

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

January—February 2011

\$2.50

New Year's Eve was a relatively peaceful event in the Bay. Many locals celebrated around the island, ringing in 2011 at Bravo, Mason Bay, Pegasus, and Lords River. We live in such a Paradise that even when we go away for the holidays, we're still home!

With the Carrick crew at Butterfields and the Turnbull bunch at Horseshoe, our beaches have been buzzing with kids sculpting castles, playing games and surfing the waves. It's been a gorgeous summer. Our pathways, shop aisles and trails have been bustling with visitors. Some are still making their way around the Bay via *the middle* of our roads... Maybe a wee road rules exam for these wayward pedestrians is in order?(p10)

Rats have found their way to Ulva Island (p3). If you are travelling to Ulva please be vigilant, and check



Summertime at Butterfield Beach. Photo from Lilian McKenzie

your vessel and gear for any signs of these nasty stowaways.

A new column debuts in this issue: *Wondrous Tales from the Tuk Tuk* (p7). *Oban Globetrotter* is back with a fascinating tale from pirate-riddled seas (p4).

Don't miss the upcoming concert from Pacific Curls on 13th Feb at the Hall (p12).

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

—Jess

### Good news for penguin lovers & a plea from the penguins!

by Claire Kilner

Over summer, little blue penguins are bringing food to their chicks on land at night. Every year SIRCET spends 10 nights in December walking the track to Ackers Point counting these penguin parents. This year we came across an average of 10



PHOTO: Brent Beavan

penguins each night, including some very cute chicks in their fluffy down coats. As you can see on the graph, the number of penguins seen has increased so we are pretty happy with these results. A big thanks to the penguin volunteers: Cath, Dale, Annett, Phil D., Sandy, Matt, Jules and Ann. (Also thanks to Annett for helping me with burrowscoping – you're a star!)

(Continued on page 2)

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**QUIZ NEWS**

by Vicki Coats

Once again a fantastic quizzing year! Here's the money raised and how it was spent:

25.01.10 \$725 donated for a new Apple Mac for the school (plus a bit of last years money) we bought them a brand new laptop!

28.02.10 \$600 donated for a marquee for the Stewart Island Relay for Life team

7.3.10 \$140 donated to Active Movement for kids workshop (plus a bit of last years money)

28.3..10 \$780 donated to get an ambo bag for Stewart Island Volunteer First Aiders

4.4.10 \$380 donated to Stewart Island Community Center (One night Easter donations!)

25.4.10 \$385 donated to Stewart

Island Pavilion for catering equipment (wine glasses and stainless steel platters)

23.5.10 \$360 donated to Stewart Island Museum for a laminator and binding machine

11.7.10 \$915 donated to Stewart Island library for new books

5.9.10 \$600 donated to the new Stewart Island Audio Equipment (The nice shiny sound system in the hall)

12.9.10 \$100 donated to the Scavenger Hunt for SIRCET

10.10.10 \$510 donated to the Stewart Island Community Gardens for dirt!

19.12.10 \$800 donated to the Community Xmas Party and CDs for the Hall!

26.12.10 \$680 for Rugrats, Library,

Soccer Ball & the Pavillion (Two sets of saucepans for the pavillion, more books for the library, a soccer ball for the game they are going to have before the rugby on Waitangi Day! and an easel and some painting stuff for the rugrats)

The last items have been ordered and are just trickling in now, so if you are part of any of the above organisations arrange a team to come down and collect your loot!

Remember to let us know if you need cash for a community project, SIRCET have just asked for help with floor coverings and lights for the new look environment centre.

And don't forget to look us up on Facebook and see who keeps winning and losing! Jack, Mona, Helen, Friday, Arky and assorted extras seem to be the team to beat, so get down and have a crack!

(Continued from page 1)

However, I am sorry to say we came across a few people who were leaving the track to find penguins. In doing this people could destroy the nests of the very birds that they came to see! I have already had one burrow with a boot print in the caved-in roof this year. It's also dangerous - one visitor had a sea lion lunge at him in the dark. As our results show you can see plenty of penguins on the track, so could everyone please make sure visitors know this.

Tips for penguin watching: go when it is dark, walk quietly and slowly and stay still when you do see a penguin.

Happy viewing!  
Claire



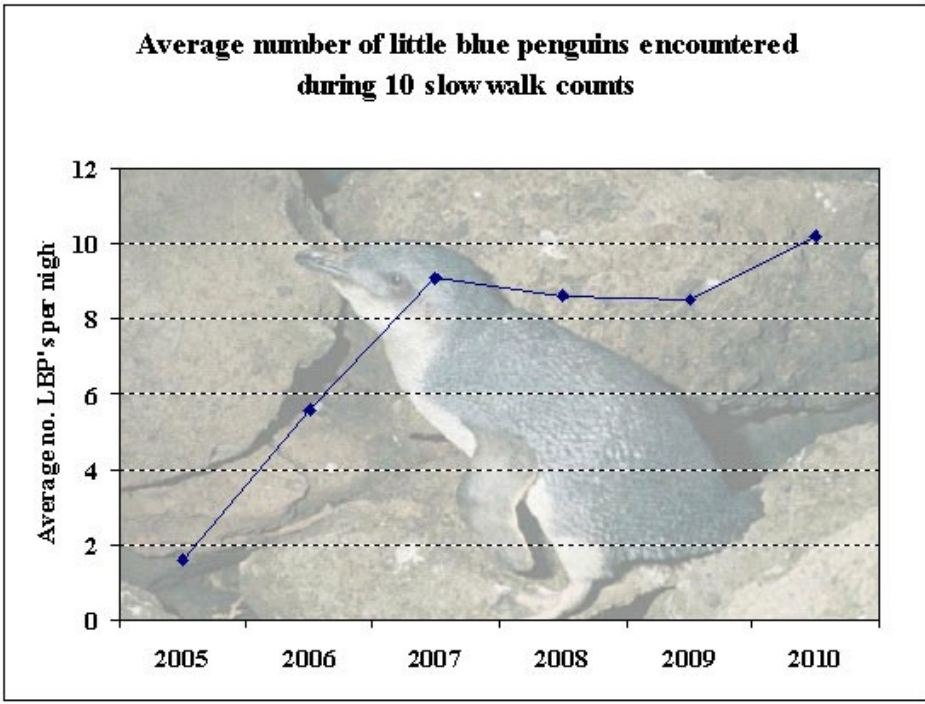
**Penguin Etiquette**

**Stay on the track**

**Don't blind birds with lights**  
**Use a red light (try red cellophane)**

**Turn off your camera flash**  
**Keep over 5m away**

**Do not chase birds to get a photo!**





## Rodents invade ‘rat-free’ Ulva island

Twelve rats have been caught on “rat free” Ulva Island in the last two weeks.

