

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

February—March 2014

\$2.00

Sparkling seas, sundresses, jandals... so many things to love about summer. There is a down side to our busy season: pedestrians walking in droves down the middle of our roads. On a recent cruise ship day I found myself puzzling over this behaviour while I drove slowly down Golden Bay Road behind dozens of people. As they meandered four or five abreast in the middle of the road, not phased or glancing behind them or moving aside at the sound of my car, it occurred to me that perhaps they honestly think the road *is* the footpath. A really wide footpath. Maybe they think vehicles here are just cute little golfcarty things like the ones that transport elderly people between gates in airports, and we live in a friendly wee world where cars and pedestrians coexist safely and happily on these wide asphalt footpaths. Anyway that's my recent epiphany about the pedestrian-road phenomenon here, so I chuckled when Pip Fraser-Wilson sent me a photo of Elgin Terrace with the same comment.



Phillippa Fraser-Wilson sent this snap of visitors on a cruise ship day: "Don't they just love our wide footpaths!"

Shark conservationist Riley Elliot and wild-life filmmaker Mike Bhana spent time here mid-month working on the program *Shark Man* to be aired on TVNZ. Their visit generated a particular buzz amongst the male population of the Island because... (wee pop quiz) ...

a) shark conservation is a topical and important issue; b) the presence of film crews on the Island is exciting; or c) shark whisperer and model Ocean Ramsey was here too. [Answer: all of these above but really mostly *c*. If you don't know who I'm talking about and didn't catch a glimpse of her, google *Ocean Ramsey*, the gorgeous blonde free diver, conservationist, and model who swims with white pointers. Don't know what's hotter than that...Maybe a grilled cheese sandwich on the sun.]

We've had some disappointing un-sunny days this summer but Waitangi Day was roasting hot and perfectly beautiful. Maori were victorious 48-34. The car boot sale in the morning raised \$262.

Do you smoke (cigarettes)? Do you want to try to stop? The WERO challenge is back, see page 10. Speaking of getting healthy, Dids at the community centre is keen to get any sport that interests you up and running. Dodgeball? Squash? Jumping bum-first off a wharf roof into the tide (aka Bird off a Pier)? Talk to Dids and see page 2 for more information.



Alan Wadds and Bruce Ford man the BBQ for a Rakiura Heritage Centre fundraiser. Photo from Margaret Hopkins.

36th (out of 75 teams) finishing in just over six hours. Claire was the second fastest female runner in the entire category with a time of 1:25:43!! Jane Everest also competed, swimming in the Half, and her team placed 18th. Congratulations to all of you awesome women.

Hope everyone is loving the summer and enjoying the Sochi games (or the new GC, hee hee). —Jess



What goes on the boat stays on the boat. Tessa, Ava and Betty en route to a fun afternoon at Maori Beach.

Speaking of Dids and sport, she was among several Islanders who represented at the Challenge Wanaka event. Team *Rakiura Racers* competed in the Lake Wanaka Half with a 1.9km swim, 90km cycle and 21.1 km run. Diddle, Kath and Claire (of DoC) placed



Claire, Kath and Diddle at the Lake Wanaka Half



WISE UP TO WEEDS

with Amy



OLD MAN'S BEARD

(*Clematis vitalba*)

Old man's beard was found alive and well in Oban last year, so take a good look in your garden. We don't want it to get established in Oban, so please call Environment Southland if you think you have it.

What is it?

Old man's beard is a vine with pretty, small white flowers. It has a leaf consisting of five leaflets and fluffy seed heads that give the plants its distinctive "bearded" look.

What is the problem?

This plant grows quickly and forms large dense masses that cover shrubs and smaller vegetation. It is spread by fragments in garden waste and the seeds are spread by wind.

How to control it?

- Cut and paste the stems, leave the vines hanging to reduce green waste.

