

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January 2017

\$3.00

*Dear Summer,  
Where the bloody hell are ya?*

Yes, kicking off the new year with an open letter to a season, plagiarizing the Ozzy tourism board, and cussing. I'd love to be Ms Bingle in a bikini but instead I'm wearing possum wool knee socks and a beanie while I type. Ugh to Ugg boots in January. These lows are getting us low.

We were blessed with sunshine on Christmas Day but it seems we've been paying for it since, including rain on New Year's Eve. Some islanders spent their holidays up the Inlet, and a group of friends had so much fun at Mason Bay their memories are surely branded into their hearts, minds, etcetera...

The tourists keep on coming, including more big cruise ship days bringing hundreds of visitors to the island. There are a couple new enterprises here helping to move people around: Pete Bayne is renting out electric bicycles and Greg Everest has started a cab service.

A not-so-new business got off to the usual rocky start in December: shark cage diving operations splashed back in the media when they went to work without permits from DoC. Confusion, controversy and more berley clouding the waters. PauaMac still waits to hear the High Court's decision regarding the legality of DoC issuing permits in the first place, and their lawyers have slammed DoC for letting it slide when the shark cagers were accused by mystery shoppers of breaching the rules, and for allowing them to work without permits. A shark cage operator slammed DoC for generally making a dog's breakfast of the permitting process. And local opponents to the shark cage business brace themselves for another season of great whites being baited, teased, and rewarded on our doorstep. Within one week three locals have reported great whites ap-



Kereru. Photo by Carolyn Squires

proaching their boats: one took bait off a line near Ulva, one approached a small boat off Deadman's, and a young woman reported a great white mouthing her boat at Deadman's. If you have an encounter with a great white shark, please fill out a Great White Shark Sighting form (available at the shop).

Breakdowns and cancellations over the past two months have had some locals asking *What is going on with the ferry?!* SIN asked Real Journeys about the situation and their response is on page 8.

I learned the hard way that checking a rat line while hungover in the summer is a BAD IDEA. See page 6 for more and an extremely non-Lara Bingle photo (strong stomach required).

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

—Jess



Dune drinks at Mason Bay. Photo: Emily Joy



Horseshoe Bay play. Photo: Sandra Whipp



### Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News

The second phase of monitoring yellow-eyed penguin breeding success this season was completed in the first half of December by Sandy King, Trudi Webster, and Thomas Mattern. Trudi, who is employed by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust as the Science Advisor and based in Dunedin, jumped at the chance to spend a few days out of the office familiarising herself with the Island's penguin habitat. Thomas is a researcher currently looking at penguin foraging behaviour, and has been using tiny cameras to gather information from penguins on the Otago Peninsula and Stewart Island. If you want a glimpse of the underwater world through the eyes of a penguin then follow this link: <https://vimeo.com/154678377>. Thomas spent two weeks in December on the Anglem Coast carrying out research, and while doing so was able to collect information on chick hatching and survival so far from our monitored nests.



Kyle Learmonth (Tio Operations Ltd) and Trudi Webster (YEPT) ready to depart the Bravo islands

Trudi and I checked nests on the Bravo Islands and found a good number of healthy looking chicks. One thing I enjoy about working with scientists is learning new stuff: in this case words like “scraggy” which apparently means the chick is a bit skinny and doesn't look too good. Fortunately there was only one scraggy chick on the Bravo Islands and most nests had either one or two chicks that looked well fed and had no obvious sign of disease. Thomas reported similar findings from the Anglem Coast so we're hoping most will survive to fledge in late February or early March. All chicks will be checked again in late January or early February, when they will be caught and weighed, and have a microchip inserted.

Thanks to Trudi and Thomas, and Rakiura Charters, Sanford Ltd, and Tio Operations Ltd for supporting this work.