After four rats were caught on Ulva Island in June/July 2010, DOC staff were hopeful that the incursion to this rat free island had been contained. However, in October a keen eyed member of the public passed on a photo of animal prints he took in a muddy creek on the island. DOC experts confirmed that these were made by a rat.

Ulva Island has a network of traps and poison bait stations that are run year round to kill any rats that may get to the island and extra traps were added to this and the frequency of checks increased. Tracking tunnels were also used to try and detect any rats on other parts of the island.

Between August and December, no further rats were caught or detected. This all changed after Christmas day - a total of 12 rats have since been trapped. Of greatest concern is that one of the rats was a juvenile which indicates there is now a breeding population on the island.

DOC staff have been diverted from other work to check the traps and tunnels on a weekly basis. A DOC team of experts will meet shortly to plan a course of action to remove rats from Ulva Island as rapidly as possible.

Ulva Island (256ha) is located in Pater-

son Inlet, Stewart Island. Is is a key eco-tourism destination due to its pristine forest and abundant wildlife. Rats were initially removed from Ulva Island over 13 years ago and the island is now home to many endangered birds, including mohua / Yellowhead and tieke / Saddleback. Ulva Island is one of a few ‘open sanctuary’ islands where the public are able to visit without a permit.

“Since rats were first removed from Ulva Island, on average one rat a year manages to get to Ulva Island either by swimming or hitch-hiking with boats. To date, we have managed to catch these rats as they arrive, preventing them from breeding. This is the first time a rat has evaded all of our traps, established and bred” said DOC Biodiversity Manager Brent Beaven. “Ulva Island is a special place in Rakiura National Park and hundreds of thousands of visitors have enjoyed the island and its vibrant bird life over the last ten years.”

“Removing and then keeping rats off the island is a difficult task and there is always a chance that we may not succeed. DOC has an excellent record in this field but as always we will need the help and support of the public to achieve this” said Mr Beaven.

Contact details:

Department of Conservation:  
Brent Beaven  
Programme Manager – Biodiversity,  
Stewart Island Ph 03 2190007 or 02726

## Capricious Care of Cats Causes Concern

There are reports of part-time residents feeding stray cats, then going off-island and leaving the cats to fend for themselves. These feral cats are breeding, hunting birds, scavenging neighbours’ recycle bins, and being a general nuisance. Unless you plan on relocating permanently to the island, adopting the cats, neutering them, and keeping them as pets, it is unfair to the cats and unfair to your neighbours (human and feathered) to give these felines only part-time care. —Jess



Road work continues round at Leask Bay.

*Photo from  
Philipa Fraser-Wilson*



## Lee Bay Poison Incident

On 17th December, a local mum was horrified when her son and his mate brought her a handful of what appeared to be poison which they found while playing on the rocks at Lee Bay. She alerted the

interim policeman. After an investigation, it was determined that the substance was several pellets of Brodifacoum, a poison used in rat and possum control. It’s surmised that someone accidentally kicked a bait station set on Dancing Star land, and the pellets tum-

bled downhill to the shoreline where the children found them. The bait station has since been shifted further inland and more warning signs have been posted along the fence-line to ensure this won’t happen again.

—Jess Kany



## ban Globetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

*Ben Hopkins  
reports to us from the pirate-riddled Red Sea  
and the "snotty Yellow Sea."*

A month ago I was settling in to a 3 month holiday as extra 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer on a gas carrier, anchored off Port of Spain, Trinidad. Inevitably that turned out to be too good to be true! I was happily doing nothing one day, when the Captain knocked on my door and said he had good news & bad news! The good news was that I was getting off in 5 days time. The bad news was I was to transfer to an Aframax crude tanker, the British Curlew! The even worse news came, in that I was to join in Egypt eastbound...

So with that my brief foray into the gas tanker world was cut short (leaving me still 5 weeks short of the gas time required for the endorsement I've been trying to organise for 5 years!) and I was sent packing! There is always a problem just before

Christmas, in that nobody wants to go to sea and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer on the Curlew was due off. Because I was an extra body on the Merchant, the short straw was given to me to draw! So another set of round-about flights saw me fly from Trinidad to London Gatwick, hoof it across to London Heathrow, where I made the flight by mere minutes, fly to Paris where everything was delayed due to snow and boat people and then onwards to Cairo. The Paris bit was interesting, as we were all on the plane ready to go when this noise could be heard coming from the back of the plane. It sounded like a goose to me and I assumed it was a kid's toy or something, but there was a lot of hurried to-ing and fro-ing by the cabin crew and eventually the pilot himself went to the back. After an announcement it was revealed that the noise was coming from an asylum seeker who was being forced to return to Egypt and didn't want to go! He was making this weird noise and was quite hysterical. Anyway, someone sat on him until the police turned up and they carted him off, delaying us by over an hour.