Please contact the Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email service@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115

For more information see www.es.govt.nz/environment/pests/plants

Community Centre News

Hi All

Tae Kwon Do is on a Thurs at 4pm for 7 yr olds and up, any questions ask Dids 0272316305

Circuit class is still going strong tues, thurs at 5.30pm or sat 8.30am – give it a go for all levels of fitness. \$2

Tai Chi and weights class is on Thurs 10am \$2 - all welcome

I am very keen to get any sports up and running, it is beneficial for us all, fun to workout together and meet people, you never know you might find a sport that you enjoy and are good at. We have tennis, squash, volleyball, netball, basketball, and indoor soccer and touch, we could even look into dodgeball? It is fun to set goals to get you in to action. There are the masters games which are in Dunedin every 2 years and lots of different sports to enter. There are small triathalons and runs in Southland, Southland mountain biking club at sandy point are brilliant. If you are interested in any of these you can look up, or ask me.

www.southlandtriclub.co.nz

www.southlandmtbclub.co.nz

Cheers

Dids

Pete Ross Automotive**14 Ayr Street****Stewart Island****Phone 2191 266****Have available for Hire**

Lawnmower

Chainsaws

Waterblaster

Chimney Brush

Rotary Hoe

Rug Doctor (New)

Have For Sale

9 kg Gas Bottles (New)

Weedeater Cord

CRC

Degreaser

Fuelite, Meths

Kerosene and Turps

Coal and Kindling (New)

Weedkiller

Jumper Leads

Funnels and plenty more!

Summer Hours**(until after Easter)**

Mon - Thurs 8am - 5pm

Friday 8am - 6pm

Sat 10am - 2 pm

Sun 11am - 2pm

**Update from the Stewart Island/Rakiura
Community Board**

Your local Community Board meets bi-monthly to deal with issues of local government.

Current issues include:-

Tenders are being processed for work relating to the Horseshoe Bay Rd slip, as well as slip work on Thule Road and at Leask Bay. Stormwater drainage work on Main Road is also being tendered.

The Stewart Island Visitor Levy (which came into law on 1 October 2013) is now at the stage of having the allocation guidelines and committees established. The first round of allocations will take place in May, so groups should start planning now.

Moturau Moana is about to undergo a bit of a spruce up, with an upgraded entrance off Horseshoe Bay Rd, and some new seating

Information panels are being manufactured for the cemetery at Mill Creek, which should make it easier to locate individual plots. These will be housed in a roofed over area. The existing shelter is also being moved to a better location.

Community Board Members are investigating options to ensure Halfmoon Bay wharf is developed to meet future needs. Once these plans have reached the appropriate stage, they will be made available for public consultation.

The Board has approved a small increase in SIESA charges (to come into effect in July). This will see a 3% increase in the unit rate (changing from \$0.5722 to \$0.5894). This 3% increase will also apply to the monthly charge (changing it from \$85.00 to \$87.55). This was considered necessary as at present SIESA is running at a loss.

Research into alternative methods of electricity generation is progressing slowly. It is hoped that the Board will have more to report following the April meeting.

If you are interested in further details on these or other issues, contact your Board Members (Jon Spraggon (Chairperson), Anita Geeson (Deputy Chairperson), Jarrod Baird, Aaron Conner (aka Squirt), Graham Cowley, Greg Everest, and Bruce Ford (Councillor).

Meetings are advertised on the Noticeboard, and Agendas are available for public viewing at the SDC office & Library. The next meeting will be held on April 14.

—*from Kirsten Hicks*

Iconic New Zealand photographer revisiting Southland community 50 years on

One of New Zealand's most celebrated photographers, Ans Westra, is revisiting Southland (Invercargill from 10 – 14 March and Stewart Island from 17 – 21 March) to reconnect and share memories with locals, which she captured on film throughout her five decade career in New Zealand.

Following on from a similar four week road trip to Gisborne (Ruatoria), Bay of Plenty (Ruatoki and Rotorua), Whanganui (Jerusalem) and Kaitaia in February and May 2013, Ans hopes to reconnect with subjects of her earlier photographs, catch up with friends and share memories with locals.

On a previous visit to Southland in 1996 Ms Westra undertook an artist residency at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery, and in 1990 spent time as a tutor for a workshop at Southern Art School, Southland Polytechnic.

Ms Westra will also meet with students interested in the arts - particularly photography – as well as gathering information to accompany her collection of negatives to be stored in New Zealand's National Library in Wellington.

David Alsop, coordinator of the road trip and owner of Wellington art gallery Suite, said the journey will enable Ans to photograph again in the community and offer a unique perspective on how it has changed over the years.

"It will be interesting to see who we meet along the way – I'm expecting there will be many stories and memories shared. Getting into schools and meeting those interested in photography will also be a special part of the trip.

"Ans and I are very passionate about photography and her wealth of experience will no doubt be a highlight for anyone she meets. She's a living icon."