*Sandy King* for the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

Adult and fat chick





# AURORA CAB CO

**FIXED RATES FROM THE TOWN CENTRE TO  
GOLDEN BAY - \$15**

**BUTTERFIELDS - \$15 LONNECKERS - \$15**

**RINGA RINGA GOLF CLUB - \$20**

**ACKERS POINT CARPARK - \$20 BRAGGS BAY - \$20**

**RYANS CREEK TRACK - \$20 THULE - \$20**

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**WHEN TRAVELLING FROM DESTINATIONS OTHER THAN THE TOWN CENTRE,  
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**OPERATING 7AM - 11PM OR BY ARRANGEMENT**

**MAX. 4 PEOPLE ● TOURS BY ARRANGEMENT**

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## Stewart Island Community Board

Elected Members of the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board:  
Jon Spraggon (Chair)  
Steve Lawrence (Deputy Chair)  
Bruce Ford (Councillor)  
Dale Chittenden  
Aaron Conner  
Greg Everest  
Anita Geeson

The 2017 meetings will be held at the Stewart Island Pavilion, Ayr Street, commencing at 1.30pm on the following dates:

- 13 February
- 10 April
- 12 June
- 14 August
- 9 October
- 11 December

Members of the public are most welcome, and have the opportunity to speak to the Board during Public Forum (please contact Secretary 2 working days before meeting date to arrange this).

Agendas are available at the SDC Area Office/Library.

Secretary: Kirsten Hicks  
Phone 0800 732 732  
kirsten.hicks@southlanddc.govt.nz



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COUNCIL  
holiday  
PROGRAMME**

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**10am - 3pm**

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**Friday 6, Monday 9, Tuesday 10 January**

WINTON: Central Southland College

**Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 January**

TE ANAU: Fiordland Community Events Centre

**Monday 16 January**

STEWART ISLAND: Community Centre

LUMSDEN: Northern Southland College

**Tuesday 17 - Wednesday 18 January**

RIVERTON: Aparima College

**Thursday 19 January**

OTAUTAU: Otautau School

WAIKAI: Waikai School

**Friday 20 January**

OTAUTAU: Otautau School

GARSTON: Garston School

**Monday 23 January**

WYNDHAM: Menzies College

**Tuesday 24 January**

WYNDHAM: Menzies College

TOKANUI: Tokanui School

## RAKIURA RIDDLE

give me an *ini* and i'm fancy veal  
put my name to faties for a  
cheesy meal

sometimes you'll see me on a  
neckline or hem  
madeleines — I'll remind you  
of them

my portrait's been painted  
by botticelli  
(with some cheeky lady standing  
on my belly)

my applause is my locomotion  
so i'll clap away now to my home in  
the ocean

**STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

It was great to see the local residents, particularly families, out in force at the unveiling of the refurbished Library on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>. Nice too that the TV crew from Seven Sharp were there also.

Many thanks to all who have helped with the changes, particularly the Friends of the Library group. You all have made the work load easier and assured that the space is really yours to enjoy.

It is now necessary to produce a Southland District Council Library card to borrow books or other resources. All items are now issued through the Library Management system – the computer – and your card is required to do this. It also allows for much greater accuracy and ensures that you cannot have anything issued to you in error.

If you haven't a new card please see Kirsten ASAP and she will get it sorted for you. We do require your name, gender, physical and postal



address and it is desirable to have a date of birth. This is required to distinguish you from someone of the same name but, more importantly, to ensure that our buying policies match the profile of our users. If you have problems with providing this information please discuss with Kirsten or you can contact Lynda – SDC Manager – on 0800 732 542.

We would prefer all family members to be registered rather than using one family card please. We do need an accurate snapshot of who is using the library and it also helps with planning for purchases and activities.

Please remember to ask Kirsten for anything you would like to borrow and can't find on the shelves – she will probably be able to source it for you.

The new, extended, Library hours are working well and allow users much greater opportunities to access books, search for information or simply enjoy the ambience of the Library. Do try for yourself.

**Ringa Ringa Heights  
Golf Club invites  
participation in the  
Annual SBS supported  
Golf Tournament  
11am  
Saturday 14th Jan  
\$20 entry, includes  
Barbeque afterwards.  
\$500 Hole in One prize  
Sponsored by the  
Electric Bike Depot**

**Letters**

The other day I was given in good faith a special treat: "muttonbird pie." Has any Stewart Islander come across this travesty? Pie, yes: shortbread pastry. Muttonbird: not a skerrick. Such a hoax is NOT ON, surely?

*Sheila Natusch*



Orphans Aid Op Shop Invercargill would like to thank Stewart Island for the warm welcome at the Pop-up Op Shop in the first weekend of December. We had such a great time, we will definitely be coming back! Thank you to the community centre for the use of the venue, and to all the wonderful locals who supported us. The funds raised will be going to our orphanage and family care programs overseas, and it allows us to send a little extra to make Christmas special for the children. Remember to come and see us in Spey St when you are in Invercargill, or shop from home on our online shop [www.orphansaidonline.com](http://www.orphansaidonline.com)

Many thanks,  
*Vicci*

**An evening with Wild Kiwi Encounter**

by Simon Gomez

I Had a unique Christmas Eve this year. Lindy and I went on the 'Wild Kiwi Encounter' experience. What a great 5 hours from 8pm to 1am.