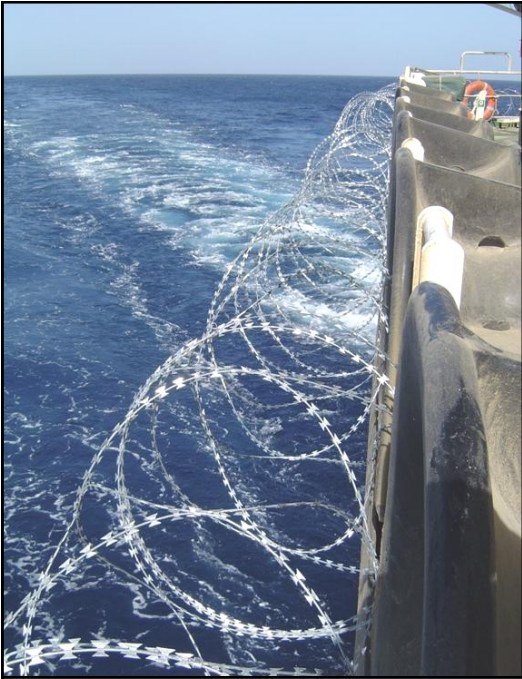
I arrived in Cairo to the usual lack of information from local agents and was put up in a hotel for a night, finally getting called to be at reception just as I was about to head down for something to eat at 6pm! I was picked up along with the Captain

and a brand new 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer and we set off on an insane journey to Port Said, at the northern end of the Suez Canal. The driving in Cairo is quite possibly the most terrifying in the world, with no clearly-defined road rules plus a lot of speed! It was best not to look... It took us about 2 hours to drive to Port Said and go through the usual backward Arab customs & immigration system. Fortunately no bribing was necessary (probably because the Captain was with us) and we were put on board an interesting-looking launch for transport to the ship. Initially we sat on deck, as it was a pleasant enough evening, but we were then herded inside and down into a dark foc'sle space with 4 bunks, lots of paint cans, open containers of thinners and a mildly surprised sleeping African! Here the 6 of us (plus the snoozing African) stayed for the next 2 hours, wondering what the hell was going on outside, as we crashed alongside 5 other ships to transfer stores, people, etc. Although interesting and rather lively we were all getting a bit over it all by the time the Curlew loomed out of the darkness!

We arrived on board finally at 12.30am and the ship proceeded through the Suez Canal. Unfortunately most of the transit was done at night, so I hardly saw any of it, but nonetheless, I can now tick it off the list! The guys we were relieving were to be getting off at Suez, at the southern end of the Canal before we continued on our way east to China. However, luck was not on their



**Gloves required!**



Rigging razor wire, Red Sea

have never felt more sorry for off-signers in my life! Here we were on the 13<sup>th</sup> December with 5 guys about to head home for Christmas, all unable to get off! Normally nobody would care that much, as it's a fact of life on tankers, but at this time of year... For the guy I relieved, it was to be his first Christmas at home in 6 years and the 4th engineer was to be spending 3 weeks with his fiancé before she headed to sea for a year with the Royal Navy! By the time he eventually got off, he probably would have only had a few days.

ters off Somalia are a huge problem for shipping at the moment, with piracy rife. The precautions to be taken are extensive and also included wrapping the entire ship in razor wire (approx 645m of the stuff!). It took a full day to rig and looked the part, however I'm not convinced it would have kept them at bay for too long.

The dangerous part of the trip starts as we pass through the Bab El Mendheb (Gates of Hell) between Yemen and Eritrea or Djibouti (or whichever country's disputed border happens to be in that area at the time!) and ends about 2 weeks later near India! From Bab El Mendheb we pass into a transit corridor, which has been set up to keep ships together and is organised into group transits at 3 different speeds. There are 10kt convoys, 12 kts, 14kts and 16kts. Anything above 18kts is not considered to be at risk of attack. We joined the convoy of 1 ship on our own in the 12 knot group (being a sluggish fully-laden tanker) and merrily puttered along through pirate

side! By the time day broke, it was apparent nobody was going anywhere, as the wind had risen to a good 40kts and you couldn't see anything for sand! The port of Suez was closed and we ended up waiting the following evening at anchor to see if the conditions would abate enough to get a launch out for them. It just got worse and the Captain had to make the call to proceed to the discharge port with our cargo. I

So we sailed, heading down the Red Sea and out into the Gulf of Aden, all a little top-heavy in the deck department! 2 Captains, a Chief Officer, two 2nd Officers and three 3<sup>rd</sup> Officers!! Oh and a cloud of deep depression...

As most people are now aware, due to a bit of media publicity over the last couple of years, the Gulf of Aden and the wa-

country. There were a few ships around and the odd warship and no pirates! Fortunately for us (and anyone else there at the time) there was a constant 20-25kts of wind, which would have made boarding extremely difficult and, as a result, there were no pirates in the area! However, they weren't all sitting at home in Somalia counting their ransom money. They were further afield in the Indian Ocean and during the 2 weeks we were in the high-risk



Snotty weather in the Yellow Sea

(Continued on page 14)

## Great Job Opportunity

Earn money while helping your community!

### Cleaning Position

6 hours plus per week

Good hourly rate  
Could work as a job share for young mums or retirees.

Apply to  
Stewart Island  
Community Centre  
Trust

Please contact:

Margaret Hopkins  
2191126

or

Hilli Maass-Barrett  
219104



Spotless Executive

### Stewart Island Community Centre Chairman's Annual Report 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

I would like to thank the current Trustees Margaret Hopkins, Hilli Maass-Barrett, Debbie Barry, Becca Parry, Kath Johnson & Karin Lewis for the continuing work you do for the Community Centre. Some of you have been serving this community for many many years with your volunteer efforts. I would especially like to thank Hilli for all the extra work she does as treasurer and for relieving in the office and also Margaret for her work as secretary and at the Centre. We continue to struggle when it comes to having new people join the Community Centre Trust. Daniel Roecken resigned when he left the Island a few months back and we have been lucky to have Karin Lewis join us back in March. It has been a struggle to have regular meetings because of Trustees being away from the Island or busy with their own businesses.

We have been extremely lucky to have Sue Graham working for us as Centre Manager. Her dedication to the job is great and this community is lucky to have someone so enthusiastic when it comes to organising and providing exercise classes and activities. The popularity of her Tai Chi classes is good to see, especially as it involves many of the older members of our community. Likewise the popularity of her pre-school music and movement classes. The use of the community centre has been way up this year thanks to Sue.

Our fundraising activities this year have again been rather low key. The bottled water and raffles continue to be a good source of funds for us and we are grateful to Jan for all the time she puts into this.

