endangered birds. This perception is in stark contrast to the cases in New Zealand where it is generally believed that our native birds are less affected by inbreeding. Two recent studies, the first in New Zealand to specifically study the effects of inbreeding in wild populations, have found evidence of significant reductions in reproductive potential in several inbred populations of native birds.

Dr Jamieson and colleagues are also undertaking a study of saddlebacks/tieke and New Zealand robins/toutouwai on Ulva Island, to determine more precisely the consequences of close inbreeding over both the short and long-term life of this island population. For his talk, Dr Jamieson will present up-to-date information on how molecular genetics is informing the conservation management of endangered species world-wide including New Zealand.

Saturday March 6th

Stewart Island Community Native Plant Nursery

Noon to 3:00 pm: Open House at the Nursery

Eamonn Ganley and colleagues from the Department of Conservation will be demonstrating aspects of native plant propagation and giving plants to visitors.

Free shuttle service will be available every half-hour between town and Horseshoe Bay

Stewart Island Community Centre

3:00 to 4:00 pm: Film Screening *Rain Coast*

This one-hour documentary work-in-progress advance preview reveals the magical, mountainous watersheds of western British Columbia, the rarely-seen white spirit bear and explores the struggle of environmentalists and First Nations indigenous peoples to save the region from unsustainable lumber industry practices.

4:00 to 5:00 pm: Film Screening: *Whale Shark Hunters of the Philippines*. A one-hour documentary directed by Erin Calmes that examines the largest fish in the world, the benign and mysterious whale shark; and the saga of a film team determined to save this miraculous species. Filmed in Mexico, the Philippines and Taiwan.

7:00 to 8:30 pm: Illustrated lecture by artist Nigel Brown - *Environment*

Using slides the artist discusses a variety of environments that have influenced his work, from Tauranga to Auckland, the Pacific, Antarctica, and now Cosy Nook, Southland. In thinking about the subject, the artist writes “What I’m going to attempt to do is not just give a talk about art but about art in the context of wider issues as I see them, which is what my art is always trying to do, be relevant and say something”. Promises to be a stunning meditation and conversation about the very art of living.

Intermission/nibbles

8:45 to 10:00 pm: Premiere of new film by Rod Morris of NHNZ.

The Case of the Baby-Face Assassins

This is the premiere of Rod’s new one-hour NHNZ documentary detailing the strange case of an unexpected non-native predator in Tasmania, its impact on a local community, and the scientists and farmers involved in the fascinating detective work to ascertain the true predator culprit. Rod will be on hand to discuss the film.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7th, Stewart Island Community Centre

7:00 to 8:15 pm: Lecture by Jane Kitson of Environment Southland

State of Southland’s Coastal Marine Environment

Environment Southland in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, Southland District Council, Invercargill City Council and Murihiku Runanga, are compiling a report to help understand and communicate the state of Southland’s coastal marine environment. This presentation will give an outline of the contents of the Coastal Marine report, highlighting areas of most interest to those that interact with this environment, and illustrate Southland’s unique approach and vision for this report.

Intermission/Nibbles

8:30 - 10:30 pm: Film screening of *America’s Great Parks*. Introduced by Jane Morrison.

A two-hour feature documentary, made for Discovery Channel, that chronicles the history, cultures and various ecological and scientific marvels of the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Yosemite National Park.

It's All Happening At The School

Fiona Hall

Everyone here has really enjoyed the start to our new year, and there seems to be heaps to report already. We have a brand new face in Michaela Belworthy, whose fifth birthday was the first day of school. Taylah Charlton has also come from Westplains School to join us in Year 3. They are both settling in very nicely. Julius Herzhoff and Amalie Olive have moved up to join the senior class as our new Year Fives, and seem to be thriving in the rarefied atmosphere of Room One.

We are all sad to lose Lee as our Principal. In her seven years she has made a very big impact at the school. She began at a time when Boards were asked to produce a whole lot of new paperwork, and worked night and day to make sure our school kept up. More recently she introduced our digital camera, and the "Reporter of the Week" films, which challenged the children and entertained us all. Although we are going to miss her we are also pleased to see her finally get to do all the things she has been planning for her retirement. It is quite an extensive list. And it's great to know that she'll not be very far off.

