

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January 2015

\$3.00

If you're gonna be a bear, be a grizzly.
This was one of my favourite expressions from my days in Wyoming USA, and comes to mind when I see Stewart Islanders take on summer. Sand castle? Sure, the most massive one ever made. Jump off the wharf? Okay, first let me just climb up on a roof and spring off a trampoline. Beautiful days, sparkling seas, and breath-taking beauty? In spades. There is no place on Earth like a beautiful summer day on Stewart Island.

Speaking of grizzlies, a woman at a shark meeting recently reminded me of the signs one would see throughout the Yellowstone: DON'T FEED THE BEARS. It's a common sense approach to wild animals in general. Don't feed them. The Department of Conservation has kindly sent us a reminder about this, see page 10 for an article explaining that we shouldn't feed wildlife because it modifies their behaviour.

In the spirit of the New Year and new year's resolutions, I asked Lania to share with us her story of quitting smoking. See page 7.

Congratulations to Ali Eade for being awarded the Queen's Service Medal for his contributions to the community and aquaculture.

Phred Dobbins wins the Hunters' Hut contest, his prize is a \$50 voucher to Hunting and Fishing Invercargill.

The Rakiura Maori Land Trust has a

new website. Go to visitrakiura.co.nz or www.rmlt.co.nz

I'm a sucker for images that have a Matryoshka doll effect, like the people from Oban, Scotland who photographed themselves at our Oban sign with a copy of SIN and then sent that photo to their local paper and that photo got reprinted in this one... Well, I've got another goodie, see page 5. I also love stories with a Mobius twist, so how about Simon finding a message in a bottle, contacting the writer, and then the guy who threw the bottle into the sea ended up here meeting Simon and reunited with his message in a bottle! Page 5.

A BIG thanks you from the SIN to the



Tramplining off the wharf.

SDC who allocated \$1,000 to us to help with production costs. It's a great boost and good cushion for the new year, I am very grateful and extend my thanks to Juanita Thornton who has been extremely helpful walking me through the paperwork process.

The shark cage debate caught the attention of some MPs who came down here on a fact-finding mission and held two meetings at the Hall. Clayton Mitchell and Fletcher Tabuteau hope to take the case to Parliament and convince the government to change DoC's decision. See page 11 for more. —Jess

is impressive to say the least.

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS VISIT STEWART ISLAND

by Matt Jones

In mid-December, birdwatchers Alan Davies and Ruth Miller from North Wales visited Stewart Island for a few days.

In 2008 long time birdwatchers Alan and Ruth gave up the safety net of life and sold their house and car, gave up their jobs, and cashed in their savings to travel the world and see as many species of bird in a calendar year. The previous world record, held by American Jim Clements, had stood since 1989 at 3662 bird species. Alan and Ruth bird-watched in more than twenty countries and smashed the record, ticking off 4341 species of bird. Considering there are just over 10,000 bird species in the world, to see nearly half of them in a year

Alan and Ruth called their big year "The Biggest Twitch", which is also the name of the book and blog they wrote about their adventures - as well as bird-watching they were held at gunpoint in Peru, robbed in Canada, got very sick in Ethiopia and were chased by a tiger in India! Alan and Ruth now run their own bird-watching company (what else!) but never got to New Zealand during their world record year.

Matt Jones first met Alan and Ruth at the British Bird-watching Fair in 2010 and stayed in touch over the years. When they planned their next big trip, New Zealand was a firm destination and Stewart Island key to their trip.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

They enjoyed great weather and fine Stewart Island hospitality while they were here - and added a lot more new birds to their bulging "life list" (birder-speak for the list any serious bird-watcher keeps of all birds they have ever seen!). While on the island they thoroughly enjoyed the Birding Bonanza (Ulva Island with Ulva's Guided Walks, a pelagic with Aurora Characters, and kiwi spotting with Bravo Adventures). Thanks also to Bay Motel and Real Journeys.

Matt Jones, Ruth Miller and Alan Davies at Golden Bay



SUNDAY

A NZ Independent feature film

Screening Saturday 17th & Wednesday 21st Jan 2015 at 7.30pm



Sunday

Can one day in a broken city fix everything? Eve and Charlie are about to have a baby, but they are no longer together. After years of history and months of separation, they have 24 hours to find their way forward. Set in Christchurch, New Zealand one year after the earthquakes that devastated the city, Sunday is a story like the city, one of past devastation and a chance at rebuilding.

Website: <http://sundaythefilm.com>
Duration: 1 hour 10mins
Classification: M

Bookings Suggested and can be made at the theatre (10 Main Rd) or email us on bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com

TICKETS - \$15 Adults & \$13 Seniors

10% of all profits from the film will be donated back to Gap Filler so they can continue to help encourage the Christchurch community to grow and heal through creative endeavours.

Coming Soon

Lexi (2014) - NZ Independent Feature Film

Screening Saturday 21st & Wednesday 25th February 2015

The Noble Family (2013) - "Mexico's biggest ever box-office success!"

Screening Saturday 21st & Wednesday 25th March 2015

WISE UP TO WEEDS



environment
SOUTHLAND
Te Taiaro Tonga



GUNNERA

(*Gunnera tinctoria*)

We're keen to eradicate gunnera on Stewart Island, so if you've seen any, please let me know and I'll come and remove it.

What is it?

Gunnera is a mega herb with huge rough jagged-edged leaves up to 1.5m wide and 2m high. It produces a large flowering spike, with orange seeds when ripe.

What is the problem?

Gunnera excludes other plants by shading with its large leaves and extensive seed bank. It prefers wet areas, particularly coastal, and tolerates shade.

How to control it?