The biggest project we have undertaken this year has been the installation of heating ducts to the library which will provide cheaper heating for them and also an income for the Community Centre as we will receive a monthly payment from the Southland District Council.

Thanks must also go to Judy Cronin for the cleanliness of our community centre – she has done a great job. We are also to thankful to Steve Laurence for the maintenance work that he has done for us on the heating system, gym equipment and other appliances. Some of the other members of the community who continue to support and help with ongoing projects include Chris Dillon, Bruce Ford, Aaron Conner, Jed Lewis, Vicki Coates, Jill Skerret & Richard Wilson and many others.

Earlier this year Margaret gave a presentation to the Inspiring Communities Conference here on the Island about the building of the Stewart Island Community Centre. They were really amazed and full of praise at our story and will use it as an example of community collaboration at its best.

The Stewart Island Community Centre continues to provide a great focus for this community and is well used for social events, performances, weddings, conferences and funerals. Sometimes it is hard to imagine how we coped before and I hope that people will continue to appreciate and support the Community Centre.

*Alistair Eade*  
Chairman

# Wondrous Tales from the Tuk Tuk

by the Mother Tucker

I would like to start off with wishing everyone a Happy new Year and thanks for all the hugs and kisses I have received on my arrival back on the Island. For starters it has only taken a certain person who's name will remain anonymous a year to make his payment for a ride I gave him last year. His cousin thought it was like déjà vu that we were having the same conversation outside the Pub a year ago about this payment. But boy it was well worth the wait!!

After getting my payment sorted out my mechanic had to take off to go hunting at Mason Bay for nine days. I was hoping that nothing would go wrong with the tuk tuk. But sadly I had problems with the clutch cable! I was so glad to run into Rastus. He then started to sort the problem out and I said *No not yet matey I have a pick-up to do!* After my drop-off back to the Bay and found Rastus again, he pulled out the cable and said "Here's the problem the cable has too many kinks in it!" I told him I had a spare made up at home. He told me to take his van and go and grab it. I shot off home and coming into Mill Creek the lights started to light up on the dashboard. I managed to pull off the road. Tried to start the van but bother, it had run out of fuel! I jumped out of the van and stopped the first passing vehicle and they ran me back into the Bay. I came around the corner to Rastus and told him what happened. His reply: "I thought it was getting low." Yes, E does not always mean Enough. We jumped into Rangi's ute and his fuel gage wasn't looking any better. "Oops Rangi I hope you have enough fuel to get home." Got the fuel for the van, got that sorted then back to the tuk tuk. Thanks to all the great Samaritans. Like Rastus said *No job is ever that simple here on the island.* Thanks, Mate!

I would like to congratulate Serena and Chris Dawson on their wedding and I would like to thank Doug Beck for the last minute titivation on the tuk tuk. Driving the happy newlyweds back into town from Lee Bay was a sight to behold with Serena's veil floating out the side of the tuk tuk and the tin cans rattling behind us! With well wishes and waves from the people as we passed by I was so glad Doug's sign held together with no drop marks due to the heavy showers! I had only given Doug a couple hours notice to keep up with tradition of the island (sign painted at 3:30pm, pick-up bride and groom at 5:30pm). *Thank goodness for hair dryers!*

I was very privileged to be part of Serena and Chris' big day! We careened into town with what sounded like wild horses behind us (the tin cans). We then pulled in front of the South Sea Hotel for a couple of shooters before their final photo shoot out at the stone cottage.

That's enough from me for now. I better get back to *tuking* around! But remember, what goes around the Island stays on the Island.



**Marriage carriage.** The tuk tuk done up for the Dawson wedding. Photo from Liz Cave.

# Come play KUBB

We're  
currently  
playing Kubb  
every  
Monday  
5.30pm  
onwards  
at the Pavilion  
(weather  
permitting)



Photo from Jane McKenzie

A great game for most ages (apart from really small kids)  
so come along and join in the fun!

## FOOD SAFETY REMINDER from Vicki Coats

Christmas Party was fun! Thanks to all who helped, with setting up and clearing down, to supplying and cooking food, to wearing a funny costume!

Was a small hiccup with a bout of **food poisoning**, (maybe ham and egg sandwiches?) so it's probably a good time to remember the food hygiene rules, especially when you are taking plates to events; you might have a cast-iron stomach, but what may be fine for you can really affect pregnant women, small kids, older adults and people with low immune systems.

The five key principles for food safety are

Prevent contaminating food with pathogens spreading from people, pets, and pests.

1. Separate raw and cooked foods to prevent contaminating the cooked foods.
  - 2.
  3. Cook foods for the appropriate length of time and at the appropriate temperature to kill pathogens.
  - 4.
  5. Store food at the proper temperature.
  - 6.
  7. Use safe water and raw materials
  - 8.
- Wash your hands to avoid cross-contamination.

Store everything safely.

Keep everything covered and chilled until you need it.

Take special care with dairy and seafood.

Keep raw and cooked food separate, raw food should be at the bottom of the fridge.

If you have chooks, wash eggs before boiling and never use a cracked egg.

Basically, if in doubt, chuck it out.





Sorry for a late opening on Saturday the 15th, there was a scheduling snafu and

THANKS to Pat King for saving the day. Margaret R was kind enough to spend an hour helping me one Friday and I'm grateful to her for that. I'd brought Moby along to "help" but so far he hasn't exhibited any librarian genes... He likes to holler in the Library and tear up books. Hopefully this is just a phase.

Thanks to Loraine H, Raylene, Ann Pullen, and all the other donors of books. Loraine gave us the new JD Robb book and the new Bryce Courtenay book *Fortune Cookie*; Ann gave us a pile of assorted goodies; and Raylene gave us the collected works of Agatha Christie. If you have never read an Agatha Christie mystery I suggest you make it one of your new year's resolutions. She is the master.

A New Year means **NEW BOOKS**. Thanks to Quiz Money from Vicki and Book Sale money, we have a heap of books, many considered the best of 2010.

