

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

JULY—AUGUST 2010

\$2.50

*It was just February that Rata Johnson graced the front page of this paper, smiling during her winged adventure around the island. She passed away this month, and the community extends its condolences to the Johnson family. Rata will be dearly missed. See page 14*



Just to prove that life really does imitate advertising, Elaine Hamilton and Margaret Hopkins were spotted recently on East Ruggedy Beach attempting to prove that the Telecom network does reach into the far corners of Stewart Island. They were impressed when they discovered that indeed it was true...! *From Margaret Fairhall*

Has anyone noticed a prevalence of rapturous flybys? I've been aware of an occasional hawk sighting in years past, but this winter I see hawks several times a day at Horseshoe. Last week I saw two doing something midair that was fighting or romancing or both (it looked dangerous) and yesterday saw a hawk chasing a kaka (which looked funny). Any other similar experiences around the Bay or is Horseshoe a harrier magnet at the moment? Let's start a Field Notes section for SIN...if you notice anything interesting or unusual amongst our wildlife neighbours please send it in— we can compare notes and notice trends.

On 28th June the Island lost all phone connection to the mainland for several hours: no internet, landlines or cell coverage. A local fishmonger had to send a letter on the plane to tell her clients that she was unreachable. A few people who live perched way up hills in town did get a few bars on their cell phones so that's good to know in case it happens again. Some of us didn't even know we were "out of touch" which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

More job cuts at the Recycle Centre and I mean the flowing blood kind, what with people hiding nails and broken glass in their garbage. Doug tells me they are sick of getting injured on the job and have considered identifying offending households in print. So next time you're organizing your trash remember: if they get maimed ... you'll be named and shamed!

**Welcome to all Singles Ball Goers: have a rapturous weekend on romantic Rakiura.**

I'm away until November so Kari will edit when she can, but don't be alarmed if a month goes by with no SIN. See you in the Spring!

—Jess

## NEWSFLASH

*from the Department of Conservation*

1. Four rats were caught in traps on Ulva Island during May and June.
2. We run a permanent network of traps to catch rats that normally manage to get to Ulva at the rate of one per year.
3. We don't know yet if we have caught all of the rats or if there is a

4. breeding population on the island. We have set up extensive monitoring (tracking tunnels) and have increased our frequency of trap checks. Even so, it may be several months before we are confident that there are no more rats.
5. Ulva Island has extremely high value – both for its intact forest and abundance of rare birds; but also due to its accessibility. We realise that many people have a connection to Ulva and hence we wanted to let them know what was

happening at the earliest opportunity.

6. If more rats are detected, we will consider what steps will be required to ensure that they are eradicated from Ulva Island.
7. You can help by being extra vigilant and checking your boat every time you go to Ulva and reporting any evidence of rats on the island.



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*Complimentary Seafood Supper*

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Bay Motel, P.O. Box 181, Stewart Island, 9846  
 or e-mailed to [bay.motel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bay.motel@xtra.co.nz)



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

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

We are between building houses and are available to do any building jobs (large or small) on the island.

Give your local builders Brett Twaddle "Loosie" and team a call on 2191366 or 0274331074.



*Support your local boys*

## He Toa Tane

*Strong men*

*a photo exhibition*

*Some of Stewart Islands finest, dressed to impress*

Opening night - 23rd July  
 Stewart Island Community Centre  
 Entry by note donation

Complimentary drink and light snacks

Doors open at 7.30pm

All proceeds will be put back into the community

**A Tale of Ignorance and Avarice**

*by Raylene Waddell*

Two friends were walking on Horseshoe Bay not so long ago. Their dogs ran free, a large, black, dignified Labrador and a small, turbulent terrier of Scottish race. The matrons, for they are no longer young, nor even ‘of a certain age’ as the French so delicately describe females of middle age, were putting the world to rights in the time honoured manner of women everywhere, but they *were not* gossiping. Much.

The turbulent terrier ran up with an interesting object in his mouth, a large, rounded, whitish object, strangely indented here and there. Several highly spiced pejoratives later, the terrier’s mistress had prized the object from his reluctant jaws.

“Funny,” she remarked, “He found this a few days ago and I threw it into the sea to keep him away from it. Horrible little beast has a genius for finding the positively revolting.”

“What is it?” inquired the Labrador’s owner. “It’s not ambergris, is it?” They bent over the object, sniffed it and prodded it. Their eyes met. It *was* a large object. Dollar signs, overseas trips, garden make-overs, Aga ranges flitted through their minds.

Oh, and good works, of course. And to think the silly woman might have thrown back into the sea the bounty thereof!

