

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

February-March 2012

\$2.00

*Stewart Island has lost a beloved friend.
Ted Rooney will be dearly missed by all of us.
We extend our sympathies to Margaret and family.*

Wind, waves, solar, diesel, submarine cables, possums strapped to treadmills... There are myriad ideas for powering the Island. Don't miss the meeting on **Island energy** Friday 24th February (pp2,3 &16). Some concerned citizens have set up a website chock full of data pertinent to our energy issues. It is also a public forum where anyone can have a say on the subject: check in with this site for some pre-meeting study so you can attend armed with information. And don't be shy about posting your own thoughts, questions and ideas.

www.rakiuraenergy.weebly.com

Take note: the **Recycle Centre** has new hours (p12). They also implore us to be careful about the items we bring to them. Ashes can cause a fire; bags of dirty nappies mixed up with clothing for the shop is yucky.

Every evening for a week I have seen large flocks of wood pigeons circling high over the Horseshoe hills. Perhaps they are arriving in time for the **Kereru** Count which runs Feb 19-27 (p4).



Kristina Thompson relocating a Snares Crested Penguin that came ashore in Halfmoon Bay to moult (p11)

Bridget is organizing a parent-bubs coffee klatch Wednesday mornings at the RSA Pavilion. This is aimed at pre-Rugrats aged children...

RugGnats! For details check with Bridget or the notice board.

A two handed **sailing** event is afoot...see page 14 for details.



PHOTO: CHRIS BROWN

Waitangi Day began GRAY: a thick fog covered the bay. But once the game started the sun burned through and the afternoon became extremely hot. Revellers at Traill Park scrambled to find sunscreen, sunhats and more beverages. It was a great game, followed by a party at SI Backpackers (no hangi due to fire ban). Pages 8-10.

A shark cage diving misadventure swam off the Internet into national news headlines this month. (In pursuit of bait, a shark stuck its snout into a cage containing the venture owner's daughter; she went home and posted photos and comments about it on her Facebook page). We have learned a valuable lesson from this: be careful what you post on social networking sites! Oh, and be careful when you're lowered into shark-infested water with bait. And for all you sharks reading the *SIN* submarine edition...

Consider donning a gridiron helmet the next time you ram a steel cage. For more see page 5.

—Jess



The local potato patrol had another fine day. See page 4 for Murphy Day photos and find out who was King of the Spuds this year.

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Without minimising the need to look at alterative energies (not all of which involve the production of electricity)

Is Continued Diesel powered generation to be considered?

In a positive way we look forward to hearing from the speakers at the upcoming colloquium although there are no experts in the field of Diesel generation listed as speaking.

We are very likely to continue to operate a diesel plant at least into the medium future either as primary load, support load or as a standby.

It is important to maintain the diesel station in the best and most economic condition possible.

Advantages of Diesel Generation

- Reliability** Diesel engines run for ~ 30,000 hours before a major service (more than 3 years of continuous running).
- Relatively inexpensive** to purchase and install
- Safe** Fuel has low volatility, high density and is easy to monitor for spills or losses. Generation site is compact and can be secured easily.
- High fuel density -** At 11 kW to the litre less fuel by volume is used.
- Fast start time** Diesel plants can be started connect to load in a very short
They:
 - Don't need a warm up period
 - Don't need run up before load
 - Don't need a long cool down
- Bio Fuel is Option** should fuel prices rise then the option to use may surface again. This would require wise engine purchasing to allow blended (say 20% -60% biofuel blend) or possibly 100% biofuel.

Traditionally diesel offers the most economical means of generation on a small scale where there is no convenient site for a small hydro generation plant.

Increasing the efficiency of Diesel generation can generally be found in three broad areas.

- Increasing the amount of Electricity (kW) produced by a litre of diesel
This is achieved by selection of the most efficient plant and good maintenance
- Recovering waste products, the heat from the cooling water and possibly the exhaust, use of waste lubricating oil.
Some good ideas for utilising the waste heat would help.
- Minimising losses in the distribution system
This is achieved by planning and maintaining a quality network

—Chris Dillon

Power on Stewart Island is expensive and this expense may be a limiting factor to growth and development of our community. It is obviously important that we maintain our network and run it with maximum efficiency. Renewables will definitely make a contribution to our generation in the future but we should be careful to ensure that new and experimental technology does not increase the cost of our power even further. It is important we attend the forthcoming energy workshop armed with as much practical information as possible and contribute towards making the right decision for our energy future.

—Steve Lawrence

Workshop on energy for Stewart Islanders

A community event to help Stewart Islanders understand the issues and options available for alternative energy sources has been organised by the Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority, the Stewart Island Community Board and Venture Southland.

The workshop is being held from 12.30pm to 6pm on Friday 24 February at the Oban Community Hall on Stewart Island.