New titles coming to a shelf near you include

**Fiction**

*The Finkler Question* by Howard Jacobson, winner of the 2010 Man Booker Prize.

*One Day* by David Nicholls, a hugely well-reviewed love story. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen, the much anticipated new novel by the author of *The Corrections*. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

(*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*The Imperfectionists* is one of the most highly acclaimed books of 2010 and a debut effort by Tom Rachman. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Skippy Dies* by Irish writer Paul Murray examines the death of a student at a boys' school, and modern Irish history. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by English writer Helen Simonson. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Memory Wall* by Anthony Doerr, a new collection by the masterful storyteller who wrote *The Shell Collector*. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*The Lonely Polygamist* by Brady Udall, the hilarious and moving tale of a man with multiple wives and lots of kids. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Blacklands* by Belinda Bauer, a highly suspenseful psychological thriller. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

*By Nightfall* the new novel by Pulitzer-prize winner Michael Cunningham (author of *the Hours*). (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010") (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Room* by Irish writer Emma Donoghue, a strange and unpredictable story. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010") (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*The Empty Family* by celebrated Irish writer Colm Tobin. A collection of short stories by the author of *Brooklyn*. (*New Zealand*

*Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

*Nemesis* by Philip Roth. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

*The Widower's Tale* by Julia Glass. A family drama by the author of *Three Junes*.

*You Know When the Men Are Gone* by Siobhan Fallon. A collection of interconnected short stories about the wives that soldiers leave behind, written by a woman who knows: her husband served two years in Iraq.

*The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown. Drama about a literary family centered around a Shakespearean scholar and his three daughters.

*Shadow Tag*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Native American writer Louise Erdrich exploring her doomed marriage to the poet Michael Dorris.

**Nonfiction**

*Emporer of All Maladies: a biography of cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee. Many reviewers think this is one of the best medical books of 2010, a fascinating look into the history of Cancer and its treatment. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Seabiscuit*, a 2001 publication but new to our shelves and must-have, considered one of the most gripping sports books ever written.

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Cancer cells taken without permission from a poor American black woman in 1951 have furthered many scientific advances. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010") (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand, author of *Seabiscuit*. *Unbroken* tells the true story of a young army airforce bomber who crashes into the Pacific Ocean. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Loving All of It: Eminent New Zealanders Write About growing Old*.

**Craft**

*Unexpected Knitting* by Debbie New.

**Poetry**

*Human Chain*, the Irish poet Seamus Heaney's new collection. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

**Cuisine**

*Kitchen: Recipes from the Heart and Home* by Nigella Lawson. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

*A Good Spread Recipes from the Kitchens of Rural Women New Zealand*. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

**Biography**

Jay-Z's autobiography *Decoded*, a memoir of one of hip-hop's biggest success stories. (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*Storyteller: the Life of Rolf Dahl*. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010")

*Just Kids* by Patti Smith. (*New Zealand Listener* "Best Book of 2010") (*amazon.com* Best Book of 2010)

*And Furthermore*, autobiography of actress Judi Dench.

—Jess Kany

**Kākāpō males ‘boom’ on as legendary bird dies**

A legendary kākāpō which played a vital role in the recovery of the species has been found dead.

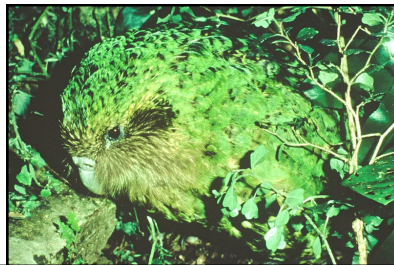
The kākāpō Richard Henry was believed to be more than 80 years old when he passed away of natural causes. The bird was named after a Victorian conservationist who pioneered work with kakapo recovery.

The bird was originally discovered in Fiordland in 1975 when kākāpō were believed to be extinct. When a group of other birds were found on Stewart Island, Richard Henry played a vital role by offering genetic diversity to the breeding programme, which now numbers 121 birds.

The Department of Conservation’s Kākāpō Programme Scientist Ron Moorhouse said that his death marks the end of an era in kākāpō conservation.

“Richard Henry was a living link to the early days of kākāpō recovery, and perhaps even to a time before stoats when kakapo could boom unmolested in Fiordland,” said Dr Moorhouse.

Richard Henry had not bred since



1999, and had been showing signs of age including blindness in one eye, slow moving and wrinkles. A sample of his DNA has been preserved.

The kākāpō breeding season is now well under way on both Codfish and Anchor Islands. If chicks are hatched on Anchor, they could well be the first kākāpō chicks in Fiordland since Richard Henry himself was a chick.

“We had a great year last year when 33 chicks were born, and we’re hoping for more this year. The males are booming well, so we’re optimistic,” said Dr Moorhouse. “It’s sad to lose Richard Henry but the main thing is that the kākāpō population is growing and includes Richard Henry’s genetic legacy of three adult offspring.”

It is hoped that the first eggs of the season will start to appear in February.

The Kākāpō Recovery Programme, backed by Rio Tinto Alcan NZ Ltd, NZ Aluminium Smelters Ltd and Forest & Bird, is DOC’s longest running conservation partnership. When it began in 1990, the kākāpō population was 49.

For more details about Richard Henry and the Kakapo Recovery Programme see [www.kakaporecovery.org.nz](http://www.kakaporecovery.org.nz) or [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

Summertime means visitors. We love our visitors! They enrich our lives, they give us pride in our beautiful Island home, and for many of us they are our “bread and butter.”

*But...* it can be extremely vexing when a big slow moving pile of bread and butter jumps in front of your car in a sudden spasm of hitchhiking; or walks in the middle of the road and doesn’t acknowledge your car; or, according to a recent report of road ridiculousness, sits in the road to eat his lunch. Every driver here has experienced whipping round a bend on an uphill only to slam on the brakes due to visitors walking in the middle of the road.

Here’s a sample wee “road rules test” to give at the Bluff ferry terminal and SI Flights lobby. Perhaps passage across the Strait could be revoked if a visitor fails this exam.

