

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

February 2005 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

## Semi-submersible Arrives in time for 2005 Season

by Stewart Dovey



Mollymawk in Halfmoon Bay, Oban

Stewart Island Experience's innovative new semi-submersible *Mollymawk* has now arrived in Halfmoon Bay and commenced regular cruises. I took advantage of an invitation to go aboard and view the underwater world of *The Bay*.

After spending 37 years in and around boats of all types and sizes, this was a truly unique experience. Not being a scuba diver I was unprepared for the close-up views of the kelp forests and fish life.

Even though the water visibility wasn't too good for my trip (it had blown a gale the night before) I was pleasantly surprised by how much I could see. The skipper, Tim Dawson, did a great job manoeuvring the vessel into places where usually only a dinghy would venture.

*Mollymawk* is equipped with twin 150 hp outboards for propulsion and a smaller motor as a bowthrustrer. This combination provides a versatile and safe platform for viewing the wonders of the deep – well, the shallows anyway.

Stewart Island Experience had planned to operate the vessel from Horseshoe Bay but the shore facility was not ready in time. The fish factory tour is going to run as part of the bus tour, commencing March 2005.

In the meantime semi-sub tours have been started in Halfmoon Bay to test the reaction of visitors and locals to the experience of underwater viewing.

While the concept of travelling under the surface of the sea in Oban is in its infancy, the development of other exciting locations and trips is well underway.

Only one other similar vessel operates in New Zealand in the Bay of Islands. The semi-submersible was built in Perth, Australia by *Sabrecat* who were also the builders of the *Stewart Islander*.

The viewing area of *Mollymawk* is comfortable and open. There is no feeling of claustrophobia due to the large windows but I found photography quite a challenge (see below). I might have to go back and try out some different techniques.



Viewing area seats 30 people comfortably.

## MUSEUM NOTES.

**General:** Another month gone by, with the cruise ship season upon us. Visitor numbers are holding about average but at least everyone is smiling now with the change to better weather!

Work towards the new building is continuing but nothing can be seen of it yet – ‘twill be some time before we can look at foundation work and say “A-ha, it’s happening at last!”

Chairperson Loraine will be in Invercargill shortly for another meeting at Southland Museum in connection with the N.Z.M.S. Scheme.

Past and present Curators, Nancy and Elaine, are back at their Tuesday afternoon task of sorting through and checking the records for our myriads of exhibits stored upstairs.

Dunedin historian Bill Dacker was here last Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb to research our photos and records for his history of the Rakiura Maori Land Trust and will be back to continue this work.

**Requests:** I have two queries that our readers may be able to help with.

Firstly, if anyone can correct or add information to my Boat of the Month articles please don’t hesitate to pass it on. I’m always glad to receive any snippets.

Secondly, in the creek bed at the western end of Smokey Beach there are the remains of quite a large wooden vessel. It would appear to be too big to be a fishing boat and seems to be constructed using treenails, which makes it fairly old. Can anyone help me identify it?

### **Boat of the Month:            ENDEAVOUR**

Late in the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> April 1961 a “Mayday” call was picked up by Wellington Radio. This said that the vessel was taking water and in danger of sinking some 18 miles SSE of Cape Campbell. A Search and Rescue exercise was soon under way. The vessel was located by a DC3 air-freighter within ¾ of an hour, and an RNZAF Harvard from Woodbourne joined the operation with a Devon from Ohakea. Three hours later the coaster “BREEZE” was able to get alongside the stricken craft, take off the three man crew and get a towline made fast – all this in 24 knot winds and heavy seas. Conditions proved too severe however, and the tow was abandoned when the towed vessel was swamped, sinking about 7.40pm.

Thus ended the story of another Stewart Island built fishing boat. The **ENDEAVOUR** was a conventional wooden hull built by Herbie Lightfoot in 1940 at a site about halfway along Horseshoe Bay. She was a 40’ x 11’ x 6’6” gaff-rigged ketch with a 4LW Gardner diesel engine. She was sold to Bert Hicks and fished out of Halfmoon Bay until 1961 when she was sold to Mr Robert Wilson of Hastings, Hawkes Bay. It was during the delivery voyage to Napier, under the command of Bill Bragg and crewed by Mr Wilson and H.Horne (also of Hastings), that she ran into trouble.

