

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

JULY—AUGUST 2009

\$2.50

Just when we're thinking there's nothing like a chain-snapping Easterly to humble us, we get hit with a world-headline-making **earthquake** and its aftershocks. No major damage here... Ulva reports "a couple of glass korus fell over" at the Fernery; Jill says that she was the tenth shop in the area to be contacted by Four Square management and the *only* one to report no spilled stock; and the Pub didn't lose one bottle of grog. Various items fell off walls and counters around the Bay, but considering the magnitude of the quake, that's amazing. The event was initially reported as 6.6 by Geonet, 8.2 at a Hawaii alert station, and 9.3 at a Horseshoe Bay Hysterical Household. But media has settled on 7.8 which is still

massive. It will be interesting to quiz Morgan and Luke when they come home—they were anchored at the epicentre at Dusky Sound (their skipper Jason was interviewed on One News). Some residents here followed basic earthquake safety measures: avoided windows, went outside or stood in doorframes. Others sat on the couch drinking beer and watching *Deadliest Catch Season Five*. Which brings me to **quake etiquette**: I think it's in the best interest of a relationship that if your partner is running in hysterical circles screaming "It's the big one!" you should *act* concerned, even if you're not, and get off the couch. Just a suggestion.



PHOTO: Simone Hanvey

She's a pretty big job... When Tyler heard about the freight boat's mishap he grabbed his tool-belt and asked mummy and dad to take him down to Halfmoon Bay Wharf to assess the damage. For more on the mayhem a recent Easterly caused see page 8.



Doc Marty's fiftieth birthday was celebrated with a surprise party (he was lured to the fire station with a fake medical emergency!) where he was presented with a beautiful knitted blanket crafted with squares made by Island ladies. (He especially liked Sharon's patch—the Department of Conservation logo.) **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARTY!**
Photo by Nicolette Thompson

News of the seismic event spread like wildfire... phones jangled early Thursday morning with concerned friends asking about the **tsunami** that hit Bluff. (It was a 17 cm wave, maybe a *tsunami* to Scooter, the world's smallest dog residing in Gisbourne. Search for "scooter" in stuff.co.nz to see him... it'll make you laugh.)

Studies show NZ is the third fattest nation. Put the lammington down and get outside. As Ann Pullen and Margaret Fairhall remarked during a recent beach stroll, *Stewart Island in the winter is a wonderful place*. For **exercise** ideas see p15.

On the **wildlife** front we've seen dolphins in Halfmoon Bay, Humpbacks at Yankee, and seven gillers up the Inlet. On a sad note, Eamonn spotted a dead elephant seal in Big Glory, who might be the large beast who has frequented inlet beaches in years past causing anxiety and delight.

Yes, our **i-SITE** has closed. I like to think I fared better than the *SLT* reporting on this subject as more than one person talked to

me but really, it's like writing a story about the Loch Ness Monster: much speculation, few hard facts! (see pp 3,4,5,&7)

Thanks everyone for your contributions this month! *SIN* welcomes a **new feature**: see *Now and Then* on p2.

The Island community offers our condolences to Raylene. We will miss our friend Ronnie.



Nature's Canvas: Starfish used nearby nature as their palette at Traill Park. Manoj, Jahden and Timu crafted this deer (not in photo but equally detailed: a 22 rifle pointing at deer)

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**NEW
feature!**

Now and Then

by Margaret Hopkins

In this new column which I hope will become a regular feature, I plan to show some of our forgotten buildings or glimpses of past scenes on Stewart Island. Photos held at the Rakiura Museum and in private collections show many grand buildings and quaint homes that are no longer here. Just as we now have a comprehensive record of early and present boats that have been based at Stewart Island it would be great to cover the homes and buildings of our early settlers. If anyone has old photos in their family albums or knows of interesting photos depicting Stewart Island houses the Rakiura Museum would love to see them.

I've started this month with the long gone tennis courts, which were situated on Ayr Street on the site now occupied by Stewart Island Backpackers (Shearwater Inn).

According to Mrs Willa's book on early buildings the two tennis courts were laid down around 1927 by Jack Tanner and were run by the Rakiura Lawn Tennis club. Searching the early rate books I found that one of the sections the tennis courts occupied was owned originally in 1903 by Gilbert Ramsay, a carpenter and the other by George Naismith a fish curer. Later Mrs Cecilia Robertson, wife of Walter Robertson owned the land until 1910 when it came under the name of the *Halfmoon Bay Tennis Club* with J.W.P.Thomson and A. McKellar as trustees. In 1925 the club changed name becoming *Rakiura Lawn Tennis Club*. Maybe the tennis courts were originally formed with a lawn surface then done with asphalt in 1927?

Visitors wishing to play tennis could purchase tickets from Jensen's shop at 7/6 for a season; 4/- weekly; 1/6 daily or 6 pence for half an hour. Some of the rules laid out by the club chairman R.C Boyd included:
No players allowed on the courts except those actually playing tennis.

Proper Tennis shoes to be worn.

Players commencing a set on any Court are debarred from changing to another Court, should there be any other players waiting.

Tickets must be shown on demand at the Courts to any member of the committee.

Any person playing without a ticket will be fined.

Courts closed on Sundays.

Bid Hopkins can remember playing tennis with her sister Hughie and Rodney Bragg and Jim Robertson who were very good players.

Unfortunately the courts fell into disrepair and the section was purchased in the late 1960s by Elizabeth Gilchrist who owned it until 1986 when it was sold to Bill Hazlett and later Keith Smith built Shearwater Inn there.



To The Stewart Island Community

On Ronnie's behalf and on mine, I thank you all for the loving kindness with which you have surrounded us these last difficult months. Ronnie was deeply appreciative of and humbled by your concern for us both, your visiting, practical help and gifts of food and firewood.

The fine nursing care from Marty, Val, Kevin and Debs allowed Ronnie to stay in his own home to the end. Family and friends on the mainland marvel at what our nurses have achieved. In particular, the superb and selfless devotion to Ronnie's and my comfort in his last weeks by Debs, who also had the whole Island to look after on her own, illustrated love and commitment at their finest.

God bless you all.

Raylene

This is one of several letters the editor received regarding the i-SITE. For more LETTERS see page 7

I think it's a real shame for the island as a whole not to have an information centre:

- for small operators in particular, the guys that don't have printed promotional material or appear anywhere on the internet, but have something great to offer visitors;

- for visitors, the lack of a cohesive, impartial and reliable information source will overburden other sources. This could even lead to mis-information which is worse than no information;

- for operators, who will need to inform a number of sources (Flights, Wharf, Bluff Ferry Terminal, DOC, Red Shed, Pub?) about their 'product';

- for visitors and operators (and one public telephone box) the operators are going to be explaining their 'product' a zillion times a day to each person that phones;

Will visitors get frustrated by the difficulties in finding out what they can do here ... and simply take the easy option of going with the big advertisers?

What will happen to all those bloody idiots that turn up on the last ferry with no accommodation booking? I am of course tempted to say 'it serves them right' but they are still visitors to our island and are supporting our economy, after all.

The Stewart Island i-SITE closed abruptly last month, taking most islanders by surprise, including the i-SITE employees. The visitor centre is presently in receivership which is in the process of getting their ducks (finances and paperwork) in order.

All sorts of questions have arisen which fall into three basic categories: What happened/ What's happening now/ What's going to happen?

What happened? I don't know the long answer. The short answer is: they ran short of money. One source close to the visitor centre's daily operations cited slow winter business.

