

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January 2016

\$3.00

We've had a spectacular New Year's Eve with an un-rained-on bonfire and fishing flare fireworks show, all to the backdrop of Aurora Australis. We've had bands and parties and the usual giant preggy sea lion galumphing up Main Road (why do so many of our visitors ignore the footpaths!?). We've had days of sun, boating adventures down to Pegasus and up the Inlet. But I'd say the story of the month occurred over two and a half calm, quiet hours on a lovely afternoon in Halfmoon Bay a couple weeks ago, when Bill Hamilton fell off his boat. Aside from falling off his boat, he did everything right: he didn't panic and flail about, expending energy. He kicked off his gumboots. He realized he couldn't pull himself aboard and wouldn't make it to shore in his waterlogged clothes so he stayed put, and tied himself on, and waited. And the most vitally important thing he did is something he has always done: *he was wearing his lifejacket*. His layers of



Rifleman snacking on an insect, Ulva Island. Photo courtesy of Angela Steffens.

clothes provided some extra warmth in the sea, which isn't at its coldest this time of year but let's face it, the Southern Ocean is no spa bath. Meanwhile, Elaine had phoned Loraine Hansen when he wasn't home for lunch, and asked her to glance out her window and let her know if she could see any activity on Bill's boat. By then the wind had swung the boat around and Loraine couldn't see Bill in the water tucked under the stern, so as all looked fine, they chatted when Elaine got another call. Bill waited, and amid the lively activity of Halfmoon



A Big Thank You From Bill Hamilton

A huge thank you to Snow Harrison, Fluff, James, Kirsty, and all others who helped in my rescue recently. Without Snow I would not be here to 'tell the tale' and without my life jacket I would not have survived 2.5 hours in the water. At the time I was unaware of all who helped but thank you anyway. Remember, **everyone**: a life jacket is not a life saver unless you have it on. *Bill*
P.S. Boat for sale
contact Elaine



Bay on a sunny day, the sounds of boaters in the Bay and walkers along the shore, he felt himself losing consciousness. Two and a half hours in the water is no joke for the average person, and Bill is a 78-year old man who had undergone major heart surgery a few months ago. So he stayed calm, and floated there in his life jacket, and thought about Elaine. And life buzzed on: people were out biking along Elgin Terrace, walking their dogs on the beach, swinging at Lonnekens, dropping postcards at the post office, and one man, 82-year old Snow Harrison, decided he needed to sharpen a knife and his sharpener was out on his boat. He normally doesn't carry a cell phone with him but he was waiting to hear about the arrival of a new great granddaughter, so a cell phone went with him as he rowed into the Bay. Snow happens to be moored next to Bill's boat. Bill heard a noise and called out. Snow heard him but couldn't see him. Then the wind changed, the boat swung around and the men saw each other, and the rest is history: Snow phoned 111, phoned Elaine, phoned Fluff for extra help and by the time Bill got to the beach they couldn't find a pulse and he was hypothermic. But they brought him round and that is the legend of an 82-year old saving a 78-year old man. And that is the story of the humble looking old lifejacket pictured to the left. Remember: *Keep Calm and WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET.*

Last month Phred was saving a beaked whale; this month his son Tommy saves a kiwi! Tune into page 10 for another episode of *Dobbins Family Animal Rescue*.

Congratulations to Dr Rebecca McLeod (aka Bex) who is now the new

chairman of the Fiordland Marine Guardians.

HUNTERS: Very important information on page 5. Read it or talk to Greg Northe about a survey which explores the idea of making whitetail a Herd of Special Interest.

Please participate in this survey your input is invaluable!

Here's a pop (poop) quiz: When DOC emptied the latrines, they found
a) T-shirt
b) paua shell
c) live rat
d) all of thee above.
Answer page 14.

SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

Now that the silly season is over and we have entered another year, I find myself feeling a little deflated after the Christmas feasting period. So I've been opting for quick easy meal options, that don't skimp on taste but don't take the day to make and only 10 minutes to devour! With the sunshine blessing us with warm weather, long days on beaches, boating up the inlet and sipping gin n tonic in the sun, no one wants to slave away for hours in a kitchen...no not even me!

So here is my quick easy pizza dough recipe, all the ingredients are household staple items, and very cheap to purchase if you don't have them.

These can be made, proofed and frozen to defrost and use at a later date.... You can use all your bits n bobs up in the fridge turning them into a whole new meal!

Pizza dough

- 1 & 1/2 cups of warm water (a cup being a metric measure 250ml)
- 7gram dried Edmonds yeast pouch
- 1tsp caster sugar
- 600grams plain flour
- Salt 1-2 tsps

(this makes 4 large bases)

Method:

1/ Combine warm water, sugar and yeast, leave for 5 minutes till foamy.

2/ In a large bowl add flour and salt, make a well add yeast, sugar and water, mix together with a knife.

3/ turn onto floured surface, and knead for 5-10 minutes till smooth and elastic. Divide into 4 balls and place into large dish (I use a roasting pan) floured underneath and on top. Cover with a damp clean tea towel or glad wrap.

4/ put in a warm place to rise for an hour or until doubled in size. The sun is fine just make sure it can't dry out!!

5/ when risen, place dough onto floured surface and roll out to desired size and thickness.

Make sure that your oven is pre heated to 200 degrees fan forced, a thin base doesn't need long -- about 10 minutes. If you have a pizza stone

these are great to get an even cooked base, otherwise just use an oven tray with baking paper underneath.

I'm lucky as I have a wood fired pizza oven, but my point here is that you don't have to have one for great homemade pizza!

Once dough is on baking tray or pizza stone, top with your desired toppings and sauces. Yum!

The Italians put their cheese on after the tomato base sauce.. I've been doing it wrong all these years...Remember less is better if you load up your pizza it will slide right off when you cut it!

I love fresh herbs, tomato paste, olives, pancetta and cheese mix with ricotta, drizzled with wild thyme olive oil before serving. YUM!!

Children and adults alike love making their own topping mix up, and it's fun to try everyone else's combinations too.

ENJOY!!



New Year's Eve aurora with international space station and lights along Horseshoe Bay.

