

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

January 2005 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

## Islanders Travel to Auckland for Big Wedding Day



Callum Gray, son of Lesley and Alan (Shorty) Gray was married at 4.00pm on 05 January in the Naval Memorial Chapel of St Christopher, HMNZS PHILOMEL, Devonport, Auckland.

Callum's bride, the former Samantha Shaw, met him whilst holidaying on the island four years ago. A number of Stewart Islanders travelled north to the wedding including three of the groomsmen shown with Callum in the accompanying photograph. They are from left to right: Gareth Hamilton, Karl Hansen, Callum, best man Reece Peveral and John Neave. John's sister Nadia was Maid of Honour to Sam.

The Naval chapel was decorated with white roses and lillie that matched those featured in Sam's and the bridesmaids' bouquets. Bunches of roses wrapped in music manuscripts adorned the kauri pews. The chapel's beautiful pipe organ was used to maximum effect in the voluntaries the couple had chosen for the ceremony - Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary and Mendolsohn's Wedding March. An Honour Guard was formed by sword bearing colleagues of the Groom as the couple left the chapel.

A string quartet entertained guests at the Naval Sports Complex until the reception began at 7.00pm. The wedding breakfast featured many island seafood delicacies and the dance that followed was enjoyed by the tiara- and sword-wearing guests! (The latter adornments were worn in frivolous response to the bride's invitation posted to guests.)

Callum and Sam are honeymooning in Paris, the French Alps (with their snowboards) and Dubai. Their home will continue to be in Devonport.

## MUSEUM NOTES.

Here we are again, off on a New Year--- how they do rush round! We hope everyone had a happy time over the Festive Season and you are ready for whatever 2005 will bring.

In spite of the unseasonable weather we have had, visitor numbers passing through the Museum are quite high. We hope this continues! In the meantime, work goes on to sort out the new building and details for the administration side of things combining the Museum, S.D.C. office, Visitor centre etc., all of which takes time, apart from getting the building work under way.

We have also decided to run with the “New Zealand Museums Standards Scheme” put forward by Te Papa. There are five “Standards Modules” to work on, and after sifting through the full page of explanation etc, we can sum it up thus: “The Scheme allows you to gauge where your organisation may excel and where improvements can be made”.

So far, Lorraine and Jane have attended a meeting with the Southland Museum in Invercargill to get things going. Southland Museum is to be our “big brother” for the exercise.

There are no new acquisitions to report this month.

### Boat of the Month.

#### GRACE DARLING

Have you heard about the ship that was wrecked without ever going to sea? It's true! The good ship **GRACE DARLING** burst into flames about midnight one November 2004 evening, and, as they say, burnt to the waterline. And so another part of the Island's history faded from view, this time from Kamahi Road, (or the “Dress Circle” to the locals,) where she had been a point of interest to visitors for over 50 years.

But to be serious – it happened this way. During the early 1950's Alf Walmsley bought his cabin cruiser to the Island. Harry Rose met Buddie Willa in the bay one day and asked what he thought of Alf's boat. “It would suit me nicely,” said Buddie. “Too expensive to run,” said Harry. “I wouldn't take it to sea”, said Buddie, “but put it ashore on my section and live in it.” “That has given me an idea,” said Harry, who was planning to build a house and retire here. Some days later Harry came in and passed over a plan he had drawn – the “**GRACE DARLING**”. Harry built her in 1951 and named her after his wife, who was Grace Darling Kingsland, and the section was named “Roseland”, from both their names. The rooms (cabins?) were named “FOCSLE”, “GALLEY”, “AFTER-CABIN”, and “BRIDGE”.

In earlier times there was a wooden vessel called **GRACE DARLING**, which was licenced to carry 19 passengers and contracted to take guests from Woodslea House on trips around the tourist spots of the day. This was in the early to mid 1930's.

Well, that seems to be it for this month – hope you found something of interest.

See you next time. Merv King.

## Feeding native birds

by Brent Beaven, Department of Conservation

There have been several comments to me over the last few months about how and why people feed native birds. Some of these comments were about how kaka are becoming a nuisance around the bay as they get very tame.