There has been a bit of the blame game and finger-pointing going on which has irritated some locals. As one operator said, "Anyone with anything to do with it takes some responsibility. I saw a guy toting a cross around the Bay the other day and I said I'm surprised these buggers haven't nailed [one of the i-SITE employees] on it! It shouldn't be a witch hunt and to blame one person is a crock of sh—."

What now? Several island businesses are wondering if they will see money owed to them. "We've been advised to contact the receivers but we haven't been told who they are, when I went to the post office with my bill and asked where to address it I was told Box 130, there's been no update or statement issued and we're all in the dark, it's a disappointment. It's a lot of money for a small business," said one person.

Another was philosophical: "Don't know if they're going to just sweep this under the rug, we're waiting to see if anything comes out. We're not totally worried

about the money, we just hope people learn from it. No point crying over spilt milk."

Stewart Island has a new "voice"—If someone telephones the old i-SITE telephone number they will now reach the household of Peter and Iris Tait! Peter contacted Telecom when he discovered the number had been disconnected with no message redirecting callers to the Invercargill i-SITE or offering any information. "Somebody calling from North Auckland would hear *beepbeepbeep* and think Stewart Island had drifted away," he said, so he purchased the number. "Rest assured that for the interim we will relay the required information," he said of phone calls fielded from people thinking they are calling the i-SITE and inquiring about activities and lodging on the island. This telephone number has been widely published in brochures, fliers, and on the Internet as the number for Stewart Island information, but since it was disconnected it's within Telecom rules to immediately re-sell it to an individual who asks for it.

Visitors who walk off the ferry and pop into the red shed will encounter an empty desk to the right and a wall still lined with the brochures and fliers for tourism operators here, and a book listing local lodging for perusal. To the left the visitor is greeted by Stewart Island Experience (Real Journeys) staff who for now are doing the best they can to accommodate visitors seeking information and bookings. Whenever possible they have allowed people to use their office phone, or provided phone numbers and directions to the free phone at the Pub. (They are considering getting an extra phone for public use on site.) While some local grumbles have insinuated that the

(Continued on page 4)

(i-SITE CLOSURE *Continued from page 3)*

i-SITE's demise is RJ's windfall, right now the reality of the situation boils down to Jo, Kylie and Marilyn bracing themselves for a summer onslaught: doing their job as employees of Stewart Island Experience, *and* trying to field the inevitable hundreds of questions and demands from tourists that the i-SITE once handled. They are doing the best they can now but the busy summer tourist season looms.

Anyone sending an email to the i-SITE will receive an auto reply stating the i-SITE has closed and containing some redirect information for those interested in the ferry, flights, DoC, the Singles' Ball, and Kakapo Encounter. The first link provided is the promotions-run site www.stewartisland.co.nz which is also the first "hit" anyone Googling Stewart Island will get. The site has a menu of categories of activities and lodging. Potential visitors seeking the island visitor centre will likely click the tab "Information and Bookings." Here, five places are listed: Bird and Forest (Ruggedy Range), Department of Conservation, Sails Experience, Oban Visitor Centre (Stewart Island Experience) and Stewart Island Visitor Terminal (also Stewart Island Experience). With the exception of DoC, these are businesses, and while DoC will tell people about huts and trails in the National Park it's not their responsibility or desire to get bogged down with booking lodging and activities.

So without the i-SITE, there is now no official place represented on-island *or* on-line for a visitor to receive unbiased information about options in Halfmoon Bay. This might not matter that much to Joe Tourist... Consider the potential visitor sitting at his computer in Melbourne or

Montreal clicking on "Information" and then "Oban Visitor Centre": are they to know or care if they are contacting an impartial visitor centre or a privately run business? Their accommodation, transport and activities can all be booked with the same company...goody for visitor and goody for Real Journeys. But this is something that matters to other, smaller operators on Stewart Island now— without the i-SITE they might want to take a closer look at how they promote themselves, and how others promote their selves, and the thorny topic of promotion on Stewart Island in general. *More on this in column on page 5.*

What's going to happen? Long and short answer: *Dunno.* The 18th June statement issued by Barry Rhodes reads "The Trust is waiting for the final financial accounts to be prepared before deciding any future actions." As of printing, Barry is still waiting for a comment from the receivers to relay to local operators anxiously awaiting word.

Some speculation points to Real Journeys taking the reins, or putting some comparable system in place. Dave Hawkey, RJ CEO told me "We're looking at options and we have no firm plans at this stage, but by summer we will ... When Neil Collinson [SI RJ Manager] gets back from holiday we'll start talking."

Other locals are calling for financial aid from the Council, or from visitor levies, or from *somewhere*, to get an impartial visitor centre up and running again on Stewart Island, this time successfully. We now have the benefit, as Ulva Goodwillie put it, "of 100% scientific hindsight."

If you have any ideas or comments why not share them with *SIN*? Others have—see Letters to the Editor on page 7.—*Jess*



DOC Spot

by Sharon Pasco, Field Centre Supervisor / Programme Manager Community Relations

It doesn't seem a month since the last time I sat down to write this column and with a number of key staff currently on leave (holidaying, getting married, waiting to have babies...) there is not a lot to report from the Department.

Jester Farewelled

Probably the most exiting thing is that at the end of June we farewelled our faithful workhorse the 'Jester', which has headed north to a new life in Picton. We received word this week from her new owner that she cruised up the coast at a steady 10knots and arrived safely after an uneventful trip.

We are now eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new purpose-built boat the 'Hananui' which was launched earlier this month at Mana Harbour after being transported down by truck from Pro-Fab engineering's workshop in Palmerston North. Our skipper Clint Brown was on hand to observe and assist with sea trials. She passed the marine survey inspections with flying colours. Clint will spend the next few days at the helm getting used to operating her before bringing her down to the island where she will be quickly put into use. An



open invitation is extended to all residents to head down to the wharf to take a look over her when she arrives in Halfmoon Bay.

In order to comply with survey requirements, for the type of work being undertaken, the 'Hananui' is slightly larger than the 'Jester' (13.2m long by 3.9m beam). She has a 510HP caterpillar engine, which we envisage will give us a top speed of 25knots and a cruising speed of 17 - 18knots. Unlike the 'Jester' she comes with seating for 8 in the wheelhouse, two berths and a toilet and shower. Our staff are looking forward to more comfortable trips in the future!

Rakiura Planning Process

In other news, the first three hearings of submissions on the Draft Stewart Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan have been held. Further hearings will be held over the next five weeks and anyone who wishes to sit in and listen at any or all of these hearings is welcome to do so.

- Andy Roberts Department of Conservation - Area Manager Southern Islands Area Manger
- Robin McNeil Southland Conservation Board Chair of the Rakiura Sub-committee
- Gail Thomson Southland Conservation Board Rakiura Sub-committee.
- Ian Wilson Southland Conservation Board Rakiura Sub-committee.

The issue of promotion is now all the thornier without an impartial visitor information centre on Stewart Island. It's interesting to see how various tourism operators advertise. Some rely on a wee flier on the message board or word of mouth, while others spend thousands on promotional materials.

You could say "all's fair in love and war and business." If hapless little tourism operator XYZ hasn't been savvy enough to have themselves listed on the web and in the phone book in every conceivable heading under a variety of names —Akiura Booking and Information (listings are alphabetized so make sure you start with A!), Absolut Kiwi Sighting Walks, AAA Water Taxis, etc— then too bad for XYZ. If you can't run with the big dogs then stay on the porch, and if you don't know how to aggressively promote your business then get out of the game. But...