Southland District Council services and assets group manager Erik Barnes said this event is for the community to be able to ask questions and listen to industry experts about the pros and cons of alternative energy sources and to help Council develop an energy strategy that reduces the island's reliance on costly and environmentally damaging diesel generation.

"There are many potential options available to help SIESA provide the community with a secure and affordable power supply," Mr Barnes said.

Venture Southland's enterprise projects manager Robin McNeill said: "What we are aiming to do is give an update on where investigations are at, and look at the options we should investigate further.

"The price of electricity on the island is linked to the price of diesel and is currently nearly 60 cents per unit. However, there are some great examples of what other remote locations have done in recent years and technology has also advanced," he said.

The workshop will begin with setting the scene and outlining the challenges for Stewart Island, and will then look in some detail at the technology options. Several guest speakers are to take part, including experts in small electricity grids, hydrogen storage, and micro-hydro, wind and marine generation.

LETTER

Great white sharks. Apex predators. Magnificent creatures of the sea built with stealth and speed in mind. I read with interest the story that hit the national newspapers recently on the near miss a diver had with a great white shark whilst shark cage diving at Stewart Island. The shark being deliberately attracted to the vicinity of the diver by floating bait.

For those of us in the paua industry who earn our living free-diving in inshore coastal areas, the emergence of shark cage diving tourism, in the absence of regulatory controls is highly concerning. Quite frankly we believe that it will ultimately cost lives or serious injury. For the last three years we have been trying to engage constructively with the Department of Conservation on the need for a regulatory framework to prevent adverse consequences for the great white sharks. Studies around the world show that attracting great white sharks to boats and cages through berleying and the use of baits causes changes in daily behaviour, development of temporal and spatial anticipatory responses, increase in aggression and distraction from natural feeding opportunities. Add to that the risk of injury from contact with cages, and there is plenty of evidence that injuries occur, things don't look too good for the welfare of sharks from this activity. Nor do things look too good for our free diving harvesters as sharks get habituated to boats as a source of food.

It is an offence to pursue or disturb protected marine wildlife such as the great white shark. In our view shark cage tourism operators are acting without lawful authority and in breach of the Wildlife Act 1957 by disturbing the behaviour of the sharks. The paua industry has advocated to Department of Conservation that the permitting requirements of the Wildlife Act provides an appropriate framework for responsible management of shark tourism activities with clear penalties. We have even gone the next step and proposed the framework of a permitting regime. We are totally adamant that regulation is needed.

We remain frustrated at the Government's complacent and nonchalant attitude to the concerns of divers and responsible tourism operators. We cannot accept that a code of practice with no legislative "bite" can do anything for the sharks, the cage dive tourism operators or for people who use the coastal waters of New Zealand. Other jurisdictions such as South Africa and Australia regulate shark tourism for very good reason. If you use the waters around Stewart Island, a known great white shark hotspot, you might want to contemplate what unregulated shark cage tourism activities could ultimately mean for you.

Pauamac5 would be more than willing to work with interests from Stewart Island to develop and promote a suitable framework for shark cage tourism. However it would require a change in mindset of the government that proactive regulatory intervention is required rather than a weak, non-binding passive code of practice. Rest assured Pauamac5 will not be backward in coming forward if our divers are put at risk.



Storm Stanley
Chairman
Pauamac5 Industry Association

Thanks to Invercargill Glass & Mirror who continues to sponsor the SIN website.
 Thanks to Executive Car Service, Stewart Island Flights, McDowall Print, and Margaret Hopkins.
 Thank you to all of the contributors, advertisers and readers.
 Finally: thank you, farewell and best of luck to our HMB School reporter Poppy LeQuesne who has started boarding school. I imagine someday we will see this young lady's by-line in bigger papers than this. —Jess



Join our Kiwi Conservation Club Kereru Count!
 19th-27th of February
 We're going to count the kereru in cities and towns all over New Zealand. Kids, parents and grandparents - we need you all to help!

Why should I count Kereru?
 Kereru are important for keeping our forests healthy. They are the only birds that can spread the seeds of native trees that have very big fruit, like tawa, miro, taraire and karaka. We want to know where the Kereru are in New Zealand and if there are



places where we can help them by planting more food trees or controlling their predators.
What do I have to do?
 It's easy! Between the 19th and 27th of February 2012, count any kereru in your garden, local park, reserves and school grounds.

We need to know:
 1) Where you spotted the kereru
 2) How many kereru you saw
 3) What they were doing
 4) If they were eating, what plant was it?
Then jump online at www.kererucount.org.nz and enter your results.

Do you have a Fire Extinguisher at home or on your boat?