In the 1870’s Robert Scollay built a cutter, which he named **ENDEAVOUR**, on the beachfront site adjacent to his home and guesthouse. This was where the Post Shop / Stewart Island Flights office is today. That’s it for this month – hope you found it interesting! See you again, Merv King.

## Southland District Council News

### (1) Cleaning up the Roadsides

Roadsides are seen as public property, which may be why some people think it's OK to store their boats, building materials and general debris on the frontage outside their properties.

But in reality the road reserve is owned by the Southland District Council and is not supposed to be treated as the outdoors equivalent of a spare room.

Mark Browne, the Manager of the Council's Area Engineering Unit, says SouthRoads is about to start clearing up the island's road reserves.

"There is a safety issue because the road reserve is legally part of the road. If someone has an accident which involves material stored on the roadside, the person who left it could be liable."

As well, the Community Board wants to ensure that the streets and roads are kept tidy. It's difficult for contractors to mow the grass verges when the roadsides are cluttered up.

Mr Browne said the same principle was applied on the mainland, where farmers were not allowed to treat road reserve as part of their farms by using it for storing haybales or parking machinery.

"We're not going to be unreasonable about this – if someone has just parked their car on the roadside outside their gate, they're not going to be asked to shift it. But if the boat trailer, or whatever it is, has grass growing up to the axles and the tyres are flat, it's a sign that it's been there for a long time and it's got to be moved."

Residents and property owners in this position would have received a letter about this last year, so the clean-up should not be a surprise to them, Mr Browne said.

Those who do not move their possessions onto their own property, or shift it into storage, will be sent a bill for the cost of the contractors removing it.

### (2) Waste on the Wharf

Wharf users who have fallen into the habit of leaving rubbish, waste oil, etc from their boats on the landing stage will have to clean up their act.

The Island's rubbish collectors will no longer collect refuse from the wharf.

So far, the cost of removing this rubbish has fallen on the ratepayers. "This can no longer continue", said Mark Browne, Manager of the Southland District Council's Area Engineering Business Unit.

Boaties and commercial fishermen will need to take their own refuse to the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre.

"Households and commercial operators already pay to have their waste removed. It's unfair for them to have to pay again through their rates to take away rubbish from selfish individuals who are too lazy to do it themselves," Mr Browne said.

Anyone found to be depositing rubbish on the wharf is liable for an instant fine.



## Oban Sewerage Scheme Extension Temporary Road Closures

Pursuant to Section 342 of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is given that the following road closures are required as part of the works to construct the extension to the existing sewerage scheme.

There may be disruption to traffic movements at other times and places, but these will be kept to a minimum.

A letter drop to property occupiers to confirm actual closure dates will also be carried out in each area closer to the time of work.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Finish Date</b>
Mapau Road	16-Feb-05	23-Feb-05
Braggs Bay Road	09-Mar-05	11-Mar-05
Back Road	25-Apr-05	28-Apr-05
Lees Bay Road	29-Apr-05	13-May-05
Elgin Terrace, Wohlers and Deep Bay Road to Ringaringa Road	23-Feb-05	02-Mar-05
Leask Bay Road	03-Mar-05	07-Mar-05
Evening Cove Road	08-Mar-05	10-Mar-05
Ringaringa Road	15-Mar-05	21-Mar-05
Traill Road	22-Mar-05	24-Mar-05
Petersons Hill Road	25-Mar-05	28-Mar-05
Thule Road	04-Apr-05	07-Apr-05
Rankin Street	08-Apr-05	13-Apr-05
Leonard Street	14-Apr-05	19-Apr-05
Leask Bay Road	28-Mar-05	01-Apr-05

For further information please contact the site management team:

- **Fulton Hogan** 219 1436
- **Southland District Council** 219 1437

D P Adamson  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust**

*c/- Post Office, Stewart Island*

*Ph: (03) 2191 533*

*e-mail: [habitat@glowingsky.co.nz](mailto:habitat@glowingsky.co.nz)*

*[www.glowingsky.co.nz](http://www.glowingsky.co.nz)*

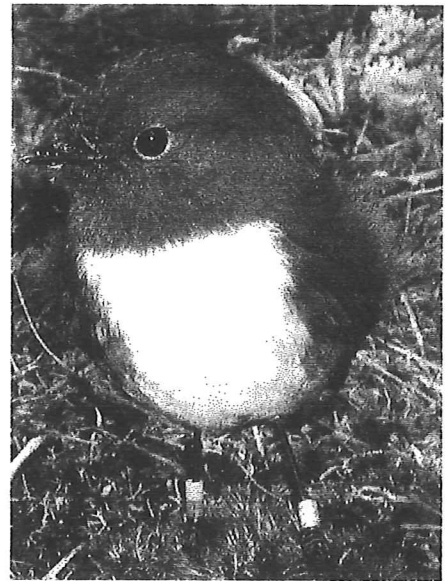
## **COMING SOON TO HALFMOON BAY STEWART ISLAND ROBIN/ TOUTOUWAI!!!**

**Re-introduction to Halfmoon Bay 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2005**

After an absence of 50 years, the Stewart Island Robin/ toutouwai is being brought home to Halfmoon Bay. On Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2005, the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust will be releasing robins into the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Area.

This is the first reintroduction of a native bird to the main island of Stewart Island/ Rakiura. Robins on Stewart Island/ Rakiura have been suffering decline due to the impact of rats, possums and feral cats. Once widespread, they are now found in only two areas on the main Island. Without protection, this charismatic species will become extinct from the main Island.

The Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust and members of the Stewart Island community are working together to create "a safe habitat in and around the township of Halfmoon Bay for the reintroduction and survival of our native birds." The habitat will cover 250 hectares of private land, with the potential to increase that area, should time and funding allow.



At 4.30pm, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2005, we will be holding a welcoming ceremony at Ackers Point and releasing the first Stewart Island Robins. Islanders and friends are invited to come and share in this exciting occasion.

You are also invited to join us for an afternoon tea and informal get-together at Harolds Bay after the release. Trustees will be available to talk about the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project and answer any questions you may have. We will be providing some transport from Halfmoon Bay; however details of this are still to be arranged. Information will be placed on the noticeboard and around Halfmoon Bay.

We look forward to seeing you there!

With thanks to AURORA CHARTERS, major sponsors of this re-introduction



## **HALF MOON BAY BEAT: February 2005**

Well, the last month has ended up quite busy from a policing perspective and certainly made up for a quieter late December and early January.

We have found ourselves having to deal with the types of crime that the island is not normally used to and the kind of things we generally associate with more undesirable areas. There appears to be a bit of unrest on the island at the moment. Tensions have boiled over with some regrettable outcomes. It is always difficult when things go wrong in a small community as issues are often magnified and they affect almost everyone to a greater or lesser extent.

To shake some long held island beliefs, we do not live in some southern 'Wild West' where anything goes. The law applies here as it does anywhere else in New Zealand. If you are tempted to take the law into your own hands, stop for a moment and think about things, as the consequences are clearly not worth it.

Thank you, to those who have taken the time and effort to express your concerns and discuss issues with me. Police work hard to try and keep the community safe and happy, but this simply cannot be done without help from the community.

Issues raised have included behaviour of the 'young ones', drugs, alcohol abuse etc. There are issues here and police certainly have a role to play. I also believe that a large amount of individual responsibility is lacking.

Can we also each have a critical look at our own behaviour. How, for example can the young ones in the town be expected to follow the message that drink driving is unacceptable when they see their older role models driving home from the pub off their chops. There still appears to be a bit of the attitude "I like to see the law enforced in this town..... of course as long as it doesn't involve me". For things to work, it involves everyone taking an active part. It just isn't credible to say that drink driving is okay on the island but smashing up property isn't.

The police officer does not want to become an island 'baby sitter'. Do we want a policing situation where the cop is working nightshifts so they can apprehend drink drivers every night or sit outside parties to monitor everyone's behaviour?

Please, if you have concerns or issues come and discuss them. The island community has generally showed a real intolerance to lawbreaking behaviour and there has been some genuine shock amongst some about some of the incidents of late. This tells me that we live in a place where a freedom from crime is still highly valued and expected.