At the end of the day is this good for the island, or our visitors? Let's say I run Lee Bay Seaweed Tours. What's to stop me from naming myself "Jessica's Horseback Tours" and "Akiura Booking and Information Office" and "Southern Ocean Kayaks" in addition to "Lee Bay Seaweed Tours," and then listing my contact information online and sitting like a spider, catching tourist after unwitting tourist in my Web web? When a family emails me from Montreal saying they heard wonderful things about Stewart Island and inquiring about a horseback tour I don't mention I only have one horse and he's lame, I don't refer them to a fellow operator who has 10 healthy horses, I talk them out of the whole stupid horse idea and into the exciting world of seaweed spotting!

My customers might come here, plod down the beach, have an un-wonderful time, pay me and leave, never to return to Stewart Island and never to speak well of this. My *promotion* of the

island has ultimately turned to *demotion*.

This example might sound silly but some of the shenanigans that have actually taken place here in the name of promotion and business are ludicrous and ugly. Legal actions; operators who refuse to deal with each other; misleading advertising; self-promotion as opposed to island-promotion; greedily sniffing out loopholes in systems set up to create a fair and honest industry; jealously fighting over tourists like selfish kids... Fortunately there's not a lot of this stuff going on, but, like rotten seaweed, just a little bit stinks and visitors can smell it.

Where to from here? Perhaps some basic guidelines should be set in place: for example, if you don't actually have a horse, don't advertise horseback tours. If you're unwilling to do business with other operators, try to work your way toward some flexibility and compromise, because our visitors end up paying the price. And considering that the promotions website is Stewart Island's main "face" on the Internet, I wonder if the "Information and Bookings" tab can be reconsidered. Booking agencies are a common, valid business, but I know as a traveller and consumer I'd look there expecting to find something i-SITE-like, and I resent it when I think I'm talking to an unbiased information centre and then realize they are a private business enterprise. It's like telling a tourist a weka is a kiwi ... if they find out they've been misled, they're not a happy customer, and the visitor experience has soured. Someone recently suggested a workshop where operators can learn about constructive, positive ways to promote their business *and* island tourism as a whole. Let's focus on promoting this beautiful island to the world, not how much ad space we can squeeze into a brochure.

Any thoughts on this subject? Send them in to *SIN*. —Ed

New Staff

We have recently appointed a number of new staff, to replace those who have left over the past six months. Most of the new appointments are arriving with a partner and one is bringing down his family, which will help boost the roll at the school and Rugrats. We hope the community will make them welcome and look forward to introducing them in future DOC Spot columns. We are also looking forward to the arrival of a new baby and wish Dale & Mary Chittenden speedy and safe delivery; and we welcome Kari and Brent Beaven's baby boy. Congratulations also go to Phil Brookes and Heather Peterson who will be husband and wife when they arrive back from holiday at the end of August. Heather and Phil plan to get married in California on Aug 1.

Whale sightings

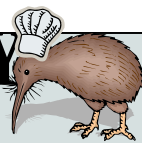
Finally a reminder to report any whales sighted around the coast of Stewart Island / Rakiura. Phred Dobbins, Clint Brown and Zane Smith recently sighted a pod of 5 humpback whales off the coastline at Yankee

and I have also heard that a number of Southern right whales have been seen in Paterson Inlet in recent weeks. As I reported in last month's DOC Spot, it's that time of year again when Southern right whales are on the move and DOC

is keen to have any sightings reported immediately to assist our research programme. Sightings can be reported directly to the Stewart Island Field Centre on 2190002 or via the DOC Hotline 0800 362468.

Location	Date	Time	Hearing Panel
3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Friday, 17 July	10.00am – 7.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
Kingsgate Hotel, 10 Smith Street, Dunedin	Monday, 20 July	9.00am – 6.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Monday, 27 July	10.00am – 4.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson
Conference Room, Department of Conservation Office, Level 5, 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton	Monday, 10 August	9.30am – 7.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Ian Wilson
3rd floor meeting room, Cue on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill	Monday, 17 August	10.30am – 7.30pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Ian Wilson
RSA Hall Stewart Island / Rakiura	Monday, 24 August	10.20 – 3.00pm	Andy Roberts, Robin McNeill, Gail Thomson

the GALLEY



The following recipes come from the kitchen of Steve Kenny:

Crayfish Bisque

It's that time of year and if you are fed up with the usual boiled crayfish and mayonnaise this is an ideal winter warmer with a hunk of crusty homemade bread. Serves 4, or two hungry buggers. If you are as messy in the galley as I am and if you can, then using a BBQ is a good option so I'll continue with the method assuming we are all using the barbie outside.

2 medium to large crayfish (live or cooked)
 2 medium onions skins on rough chopped
 2 stalks celery rough chopped
 2 medium carrots rough chopped
 1/2 bulb garlic rough chopped
 1/2 cup plain flour
 2 Tbsp oil
 Knob of butter
 1 pottle tomato puree
 1 good handful of chopped fresh dill/fennel or 1 Tbsp of dried
 1 Tbsp Marmite (does not have much to do with flavour but helps darken the bisque)
 1 or 2 or 3 good measures of brandy (depending, the cook might want to skull it and blag it!!!)
 3 L of pure SI water
 Biggest wooden spoon you have or piece of kindling (don't worry about splinters you're going to strain the bisque)

If using live crayfish take the plates or grill parts off your BBQ and using a pot big enough to fit crayfish into bring to the boil 1/2 litre of water straight on top of the burners, a lid helps. You're not going to boil the fish but steam as it's much quicker than waiting for 5 or so litres of water to boil. I believe in Karma so I kill the fish first by skewering the heads an inch above the eye at a downward angle of 30 degrees, if I am reincarnated as a crayfish I'd rather be stabbed in the head and killed rather than be boiled or steamed alive. Put crayfish into pan when boiling, lid back on and wait seven minutes, then once cooked, drain reserve liquid and set aside for later, and run crayfish under cold water.

Twist off the tails and remove flesh from shells, keep in the fridge until later.

This can be the messy part so with the

heads, try not to munch on the contents as this is the valuable flavour you are looking for in the bisque, get back outside with a chopping board and a big knife and the same big pot and the rest of the ingredients.

Put the pot back on the burners with oil and butter then using the knife and board chop the heads and remainder of the shell into smaller pieces, then when pot has begun to smoke toss in chopped heads with other ingredients apart from flour, puree, brandy and water.

Give everything a good stir while bashing the shell as much as you can, the more you bash the more the flavour!

Add puree and Marmite and continue to stir and bash for a few minutes, don't worry if things look like they're going to burn you can always turn down the gas a bit and restore calm. Good time now to add brandy or pat yourself on the back for getting this far and scull, getting some in the pot at this time will enhance the flavour. Warning: brandy may flame, if it does flavour will still remain but alas the alcohol has just burned off so you should have sculled when you had the chance. Anyway, I'm sure our fine volunteer fire brigade will arrive and they might have some beers in the truck.

Add flour and make it into a roux, don't have to be too fussy as long as you can't see any white of the flour. Stir over the heat for a few minutes to enhance the colour.

Then add water including the cooking liquid reserved from before, add in 5 to 8 splashes or until water is used, stirring after each.

Leave to come to boil and simmer for one hour stirring frequently.

By this time the bisque should be a slightly thick darkish orange colour, if too watery thicken by adding flour and water mixed and leave for a further 10 minutes, if too thick add more water till a pleasing consistency is achieved, if my calculations are correct this should not be necessary. The bisque should be the same consistency as a can of Campbell's cream of chicken soup, excuse the comparison but I sculled the brandy!