Ms Westra's latest book, *Our Future Ngā Tau ki Muri*, released in May 2013, features 137 photographs she shot on her Rolleiflex camera over the last 20 years. Amongst the images of New Zealand's landscape is commentary from well-known poets and politicians such as Hone Tuwhare, Russell Norman, Brian Turner, David Eggleton and former Prime Minister David Lange.

"The purpose of the book is to give a directive to Aotearoa, an awareness of things changed and lost within its short history, and at this point in time call a halt to hasty decision making," says Ms Westra.

Westra's 'Full Circle' exhibition will take place in the Southern Institute of Technology's *Raw Gallery* at 25 Don Street, Invercargill, from Monday 10 March – Friday 21 March, 2014 (Westra will be in Invercargill from 10-14 March), and at the *Community Hall* adjoining Halfmoon Bay School, Oban, Stewart Island from 17 – 21 March, 2014.

For more information, visit <http://www.suite.co.nz/answestra/full-circle-tour/>



Bowling Club (left) and *Farm Visit* (right) are two of Ans Westra's photographs.



LETTERS ☒ ☒ ☒

Dear Jess

In the December 2013 - January 2014 issue of SIN, you mention a number of places where locals can buy their Christmas shopping. The article promotes supporting local crafts and local businesses. Having operated here since 2000, I have been selling local photography printed on canvas or on art paper - these make excellent gifts whether for Christmas or any other occasion. Additionally I sell a number of specialist items for our outdoor loving community including sunglasses, leatherman tools, compasses, headlamps and such like. I look forward to some more locals visiting in the future and perhaps for next year's Christmas gifts or a birthday.

Furhana Ahmad

(Ruggedy Range™ Wilderness Experience, Aihe Eco Charters & Water Taxi, Outdoor Adventure Shop).

Te Harinui, a hikoi of 'joyful news' to begin on Stewart Island

By Richard Johnson

Stewart island has been chosen as the first step in a several hundred kilometre 'hikoi' or walk through Southland and Otago by the Anglican Bishop of Dunedin to mark the 200th anniversary of the first proclamation of the Gospel in New Zealand.

On Christmas Day 1814, at Oihi in the Bay of Islands, the Revd Samuel Marsden and Ruatara first proclaimed the Gospel, and in this bicentennial year, numerous events and celebrations are being held nationwide to mark the occasion.

Bishop Kelvin Wright's contribution is 'Te Harinui, a hikoi of joyful news', which will begin at the Wohlers Memorial Cross on Stewart Island on Friday March 14 and end at Kurow, at the north of the Diocese, on Palm Sunday, April 13. The journey takes the Bishop through Southland, to Queenstown and Wanaka, to Cromwell and Clyde, to Middlemarch, to Dunedin and then along NH1 to Kurow. He and the hikoi party will travel mostly by foot, but also on occasion by boat, bicycle and train.

"In keeping with Ruatara's and Marsden's original Christmas Day message of 'good news of great joy (te harinui), this hikoi through the length of Otago and Southland will be a proclamation of the faith all Christians share together. At each daily stopping point we will meet to share food and faith with the communities we travel through, as witnesses together to the Gospel," says Bishop Kelvin.

On Stewart Island, the sharing of food and faith will be on the evening of Thursday March 13, at the RSA Rooms, hosted by the Presbyterian and Anglican congregations on the island. All are welcome to share in the tea, which will begin at 6pm, after which Bishop Kelvin will tell his own story of encountering the 'joyful news' of the Gospel as a young man and how it changed his life.

The hikoi will commence at 10am at the Wohlers Memorial cross the next morning, March 14, with a reading of the 'good news' verses proclaimed by Ruatara and Marsden, read by Bishop Kelvin from a historic Maori bible in the care of St Andrew's Anglican Church on Stewart Island.



Wohler's memorial. Photo by Peter Tait

Beginning the hikoi at the Wohlers Memorial Cross was suggested by Raylene Waddell, Session Clerk of the Oban Presbyterian Church, and an excellent idea given the pioneering work by the Revd Wohlers in his missionary work in the area, on Ruapuke and Stewart Island.

Along with prayers and blessings for the journey, a staff for Kelvin will also be blessed. This manuka staff was cut and prepared by Peter Tait, husband of Iris Tait, warden of St Andrew's Church. Peter has inlaid a paua outline of Stewart Island/Rakiura on the staff.