“Let’s go home and have a

cuppa and we can google ambergris,” suggested the more I.T. savvy of the pair. So they repaired to the home of the turbulent terrier’s would be trainer and while she prepared a refreshing brew, the Labrador’s adored companion googled ambergris.

“You can identify ambergris,” she read out, “by heating a needle and plunging it into your find. If you observe a puff of smoke and a pungent, unusual smell is given off, you probably have a piece of ambergris.” Well, **several** tests, for our intrepid friends were not convinced by a first or even a second attempt, proved inconclusive. Ladies, however, once in the pursuit of riches, are not easily deterred. Visions of Venice, Vienna and Versace are not lightly abandoned.

“I know!” exclaimed the hostess. “Let’s ask Lindsay and Lorraine.” A quick phone call confirmed that Lindsay and Lorraine could recognize ambergris no problem. So off went our hopeful pair, the large, mysterious object discreetly carried in a plastic bag, to the beautiful home of the knowledgeable ones. “Who knows?” they asked each other as they toiled up the lovely driveway to the stately home. “We too may be enjoying surroundings such as these when our ambergris boat comes in.”

As our breathless matrons reverently proffered the plastic bag and its contents for inspection by the experts, they were startled and bemused by their host’s question: “You do know it’s the mutton bird season, don’t you?”

What did mutton birds have to do with ambergris? Surely ambergris came from whales, not mutton birds. Mutton birds gave off an entirely different odour. What could the infuriating man mean? Men! Always ready to make fun of females. Meanwhile, Lindsay prodded, Lorraine sniffed. The hopeful millionairesses looked anxiously from one face to the other.

“Wax!” opined the master of the house. “Mutton birders use lots of wax in the season. Sorry, ladies, but this ain’t no ambergris!”

“Wax!” wailed the unfortunate friends. Deflated, disillusioned, disabused of any notion of instant dollops of dosh, our ladies watched their dreams of Danube, Dolomites and diamonds recede. They thanked their informed and hugely grinning hosts and tottered down the long driveway, so recently ascended with alacrity and avarice. This pair are resilient, however, and stoic before the rise and fall of life’s hopes and dreams.



As they called their faithful hounds to order, one hound instantly obedient, the other exuberantly elusive, they reflected that, all things considered, a walk with a good friend on a sunny beach was riches beyond price.



ban

Globetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

77 Park St. South Yarra - Melbourne - revisited.  
From Carolyn and Russell Squires

Russell & myself checked out our old block of flats, number 14 in fact, where we used to live in the 70's. It was still the same as was the whole Street that consisted of large boarding houses, terrace houses, town houses. Very convenient

address with the trams stopping right out front, parks at each end of the street, and a little lane our balcony overlooked that had a theatre for local and visiting thespians, it was still there. It felt like coming home, when we visited what used to be a boarding house next door it was in fact a Private Hotel called 'Hatton's', when we mentioned we used to live next door we were invited into the guest's dining room where we had a wine and caught up on the streets happenings, followed by a tour of the Hotel.

A Quote on the blackboard read '*Life is what happens to you, when you are busy making other plans*'.  
John Lennon 1940 - 1980

The Great Masters Collection was showing at the Art Gallery, ex way to spend a wet afternoon. Next evening saw the show 'Jersey Boys' history about the 'Four Seasons' singing careers most enjoyable with ex choreography.

Started shopping for a green handbag whenever we were near shops. They were either the wrong colour green, or too little, so probably maybe 30 (Russell would say 50 he's a Fisherman) shops later I bought a brown one ! thinking maybe I should have bought the 2nd green one I saw but that was too big, and we were by then about 1000 kilometres away!

We flew into Tullmarine Airport a week previous so assumed we would be leaving by same airport for Brisbane, be warned these cheaper airlines are way out in the country which we discovered as we were reversing down our friends' driveway. So after encountering masses of road works, and Pamela driving over the speed limit where possible we arrived at Avalon Airport just 20 mins from Geelong, only to be told the counter was closed 10 minutes ago.

I asked if we could catch this flight and our luggage come on a later flight, but no go security procedures don't allow that. Next flight was at the end of the day so we spent a pleasant day in Geelong in Cafes, visited a Market, and were most intrigued with all the wooden bollards, which were actually painted people. Checked out 3 handbag shops just for something to do.

Onto Brisbane finally 90 minutes North to Flaxton, beautiful part of the country, still no snake encounters.

Drove to Noosa but found we were always in Merinos & scarves with the exception of 2 days. We have to say what friendly people the Australians are, there is a bit of banter between the Ozzies & the Kiwis but we were most impressed with the people we encountered.

Home again, out of habit we did actually look in H & J's on our way through that dept. but it was the wrong colour green !!