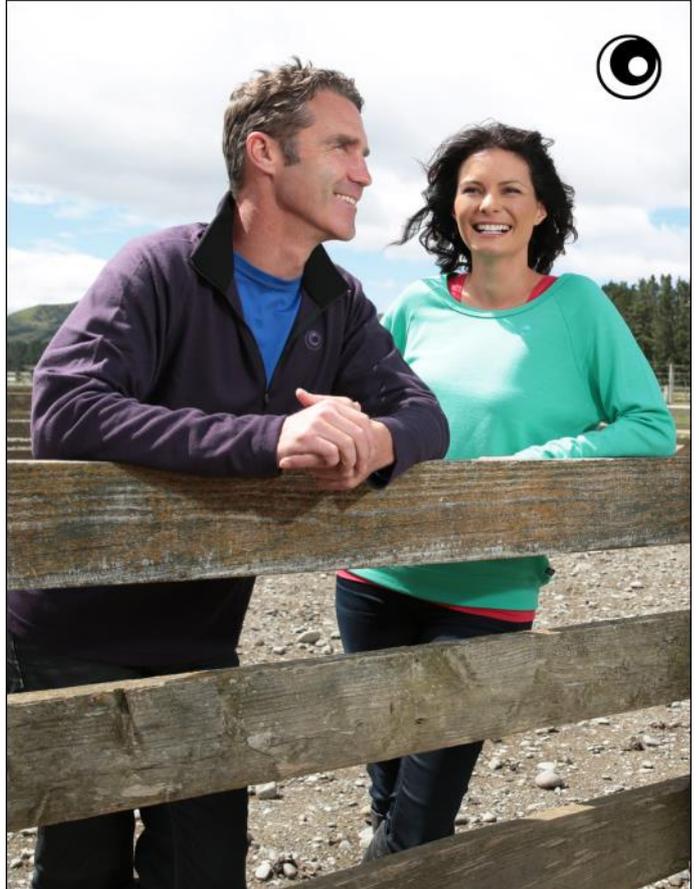
- Dig out small patches, ensuring all the roots are gone.
- Cut away all the leaves and the pink leaf scale, this is best done with a spade. Paste the stumps, it may require a few applications as there are small heads hiding in the brown scale.
- Be careful with green waste - the roots can re-grow if attached to the pink leaf scale.

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

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



Village Centre, Oban : glowingsky.co.nz



Glowing Sky Merino. All You Need.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Introducing Jennifer Ross, the new Department of Conservation Partnerships Ranger on Stewart Island. As a Partnership Ranger Jennifer will be working with community groups, businesses, and Iwi to carry out community support work including doing local communications and media work, educating groups, and managing volunteers.

Jennifer is from Canada and has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Calgary. She has been living in New Zealand for three years, loves the outdoors and is very excited about living and working on the Island.





Left: Sharon Pasco, fashion designer, poses with wee model Savannah in her light-up Christmas Tree gown at the Stewart Island Community Christmas party. **Above:** The kids chat with Santa. *Thanks to Joanne Leask for the photos.*



Santa cruises in the Bunkhouse Theatre car. Photo from Penny and Pete



Claire takes a break from running and cycling to do some trampolining off the wharf.



Wharf work at Port William is going well. Photo from Dale Chittenden

What I did on my summer vacation

by the Stewart Island Fire Engine

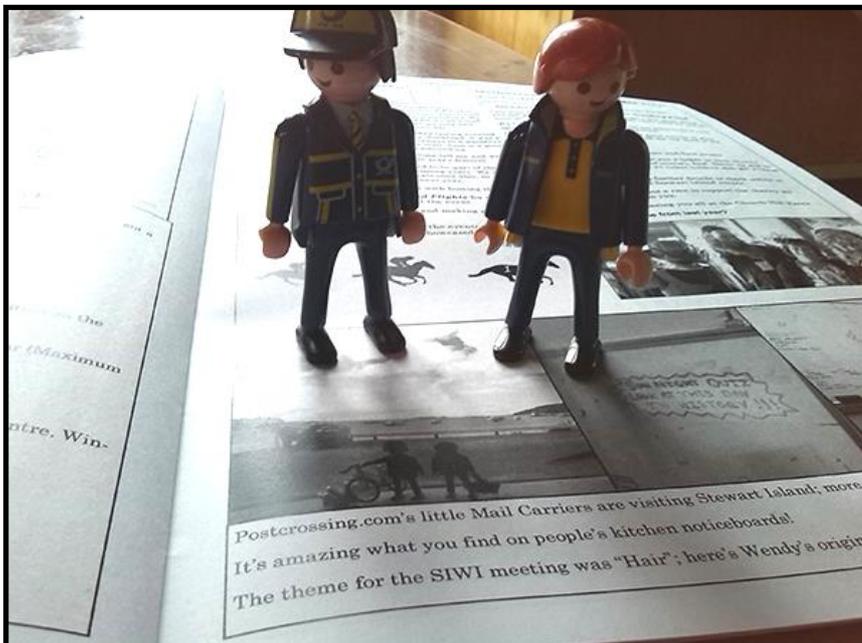
First I gave locals rides around the Bay during the fire station holiday BBQ. Everyone loved it! Especially Jules Retberg who was so thrilled she uploaded videos of me to Facebook.

Well, I must admit I got a taste for all the fun and having my picture on social media, so I decided to give someone a seriously thrilling ride. Pete Ross was the lucky man in the seat when I went backwards at speed down a steep grassy embankment, narrowly missing a power transformer, and plunged into a ditch. My picture was all over Facebook again though they got my name wrong in most of the captions. My mummy did NOT name me "Bugger."

I thought it might be all downhill after my downhill, but I was rewarded with an exciting ride of my own: the ferry gave me a lift across Foveaux Strait to the fire truck hospital. Apparently I might have a few screws loose. And there's something wrong with my brakes.