I will be on Stewart Island on Wednesday, March 14th, so contact me to arrange for your Fire Extinguisher inspection, servicing & certification

I am IQP approved to issue Marine Certification for Marine Fire Extinguishers and Fire Protection Systems

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Community Centre News

Hi all
 Kids are back at school - so back into it

Tai chi is back on Tuesday 10am and Thursday 530pm

Circuit Classes Tuesday & Thursday 630pm and Saturday 9am

Swiss Ball Tuesday & Thursday 430pm Saturday 4pm

We have great gym facilities and don't forget the squash court

If you have any queries just ask me or phone and leave a message 2191477 or text me 0272316305

We are having a card amnesty - if you have an old community centre card that is no longer valid - just pop it under the door or in P O Box 187. Thanks

See you at the gym
 Cheers, Sue

The recent “In Your Facebook” shark incident has sparked fresh discussion about shark cage diving in Foveaux Strait (and prompted a letter from the unimpressed commercial paua diving sector, see page 3).

This issue has managed to unite some shark lovers and loathers: the shark fans don’t want to see the shark’s natural behaviour disturbed or their noses bent; the haters don’t want to see sharks full stop. And nobody wants to see any humans damaged. While some imagine that making Stewart Island the next big shark-spotting destination could be good for business, others fear it will be at the cost of other forms of tourism such as diving and kayaking.

There is agreement among many locals that shark numbers definitely seem to be UP since the cage diving enterprise started doing business.

Squizzly of the *Loloma* is not the only long-time Stewart Island fisherman who believes the white pointer presence has intensified since the practice of baiting and attracting the big biteys began. “I would feel better about it if they had an observer onboard to make sure they’re not feeding them,” he said.

Commercial paua diver Rastus echoes this sentiment. “I don’t agree with the feeding side of it,” he said. “It would appear that if anyone was going to police this it would be DoC. Here we have a clear case of a shark in a cage, there’s food in there, it’s not a natural environment, now what is DoC going to do about it?”

The legislative responsibility for the great white seems to be a big gray area. While the Department of Conservation should uphold the Wildlife Act and ensure the protection of the shark from molestation; the onus of monitoring people, boats and cages falls to Maritime Safety and OSH.

Do you readers have comments about any of this? Tales of sharks circling your dinghy? Calls for regulation on shark cage diving? Three cheers for the cage diving industry? Grave fears for the recreational water-based tourism here? I know you do...I’ve heard many of your comments and stories, now why not “share them with the class.” Send *SIN* a piece of your mind for our next issue.

p.s. *Why don’t you write anything about the shark cage diving?* I’ve been asked this a few times. The answer is: *I have*. So has Storm Stanley. For previous shark letters check the on-line archives of *SIN* at www.stewart-island-news.com and read page 12 of June 2010 and page 15 of November 2009.

—Jess

The protection order issued by Chris Carter under the Wildlife Act includes the following definitions:

Hunt or kill, in relation to any wildlife, includes the hunting, killing, taking, trapping, or capturing of any wildlife by any means; and also includes **pursuing, disturbing or molesting any wildlife**, taking or using a firearm, dog, or like method to hunt or kill wildlife, **whether this results in killing or capturing or not**; and also includes every attempt to hunt or kill wildlife.



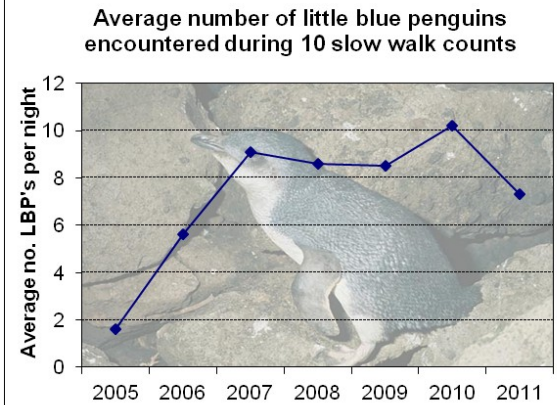
The Otago University research house on Dundee Street has more on their washing line than socks and towels. The students have been researching the health of our *rimurapa* or bull kelp. Former resident kaitiaki Tiny Metzger has shown them how to blow the seaweed up and dry it as the ancient Maori did to store muttonbird.



SIRCET UPDATE *from Alina Thiebes*

Little Blue Penguin results

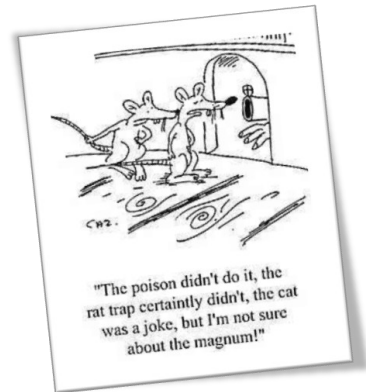
Over the summer, Little Blue Penguins/ Korora are bringing food to their chicks on land at night. In December 2011, as every year since 2005, SIRCET spent 10 nights walking the track to Ackers Point counting these penguin parents. This season an average of around 7 penguins were encountered each night. This is a reduction in numbers to pre-2007 levels, as depicted in the graph, however this monitoring technique does allow for variation from year to year, and it is the trend of changes over four to ten years and beyond that, that is of real significance. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out this season!



