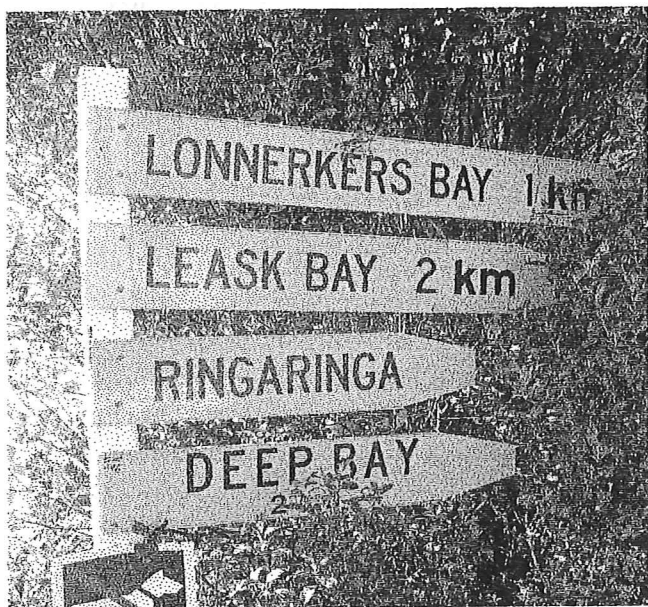


Stewart Island News

July 2003 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island



Spelling problems a bad sign.

Editorial

Well, here we are again - on the road to Christmas once more but at the moment the temperatures are more like a northern Christmas than our Kiwi ones. However, the hardy locals and some brave visitors have toughed it out. We won't mention the locals who have escaped to warmer climes!

A few new ideas have been included in this month's issue. Many of our regular contributors are still taking a winter's break so some space has become available for other works. There was a suggestion that SIN should not be published this month but a significant number of new subscribers and some time-sensitive announcements tipped the balance in favour of going ahead.

There has not been a lot of feedback about the crossword last month so *no news must be good news?* Solution is on page 10. New one in August.

On other pages:

Page 2	Auntie Joanne's Agony Column
Page 3	Councillor's Comment
Page 4	Craft Day/Snow Report
Page 5	Hypnotic Tale
Page 6	Community Nursery
Page 7	Environment Trust Report
Page 8	Papua New Guinea Experience
Page 9	Garden Circle/Card Workshop
Page 10	July Crossword Solution
Page 11	Friends of Rakiura Newsletter

The Community Board has been a bit on the quiet side this month but, after the furore about Golden Bay, that should not be a surprise. However, a number of issues remain in limbo and grumblings from the community in general seem to suggest more hard news is required about a number of issues such as roading and sewerage.

Bill Todd has briefly mentioned most of these matters in his column but more detail and information would help to keep the community informed. Not everyone has the time to attend the meetings but it is clear there is a desire for a wider dissemination of the meetings' minutes. Ideas please, in letters to the editor.

As you will see from the report on page seven regarding the resource recovery centre, more involvement from the community would benefit this project. This is clearly one of those monsters that we would all prefer to avoid. Unfortunately that is not an option. It's time to recognise we all need to pull together and minimise the waste that will need to be shipped off the island.

If this doesn't happen.....don't complain about your upcoming rates bills!

Cheers for now, Stewart

Auntie Joanne's Agony Column

This new service for readers offers to provide some soothing advice for those nasty little problems that can dog our everyday lives.

This heart-wrenching story was picked as our first example of just how badly things can go wrong after a seemingly innocent night out. Were clandestine drugs sneaked into drinks? This letter came from a reader who just wanted to be called *Lucy*. Such was the total embarrassment.

Dear Auntie Joanne

Last Saturday night I went out to what was supposed to be a night of innocent fun at the Community Centre on Stewart Island. Little did I know that I would end up making a complete fool of myself with my behaviour in front of a group of friends and neighbours.