From Wohlers Cross, the hikoi will walk to Oban for a light lunch in the hall at St Andrew's, open to all, before ringing the historic Bremen bell at the church and walking on to the Oban Presbyterian Church for a blessing. The walkers then board the ferry for Bluff, where they will walk up to the Te Rau Aroha Marae for a powhiri, meal and the second Gospel proclamation of the hikoi.

On the Saturday, the group walks on to Invercargill, and the hikoi continues. Invitations to attend the start of the hikoi will be sent to community leaders on the island, but all are welcome to support the first steps in this new journey of faith, replicating the journeys of faith of 200 years ago.

Stewart Island / Rakiura
Community & Environment Trust



SIRCET Kiwi advocacy update

By Cherie Hemsley



Monitoring this month of the kiwis that were released into the Ackers project area in February 2013 has given us some interesting information!

Firstly a massive thank you to KiwisforKiwi for their contribution to this



Betty and Si Taylor

project! Their funding has enabled us to follow these birds for a year and report back to you their lives as they have settled into their new home.

TX22 that I thought was having difficulty finding a mate has possibly proven me wrong! We have located him in a burrow instead of under crown fern! This February I'm hoping to set up another camera to see what we can see, maybe he has a lady sharing his burrow?

TX12 has been tracked down to a burrow, in the company of an unidentified male. Is he a fellow release, or a local lad? With the help of game cameras I plan on finding out in February!

Matatika and Ngaio are showing the chick around their territory, and have possibly taken shelter in one of

many burrows therein, as their old burrow is no longer in use and has been adopted by some little blue penguins (one man's rubbish is another man's treasure!)

Game cameras are proving to be quite a valuable tool in tracking these birds. They are



Matatika and Ngaio's offspring! A little kiwi chick

allowing us a glimpse into the private lives of these kiwis with very little intrusion. That makes me feel real good about what I'm doing, and allows me to show some great footage to you all!

On the whole, January has been very successful with the locations of two new burrows, and what that might mean for our Ackers Point Kiwi population.

No doubt February will give us more insight and I really do look forward to sharing this with you!

Until next month,
Ka Kete Ano E Hua

Cherie

STEWART ISLAND OUTDOOR BOWLING CLUB UPDATE



Great News – After 9 years of fundraising the green has now been laid and is ready to be played on. If you would like to have a bowl you are most welcome to wonder down and do so. If you do not have your own bowls the club does have sets that can be borrowed. A key can be collected from the Flight Centre for the bowls and mats. There is a small charge of \$10.00 for the first person and \$5.00 per person thereafter.

A FEW RULES

The committee is currently developing the Club's rules and etiquette while using the facilities but there are a few rules in place while using the green.

- No smoking on or around the playing green
- No gumboots to be worn on the playing green
- No spike shoes to be worn on the playing green or adjacent to the green
- No food or drink to be consumed on the playing green
- And please enjoy your games

GRAND OPENING – SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2014 – keep an eye on the Community Notice Board for details. This will be a good opportunity to have a bowl regardless whether you have played before. There will be experienced bowlers there to give a guided hand to those of us who have not played before!

SUBS: The annual subscription is \$50.00 per adult and \$15.00 for children under 15 (must be under supervision of an adult).

You can pay your subscription in the following ways;

By cheque made payable to “Stewart Island Bowling Club Incorporated” and this can be dropped off to Megan at “The Fernery”, or posted to PO Box 6, Oban, Stewart Island 9846.

Internet Banking: Westpac Invercargill – 03 1750 0373951 00 please ensure you have your name entered for our reference so we know who the payment is from.



SOIL: There is still a limited amount of soil available. If you are interested please register with Megan at “The Fernery”. The cost is \$50.00 per cubic metre.

by Lynn Mcpherson

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem



A familiar face behind a Bring and Buy plant stall 2007

Part of our church history was the Bring and Buy Sale held every November in the old Sunday School Hall. It was put together by the Association of Presbyterian Women's group fondly known as APW. It raised funds to send to missions all over the world and all over New Zealand. It was quite amazing what our little town of Oban raised each year just from this one event. But then we are so blessed to live in such a caring and loving community. Do you remember some of the other activities that have been part of our church life over the years? We'd loved to hear about them for our 110th Anniversary Labour Weekend of this year.

March brings some known and some new faces to our pulpit.