Luckily we have found a new Principal, Cath O'Loughlin, who was the sole charge Principal at Arthur's Pass School in 2003, until they closed due to a falling roll. With this experience she is used to living in a small community, and managing a rural school. Her enthusiasm for multi-level teaching is a real bonus. The children have already enjoyed meeting Cath's dog, Summer, who has come here to retire by the seaside.

Ian Sinclair (Sinky) has joined the support staff just in time to tackle a big list of jobs around the grounds and property, for which we are very grateful. It is certainly a varied position, and having all those things taken care of makes our lives much easier. Thanks Sinky!

There have been heaps of other developments on the property front, not least the installation of diesel heating. The school is finally a cosy place, all set for next winter, and an "asthma sufferer friendly zone"! We are very grateful to Southroads and Stewart Island Hire for donating the digger work for the job.

The first 'wave' of repairs to the school pool is now complete, too. The team from Gunac Tyries have replaced the skimmers and expansion joint, and have cleaned up and sealed the exposed and rusting parts. On top of that they have been a great source of advice. Our pool surface, while beginning to erode, is still in reasonable condition. No method of sealing the concrete appears to guarantee success, and it seems we might be wise to wait and see what new products arise in the next few years. The pumps need some attention (rust removal and prevention), which may be something we can deal with in the winter. The solar heating can also be checked this year, and may benefit from some simple maintenance.

Throughout the pool repair project we have had terrific support from Bruce Ford. Many others such as Neville King, Steve Craig, Southroads, Phred Dobbins and the Department of Conservation have helped Sinky and the Gunac Tyries team get the job done. Thank you folks!

Well, we have an exciting year ahead planned, with many new developments and changes to manage. We really appreciate all the support we get from the community, and will be keeping everyone up to date in 2004.

“You can’t get better than this”

Was one of the comments heard on 28th January when a group of locals, most putting the day’s responsibilities onto friends, plus two stalwart trampers (who wanted to be dropped off at Murray River) boarded the “AURORA” on a trip to circumnavigate Stewart Island.

We set off from Halfmoon Bay wharf at 0800 in fine, calm conditions and turned north to travel up the coast past Port William and Bungaree. Then to the north end of Murray River where we dropped the trampers off to tramp back to Halfmoon Bay, not a bad day’s hike!! From there we travelled on around the north coast of the island past Yankee River and Smoky Beach to the Ruggedy Islands. By this time cloud had cleared from the top of Mt. Anglem giving us great views of the top as we hugged the coast line for real close-up views all the way. The Ruggedy Islands for those of us who hadn’t seen them before were awesome. The sea was oily, the sky blue; what more could be wished for.

As we travelled down the west coast and so to Mason Bay, the eight and a half passengers (the half being in the form of Penny Barnsdale) were all on the after deck totally enthralled with the magic of it all. Flocks of Muttonbirds were everywhere and we couldn’t take our eyes off the scenery as we passed the Earnest Islands and looked back into the gutter then on down the coast to Doughboy Bay. Still staying close into the shoreline we made it around South Cape in near perfect conditions but looking at those weather-beaten rocks in close-up made everybody very grateful the conditions were so

perfect, especially when, as we passed Murphy Island, Graeme showed us a photo of waves breaking clean over the top of it!!

As we cruised into South Arm of Pegasus we were treated to a good view of a bull Hookers sea lion basking on the beach and a short time later on the beach of Anchorage Island a bull fur seal sun bathing. Thence into North Arm where we took a trip up Cooks Arm and then were taken ashore to marvel at the wonder of Smuggler’s Cove. We were further spoilt with a trip ashore to view the Belltopper Falls which was a great sight despite the lack of recent rain not giving a great display over the falls.