Started with a short but very informative presentation on the Rakiura Toekoeka (translation - Weka with a walking stick) then onto Real Journeys Foveaux Express with a 13 other people. Spent an hour and a half about 6 k offshore at Flat Rock, Bench Island, and Whero where we saw: Rafts of titi, dolphin, blue penguin, albatros, yellow eyed penguin, skua, fur seals, Foveaux Shags, all with a knowledgeable commentary, and from the comfort of the well appointed catamaran.

From there we cruised into Patterson Inlet past the Neck "Oneki" and Ulva Island and up to the Bravo Islands, all with a well delivered and non intrusive commentary. By about 9.45 we were at Little Glory wharf and given a briefing on the etiquette of moving in a group, keeping quiet and use of the torches we were supplied, safety, (especially if we encountered sea lion in the bush or beach), what to do in an emergency. Then we were off to find Kiwi. Saw the first up close and personal 5 minutes along the extremely well cut, dry easy walking track. After 10 minutes or so after all of the party of 15 had a good look, we moved on to Ocean Beach, about 20 minutes walk through the bush. We walked the beach along the waters edge with torches off (amazing how light it is even on a cloudy night) as our guide scanned the beach and bush line for more Kiwi. We left the beach which was almost devoid of kelp (Kiwi eat the sand hoppers that live under the beached kelp) and entered true bush on a short track to another beach. Second Kiwi encounter right on the

track, this time as we all stood silently in the dark, this Kiwi walked right along past us all about a metre away, stopping to peck at our guide's boots, and then wandered off into the bush, all the time probing the ground and searching for food with its beak. We walked through to a beach, but cold and exposed, so retreated back down the track towards Ocean beach again- third Kiwi encounter about 5 minutes along the track. Again we all stopped and had a good look. In the light of the guide's torch then headed back onto Ocean Beach and onto the track back to the waiting boat. I was at the head of the group with the guide at this stage, and as we neared the wharf, we had a 4th brief encounter but only the guide and I saw this one as it was off the track a bit and heading away from us.

Also saw 5 possums on the track, and a program to begin regular control of these pests will be starting as soon as the new humane self setting traps arrive.

All in all, a very well organised and presented experience, with our crew Glenda, Ian and 'Percy' which delivered all I expected and more.

I am a fifth generation Stewart Islander, and this night was a highlight in my 60 odd years of connection with my homeland.

To all who haven't had this experience, do it! To those who I have spoken to who had doubts or misgivings about this operation, hold your tongues until you have been on this particular version of Kiwi connection. Thank you Phillip Smith for the treasure you built up over the past 26 years. This is an experience worthy of being proud of, and the land, the track, the kiwis and the tourists are in good hands!

**Southland District Councillors have agreed to investigate the medium to long-term future of Stewart Island's wharfing infrastructure.**

At a Council meeting last week, community partnership leader Michelle Stevenson presented a report asking councillors to approve spending of up to \$25,000 for an independent contractor to carry out community and stakeholder engagement and undertake a business operational plan around six wharves on the island.

"It's big-picture stuff and very much future-focused for the island," she said.

The project will look at the future of five SDC-owned wharves – Ulva Island, Millars Beach, Fred's Camp, Little Glory and Port William – and the Southport-owned wharf at Golden Bay.

Southport has asked Council to consider the future ownership of the wharf at Golden Bay, which prompted the need to take a more strategic approach to the island's wharfing needs as a whole, Ms Stevenson said.

A marine report into the Golden Bay wharf determined it was close to the end of its life, and would need a full replacement within five years – as well as immediate maintenance.

The five SDC-owned wharves and the wharf at Golden Bay did not generate enough income to cover the basic costs of maintenance, rebuild or removal, Ms Stevenson said.

However, the wharfing infrastructure as a whole was crucial to the livelihoods of Stewart Islanders and, because of industries including tourism and aquaculture, had regional and even national significance, she said.