Rat explosion coming to an end?

After a winter of seemingly unchallenged reign, Halfmoon Bay's rat boom may just be coming to an end...Denise and her team of dedicated volunteers have been working hard through the summer, devoting themselves to regular trap checks, improving their techniques and several rounds of intensive trapping - and it looks to be paying off. January's rat monitoring has yielded our lowest results in 12 months although, at 15%, this is still higher than our target of 10%.

The majority of the positive tracking was detected across the top of Peterson Hill - near all the houses – and this seems to be a continual pattern. So if you live, or own property in this area, and think you can help with setting up additional rat traps or becoming a volunteer, contact Denise on (03) 219 1159.



Despite the lower *monitoring* result, we are still *catching* a lot of rats at the moment. SIRCET is remaining vigilant, seeking expert advice and beginning another round of intensive trapping, in an effort to prevent another explosion. Repeated monitoring and catch results in March will let us know if we are on the right track...

SIRCET Business sponsorship opportunities

Financial assistance from businesses plays a fundamental role in helping SIRCET continue its important work and a range of opportunities are now available to businesses to show their support:

Sponsor-a-Possum Trap

SIRCET is now seeking sponsors to help us purchase the last of our ten new automatic, humane possum traps. These traps will dramatically reduce the amount of time and volunteer-power needed to undertake possum control in the project area. Thanks to those who have already sponsored the first 7 traps!

Donation: \$167.30 (incl. GST).



Vehicle Sponsorship Package

See your company logo displayed on the SIRCET vehicle, and receive all the other sponsor benefits, such as the quarterly newsletter, VIP invitations to events, and your company acknowledged as a major sponsor in the environment centre, on the SIRCET website and at on- and off-island events.

Donation: \$2,000 per year.



Become a Business Member or Sponsor-a-Hectare Sponsor

Receive our new purpose-designed SIRCET Business Sponsor logo, which will help to communicate your support of local environmental initiatives

Acknowledgement in the Rakiura Environment Centre, on the SIRCET website and at event displays

VIP invitations to special events

Plus, if joining the SaH Program, your logo will be displayed on the Sponsor-a-Hectare map, where you'll get to pick your piece of 'protected paradise'. Popular spots Ackers Point and the Stone Cottage have already been snapped up! You'll also receive a certificate to display in your office, and our quarterly newsletter.

Donation: \$250 per year.

SIRCET wish to thank our newest business sponsors **The Fernery, Ulva's Guided Walks** and **Southern Limits Charters & Guided Walks**, of Stewart Island. Brett and Kate of *Southern Limits* recently made their pledge to the program: "Southern Limits believes in the Stewart Island community, and we are passionate and proactive about conservation and sustainability. Supporting Sponsor-a-Hectare keeps us involved and committed. For us it's about 'keeping it real' and 'keeping it local!'"



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE from *Kirsten Hicks*

In the words of the well known Pink Floyd song – "Is there anybody out there?"

Things are flourishing at the Community Garden but the number of gardeners has dwindled. We understand it's the "busy time" of the year but if you would like to know a bit more about gardening or have an irresistible urge to pull out some weeds, either contact us (Kirsten 309, Anita 014) or come by – most Sundays 2pm.

Soon it will be time for us to harvest the potatoes, so if you'd like some, let us know.

So...take time to smell the roses, and if gardening is not your thing but you'd like to contribute – we have a hungry compost bin waiting for your food scraps (but no citrus or meat please).

Enjoy the Summer!



Brett and Kate of Southern Limits, Stewart Island, make their commitment to the program, select their piece of paradise on the project area map and collect their Business Sponsorship Certificate.

All donations are 100% tax deductible.

For further information, please contact Alina on (03) 219 1487 or alina@sircet.org.nz

Last year the Quiz bought a couple of sets of pans for the Pavilion and one of the big pans is no longer there! Please check at home to see if you have it, it has a glass lid and Pavillion Trust engraved on the bottom. You can leave it anonymously outside the door if you wish!

The two raffles for the Cancer Society held at the shop raised \$263 and \$286 respectively. Thanks to all the prize donators and everyone who supported it by buying tickets and congratulations to the winners!—*Vicki Coats*





Waitangi Day Maori v. Pakeha Rugby Game 2012

The Maori team won, the score was 58-28 or thereabouts depending on who you ask, but everyone agrees it was a great game and a proper spanking.