To the three involved in the earlier incidents, it is creditable to see a willingness to put things right. This goes a long way to restoring some public confidence.

Other matters. I have generally had a positive response to the directive in taking illegal ATV's off the road. Understandably this action has not pleased everyone, but it really was a situation that could not go on. It can no longer be ignored that vehicles are being driven which are in every respect illegal when others are required to go to the expense of having a 'Certificate of Fitness' through VTNZ (i.e. passenger service or rental car). Some consistency and mainstreaming is required.

There will still be a couple of ATV's used around the village and the owners of these ones have had to go to considerable expense to have them made roadworthy and legal. Again please, if you have any queries come and see me.

I have had reports of some extremely juvenile behaviour targeting church notices. These have been defaced on reasonably regular occasions on the public notice board. To the person/s responsible: Please desist this cowardly activity and take this as a one and only warning prior to police becoming 'officially' involved.

I have also had reports on survey pegs getting knocked over on the back road. Contractors are working very hard to install a sewerage system that benefits the whole community. If anyone has any further information please come and see me. To those responsible: pull your heads in, the bay has had about enough of that sort of thing at the moment.

Finally, the island lost a good friend a couple of weeks ago. As most or all are aware, Detective Travis Hughes was tragically killed in a plane crash in Queenstown on 29 January 2005. Those who have lived here for some time will remember Travis and his wife Fiona working on the island for DOC prior to him joining police. It was very heartening for Heather and I to see friendly and familiar island faces at the funeral in Queenstown. Thanks to all the others who were unable to attend and who have passed on their condolences.

Regards  
Tod Hollebon

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE by Jenny Gell

There was a good turn out for the first meeting of 2005, held at the home of Anita Geeson on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

We discussed various topics including financial matters and what we were going to achieve in the coming year.

Competition results were:

Annuals:	(1) Lil Skipper	(2) Anita Geeson	(3) Raylene Waddell
Dahlia:	(1) Anita Geeson	(2) Raylene Waddell	(3) Lil Skipper
Something Edible:	(1) Anita Geeson	(2) Wendy Hallett	(3) Nancy Schofield

In-house competition was won by Raylene Waddell.

The next meeting on 10th March will be held at the home of Jenny Gell.

## Media Release

### Free Enterprise Training offering exciting new programme

Venture Southland will next month launch a new series of Enterprise Training workshops offering a range of practical and relevant information that is designed specifically for the needs of small to medium sized Southland businesses.

Fully funded by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) the Enterprise Training programme will include 33 three-hour workshops over the next five months covering topics such as business planning, marketing, finance, business systems and managing resources.

Venture Southland enterprise projects co-ordinator Jason Baird said the new programme would kick off on Thursday 10 February with the popular "Starting a Business" series. The series would offer four workshops to people not already in business but interested in self-employment and potential business feasibility.

Invercargill based computer trainer Michelle Leeming attended the Starting a Business series in 2004 and said she really looked forward to the workshop each week.

Now successfully self employed with her own company entitled simply Training.co Ltd, (*NB: Yes "simply" has a lower case "s"*) which specialises in Microsoft Office products, Mrs Leeming said the course content, the way the courses were delivered and the timing had all been brilliant for her.

"I was just making the decision to go into business and the Starting a Business series was a great snapshot of exactly what I needed and wanted to know.

"I've been on a lot of business courses before but I thought these were fantastic because they really back up what you need," she said.

With her business up and running, Mrs Leeming said she would be having a good look at all the other Enterprise Training Programme workshop topics on offer over the coming months and make the most of upskilling in any areas of small business management.

Mr Baird said while the majority of workshops would be hosted at Venture Southland's Invercargill offices, there were also some being held in Te Anau, Gore and Stewart Island.

"The great thing about Enterprise Training is that even if a business is experiencing strong growth, people will inevitably still be able to benefit from some of the workshops that are on offer," he said.

A training schedule was specifically developed to meet individual needs and, after attending a workshop, people had the option of being able to have up to two fully subsidised hours of one-to-one follow-up consultancy.