In August 2013 Vicki wrote a fascinating article about messages in bottles. Si Taylor found one at Mason Bay and they traced the letter to Luke Kenney, who had thrown it in the sea at South Georgia! Fast forward to last month... Luke ended up visiting here as he works on a cruise ship, and he took time to meet Si in person and be reunited with his message in a bottle. *Photo from Cherie H.*



If you don't know what postcrossings is, ask Vicki to explain it to you, or Joanne Leask, or Teri at the Pub. Anyway a fun dimension of it is these little mail carrier figurines who travel around the world and have adventures, and when they came to Stewart Island they ended up "seeing" themselves in the SIN and here they are posing on the issue featuring themselves. Check out the site postcrossings.com and read the Stewart Island story on their blog it's a pretty great portrait of the Island (thanks Vicki).

Community monitoring of shark cage diving operations

Two Great White Shark Cage Diving Operators (GWSCDOs) were recently granted permits by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to operate in the waters around Edwards Island, despite vocal and sustained opposition from commercial paua divers and a large proportion of the Stewart Island community.

Now that the permits have been granted, Stewart Islanders have a strong interest in doing everything possible to minimise the risks that GWSCDOs create for other users of the marine environment. Part of this is to make sure GWSCDOs adhere strictly to the conditions of their permits. DOC can (but doesn't have to) terminate a permit if any of the permit conditions are breached, including any breaches of the GWSCDO Code of Practice. However, the permits don't require DOC to have observers on all GWSCDO vessels or to undertake any other compliance monitoring. In these circumstances it's not clear how DOC will detect any breaches of the permit conditions or enforce compliance.

The Paua Industry Council (PIC) is therefore urging local paua divers and the Stewart Island community to keep a close eye on the GWSCDOs to make sure that they adhere to their permit conditions and to report any breaches to DOC. This article suggests how GWSCDOs can be monitored by community members and identifies some of the main permit conditions to watch out for.

Community-based monitoring

Ways in which the local community can usefully monitor GWSCDO activities include:

- Anecdotal information from tourists who have been on GWSCDO vessels;
- Observations of changes in shark behaviour around Stewart Island;
- Observing GWSCDO activities if you happen to be in a nearby vessel (but avoid interfering with GWSCDO operations); and
- Monitoring You Tube and other social media for film clips of GWSCDOs posted by tourists.

In all cases it is best, if possible, to back up any observations or anecdotal evidence with documentary evidence such as film or photographs.

Permit conditions to watch out for

The permits restrict GWSCDOs to operating within 250m of the shore around Motunui/Edwards Island. Any GWSCDOs operating outside this area should be reported immediately to DOC.

Shark behavioural change has been attributed mainly to the methods used to attract sharks to the dive site. Watch out for the following shark-attracting activities, all of which are prohibited by the permit conditions and therefore should be reported to DOC:

- Berley which is so coarsely minced that it provides food for sharks;
- Sacks of berley hanging from the side of the vessel or from a float or any other device;
- Throw baits that are made from anything other than legally obtained fish products;
- Throw baits that are pulled into or allowed to drift into the cage;
- Use of throw baits before the vessel is anchored;
- Use of more than one throw bait at a time;
- Use of throw baits after a shark has already been attracted to the boat;
- Sharks feeding on or taking the throw bait;
- Continued use of throw baits after a shark has taken a bait (if a shark takes a throw bait, no further throw baits can be used on that day); and
- Any use of artificial decoys or lures.

Once the dive is underway, watch out for any diver behaviour that that harasses or is potentially harmful to a shark and also identify any situations where a shark shows signs of becoming distressed or alarmed. In both these cases the dive supervisor is supposed to terminate the dive.

The permits do not allow commercial filming during GWSCDO trips (separate authorisation must be obtained). If you become aware of any commercial filming this should be reported to DOC.

Other events that should be reported to DOC include all incidents of shark entanglement, shark ingestion of material, sharks becoming trapped or partially trapped in the dive cage, and injuries to sharks.

Finally, DOC is able to terminate a permit if the GWSCDO causes any "unforeseen or unacceptable adverse effects" on great white sharks. All changes to shark behaviour such as examples of aggression towards people or boats around Stewart Island should therefore be immediately reported to DOC, ideally with documentary evidence.

Reporting to DOC

DOC is in the process of setting up a system for members of the public to report any observations about GWSCDOs.

Until that process is set up, any observations of breaches in permit conditions, complaints about GWSCDO operations, or shark behavioural changes should be reported to DOC at marine@doc.govt.nz.

From Storm Stanley

How I Stopped Smoking by Lania Davis

I understand that some people don't ever want to stop smoking cigarettes and that is their choice to make, and then there are others who don't know how to begin stopping....And then there is your social smoker, who only smoke when drinking.... There are many different types of smokers but at the end of the day they all smoke cigarettes, as did I until around 4 months ago. I had my first cigarette at the age of 12, and continued to smoke on and off in 3rd form until I smoked regularly where we left early for school to smoke before class, then a walk after school to smoke again, and at that age your health never came into it. I first 'gave up', smoking when I was 20 and discovered I was pregnant with Winiata (my son, who is now 11).

I stopped for the sake of my unborn child and no other reason, and I must admit I felt annoyed and slightly ripped off because of it. So of course when Winiata was 7 months old I started again and that was me until we decided to add to the family again and Ngakau was conceived. This time I was ready to finish with smoking and I had great SUCCESS with reading Allen Carr's *The Easy Way to Stop Smoking*. It was my own stupidity and love for the 40's-50's style things that lead me back to smoking again! Did you know that they made an extra long and little ciggie called vogue? Neither did I but I discovered them the night my brother-in-law got married. Which I wore 40's - 50's style clothing and pin curls to the wedding so naturally I just had to buy some of those cigarettes to take home because they matched what I was wearing, that was my reasoning!.....I hated the taste, so I had Laurence's mum send me a menthol pack over as the shop didn't stock them, plus my mother would give me rings if she knew!