These comments prompted me to ask the experts for help. The National Wildlife Centre at Mt Bruce came back with the following advice:

1. If people are going to put food out for the kaka then it should be as close to natural foods as possible. Bits of apple, pear or other fruits and nuts, such as walnuts, are things we feed here, as well as soaked sunflower seeds. We also feed cheese but only in extremely small quantities as it is very fatty and not good for them in large amounts.
2. To avoid: all foods that aren't natural (if people have to create it in any way then don't feed it to the birds! If it comes out of a packet or tin, then don't feed it to them. Of course, no meat products for kaka.
3. We use jam water instead of sugar water, but basically they are the same anyway - OK in small quantities, but too much won't be very good for them. If people are going to be putting out drinks these must be changed daily and the containers they are put in washed/cleaned daily as well. We use "hamster water bottles" which are available from pet shops in a variety of sizes which can be attached to a tree branch or wooden pole. They are good because the liquid is not exposed to air or have other birds pooping in it, as could happen if it was put out in a bowl. Of course this also means that while kaka use the bottles we have not seen any other natives such as tui feeding from them, or from our feedstations for that matter.
4. If people put food out any time of the day then they may soon have the situation of kaka hanging around their houses all day and every day because they soon learn that there is going to be food given to them on demand. We find here that because we have a set feeding time the kaka have soon learnt that 3pm is the time the food is put out, so they generally only hang around the area from about 2pm onwards and once they finish eating they disappear again for the day. We don't want the kaka to come reliant on supplementary food, and want them to retain their natural behaviour and the ability to find food for themselves. So, if people want to put food out they could set up a routine of times they put food out and stick to it!!!! The amount of food should also be limited so it is definitely only a supplement or top up, and the birds still have to forage naturally to meet their daily requirements.

If you feed kaka, they will start to expect to be fed. If you are finding kaka a nuisance, then I suggest you don't feed them. Kaka could be excluded from a bird feeder by putting netting around it (the mesh size determining what size birds can feed).

If you are concerned, or have further questions, then feel free to call Brent Beaven at the Department of Conservation (03 2190002).

## HALFMOON BAY BEAT: January 2005

Greetings and Happy New Year to all. The 'beat' is back after a month off. My reliever (and brother) Duncan enjoyed his stay. Thanks for all those who made him feel welcome. He certainly seemed to make an impression while he was here!

New Years Eve itself was a bit damp and the celebrations were somewhat more muted than would probably have otherwise been. I was really happy with the tone around the town and there were no problems all night. Well done islanders and visitors. The only drama was the medical emergency early on at the hotel. What a professional job the medical crew and helpers did. A life of a loved one was certainly saved. I think we are very fortunate to have that sort of team looking after us on the island.

One area where I have been reasonably busy is lost & found property. Thanks for those who have contacted me re found property. By law, anyone finding property must take steps to hand it into police. If it is not claimed within a certain time then the property can be returned to the finder.

Now I'm sure most island front line staff and residents are already good at doing this. If you are dealing with trampers & giving advice, etc, please make sure you advise them to visit DOC and ensure they are told to fill out a detailed intentions form prior to heading bush. It is also vital that they also CHECK OUT with DOC again. This can save much time and energy on false alarms re 'missing persons'.

Now a bit more on 'Island Traffic Matters'.

Quad bikes, ATV's, four wheelers. A common sight on island roads but I'm afraid not for much longer. They are NOT LEGAL for general road use. These 'bikes' were designed for off road use and were never meant for general use on the road. They are inherently unsafe (and are in fact the leading cause of work related fatalities other than road crashes in NZ). All vehicles used on a road are subject to registration (numberplates, VIN no.), licensing and safety checks (WOF, COF). Because the ATV's were never designed for the road, they do get sold without any of this in mind.

There are a few exemptions and these relate to specialised uses such as farming & contracting. There are serious restrictions on their road use and they are still subject to registration and some licensing and safety inspections. The bottom line is that they can no longer be used in the manner, which is customary on the island. A fact sheet is provided by LTSA and I am happy to answer any queries or supply the fact sheet.

Riding on the back of Ute's. I have mentioned this once before. This is not a safe or legally acceptable way of travelling, especially for children. I have spoken to some people about it but the practice has continued by others. It is a recipe for disaster. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure the safety of the passengers. I do not want to be the one attending or advising that a child has been killed or serious injured falling off the back of a ute. It has happened elsewhere. Please STOP this dangerous practice.

To other vehicle issues. I have received the odd complaint about people speeding around the village. There is no need for this and there is low community- and police-tolerance for this. If you are one of those with a lead foot, then SLOW DOWN.

One final comment on traffic. Those who I have warned re vehicle condition. Please heed the warning and either fix your vehicle or get rid of it. I will have no choice but to start ordering vehicles off the road and issuing tickets.

And finally (I hate the griping), so on a positive note, good luck to DOC Marty and Sara in Dunedin with the year of study and also to Jess and Wal from DOC. Both Marty and Jess have been an integral part of SAR on the island and have worked closely with police for many years. I extend thanks and good luck to them both.