For more stunning aurora photos and an **AWESOME** New Year's Eve time lapse video, go to Sandra Whipp's FB page Stewart Island Photography. Also, congratulations to Sandra for getting her photo on the cover of *NZ Today* magazine!



Rob Spinks

1944—2015

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
a text, or made a facebook post

Perhaps you sent a floral piece
or raised a glass and made a toast

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
or stood beside us in our grief

Perhaps you thought of us that day
or made a phone call, however brief

Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much, whatever the part

*Marilyn, Mark and Annie,
Brydon and Kylee, Sharyn and Alan,
Bevan and Gary*

Dobbins boys paddle boarding in sea caves. What's your favourite way to spend a summer day?



It's not the roll on the ferry that has been making some locals queasy... it's the pitch. More than a few people who are vehemently against shark cage diving near our home have been upset, saying that in their experience on SI Experience, certain ferry crew have been promoting shark cage diving to boatloads of passengers. I spoke with Tsehai Tiffin, Real Journeys communications manager, who said she was sorry to hear this and apologised to those locals who have had that impression. She says the company has no reason to actively promote shark cage diving, and that advertising the activity is not part of their policy or intention. The crew do talk about what they see -- as it is part of their role to provide informative commentary for visitors -- but she points out that there is a difference between being informative and being promotional, and that important difference could be a matter of perception. Ferry crew have now been reminded that they should not promote or appear to be promoting shark cage diving. Locals are welcome to contact her with specific details if anyone believes the commentary oversteps the mark in the future.

STEWART ISLAND LIONS

wish to invite

all locals, cribbies and guests to a party

EASTER WEEKEND 2016

Good Friday 25th March - 7pm—1am

Stewart Island Community Centre

Tickets \$30 NO DOOR SALES

Come along and enjoy

BAND — QUANTUM

Cash Bar — Tasty supper

Tickets available from

South Seas Hotel 2191059

Glowing Sky 2191518

Jon Spraggon 2190034

Pete Ross Auto 2191266

Courtesy transport available

R.O.A.R

Vicki Coats conducted another survey 18 months after her first survey, below are the results.

Survey Results 7th January 2016

Do you support the idea of a Predator Free Rakiura? (Feral cats, possums and rats)

Full Time Residents		
No 21	Not Sure 8	Yes 38
Part Time Residents		
No 0	Not Sure 4	Yes 1
Ex Residents		
No 1	Not sure 4	Yes 5

Do you support the erection of a Predator Fence?

Full Time Residents		
No 52	Not Sure 7	Yes 8
Part Time Residents		
No 4	Not Sure 1	Yes 0
Ex Residents		
No 2	Not Sure 4	Yes 4

Do you support manual trapping of predators?

Full Time Residents		
No 1	Not Sure 1	Yes 65
Part Time Residents		
No 0	Not Sure 1	Yes 4
Ex Residents		
No 0	Not Sure 0	Yes 10

Do you support manual poisoning of predators? (ie Bait Stations)

Full Time Residents		
No 12	Not Sure 2	Yes 53
Part Time Residents		
No 2	Not Sure 1	Yes 2
Ex Residents		
No 2	Not Sure 0	Yes 8

Do you support aerial poisoning of predators?

Full Time Residents		
No 53	Not Sure 4	Yes 10
Part Time Residents		
No 4	Not Sure 1	Yes 0
Ex Residents		
No 6	Not Sure 1	Yes 3

Given a choice would you spend \$25m on starting this project or laying a cable across Foveaux Strait to enable cheaper power?

Full Time Residents		
Plan 5	Power 60	No Answer 2
Part Time Residents		
Plan 0	Power 5	
Ex Residents		
Plan 3	Power 7	

Village Centre, Oban : glowingsky.co.nz



Glowing Sky Merino. All You Need.

KAKA versus RUBBISH BAGS

At present we are having issues with the Kaka opening rubbish bags, looking for food. Rubbish bags should only be put out for collection on Tuesday mornings. Placing bags out for collection or leaving them at the 3 recycling stations between Tuesday evening and the following Monday night, only makes the problem worse.

We ask that all locals, cribbies and holiday makers to please either bring your rubbish out to the Transfer Station or make arrangements with someone to put it out on collection day.

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

Happy New Year and welcome to 2016! I hope you enjoyed the festive season and spent some quality time with family and friends.

This year promises to be every bit as busy for the Government as last year (2015).

The economy is performing solidly after a slow start to the year last year. Jobs and wages are growing significantly faster than the cost of living. Figures released in September show Southland has the highest labour market participation rate in the country at 73.8 per cent, compared with the national average of 68.6 per cent.

One exciting industry where growth is expected, and one that is attracting people and skills to Stewart Island, is aquaculture.

A report commissioned by the Ministry for Primary Industries on the social effects of the Southland aquaculture industry was published in June last year (2015). It says: *"The aquaculture industry has brought people, income and skills to the Stewart Island community at a time when commercial fishing was declining significantly. Aquaculture now has the added advantage of not being a seasonal activity so that it provides consistent year-round work for staff and a continuous presence in the community."*

The report also says: *"Smaller aquaculture companies also create substantial community value by sustaining vital community services and by being businesses innovators"*.

In June it was estimated 23 people were in full-time employment at the salmon and mussel/oyster farms in Big Glory Bay and living on Stewart Island as well as two employed part-time and one other periodically living on the island, the report says.

The employee survey responses indicate that *"90 per cent of Stewart Island's aquaculture employees are earning above the median income when compared with the following 2013 census data for Stewart Island."*

I look forward to seeing what the New Year brings in this exciting industry. Since the establishment of the first farms on Stewart Island environmental science has advanced and in aquaculture aesthetics, meaning this is a sustainable viable option for growth on the island. I will continue to work with Environment Southland to determine whether or not there is further potential in this area.

Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you this year. Should you wish to discuss anything with me or if there is anything I can help you with please don't hesitate to contact me on (03) 218 6813 or sarah.dowiemp@parliament.govt.nz

Stewart Island Resident Hunters

Do whitetail deer have a value to you?