So peppermint flavoured smokes in hand off I went, and I quickly bought normal size menthol cigarettes from the shop as it was no longer about the style of cigarette but the habit, and the addiction. I made silly excuses, I'm getting married, I'm stressed, I'm on holiday I'll stop when I'm home. Two years passed as I thought about quitting which only stressed me out more, so I smoked more and became more frustrated. You see for a smoker the thought of stopping makes you smoke even more, well at least it worked that way for me.

Then I was introduced to kiwi cig, which is an electronic cigarette. You can choose extra high nicotine, high, medium, low, and no nicotine. I decided to try them as the step I needed towards stopping.

I kept 6 cigarettes and had two for each day when I most wanted them using the electronic cig the rest of the time. By the start of day 3 I just used the e cigarette and that was that, I once had a puff of a normal

cigarette at around 4 weeks and man it was gross, I can't believe I use to inhale that! I then stopped using the e cigarette all the time and without realising it was only using it twice a day. Then only when I had a few alcoholic beverages. I kept forgetting my e cigarette when I went out, and now I am pretty much done with it. I've saved over \$1,400 since I stopped and spent only \$200 in total on two e cigarettes and cartridges.

So yet again I am smoke free. I have tried three methods: cold turkey; Allen Carr's book; and of course e cigarette. I recommend to anyone the Allen Carr book, it is truly a great way to make you realise that stopping isn't painful, or really hard. Allen Carr was a chain smoker over 100 a day searching for a way to stop, which he discovered himself and wrote a book on it. He also now has one day sessions you can attend which I've heard great things about.

E cigarettes are available online. I went with kiwicig as they are kiwi owned and much cheaper than others I've seen. It's only \$27.95 for a kit and 20 dollars for a pack of 5 cartridges which is around 5 packs of Taylor mades. Both of these options can be found online, www.kiwicig.co.nz I recommend going with high nicotine first, then I switched to medium. Google Allen Carr for other information on his programs and books, or come talk to me I'm more than happy to share my experiences and tips.

So if you need a little help in getting started stopping check out their websites, and remember stopping smoking isn't hard all you do is just stop! The right frame of mind is the key to your success! I have for the first person who really is serious about stopping my two e cigarettes with cases and a few cartridges. Also any other takers my Allen Carr books to borrow and read, and of course my support. You always have our very caring and helpful nurses to support you and offer other means to stop, and we have all seen the ads for other help also.

Please note, I'm not preaching to stop, I'm merely offering my experience as a smoker and my journey of quitting, giving up or stopping, whatever you choose to call it, to help others that may need it.

By the way I call it stopping smoking as that's all I've done I haven't given up a thing, I've only gained good things! GOOD LUCK TO THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN THIS YEAR TO STOP.



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SIRCET Update

by Shona Sangster

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust is starting 2015 with a warm welcome to our new Pest Manager, Kelly Bunce. She brings enthusiasm, local knowledge (her family has had a crib on the island for many years) and conservation experience from exotic Peru to the role and we're really pleased to have her join the team. We also have a new Kiwi monitoring expert, Sandy King, see her update in this edition of the Stewart Island News. She will be familiar to many from SIRCET's dog training workshops, which she has been instrumental in setting up and running. We're thrilled to be working more with such a committed and capable conservationist. And we are saying farewell to Nic Shaw, who has done a marvellous job of filling in as Pest Manager for the last few months. She has been capable, positive and a joy to work with, and we wish her all the best for the future!

Summer is in full swing and we are very busy with a number of things. Prior to Christmas we had lots of great school groups come and spend time with us learning about our conservation projects, endangered species and predator control. And a big thanks to the MOZ buskers Georgia Awatea Jones and Charli Merana Jones who very kindly donated their proceeds to SIRCET. Wonderful to see how passionate young kids can be about conservation.

We've had lots of interest from visitors who want to come and volunteer with us which is very gratifying. It's so fantastic that people want to give back in this way when travelling. SIRCET still has volunteer opportunities (with the possibility of accommodation provided) in March/April so if you or anyone you know are interested please get in touch via email! We'd also like say a huge thank you for to DOC for their support and assistance with our summer volunteer program and E Hayes and Sons Hardware who are sponsoring accommodation as a base for DOC and SIRCET summer volunteers. Our current summer volunteer, Peta Maidens comes to us from Queensland and has a wealth of conservation and volunteer experience. Back home she works for the Threatened Species unit in the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage protection, and has volunteered in the Okavango Delta in Botswana, and with the Jane Goodall Institute. We hope she finds Stewart Island's native species an interesting change from koalas and crocs!

On the species front, our annual Little Blue Penguin slow walk count took place in December. I went out as a volunteer and it was thoroughly enjoyable experience. It's amazing what you see out at Ackers Point after dark! I saw lots of Little Blue Penguins, Sooty Shearwater/Titi and not one but two Kiwi. I'll definitely be first in line to volunteer again next year. Thanks to all the other volunteers who participated.

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

Carex Trifida - Mutton-bird Sedge, Tataki

A beautiful and popular sedge, widely grown in New Zealand. In the wild it is often associated with seal haul outs and sea bird nesting grounds, especially - as the common name suggests - muttonbirds. Grows up to 90 cm tall, with wide mid-green leaves which are ribbed and have slightly bluish green undersides. Best grown in a moist soil in sun or semi shade. Great in rock or pebble gardens. In summer prominent flower spikes carried on stiff stems do a great job of attracting birds.