I don't know what came over me. Now every time my partner leaves the room I find myself inexplicably jumping onto the nearest chair and hopping around the room like a crazed five-year old. This is very distressing. I have broken three chairs and smashed my partner's best china collection. The dog is being treated for clinical depression and the kids are scared to be left alone with me. What am I to do?

Auntie Joanne replies:

Lucy, you poor thing! I really do feel for you! Over all my years, I have never come across a more puzzling problem. Are you sure it was just a good-natured night out and not a depraved, debauched and completely hedonistic party?

Gee-whiz, Lucy, you sound as if you were mesmerised or something. I recommend you be more careful about the company you keep – someone might be spiking your drinks and we all know where that can lead.

Take two aspirin tablets tonight before you go to bed and read a good book by Stephen King (his latest is called *Mutant Muscles*). This should sort you out, Dear. If that doesn't work, I have a good friend who is in touch with the "other side" – she lives in Gore. She is a very cheerful lady but has had a few problems of her own lately when she was assaulted by a customer. He apparently likes to strike a happy Medium. Please let me know how you get along, Dear.

Bye for now,

Auntie Joanne

P.S. I hear there is a show coming up in September at the Community Centre called *Artful Wears – Catwalk Creations*. If you are still experiencing behavioural problems by this time, I suggest you enter this event and really let your imagination fly.

A.J.

Readers – please send me your letters and I will do what I can to help. That nice man Stewy will forward them to me so send them to P O Box 87, Oban.

If Martin Peppers wrote to Jessyca Bernard using Microsoft Word, would the file possibly be named "docdoc.doc" ????

Councillor's Comments

by Bill Todd

Residents will be glad to see some progress on constructing the new recycling shed. This is going to be a key part of our waste minimisation efforts and I hope everyone is getting into the habit of separating out your recyclable and reusable waste.

It's a low-key time of year, but following the controversy of the road works at Golden Bay, it's an opportunity to draw breath. This work had been discussed by interested and affected parties for a long time and when it went ahead it really shouldn't have been such a surprise. The debate reached newspapers as far north as Christchurch to my knowledge and I received calls and messages, mainly in favour, from throughout the country.

Another project that I hope will be undertaken this year is the tidying up of the Ayr Street boat park. This will involve piping the ditch, hard fill surfacing and allocating individual spaces to occupants in return for an annual fee. The money collected will go back to the board for community use. If any parties are not in favour of this, I would be pleased to hear from them.

A comprehensive report for a 15-year roading strategy on the island has been written up by the Council's engineering consultants. This identified a wide range of issues and financial assistance will be needed to get anything worthwhile undertaken.

We also await with hope further details of the financial assistance available from the government for sewerage scheme extensions.

I realise that this has been frustrating for many residents but we have to follow all the steps that the government requires. Our staff at the Southland District Council and your Community Board continue with their best efforts to get the greatest benefit for everyone, and the future of our island. ■

What is a Grandma?

By Anon

A Grandmother is a person who has no children of her own, so she loves boys and girls of other people.

Grandmothers have nothing to do, they only have to be there.

If they take you for a walk, they go slowly past things that are beautiful – like leaves and caterpillars.

They never say "Come along quickly" or "Hurry up, for goodness sake"

They are usually fat, but not too fat to tie a shoelace.

They wear spectacles and sometimes take their teeth out.

They can answer EVERY question, for instance why cats hate dogs and why God isn't married.

When they read to us they do not leave out anything and don't mind if it's the same story.

Everyone should have a Grandma, especially those who have no television.

Grandmothers are the only grown-ups who always have time.

Calling all Bridge players ...

Stewart Island Bridge Club meets at Stewart Island Lodge at 7.30pm every Wednesday during the winter months. Islanders and visitors are all welcome to attend. Classes will again be conducted for anyone wishing to learn this challenging card game - times and venue to be confirmed.