Some of the new workshop subjects on offer in the upcoming series included, *Power Cut! Reducing Business Energy Costs*, *Make Some Noise - Effective Advertising and Promotions*, *Business Basics for Those in Music Industry*, *Staff Summit - Making the Most of Your Personnel* and *A Healthy Serving for Success - How to Maximise Profits in Restaurants, Cafes and Bars*.

Anyone wanting to register into the Enterprise Training programme, or wanting further information about the upcoming workshops can contact Susanne Walker or Jane Marrah at Venture Southland or email [training@venturesouthland.co.nz](mailto:training@venturesouthland.co.nz)



## Council Pages

### **Food Regulation Review Concerns Council**

Proposals to impose “big city” controls on food preparation outlets across the country could send some small shops in rural communities out of business, without making any difference to the level of food-borne illness, the Southland District Council heard today.

The Food Industry Authority is reviewing the safety of food production and the Council’s Manager of Environmental Health, Ivan Nicholson has drafted a submission for the Council that argues that the proposals do not recognise that poor food handling in homes is a major cause of contamination and illness.

He said that proposed new regulations that would be appropriate for a million-dollar factory would also apply to a B and B serving four guests. Also, the proposals as they stand would stop the Council’s environmental health offices from inspecting food premises.

Councillors felt that the Food Industry Authority’s proposals were an over-reaction that would either force small businesses to close or would increase costs. They were also concerned about the impact on school canteens and community catering for local events.

“If you’re talking about cost-benefits, this is cost with absolutely no benefit,” Cr John Frew said.

The Council resolved to seek support from Zone 6 and the Rural Sector Group of LGNZ to get a more rational approach adopted. As well as the issues Mr Nicholson raised in his report, they were worried about the impact on food outlets in small communities, school canteens and hall committees catering for local functions.

### VACATING PREMISES/LOCATING TO A DIFFERENT PREMISES.

As indicated on your power account, it is essential that you inform S.I.E.S.A. staff of your intention prior to relocating/leaving a residential or business property.

If you vacate premises without advising the Authority you will be liable for the Standard Supply Charge plus any units used until such time as you do advise staff.

Prior to taking up residence or business at a location it is essential that a *Request for Supply* form is completed and signed by the person to be responsible for paying the power account.

These forms are available at the S.D.C. Area Office which is located in the Museum building at 9 Ayr Street, Stewart Island.

Opening hours are between 9.00 - 12.00 noon Monday to Friday.

### MEMORIAL WALL AT CEMETERY

It has come to the attention of the Southland District Council that people are placing plaques on the Memorial Wall at the Cemetery without going through the proper procedures.

There is a standard size for plaques which are to be placed on the Memorial wall. This information may be obtained by contacting Colleen Dawson at the Area Office (2191-049) between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. Monday through to Friday.

There is a small cost involved in the placement of plaques on this Memorial wall. The cost is \$50.00 for the space and \$20.00 for having the plaque fixed to the wall. (Alternative arrangements may be made after consultation with Council staff, if necessary.)

Notification must be given to the Council prior to having a plaque fixed to the wall as a space has to be allocated. A plan is kept. Should people take it on themselves to place a plaque on the wall without first obtaining consent it becomes extremely difficult to maintain a record of the location of the plaque. As some places on the wall have been reserved it is essential that plaques are placed in the allocated location.

Please contact Colleen in working hours for further information.

The Southland District Council Area Office hours are 9.00 - 12.00 noon Monday to Friday.  
Phone: 2191-049 Fax: 2191-022



The month of February has presented the Chocolate Award Committee with a bit of a problem. Last month, Colleen Dawson donated chocolates to Loosie and his builder blokes. Loosie had two issues with that donation.

Firstly he was on a diet so the chocolates were a temptation he didn't need. (The builder blokes seemed quite happy to be martyrs!) Secondly, Loosie was being paid for the work he did on Colleen's ramp so didn't feel his work was a "Community" effort.

Here's the problem. Two lovely boxes of liquor chocolates going begging. Add another donation from Port of Call and an additional *anonymous* donation of \$20 cash to buy more chocolates...it all gets worse. Suggestions gratefully received! Please send in your nominations for the awards for the March issue. (Volunteers to keep the chocolates under control are not required, thanks)

## Book Review

by Sue Ford

“Die in Plain Sight” by Elizabeth Howell

The story is listed as “a novel of suspense” – and it does indeed have a foot in both camps. Die in Plain Sight is a novel which attempts unsuccessfully to explore the convolutions of family relationships, and the spectre of past murders being uncovered in the present is where the suspense comes in.