PHOTOS from Grim Davis, Chris Brown, and Jess Kany.



“The terraces” are as entertaining to watch as the game on Waitangi Day. The boys in the trees; the dolly pram brigade; proud père watching François; wee Kahu trying to catch his dad’s toss (welcome back guys); Petra glowing... everywhere you look, everyone you know.



DOC Spot

by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor

Fire ban still in place

I commenced last month's DOC Spot outlining why a fire ban had been imposed by the Southern Rural Fire Authority across all of Southland, including Stewart Island / Rakiura. That ban remains in force and will continue to do so until the SRFA deems conditions safe enough for it to be lifted. I think I need to make it clear that although DOC issues fire permits on behalf of the SRFA during a restricted fire season, here on Stewart Island, DOC does not have the authority to issue any fire permits during a fire ban. The only person who can do that is the Principal Rural Fire Officer. I am aware there was some grumbling in the community about 'DOC' not issuing a fire permit for the annual Waitangi Day hangi. Attempts were made to have a special permit issued so this much anticipated event could be held, however the request was declined by the PRFO this year because conditions were deemed to be too extreme to run the risk of a stray spark setting of a major fire. Hopefully next year things will not be so dry! In the meantime, if you are talking to visitors who may be heading out onto the tracks and are planning to camp please make them aware of the fire ban. I am sure the last thing any of us want is a fire rampaging through our forest. We had to move on two young North American visitors who had set up camp at Little River on Waitangi Day. The pair were camped in the bush on the edge of the river and had a roaring fire going when we arrived to investigate. What is more, they had left the fire unattended while they went off to explore! Once we explained the potential danger of their actions they were quick to comply with our request to extinguish the fire and move back to the village to camp where cooking facilities were provided.

A big thank you to our volunteers

The Biodiversity and Visitor Centre teams have been lucky to have the assistance of some very willing and capable volunteers over recent months. French couple, Camille Moreau and Pierre Gueniot, joined the weeds team on a volunteer basis in early October and worked through until mid January, also helping out with a number of other projects such as monitoring the long-tail bat population around the village. In addition to this, a returning visitor, Anita Haug, has volunteered her services in the visitor centre since December – helping the VC team retain their sanity over summer by providing invaluable assistance inputting data for the new national stock control system, as well as updating visitor information on the DOC website. The team here is very appreciative of their efforts and would like to publicly thank all three for their hard work. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts put in by many other volunteers. Volunteer hut rangers have been busy all summer at Port William and Mason Bay keeping the huts looking sharp and the tracks well maintained. Volunteers are currently assisting DOC staff with annual maintenance of the Island Hill homestead, at Mason Bay and in the coming weeks a group of volunteers from Winton Rotary club will assist staff to paint Yankee River and Doughboy

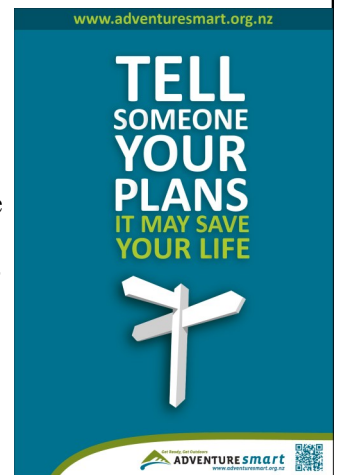
huts and carry out essential maintenance.

Introducing Kristina

Kia Ora Oban! My name is Kristina Thompson and I am a new member of the Biodiversity team. I grew up in New Brunswick, Canada. I first came to New Zealand to study but (like many) decided to stay. I have previously worked as a Ranger and Conservation Project Leader on short term contracts in Ruapehu and Tauranga and began work with the Southern Islands team in December 2011. I work alongside the field team on various projects around the island, with a particular focus on weed and pest eradication. One of the many highlights, since joining the Stewart Island DOC team, is learning more about the dune ecosystems and working on the Dune Restoration programme. Mason Bay is (so far) one of my favourite spots on the island. I have a particular interest in birds. So living on an island with so many bird spotting opportunities is truly amazing. Between the amazing views around the island, the welcoming community, the neighbourhood with kaka, kakariki, kiwi and kereru... it's a beautiful place to live.

Changes to the Intentions System

As from March 1 2012, DOC offices and visitor centres around the country will no longer be running their own intentions systems. Over the past three years, DOC, LandSAR, NZ Police, RCC and the Mountain Safety Council have all worked together to develop an Outdoor Safety Code and Intentions system that applies across the whole of New Zealand, irrespective of land tenure and is designed to reinforce personal responsibility and pre-planning before trips. People will now be urged to register their intentions online via the Mountain Safety Council's Outdoor Intentions website www.adventuresmart.org.nz It



encourages people to leave their intention details with a "trusted contact" (family, friends or someone prepared to take an interest in their safe return from a trip) and for that person to contact the Police should they not hear from them by a nominated overdue date. The key message being: **Safety is your responsibility**. Visitors venturing out on to the tracks, however, should still be encouraged to call into the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre to check on the latest track conditions and pre-purchase any necessary hut tickets.