Little is known about Stewart Island residents who hunt or how important hunting is to them and their families. Very few resident hunters ever submit a hunter return via the permit system. This may be due to the fact many of you hunt on private land.

Now you will be aware that Predator Free Rakiura has been around for some time and most of you will know the implications of that.

In order to factually record what affect this will have we need to get some input from you as a hunter. This is not about gaining information about your secret hunting places but rather the value whitetail deer represent to you.

There are many differing views on deer particularly from those who don't like them but the views of local hunters have never been sought.

It has been suggested the Whitetail Deer on conservation land on Stewart Island would be suitable to be designated a Herd of Special Interest.

The 4 key points of Herd of Special Interest are as follows:

1. An animal that is part of an HOSI can formally be managed for hunting purposes by hunters under a management plan
2. An animal that is part of an HOSI is no longer a wild animal subject to the Wild Animal Control Act but is a Game animal subject to the GAC Act
3. Both of these designations provide the only degree of security that those animals will continue to be available for hunting purposes.
4. HOSI animals can be managed for meat harvest, trophy harvest or whatever the users of this resource deem the most important to them and the herd that is managed.

Even if you are not a hunter any comments about the value of venison to you would be appreciated.

Greg Northe is collating this information on the Island. Greg has hard copies of the survey and will collect them.

You can contact him at

northebase@xtra.co.nz or 2191159 (for a copy of the survey) or John DeLury 03 9660813, 0276925338 email wtd243@xtra.co.nz

TODD & CO REALTY

Stewart Island Real Estate

For all local listings

houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

See our website www.locations.co.nz

or contact our local representative

Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589

for current listings.

Need a Resource Consent?

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40 years' experience in local government
and I know how to achieve results.

- planning
- resource management/consents
- mediation
- facilitation



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*Hey visitors!
Play bowls
while you're
down here!
We have one of
the southern-
most bowling
greens in the
world, with a
view (standing
on a bench) of
Foveaux
Strait!
Just \$5 per
person, get key
and info at
Flight Centre
(Post Office)
on Elgin
Terrace*

Museum Matters – Jo Riksem



The Landing at Ulva, Stewart Island.

Ulva Island during the holidays

Ulva Island has always been a special place for holidaymakers and it's wonderful to see photographs like this showing visitors arriving in all their finery over a hundred years ago. How did they manage in those long dresses on tracks that had no boardwalks?

We've had a new Taiaha come in that used to belong to May Pasco (nee Gomez) which is shown in the photograph alongside it. Displayed in the Maori cabinet it is well worth a visit. For those that don't know a Taiaha was used in war but also used in ceremonial occasions by the Maori.

Holidays are for treats and we have some delicious chocolates for sale for any of those special moments coming up and also if you'd just like a treat yourself. Yummy flavours of Gibston Valley Pinot noir Brix & Stix, Hokey Pokey Truffles and Salted Caramel Truffles.

We welcome all our holidaymakers to Stewart Island and hope you enjoy our beautiful island.

Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 1:30 pm; Sunday Noon – 2.00pm

congratulations

Newlyweds
Emma & Ty Jenkinson

New Parents
Carolyn & Thorsten
Welcome baby girl
Lena Marie

Make time to **PLAY BOWLS** this summer. Every time I do it I have the **BEST TIME EVER** and kick myself for not doing it more often. BYOB, KKOF (Kai Kart Over the Fence) and plenty of banter and good old fashioned trash talking. Get a mate and challenge your friends and put our awesome bowling green to use!
(Jason & Ang: I officially invite you to get your patooties kicked by myself and Stu sometime in 2016...)

Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter – Jo Riksem



School children and sheep at carol service

I think we made Presbyterian history with our carol service this year! As you walked up the drive you were met by James and Britt with their miniature horses and three dogs. Once inside there was straw all over the church with a makeshift pen that housed two lovely sheep from Letitia and Andrew King. There were squeals of delight from the children as one of the sheep hopped



Photos from Nicolette Thompson

over the pen and got chased amongst the pews. Many people brought their animals and several children and adults were dressed up in costume. It was wonderful to see the school children's band and many well known carols. The story about the innkeeper was interspersed with delightful "Baas" from the sheep at appropriate times and lots of laughter from the congregation. Later a yummy supper with all sorts of goodies went down well. All in all a joyful noise unto the Lord!!

Preacher's Previews:

7 Feb. 2016 – Trevour Squires – is new to the Island and we'll look forward to what he has in store for us.

14 Feb. - Daryl Schwenke - We are Daryl Schwenke, wife Jayne and 3 children, Asher(3), Faith(8) and Zach(9). Daryl is a senior lecturer in Physiology at Otago University, where he does research into treatment for heart disease and diabetes, among other projects. Jayne is busy looking after the kids, growing the veges in the garden and doing the odd oil painting commission. Together we enjoy landscaping, caring for our handful of sheep and enjoying the great outdoors with the kids. We believe in the power of a good and loving God to transform our often messy and broken lives into lives of hope and purpose. God is still working on us!

21 Feb. - Rachel Trevathen - I am a lay preacher who loves getting to know God in the midst of the ups and downs of everyday life. I enjoy traveling, particularly anywhere across the Himalayas, as well as tramping and kayaking in our great New Zealand outdoors. My day job is a Doctor.

28 Feb. - Rev Barry Neal - Rev. Barry Neal with his wife Moira have been retired for several years and have for the last six years been members of Chartwell (Hamilton) Co-operating Parish. Since retirement, apart from local Church activities, after 35 years' service as a Methodist Minister Barry has had 10 years as Secretary of the Wesley Historical Society for the Church, and is currently Chairperson for the Deaf Ministry Trust. Moira is a retired teacher of the Deaf and we continue our involvement with the Hamilton Deaf Fellowship a small Ecumenical group. Much of my Ministry has been spent in Co-operating Parishes and early in my Ministry I had 7 years as an Army Chaplain. My last 10 years in Parish Ministry was in Auckland Central Parish (Kingsland and Dominion Road) and after retirement I spent 6 months on supply at Aotea Chapel part of Methodist Mission Northern. I am currently trying to write a history of my home Church (Port Albert) later Wellsford Co-operating in Northland.