Catch you next month.

Tod Hollebon  
Halfmoon Bay Police.



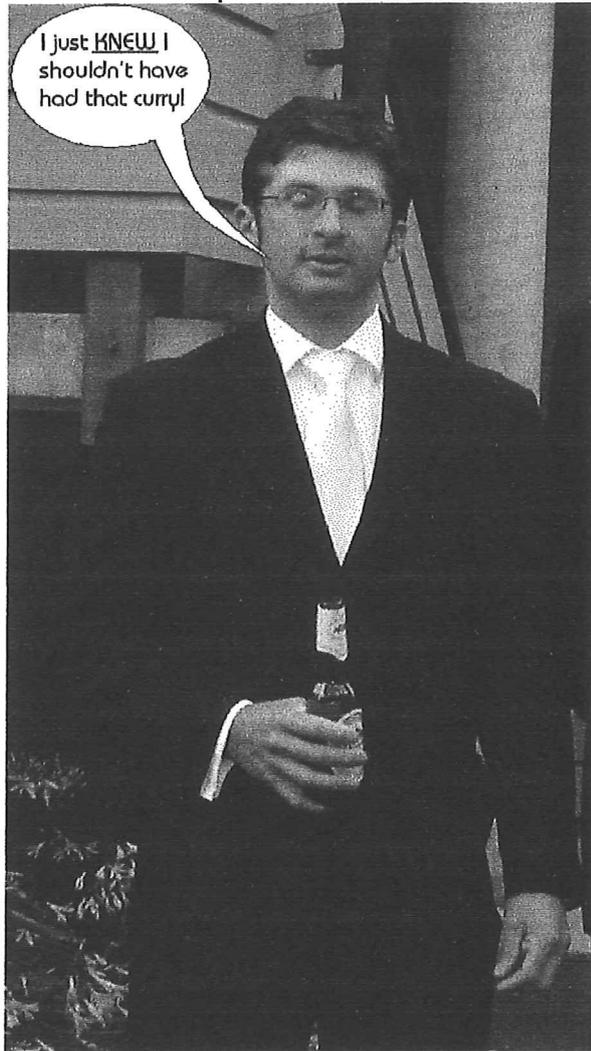
This month we're back to the customary single chocolate award. And the winner is.....  
Loosie and his builder blokes, for the very rapid construction of an access ramp to  
Colleen Dawson's front door.  
Colleen was very happy to donate the chocolates that go with a big "Thank you".

### Basin Award

This month I have chosen myself to receive the coveted Basin Award. In last month's SIN I was handing out some festive Season accolades to the various organisations that help produce the News. I must have been wearing the wrong "hat" (locals will be aware I have many) as, instead of thanking **McDowall Print** for their help, I named one of their competitors!

Oops – red faces all around. Melissa at McDowalls picked up the mistake and pointed it out to me very tactfully. Which goes to prove she must read the publication! Good to see you find it interesting, Melissa, and sorry for that blooper.

### Caption Contest



Here is a "crop" from the front page picture of the wedding. Readers are invited to come up with a caption to match the expression on Gareth's face (or the brand of beer he is drinking). I have started the ball rolling but I am sure you will do better. Send your entries to P O Box 87 Oban or pass them onto me when you see me. I'll see what I can do to find a prize.

---

**WHERE BUDGET AND QUALITY ARE YOUR  
MAIN CONCERN  
CROZ'S  
JIB STOPPING  
SERVICES  
ALL TYPES OF JIB STOPPING UNDERTAKEN  
CALL CROZ: 021 157 9130  
or 03 456 5079**

## Dog Owner's Behaviour a Disgrace

by Brent Beaven, DOC, Oban.

Another two Little Blue Penguins were attacked and killed by a dog on Stewart Island during December, bringing the total found mauled to death to eleven.

It is a disgrace that some dog owners don't take any responsibility for what their dogs are doing. As a dog owner, I am getting sick of a few people giving dogs a bad name and making it more difficult to keep a dog on Stewart Island. As people struggle to set up a viable tourist industry on the island, these attacks send a message to visitors that we, as residents, put little value on our environment.

If these dogs are happy to kill penguins, then I worry about the small number of kiwi and weka that live around Halfmoon Bay. I've run out of ideas on how to deal with this problem in a polite manner. We could initiate night patrols, we could pay for the Invercargill dog control officer to come over on a more regular basis, or people could simply tie their dogs up at night!