Photo credit: Phil Bendle



Kiwi monitoring update for January 2015

For the past few months I've been tracking kiwi that were released from Ulva Island into the Ackers Point area in February 2013.

The pair Matatika and Ngaio are still hanging out towards the Point. After a few weeks of finding them residing in the same area I thought something might be up; however they have since gone walkabout and are in different locations every check, often not together. It seems likely that they are not breeding this season, maybe they need a break after successfully producing a chick last year.

Unnamed male Tx22 has also been moving around a lot and not displaying any sign of breeding. Also unnamed, the male Tx52 was in the same area for several weeks which might just mean he was incubating an egg. It was decided to investigate further so placed a game camera near to the burrow. So far no chick has been sighted, but it is interesting looking through the photos and learning something about a night in the life of a kiwi. There seems to be a bit of a pattern: about 10pm he emerges and often spends a few minutes preening outside the burrow, before heading off. Another bird, and my guess it's the female Takiti, then appears about this time. It's all quiet before Tx52 reappears about 5am and goes back into the burrow. My assumption is that it's a changing of the guard, with Tx52 standing down from incubation duty and getting a few hours to feed and tidy himself up while Takiti takes over. I'm hoping to see a chick emerge soon!

The thing that surprised me the most about this was how shallow and open the "burrow" is, I had imagined an enclosed deep dark tunnel. However Tx52 is visible without me need-



ing to peer into the hole and would be easily accessible to predators, wandering dogs in particular. This just reinforces the need for good dog control, and the value of SIRCET's kiwi avoidance training scheme for dogs as a backup. Please remind your guests, family and friends that we have these special birds living amongst us and to keep their dogs under control.

Sandy King

TX 52 emerges from his burrow



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

FEEDING KAKA

Although bird feeding is well-intentioned, you can cause a lot of problems both for the birds and for yourself.

INAPPROPRIATE FOOD CAN CAUSE ILLNESS/DEATH

Food can contain toxins which harm birds and their chicks.

Toxins may develop if food goes off in the feeder or on the ground around it.

The food may not contain the right nutrients for the bird.

Peanuts and walnuts may contain fungal toxins called alfa toxins.

In low doses these can affect fertility and immunity and in high doses can cause liver and kidney failure. **Sunflower seeds** can cause obesity and feather loss. **Bread** is highly processed and a bird's digestive system is not designed to digest it. It can result in impaction in the intestines, dehydration and ultimately death.

The Nest Te Kōhanga, Wellington Zoo, admits a large number of kākā each year. A common finding is that the birds have metabolic bone disease due to incorrect diet. This happens when the kākā parents are fed inappropriate food, which the parents then feed to their chicks, causing major problems such as bone and beak deformities.

A kākā chick with bone deformities was found at Trelissick Park where it appears the parents were fed predominately on peanuts.

FEEDING INCREASES THE RISK OF PREDATION

Congregations of birds will attract predators

Feeding may change a bird's behaviour, putting it at risk.

Kākā, tūi and bellbirds have been killed by cats and kākā used to being fed bread will be attracted to bread put on the ground for sparrows, increasing the risk of them getting killed by cats.

FEEDING CAN CAUSE AN INCREASED RISK OF DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND BIRDS

Kākā are curious and inclined to chew any object they might encounter, sometimes leading to poisoning and damage.



© Philip S. Melgren

Birds spending more time around houses are more likely to fly in to windows, suffering injury or death.

Lead is malleable and reported to have a sweet taste attractive to parrots. Many kākā now have detectable lead in their blood, and some have already died from lead (and potentially **zinc**) poisoning. This has implications for survival if exposure is ongoing – keeping them away from houses is the best protection.

Chewing treated timber which contains **arsenic** is likely to cause health problems for the birds as well as issues for the houseowner.

Kākā, kererū and tūi have been killed after flying into windows.

WHERE BIRDS CONGREGATE THERE IS AN INCREASED RISK OF DISEASE TRANSFER

Bird congregations increase the risk of disease transfer between birds.

Bird diseases can be transferred to humans

If hygiene is not maintained the risk of disease is increased.

Salmonella in hibi on Tiritiri Matangi Island was probably transferred through the use of supplementary feeders: a **Chlamydia** outbreak in doves in Auckland was tracked back to a park where they gathered daily to feed on bread and **Pox virus** is a highly contagious disease proven to spread where high population density occurs at feeders.

FEEDING CAN INCREASE AGGRESSIVENESS, STRESS AND NEGATIVE INTERACTIONS

Increased competition between birds at a feeding site can result in stress, leading to increased risk of illness and death.

Feeding encourages birds to hang around humans. When they have all the calories they need they may have lots of time to get up to mischief.

When birds lose their fear of people, interactions can become aggressive if the expectation for food handouts is not met.

A kākā had to be transferred from Kapiti Island in 1997 because it became too confident and aggressive with visitors, and kākā in Wellington have bitten fingers when no food was offered.

Consider the kea in car parks which raid the bins, get fed by hand and then destroy the cars. Kākā are often active at night and can be noisy – leading some people to think unfavourably of them.

Information kindly provided by "Zealandia" used with their permission.

Community Centre News

from Phil Dove

Big thanks to all of you who turned out on the 10th January morning cleaning bee for the Community Centre - your efforts are very much appreciated!

Congratulations to Nancy Schofield who won the Christmas Hamper Raffle - I'm sure visiting family will help her find a home for all the donated goodies! (thank you to all who contributed to a great array of items).

The Community Centre committee would especially like to recognise the ongoing wonderful support the Centre receives from Vicki Coates and the legendary Quiz Night, together with Helen Cave at the South Sea Hotel for their financial and voluntary support. This is truly very generous - please support this iconic event & location in return!