**Stewart Island Community Centre Thanks.** We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations and assistance in recent fundraising events:

**Anthony O'Rourke, John Barry, Hilli Maass-Barrett, EEC, Aurora Charters, pub quiz teams & Vicky, Jan Richards & Ship to Shore.**

There are many other people who willingly donate time, money and energy to keep the Community Centre going and we really appreciate your efforts. Thank you to Steve Lawrence our on-call handyman who has been dragged away from home on cold nights to fix things and to other people like Alistair Eade, Chris Dillon, Bruce Ford and Squirt who are often on the spot when things need done. We are lucky to have such generous people in our community.

## Travel Assistance

If a Stewart Island resident has to attend a Southern DHB service in Invercargill or Dunedin the MOH will re-fund travel and accommodation costs. This includes seeing a Specialist Dr or having a treatment that you have been referred to the Hospital for.

It is for non-ACC visits. Children require an adult with them so the both are re-funded, and this is the same if an adult needs assistance also.

To access Travel Assistance see the nurses at the clinic for the appropriate form before you go over, as the Specialist signs it on the day.

Keep your receipts for travel and accommodation costs, including taxi cost. This is then claimed back by applying to the MOH.

The MOH acknowledges that costs are high for Stewart Islander's to travel for medical care so to off-set this the Travel Assistance Scheme is available, and also your Clinical Nurse Specialist Service. Research shows your nurses can achieve 80% of the work of a GP, plus antenatal and post natal care, high level emergency care and the nursing role as well. So make use of your MOH services and make savings to spend on other things!

### Home Insulation Project

Thanks to the EECA warm up New Zealand programme 49 homes on Stewart Island have been retro-fitted with floor and ceiling insulation by Right House.

Home owners and landlords can still take advantage of the scheme but Right House need six or more homes to kick off the process again.

The subsidies are for homes built before 2000 are;

- 33% for any home owner.
  - 90% for those with Community Service Cards.
- 90% for landlord with a tenant with a Community Service Card.

To put your name down for insulation, or help with the Community Service Card application, contact Deb Dillon at the Stewart Island Health Clinic-2191098 or

*Dale Chittenden* at DOC-2190002.

On the 12th to 13th June, NZ Search and Rescue held its first **Air Observation Course** in Te Anau.

Air Observation in fixed wing or helicopter is an important part of marine or land based search and rescue. It not only requires sound observation techniques but also a strong stomach and general wellbeing given that you could be up in an aircraft for 3 to 6 hours in all weathers, flying many turns. Zane Smith, Al Check and Furhana Ahmad attended this course on behalf of Stewart Island Search and Rescue. The course brought together over 30 conscientious personnel from varied backgrounds, including, coastguard, land search

and rescue, fixed wing and helicopter pilots and the police. Given the likelihood that some attendees could end up working together in real life searches, the networking opportunity was rewarding in itself.

The first day in the classroom covered a wide range of topics including search planning, observation techniques, object visibility, fatigue, motion sickness and safety. The course instructors from around New Zealand where highly experienced, providing attendees with an invaluable opportunity to share in their expertise. On the second day attendees gathered at Manapouri Airport surrounded by glistening snow capped peaks

and a rising sun to put into practice what they had learnt. Split into groups of 4 to 5 persons, several light aircraft flew participants over two search areas one marine (in this case Lake Manapouri) and one land based in order to locate objects or targets. This practical day did leave some feeling green, but brought to home the importance of good search techniques, difficulties of changing light conditions and visibility of objects and how hard you have to work to spot objects.

With more training in different aspects of search and rescue throughout New Zealand, the likelihood of good outcomes in search and rescue can only increase. —*F. Ahmad*

## Nurses News

We are so lucky we live in such a warm winter climate compared to the frosty zones up country! Still our paths are slippery at this time of year, so easy does it!

This flu season we have doubled our vaccine rate. The flu vaccine is still available until supplies run out.

Besides flu the usual coughs, colds and tummy bugs are about but spread can be reduced by general hygiene measures including;

Frequent hand-washing with soap and water, especially before food preparation, eating or touching your face.

Coughing and sneezing into the crook of your elbow.

Using disposable tissues when sick.  
Stay home if you are sick.

Martin is off on holiday this month and Debs has a course in Wellington next week for child and family health. Our relieving nurses Kirsty and Tanyia will be coming and going over this time.

The Health Committee are working hard with us to fundraise for dental equipment to get full dental services operating regularly at the Stewart Island Health Clinic. Many thanks to the Lions, for enabling us to get enough equipment to guarantee dental services for the children.