For further information contact any of our members, or telephone: Noel 2191447, Doug 2191, Iris 2191151 or Sharon 2191009.

Craft Day

The Craft Day held on Saturday 28th June, according to the feedback, was enjoyed by all who came. It was spent in making greeting cards, gift tabs, fantasy books and learning about stamping and embossing. The talent and creativity in this Community is amazing and we had all ages, from Poppy Lequesne to Mrs. Skipper.

A big thank you to Rachel Fox for organising the hall & lunch, Helen Bissland for sharing and helping with the Fantasy book, Hilli Maas-Barrett & Raylene Waddell for being general helpers and of course to all the people who came and took part. If we don't have participators, we don't have such days.

Another day, run on similar lines, is booked for Saturday 4th October with the theme Christmas Card making, Christmas crackers, Christmas Tree Decorations, etc. Start saving card, tartan ribbon, shells, coloured paper, cardboard cylinders and most important of all..... keep the day free.

We took \$106. \$50 was given to the Hall, \$36 has been kept to buy card and material for the next day and I took \$20 for expenses.

Thanks everyone, I too enjoyed myself.

Margaret Rooney

If *Stiffy* has taken over from *Sinky*, shouldn't he now be known as *Stinky*?

Observations on snow...

Chris Visser

On Friday the 4th of July, Stewart Islanders awoke to the dull silence of snow (unless you were in my house – we awoke to the screaming of the alarm clock, the yowling of the cat, and general whimpers of disbelief and denial that yes it is in fact morning despite the fact that yes it is still dark).

On the morning of the 4th a quick check out the door revealed that yes indeed – soft white stuff everywhere. And more falling out of the sky, aawwww. While we love snow – we don't really cope with all that well do we. Be honest Islanders – how many cars and trucks slid in ditches? The Electrical Supply Authority truck for one – not that Jed's Electrical felt at all smug with his brand new super sticky tires and 4WD van. Nope.

I was sheltering in front of the noticeboard with a collection of other waifs and strays – and struck up a conversation with two of our young lads about town. We asked them if they had been to school today and were solemnly informed “It was too dangerous to go to school”.... So instead these lads had spent the day sliding down Morris Street on mussel buoys. Which would be heaps safer than being in school..... (mind you – last day of term and all and if I was a teacher I am sure I would be very dangerous by the last day of term....)

By the next day the snow had pretty much all gone. I walked past the school and saw a very strange sight – little piles of wet clothes scattered on the lawn – hats, scarves, even sunglasses.... and then it struck me. Melted snowmen. There is something very poignant about melted snowmen.....

Brian Gee - Hypnotist

by Chris Visser

I think everybody enjoyed the Hypnotist show organised by the Community Centre on 12 July. It was hard for me to tell – as I was one of nine people hypnotised on stage. I certainly had a good time, but there are a few images in my head that I can't quite shake;

The sweat on Eamonn's face as he was giving birth,

The look on Ferns face as she assisted Lucy giving birth (apparently Lucy – aka Brett Twaddle Builder had a HUGE baby.)

Sue Munro with her hands up Jed's shirt convinced she was grabbing a leprechaun (I'm not sure what she was grabbing and Jed certainly isn't telling)

Sam (visiting family on the Island and definitely a star of the show) yelling "I Believe in fairies!!" and kissing the closest person to him – which seemed to be Steve Craig on more than one occasion,

And the look on Percy's face as I was apparently overwhelmed with affection for him and gave him a big hug. It was one of those "and you are....?" looks and I recall feeling quite crushed (aww). Any statements I have made around town about hugging Percy being a bit like hugging a tree – I was hypnotised so what would I know?

These images haunt me still. A few people have been asking me (and the others) what it is like to be hypnotised. I must admit I was a bit nervous about it at first because I didn't like the idea of being 'out of control'. But in fact you're not – it's more as if you are being told to do some very strange things and you simply don't mind. You also believe what you are told – Fern – in her "red hot male model" mode was totally convinced she was the hottest thing around. I don't think I believed I was Robbie Williams though. Just as well.