Community and futures group manager Rex Capil said the work being proposed to consider the island's infrastructure needs would answer questions including whether there was a mechanism for revenue to be generated to maintain Stewart Island's wharves.

"We want to look at it as a network. This is about looking at this issue from a greater, wider network approach."

Councillors were also supportive of the proposal to engage an independent facilitator to carry out the project, to avoid the perception of bias.

The project does not include the wharf at Halfmoon Bay, the main wharf on the island, which is owned and operated by Southport.

### The Friends of the Library

were delighted and grateful to receive recently a \$1000 donation from Pub Quiz funds. It was a timely gift because, currently, we couldn't afford to buy the new children's books we wanted – some of the great new titles available or replacements for some that were showing the effects of loving. Now half of this generous donation will be spent on upgrading our Junior collection.

The other half will be used in the building of a special Stewart Island collection.

The books in our local library are part of the Southland District Council's Library system and, because they circulate around the district, we have available to us a much wider selection range. However, the Friends of the Library were concerned about the lack of means for holding locally as many

as possible of the books which would always be of special interest to Stewart Islanders. Some of us own children's books or novels set on the Island, books that have been written by Islanders and books about Rakiura and southern ocean activities. They are precious to us and we wanted a way to ensure they would be available, beyond our lifetimes, for future generations of Stewart Islanders.

We raised our concerns with SDC's head librarian, who recognised the need and suggested the installing of a glass fronted, lockable cabinet to show case such books. They won't be part of the circulating system, but will be available for reading within our library. Some of them will have duplicates on the general shelves which can be issued out, but we want to ensure there is always as complete a collection as possible of heritage books.

The Friends of the Library know they are not the only people who might be wondering how to provide a loving future for books with a precious connection to us, so we want to tell SIN readers that, once that special cabinet arrives, there will be an appreciative home for Stewart Island book treasures you would like to pass on. Any donations will be gratefully received at the library.

As a group, we don't have fund raising mechanisms to spend on buying appropriate books for this collection, so we are doubly grateful to the Pub Quiz administrators, both for the donation of money and for the timeliness of the gift – right at the start of a new process which will enable us to buy pertinent books when we see them advertised.

—Beverley Osborn

### RAT TALES

I spent Boxing Day checking my rat line with various relatives. So, yeah, I won't be doing that again. I don't mean I'm quitting my rat line, I just mean I learned the hard way that checking rat traps in the summer after a day of boozing isn't a good idea. Because you know what rhymes with boozing? Oozing. As in, oozing maggot-infested stinky rodent carcasses. Not a good combo with a hangover.

Rat-trapping in the warmer months is a whole different ballgame than winter ridding. In the summer the grass is high, hiding the traps. It's scratchy and rife with biddy-bids, making rain-pants and gummies essential gear despite the heat. And despite the fact that I'd had too much bubbly on Christmas and tripped down a driveway barefoot, lifting the nail of my big toe up and stubbing a chunk of flesh off the end...it was as painful as it sounds and I did NOT want to be wearing closed-toe footwear! But there I was, limping painfully along in hot rubber boots, feeling blood seeping into my sock and praying I wouldn't puke my breakfast (oyster scramble: seemed a decadent grand idea at the time...)

I'd skipped a week of rat-trapping due to the holidays and it had been hot, so the rats were in varying degrees of putrefaction. One was sort of stiff and mummified which was awful but preferable to the riper ones, squirming with maggots. Extricating the body from the trap isn't easy when the body has sort of melted and sealed around the metal. As I was gagging, a gust of wind sent a puff of rat fur from the trap past my face. I've been out in Nor-Easters and



Moby's awesome rat chart

sand devils but there isn't a word in my lexicon to describe being hungover caught in a windstorm of gray tufts of rotten rat fur.

I'd invited my in-laws along so they could see what I get up to and I'd had a vague fantasy of marching along imparting the fascinating facts of the trade to them, in my best David Attenborough voice, as they looked on impressed and fascinated. Here's what I said instead: "BLEGHHH! [pant, curse, pant] BLEWGGHHH!"

Doubled over dry retching, through my streaming eyes I could see my brother-in-law laughing as he filmed me with his phone. It was all horribly deserved as most hangovers are. Maybe I've found the word I'm searching for when the air is filled with smelly rat fur. Penance.