1. *If I am walking in the road and a vehicle approaches me, I*

**A** step to the side of the road.

**B** stop walking and gape at the car as if I’d never seen one before.

**C** continue walking in the road, trusting the car will swerve around me.

2. *Vehicles are constructed from steel; an impact with a vehicle can cause grievous bodily harm to a pedestrian.*

**A** True.

**B** False. Vehicles are made out of marshmallows.

3. *If I am walking with a group of people in the road and a vehicle approaches us, we*

**A** try to walk single file along the side of the road.

**B** fan out across the road and amble along in a daze, chatting with each other and ignoring the car.

4. *When I am vacationing on Stewart Island, vehicles*

**A** still exist, and the laws of physics of still apply.

**B** are optical illusions.

5. *A road is a good place for*

**A** a picnic lunch.

**B** vehicles.

**STEWART ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS**

*by Jenny Gell*

The Christmas Luncheon was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December at South Seas Hotel. As usual the food, drink and company were great.

To get us all in the Christmas mood the luncheon started off with the school children sing-

ing a variety of Christmas Songs, what a mighty effort, it was enjoyed by all. Thank you Bonny.

To finish off Phillip Smith kindly donated packets of blue cod the result of checking stock in Paterson Inlet. Thank you Philip.

The result of the raffle for Ship to Shore Vouchers was  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize the Gells

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Willie Calder  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Jason

Thanks to all who bought tickets and Amanda Pink and Ship to Shore for selling them.



Santa doing the rounds. Photo from Margaret Hopkins.



[www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com)

**Ringa Ringa Heights Golf News**

*by Sue Munro*

The Annual SBS Bank Sponsored Tournament was held at Ringa Ringa Heights on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

A beautiful hot sunny day greeted the 14 players. The course is looking great and the new toilet block and barbeque shelter are now in use.

Gavin Kick the representative for the SBS Bank played on the

course for the first time and also presented the trophy to the overall winner for the second year Peter Ayers and the prizes donated by SBS to the Medal and Stableford winners.

Erin Lawler the winner of the ladies section only took up golf about 5 years ago and set herself the task of playing every course in Southland. Congratulations Erin your prize will be delivered to you.



**Results**

Men  
Medal Senior  
G Neave 81-24-57, N Bennett 75-16-79, J Spraggon 78-18-60  
Medal Junior  
P Ayers 85-28-53, R Squires 84-26-58, E Ganley 92-30-62

Medal Ladies  
E Lawler 103-22-81  
Stableford  
A Eade 37, I Sinclair 34, I Munro 30

Nearest the pin  
No 2 N Bennett, No 3 G Neave,  
No 6 I Sinclair  
Two's I Munro, I Sinclair



A barbeque followed and a great day was had by all. We now look forward to the Electric Tournament on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, so start thinking about your teams now.

# Pacific Curls– New Zealand Tour coming to STEWART ISLAND

Acclaimed Pacifica group, Pacific Curls tours the country in February combining fiddle, ukulele, taonga puoro (traditional Maori instruments) and vocals with a range of other instruments including cajons, stomp peddles, kalimba, djembe and percussion. The group's special blend of Celtic, Maori, Pacific and other influences has wowed audiences in Australia, Europe, the United Kingdom and South Korea, as well as New Zealand.

The group, featuring world class fiddle player, Sarah Beattie, virtuoso ukulele player Kim Halliday, and stunning vocalist Ora Barlow, say that their unconventional collaboration comes out of a reverence for each other's cultures.

"We explore the places where we cross over," says Halliday.

Pacific Curls are joined by singer and songwriter Dave Alley.

### What the critics have to say

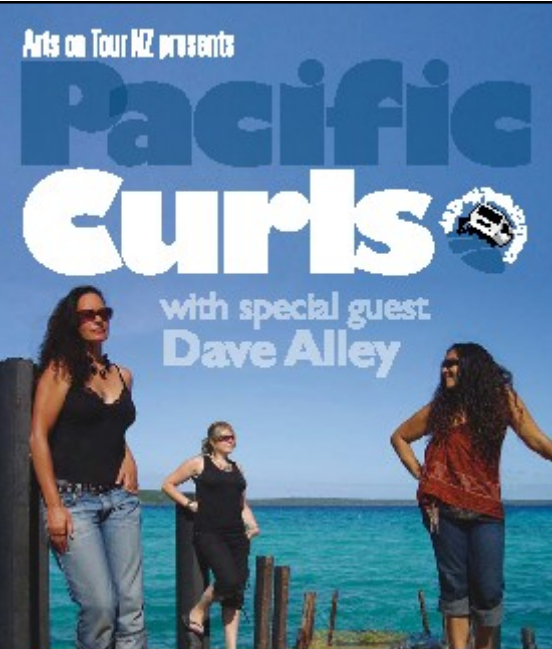
"A standout act!" - *Dominion Post*

"Once again, the hauntingly beautiful sounds of Pacific Curls with Sarah Beattie have left me shipwrecked in their astounding talent." - *Jo Say, Nelson Mail*

"These three strong female musicians steeped in Maori and Pacific traditions bring a delightful contemporary perspective to their waiata." – Mike Moroney, NZ Musician Magazine

"...extraordinary, spiritually uplifting yet witty..." *Mike Jackson, Wombat Music*

"Friday evening saw the start of the cabaret 'Nights on The Town 'series. Pacific Curls - what can I say but WOW WOW WOW. Here are three incredibly gifted women who together create the most beautiful, sensitive, emotive, inspiring and unique music. Their blend of Scottish, Pacific, South American and African influences make this group individual.



After a successful tour of Canada, Pacific Curls are coming home! Their beautiful voices and their unique combination of Scottish fiddle, Taonga Puoro, ukulele, cajon, guitar, kalimba and percussion have captivated audiences wherever they have gone. With a new CD under their belt, Pacific Curls are back by demand! [www.pacificcurls.com](http://www.pacificcurls.com)

**Sunday 13 February 8pm**

Stewart Island Community Hall

\$15 Door sales only



The sounds from traditional Maori instruments as well as kalimba, ukuleles, fiddle, guitar and vocals are used subtly with magnificent sensitivity to shape veils of delicate sublimity within their original compositions.