Eventually we had to commence the trip homeward with some reluctance and everyone vowing to return. We left the shelter of Pegasus and headed up the coast but still the sights kept coming. We passed close to rocks covered in young and adult seals and huge flocks of Muttonbirds, this complimented by the ever-changing landscape of Stewart Island’s coastline. By the time we were approaching Ackers Point we were all pretty tired but the magic continued as those still observant enough were treated to the sight of a whale close off our port side.

Returning to Halfmoon Bay wharf around 1730, all on board agreed it was a fabulous day. If you haven’t done it, and get the chance, DO IT!!

Thank you Graeme and Colin for what will always be one of our most memorable days.

Ewan and Jenny Gell



Venture Southland Broadband Information Show

Venture Southland will be holding a meeting on Stewart Island to outline projects associated with the implementation of wireless broadband Internet access.

The meeting will outline three main projects Venture Southland is working on in this area and will provide a wide range of information, which will include:

- Proposed coverage and timetable for the rollout of Broadband.
- Information about speed of access and general technical information.
- The support of Information Communication Technology development through the Connecting Communities Strategy.
- The Venture Southland Innovator Project and how schools are becoming involved in linking with business industry through this medium.

Where: Oban Community Centre
When: Tuesday 9 March 2004 7.30pm to 8.30pm

For more information please contact Wayne Duncan at Venture Southland:
Phone 211 1801 Mobile 021 415 323 email wayne.d@venturesouthland.co.nz

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE by Jenny Gell

The first Garden Circle Meeting of the year was held at the home of Anita Geeson on 12th February with everyone wondering where January had disappeared. We welcomed Lee Wadds as a new Garden Circle member.

Our New Year's resolutions were very positive but it will be interesting to see at the end of the year how many were successfully adhered to.

Competition results were:

Dahlia:	(1) Raylene Waddell	(2) Lil Skipper	(3) Jenny Gell
Small Flower:	(1) Mavis Tait	(2) Myra Leask	(3) Jenny Gell
Veg:	(1) Anita Geeson/Lil Skipper	(2) Nancy Schofield	(3) Jenny Gell

The Garden Circle has invited Blue Mountain Nurseries from Tapanui over to the island on 15th April; they will be guest speakers at the Anglican Church Hall at 2pm and will help with any gardening queries. Watch the Notice Board for details.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Jenny Gell at 2pm on 11th March.

Oh no – Not more elections!! by Fiona Hall

Why on earth would anyone want to join the school board? Good question, really. No-one who has had experience of the role will deny that it is both a commitment and a responsibility. And it involves a bit of work at times. There are a few myths though: school boards are not fundraising committees who organise cheese and wine evenings. Nor are they in charge of the day to day running of the school (management is the role of the Principal and her staff).

So what **do** they do? Board of Trustees (BOT)'s role is "governance". This means deciding on the direction and goals for their school, and ensuring that the policies, procedures and systems are in place to achieve them. **Trustees don't carry out the tasks involved, but they are responsible for ensuring that they are carried out.** Our school has a five-year strategy, from which we develop an annual plan and supporting budget each year. We also have a three-year review cycle to check our progress. The needs of our children, which Trustees learn about through reports from staff, (eg on curriculum areas, assessment results, or special programmes), drive everything the Board does.

All this might sound as if Trustees are a panel of 'experts' who spend hours writing reports. Not so. As far as expertise is concerned, there are plenty of places to find help, the main one being the NZ School Trustees Association. Although most Trustees need to report on something monthly, this can often be done verbally, and needn't be lengthy. Reviews are often only a few lines long, and if your handwriting isn't 'too flash' the school office can help out with some typing and formatting. There are plenty of examples to look at as a guide for the new Trustee. **What schools really need are Trustees who are interested in education and committed to the community's children.**

BOT elections take place every three years. In April Halfmoon Bay School will be seeking five Trustees to form a new Board (they will be joined by the Principal and a staff elected representative). Though we need parent representation, you do not need to be a parent to stand. Once elected the new Board will have to share out the following roles:

CHAIR

This person has a leadership and spokesperson role. They run the meetings, keeping everyone on track and to the point, and ensure that votes are taken where necessary. There will be plenty of support and guidance available for an inexperienced Chairperson.