Other items in brief:

10th Anniversary - This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Rakiura National Park, which was officially opened with a celebration at Lee Bay on March 9 2002. We plan to mark this milestone and the 60th anniversary of the National Parks Act 1952, with an event later in the year that

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

will also celebrate the completion of the Rakiura Great Walk Track upgrade.

Possum Control - Possum control on the southern side of Paterson Inlet (Big Glory to Rakeahua), has been completed. Contractors achieved a really good reduction in possum numbers. Monitoring after control showed a population index at 1.7%, compared to the 5% target.

Darwin's barberry - Six new staff have been taken on for three months to build the momentum of this project. Initially they will be working through the main township area.

Ulva Island - There continues to be no sign of rats on Ulva Island. The rat dog is programmed to return in May for another check of the island. If the dog doesn't find anything, then consideration will be given to declaring the eradication attempt successful. The latest round of sampling for traces of rat toxin in marine life within the mataitai area has just been completed and sent to Landcare for analysis. We are expecting a second round of "clear" results.

Visitor Survey – The Department is currently surveying visitors to Ulva Island. Information from this survey will help us have a better understanding of our customers and their needs and be used for managing and planning facilities on the island. Visitors to the island were last surveyed in February 2006.

Sea Lion and Shark Research – In early March, local DOC staff will again be assisting staff from DOC's marine unit with Sea Lion research at Pegasus. Local staff will also provide assistance to the combined DOC/NIWA team due to return to Stewart Island in mid March to continue a study of Great White Sharks, using satellite tagging.

Local walks in good order - The main focus for the visitor asset team over the past month has been clearing water tables and generally ensuring that the 'front country' tracks are kept well maintained. A new woodshed has also been built at Port William which will give more drying/storage capacity.

New Interpretation - Five new interpretation panels for Mason Bay and one for Freshwater Landing are nearing completion and once installed should greatly enhance visitors' appreciation of the natural, cultural and historic values of the area. We would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone who has provided information and images for these panels.

Acting Programme Manager - Visitor and Historic Assets Programme Manager, Dale Chittenden is off to the Sub Antarctic Islands this week to oversee a 200-metre extension to one of the boardwalks on Enderby Island. Phil Brookes will be acting programme manager in his absence. Andy Roberts, the Area Manager for Southern Islands has also left on a trip south to Antarctica and the Sub Antarctic Islands. Sue Larson, who is based in Invercargill, will be acting Area Manager until his return on the 12th of March.

Track and hut maintenance - Visitor Assets staff are due to head into Doughboy Bay to clear windfalls and trim overgrown vegetation from the track to Mason Bay. They are also scheduled to catch up on hut maintenance at Big Hellfire and East Ruggedy huts.

Rakiura Track – A three kilometre re-route on the track between North Arm and Sawdust Bay is now open for use. This re-route follows old tramlines and takes walkers past the old boiler in the creek bed near Sawdust Bay, providing a better appreciation of the sawmilling history of the area. It also provides more coastal views. Hut revenue is currently up 10% on the same period last year, an indication perhaps of the influence a good spell of weather can have on visitor numbers, combined with a booking system now in place for the Rakiura Track giving walkers assurance that they will have a bunk when they reach the hut.

Hunter Hut inspections - Annual hunter hut inspections will be carried out by the Rakiura Hunter Camp trust and DOC staff towards the end of February.



Reminder to recycle responsibly

Staff at the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre would like to remind people about the importance of responsible recycling after two isolated incidents in recent times have resulted in health and safety being compromised.

David Squire, at the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre, recalled two specific cases where the recycling of goods by the general public could have led to serious consequences. Recently, a bag of used nappies and sanitary pads was found among a collection of baby clothes that had been left at the centre.

"The main concern here was the spreading of disease. I had to throw out the entire content of what was brought in because of the health risk," Mr Squire said.

There are also a number of cases where customers bring in ashes that, although they believe are harmless, have ignited shortly after being left at the centre. Mr Squire said that an incident of this nature took place just prior to the Christmas holidays.

"We were very lucky that the ashes in question were left outside in an open skip. If they had caught fire inside, we could have lost the whole recycling shed," he said.

Mr Squire said the majority of people who recycle are conscientious of the goods they pass on to the centre and hopes that they will continue to lead by example.

"A lot of people make a great effort to recycle responsibly. We want to remind everybody that if they can be as careful as possible with their recycling, then dangerous incidents can be avoided," he said.