There are a few people around who want to be hypnotised but it just didn't work on them. The key seems to be the ability to concentrate. In which case – I have the answer for you. Come to our Yoga classes!

YOGA – 5.30 Tuesday in the RSA.

Thanks again to the RSA for letting us use this building at a minimal cost – we really appreciate it. If you want to talk to anyone about yoga – call either Chris (494) or Fiona (440)



This month's award goes to Quinn Hicks for waterblasting the entire school playground. The chocolates this month were kindly donated by the Kai Kart.

Stewart Island Community Nursery

The Dancing Star Foundation would like to thank Eamonn Ganley –head of the Darwin’s Barberry Team and Serra Kilduff, former DoC staff member, for all of their great work at the Stewart Island Community Nursery. Serra’s summary write-up and data forms the basis for this report and we thank her for her thorough diligence and for her enumeration of species. Along with their many colleagues at DoC, including Danial van der Lubbe, Chris Fox, Jessica O’Rourke, David Noakes, Marie Francis, Brent Beaven and Chris Rance (who designed and runs the Southland Community Plant Nursery for DoC in Invercargill) – each has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the nursery.

Since its inception, the nursery has continued to expand. At this point there are several hundred plants that are mature enough to be transplanted, and many other seedlings and cuttings in various stages of propagation. Nearly forty species and varieties, almost entirely native, are currently being propagated, and some fifteen species are now available for transplanting. They include two species of *Pseudopanax*; *Artistotelia*, *Senecio reinoldii*, *Coprosma* spp., *Schefflera digitata* and *Dracophyllum longifolium*. In the future it is hoped that there will be a few thousand plants at the nursery in various stages of growth, some of which are targeted for replanting at Doughboy Bay and other beaches. In addition, some 500 plants are being readied for replanting at the entranceway to the National Park and these include *Senecio reinoldii*, *Griselinia littoralis* and *Coprosma* spp.

Other rare and threatened plants are being grown at the nursery, including *Euphorbia glauca*, *Linum monogynum* and a very rare variety of *Fuchsia* sp. (found only on Cow Island). We at the Dancing Star Foundation are very pleased that some of the children from Halfmoon Bay School have been visiting the nursery and learning some of the fine points of native plant propagation.

The students were successful at planting some native pingao, and –ultimately- it is hoped that nearly forty native plants will have been propagated on local beaches by the students.

In addition, members of the community have sampled various available cuttings from the nursery, including *Hebe* spp. for their own gardens. As Serra has put it, “a lot of the propagation in the nursery to date has been fairly experimental, mostly soft-wood and semi-mature cuttings. This is because, once you get beyond the well-known and propagated native species, there is not a lot known about many of them.” And she adds that she expects a good number of these transplantings to succeed.

Among some of the most successful propagations thus far at the nursery are the tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*), broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*), wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*), and more than half-dozen species of *Coprosma*.

Given the unique ecological status of New Zealand –within a global context- and Stewart Island particularly, community nurseries will have an increasingly critical role to serve in conserving the native species tapestry, and helping to uphold the dynamics that are unique biologically to the region. We hope that more and more Stewart Island community members and students will make good use of this wonderful garden. In fact, at present, the Community Nursery is seeking additional volunteers to assist with propagation. If interested, please contact Eamonn Ganley at DoC.

Dancing Star Foundation is very grateful to the Department of Conservation and to its dedicated staff for all of their extraordinary efforts; and extremely pleased to have at least a modest role in seeing this garden become of real benefit to the Stewart Island Community.