Church services every Sunday at 11 am. Church is open every day to come in and enjoy the peace and quiet.

Shark Cage Diving Near Stewart Island update

Here are the latest developments over the past few months:

On 1st December DOC gave the shark cage operators the nod to continue for another season, despite ongoing opposition from the island community. DOC Southern Districts manager Alan Munn used a new study by Ozzy shark expert Barry Bruce as justification, because DOC has interpreted the study to support their idea that shark cage diving is safe for sharks and humans. What’s interesting is that if you actually read Bruce’s report, you will find justification for shutting down shark cage diving operations near this community and an opinion that the present permit conditions are too lax. For example, Bruce cites shark cage diving rules in other countries where the dive site is 50 miles or more from any civilization yet their rules are more stringent than those applied to the boats here, operating a few miles from our homes. In South Australia, operators are not permitted to operate every single day. In California, operators are not permitted to use ANY bait. Here? DOC permits them to operate every day, and use throw baits. Bruce recommends that operational days be limited in New Zealand, and also concedes that much research remains to be done and *conditioned behaviours in sharks cannot be unequivocally ruled out*: Considering this, wouldn’t someone with human safety in mind rule on the side of caution and shut down shark cage diving until conditioned behavior CAN be ruled out?

From Bruce’s report: “Despite evidence that conditioned behaviours are unlikely given the extent of rewards received by sharks under the current Code of Conduct (and in light of research pertaining to this topic elsewhere), such impacts cannot be unequivocally ruled out. Introducing a system of non-operator activity days as applied in South Australia may further reduce the risk of impacts to sharks in the Stewart Island area by interrupting regular contact between industry operations and individual sharks.”

Copy of the entire document can be found online at doc.govt.nz (search for “csiro report”).

Petition Presentation

On 3rd December, at Helen Cave’s request, Ken McAnergney went to Wellington and presented the community’s petition to *Stop Shark Cage Diving Near Stewart Island* to a select committee in Parliament. Helen had been invited to go speak to her petition but she was unable to make the trip, so she asked island bach owner Ken as he is passionate and knowledgeable on the subject (he has a file several inches thick on shark cage diving here) and he has the rare flair of being an articulate, excellent and courageous public speaker which was handy as he was tasked with addressing a panel of

MPs and DOC experts, answering their questions afterwards, and fronting to the media in the following days. (It’s easy to be a “great talker” when we’re sitting on a barstool with our mates, but not everyone can pull off what Ken did so hats off to him!) Ken took time off work from his job at Christchurch Airport and made the trip to Wellington to speak. His presentation gave an overview of the issue to MPs who didn’t know the background, and included statements from islanders Brett Hamilton, Raylene Waddell, Richard (Squizzy) Squires, Philip Smith, Margaret Hopkins, and Stuart Cave. Afterwards the MPs were given a copy of his speech and all of the locals’ statements, which was an invaluable way of closing that gap between our voices on this small southern locale and the ears up in Wellington. Ken said he got the impression that the MPs were particularly interested in the locals’ statements. He also said they asked some really good questions and made some intelligent comments afterwards. MP Clayton Mitchell and PauaMac’s Storm Stanley were also present and both said that Ken “knocked it out of the park” with his speech, leaving them nothing to add. So if you are a local who wants shark cage diving stopped, give Ken a pat on the back if you see him. Thank you Ken for the big effort you made on our behalf.

Here are some excerpts from the meeting transcript:

MP Hon David Parker: ...Can I make the very serious point that if this petition was in Auckland you would have 500,000 signatures out of a million, and can I ask your reaction for what you think a Government would do if half of the population of our major city rose up and said their beaches were not safe because of one concession that so easily could be cancelled.

McAnergney: It’s a fact – it’s exactly what would happen. If you got enough people in Auckland, then the law would be changed. The DOC officer said that they were constrained under the antiquated legislation—my words—that they had to operate. The Wildlife Act, as I understand it, is a very old act. It might be 1953 or something like that. It needs to be updated, and it needs to take into account the effect this sort of operation has on people. After all, we have this Health and Safety Act.

Parker: There seems to be two issues here. You’re saying that the law needs to be changed so this can be banned, and until it is there is no way the Department of Conservation should be facilitating it by giving them a permit.

McAnergney: That’s my opinion and that’s the opinion of the people who signed the petition, I think.

...

MP Hon Ron Mark: From a DOC perspective, what is your policy on people going into the Ureweras and feeding kiwi or feeding kereru or feeding any other endangered species? What is your policy? What is

Petition 2014/0016 of Helen Cave
Local Government and Environment Committee
3 December 2015

Members
Scott Simpson (Chairperson)
Matt Doocoy
Paul Foster-Bell
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Ron Mark
Todd Muller
Joanne Hayes
Nuk Korako
Hon David Parker
Eugenie Sage

Witnesses
Ken McAnergney
Clayton Mitchell (List MP, New Zealand First)
Storm Stanley

Department of Conservation
Ian Angus, Manager, Marine Species and Threats
Professor Ken Hughey, Chief Science Adviser
Andrew MacPherson, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services

[FTR 11:03:38]

Simpson Gentlemen, welcome. One is Ken and one is Storm, I gather. Which is which?

McAnergney I am Kenneth McAnergney, otherwise known as Ken. On Stewart Island I’m called three persons: Ken, Mac, and Ernie.

Stanley I’m Storm Stanley. I’m the chairman of the regional pāua organisation, PauaMAC5, and I am here as his beautiful assistant.

Simpson Thank you both very much. We’ll just go quickly round the room and introduce ourselves because we have got about 20 minutes to engage with you, so we’re looking forward to hearing from you. [Introductions] We have

Transcript of petition presentation. For a copy of the entire document, which is a very interesting read, contact editor@stewartislandnews.com

the public advice that you give to people who wish to bait kiwis to come out of the bush so they can photograph them? Bait kereru to come down lower? What is your policy?

Ken Hughey (DOC Chief Science Advisor): Sir, I'll answer that one. We have a generally applied policy, which is well advertised, that we will not feed birds.