Meanwhile, the centre has new opening hours:

**Monday and Wednesday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm;
Tuesday closed as it is collection day, and Saturday 8am to 12pm.**

David Squire
Rakiura Resource Centre

This letter was sent out last year, if you did not receive it or have lost it - please fill in details and return or you could email me diddle@xtra.co.nz and I can send you a copy - also let me know if you are missing any information



Hi with the recent Christchurch and Japan earthquake and Tsunami it is timely to remind you of emergency action and preparedness on the Island. Being prepared, having a plan and acting immediately on receipt of warning will help you get through an emergency.

You would have recently received a package containing:

- Muster Points on the Island
- Civil Defence Get thru package
- Household emergency checklist
- Easy way to quake safe your home(fix, fasten, forget)

The Island currently has a worst case scenario action plan, in the event of a Tsunami we will have a Minimum 30 minute window to warn people to get to higher ground (30 metres) or your muster point, (note if your muster point is higher than your residence, then you are below 30 metres.)

There will be immediate notification via, fire siren, police siren, manual PA system, Marine radio and other media services, eg radio, tv, Internet. However this may not reach all residents/visitors.

In order to contact and advise as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time we are developing a phone tree and a cellphone database to text warning messages.

For us to have correct details could you please fill in the attached form for each individual persons contact details and tick your contact preference. Please note for your preferred contact if it is cellphone or landline you must have the phone near you day and night. If you are not on the database it will be harder to advise you of an emergency. Please check with friends and family that they have filled out information and passed it on. You will receive details of how the phone tree and cellphone message system will work in the near future.

Name	
1 st preference phone number	
2 nd preference phone number	
3 rd preference phone number	
No phone	

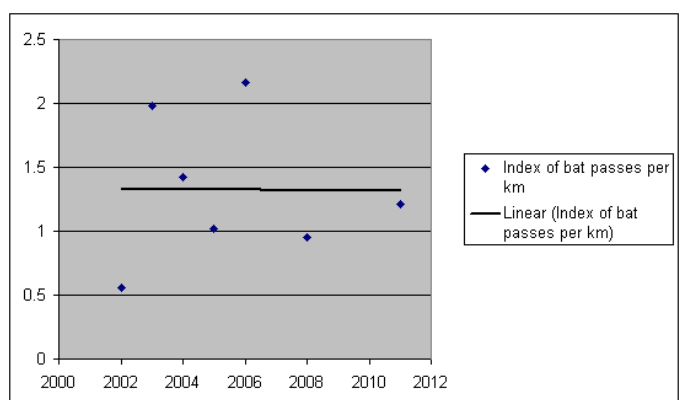
Please fill in information and return to P O Box 1, Stewart Island 9846

Thank you to all the volunteers for your help with bat monitoring this year. We are all finished until next time (Dec 2013).

This is a graph of the survey data since 2002. The "best fit" line has us at a stable population.

Cheers
Brent

Brent Beaven
Programme Manager Biodiversity
Department of Conservation



Sails not yet in sight!

As SIN goes to press, details for the arrivals of the Short-handed Sailors are still not firmed up – so much depends on the weather and the encounters that the boats have en route to Stewart Island! However, we can confirm – without breaking confidences! - that the School is practising a haka. This is primarily for the Official Farewell on 13 March, but it's hoped that our school children will also be on hand to welcome boats as they arrive. We do have to bear in mind that yachts will be arriving at any time in the 24-hour period of any day from 3 March onwards! Difficult to arrange a “welcoming committee” under those circumstances! We will all have the opportunity to second-guess arrivals though as, thanks to Steve and Chris, a tracking system will be set up at “Headquarters” – a.k.a. the South Sea Hotel.

Another confirmation is the trophy for “the first past the post”. This trophy is being sponsored by Margaret & Colin Hopkins of Aurora Charters, and we very much appreciate their kindness in this. We needed something tangible for the sailors to strive for, not only in 2012, but hopefully in years to come. We now have this lovely trophy as a permanent reminder to the sailors - and to us - of this event. Thanks Margaret and Colin!



Starting on the 25th of February 2012

- Leg 1 Auckland to Mangonui
- Leg 2 Mangonui to Stewart Island
- Leg 3 Stewart Island to Napier
- Leg 4 Napier to Auckland

The sailmakers and entourage will be arriving before 3 March, thanks to the generosity of Sue & Ian Munro and Rakiura Shipping. The sailmaking (or mending) equipment and fully-equipped vehicle would have been difficult to transport to the Island without their help.

And – in typical Island fashion – the list of local people willing to be involved just grows. As we mentioned in the last SIN, most of the arrangements will come together at the last moment, so watch for public announcements and our Notice Board for on-going details. And if you have anything to add to the mix – by way of help or ideas – we’d be delighted to hear from you in the meantime.