We have an (increasing) number of plates accidentally left behind from 'bring a plate' events - if you're missing one we may have it! Next time you're at the Community Centre please have a look as we will be taking these to the recycling centre in February.

Recently the hall hosted a Tae Kwon Do grading with all participants doing very well - a great effort with special thanks to Sue Connor.

SHARK MEETING with MPs

MPs Clayton Mitchell and Fletcher Tabuteau of NZ First recently visited the island on a fact-finding mission to chat with locals and learn more about the shark cage diving issue here. They held two meetings and discussed their assessment of the situation, fielded comments and questions from attendees, and promised to take the case to Parliament. "This is a unique situation and there should be a moratorium while a study is conducted," said Mitchell.

One interesting angle Mitchell sees in this issue is the new PCBU (Person Conducting Business or Undertaking) work safety legislation coming out, adopted from Australia, which will have a huge impact on the nation, holding every person accountable for their actions at work. The goal is to reduce workplace accidents by 25 percent by 2020. Mitchell wants to point out to the government that trying to enact this legislation in an environment where shark divers and paua divers share the same workspace poses a logistical nightmare.



MP Fletcher Tabuteau chats with Rosemary Taiaroa, Diane Smith and Helen Cave after the meeting.

The meetings were a bit of "preaching to the choir" as the majority who went are opposed to the cage activities, but it was interesting to hear everyone's perspectives on the situation.

Charlotte Bates and Diane Smith both demanded to know WHY DoC went ahead and issued the permits. One B&B owner suggested that businesses refuse to accommodate shark tourists, though Mitchell pointed out that could be tricky if the visitor spent five days at a place and then decided to go cage diving on the last day. He also pointed out this could make the Island look inhospitable.

Eamonn Ganley voiced a concern felt by many: "The horse has already bolted. The sharks' behaviour has already changed. How are we going to turn that around?" Zane Smith responded it could be changed back; and Mitchell replied that we need to try to stop it, as soon as possible, and reverse the damage done if possible.

Paua diver John Hildebrand pointed out that if it is assumed that while a shark boat is operating then dive operations cannot work in the area, that is setting a

(Continued on page 18)

This sad tale of woe
began long ago,
when I took a plate
to a community date
and left it behind.
But I'm NOT resigned!
'Cos it's special, you see,
a friend's gift to me.

I sure hope and pray
that this light wooden
tray,
with its underneath grips
of fingertip dips,
is not lost forever.
This rhyming endeavour
is my try to get back
the item I lack.

So if you are kind
and know where to find
my dearly loved treasure
do give me the pleasure
of letting me know
how to end my woe.
Beverley Osborn,
ph 2191506

SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

Well another year down, I'm sure as you get older time speeds up! Christmas passed by without a hitch and beautiful weather to match, along with too much food... we consumed a few to many cocktails and some food was put in the freezer instead of the fridge, which made for an interesting find the following week! Boxing Day my favourite day of the year was spend boating with family and friends, in stunning weather! Even mum (Fern) went swimming and it's been years since I saw her do that on our wee island. A lot of sunblock was applied but feet were forgotten, so we were set for a painful few days, I won't forget my feet next time! We finished our special day with a few bombs off HMB wharf and home to get out of the sun. New Year's Eve was wet but 2 out of 3 good days ain't bad....or so the song says. Over the silly season much rich food and A LOT of booze were consumed and loose fitting dresses and stretchy tights replace my jeans that scream every time I put them on to "just eat salad, woman"! I have condemned those unfriendly jeans to the back of the drawer until further notice, heehee.

So to start off this 2015 in the heat of summer I decided to give you all a fresher, healthier recipe of my favourite quick, easy one dish meal nachos!

Summer salsa nachos

Doritos x2 bags (I like the salted as they contain 3 ingredients, corn, oil and salt.)

3x large tomatoes, diced

1x can of whole kernel corn (fresh is best if you have any)

Half a red onion diced

Garlic (I had roasted so I added a whole bulb diced)

Salt n pepper to taste

Fresh herbs diced, spring onions

Half a red pepper

1 cup of tightly packed cheese, I use a mix of mozzarella and colby

2-3 ripe avocados

2-3 tbsp sour cream

2-3 juice of fresh lemons

Half a green or red chilli (optional)

3-4 thinly sliced spring onions



Heat oven to 180 fan forced. Strain can of corn add to a bowl with all other diced ingredients and any extra bits you want to add.

Season with salt n pepper and add herbs. Line a large roasting dish with baking paper and spread corn chips out evenly. Top with half the grated cheese and add salsa mix, add rest of cheese and put into oven for 10-15 minutes to melt. Now you can either make guacamole with the avocados, sour cream, lemon juice and quarter of chilli, you just season to taste and blend! Or if you don't want to just simply cut an avocado into small cubes and top when dish is removed from oven.

I love this recipe -- hardly a dish to wash in sight, the children and adults love it, and it's so damn easy to make you don't even realise you've done it! Refried beans add another layer of flavour and some protein to fill hungry tummies, simply heat in a pot and spoon on top like the guacamole. The options are endless!

I serve mine in the dish it was cooked in and give everyone a fork! Perfect!

Summer is here and easy meals like this mean less time cooking, more time at the beach and a break from the BBQ and average mince nachos.

ENJOY! And of course HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL!



Department of Conservation **DOC trialling new version of self-set traps**

Te Papa Atawhai

An advanced version of a self-setting stoat trap is being trialled to control rats during a plague event as part of the Department of Conservation's predator control programme.

The A24 self-setting trap has been pioneered by Wellington-based industrial design company, Goodnature, with support from DOC, and uses a gas-powered mechanism to automatically reset itself after activation.