Mark: Thank you. So, endangered birds, your policy is, to the public, leave them alone. Don't feed them. Don't do things to cause them to be attracted to come into any area they might not have otherwise come into. Don't do things to attract them to people. Don't change their habit. Don't change their behavior. Why has DOC got a different policy for the great white shark?

Hughey: With respect sir, I don't think it is different. And what I would say is, for any person who's walked in the bush and attracted a South Island robin, for example, either through calling or kicking up insects in the dirt—that's often encouraged – but that's not the same as taking in food to a kiwi to attract it out. In this case, as my colleague Ian has pointed out, we're very mindful of what the local community has advised us. We've listened really carefully. And in terms of attractants, as Ian has already pointed out, we are operating under a no-reward principal.

MP Nuk Korako: Kia Ora to you, Mr Angus. Yeah, it's interesting, isn't it? I'm not sure whether this thing here, where you entice the great white shark to the cage, whether it knows whether it's going to a restaurant or a fashion parade. But I think the important thing here though – I want to come back to how important – we've just had the director-general in here before talking about relationships, particularly with tangata whenua. And, listening to the previous submission, there doesn't seem to be any kind of relationship. ... So the locals feel aggrieved that their actual views have not been taken into account or were never asked. ... So my question is: how important is local knowledge in all of this?

...

Mark: I guess my question to DOC is that, given the distance—3.8 nautical miles from the dive site to Horseshoe Bay – given that you can actually see the boats operating from there, given the speed at which acoustics travel underwater and can be detected by fish, would DOC, therefore, be happy to sanction a shark cage diving operation off the coast of Piha or Muriwai or Waiheke at such a distance in the middle of summer? Given the anecdotal evidence and the information provided to DOC by the locals on their experiences down at Rakiura.

Ian Angus: I'm unsure how I can answer that question. I think it's hypothetical in many ways and, I think, to give some, you know, this is a sensitive issue and I'd prefer not to respond to hypothetical questions.

For a copy of the entire transcript, which is an interesting read, get in touch editor@stewartislandnews.com

Paua Industry to DOC: "We'll see you in court"

On 10th December, PauaMac5 Inc issued declaratory judgement proceedings against DOC in the high Court.

Meeting with DOC Director Lou Sanson

On 22nd December DOC director Lou Sanson led a meeting at the DOC office with about two dozen interested locals including paua divers, commercial fishermen, water taxi operators, parents, tourism operators, and recreational water users. The shark cage operators were asked to attend but they declined the invitation.

"This is one that keeps us awake at night," said Sanson. He said he'd feel horrible if he heard that someone had gotten killed by a shark and he hadn't come down and addressed the issue with us. Alan Munn was there as well as Mark Murray from NZ Work Safety. John Twidle and John Whitehead from the NZ Conservatio Board were also present.

Addressing the issue from a health and safety perspective, Lou covered a whiteboard with suggestions from the group on what could improve safety (barring completely STOPPING the operations which was often repeated). Those gathered emphatically agreed they don't want the shark boats coming to Stewart Island at all – not to moor, not to pick up passengers, not at all. NO BAIT of any kind permitted; operating days limited to two a week; and get them FAR FAR away from the island... if people want to go shark cage diving let them sit on a long boat ride far from Edwards and far away from this community. Other suggestions included cameras on board so the shark cage operators can be constantly monitored; and dark Perspex on the cages so the sharks cannot see a human in the cage. Several people in the room lost their temper and a lot of angry words were vented toward the men up front. It was pointed out that everyone had already made all of these suggestions in submissions last year in what now seems like a charade of a consultation process. The so-called monitoring and enforcement of rules of the cage boats came under fire: attendees pointed out how easy it is for shark cage operators to get around the rules and everyone had a growl about the second chance Munn gave one of the operators after he was found to have breached the rules.

Halfway through the meeting Helen Cave interjected: "You're making this too complicated. The bottom line is *thou shall not feed the animals. Thou shall not change their behavior.*" Although everyone agreed that's the bottom line, DOC seemed to be unable or unwilling to enforce that, with a particular aversion to the courtroom. Sanson anticipated that lawyers might bring up the fact people feed honey to tuis, and the assembly responded that a small bird is not comparable to an apex predator and if they thought feeding honey to tuis could result in one of their children or friends being mauled they'd be sitting in the room yelling about tuis! So, back to the whiteboard...

Toward the end of the evening Garry Neave posed a question to Sanson. He wondered if now that he had come down and talked to us, "if someone gets taken next week are you going to feel better?"

It was a sometimes harsh and often frustrating meeting, and it was followed by tea and cookies and continued discussion. Personally, I will say good on Lou Sanson for coming down and listening and talking. Hopefully when he faced a room filled with angry, articulate islanders it drove home the fact that the opposition to shark cage diving at Edwards is not dissipating. And hopefully, this debacle will get sorted some day.

—Jess

Kiwi Rescue

by Tommy Dobbins (aged 11)

Last week we went up to Golden Beach to explore the caves and go paddle boarding. I paddle boarded into the biggest cave, and saw there were scuff marks on the bank at the side of the cave as if someone had fallen down from the forest floor up above. At the bottom of the cave entrance there was a kiwi feather, which I thought was a bit strange. So I explored a bit and I saw a little brownly blob at the back of the cave, sitting under a bunch of driftwood. I knew it was a kiwi immediately coz of its distinctive feathers. I went and found Dad who was in the dinghy with mum and Aunty Anna, and asked "Dad, can kiwis swim?" .Dad said "Yeeees...." "Can they swim in salt water?" "...ah yeeees" and then Mum said "Why?"

"Coz there's a kiwi stuck in the cave and unless they can swim in about 3 feet of water, I don't think it's going to be able to get out" I said. So Dad drove the dinghy in toward the cave and we got out onto the rocks. He went up to the kiwi slowly and carefully got ahold of its feet. It struggled a bit as he tried to catch it, and Dad said that meant it was in good condition, that it probably hadn't been in there too long, or injured in the fall.