### Services

**In EMERGENCY dial 111**

**Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 426 285 (Nurses Bleeper) or Ph 03 2191098 (Nurses Cell Phone).**

**General Primary Health Care Clinic; Daily 10am-12.30pm (No appointment necessary).**

**Clinic Number- Phone; 03 2191098  
Fax; 03 2191072.**

**Women Health Clinic; Wednesday; 9am-late pm.  
Please phone clinic for an appointment.**

**Well Child/ Family Clinic; Thursdays; 9am-3pm  
Please phone clinic for an appointment.**

I had a fantastic two week holiday in Stewart Island last summer, and recounted some of the highlights in the first reading debate on the Southland District Council (Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy) Empowering Bill last week. I thought it might be good for people to know why so many visitors go to Stewart Island, thus putting strain on the infrastructure! Here's the speech:  
<http://www.inthehouse.co.nz/node/3320>

From  
*Phil Twyford*  
Labour List MP  
Spokesperson on Auckland Issues,  
Building & Construction, Disarmament & Arms Control, Associate Foreign Affairs - Development Assistance  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



A big thank you to everyone who knitted squares for the Mission Without Borders blanket, which is now finished. We already have another twenty squares towards next years so if anyone feels like keeping the needles going it would be great. All items for the 'Mission without borders' need to be sent away by the 27th July. *Thanks from Elaine & Pat*

# Singles Ball Special!

One Day Only!

## Beautician & Hairdresser Information

**Venue: Latt 47, Excelsior Road, Stewart Island**

<b>Indulge Beauty Therapy</b>	<b>Senior Stylist from Talking Heads Rachel Melrose</b>
<b>Make up done by Toni Christensen</b>	<b>Hair \$65</b>
<b>\$55 per person</b>	<b>Ladies Cut &amp; Blow wave \$65</b>
<b>Product used is Bare Minerals</b>	<b>Gents Cut &amp; Blow Wave \$40</b>
<b>Limited Spaces</b>	<b>Blow wave \$35</b>
	<b>Blow wave &amp; Straighten \$45</b>
<b>Ph (03) 215 4208</b>	<b>Ph (03) 217 5743</b>
<b>(03) 215 4208 for bookings</b>	<b>(03) 217 5743 for bookings</b>



### Kiwi Safe

There are kiwi about town! Talk about living every (human) kiwi's dream!

Unfortunately...

curious dog + kiwi = dead kiwi



Traill Park 2007

Let's keep kiwi safe, please:

Don't let your dog wander

Keep your cat inside at night

More info? See [www.savethekiwi.org.nz/how-you-can-help/take-action/take-action.html](http://www.savethekiwi.org.nz/how-you-can-help/take-action/take-action.html)

Sandy King saw this poem somewhere and thought she'd share:

**Golf Poem**

In My Hand I Hold A Ball,  
 White And Dimpled, And Rather Small.  
 Oh How Bland It Does Appear,  
 This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.  
 By Its Size I Could Not Guess,  
 The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.  
 But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,  
 I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.  
 My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same,  
 Since I Chose To Play This Crazy Game.  
 It Rules My Mind For Hours On End,  
 A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.  
 It Has Made Me Curse And Made Me Cry,  
 And Hate Myself And Want To Die.  
 It Promises Me A Thing Called Par,  
 If I Hit It Straight And Hit It Far.  
 To Master Such A Tiny Ball,  
 Should Not Be Very Hard At All.  
 But My Desires The Ball Refuses,  
 And Does Exactly As It Chooses.  
 It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,  
 And Disappears Before My Eyes.  
 Often It Will Have A Whim,  
 To Hit A Tree Or Take A Swim.  
 With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,  
 It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.  
 Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,  
 If Only It Would Find The Hole.  
 It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,  
 And Swear That I Will Give It Up.  
 And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,  
 But The Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs and losers of balls....

A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year.

Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon.

Kind of makes you proud. Almost feel like a hybrid.

Author: Unknown



The Library seems different every time you walk in. Still a work in progress but getting better. One HUGE and excellent change is the climate. It is now WARM in the library, I no longer need a hat and coat there or a hot foot soak afterwards to

scare off the chilblains. The shelving is still a bit hodge-podgy but by the end of August we should have all our new bits and pieces in place. I'd like to take this opportunity to print a formal apology to the blue Te Anau cast-off shelving which I insulted in last month's issue. I attacked this innocent pile of metal solely based on the hue of its paint before I even saw it assembled or hold books. Turns out it does a good job and doesn't look that bad. If there is a word for shelving prejudice, I'm guilty of it.

NEW BOOKS: Thanks Anita Geeson for the new novel by a personal favourite author Lionel Shriver. Diana Bryant has donated a collection of books by Ayn Rand including the classics *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*.