March 2 & 9 – Margaret Hunter – If you didn't get to hear Margaret in February she's still with us for a couple of Sundays in March. A retired secondary school teacher. She's done a lot of travelling in Asia and has many interests some being historic religious architecture, Balinese dance drama, the Red Cross and the NZ China Friendship Society. A great lifetime addiction of hers is reading. Now there's an addiction I can relate to.

March 16 – brings back **Deborah Bower** with over sixteen years experience in biblical based preaching, pastoral supervision, and mentoring/pastoral care. She has worked across all streams of Christian expression, with various groups. Deborah holds a PhD in Theology from Otago University. She has spent over five years teaching aspects Old and New Testament studies at both Bible College (Dunedin Campus), and at Otago University. Deborah lives in Queenstown, New Zealand with her husband Gordon, and worships at the Wakatipu Community Church (Presbyterian), where she is an ordained elder.

March 23 & 30 – Bruce and Diane Keeley – This is the first two weeks of several for these folks. Recently retired from full-time ministry, they are greatly looking forward to a new adventure. Diane has not been to Stewart Island before, in spite of having lived in Invercargill for a time, many years ago. Bruce made a brief visit in 1969, after spending a summer on the Snares Islands during his university years. They were ordained together in the Anglican Church in 1977 and have shared parish ministry as a team for 36 years. Diane has recently trained as a Restorative Justice facilitator, and Bruce continues to serve as a Police Chaplain. Their spare time interests include bush walking and bird watching, so Stewart Island is right up there on the Bucket List.

Remember! 110th Anniversary of Oban Presbyterian Church at Labour Weekend, October of this year. Start making those bookings to be here for this very special occasion.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.
Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11 a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.
Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford:

“The Luminaries” by Eleanor Catton & “All Souls” Trilogy by Deborah Harkness

First, “The Luminaries” is heavy! You need strong wrists to hold it – at 832+ pages you need muscles. Second, it’s heavy! It’s written in the language of 1866 (the date at which the events happen). Third, it’s heavy! It’s not light reading that you pick up and read a few pages over a quick cuppa; give your full attention to this rather strange story.

Hokitika on a wet and stormy night in 1866; the “Godspeed” has just put in, captained by thuggish rogue, Carver. Off the boat from Dunedin, green about gold but in NZ to make his fortune, is Walter Moody. He’s had a horrifying, even supernatural experience on the boat, and the storm has added to his distress. At his hotel, he comes across a group of twelve men and is soon aware that he has interrupted something clandestine. Eventually, Walter is persuaded to hear all twelve stories and help the group decide what to do next with the strange facts they have amassed. The twelve include a proud Maori greenstone prospector with limited English, a Chinese opium supplier with even less, and a Chinese gold-field labourer with virtually none at all. As a result, the other nine dominate the story as told to Moody – but if the other three were able to communicate their own experiences in more detail, *we* know that the assembly would have had crucial missed information. Their stories are about a strange night in January: the new parliamentary candidate has travelled overland from Christchurch. At a cabin in the Arahura Valley, just out of Hokitika, he finds a recently deceased, alcoholic recluse. “Opium eater” and whore, Anna Wetherell is found on the road, dying - a suicide attempt? Anna denies that, so was the opium poisoned as suspected? And wealthy Emery Staines disappears.

The ending – as Pat King warned – made me want to go back and read it with fore-knowledge. But I have the feeling that Catton was talking down to me, patronising – and I still can’t make up my mind whether it was a great read or a skilled writer trying to be clever. Not a literature snob (I hope), just because a book has been hailed as a literary masterpiece I’m not going to gush about how good I found it. I’m still trying to sort out my reactions to this strangely compulsive read. Give it a go and see what *you* make of it.

Now, something less intellectual: the All Souls Trilogy, Book 1 “A Discovery of Witches” then Book 2 “Shadow of Night”. I have been captivated by historian Diana and scientist Mathew – neither of whom are human! Diana is determined to NOT be the witch that heredity says she must be, whereas vampire Mathew knows that his growing love for Diana is forbidden. Okay, so it sounds tacky, but it is like “Raiders of the Lost Ark” through history, involving the search for an ancient book through time – from 2009 to 1590 (the author admits that Diana Gabaldon is one of her heroes). Book 1 takes us through modern England and across the Atlantic to Diana’s home. Her family home doesn’t like strangers, ghosts of ancestors wander, and the Room of Requirement steals stuff that it thinks you don’t need and holds it (like Em’s new winter coat!) till required! Now if you can’t laugh at that There is a very serious side – Mathew is a geneticist, investigating the origins of “creatures” – and Diana’s blood shows some very odd and exciting combinations of genetic material, and may hold more links to the past *and* future of Creatures than does the intriguing missing manuscript that Diana has to find to save her life. That search takes the pair back to Elizabethan England in Book 2. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting many famous historical figures. If you enjoyed “Cross-stitch” complete with spurts of humour, give the first two books a go and be ready for Book 3 when it comes out mid-winter.