Back in the boat Dad handed me the kiwi and I held it how he had taught me, which is by the ankles, then they can't kick you. We took it around to a nearby bay and I carefully put it down, feet first on the sand, up near the bush line, as Dad had instructed me. She didn't run away immediately, she just stood there wobbling, but then she surprised us by suddenly running into the bush and that was the last we saw of her.





Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News

Yellow-eyed penguins have featured in the media over the past month, but mostly for all the wrong reasons. Many nests in Otago and Southland have failed already due to early chick deaths, and nest numbers were particularly low to start with.

Nest numbers were also lower than in previous years on the Bravo Islands so I wasn't feeling too optimistic when Winiata Edwards and I went to check hatching success and chick survival after Christmas. The first island we visited confirmed my fears – there had been only one nest and it had failed completely. There wasn't even any sign that the adults were returning to the nest site.

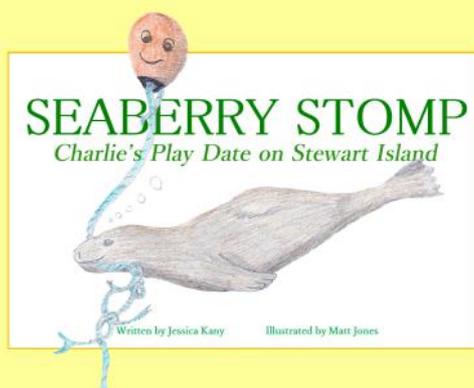
However, from then on things got better. On the second island we found 13 chicks out of a possible 14, and they all looked to be in reasonable condition. The third island had 4 chicks from 4 eggs (100% hatching and survival so far!), and the final island visited had 8 chicks from 12 eggs making a total of 25 chicks from 32 eggs. As one of my Dunedin-based colleagues put it, the Stewart Island results so far are “a bright spot amongst the gloom”.

In early February we'll return to the Bravo Islands to see how many chicks continue to survive and are likely to fledge.

Sandy King
For the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust



Buy a copy of the children's picture book *Seaberry Stomp* written and illustrated by island residents and featuring heaps of fun island facts! All proceeds are donated to the island's pre-school Rakiura Rugrats. Available at the Stewart Island Gift Shop, Red Shed, Ship to Shore, and the Bluff ferry terminal.



Shop Talk

by Jules Retberg

Lightening the load

What could possibly connect Dog Island Lighthouse with the Stewart Island Four Square? Apart from Foveaux Strait of course!

A clue. Our groceries arrive on them. The ferry, yes. But *pallets* is the answer I'm after. One pallet has an area of about a metre square and can be stacked with goodies up to a height of 1.5 metres.

Our main grocery and dry goods order comes down from Foodstuffs' warehouses in Christchurch and Dunedin every Wednesday and re-stocking after Christmas and New Year was no small feat. We just about had our own truck containing 24 pallets of supplies. Yes 24 pallets. Plus a few ferry tubs filled with bread and milk ... and just seven of us to unload it all. That's every carton off the pallet

and then handled again out to stock the shelves. Real Journeys staggered our deliveries across ferries arriving at 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon and 6pm as they also had hundreds of people to transport as well as our freight.

So where does New Zealand's tallest lighthouse, Dog Island, fit into this statistical ramble?

If we stacked all 24 pallets of supplies on top of one another - Health and Safety officers avert your eyes for a moment - they would reach about 36 metres high. The very same height as Dog Island Lighthouse! Taa daaaa!

Whilst Dog Island Lighthouse is a beacon in the traditional sense, I think our shop is a beacon of sorts too - a beacon for the hungry and thirsty.

What about if we laid all 24 pallets end to end? We'd be really tired after unloading all those boxes and shifting the pallets again, so we'll never know!



Southland District Council takes action to prevent dog attacks on kiwi

Southland District Council is joining the fight to stop dog attacks on kiwi.

Department of Conservation Stewart Island Acting Operations Manager Dale Chittenden said in 2015 there were two confirmed incidents of kiwi killed by dogs on the island, with rumours of more.

The previous year, four little blue penguins that showed signs of a dog attack were also recovered.

SDC environmental health manager Michael Sarfaiti said the Department of Conservation and Island locals voiced their concerns to Council late last year. At their meeting on 9 December Councillors agreed more action was needed, and Council has decided to carry out the following measures to reduce the risk of further attacks:

Educational activities

Dog control officers will carry out a door-to-door educational programme on the island this year. This will include educating owners on their responsibilities to contain dogs on their properties, and to keep them under control when in public

Council will work with DOC to erect signs raising awareness in visitors with dogs

Council will offer to run the DogSmart education programme at Halfmoon Bay School

Support for kiwi avoidance training

Council will make an annual donation towards kiwi avoidance training on Stewart Island, in support of this service.

“It is crucial that dogs are confined or kept under control at all times, and local dog access rules are followed. We need to protect our kiwi and other native birds, we don’t get a second chance if we lose them,” Mr Sarfaiti said.

Upcoming discounts

Council will introduce incentives in dog registration fees from 1 July 2017. These incentives may also reduce the risk of attacks on Kiwi. Discounts are proposed for –