Strain through a sieve into a fresh pot and get back inside as it's bloody cold and the brandy is wearing off. Bring back to the boil and season. The bisque does take a fair bit of salt and pepper to

bring out the best so be patient and eventually you will find the taste you like.

Like all soups and stews making the day before is a bonus.

To serve, take tails from fridge and chop into bite size pieces, share out amongst warm bowls and ladle bisque over, enjoy with fresh warm crusty home made bread, and another brandy, you deserve it!

Goes well with pinot noir/gris. A dollop of cr me fraiche doesn't hurt either.

Crusty Homemade Bread

2 Tbsp sure bake red top yeast
 1 Tbsp honey
 500 ml warm water
 1500 g strong white flour
 1 Tbsp salt

Mix yeast, honey and warm water, stir and leave for 10 minutes

Sieve flour and salt into large bowl or onto bench if you have room

Make a well in centre of dry ingredients and add stirred yeast mix gradually, your hand is the best tool, if all the yeast mix is used and dough is still dry add more warm water, if too wet sprinkle more flour. You want to have sticky dough but not runny, give the dough a three minute workout, this will agitate the yeast.

In a bowl large enough to hold dough twice the size you have made cover and place somewhere warm. I've found making the dough before you go to bed is best.

In the morning the dough should have doubled, tip it out onto a floured bench and knock back. You can be quite ruthless here, the yeast likes to be physically abused it wakes it up and will be ready for the second proving. So if there is anything annoying you at the moment, now is a good time to take it out on the dough stretching and kneading as you go.

After about five minutes you should see that the dough begins to spring back easily in the places where you poke or punch it.

The dough should make two good sized loafs so cut in half and shape. Canola oil spray is great her—spray an 10X8 inch (approx) oven dish preferably one with sides, place both loaves into tray .

Leave the loaves in a warm place or at

(Continued on page 7)

Letters to the editor regarding the closure of the Stewart Island i-SITE:

The sudden closure of the Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre is a loss for the visitors and businesses on Stewart Island. Without knowing the full details behind the decision to close and the scant information given out since it is any wonder that gossip is rife in the community. The reluctance of the Visitor Information Centre Trust to explain to the public and businesses that are owed money is a little disquieting.

For 3 years we have been served well by the Visitor Information Centre staff and they have provided a much-needed focus for tourists and locals planning holidays and activities. As a business that dealt with the Visitor Centre staff on a daily basis we were very aware of the long hours that the staff, in particular Lesley Gray put into serving the public. It has been obvious over this last summer that there should have been an extra staff member helping out so that all the tasks could be achieved without relying on extra volunteer hours by staff. If the business

failed it was not through lack of effort or dedication.

From memory, when the Visitor Centre was first being established here there was a promise to underwrite any losses by the Caskeys who themselves ended up in a dire financial situation. It seems that there was an expectation right from inception that the business would struggle to keep going on commissions and sales alone. I am a little surprised that the current situation was not picked up earlier or anticipated by the Trust. I also wonder why I-Sites and Visitor Information Centres in other small towns are subsidised or given grants by local councils. A Stewart Island Visitor Levy would have been an ideal fund from which to get financial assistance.

It would be nice to think that some solutions can be worked out and that there may still be a case for an independent Visitor Information Centre on Stewart Island.

—Margaret Hopkins

It's sad that a project that started with optimism and was staffed with such dedication has come to such a dismal end.

The cost to the Stewart Island tourism industry of outstanding debts is probably insignificant in comparison to the cost to the island image of the badly managed closure of the i-SITE. For instance, information that the i-SITE telephone number was to be transferred to the Invercargill i-SITE until the Stewart Island i-SITE situation could be clarified was reassuring, but proved incorrect.

I would like to see an agreement among the operators that we honour any future bookings already committed to the i-SITE in order to minimize the damage to the island image.

The trustees may have been advised to "duck" and refuse to discuss the situation. I have no idea why this stance would have been recommended. We would appreciate some answers. —Helen Cave

Something on your mind? Send letters to: Stewart Island News, PO Box 156 or to editor@stewart-island-news.com

If it's super rude or Bible-thumping it won't get printed but send anyway for my amusement.—Ed

I am very disappointed the i-site has closed, due we are told to financial difficulties. I was a member of the working group set up to find out if a visitor information centre was wanted. A survey was taken and the response from the community was a positive yes. Options were given and by far the most favoured was an independently operated office. I believe the i-site, which has had to meet certain criteria and standards before it can use the title, has provided an excellent service to visitors and the community during the years it has operated. I do hope a solution can be reached. It is often necessary for an injection of funds when providing a service to the public and a visitor levy would be an ideal avenue. —Elaine Hamilton.

It's the WORST thing to happen for our operators here! The blessing is that it's happened over the winter.

I certainly hope we have a visitor information centre in some form or another operating before Christmas.

Hindsight is 100% scientifically correct.

As operators, we were totally oblivious to the costing structure of the Centre (hindsight...) We should have seen that we could pay higher percentages, higher rent rack, card space payments.

The girls were outstanding and were so incredibly busy. Visiting

i-SITE staff was always shocked at how much work was achieved through the visitor centre as opposed to their experience in their offices.

Stewart Island is a different visitor experience than the mainland. We have 'rush hours' when the girls are expected to serve all questions, answer the constantly ringing telephone and answer all the email queries. At the same time try and contact the various activity/accommodation people who never answered their phones.

It would be good to see how many email queries resulted in bookings with immediate down payments. —Ulva Goodwillie

(GALLEY Continued from page 6)

least until they have doubled in size.

Bake in a pre-heated oven 180C occasionally brushing with melted butter or milk.

20 minutes into the bake, make some steam in the oven by pouring 1/2 cup water onto the bottom of the oven, this will ensure crustier bread.

Bread will take about 30 minutes to

bake, if unsure turn out and tap the bottom if you hear hollow sounds then you're good to go.

Leave to sit before turning out, turn bread upside down and pull apart slowly. Leave for a further 10 minutes on a rack before slicing.

This is a basic white loaf which can be changed easily. Replace half the white flour for bran flour, add grains, dried fruit, herbs, spices, nuts, etc., just make

sure the dry ingredients are mixed well and you have seasoned the bread before adding yeast and water, also you can sprinkle with poppy/sesame seeds etc after the final brushing with milk or butter.

This dough doubles as a good pizza base; instead of knocking back after the first prove simply knead a little then roll out thin and top with your favourite toppings. Leave for 30 minutes then bake 180C. —Steve Kenny



OK, so the **QUIZ MONEY** went on mid-winter pressies! The netballers got a new ball, bags of coal were distributed around some of the oldies, goodie bags were given to SIRCET, the Patchworkers, Knit & Knatters, Lania's coffee mornings, the Camera Club, Garden Circle and the nurses. We got a wee pressie for Rayleen & Ronnie and some stores for Ron Moyle for when he got back from hospital. And some books for the library! This time we have a request for the senior citizens mid-winter lunch so that's where the money will go tomorrow night. (I think that was everything!) —*Vicki Coats*



WHARF versus BOAT

When Reese was six years old, he was convinced that Richard Squires (a.k.a. Squizzy) had paranormal powers. "He's a side-kick!" he's say. Little Reese had heard the tale that Squiz dreamt his boat broke off its mooring, and first light proved the nightmare true.