#### In other rat news...

Morgan and Emily were excited to harvest their strawberries, they had a look in their glasshouse and their berries looked glorious! But they fatefully put it off for one day and when Morgan went to pick them, they were gone! Tiny little crimson-stained rat pawprints were all over the floor... as far as rats and glasshouse fresh berries go, this was basically an act of war.

Our favourite canine ratter has his own Facebook page now. Check out Detector Gadget.

Meanwhile, Carolyn's cat brought home a few rats the other night, including one still in a trap! It's a kat-koan: if a cat takes the trouble to bring home a dead rat in a trap, is it a lazy-puss or an awesome achiever? (And, um, is anyone missing a rat trap in the neighbourhood?)



Is anyone missing a Victor rat trap (including dead rat)? Check with Carolyn's cat.



Still-frame from my bro-in-law's video. Too bad I couldn't find a pic of Lara Bingle wearing rat-ooze-smear orange gloves or I could have done a Woman's Day style side-by-side Who Wore it Better?

Got a rat tale? Share it with SIN! [stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)

**VACANCY**

**CREW REQUIRED FOR EVENING WORK**

This is your opportunity to join the Stewart Island Experience team to deliver a remarkable customer experience.

We require Crew to work part time in the evenings to support our Wild Kiwi Encounter product which delivers passengers to the Little Glory Wharf in the Paterson Inlet every night.

The position requires a capable and reliable person, who is comfortable in a marine environment and able to handle large vessels in a crewing capacity. Strength and fitness are a key requirement for this role, as well as good communication skills.

This is a part time role working initially from 8pm to approximately 2am and as we move into the autumn months, this will change to approx. 6-7pm to 11-12midnight. This is a fixed term contract commencing immediately and finishing at the end of March.

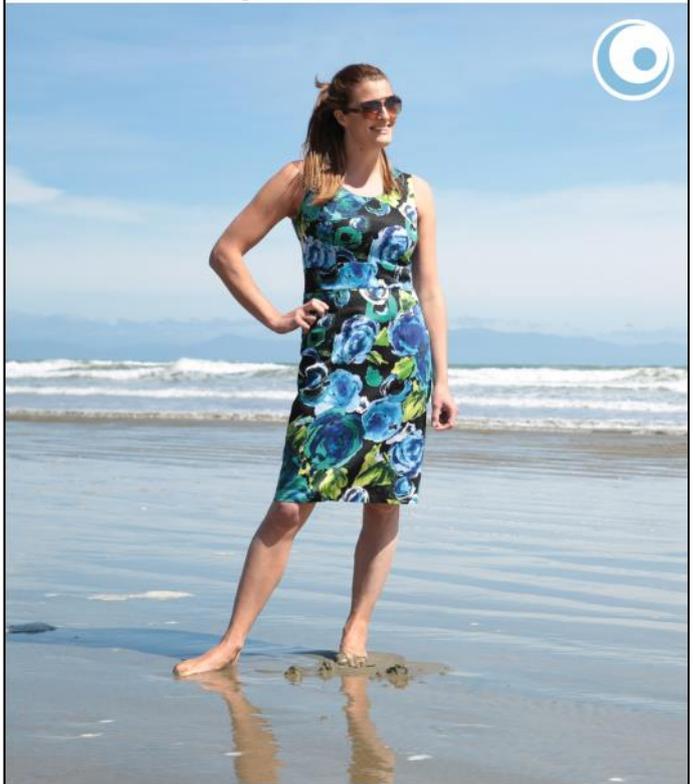
Some boating experience is a requirement, although full training on our vessels will be given as this position requires you to be fully cleared and competent under maritime regulations.

To apply online, visit [www.employment.realjourneys.co.nz](http://www.employment.realjourneys.co.nz) or if you require more information, please contact Jane Grant, Operations Manager, Stewart Island Experience via email [jgrant@realjourneys.co.nz](mailto:jgrant@realjourneys.co.nz) or call on 02102400344

Applications close 13 January 2017

All applicants must be eligible to work in NZ.

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Sandy's dog Gadget has joined Facebook!  
Check out his new page  
**Detector Gadget**  
and keep abreast of the doings of one of  
our favourite local ratters.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
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### STATEMENT FROM STEWART ISLAND EXPERIENCE

*from Paul Norris, Real Journeys Head of Operations*

Stewart Island Experience unreservedly apologises to your readers for the number of sailings that have been cancelled over the last two months because of engine issues. Around half the cancellations were weather related - we will not sail outside our safe operating parameters. It is a particularly bad time of year for this to happen for all of us and please rest assured we are doing everything possible to fix these issues. Prior to your enquiry the Foveaux Express was already booked in to our Bluff Workshop where a team of eight will work on it through the night so we expect this to be fully resolved by Thursday (12 Jan).