Sue Ford for the Organising Group
2191 385

Rakiura Museum would like to update the data base of Halfmoon Bay School Photos, and would like to borrow group photos over the past 40 –50 years. Naming pupils and teachers would also be much appreciated, but not necessary. **All photos will be scanned and returned as soon as possible.**



HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL 1907
 Back Row: Eddie Young, Len Bowers, Gordon Traill, Jack Deacon, Sydney Fraser, Arthur Harrison, Bert Bowers, Basil Cox, John West
 Second Row: Maseen Leask, Nesta Bowers, Lizzie Widdowson, Ivy Widdowson, Kathleen Fraser, Lena Jensen, Maggie Irwin, Lena West, Ida Cox, Maggie Hicks
 Third Row: Ettie Ramsay, Allie Roff, Allie Kidman, Jean Ramsay, Ursula Ramsay, Maud Hardwick, Ruby Thomson
 Fourth Row: Eric Leask, Hine West, Mary Thomson, Sheila Bowers, Olga Jensen, Tom West, George Leask

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF JENNY GELL ON THURSDAY 8TH MARCH AT 2.00 pm



STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

5644! No – not the number of registered borrowers or even the sleeps to go ‘til Christmas.

It’s the number of items your community library issued over 2011. That’s a whole lot of books. But even more than that as we have jigsaws, videos, dvds, board games and magazines as well.

We have recently received 23 cartons of books from our “mother library” in Winton. They contained non-fiction, young adult, junior, large print...but mostly fiction.

So if you feel that you’ve “read all the good books” come on down because we have a lot more for you!

—*Kirsten Hicks*

BOOK REVIEW *from Sue Ford*

“Kept” (A Victorian Mystery) by D.J. Taylor

The best book I’ve read in a long while! But talk about complicated – even the ‘blurb’ on the back describes it as – “.... a gorgeously intricate novel ...” It is written in the Victorian fashion so the English can be a little pedantic, but is so in keeping with the mystery that it certainly isn’t boring. But how to describe it? There are several sub-plots that weave themselves into one overall plot, merely by the characters being connected.

Let’s try and get some sense of these Victorian people: In Norfolk and Suffolk in England, at the centre of one plot is Mr. Ireland, who is killed – by accident or murder? There is his wife, the poor, deranged Mrs. Ireland who is an heiress. There’s Mr. Dixey, their neighbour, a naturalist, poverty-stricken and eccentric – if not as mad as Mrs. Ireland, and who becomes Mrs. Ireland’s guardian. There are Mr. Dixey’s household servants, not least of whom are the maids Sarah and Esther, and the footman William Latch. All three of these eventually end up in London under different circumstances. There is a local curate who cannot wait to get away from his miserable parish in Suffolk.

In the Yukon, fighting against the onset of winter wilderness and wolves is one-time sweetheart and distant relative of Mrs. Ireland. In London, is yet another distant cousin, John Carstairs, who, at the instigation of his nosey mother, is searching for the missing Mrs. Ireland. Mr. Carstairs invokes the aid of lawyers, principally the ancient but still illustrious Mr. Crabbe. Flitting about the country, from Scotland to Suffolk but resident in London, is Dunbar, a poacher. There are several

minor but important characters – like Dewar whom we meet first in the company of Dunbar, but later we find him in London. There’s Grace, a sort of ‘man of all work’ to his boss, there’s Pearce, an unsuccessful thief, profligate, man of violence and one-time employee of the railway, and Captain McTurk of the London police.

Drawing all the loose ends together is the scamster, Pardew. He employs Grace, Dewar, Pearce and eventually, William, and his most profitable scam (in the early part of the book anyway) is in ‘bills’ – issued as loans and then bought and sold, often using counterfeit cheques or paper money in Mr. Pardew’s case! It is – we think to begin with - through these scams that Mr. Dixey is drawn into the web, as is poor old Mr. Crabbe, the lawyer – he’s also Mrs. Ireland’s trustee which brings the story full-circle. But then there is the question of a cargo of bullion, bound for the Continent

Often amusing, and certainly far too realistic a portrait of Victorian England to have a happy ending, this is a book best devoured in great chunks – so that you don’t lose the different threads! But you probably won’t want to put it down anyway until you find out what happens to the different characters – and in some cases, you just won’t believe what DOES become of them! I’ll have to read it again though because one thing remained a mystery to me: the title. Some of the characters do, indeed, “keep” some very strange things to remind them of their past lives for instance, so it is perhaps in reference to that – though it seems a little esoteric. There are strange “pets” that are “kept” too. Well, a second reading may reveal to me that which I missed in my haste to turn the page to follow the adventure. See! I’m even starting to *sound* like D.J. Taylor!

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