WERO CHALLENGE

WERO STOP SMOKING CHALLENGE SET TO HELP THOUSANDS MORE QUIT IN 2014.

The second WERO Group Stop Smoking Competition is to be held 1 March to 31 May 2014.

The WERO Challenge involves teams of 10 smokers, who compete to have the most people successfully stop smoking after three months, and the opportunity to win \$5,000 cash for a charity or community group of their choice.

Trish Fraser, local WERO Coordinator says “Smokers can either create their own team or register on the website www.wero.me to join a team.” she urges smokers to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to stop smoking for good.

The competition was developed by the Centre for Tobacco Control Research at the University of Auckland. The inaugural national WERO Competition was held in 2013 with over 650 participants throughout New Zealand.

Southland had excellent results, after three months, 63% of the participants had stopped smoking. The winning team in the WERO South competition came from Gore with 9/10 team members having quit smoking, winning a total of \$6,500 for their kohanga.

WERO allows smokers to support each other through the quitting process. Each team selects their own coach and is also offered plenty of expert stop smoking support. Social media and mobile technologies are part of the programme, such as a website, iPad and iPhone apps to display how teams are doing, and the WERO Challenge Facebook page keeps teams and supporters updated. Team members are encouraged to stay in touch with each other online, ask questions about their withdrawal symptoms, and receive expert advice to help them stub it out, and win prizes.

Trish Fraser says, “WERO works well where groups of people naturally congregate, such as clubs, workplaces, churches etc”.

People interested in taking up the WERO Challenge or managing a team in the competition should contact Trish Fraser.

For more information contact:

Trish Fraser

Phone: 03 442 9236

Mobile: 0274 435 241

Email: trish@wero.me

WERO website: www.wero.me

WERO app - iPad and iPhone

Stub It Out app - iPad and iPhone

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem



Deep Bay, just inside Deep Bay Point 1900-1910

It's always a great thrill to see old photos of different parts of Stewart Island come into the museum and this one of Deep Bay is a real beauty thanks to Sheila. With my passion of all things "nautical" I particularly like to see the old wharves and jetties that are no longer with us. They might seem a little rickety but they all served a purpose and have a beauty all of their own.

Edward Edwards of Codfish Island was one of our enquires this month and it's nice to know one of his relatives still lives here.



All the people have been identified in Mason Bay photograph courtesy of Nancy Schofield and Sheila Natusch. The lady walking behind the cart is Mateen Traill, lady in back of cart Maisie Dunlop (later a Johnson), little girl, Nancy Traill (now Schofield), lady in front of cart Gretchen Traill and the man driving the cart is Mateen's husband Arthur Traill Jnr.

There's still a few copies of the Dorothy Jenkin booklet of her beautiful orchids and we still have copies of the DVD on Mason Bay farming, a real delight for fans and families of Mason Bay history.



By the time you get this article there will only be a few weeks before registrations close on the 15 March for the Norwegian Weekend held on the 4, 5 and 6 April. A once in a lifetime celebration of our Norwegian heritage on Stewart Island. Remember you don't have to be Norwegian or have links to the Whalers Base to come along and enjoy this special event. Contact Bev or Jo at Rakiura Museum (2191-221) or email stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz if you have any queries or need more forms. Payment for the registration can be made by direct credit, cheque or cash. For our catering purposes it is important to get the registration forms in as soon as possible. Don't forget to drop in to the Invercargill museum when across the way as they are having a special exhibition on whaling.

Museum hours up until the end of April are Monday thru Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm and Sunday Noon-2 pm.

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Ph/fax 03 2191494 cell 027 4646147

jed.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz

202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

Predator Free Rakiura - Project Update

The Predator Free Rakiura project is about removing possums, feral cats, and rats from Stewart Island / Rakiura.