Lacey Quinn, the central character, has a reputation to make as an artist. Lacey’s parents are upwardly mobile, conservative, and despair of Lacey’s “arty” ways, inherited, they suppose, from her eccentric painter grandfather. When the grandfather died, he left Lacey hundreds of his paintings, mostly “en plein air” landscapes, but with a whole series devoted incongruously to violent death – The Death Suite.

Lacey’s role model is Susa Donovan, renowned painter, due in town for charity work including painting appraisal. Ian Lapstrake is hired to guard both Susa and her paintings. Now, Ian is “Every-hero”, with looks to die for, sense of humour, and all the background that make him too good to be anywhere but in a book. He has a thing about old movie posters and ends up at Lacey’s arty second-hand shop. Oh, what a co-incidence – one of too many.

Lacey decides to have three of her grandfather’s paintings appraised by Susa, but enters them under a false name so that her disapproving father won’t be connected with the paintings. And she runs into Susa’s bodyguard, of course, and he is immediately aware of the name “con”. The paintings attract Susa at a level that is unanticipated – they are, she thinks, painted by a renowned painter who died many years ago.

Then there are the Savoy and Forrest Families, and the Savoy Curse whereby members of this “first family” die suddenly and unexpectedly. And we meet Sheriff Rory Turner, once married into the Family, still in the pocket of Ward Forrest, present patriarch of the Savoy-Forrest Family. The Forrest’s want to buy her grandfather’s paintings – price no object. Somebody wants to destroy them. Somebody wants to steal them. The same person? Or two – or three – different people? And then again, who is it that wants Lacey dead? And why?

This book has all the right ingredients, but Elizabeth Lowell didn’t quite do it right for me. The plot is properly convoluted, twisting through twisted minds. It relies heavily on co-incidence – for example, Ian’s great-uncle was the young deputy at the scene of one of the old “accidental deaths”. You never know who is the “goody” and who the “baddy”. The outlines of the characters are all well-drawn, but never properly filled in.

And yet it is good enough that you can’t help but keep turning the pages, expecting something more with each chapter, until you reach a fairly predictable ending that is never fully explained. All I can suggest is that as you read this book, you keep pencil and paper by you to draw family trees of the Savoy’s and Forrest’s, and that you re-read the Prologue when you finish the book. Ah! *Now* I get it!

Caption Contest from January SIN

WINNING ENTRY



The winning caption was supplied by:  
Jill Skerrett from Ship to Shore.

Congratulations, Jill, you now have a year's free subscription to the Stewart Island News.

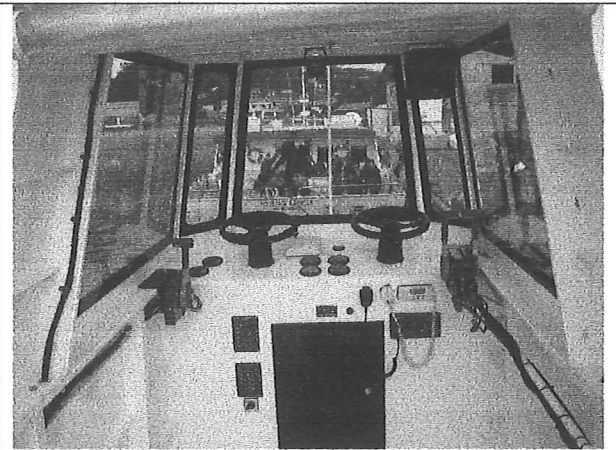
Thanks to everyone who sent in entries.

**Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email to the editor:**

**[sdovey@es.co.nz](mailto:sdovey@es.co.nz) preferably as an MsWord™ attachment.**

**Short articles can be posted to: Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island.**

***The deadline for the March Issue is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005***



Mollymawk wheelhouse

If you would like this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

For ten issues to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, please send \$25

Name of Recipient.....

Address.....  
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Good luck, Mr Robin