For fans of Fantasy books we have HUGE NEWS: Thanks to Vicki and the Quiz Co, we've acquired about fifty new books for that genre. These include the seven-book series *Malazan Book of the Fallen* by Steven Erikson; Redick's *The Chatrand Voyage* series, the latest *Wheel of Time* book *The Gathering Storm*; Marillier's *Sevenwaters Trilogy*; *The Stormlord Trilogy* by Glenda Larke; Jim Butcher's *Dresden Files Trilogy*; *Mistborn Trilogy*; Lois McMasters Bujold's *Sharing Knife Books 2-4*; and new books by Raymond Feist and LE Modesitt Jr. And for those who are interested in fantasy but not into the whole elves-wizards-12-book epics, I got a few interesting stand-alone contemporary urban novels by up-and-coming author China Mieville; and the gruesome medieval spin on Brothers Grimm *The Sad Tale of the Brothers Grossbart* by Bullington. AND for those who like the paranormal Twilighty genre, I got two vampire series, one classic (that makes me feel old...I read it in university) *The Vampire Chronicles* by Ann Rice; and one brand new, the runaway hit-turned popular TV series starring Anna Paquin as Sookie Stackhouse in *True Blood*.

It will take a few weeks to process all of these books and get them on shelf so give us until mid-August before you start pestering us about these books. And when you see Vicki and the Quizzers say THANKS.

I will be away from mid-August until Novemberish so Jenny Gell will be Chief Library Lady while I'm away. Megan our evening Librarian is home so Mondays 630-730pm are back. Jess





TE WAKA HAUORA  
Public Health  
South

**Article for Stewart Island Pest Control and Pet Poisoning**

A variety of hazardous substances used for pest control can be purchased over the counter. The toxins used for rodent control are called Vertebrate Toxic Agents because they are toxic to anything with a backbone. ERMA has assessed all of these toxins, has approved their use in specific sets of circumstances and set controls on their use so as to protect people, their pets and wildlife. Manufacture and registration of these products is controlled under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997. These controls are made known to the public in a list of instructions that appear on the labelling of each package. The controls that ERMA have set are enforceable in law, so, you must read and abide by the instructions on the containers of rodent bait, otherwise you may be breaking the law.

**Did you know this?**

Where you do not follow the instructions, you are placing people, their pets and other wildlife at risk. You also run the risk of rubbing shoulders with a Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 Enforcement Officer. These officers are employed by the Department of Labour, City Councils, Regional Councils (Environment Southland) and Public Health South.

**Did you know that;**

- Bait with brodifacoum and some other toxins can only be used in a bait station. If you do not use a bait station, you are breaking the law. The label will tell you if you need a bait station.
- Rat baits should be made secure or purchased in blocks that are designed to be nailed to something immovable so that the rats don't take them away from the safe area that you have laid them. You can purchase robust and waterproof bait stations from which rats cannot remove the bait for around \$15 from large hardware retailers.
- Many toxins used for rodent control stay in the dead carcasses and any animal scavenging these carcasses can be poisoned. This is called secondary poisoning. If you use one of these toxins it is recommended that you regularly look for and remove carcasses so as to reduce secondary poisonings. The label tells you this. If you want to lay bait and then go away for a holiday or lay bait in your crib before you leave for home, baits using these toxins are not appropriate. Select a different type of bait.
- You should put out poison warning signs if you have laid bait in an area that the public may access, legally or illegally, to alert people to the risk associated with the poison. You should also discuss the poisons that you lay with your neighbours. This is especially important if you lay the bait and will then be absent from your property for some reason.

I can think of a number of ways that the local community could encourage the appropriate use of pest control agents eg

- Making signage available at the local store
- Encouraging the purchase of bait stations (see attached photo)

- Maybe a local person could get an approved handler licence and a controlled substance licence and set up a part time pest control company on the island so as to assist cribbies with pest control.

Please don't hesitate to keep in touch. If I can assist in any way I am very happy to do so.

Kind regards,  
*Gillian Anderson*  
Food Act Officer /  
Health Protection Officer  
HSNO Enforcement Officer  
Public Health South  
Te Wakahauora  
Main Block, Level 2,  
Wakari Hospital , Taieri Road ,  
Wakari  
Dunedin 9010

## Managing Emergencies in an Isolated Community

*By Craig Sinclair*

*Emergency Management Advisor – Emergency Management Southland*



If a major earthquake rocked your house right now, what would you do?

If you live by the beach, then don't wait around – head uphill and away from the coast immediately, in case a tsunami has been generated by a local earthquake. In that scenario, the tsunami would arrive before the official warning, so don't wait to be told – move!