DOC and community groups have been using and trialling the traps throughout New Zealand for the last four years, providing feedback to Goodnature to refine the traps and lures.

An area of 200 ha in Fiordland's Kepler Mountains has been selected as a project site for the latest version. This project will test 467 traps baited with a chocolate-based lure to discover whether they control rat numbers during a plague and then hold numbers down over time.

The Fiordland Conservation Trust and Kids Restore the Kepler programme is helping to run the project and DOC has contracted Fiordland College student Tim Barrow to check the new traps in December and January.

The project will run for a year and, if successful, will be expanded to use the same number of traps over double the area in the Kepler.

"To grow a species, we need permanent pest suppression," said DOC's predator expert, Darren Peters.

"These traps are a key tool for now and the future, they are humane, non toxic and reduce our precious labour costs allowing us to do even larger areas," Darren said. Self-setting traps slash conventional trap costs by up to 75 percent.

Contact

Darren Peters

04 471 3256

0274310136

dpeters@doc.govt.nz

Background information

The self-setting trap project is funded and supported by the Future of Predator Control Unit within DOC, working alongside Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP), a new DOC partnership between the Next Foundation, DOC and philanthropists Gareth Morgan and Sam Morgan to develop tools and systems to permanently remove introduced predators.

Seven projects managed by DOC and community groups throughout New Zealand have trialled the self-setting traps over the past two years and all have reached their targets for controlling rats and possums. A trial of the latest version of self-setting traps and lures in two North Island forests last season knocked rats down to zero densities in only a few months.

A final report on the effectiveness of the trap by DOC predator scientists is due next year.

DOC uses ground pest control and trapping over 2 million ha in New Zealand and is aiming to have permanent networks in place to control pests.

The A24 rat and stoat controller

The A24 is toxin-free and works by striking the skull of the pest animal with a piston, killing it instantly. It is a gas-powered, tree-mounted, re-setting killing device. It exceeds National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and MPI guidelines for a humane kill trap.

Mechanism

It has a CO2 powered piston which is tripped when the target pest enters the trap. The head is crushed instantaneously and the dead animal promptly falls to the ground as the trap resets. The trap can reset itself up to 24 times per CO2 canister. It is baited with a long-life lure.

Advantages

The A24 trap is specifically designed to work with stoats and rats and another trap, the A12, has been designed to target possums. The traps will help to reduce labour costs compared to servicing a conventional kill trap. It can also kill mice.

A self-setting trap remains available to kill further pests even after the first animal has been killed. Traditional traps kill only one pest animal per human reset, meaning critical opportunities to control pests may be missed.

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BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford Summer Reading

First my standard fare: **Diane Janes, “Why Don’t You Come For Me?”**. Jo’s dreadful childhood ended when her father was murdered by his insane wife. Later she married Dom and had a little girl. The baby is abducted, Dom commits suicide. What are the chances? Then she marries Marcus but is still fixated on the missing little girl – everyone but Jo accepts that Lauren is dead, but by whose hand? Brilliant ending to a good psychological thriller. **“Can Anybody Help Me?” by Sinead Crowley** - Yvonne is a recently married new mother, transplanted from London to her husband’s Dublin. Friendless and permanently tired, her support is a chat site called ‘NetMammy’ where members use a pseudonym. Tension ramps up each page, and though you have some of the clues in the developing murder story, the ending still gave me quite a start. **Fredrik T. Olsson** has written a cracker thriller in **“Chain of Events”**. William tries to commit suicide before he disappears. ‘Cub-reporter’ Leo discovers that Janine disappeared in similar circumstances. An unlikely bunch of ‘investigators’ begin to unravel the mystery, but what William and Janine have discovered is shocking. So how can there be a happy ending for the world, let alone the principal characters? **“The Girl with a Clock for a Heart” by Peter Swanson** doesn’t grip the same way, but is an intriguing tale. George once fell for a college student who wasn’t who she seemed, but nobody measured up to her after. Twenty-years later she turned up at George’s local bar – with a dodgy tale and a dodgy request for help. Again, nothing is as it seems. Read to the last page though – it’s worth it!

The Library’s “Summer Reading” programme (whereby the books are packed for you as a surprise) presented me with an interesting change of pace, like: **“Out of the Shadows” by Susan Lewis**. It’s basically a love story about a failed actress, Susannah, her teenage daughter, and husband is in jail. What happens next is horrific. Words from the ‘blurb’ – ‘an atmosphere of foreboding’ are so true, the horror cleverly leavened by the amusing romantic tangles of Susannah’s best friend, Patsy. The best ‘romance’ I’ve read in years. Almost as compelling is **“A Good American”**, told by **Alex George** in the guise of James, grandson of the German immigrants (1904) whose story he tells so well. And another priceless ending.

Non-fiction doesn’t usually appeal, but from my summer reading package, I was captured by **“Where the Sea Takes Us” by Kim Huynh**. This true story of two Vietnamese families takes us through the momentous events of the 1950’s and through to the 1980’s. No fiction can compete with this well-crafted true tale of triumph over extreme adversity! Exceptional! Less interesting to me: two rambling stories, both lacking cohesion, but of interest to aficionados are **“Something So Strong” by Chris Bourke** and **“A Life on Gorge River” by Robert Long** (better known by some Islanders as ‘Beansprout’!) The first is a comprehensive look at the lives of ‘Crowded House’ band members, the second is a record of the hippy lifestyle of Robert and his family. Both are full of colour but both authors would have benefitted from better editors. And back to my normal: the 10th Kate Shugak is brilliant! Love the ‘Summer Reading’ programme Kirsten! I’ve read books these ‘holidays’ I’d never have considered left to my own devices, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Highly recommended to all readers who are – like me – inclined to stick in a reading rut.