---

## Aurora Charters Expedition to the Edendale Crank-up Day 29th January 2005

Vintage machinery, entertainment,  
aerial displays, country music,  
pipe & brass bands,  
invited artists & personalities.  
Travel to Bluff on the Aurora,  
chartered bus to Edendale  
then return that evening.

Contact: Aurora Charters  
Telephone 219 1126

## Kaka Chicks On Their Way Out

Kari Beaven: Halfmoon Bay Restoration Project

You may remember a kaka nest found in the Habitat Restoration area last month. Thanks to a plentiful supply of food nearby, and a pair of dedicated parents, both kaka chicks are doing fantastically well. So well, they are well on their way to leaving the nest.



Kaka chick nearly ready to go

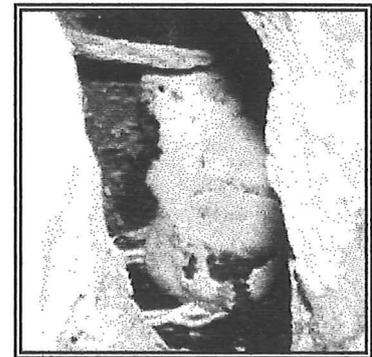
Since finding the nest, we've continued trapping rats and possums in the area but left the kaka to their own devices. A check last week found both chicks still alive, fat and well; fully feathered, minus the odd gap, which was patched with downy fluff. Brent Beaven, who has worked with kaka in the Whirinaki forest, came with me at my request and calculated the chicks would be only 1-2 weeks from leaving the nest. He commented how significant it was that both chicks were still alive.

Kaka can lay up to five eggs. They will sit on them all, however if food supplies get low, they will choose the number of chicks they can afford to feed in order to maintain their own health.

This can turn out to be one, strong chick raised from the nest that year. These chicks appeared to be the only two, with one egg still sealed, but as they were newly hatched when found, their survival is a great success.

The kaka must have chosen a border of possum territories for their nest, as since finding the nest, we've caught four adult possums on one fuchsia growing 10m away. That is over half the possums caught on that one line!

These chicks will soon leave the nest; however it will be a while before they are fully on their own. Kaka offspring spend a lot of time on the ground, building their experience and skill before they fly. They are fed for many weeks by their parents, learning from them what to eat and how to forage. I hope we will be able to write the final chapter in this success story next month.



Chick with feathers developing

Finally, thank you for all your comments last month about the nest and the project. I was blown away by responses to the article and enjoyed talking to people about the project, the bird life in our area and the results we have seen so far.

If you would like any information about the project, please feel free to phone (03) 2191 533, drop a note for me at the post office or e-mail [habitat@glowingsky.co.nz](mailto:habitat@glowingsky.co.nz).

## Sewerage Scheme Underway

From the Southland District Council

11 January 2005

Work has begun on the \$6 million extension to the Stewart Island sewerage scheme.

Contractor Fulton Hogan was awarded the contract to build the scheme, which will provide reticulation for almost all the developed part of the island.

Residents and property owners will be informed by public notices from Fulton Hogan when work will be commencing in their streets.

Marker pegs will be placed on or near the spot where lateral pipes will be laid to the property boundary, allowing individual properties to connect to the main sewer. Southland District Council Water and Waste Services Engineer Simon MacKenzie said that if property owners preferred their lateral to be sited somewhere else, they would have a few days from when the markers were placed to contact the Council's on-site engineer and discuss whether this was possible.

The Council has set up a joint site office with Fulton Hogan in the Church Hall, and the contract site engineer, Andrew Carrington, will be at Oban during the week for most of the construction period. Andrew can be contacted on 2191437.

Mr MacKenzie said that the construction of the new scheme includes making improvements to the existing treatment system to cope with the additional load. An aerator will be installed at the oxidation pond by the end of the month and the pump station near the hotel is also being upgraded. Extra standby storage is being installed by the pump station to minimise the risk of sewage spilling from the system during periods of high demand. Maintenance work is also being carried out on the existing rising main.

This work should also help fix odour problems, which have been particularly noticeably over the last couple of weeks as the extra loading from the island's holiday population went through the system.

Construction should be finished by early June, with the scheme fully operational by July 2005.

**Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. If you wish to send a contribution, please email to [sdovey@es.co.nz](mailto:sdovey@es.co.nz) preferably as an MsWord™ attachment. Short articles can be posted to the editor: Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island. *Deadline for February edition is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2005.***

**If you wish to have this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island. For ten issues posted to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, the cost is \$25**

**Name of Recipient.....**

**Address.....**