Jane Morrison, and Michael Tobias
Dancing Star Foundation

Stewart Island Community and Environment Trust

The Trust has been very busy in recent weeks, with the sort of things which (unfortunately) don't make interesting reading: studying draft contracts, sending them to advisors for comment, and discussing the details with Southland District Council. A lot of energy is also going into investigating plant such as presses, diggers and hoppers, and economic ways of obtaining these. It's a complicated task trying to plan and price something that has not been done before, and simultaneously work out a contract and relationship with Council. The Council waste engineer has been working on these things from their end, and keeping an eye on their Resource Recovery Centre building site at Horseshoe Bay. The next few weeks are going to remain just as intense until we have things set up – this is the challenging part, but also the interesting part and we are learning heaps.

REMINDER – Don't forget that the dump is closing by December 2003, after which time all rubbish will have to be shipped to the mainland. While the Community Board will be providing a number of landfill bags as part of your rates, you will have to purchase any bags you need over and above those. So, if you have any large items lying around or need to tidy the shed out, perhaps now is the time.

Meanwhile the Ministry for the Environment has told us that they are going to fund our Environment Centre, and we are now waiting for more details from them. This is wonderful news, thanks in a big way to all the donations and letters of support from local organisations, businesses and individuals.

Our Trust Board is always open to interested members of the community and glad to welcome new members. Existing members are covering much of the planning, negotiating and set up work, but we would benefit from people able to take on the usual secretarial and treasury roles that all boards and committees require. We are very grateful to Kari Farmer who has volunteered to take meeting minutes in the interim. Anyone who would like to get involved in some way, even on a fixed term basis, or just to find out a bit more please get in touch with any one of us.

*Jed Lewis (Chair) & Chris Visser 494
Sandy King 102
Fiona Hall 440
Jim Barrett 040
Rodney Hansen 512
Dil Belworthy 249*

Southern Institute of Technology

First Aid for Free (in conjunction with NZ Red Cross)

Sat & Sun 2 & 3 August 2003 8.30am to 5pm
Venue: RSA Pavilion, Oban

To complete your enrolment for this course please contact SIT Administration for a mail enrolment pack. Telephone 218 2599

You will need to ensure that you include your Birth Certificate or Passport when returning your enrolment pack.

Church Hill Café, Bar and Restaurant

Gary and the motley crew would like to invite all locals and visitors to sample our new hospitality. Come and dine by the open fire and try out our new menu.

We aim to be flexible and to provide you, our customers, with a pleasant, relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Coming soon will be more exciting changes with our plans to introduce the Stonegrill™ experience.

Phone 2191-323 for reservations. Thanks.

Papua New Guinea

by Joan Sheppard

Land of the unexpected, land of rugged beauty, land of poverty, land of oppression, suffering and hopelessness. This last five months while doing volunteer work away up in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, I daily witnessed what it is to have nothing. No home, no food, no clothes and all kind of diseases. We have so much; we are so rich, we live in Dreamland. Papua New Guinea is where reality is. A very touching incident will always linger in my memory. It is about Ken. The children had taken me up the mountain to look at a waterfall and on the return trip took me to visit Ken.

The old Auntie carried Ken on her back and sat him in a chair in his garden. He was the victim of Typhoid, Malaria and then a stroke. We sat at his feet looking up into his face now aglow with excitement. His right arm and leg so thin, hung limply from his bony frame. Behind us the mountains steeply fell into a tremendous valley, many miles wide and beyond that stood another mighty range of mountains. Little puffs of blue smoke smudged the green foliage of the valley floor and lower slopes from village fires. And there in the blue cloudless sky, the sun was still hot but about an hour away from setting.

Beside us and all around, the brilliant colours of Poinsettia trees, Hibiscus, Gladioli, Dahlias, Sunflowers and a host more gladdened our eyes. The children, 24 of them, sang. No-one sings unaccompanied quite as beautifully as these people do, harmonising comes naturally.