Last Thursday, Sandra Miller and I visited Stewart Island to meet some of the locals involved in civil defence, to find out what requirements and capabilities the island has to deal with emergencies. This is because there has been a change in the way Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) is organised in Southland. The old system required each of the councils to have its own civil defence capability, meaning that Invercargill City, Gore District, Southland District Council and Environment Southland all had people employed specifically for the cause. Now we have one team providing CDEM services for the whole of Southland including Stewart Island.

Sandra and I are the newest members of the CDEM team, along with our manager, Neil Cruickshank. Neil has been involved in Emergency Management for the past three years based at Environment Southland. His previous employment includes 20 years in the NZ Police where he rose to the rank of Senior Sergeant, working mostly in the Waitaki and Southland regions. Neil lives in Invercargill.

Sandra Miller is new to the team and previously worked for the Southland District Health Board as an emergency planner. She has worked for 34 years in the health sector. Sandra lives in Winton.

I am also new to the team and came to the emergency management team after 23 years in the Police. I'm also a volunteer fire fighter with the Maitua Brigade and have been involved in Search and Rescue with the Eastern Southland Search and Rescue team for about 20 years.

We are all based at Environment Southland's offices in North Rd, Invercargill, in a new purpose-built building which is going to be used as an Emergency Operations Centre for the province.

So what did Sandra and I find out about civil defence on Stewart Island last week?

The main risk that worried most was the threat of tsunami, because everyone probably has visions of a Banda Aceh (Boxing Day) Tsunami scenario on the island. Earthquakes are probably the second major threat.

What can you do to minimise the threats posed by these natural hazards?

Be prepared!

Most scientific modelling around tsunami shows that there is minimal risk of the populated areas of Stewart Island being inundated by tsunami. Hard to believe, I know. However it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realise that the major part of Halfmoon Bay is low lying and the shop, the pub, the Fire Station, fuel supply and DOC are all located in the vulnerable area.

The plan is for those who are in a threatened area to move up to Traill Park. Traill Park is also going to be the meeting place for emergency services.

With a distance-source tsunami there will generally be a warning period of a few hours, which will give the community time to move. But there are always exceptions to this rule.

If you feel a significant earthquake and you live close to sea level near the coast, the rule of thumb is to move to high ground as soon as you can and stay there – listening to the radio for further information.



**DOC Spot**

For many Stewart Island residents the months of June and July provide time for a bit of rest and relaxation. Not so for a number of us at DOC, with June signalling the end of one financial year and July the start of the next. It's a hectic time reporting on past performance and setting the wheels in motion for the coming year. So for this month's DOC Spot I have concentrated on providing a few bullet points outlining what we are currently working on:

- The Rakiura track between North Arm hut and Maori Beach is in the process of being upgraded by contractors. Most of the gravelling has been completed and almost all the new structures have been installed. Some gravelling of the track to Kaipipi has also been undertaken to reduce the mud. Both great walk huts have had a general tidy up and firewood stocks replenished.
- Maintenance of local tracks is continuing. The Fuchsia Walk has been regravelled, however the Ryan's Creek track will remain closed until October when the contractor will be back to finish the upgrade.
- New interpretation signs have been installed on the Ackers Point track.
- New interpretation signs will also be installed at the huts and at the old sawmilling sites on the Rakiura Track over the next month.
- The Rakiura Heritage Book project is well underway. Author Neville Peat is now working with the designer and it is hoped the book will be ready for release during Conservation Week, 12 – 19 September 2010.
- The weeds team is currently concentrat-

ing on Barberry around the village, but also gearing up for the next season of marram control at Mason and Doughboy Bays.

- Possum control is due to take place at Mason Bay and Rakeahua this year.
- Cat control around the Dotterel breeding sites will be underway from September.

At the end of July we farewell our boat skipper, Clint Brown, who is moving to Auckland with his family to further his maritime qualifications. We wish Clint, Paula, Kyla, Trae and Kate all the very best for whatever the future holds and hope they retain fond memories of their time here. Steve Meads has been appointed to the position of boat and workshop manager. Brent Beaven returned to the position of Biodiversity Programme Manager on July 1, however as he will still be spending time working as National Hunting Advisor, Letitia McRitchie, who is currently on maternity leave, will work part-time from home assisting him with the PM Biodiversity role. There are still one or two other positions to fill, which may result in a few new faces around the village over the coming months.



**Steve Meads makes sure the new interpretation panel at Port William is level.**

**To the people of Rakiura**

A huge heartfelt thanks to you for welcoming, hosting, feeding, educating and accommodating the community development participants at the Inspiring Communities Learning Forum held in your wonderful Community Centre 18-20 April. For many of us, this was our first time to the island and the experience will be remembered for a long time. The community initiatives we heard about were truly inspirational and we thank you for your ongoing commitment to making your place environmentally sustainable and people centred.