Now, years later, Squiz has displayed his side-kick abilities again. On Wednesday 1st July he told Carolyn he was going to shift *Lo Loma* round to the Inlet. "I trust my moorings, but imagine if that bloody freight boat came loose," he said. "It would be like a train going through us." His premonition became reality sometime that night when the freight boat's chain snapped during an Easterly, sending it on the loose through Halfmoon Bay.

Zane Smith was the first to raise the alarm, but he credits Jack Frew. "For once in his life Jack went home early



was a deep metallic clang that sounded quite close by," said Sue. Bruce finally got back into bed and then sat up and said, "I know what it is. A boat's on the rocks." Just then, the fire alarm sounded across the road.

While Bruce was checking his yard, Zane

from the Pub," said Zane, "so he was heading round Lonnekers and saw the Innes' boat was in trouble."

Yes, the first victim of the Easterly was Peter and Janet's boat *Addiction*, which went ashore around 8pm. After Jack alerted him, Peter called Zane. They assessed the situation and decided they'd wait until the tide turned at 3am and they would try to sort it out. Zane went home and waited for the low tide call from Peter.

At about 2.30am, Bruce and Sue Ford, who live behind the Clinic, couldn't sleep. They were disturbed by a noise and Bruce's sense that "something wasn't right." He went to check their tunnel house and the shed, and Sam's old iron corrugated fence, but couldn't determine the source of the sound. "It

was driving round to see about the Innes' boat. He realized they'd need some strops and thought there'd be some at Halfmoon Bay Wharf, so he drove out and was met with the horrific sight of the freight boat battering the wharf. He drove to Ian Munro's and burst in his door shouting to wake him, then went to the fire station and smashed the alarm and went home for a tow line. Meanwhile, Ian alerted Colin Hopkins who got the *Aurora* ready for action.

Between 4 and 5am, the Fire Brigade, Arkwright's truck, and the *Aurora* managed to extricate the freight boat from the wharf. Bruce later described the unfolding damage: "every time the sharp end of the boat hit the wharf, the planks of the boardwalk were popping up like see-saws."

The fire brigade pumped water from the disabled freighter and *Aurora* towed it to Bluff for repairs, while the damaged wharf was cordoned off with cones and freight bins. The freighter is currently in intensive

(Continued on page 9)

PHOTOS: Pete Wilson and Jules Reburg



A piece from the past

by Margaret Rooney

This account has been put together with information taken from the minute books of the Centennial Committee. I was asked about this committee, and knowing nothing about it, decided to investigate. These minute books are held in the Rakiura Museum and make very interesting reading.

In 1939 communities throughout New Zealand formed committees to work out how to celebrate 100 years of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, which came due in the following year 1940.

Stewart Island formed the Centennial Committee on Thursday 16th February 1939 with a Committee of a President, Mr. J. Sloan; Vice President, Mr. B. Smith; Secretary Miss D. Cotterell; Treasurer, Mr. W Oswald; and fourteen other members from the Community.

At the next meeting discussion took place on a Stewart Island Memorial. It was moved that a Memorial Gate, made from rough hewn totara, be erected at the Recreation Ground, and land below Mr. Moore Carter be planted in suitable trees and shrubs. It was agreed and a sub-committee was formed to look into the Memorial Gate.

Mrs. Carstensen moved that a combined Thanksgiving Service be held in the Public Hall On Sunday 9th June 1940, seconded Mr. Oswald.

At the next meeting the gate committee had not met because they would have to fence the recreation ground and they were looking into the cost of doing this.

The next meeting was not held because of an absence of a quorum, but on the agenda it was to have been put forward that Dr. Basil Howard be asked if the Committee could publish the history of Stewart Island, which he had written, and use it as a fundraiser to help with the cost of the Memorial Gate and the fencing. In the meantime the Secretary had met with Dr. Howard in Dunedin and he agreed to give the Centennial Committee the right to publish "Rakiura", a history of Stewart Island.

After further meetings with the Southland Historical Society, Southland Provincial Centennial Committee, the Librarian of Invercargill Library and the powers to be in Wellington, the "venture" was put to the meeting, plus two quotes from Whitcombe and Tombs and Coulls Somerville Wiltrie Ltd, and passed.

The proclamation date over Stewart Island was the 5th June and it was felt the Centennial Celebrations should be

held in February 1940 when it was summer and more visitors would be on the Island. Capt. Hamilton was to be asked to run a special trip that weekend from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon.

A programme was drawn up, Friday evening, - Concert and fireworks; Saturday- Sports day under the auspices of the Athletic Club; followed by a Fancy Dress ball in the evening, and Sunday morning, free time for those wishing to take boat trips. In the rest of the "Dominion" pageants were being enacted, Mr. T. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Widowson, that "consideration be given to producing a pageant depicting the various phases of the Island's history, since earliest records to the present day."

Mr. J.A. Hamilton moved, seconded by Mr. J. H. Hamilton that a Carnival be held in October to raise funds for the Centennial celebrations.

A letter was read from an Odell Pou of Christchurch, proposing a Centennial Badge, sample enclosed, portraying New Zealand BUT minus Stewart Island!!

A letter was sent that this was not acceptable, and the reply was, that Stewart Island have its own badge. Miss Elsa Sloan had made a sketch depicting the island in green against a blue sea background with a green edge, an inscription and a tui, tui to

(Continued on page 11)

care at Gough's with damage to hull, keel, and props. "You should've seen the other guy..." it growls. The other guy—Halfmoon Bay Wharf—suffered impressively. Rakiura Shipping insurance should

cover the cost of repairs which will take 3-4 weeks. In the meantime, "people need to be tolerant and observant," said Sprag.

While *damage* is a key word in this story, it should be noted that it could have been much worse. Even without *Lo Loma*, Halfmoon Bay is a parking lot crowded with boats, and the fact that the freight boat

wove its way past them all, around the wharf to the inside dock leaving everything (but itself and wharf) unscathed is rather miraculous. —Jess



Ringaringa – the beach that’s falling into the sea

by Paula Brown

Ringaringa Beach, not just a pile of sand, clay cliffs, rocks etc, but a place where people spent their childhoods playing in the rock pools and gathering kai moana, families went to picnic, and some amazing seaweed discoveries were made by Eileen Willer (world famous), definitely not just a beach on the northern coast of Stewart Island, but much more. That Ringaringa is no more. The Ringaringa of people’s memories has washed into the sea and will more than likely never be again.

I have heard several reasons for the name Ringaringa but the one that seems the most likely to me (and I am happy to be corrected) is that Ringaringa, the Maori word for hand, looked like a hand with its five rocky headlands protruding out into the bay. These little headlands essentially turned Ringaringa Beach into a series of small pocket bays, each most likely its own unique geomorphic entity working separately from its neighbour.

During the 1950s the Southland District Council decided that Ringaringa would make an ideal quarry. This was the beginning of the end for Ringaringa. The removal of rock would continue over into the 1970s. Tonnes, 100’s of tonnes of rock must have been removed from that beach system. Aerial photography shows that entire headlands were removed. Not only was rock removed but so was beach material. The characteristic pink shell that made Ringaringa famous was used as a base under the road in some locations as well. If you walk along the creek end of Ringaringa and look where the cliff (just by the wooden ladder) is smaller you can see the road layer in the cliff. Look for the layer of gravel, sand and pink shell. The rock was used to seal the roads around the Bay. From my understanding the rock was also used to build the seawall from the Bay towards Lonnekens.