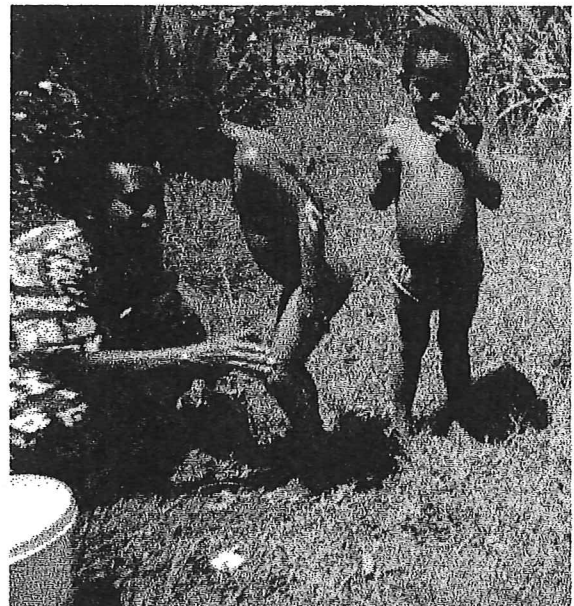
Ken had lain helpless, totally helpless, for eight years in his traditional-styled house. Thatched roof, flattened bamboo walls, no windows, a little circle of stones surrounded his fire just inside the door. He depended entirely on the few folk nearby to see to his every need. Very few people visited, he was a long climb up the mountain. So now,

suddenly with 25 people unexpectedly on his doorstep, he was overjoyed.

The singing was glorious and rang out over the valley. It was extremely emotional and, as we looked into Ken's face, the setting sun reflected in his big black eyes filled with tears and shining like silver streams as they trickled down his cheeks. I could hardly control the sobs welling up from deep within me. As each song finished he would open his mouth wide and whisper "more!" Ken lives in total darkness in his smoked 'Haus Kunai' and only ten feet away he gazes out his doorway daily to brilliant, healing, warming sun. But no-one drags him out. He is so cold, always so cold.

Ken is only one of many millions suffering in silence and darkness. This man needs blankets, a good mattress and a wheelchair. If anyone would like to help with warm, good clothing, blankets, a wheelchair, financial help for shipping, knitting for babies and small children, please contact me.

Thank you!



Quiz Night

South Sea Hotel

Thursday 31st July at 7.30pm

Teams of Four – \$20.00 entry

Prizes – Raffles – Spot prizes

Raising funds for Rakiura Sea Scouts

Quiz-Test your IQ - Quiz - Win prizes - Quiz - Bring some friends - Quiz - Prove your Mensa entry

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE by Jenny Gell

We had a very warm, cosy meeting on the 10th July at Anita Geeson's. Mavis Tait spoilt us all by making Cheese Rolls, which disappeared very quickly.

Competition results were:

Winter Rose:	1. Anita Geeson,	2. Lil Skipper,	3. Peggy Wilson
Poly/Primrose:	1. Peggy Wilson,	2. Anita Geeson,	3. Mavis Tait
Fern:	1. Lil Skipper,	2. Jenny Gell,	3. Peggy Wilson

In-house prize went to Pat Bethune.