Exotic rhythms, Celtic fiddle, Te Reo, brilliant compositions, fabulous vocals, exceptional musicianship and personality plus, make Pacific Curls world class - think I've run out of adjectives!" *Mike Nettman Northern News and The Bay Chronicle Kerikeri*



## Sand creations Photos from Jane McKenzie.



**Meet Zac:** *aspiring biologist and hero to the kakapo*

Eleven-year-old Zac Martin is a true champion to the kakapo. He raised over \$700 for the Kakapo Recovery Programme this summer by turning his cycling vacation into a fundraiser for the rare parrot. Zac and his parents Jay and Al recently visited Stewart Island, which was a last stop on this Auckland family’s epic tour of the southern South Island. They cycled over 850 km (Zac and mum Jay on a tandem); their route included Dunedin, the Central Otago Rail Trail, Queenstown, Manapouri, Doubtful Sound, Tuarapere, a spontaneous dip with Hector’s dolphins at Blue cliffs, and the Catlins. Zac, an aspiring



**Jay, Zac and Al Martin**

biologist, loved the birds on Stewart Island and one of his favourite parts of the entire journey was a visit to Ulva Island with guide Ulva. The family intends to return to Stewart Island some day for more tramping and bird-watching. So if you see this young man, shake his hand. Well done, Zac!

*If you’d like to contribute to the Kakapo Recovery Programme, contact the Martins at*

[jandals3@extra.co.nz](mailto:jandals3@extra.co.nz)

or go to

[www.kakaporecovery.org.nz](http://www.kakaporecovery.org.nz)

**Lustrum by Robert Harris**  
Reviewed by Sue Ford

This is NOT the sort of book to take to the beach – it isn’t even the sort of book to curl up in bed with. It is serious stuff, but gripping. Robert Harris has fictionalised an account of a period in Roman history to such good effect that it wasn’t in the least like an historic account, but more like a sinister, modern-day story of power and corruption, as Cicero takes up the Consulship of Rome on the eve of 1 January 63 B.C.

Cicero has a slave, Tiro, who is renowned to this day for his penmanship, inventing a form of shorthand which we still use – e.g., i.e., etc. and – er – et cetera, and the story of Cicero’s one year consulship and the four years after are told by him. The title – “Lustrum” – is quite a play on words. Cicero was known for his witty oratory, so it is fitting that the word ‘lustrum’ should have several meanings, all of which apply to this story. The first and most obvious is that ‘a lustrum’ is a Roman period of five years, and that’s the period covered by the story. However, it can also mean the dens of wild beasts – which about describes Rome at this period in some ways, and is also a term for

‘brothels’ and debauchery – and that cap also seems to fit the Rome of 63 B.C.

We watch (and those of us forced to learn about this period in History at school may recall the outcomes beyond the ‘lustrum’) as a young, politically savvy Gaius Julius Caesar returns to Rome to vie for ultimate power – and we find out how far he will go to secure his place; there’s Pompey, renowned general, also returned from conquering “the world”, also keen to become a power in Rome – but we begin to see that some of Pompey’s victorious battles may not have been won heroically; there’s Catilina, described on the cover as a psychopath, and that about says it all – cruel, inhumane, crazed; there’s Crassus, filthy rich and using his money to further his own ends and shape the politics of Rome; there’s Cato, a politician, fanatical in the extreme, and thus dangerous. And there’s Clodius. Clodius is a young man who’s pranks and mischief, gossip and malice, are all of amusement to Cicero – until he, too, reveals his true colours, his ambition which is without boundaries, unprincipled, amoral and a master dissembler. It is this man, Cicero’s “My Little Miss Beauty”, who hammers in the nails of the coffin of Cicero’s political life,

watched without compunction, without compassion, by the other powerful men of Rome.

It’s not easy reading. It’s not comfortable reading. But if I’d had a history teacher who could tell a story like Robert Harris does, I’m sure I would have learnt more. As it is, it is a gripping tale of political intrigue, murder and mayhem, and you think “thank goodness it isn’t like that today!” and in N.Z. maybe that’s true, but in regard to some countries you might like to think again. For some, “the more things change, the more they stay the same” as the saying goes. Greed and ambition are present in every generation in every corner of the globe obviously, and “Lustrum” paints a brilliant picture of all the human follies, weaknesses and foibles as well as the ruthless and compelling determinations to become the ultimate power at any cost. Save this book for when you can read whole chunks at a time, when you can concentrate on the story, when you are awake enough to appreciate the convoluted nature of criminal intent and political ambition as they walk hand-in-hand through ancient Rome.

It’s excellent reading.

(GLOBETROTTER *Continued from page 5*)

area, there were 20 attacks with about 4 hijackings. None of this makes the media, because there were obviously no Westerners on board and it wasn't sensational enough. If these were aircraft being hijacked, you'd certainly hear about it! Ships transiting this vast amount of ocean aren't really safe until they're well over towards India. At present I think there are about 20 ships hijacked, some of which are being used as mother ships in the Indian Ocean, from which attacks are carried out by Somalians in skiffs with Rocket-propelled grenades and AK47s. Remarkably little is being done by the warships in the area, as there is little they can do unless they are right there when an attack is taking place. Until then, the pirates are just innocent civilians in international waters and once on board, they can't get them for fear of harm being done to ships' crews.

So after a tense 2 weeks, in which nothing happened, we passed close by India and took down the razor wire. Christmas was spent just south of Sri Lanka and was about as good as it gets on board a ship. We started the day with the British Curlew Special Olympics, where competitive events were organised, ranging from Wii bowling competitions to rowing machine races to dry cracker eating contests! All a good laugh! After that we had the full sit-down meal with all the trimmings, including Christmas crackers! We all managed a few beers/wines and ate more than is possible to fit in our stomachs! You can't ask for much more at sea! We then

carried on down to Singapore, where the poor buggers who were stuck aboard for Christmas managed to get off and finally fly home in time for New Years! We stopped in Singapore for bunkers and then carried on up to Tianjin, China to discharge.