So where do I fit into this. Well, its

actually Bevan Mudies fault. I asked him one day how the beach was going and he said to me “Paula, there is a thesis sitting on that beach” and wouldn’t you know it, he is right. BC (that’s before children) I had completed a PgDipSci in Coastal Geomorphology so this was right up my alley. I had been looking for a project to sink my teeth into for a while and this seemed perfect. And even better it all seemed to fall into place so easily. Anyway, back to the beach, I am nowhere near as exciting.

Ringaringa has been eroding since the removal of the rocks. Coastal erosion is, of course, normal. Beaches erode and they accrete sediment. However beaches usually erode within their own “envelope”. This means sediment being removed from, lets say, a dune, may be deposited on the beach, or in the nearshore. So the dune is smaller, but the sediment is still part of that system, and given the right sort of conditions the sediment is still available to be redeposited on the dune at another time. All over New Zealand there are examples of these sorts of erosion/accretion cycles. What makes Ringaringa different is that the sediment being eroded is not part of the beaches “envelope” and when it is being eroded it is being washed out to sea and is no longer available for accretion. Therefore the beach is losing sediment that cannot be reworked.

My thesis (and its currently changing and evolving) will try and understand



what is actually happening at Ringaringa. I have a series of aerial photographs dating from 1950. I will digitise these

and overlay them at the same scale. This will enable the rate of erosion to be measured assuming the erosion is linear. As erosion is episodic and not linear I will also trawl through years of sea level (this changes depending on wind strength and atmospheric pressure and of course tides), wind and rain data. I will be doing this to look for the frequency of events that can lead to erosion. I will also be surveying the beach at regular intervals. This will be correlated to the weather events so we are able to understand the weather conditions that cause the greatest erosion. Once I understand this I will be able to see how many major erosion causing weather events have happened in the past, and use this data to predict rates of erosion into the future.

This thesis will also look at the evolution of Ringaringa Beach. If you look at the end where the creek is, you will see at the start of the cliff a layer of large rocks (similar to the ones on the beach at the moment) about half way up the cliff. It is thought that this could be a raised seabed dating back to when sea level was higher than it currently is around 120,000 BP. I hope to understand how Ringaringa was formed, and most importantly what sediments make up the cliffs. This will indicate how far back the

erosion may go before it stabilises. Or we may even have Ringaringa Island.

It is still undecided yet whether or not this thesis will look at ways of stopping the erosion. The reason for this is that without understanding the beach

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From Halfmoon Bay School: Snow and Other Stories...

Here are some groovy stories that have been written by the students over the last month.

SNOW

I jumped in the snow. It was wonderful! I love the snow and it felt all snowy. Awesome I loved it. Cool cool cool! I like snow.—By Kyla brown aged 6

The snow is sparkling white and freezing. I was having fun. “MAN that sun is bright on the snow.” We were working like an ice breaking machine. It was tiring but we worked like a team to clear the court.—By Jahdan Soalo Aged 9

Awesome! The sparkling, gleaming, white snow is soft and cold. Snowflakes fall from the sky on freezing mornings. Crack! Crunch! I disintegrated ice puddles. Snow makes everything look like a winter wonderland. The court has a hard ice coating. Lots of my friends come out and help me put all the icy cold snow in the middle. My hands are sooooo NUMB. Slowly but surely the snow and ice melt away. Now all our snowy fun has gone. Boo hoo!—By Sophie Conner aged 7

These are from a reading group who were focusing on using onomatopoeia :

Boom! A car blew up and a fire truck came screaming and zooming down the track. Shhhoosh went the spray. It splashed all over the car.—By Angus Kenny aged 7

Zoom the zippy cheetahs are chasing the fast wart-hog. It is rushing towards the water SNAP! a crocodile swallowed the wart-hog. Yummy!—By Jack Dobbins aged 7

Boom! Boom! went the haka. Smash! Slam! Players crashed into each other. Then one player zoomed down the field and dived over the try line. Hooray!—By Leeym Thompson aged 6

And another reading group writing short character descriptions:

Big bossy boots Bess is excellent at making freaky shadow puppets. The cousin has evil eyes and a selfish attitude.—By Meg Kenny aged 8

Pop is a caring man and a worry wort. He’s old and wrinkly, he’s forgetful

too... but a happy chap.—By Timu Moxham aged 7

ALSO A HUGE thanks to Chris Dillon and Pete Wilson for collecting and saving scrap metal for the school and to Grim for organising to send this to town. Also a BIG thanks to Helen and the Bar-staff for donating the money left in the bar at the end of each night to the school. The total received from these two groups last month was enough to purchase a new Macbook laptop for the students to use. The school are greatly appreciative of our numerous supporters. We are very lucky to belong to such a wonderful community. As Meg and Sophie would say "You guys ROCK!"

Kath, Bonnie, the Halfmoon Bay Students and BOT

(Piece from the Past Continued from page 9)

be replaced by a kiwi. 500 badges were to be ordered.

Over the next three months, the Historical Committee sent out circulars advertising the publication within the “Dominion” and overseas. Estimates had been sought from three publishing firms and A.H. and A.W. Reed, was the most favourable. They commented on the international situation, that of course was the imminence of WW2, and this was having an effect on getting returns from the circulars, and with getting the paper they wanted to use for printing. They needed to raise three hundred pounds in order to obtain a Government subsidy of one hundred pounds, which would give them the four hundred pounds necessary to publish the book. Because of the need for more money two canvassers were to be appointed, on a 15% commission to go around presumably businesses in Invercargill and districts, canvassing donations.

At the January meeting it was reported that at a November meeting in view of the international situation the celebrations for January be postponed indefinitely. The publishing of “Rakiura” went ahead with several meetings to confirm the make up of the book, illustrations, maps, binding and lettering, number of books etc.

There is then a gap and the next minute book is dated 1954, when a public meeting was called on September 23rd 1954 to discuss a Centennial Memorial.

Mr. George Turner moved that provided the funds from the 1940 Centennial Committee and the Interdenominational Church Trust be available, the memorial be in the form of a Museum. Carried. A Committee was formed and so the building of a museum was started. The money raised from the sale of Basil Howard’s “Rakiura” was three hundred and seven pounds and was in the hands of

the Stewart Island Council. They were to be asked if it could be transferred to the new committee.

From reading these minutes, it seems at times little has changed, funds are always needed and to be raised, our book “Stewart Island Boats” has helped the present Museum enormously as did “Rakiura”. Instead of “canvassing” physically, we sent letters to businesses and organizations asking for donations. Even with large committees a quorum cannot always be achieved and there are difficulties to be overcome to achieve their objectives. To get a Centennial Memorial it took eighteen to nineteen years to achieve and so far it has taken ten years to get extensions to the present Museum, which are turning into a new Museum.

And of course we still get left out, no Stewart Island on a badge of New Zealand, no Stewart Island in the plans for Warm Homes.

Margaret Rooney, Rakiura Museum

Ronnie Waddell

28.11.34 — 17.06.09

The only child of Robert and Jean Waddell, Ronnie was born in Gourrock, Scotland, into a family of simple Presbyterian faith centred on the love of God and concern for one's fellow man, a faith that never left him.

Ronnie attended Speirs' Academy, in Ayrshire, where he resisted all attempts to force him to play rugby. He much preferred his beloved fitba' and also developed a passion for cricket, taking the day off school to travel to Edinburgh to see the New Zealand Eleven, captained by Walter Hadlee.