SECRETARY

This person take the minutes of meetings: not every small detail, but ensuring that all essential points and decisions are recorded, together with the results of votes and "action points" (to do items) to be completed. The Secretary compiles a list of the correspondence "in" and "out", files all BOT correspondence, and sends out copies of minutes with an agenda for the next meeting.

TREASURER

This person reports monthly on the schools financial progress compared with its budget (simply, with the help of the office), and writes a new budget each year (with the Principal and Office Manager). School Support Ltd manage all the school's GST returns, provide monthly reports, and carry out annual accounting requirements - so this is not a very hard role.

PROPERTY

This person keeps an eye on progress towards the school's property plans, and regularly checks the grounds and buildings for work needing done. School Support Ltd write all the plans and help manage any big projects the Board decides to carry out.

HEALTH & SAFETY

This person manages and reviews the school's health & safety plan and records. Ron Morrisson has set up a system for the main school buildings (he has been very generous with his time). Ron will work with the new Trustee until the ancillary buildings are included, and the Trustee is confident in their role. School staff will also be able to offer support.

PERSONNEL

This role is likely to be taken up as a second role, possibly by the Chair.

The Board can appoint up to four other Trustees (must be less than the number elected) for specific tasks or roles, as required.

2004 is an ideal time for an inexperienced Board to take over because:

- The current Board have set up all the required documents and systems to follow.
- The School Trustees Association will provide training and expertise in a manner that suits the new Board.
- The new Principal has experience in running a small rural school.
- The school office manager has the experience to support the Board as needed.

So – why **would** you join the Board? Well, it's a meaningful community role, where you can see results for your efforts. Children are like young plants – you can watch them grow and actually see the progress. Supporting committed, hard working staff is also very satisfying. And what better way to contribute to our community's future?

If you think you might be interested, you can find out more from any of the current Board of Trustees: Kirsten Nicoll (Chair), Lee Wadds, Bonnie Leask, Barry Rhodes, Jill Skerrett, Nigel Philp, and myself. Community members are also welcome to come along to our next two meetings to see what goes on: Tuesday 10th February and Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm in the school.



The February Chocolate Award goes to Cathy and Dil Belworthy (Glowing Sky) for their work done in producing the Billy Connelly tea shirts on behalf of Toi Rakiura. Most of the work was "at cost" with design work done completely free of charge. Thanks Guys.

Hopefully everyone bought at least one!

**The chocolates were generously donated by Lorraine and Herbie Hansen's
*Southern Isle Charters.***

12.3 tonnes saved from landfill

Residents of Stewart Island are quickly coming to grips with the new kerbside recycling collection system. In the two months since the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre and kerbside collections have been operating over 12.3 tonnes of recyclables have been saved from landfill.

Two more sets of yellow, green and blue recycling bins will be put in place in the coming weeks, to help manage the volume of public recycling.

Contractors were overwhelmed by the high usage of the current operational bins at the Wharf. However on a sad note, some people are not using the bins correctly, and are putting non-recyclable rubbish into the recycling bins.

The Recycling bins are for Plastics 1 & 2, Glass and Aluminium cans only.

Litter bins are still in place along the foreshore reserve. So please use the right bins for the right purpose. The contractors do sort through the recycling bins to categorise the recyclables – please don't make their job harder by putting rubbish in the bins – if you do other peoples efforts to recycle may be wasted.

The second chance shed at the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre contains some items that may be of use to you take a look next time your in the area.

Come over and take advantage of this great opportunity to drop-off something that you no longer want and you just might find something you can use that someone else no longer wanted.

We'll take anything i.e. furniture, camping equipment, appliances, garden tools, books, machinery – if it's reusable, we'll take it.

Reports have come in of greenwaste being dumped off the roadside at Braggs Bay.

Not only is this activity illegal but it also undermines the work in developing the facility at Horseshoe Point Road. The Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre has services for the appropriate processing of greenwaste.