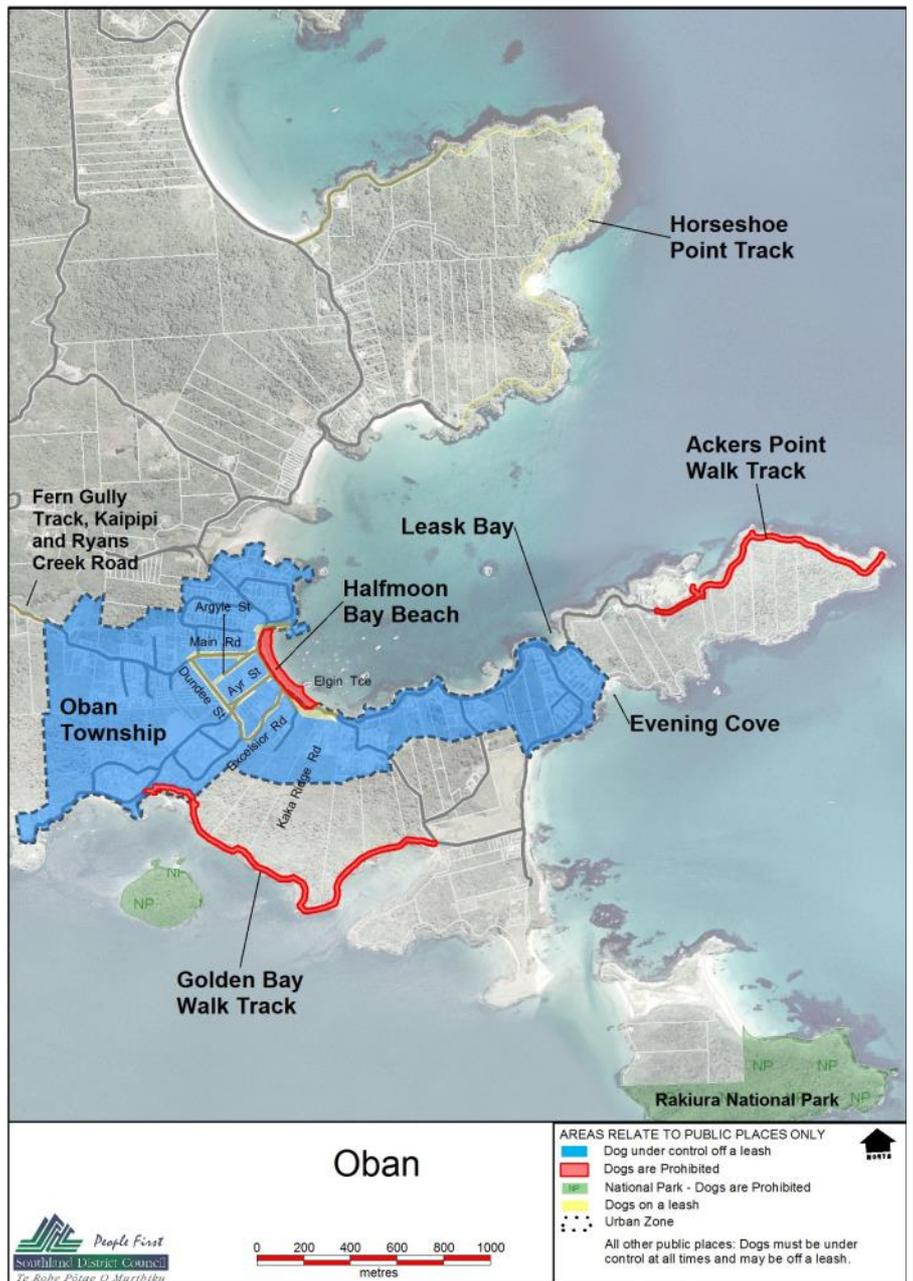
- Good behaviour
- Microchipping
- Fencing or enclosure
- Neutering

Dog access rules

Council’s new Dog Control Bylaw came into force in August last year. Local dog access rules are outlined in the attached map. Oban continues to be a dog exercise area, apart from the town’s main streets, where dogs must be on a leash. Please remember dogs must be under control in a dog exercise area, even though they may be off-leash.

Report a wandering dog

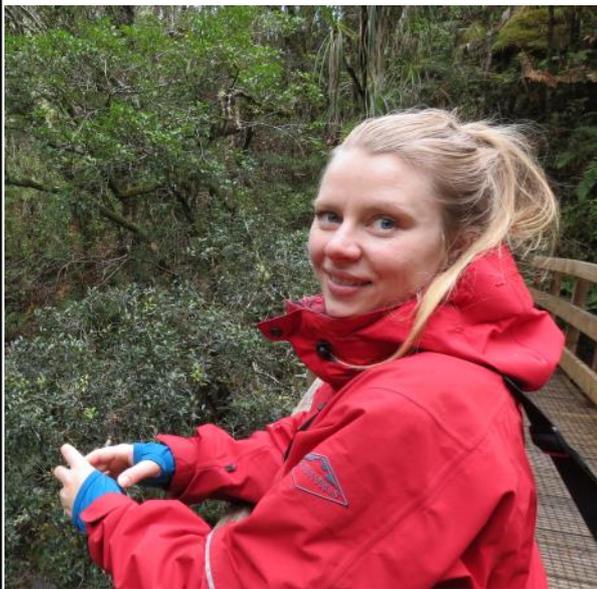
Council is also encouraging locals to report wandering dogs. You can do this by phoning Council on 0800 732 732, popping in to an Area Office, or visiting southlanddc.govt.nz



What's Up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross

Staff Spotlight: Operations



Manager, Bridget Baynes

Kia ora

I'm thrilled to come into the Operations Manager role on Rakiura, starting on the 7th of December 2015. This is a fantastic job in a stunning location. I'm drawn to the crisp air, island ecology and close community of Rakiura.

I've been working in conservation for nine years now, having worked for Tasmania's Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment, the Australian Antarctic Division, Queenstown's Kiwi Birdlife Park and for the Department of Conservation on the Coromandel Peninsula. I have a background in science, threatened species / ecosystems management and conservation advocacy. In this role I hope to support my Ranger team, community and partners to increase conservation on Rakiura.

For now I will be listening to the issues and opportunities on Rakiura and getting to



Pai & Gadget with Ulva Island Biosecurity Messaging Photo Credit: Sandy King

know the island and her people.

Thank you for welcoming my partner Kev Carter (also working for DOC) and I to Rakiura.

Ulva Island Rat Incursion Response Declared a Success!

After the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on the 15th December we can officially declare that the Ulva Island rat incursion response has been successful!

All background traps were closed by DOC staff during the week of 14 December, 2015 and the biosecurity has now returned to the standard (and improved) surveillance network including all coastal and inland traps. This decision is based on the following:

Evidence that the target rat is dead (not definite i.e. no body, but very strong circumstantial evidence – footage of the rat eating brodifacoum, rat droppings with bait in it and no sign of the rat in its territory since five days after it ate the bait).

It has been six weeks since the last rat sign was detected on Ulva Island (with the full contingent of traps and tracking tunnels operating). The Ulva Island check with two rodent detecting dogs focused on the highest risk sites with no indication from either dog.