A voracious reader, Ronnie absorbed knowledge effortlessly where his interest was engaged. That is teacher speak for "not focussed on school work". He left school on his fifteenth birthday, as soon as he legally could, but promised his father he wouldn't hang around street corners. He enrolled at the Watt Memorial College and completed by age 17 his Radio Officer's ticket, 1st Class. Still only 17, he made his first deep sea voyage as Radio Officer.

Ronnie spent 12 years in the British Merchant Navy. He survived a potentially catastrophic fire at sea on the immigrant ship, Captain Hobson (600 passengers, 200 crew). The fire was put out without loss of life but Ronnie had been keenly aware that, as Chief Radio Officer, his duty would have been to continue transmitting mayday signals until the last possible moment. The criminally unseaworthy state of the lifeboats gave him some

comfort. He suffered appendicitis from New Zealand to his homeport of Greenock, his surgeon insisting that he operate immediately if he were to save his life. In 1956, when Britain and France invaded Egypt, Ronnie was on an oil tanker heading up the Red Sea to the Suez Canal. The ship was turned back by the R.A.F. and the long haul round Africa encouraged Ronnie to grow a beard. His grandmother approved of it and he vowed to shave it off for no other woman!

In his sea travels Ronnie visited New Zealand many times, first on the Captain Hobson, later on the M.V. Mystic. New Zealand, its people, its scenery, its social equality enchanted him and the snail's pace working habits of N.Z. wharfies allowed him time, if his captain didn't object, to explore in depth this country that he came to love with a fierce passion. In 1964 he immigrated and discovered to his amazement and delight that he could enrol at university without any formal qualifications. He joined the Union Steamship Company for 18 months to make the money to put him through 'varsity, serving on such N.Z. icons as the Rangatira and the Wahine.

He loved the challenge of university life at Otago and its sense of community. In his 4 years there he made many deep friendships and graduated with 1st class Honours in History. He also met there a lass from Green Point, near Bluff who was studying Latin. There ensued a fine romance, a lasting love, a marriage of hearts and minds, shot through with laughter, fun and a keen

sense of the ridiculous — Ronnie and I boasted that with his Morse Code and my Latin our combined obsolete and arcane skills would be more than a match for any cryptographer.

After a year at Teachers' College, Ronnie joined me on the Staff of Gore High School. He was the first to admit that teaching didn't come easily at first. At age 36, he faced the double challenge of his first year in the classroom **and** marriage to me — a challenge summed up after a particularly difficult, and in Ronnie's mind, disastrous lesson by a little Maori boy, who remarked: "Gee, Mr Waddell, marriage is sure getting to you!"

Ronnie loved Gore High School with a passion, its students, its solid values, its tramping trips, sport and concerts. In 1982, he attended Canterbury University and trained as a Guidance Counsellor. This was a difficult year, in which his strongly held convictions of the values of family and social responsibility were tested by the "New Age" content of the course, where the word "family" was treated as a dirty word. Ronnie discovered to his amazement that some could look on Guidance Counselling as a means to power, to career advancement or to acting out their own problems. His only reason for embarking on this new role was to better serve his school, "not as a big wheel, not as a little wheel, but as a drop of oil to make the machinery run more smoothly."

Ronnie retired in 1993 and we moved permanently to Stewart Island in 2000. A series of watercraft tested our abilities on the sometimes calm, some-

times turbulent waters of Paterson Inlet, providing amusement to the fine seamen and seawomen of the Island, as we struggled to achieve that nonchalant, seemingly effortless launching of a stabicraft that can be seen any day of the week on the Island. A cautious navigator, Ronnie was pleased to relate that the only time his beloved Saltire hit anything was when his fellow Presbyterian Elder, Lindsay Squires, was at the wheel.

When Geordie McKay, my sister Helen's father-in-law, passed on the family mantle of Haggis Addresser to Ronnie, a new career and interest opened up to him. He was often asked to perform this duty and loved it, as he also loved compering the Waimatuku Pipe Band concerts, where his wit and sense of fun had the audience almost falling out of their seats with laughter and his embarrassed wife sometimes trying to hide under hers.

Overseas trips in 1997, 2005 and 2007 cemented Ronnie's love affair with France, its villages, countryside, people, wine, food and culture – and did I mention the wine? He was looking forward to planning another trip and tramping over the Pyrenees into Spain.

Membership of Oban Presbyterian Church was very important to Ronnie. He was

inducted as an elder by his great friend and fellow Scot, the Rev. Moses Donaldson, a minister of the Church of Scotland. With his sense of Presbyterian history and tradition, Ronnie boasted that he was the only current elder to have been properly "done". He rejoiced in the tight knit qualities of the Stewart Island community, and though not a joiner of clubs or societies, he felt he should offer his services, at age 68, to the Fire Brigade when the call went out for more volunteers. His relief, and that of his wife, at his not being needed was as exquisite as the tact of the Chief Fire Officer in declining his services.

Ronnie was diagnosed with cancer 15 months ago. His attitude was not "Why me?" but "Why not me?" and he took it upon himself to encourage men to get themselves checked out "down below". Grown men were seen to wince as Ronnie unflinchingly set forth the details but the lecture was al-

ways accomplished with laughter. Ronnie was humbled by the care and professionalism of all who looked after him. His positive attitude spilled out over fellow patients who told me what a wonderful influence he was in the waiting room at the Radiotherapy Department of Dunedin Hospital.

Ronnie was a wonderful husband and life companion. It has been a privilege to love and be loved by him. He taught me so much about fairness, justice and kindness.

His favourite Old Testament verse was Micah, 6:8

What does the Lord require of thee, O man, but to do justly, Love mercy and walk humbly with thy God.

Rest In Peace, Ronnie,
And Walk The "Dugs"
In Glory.

—Raylene



If you're a tourism operator who'd like to offer discounts to visitors during **Kakapo Encounter 2009**, contact Ann at kakapoencounter@xtra.co.nz and we will list you on our site kakapoencounter.org



CLAIRE KILNER. I am writing to introduce myself as the other new SIRCET staff member. I officially started last week and have been immersed in rat trapping ever since. In the past finding a dead rat would never have brought me such joy! More usually my job will involve organising and undertaking bird and plant monitoring for SIRCET, to find out what effects our pest work has for the Ackers Peninsula wildlife.

Originally I am from Dunedin, but you may have already seen me around this summer while I was on a summer contract with DOC. Before my Stewart Island life: I spent the last 2 years working in Canada at an outdoors store, and as a camp counsellor at a kids' winter camp (which meant a little more snow than I was used to!). Previously I worked at Otago University as a research



I am still getting to know everyone so please do feel free to stop for a chat in the shop if you see me. Furthermore Jessi and I are very keen to hear from anyone who has ideas or wants to contribute, however big or small, to SIRCET. I look forward to working with you! My contact details are: claire@sircet.org.nz or ph 418



We have the new Lee Child, Alexander McCall Smith, and dozens of other new novels and non-fiction.

Thanks to Loraine, Raylene, Pat, Jules, my Dad, Beverly O, Jenny G, and Margaret F for books, and thanks to the author Alexa Johnston who inscribed and donated her beautiful book *Sir Edmund Hillary* to us. New cookery

books including *Next* magazine's *Flavours*, *Fleur's Place*, *Heartsmart Recipes*, and *Hot Ideas for Beef and Lamb*. Coming soon: *Kai Ora*, Maori recipes.