We have had an unusual run of engine problems but can categorically state that none of these have been safety issues in any way. Both vessels have independent engines and drive lines providing 100% redundancy in the case of an engine/driveline failure. Both vessels were independently surveyed in the last nine months (Southern Express in May and Foveaux Express in October 2016) and our MTOP (Maritime Transport Operator Plan) which includes maintenance, was audited and approved by Maritime New Zealand last year.

We can also assure you that these issues are not related to any cost-cutting in maintenance – in fact our maintenance budget for both boats was significantly increased this financial year. The Southern Express was taken out of the water and given its annual survey in May and the Foveaux Express had normal repairs and an engine replaced whilst on its six week survey at the Bluff workshop in October. Ironically the Foveaux Express has had some niggly engine problems ever since the engine was replaced. The previous engine was working perfectly well but was removed as part of our routine maintenance cycle because it had done 15,000 hours. It is the replacement engine that has caused us the problems with several broken rocker arms and push rods. The cause of these failures is a mystery and not something we or the engine manufacturer has ever seen. At first our engineers tried to fix the engine on site but the problems persisted so we are now doing a full component replacement. The Southern Express had three separate engine defects in early December that were unrelated and have been fixed.

The bad summer weather we have had has added to the problem. The decision to sail in this instance is always the skipper's prerogative and is based both on passenger comfort and the strict limits that we have laid down in our safety systems for operating on the Foveaux Strait, based on a combination of wind, sea and tide. Real Journeys is proud of its safety record and totally supports and empowers its skippers in their decision to cancel a trip because of the weather. We can also state categorically that there are no structural problems whatsoever on the Foveaux Express. The fact that we have two vessels enabled us to provide cover and reschedule some sailings but that has caused some delays which we also apologise for. Where possible we also engaged Aurora Charters to provide additional capacity.

Real Journeys is the first New Zealand company to have all its vessels under MOSS (Maritime Operator Safety System) and is considered to be an industry leader in this area. The two ferries were designed and built specifically for the short steep seas on the Foveaux Strait; however it is a particularly harsh environment for boats as you all know and it is inevitable that some issues will occur. Real Journeys sees the ferry service as integral to life on Stewart Island which is why we run ferries year-round as an essential service for locals when there are very few tourists. We regret the timing and apologise for that – this is a busy time of year for all of us and the last thing we want.

**Museum Rambles by Jo Riksem**

minding us of old childhood days.



**Halfmoon Bay and Horseshoe Bay Harbour Board 1907 at Golden Bay**

A few months ago we got a rubber stamp that had been used on documents for the Halfmoon Bay and Horseshoe Bay Harbour Board. Then just recently I came across this photograph of the board in 1907 but with no names. If anyone can provide names it would be greatly appreciated. It is interesting how the name gets changed on items. In this photo the life preserver says "Horse Shoe & Half Moon Harbour Board." On the rubber stamp it says, "Half Moon & Horse Shoe Bays Harbour Board." On yet another document of bylaws in 1938 it reads, "Halfmoon & Horseshoe Bays Harbour Board" Wonder if these were mistakes or they kept changing their mind on how it should read.

**Acquisitions:**

**Childrens bloomers** - very cute pair of cotton bloomers re-

**Muttonbird calendar** - showing different aspects of muttonbirding over the years.

**Booklet - Brief History of 100 Years of Anglican History on Stewart Island 1896-1996** -- an interesting look back at the Anglican Church.

**Drawings and poem by Rewi Fife** - Rewi was the son of George and Noline Fife and a very intelligent person.

**Ode to Fox and Beryl -1995** - A fun poem made up about Lloyd "Fox" and Beryl Wilcox.

**Several Newspaper articles Business Letterheads** - these are always interesting from services and businesses and often change over the years. If you have a Stewart Island business letter-

head we'd love to have a copy for our archives.