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

Winter is generally a quiet time for penguin field workers, but there is always plenty of behind the scenes work to be done; report writing, planning for the coming season, applying for permits, finding funding & organizing the logistics of transport, field schedules and fellow field workers. Because I'm taking a break from the yellow-eyed penguin project this summer (but not from penguins; there are over one million of them where I'll be going – but I won't be counting!), my main task has been to hand over the reins to Antje Leseberg who will be running the programme of field work this summer. Antje is an experienced field worker who will easily be able to adapt to working with penguins. She will be carrying out monitoring on the Bravo group, and on Codfish Island where she'll be assisted by Christian Gunter, the student from SIT who came with us to Codfish in February this year. Both SIT and the YEPT were pleased with the result of pilot trip in February, and believe we can establish a long term relationship whereby a student studying for a Diploma of Environmental Management gets the opportunity to take part in some hands on field work. In return, SIT helps fund the work. Christian is now in his second year of study, and has been given the opportunity again so that he can complete a whole season of field work instead of doing just one trip.

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Projects Officer Southern Islands  
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust  
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Dunedin office Ph: 03 479 0011  
Email: [yeptrust@gmail.com](mailto:yeptrust@gmail.com)  
[www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)

Hi, my name is Antje Leseberg and like Sandy mentioned I will be carrying out the yellow-eyed penguin work this summer on Codfish and the Bravos. Over the past years I have worked with a variety of birds in New Zealand, including various seabird and wader species and am very much looking forward to being involved in the penguin project here. While Sandy is away you can consider me the local Trust contact for any penguin related questions, sightings etc and hopefully I will be able to help you out! Feel free to call me at home (evenings are best) or to send me an email.

Antje  
Stewart Island Field Assistant  
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust  
Ph: 03 219 1317  
Email: [anpje@xtra.co.nz](mailto:anpje@xtra.co.nz)

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Some Islanders are thinking about setting in place the following three activities:

- A Community Garden.** Possibly behind the Nurses' Clinic which has space & water on-site. Thoughts are that raised beds might be appropriate.
- A distribution system of excess fruit/veges.** Many gardeners grow too much for their own needs but aren't always sure who to pass them onto.
- Using our resources-** looking around & seeing if there are unused tunnel houses etc that could be put to use growing food for our community (with owner's permission, naturally!)

Will be calling a meeting shortly to gauge interest. If you have any ideas, feel free to contact Kirsten (2191309).

*Health Committee News*

**Dental Treatment For Island Residents**

Children

The Education Department no longer accepts responsibility for maintaining the dental clinic at the school. The new mainland concept is for most dental clinics to be closed and for services to be provided in specially equipped buses. This scenario is a non-starter for Stewart Island and would result in children having to travel to Bluff for routine check-ups. More expense for Island families!

Thanks to the forethought and persistence of Cath, Debs and Marty, the Southern District Health Board has agreed to continue funding dental technicians to come to the Island and provide routine check-ups for children. Thanks to the generosity of The Stewart Island Lions Club, who have donated \$2000, we are able to buy a dental chair which will be stored at the Clinic. Technicians plus chair plus Clinic mean Island children will not miss out on important Oral Health checks.

Adults

Accessing dental treatment is expensive and time-consuming for Island residents and without regular check-ups it just gets more expensive and more stressful when the inevitable happens. And it's tough on our nurses coping with what suddenly blows up or

brakes apart in our mouths - or falls out! What if we could get a regular dental service here ....?

Marty and Debs are pursuing the possibilities of getting the services of a dentist through the SDHB. At a meeting on the Island in May a SDHB manager and a dental health provider discussed with us some options. The best of these seems to be the acquisition of a mobile dental clinic (as used by the army) which packs up into a case about the size of a 3-4 drawer filing cabinet. Again this could be stored and used at the Clinic. Cost? About \$14,000.