A Governance Group has been set up to oversee and drive this project forward, and Group members will have a key role in communicating what is going on to and from the people they are representing.

Members of the Governance Group are:

Jill Skerrett & Sandy King – representing the Stewart Island community

Garry Neave – representing fishing interests

Gail Thompson – representing iwi interests

Stewart Bull – representing iwi (Titi islands) interests

Leon Fife – representing Rakiura Maori Land Trust

Ali Timms – representing Environment Southland

Bruce Halligan – representing Southland District Council

Paul Norris – representing business interests

Steve Long – representing hunting interests (Southland NZDA)

Gareth Morgan – representing funders

Allan Munn – representing DOC

The Group had its first meeting on 23rd January. The meeting was held in Invercargill and mainly focused on getting to know each other, and getting set up - how we will function, and when and where we will meet etc. We agreed that some future meetings should be held on the Island, and be followed by a public forum where locals will have the opportunity to come and hear from the Group, and put their thoughts forward.

We also had a look at the draft economic appraisal. This still has some work and review due, but we hope to have it complete and ready for distribution before the end of March. From our preliminary look, the idea of removing possums, feral cats, and rats from Stewart Island / Rakiura looks good for the economy and job numbers both on Stewart Island and in Southland.

The next meeting will be held in Invercargill on 11th March. At this meeting we hope to finalise the economic report, and to look at approaches and options about how to proceed. No decisions have yet been made on how to remove any of these predators. It will be after this March meeting that we will be starting to discuss this and get input from everyone who has an interest in this project.

Sandy King,

- on behalf of the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group.

Voice of a Girl Mechanic by Sharon Ross

The Value of Regular Servicing

When I was first learning to drive – back in a horrible old Vauxhall Velox with a 3 gear column change on the back roads of the Taieri, one of Dads rules was that you didn't go anywhere until you could first know how to check the oil and water, and know how to change a tyre – a skill that over the years came in very handy! It's a pity a few of my friends parents hadn't instilled the same rules, it would have saved a couple of them some very costly repairs. He also taught me the engine light doesn't come on for nothing, either it needs oil or something is wrong – again valuable advice!!

It surprises me that more parents don't pass this on – or is it just lost in the magic of your first driving lesson, or the joy of owning your first car. Dad used to reinforce it though any time I was heading off on a "long journey". I can still remember his horror when I announced after buying my first car at the grand age of 19 that 2 weeks later (Jo) my best friend in my nursing class and I were taking it on holiday, "where are you two off to" he asks – He didn't seem at all happy with Auckland being the answer! (we actually got as far as Whangerei). It was a great road trip, and as with all best trips what happened on tour stayed on tour!! (Was best Dad didn't know about the accident in Hamilton until we returned – just to set the record straight – it wasn't my fault - and his other bit of valuable advice about having full insurance before you even leave the sellers lot has also been tested more than once and found invaluable. Dad suspects only me could be involved in an accident within 100 m of the Mitsubishi dealership on the day I bought my 5th Mitsubishi (again not my fault - and because there was much more damage to me than the car and I had insured it before I left the lot he didn't go on too much).

Anyway I'm digressing, regular servicing and checking the oil and water will mean you get much better value from your vehicle and extend its engine life. Antifreeze (which also acts as a coolant) is a must no matter where you live. Each vehicle is specific to the amount and type of oil and filter you should use and different vehicles have different recommendations for how often a vehicle should be serviced but generally every 5000 km for the oil, and 10,000 km for the filter is the recommended advice. On the Island this will take a long while to achieve, but if the oil hasn't been changed for a year it is probably due again no matter how many kms you have (or haven't travelled).

Cambelts (or timing belts as they are otherwise known) are another thing I've learnt about since I have been working in the motor vehicle industry. They do not last forever and should be changed every 100,000 km (the recommendation for most vehicles). The average \$400-800 it may cost you is much less than the cost should it snap, bend the valves and set you back \$2000 odd for a new engine. This was a common thing we encountered in our Queenstown workshop, some poor tourist buying a bargain van in Auckland for \$500.00, driving it down to Queenstown where the cambelt would break, leaving them with a costly repair bill or a cheap mooring block!!

Happy Motoring!!

Arts on Tour New Zealand presents

Too far from Heaven



Tomorrow, two New Zealanders will die for their crimes

Friday 28th March 8pm
Community Centre, Stewart Island
\$20 Door Sales



Note: This play has huge local significance as one of the young soldiers depicted is related to the Goomes family.