Fin Buchanan and Pai, an Auckland-based DOC rodent detection handler/dog team joined Sandy King and rodent detecting dog Gadget on an Ulva Island from 5 – 8 December, 2015. Since the Ulva Island rat was most frequently seen around the Post Office Cove area, the team started their search there daily before moving further afield. Their method focussed on the highest probability areas first (buildings, beaches & coast) then filled in the gaps. This is the preferred method in case weather or unforeseen circumstances shorten a search or one of the handlers gets called away unexpectedly.

This way the priority areas are checked first. Since members of the Hunter family were on the Island during the check the dogs were even able to check the inside of the eight private buildings! This access was very

much appreciated and helpful for us to be even more confident with our results.

Sandy commented that having Fin & Pai on Ulva Island for this search was extremely valuable and helped ease the “what if” in her mind. The team searched together every day and having a more experienced dog come through and find no rat sign, reinforced Gadget’s findings from the previous search.

Fin and Sandy both believe that there are no rats on Ulva Island since there was no indication from either dog. Fin has extensive experience on a number of islands where Pai has found rats and said that it is encouraging to see that this incursion has been dealt with and taken seriously.

The result of the full rodent detecting dog search indicates that there are no rats currently on Ulva Island! This, along with the results from the traps and tracking tunnels were discussed by the Technical Advisory Group on the 16th December and the response has formally be declared successful!

We are working on improving the surveillance and contingency systems on the island including replacing the tracking tunnels and trap boxes with new ones kindly built by the Winton Rotary Club. These were transported to Ulva Island during the week of 14 December and will be put out in the New Year.

Annual Sewerage Suck

On the 16th & 17th of December, select DOC staff members performed the annual sewerage suck (affectionately known as the “poo suck”) of select toilets on Stewart Island/Rakiura. The toilets emptied included Port William, North Arm, Lee Bay and Acker’s Point. On Wednesday the team spent the day dredging (stirring & taking out all the non-organic solids so that the pumps don’t get clogged) the toilets. The operation on Thursday involved filling tanks (each tank took 5 minutes to fill), which were then transported by helicopter to Black Bridge Pumping Station. The team transferred approximately 19 loads. The most interesting items found in the toilets this year were a t-shirt, paua shell, a number of backcountry meals and even a live rat!



Andrew King & Dan Lee emptying a tank at Black Bridge Photo Credit: Bridget Hunt

STEWART ISLAND MAN OF THE YEAR
WAITANGI WEEKEND
 7th February 2016
 Halfmoon Bay Beach
 11:00am



Stewart Island
 man of the year competition!

Compete for the trophy
 off last years winner!
 Events may include:
 *Knot Tying
 *Paua Shucking
 *Wood chopping
 and more!!!
 \$10.00 entry fee
 fun for the entire family!

Rugrats fundraiser

All proceeds go to Rakiura Rugrats,
 Stewart Islands only early childhood education
 centre.

www.postermywall.com

Stewart Island
Man of the year
 7th February 2016
 Halfmoon bay beach

YOUR CHANCE TO WITNESS THE SPECTACLE OF
MAN AGAINST MAN
TO WIN THE
TROPHY



&
THE
MANA



Proudly supported by
 SHIP TO SHORE
 SOUTH SEA HOTEL
 BUNKERS BACKPACKERS
 SIRCEY

11:00 AM
 EVENT
START

SAUSAGE SIZZLE &
CAKE STALL

COMPETITOR FEE
\$10

FUN FOR THE
 ENTIRE FAMILY

All proceeds go to Rakiura Rugrats.



The Ground We Won Screening
 Saturday 23rd & Wednesday 27th January 2016
 7.30pm



The Ground We Won 2015 NZ Independent film
 Duration - 1hr 31m
 Classification - M

New Zealand's farming community and grassroots rugby are the focus of this cultural slice-of-life documentary following a rural rugby team looking to overcome a string of bitter losses. Shot in black and white from the filmmakers behind **How Far is Heaven**.

For further information about the film go to <http://www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz/other-flicks.html>

Tickets:
 Adult \$15, Senior/Student \$13, Child \$10

Bookings Recommended
 Email us on bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com or drop in to see us at 10 Main Rd, Stewart Island

The heavenly scent you may have caught on the summer breeze recently could be wafting from Bev Osbourne's garden, where 53 Himalayan lilies bloomed this year! The tallest ones neared ten feet high. Himalayan lilies have hollow stems and get quite top-heavy, so Bev was scrambling to find stakes when the big winds hit this month. Have a chat with her or Sue Munro if you are interested in this beautiful towering flower..



Ambergris



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 Email: info@ambergrisnz.co.nz
 Or
 Phone: 0274 991 881

Show Me Shorts film festival has ended. Thanks to everyone on the Island that made it such a great success.

There was an eclectic range of great films this year. Some created lots of laughter and others lots of discussion.

If you are concerned about what you will do now that it has come to an end, check out our website www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz/-other-flicks.html and find out what is next!

Cheers Penny & Aussie Pete

Bunkhouse Theatre

Quality Handyman Services Guaranteed

Experienced, reliable handyman (ex Green Acres contractor) available for work on the island

Handyman Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance | General fencing |
| Lawn mowing | Building dog kennels, chook runs etc. |
| Line trimming | Building/assembling garden sheds etc |
| Section maintenance | General carpentry |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Gutter cleaning |
| Tree pruning | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree removal | Water blasting |
| Chainsaw work | Spider proofing |
| Hedge trimming | Rose pruning |
| Wooden fence and deck construction | |
| Wooden fence and deck repair | And more - just ask |

Office Services

can also be provided

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bookkeeping | Brochure, flyer & business card design & printing |
| Office administration | |

If you want something done, and don't see it in the lists above, just give me ring. You may be surprised just what I can do.



Contact
Geoff



Stewart Island Handyman Services

Phone 973 0959 (Local Number) Mobile 027 253 3106
 Email handyman@acadia.co.nz

Dogs can KILL kiwi and penguins
Please report wandering dogs to
0800 732 732

Sea lion trying to book a water taxi at Rakiura Charters.
Photo from Serena Dawson



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Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

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