Do your bit for the **Environment**
REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Stewart Island Community Centre News – Margaret Hopkins

AGM

Chairman of the Community Centre Trust Alistair Eade reported another good year for the Centre with use well up on the previous year. As well as 52 external bookings for the Centre we had Halfmoon Bay School using the facility several times a week and regular use by local clubs such as Indoor Bowls, Line dancing and Badminton. Several art exhibitions have been shown in the foyer, which adds interest and is an attraction for the Centre.

Trustees

Mark Donald and Rob Fox have resigned as Trustees and both will be missed for the huge contribution they have made to the Centre. Rob has been instrumental in establishing CACTUS programmes for visiting schools as well as a big involvement in fundraising initiatives and projects. Mark has been 'on call' helping with maintenance, bottling water and fundraising for many years. Rebecca Diaz-Parry has become a new Trustee and two more will be chosen at the next meeting.

Manager

After 2 ½ years as Manager, Rachael Fox has resigned. During her time as Development Manager Rachael has helped increase the Centre's use, provided valuable liaison with the Centre's users and left good systems in place for the daily management of the Community Centre.

Until a new caretaker/manager has been appointed enquiries should either be directed to one of the Trustees or a message can be left on the Centre's answer phone.

Gym Membership

Numbers of personal and family memberships for the gym have remained constant since the opening of the Community Centre but we would welcome new users or members. We have a good range of exercise equipment now available in the gym as well as the squash court and other sports courts in the stadium

Individual membership \$160 per annum.

Family membership \$240 per annum.

These subscriptions can be paid annually or on 6 monthly or quarterly instalments. Casual use is \$5 per session for non-members.

If you would like to become a member or wish to renew a lapsed membership please leave your details and cheque in an envelope in the box on the Community Centre office door or leave it with Hilli at the Kai Kart and your entry card will be posted to you straight away.

Fundraising We would like to thank the Stewart Island community for supporting our on-going fundraising which has enabled us to purchase 51 new padded chairs for the social room this year; a Moisture Master to prevent damp; basin and bench for backstage; wine glasses to hire for functions; a fridge-freezer and various other items which enhance the facilities for users.

Basin Award

This month the award is presented to Ken Geeson for yet another case of car-napping. Apparently he was advised he could borrow "the blue car" outside Island Transport but took off with a purple car instead. When the owners discovered their car parked at Golden Bay wharf the list of suspects was shortened. The Lions *faux pas jar* should benefit this month!

Mark Browne – profile from Southland District Council.

Changes at the Southland District Council have seen new Area Engineer Manager Mark Browne take over responsibility for Stewart Island.

The Council has appointed six area engineers to work with Mark to manage all township / area contracts including roading, water supplies, sewerage and reserves. He has taken responsibility for the Island himself in the interim.

Mark has an extensive background in civil engineering in both the public and private sectors. He spent 18 years with the former Ministry of Works. Three years before he was restructured out of a job, he had the foresight to buy a business so when the axe fell he moved straight into self employment.

He was subsequently shoulder-tapped by Fulton Hogan, which wanted to add a major roading component to its business. Mark then spent three years in and around Otago-Southland and on overseas projects before being promoted to run the Lower North Island division of Fulton Hogan in 1992, based in Wellington.

It was a pioneering operation, working out of a tin shed with just one other employee. But within seven months, Fulton Hogan had won seven five-year contracts, with offices and depots in four locations. It covered the highway network from Wellington to Wanganui and Napier, plus Palmerston North and the Wellington City ring route. Mark spent three years with Fulton Hogan in Wellington before moving back into private enterprise, running his own company in land development and house construction.