The British Curlew is a ship I've been on before as 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer and is a 115,000DWT tanker, carrying either crude oil or Heavy Fuel Oil. Overall she's 252m long and 43m wide, so she's a big enough ship. We currently have the worst cargo on board, a very thick gooey brew of Heavy Fuel Oil, which is about to cause us enormous amounts of trouble here in China. It was loaded in Estonia in temperatures of about -5°C for discharge at 2 ports in China. Tianjin and Laizhou, both in Bo Hai in the Yellow Sea, not far from Beijing. The problem with HFO is that it has to be heated in order to remain a liquid, which is not normally an issue, as all the cargo tanks have steam heating coils in them. However in this case the cargo is thicker than most and has a pour point of 42°C, meaning anything below this and it starts to congeal! We are heating it on board to about 64°C, however these ships are not very well designed and the cargo system contains a lot of dead-ends and elbows below the stripping pump, which we use at the final stages of discharge to strip the dregs from the tanks and also the cargo lines. With these low temperatures, once the bulk of the cargo is gone, the



Rigging razor wire, Red Sea

rest may end up below the pour point and not be pumpable! We are currently sitting at anchor off Tianjin with air temperatures of -6°C and things will only get worse alongside. At around 16°C the cargo solidifies into a waxy paste and at current air temperatures, it requires a chisel to be removed. None of which we want in the cargo lines. The Chief Officer has been racking his brains trying to come up with cunning ideas to get steam to critical parts of the system in order to get rid of this stuff and has settled on a hot water final line displacement, if we can heat water up in one of the slop tanks in time. The discharge port should've been changed to Singapore, so that we could pump it easily and then tranship it to China. We're still not sure where the next cargo is going to be from/to, but this operation is going to impact on that, depending on the state of the lines on completion. I'm glad I'm not the Chief Officer!

—Ben Hopkins on board the *British Curlew*.



Hi, my name is **Denise Hayes** and I've been living on this amazing island for just over 18 months – many of you may already know me from my time spent at the shop with Jill, Richard and the girls. It is with sheer delight that I can now introduce myself as the new Project Manager Pest Control and Project Manager Community Nursery for SIRCET. I have recently taken over these positions from Jessi Nichols whose dedication and enthusiasm for the roles will be a hard act to follow – but you can be assured I will do my utmost best to continue in her footsteps and keep these extremely important projects on track!

My passion and interest has always been New Zealand's beautiful outdoor environment, especially our native bush and its unique bird and plant life so I feel extremely privileged to be involved in the restoration of the Halfmoon Bay area. The community nursery has come along in leaps and bounds recently thanks to the hard work of Jessi with the support of various volunteers and DoC staff, and I'm really looking forward to maintaining and building on the progress already achieved there.

Over the past few years I have been involved in a number of conservation projects on a volunteer basis (my personal highlight being 2 weeks on Codfish Island working with the Kakapo team in Feb/Mar 09) so I understand the enormous dedication and hard work that being a volunteer entails. So a huge thank-you to all you volunteers that have put in the hard yards to ensure pests are kept under control to give our native birds and plants a chance to recover and once again thrive. I'll be in touch with you all shortly for a general catch up and am really looking forward to working with you all on this extremely worthwhile and satisfying project.

If anyone would like to contact me about the pest control or nursery projects, I can be reached on 03 2191 159 or 0273 913 215 or drop me an email – [denise@sircet.org.nz](mailto:denise@sircet.org.nz).

## SIRCET News

*by Margaret Hopkins*

### Farewell to Jessi

Jessi Nichol recently finished working for SIRCET as our Pest Project Manager and has taken up a position on the DOC Biodiversity team here on Stewart Island. We would really like to thank Jessi for her hard work and enthusiasm over the time she has been with SIRCET. Her legacy has been the reduction in rat numbers down to the lowest ever in the project area which is something Jessi and the volunteers should be proud of. The plant nursery at Horseshoe Bay has also improved immensely during Jessi's time with SIRCET. We have been lucky to have someone on our team with such a good knowledge and interest in native plants. Best of luck in the new job Jessi and thank you.

### Environment Centre Upgrade

You may have noticed a little bit of activity in and

around the Environment Centre next to Glowing Sky shop. We are in the process of a long overdue upgrade. Once the painting and flooring is complete the beautiful new information panels will be installed. We hope this newly upgraded space will provide more of an interpretive link with the field work we are doing in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project. Watch the noticeboard for our 'relaunch' day.

### Trustees

At our recently held AGM the following Trustees were appointed – Margaret Hopkins (Chairperson), Alina Thiebes (Secretary), Jo Learmonth / Letitia McRitchie (Sharing Treasurer Position), Jim Barrett, Jules Retberg. We would like to thank outgoing Trustees Paula Brown and Margaret Fairhall for their contribution to SIRCET. We are still looking for one more Trustee to complete our team so if you have a keen interest in habitat restoration in Halfmoon Bay then please contact me or one of the other Trustees.

**Congratulations**  
*Newlyweds*  
**Serena and Chris**


**chocolate award**

“On News Years Day at 7.30 am (he may have been there earlier)  
**GRAHAM OKEY**  
 was clearing up in front of the pub after NY celebrations, and at 7.30 that evening he was mowing the lawns at the cemetery, I am sure he was going beyond the call of duty for this day.”  
 —anonymous sender

**Need any building work done?????**

For any building jobs on Stewart Island give

**Brett Twaddle “Loosie” a call on 2191 366 or 027 4331074**



For the big jobs and the jobs that need doing quickly we also have a team of hardworking experienced builders who are available anytime if required.

The community was deeply saddened to hear about Jessica Ricketts. Jessica passed away a few days before Christmas. Our hearts go out to her family. She was a beautiful, sweet, and brave girl.  
*Rest in peace, Jessica*

**STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE**

Will meet at the home of Lee Wadds

at 2.00 pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Theme: Small Table decoration



Thanks to Isabella Carrick for this photo of the ferry with dolphin escort.



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
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Summer and Santa. From Nicolette Thompson