I recently wrote about readers who winge about unwieldy books. Belinda Sawyer wrote and told us about the "book pillow" which I have seen for sale in Invercargill—a pricy prop for bedtime bookworms. And Jo Leask had a guest at the Lodge with a

Kindle—a handheld electronic book—which she reckons is amazing. You can download books onto it and with the push of button make it audio. This latter product makes me nervous because it might render libraries obsolete, or, as Sprag put it with a thunderous laugh "it'll render YOU obsolete." Come get some books and keep us relevant! Our hours are 6.30-7.30 Monday; 2-3 Wednesday; 11-noon Fri & Saturday. —Jess

(Ringaringa Continued from page 10)

system and the current erosion patterns it will be difficult to even begin to suggest a means of stopping the problem. But I have a few years up my sleeve so who knows? It really is a changing and evolving project.

One of the biggest issues for the older people in the Bay is access. There is no safe access to Ringaringa. The Council won't provide decent access because it will wash into the sea. While this may be the case, I personally think it's an irresponsible point of view to be taken by the Council. I think since the removal of the rocks started the whole erosion "thing" the least they could do is provide safe access to the peo-

ple who remember Ringaringa and still want to walk down the beach and enjoy the beach. It really is a stunning place; it should be there to be enjoyed. And while this issue has nothing to do with my thesis at all, I have had so much positive feedback and encouragement from these people, I almost owe it to them to mention their issue as often as I can.

So if you have anything to tell me about Ringaringa I would love to hear. Stop me in the street, or come up for a cuppa. Also thank you to all the people who have given me photographs of Ringaringa. It is very much appreciated.

Paula Brown
c/PO Box 3, Stewart Island
03 2191 519
brownsontherock@ihug.co.nz

maggie and milly and molly and may went down to the beach (to play one day)

and maggie discovered a shell that sang so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and

milly befriended a stranded star whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing which raced sideways while blowing bubbles: and

may came home with a smooth round stone as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me) it's always ourselves we find in the sea

—e e cummings

NETBALL - 7.30pm Thursdays
 At the community centre
 \$2 per person
 We have lots of fun and it is great fitness
 Come along and have a go
 Any question phone diddle 2191166

Need to warm up over winter?
TAE BO classes
 at the community centre
 kicking and punching
 to music—lots of fun
 \$2 per person
 Monday 5.30pm
 Thursday 7pm
 Friday 9.30am
 Sunday 9.30am
 Ph diddle 2191166

Stewart Island Yoga
Stewart Island Yoga has been going for coming up seven years now.
We aren't all that good – the 'teacher' isn't, we dress badly, and for some us our toes are still a long way away. But we have a great time.
We get together most Wednesdays 5pm (during Winter) at the RSA.
All welcome!
Any queries – call Chris 494.

Websites-of-the-month from Vicki:
 Check www.mumsontop.co.nz
 or the article *101 School Holiday Activities*,
 and
 Something for all you gardeners to do over the winter, or even you wannabe gardeners who don't like going outside ...
www.14u.co.nz
 is an online company providing mushroom kits and spawn since 1993. You can get oyster, shiitake, shaggy mane and other varieties online delivered direct to your door. I bought Hippy the Oyster Mushroom starter kit for his birthday, too early to tell you how they're going to turn out but the instructions are clear enough. The unwritten (and not compulsory) instructions to build a designated mushroom growing space are, I think, down to personal choice! You can even make money.... Check the site's home page for an opportunity to turn your 'shrooms into cash.

Torch a.k.a. Mike Paterson our former ginger barman (he's still a ginger sadly ... but he's no longer our barman) is running the 60km Kepler Challenge to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association NZ. If you'd like to support Torch and his cause go to www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/MikePaterson/


Stewart Island Early Childhood Education Centre
To all those interested we invite you to attend Strategic Planning Meeting Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm at the Centre

Do we want to continue running Rakiura Rugrats the way we are or change the service we are offering? Come along and have your say.
For information contact: Belinda Ph 2191 050 or Nicolette 2191 511

Stewart Island Rakiura Search & Rescue has Great Local Support!
 Stewart Islanders are well known for their sense of community, and it is good to see that in these economic times generosity is alive and well. Stewart Island Rakiura Search & Rescue is the grateful beneficiary of a \$3000-00 grant from our local Lions Group. Our basic aim is to have four teams of four people equipped and able to undertake the first eight hours of any search, and this money will supply the equipment. Much of it is not that high-tech, just practical...head-torches, water bottles, first aid kits, survival blankets.... Certainly adds up when you need 16 of some of these items.
 Remember, if you wish to be one of our well-equipped searchers, training is held at the Fire Station 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of every month, and is open to all who are interested. Recent training sessions have been held on equipment, search procedure, and helicopter searches.
 If recent rumours are to be believed, it looks like we just might be in for another financial windfall...not that we would spread rumours at all! Just be glued to your television on Boxing Night to view our newest talent on t.v. What a team! Well done!
 —Kirsten Hicks

WANTED: Old Stewart Island films for archiving
 Contact the Film Heritage Trust at mpkettle@clear.net.nz

1. Cine films are provided from various private people for archiving .
2. Films are cleaned and physically checked for damage.
3. Films are digitised to DV tapes (masters) and DVDs.
4. DVDs are supplied to the original provider of the films (free)
5. DV tapes are loaned to the Film Archive for copying.
6. It is recommended to the provider that the original films be sent to the Film Archive for correct storage.
7. The Film Archive are sent all details of the films and independently contact the provider. A form is signed by both parties. The provider still maintains their ownership and any future use of the content is by agreement with the provider. The provider can recall their films at any stage.
8. The provider signs a form allowing use of the archived material to the OCVV and the Film Heritage Trust for clearly set out purposes.

CONGRATULATIONS

New parents
Kari and Brent
Welcome Lyall Hananui Beaven!



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The Garden Circle are planning a bus trip to MAPLE GLEN in September and will have a limited number of seats available for anyone who is interested.

Actual date in next issue of SIN.

We would also like to say a huge THANK YOU to VICKI for the bag full of delicious drinks and eats bought with the Sunday Quiz takings.

The next meeting of the Garden Circle will be at the home of Jenny Gell on Thursday 13th August at 2pm

No plate – Vicki’s goodie bag



Competition:
A single Spring bloom
‘A’ for August
New growth on a native



A massive thank you is well and truly earned by all those who attending the trap making working bee. The end count of traps assembled was an epic 152!!!! This was a big effort and the traps are already being put to use. Don't forget if anyone is interested in trapping or using traps around their home or crib, get in touch with me on 291 or Jessie@sircet.org.nz. Great big thanks also to Vicky and the supporters of pub quiz for donating a yummy bag of sugary goodies that kept everyone energised throughout the morning.-- Jessi

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood, isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament,
filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.
And you O my Soul where you stand,
Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space,
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,
Till the bridge you will need be form'd,
till the ductile anchor hold,
Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere,
O my Soul.
—Walt Whitman

www.stewart-island-news.com

Stewart Island PROMOTIONS General Meeting Thursday 27th August All interested parties welcome

WORM FARM Food Scraps.

We would like to remind residents that the following food scraps are not to be put out for collection for the Worm Farm:

- Citrus of any description
- Onions including spring, shallots and red
- All meat including chicken bodies and bones
- Crayfish bodies
- Mussels and mussel shells
- All fish

We are having to spend too much time sorting through fermented food scraps before feeding the worms.

PLEASE be careful and get it right when you put out food scraps for collection.

We thank you for your co-operation.
Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com The next deadline is Tuesday 11th August.

If you wish to have Stewart Island News 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 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:

- 12 issues to an Oban address or Internet address \$24
- 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30
- 12 issues to international address \$54

Name of Recipient: _____
Address _____