Once again, he was shoulder-tapped and accepted a position heading the Manawatu District Council's new business unit. The job appealed, he says, because: "it was a new opportunity and I have a firm belief that

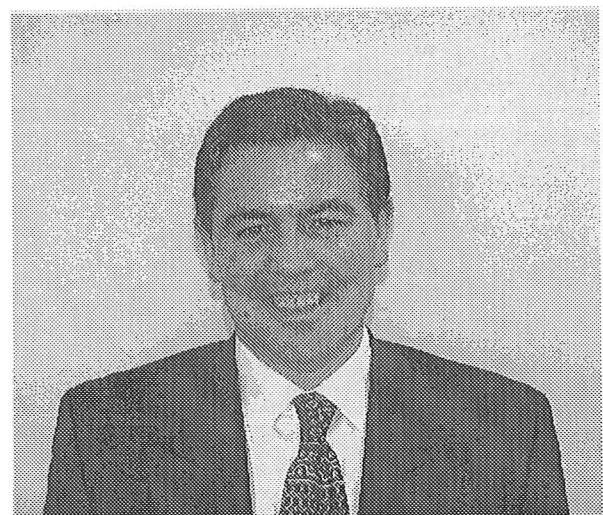
council operations staff, if well managed, would perform at the same level as anyone else".

After a restructuring that included halving the staff, within seven months the new company was doing 40% more work. When the Council sold the company, it had quadrupled in size, and Mark moved across the Tasman to Melbourne.

While he is wary of making extravagant predictions about what the restructuring of the Council's urban engineering and roading functions will achieve, he sees his main task as introducing a new level of service delivery, professionalism and accountability.

"I have a vision of how it will be, where we have a team that is totally professional and delivers on a constantly excellent level".

Mark predicts a six-month transition period to the end of the financial year. This will allow a time to allocate responsibility for the various sectors and bring back in-house some of the work that has been contracted out under the professional services contract.



**Mark Browne, Area Engineer Manager,
Southland District Council**

Applications close 20th February 2004

SPECIAL THANKS FROM
**Stewart Island Search
and Rescue**

A special thanks to Peter Garden Helicopters for their support with the New years Day scenic helicopter flights in assisting to raise funds for the Stewart Island Land & Marine Search & Rescue.

The funds raised will go towards safety equipment for Stewart Island Search & Rescue Personnel.

Thanks again Peter and John

FOR SALE

**2 (OLD) POT BELLY STOVES
Second hand flues etc part of
package**

MAKE US AN OFFER!!

**Available to view at:
Halfmoon Bay School
Phone 2191 179**

**Stewart Island Community
Centre
Caretaker/Manager**

**Applications are invited for this part-
time
position of 10 hours per week.**

Duties include:

**Cleaning
Bookings & Banking
Membership recruitment & renewal
Liaison with Centre Users**

**For further details contact:
Helen Cave - 2191368
Hilli Maas-Barrett - 2191040**

Stewart Island News – a newsletter celebrating Stewart Island is usually published monthly as material allows. Your contributions are welcome and should be sent to the editor, Stewart Dovey, at P O Box 87, Stewart Island or emailed to sdovey@es.co.nz (preferably as an MSWord™ attachment).

The deadline for the March issue is **Friday March 12th 2004**

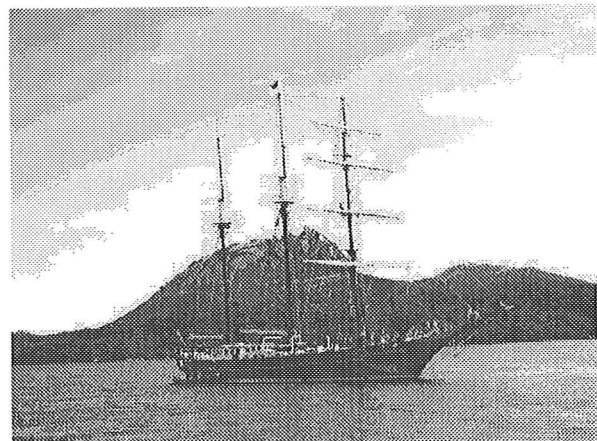


Photo: Margaret Hopkins

During a recent circumnavigation of Stewart Island, the *Aurora* spotted The *Spirit of New Zealand* with a backdrop of Bald Cone.

To subscribe regularly to Stewart Island news, please send a cheque for \$25 made payable to "Stewart Island News" to Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island. This will cover ten copies of the publication.