**Play - Island of the Glowing Sky** - presented by Halfmoon Bay School in 2002

**Photographs** - Old identities who have lived here, Old hall, start of the sewerage system, Rusty Nuts Bike Club visit, Sharks caught some years ago,

**Documents** - relating to water, district act of 1953, and hunter usage survey in 1980-81

**Searches for December** were: the Japanese lady, Kei Agatasuma who lived in a cave at Doughboy Bay some years ago. Also one for William Tucker and his wife Te Anu.

**Reminder** - Kirsten is now over in the Library for SDC and our office is now located downstairs. We've had some nice positive comments on our new set up.

Summer hours are now Monday - Saturday 10- 1:30 and Sunday 12 - 2:00.

On Cruise ship days the museum will be open until 4pm.



**BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford Summer Reading**

I may have to up my game – George’s review of “Flight of the

Doves” (December SIN) was masterful and made me want to read the book asap! More reviews please George! Meanwhile, “**Killing Cupid**” by Louise Voss & Mark Edwards is worth a read if you enjoy psychological dramas – this one is really good! Siobhan had her first – and only! – novel published some years ago, and is teaching a Creative Writing course whilst she tries to write Novel No.2 on the back of a failed romance. Alex is in her class. He’s a telemarketer who is trying to write, and then he falls in love with Siobhan. His ‘love’ is the obsessive, stalkerish sort of love though, and Siobhan is initially horrified and revolted. Meanwhile, she has made friends with another of the class – Kathy. And then things really start to go wrong! The story is told by two voices as Siobhan and Alex write up their diaries, and for a change, this works extremely well, seeing the same events through two different sets of eyes. I can’t say the ending was totally unexpected, and it’s not ‘happy ever after’ in the accepted sense of the phrase, but it is satisfying to the reader.

“**The Stranger**” by Saskia Sarginson is a contemporary novel, based on the migrant crisis in England. Ellie lives in a pretty but rather claustrophobic English village with her adorable academic husband, Will. She runs the local tea-rooms beloved by locals and tourists alike, the only fly in the ointment is her childlessness. But Ellie has a secret past which she hasn’t told her husband. The thing is, what secrets does Will have? I actually guessed his secret fairly early on, but it didn’t spoil the tension as Ellie turns to bereaved David, local ‘lord-of-the-manor’ for mutual comfort, all the time very aware of Luca, The Stranger, who has come into her life. Very well-written, good characters, good atmosphere, tense and a fair ending.

“**A Taste of Ashes**” by Tony Black follows D.I. Bob Valentine through a less-than-routine murder in Ayr. The introduction of the supernatural is definitely UN-natural and is, fortunately, only a minor element in a rather old-fashioned murder-mystery. The characters don’t really come over strongly, the plot is a bit weak and the writing is oddly naive. But in a way, that makes the tale all-the-more believable – almost like reading a very good newspaper report (from the days when journalism was a ‘profession’, not just a job). And it’s full of real wit and excellent

one-liners that move this mediocre story along at a good pace. It won’t win any awards, but is good enough for a wet Sunday afternoon (of which there have been a few!).

And then I turned to **Simon Scarrow** again, for the most recent two books in his ‘Cato & Macro, the Romans’ series. They are both splendid, real ‘boys own’ adventure with a less than sugary romance in the background. There’s intrigue at the court of Emperor Claudius in “**Praetorian**” where the Emperor’s natural son, Britannicus, and his adopted son, Nero, are being pushed towards a royal future by different factions. However, there’s one faction that can do without emperors at all. It’s up to Macro and Cato to unravel the many skeins of plot and counter-plot. And there’s mayhem in West Britain in “**The Blood Crows**” when Centurion Quertus of the Thracian Cohort turns ‘native’ – worse in fact, as he wreaks abominable, rage-filled vengeance on the Silurian tribes (of South Wales). And a mere Prefect isn’t going to stop him – it didn’t the last time Quertus served under a Prefect....

So what will I dip into next? So many good books, so little summer! Meanwhile, Happy New Year to all, wishing you health, happiness and good reading.

# congratulations

	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Parents</i>	
<i>Newlyweds</i>	Emma & Ty	Ange & Ants	playground	Leah & Matt	<i>Newlyweds</i>
Ang & Jason	welcome	welcome	<i>oystercatchers</i>	welcome	Bridget & Kev
	baby girl	baby boy	welcome	baby boy	
	Indi Evelyn	Luca Rohi	newly hatched	Nico Rain	
	Jenkinson	Simpson	fluffy chick	Hare	

## Apologies/Corrections/Clarifications...

Due to a missing paragraph break in the last issue, it was implied that the South Sea Hotel Quiz gave funds toward Vicki Coats' going-away party. This was NOT the case: The SI Women's Institute hosted the party. It was a pot-luck

which dozens of locals contributed to. Vicki gave away her T-shirts to everyone who attended.