Meanwhile, **“Seaberry Stomp” by Jessica Kany, illustrated by Matt Jones** – am wondering if the pages will be too ‘worn’ on one of the copies bound for a grand-daughter. Great adventure, and I spent ages looking for kiwis! This is likely to become a wee-one’s classic. Not a hint of patronising in the telling of the tale, full of Stewart Island references without making it too specific for more remote little readers. The illustrations are not those of mass-produced, shiny and generic events, but of ‘real’ characters and situations. An absolute delight – for readers and listeners alike, and a must for every child’s bookcase. Couple of 4’s above but this one is worthy of 5! When’s the next one due you two? So many good books to read this summer, so many weeds in the garden: eeny, meeny, miney, mo...

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem

Andy cleaning the church before a Sunday service.

A big thank-you to all who have been helping me through this journey after the loss of Andy. I couldn't have done it without the support of this wonderful community. It's an ongoing journey and a rough one but I know there will be sunshine through the tears. Hugs and cups of tea work wonders too and my home is always open for a chat and a cup.

We are starting off 2015 with some familiar faces and hope you'll pop in some time and meet them either at a Sunday Service or up at the manse.

1, 8 & 15 Feb. 2015 Rev Eric Mattock – Eric has been here before and we look forward to his three weeks with us. A bit about him. He has been a Parish Minister since 1979. Prior to this he served with the NZ Army followed by 9 years as an Enforcement Officer. He grew up in the Taranaki - King Country on farms.

He has served in one City Parish - Wellington, has always been drawn to Country areas, and particularly to isolated Regions who have considerable difficulty obtaining good services including Ministry. The Produce of our Rural areas, including harvest of the Sea are the economic pillars upon which our Economy rests.

Eric believes that these areas have much to contribute to the Church & endeavours to serve the Mission of God.

He is currently serving in the Maniototo Parish after finishing in Kurow.

22 Feb. 2015 Margaret Hunter - Another welcome return. Many will already know Margaret but if you don't here's something about her. Childhood - the only non Maori in three different North Island Maori schools

Secondary school and university in Auckland [geography degree]

Secondary teacher [retired]

Fan of Massey University

Travel - Asia [interests - historic religious architecture, Balinese dance drama]

Current interests - Red Cross, NZ China Friendship Society

Lifetime addiction - reading

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

Caption contest:

from Serena *Granny buys one gets one for free*

from Sue Ford *Of course I got two, they were on special this week!*

from Ken McAnergney
Where did you get the trolley from? "Granny pinched it from Ship to Shore!"



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SIWI News from Vicki Coats

Big thanks to everyone who donated goods for the Women's Refuge just before Christmas. Three whole ferry tubs of home-wares and bedding were taken across (thanks Stewart Island

Experience) and hopefully helped out some families in need (isn't it a bit down-heartening that Christmas is one of their busiest times?).

We also dropped off 6 completed scarves to the Southland Hospice; there are still two in the Nurse's Clinic and Stewart Island Flights if you are sat there waiting! Any donations of old double knitting wool also gratefully received!

And now you can actually dry your dishes at the Community Centre with a donation of 160 new tea towels! These are named so hopefully they'll all get returned this time!

Our Christmas Bollywood themed bash was a great night with Indian meals being flown in from town, a hilarious secret santa exchange and some great costumes!

Any ladies wanting to see what the fuss is about, feel free to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Fire Station.





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(SHARK MEETING Continued from page 11)

dangerous precedent for all industries nationwide. Mitchell agreed: 'It's ridiculous, it's like if I open a fish and chips shop across the road from yours and then asked you to stop operating.' John also pointed out that blocking out access to the islands would mean a quota reduction for the paua industry.

Phil Sanford, who had seen a great white at Bragg's Bay the previous day, pointed out what many long time area fisherman and divers have been saying: the back of Edward's is a primo spot and why has this essentially been given over to shark



MP Clayton Mitchell chats with Maureen Jones and Bev Cowie

cage divers? "They are blocking out use for most of the islands out there – who's going to want to go paua diving or coddling in a small boat now?"

Tabuteau confessed he'd been on the fence about the issue when he came down to the island, and in their caucus some politicians assumed there was more hysteria than reality being reported. But after talking to locals he believes there is a real cause for concern.

Both men are fathers, water-users, and first-time MPs. Mitchell has promised to come back to the island for another meeting.
—Jess Kany

Museum Matters, by Jo Riksem

As it is a new year let us do a little time travel over the years:

100 Years Ago:



Thule 1915

50 Years Ago:



Halfmoon Bay Wharf, boats and houses

35 Years Ago



Loading cattle onto barge at Horseshoe Bay 1980

Summer Museum hours through April are: Monday thru Saturday 10 am- 1:30 pm and Sunday Noon-2 pm. Cruise ship days will be extended. Check the outside board for details

We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 or stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

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I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

-Voltaire

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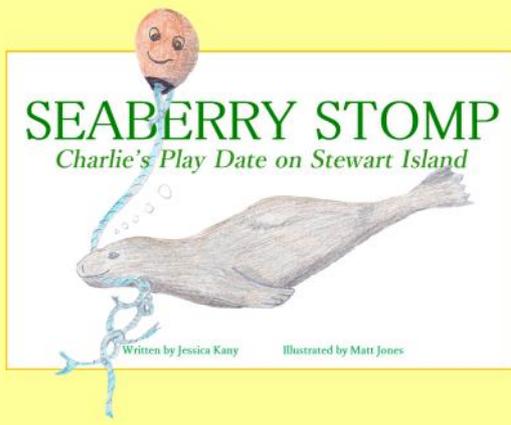


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