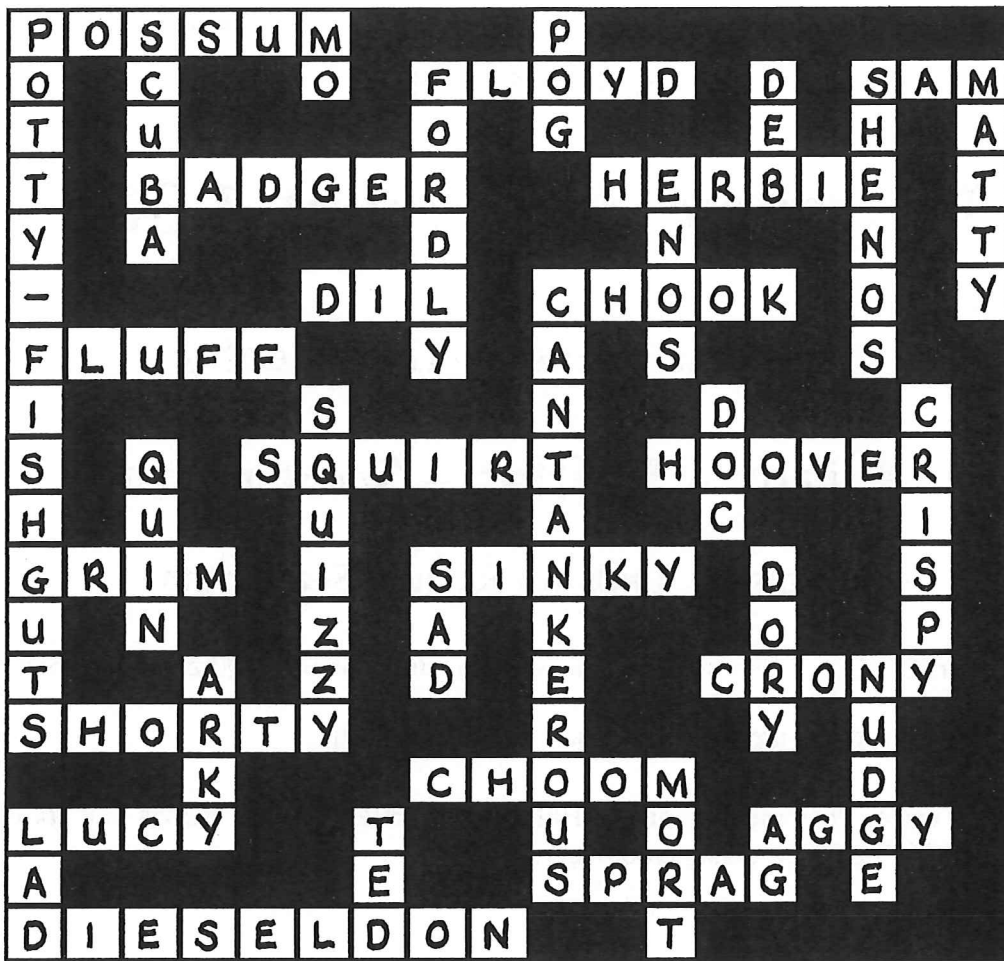
Next meeting is to be held at 1.30 on 14th August at Nancy Schofield's.

CARD AND BOOK WORKSHOP by Jenny Gell

This was held in the Community Hall on 28th June, a wet, miserable winter's day. Margaret Rooney started the Workshop with a demonstration on how to make a variety of cards from a wide selection of materials. Helen Bissland showed how to make a creative journal, starting with how to fold your paper.

It was a hive of activity all day, with some great results, most people being amazed at what they could achieve. Everyone attending from school children to Senior Citizens enjoyed a real fun day. There is a whisper that another workshop for Christmas Cards is being held on 4th October - Not to be missed.

July's Mystery Crossword Solution



Once the theme was apparent, the solution was just a matter of elimination of the possibilities. Apologies for small liberties taken with some names to make them fit the grid.

Another Rakiura-theme Crossword next month

FRIENDS OF RAKIURA NEWSLETTER. 18 July 2003

1. EDITORIAL.
2. GOLDEN BAY
3. JETTY AT FRESHWATER LANDING
4. PORT WILLIAM BOOK.

1. EDITORIAL. "Stewart Island has been assured a future by the creation of a National Park. This privilege carries a responsibility. Ratepayers must now ensure that everything lives up to national and international expectation. Only the very best in planning and infrastructure design is good enough. Any residual 'frontier' attitude, as exemplified by the Golden Bay excavation, can only be forgiven if there is a sincere resolve to improve things in the future "

2. GOLDEN BAY. The Southland Times has done well out of the Golden Bay issue! If you haven't kept up with all the correspondence then the following might still be found on the appropriate page on the web site www.stuff.co.nz

* Southland Times. Letters to the Editor, 30 May 2003 "Public Opinion."