The Stewart Island News thanks the South Sea Hotel Quiz for funds as they donated \$500 to SIN last year! Much appreciated and sorry for the confusion. —Ed

## OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER – Jo Riksem



Stewart Islanders are great readers and quite often one finds in a book something that is special. I found this quote not long ago, “Love is the key no door is too difficult for it to open.” I truly believe this and sincerely hope that love will open many doors this grand year of 2017. Someone once said, “Love can be painted in many colours” and when one looks at rainbows it is easy to see why.

### Ministers and Speakers for February 2017:

**Feb. 5 – Rev. Ian Hyslop** - Ian is married to Jacinta and they have 3 adult children -2 of whom are married and one grandson. Ian grew up in Mosgiel and Jacinta in Nightcaps. Ian has served in ministry (after being a Primary School teacher

and Lay Assistant to Wynford Davies at St Andrews Church, South Invercargill) in 3 parishes -Edendale for 8 years , Geraldine for 19 years and this past year has been the Minister of the Upper Clutha Presbyterian Church -based in Wanaka. Both Ian and Jacinta have been to Stewart Island on a number of occasions tramping and in 1994 were based on the Island living in the manse while Ian was on Study Leave. We enjoy walking , meeting new people and reading.

**Feb. 12 – David Tripp** - Life sometimes doesn't go in straight lines. David Tripp has done the rounds. Starting life in rural Canterbury, of Southland roots, he's onto his fourth career – as a hospital specialist in Wellington. He's inspired by the way Jesus managed to see into peoples lives and speak words that became freedom and a deepened connection to something bigger. In a world that seems to be struggling to work out which way is up, here is some hope. Helen, co-conspirator with David, is a spiritual director. She works with people seeking to find and nurture a God-space in their day-to-day lives.

**Feb. 19 – Heather Kennedy** - of First Church, Invercargill, our Interim Moderator and one of our regular ministers to Stewart Island. Her lovely bubbly personality and a great smile is just one of her many strong points. She's working on a book which will published sometime this year.

**Feb. 26 – Dorothy Hennessey** – come see what Dorothy is all about this Sunday. I'm sure she'll be a joy to everyone.

Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open every day to visit and enjoy the peace.



There's a new business catering to tourists on the island: **Stewart Island Electric Bikes**. It's a small locally owned family business — Pete Bayne started it, and his son Henry mans the hire shed most days.

Electric bicycles, also known as e-bikes, are great fun and make our local "mountains into molehills", allowing riders to get around our hilly terrain with ease.

Their fleet consists of five bikes which are steadily rented out on nice days. The cost is \$45 for three and a half hours. There's somebody available to rent them to you daily from 9-10am, and between 1 and 5pm.

You can find out more about their bikes at [www.stewartisland-electricbike-hire.co.nz](http://www.stewartisland-electricbike-hire.co.nz) or call them at 0204 023 8155 or better yet, stop by and say hi!

They are located at 4 main road in the wee shed round the corner from Ship to Shore.

Congratulations to Pete Bayne for bringing this innovative and eco-friendly venture to the island!

*Artwork by Libby Bayne*



The **'Our Island' biodiversity conservation art exhibition** Stewart Islanders made in September 2015 continued its tour of Otago in 2016! In February and then again in November it was on show during community workshops that combined printmaking with different local predator-removal community projects. These communities then also made their own new work, sharing their views and expressing their commitment to biodiversity conservation work. Jenny Rock and Lynn Taylor (and friends, all part of the 'The Sandpit Collective') continue to plan to share the work, but also intend to return your prints to you sometime later this year in a return SI visit! Watch this space. — *Jenny Rock*



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Greg Everest's new business **Aurora Cab Co.** The wagon's décor is a photo by local aurora-chaser Sandra Whipp. For more information on the island's new cab see page 3.

## Quality Handyman Services Guaranteed

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

### Handyman Services

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| 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                   |

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| 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**



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Email [handyman@acadia.co.nz](mailto:handyman@acadia.co.nz)

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Rated M



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

If you want to know more check out our website ([www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz](http://www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz))

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