Waitangi Day 2014. Photo from Vicki Coats



Photo: Carolyn Squires

The SIN website has been updated: the archives are now complete 2005 through 2013, so for a stroll down memory lane go to www.stewart-island-news and tap on ARCHIVES.

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Shop Talk

by Jules Retberg

Foiled by packaging

“*Is it me?*”, I bellowed at my empty kitchen as I watched a third of my one litre of milk transform itself into the shape of South America on the bench-top. Mexico, the US and Canada swiftly drizzled onto the kitchen floor. Hawaii and Alaska soaked into the carpet and I absorbed the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and some of Antarctica on my shirt.

As I cleaned up the mess, cursing the stubborn foil seal of the Calci-trim milk bottle, I reminisced about proper glass milk bottles that had a simple foil lid. If you got to the bottle before the birds had pecked a hole in the foil to get at the cream, you just shook the bottle, depressed your thumb in the centre of the foil cap, and hey presto! Milk on your cereal. Not on your clean work shirt or all over the kitchen. Oh and don't worry - the irony has not been lost on me, the fact that it was Calcium enriched milk that I was struggling to open! *Packaging: 1. Me: 0.*

The subject cropped up when I had some girl friends over recently ... as six of us battled with “*easy peel apart*” packaging that was holding a block of cheese captive. We resorted to scissors in the end. So in answer to my earlier question, “*is it me?*”. Thankfully not! *Packaging: 2. Me: 0.*



Clearing away the leftovers at the end of the evening, I stretched cling-wrap across a bowl of hummus, not realising that cling-wrap is now helpfully *pre-serrated* making it easier to tear off the roll. The cling-wrap made it half way across the bowl before ‘*helpfully*’ tearing and catapulting the bowl across the bench into the sink. *Packaging: 3. Me: 0.*

Later in the week a bottle of Harpic White & Shine laid down the gauntlet. More specifically, the “squeeze and twist lid”. Don't think you can just grip with your fist and twist. Oh no! Twenty minutes later, after trying all manner of lid opener tools that had been lurking in the kitchen drawers, I sat deranged and defeated on the floor. In my forty-something years on this planet, I have never sobbed, “*I just want to clean the toilet*”, but Harpic reduced me to an all time low. I almost bit the lid to try and open the damned thing - but common sense - and the *Darwin Awards** stopped me. We'll call this one a draw because I found an adjustable spanner in the toolbox that did the trick. *Packaging: 3½. Me: ½.*

There are countless others. Bursting blood vessels in your eyes as you squeeze **so** hard to get Tomato Sauce out of a plastic bottle before you realise it has a foil seal under the lid. Cereal packets claiming “To open, slide finger under tab. To close insert tab here”. Yeah right! Boxes of tea bags that invite you to “pull here” but the tear-off strip loses interest half way round and doesn't bother to finish the job. Tins that have a ring-pull so that you don't need a tin-opener - but instead flick soup/pineapple/tuna all over you as the lid is finally disconnected from the tin. Chips or peanuts offer a great upper body workout as you pull each side of the bag to separate the world's strongest glue sealing the top together. Before you know it - booooff! The bag splits; contents shower to the ground; and the gulls/dogs/children think it's Christmas!

On a serious note:

A while ago the Four Square was issued with an emergency backpack that contained various bits and bobs to assist in the event of a civil defence emergency. Among the contents was a pair of scissors. The scissors were sealed in plastic packaging that is impossible to tear. The kind of plastic, in fact, that you need a pair of scissors to get into! I suggested that we cut off the packaging and put the ‘emergency’ scissors in their ready-to-use-naked-un-packaged-state, into the backpack. Check your survival kit ...

*** Darwin Awards**

This flippant ‘*award*’ recognises people that have supposedly contributed to human evolution by self-selecting themselves out of the gene pool ie. people that do stupid things and are killed in the process.

P.S. Thanks for all the comments about “*PR2*” the robot in last month's *Shop Talk*. He may return ...

Jules



Cosmo Kentish Barnes of Radio New Zealand's programme Country Life will be on island 25-28th February.

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Waitangi Day game 2014. Photo from Carolyn Squires

What do Smurfs, saxophones, and Stella Artois have in common? Find out next month in the *Oban Globetrotter*...

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has been
rescheduled to
Friday
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at the
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See page 13
for details.



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