* Feature article p33 of 31 May 2003. "Tranquil Island?"

* Report on Community Board meeting 10 June 2003. "Apologies cool ugly hillside row."

The following is also significant: Correspondence on Letterhead from Michael Ross (Chief Exec. Southland District Council) to Bill Watt dated 23 June 2003

"Excavation at Golden Bay.

Many thanks for coming and discussing this issue with me on Thursday 19 June 2003. As you will appreciate there has been considerable public interest in this whole exercise and I can assure you that the Community Board is taking the general concerns expressed by the public seriously. It is our intention to take a paper back to the next meeting of the Stewart Island Community Board to address some of the key issues which you have raised. I am confident that with that initiative, and with the Road Strategy consultation currently going through a process of developing a draft which will then be available for further public consultation, solutions owned by the community will be found. The Golden Bay wharf area will be addressed as part of that particular strategy. I certainly will be having discussions with those involved with that report to ensure that that occurs. Many thanks for bringing over the historic materials and photographs which you showed me. That was very helpful. I intend taking a digital image of the framed photograph of Golden Bay as it was at the turn of the century.

Clearly I cannot commit to any specific actions at this point in time, as the decisions on those issues will ultimately have to be made by the Stewart Island Community Board. However I am sure that the Community Board, like myself, does wish to do the best it can in order to ensure that the re-vegetation and re-beautification of the general area can take place as soon as practically possible. Clearly this will have to be within the budgeting limits faced by the Stewart Island Community Board. Once again thanks for coming over Bill. I trust that our discussions were helpful to you."

3. JETTY AT FRESHWATER LANDING

Notice has been given of Receipt of Application for a Coastal Permit (H207-001, M and U Herzhoff) under Section 93 of the RMA 1991. Details are available for inspection at Environment Southland. (Kevin O'Sullivan, Consents Officer. Phone 03 215 6197) Submissions must be in by Friday 1 August 2003.

4. PORT WILLIAM BOOK.

'Joanna Orwin's novel for teenagers based on the failed Shetland Island Special Settlement attempted at Port William in 1872 has been accepted for publication by Longacre Press (Dunedin). The book is titled 'Out of Tune' and should be in the shops June/ July next year (God and publisher willing). Joanna received a Creative NZ grant for the research stage of this book. She also benefited from much useful information willingly contributed by Tauranga periodontist Chris Ingram, who has had a long interest in this piece of history, and well-known Island identities Sheila Natusch, Ron Tindal, and Joan Buxton - whose grandmother was one of the Shetlanders.'

Ship to Shore

The shop has been steady and we thank you for your support and continued patronage through this settling-in period for us. Our new kitchen will be up and running within the next two weeks. We will be producing our own sandwiches, rolls and a variety of other goods.

To support our local new Mums, we will be having nappies available at cost price from now on. Please let us know the size and brand you use so we can keep these in stock for you. We have also had a request for some new baby products. If you need anything in particular – please ask and we will do our best to get these for you.

We are aware that in the last SIN we advertised our winter hours. However, feedback from some locals has made us change our mind.

Starting immediately – our hours will now be:-

7.30 am to 6.30 pm Saturday to Thursday
7.30 am to 7.00 pm Fridays

We will be assessing these hours again around August or September.

Cheers – The *Team*

Stewart Island News – Celebrate Stewart Island is a (usually) monthly publication produced by Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island
Email: sdovey@es.co.nz Telephone 219-1270

Please forward your contributions (*preferably by email as an MSWord™ attachment*)
Subscriptions are available at \$20 per ten issues to a Stewart Island P O Box or \$25 per ten issues posted to a New Zealand mainland address by surface post.

Deadline for August issue is Friday 15th August 2003

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Please enclose cheque made out to “Stewart Island News” with this form.