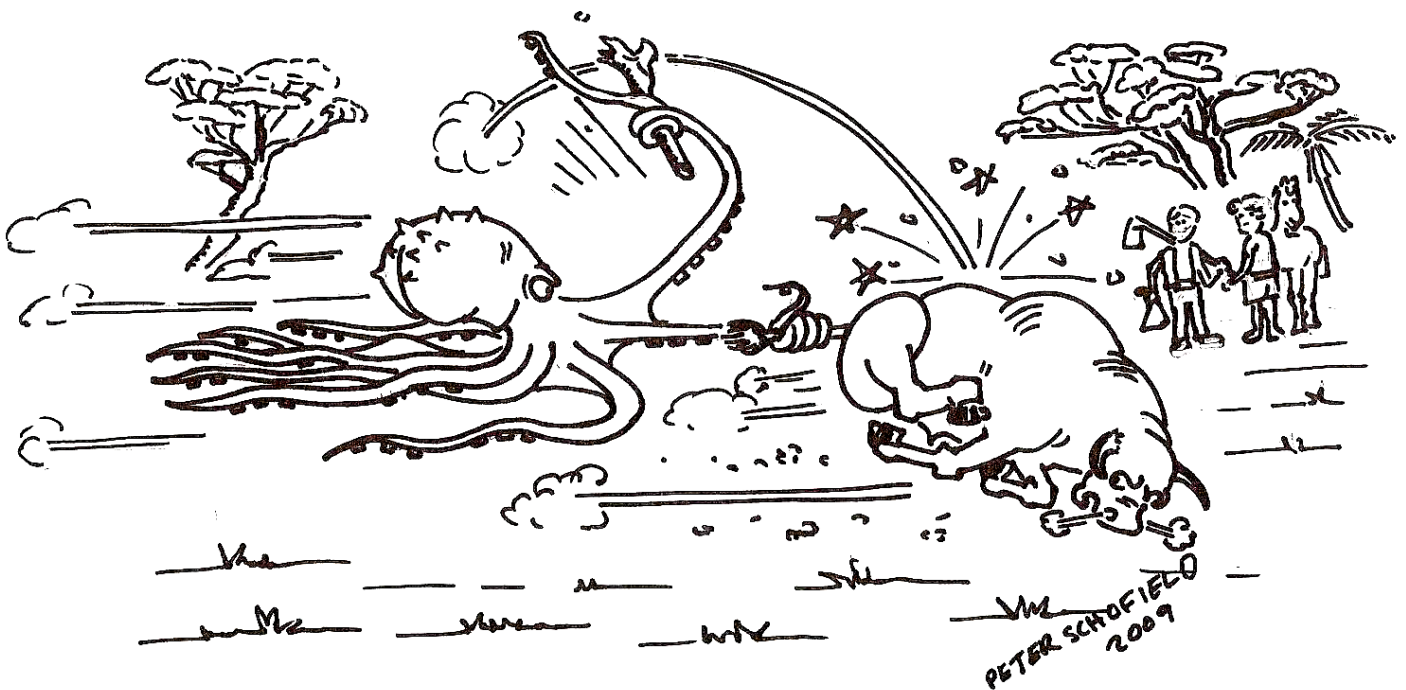
Your Health Committee feels this is a worthwhile and timely project. Yes, it is a lot of money and no, it is highly unlikely that SDHB will give us any. So we are going into fundraising mode, starting with a Produce Stall at the Rugrats' Mardi Gras at Labour Weekend – jams and chutneys and stuff. Donations of produce would be great, also donations of frozen fruit etc. to make jams and chutneys and jars to put them in and .....

Please contact Kari Beaven, Mary Chittenden or me if you can help.

We have other fundraising ideas in mind and we welcome your suggestions. We also welcome direct donations!

Raylene Waddell  
*Chairperson, Health Committee*

Johann & Jonas



"There's something you don't often see, an octopus leaving the water for food"

## Rata Johnson

26<sup>th</sup> November 1925 – 2 July 2010.

Where do we begin as we come to remember Rata; a woman who had such a contented and happy nature; one who was always smiling and with a giggle not far from the surface. She loved nothing better than to sit at her window and watch the changing face of the sea; she could name every boat that went out, and she loved to acknowledge with a cheery wave those who passed by her home.



was fishing in his double ended boat the "Rata" which he had built in Waimate. (Note: Not Fluffs Rata).

On 12 August 1931 Rata, with another 5 of the Hawkins children were enrolled at the Maori Beach School, Stewart Island. Alf was still fishing and working in the local sawmill. The family lived in a small timber house close to the beach.

Born in Waimate on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1925 she was the 6th of the 9 Hawkins children. Her family moved to Stewart Island when she was just a few years of age, settling at Maori Beach - which was a thriving Sawmilling community back in those early years. Alf Hawkins, Rata's father

By November 1934 the only pupils remaining at the Maori Beach School were the Hawkins children, the school finally closed in 1935. At some stage the family moved to a house at Horse-shoe Point, known as the Haunted House, and from here the Hawkins children walked to school in Halfmoon Bay.



Her working life began at the Flax Mill; she then moved on to work at Kew Hospital as a cleaner, before going on to work at the Fish Factory at Pegasus. She was also a land girl, during the war years.

It was on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1947 that Rata married Ken Johnson at First Church, in Invercargill - he was a local lad from Horse-shoe Bay, so it made sense that this was where they settled. They were very proud of their home - it was built in just 19 days by Eddie Parsons and it is still standing, in its original condition 60 years later! This became the family home for their boys - Alastair, Ken, Colin and Trevor.

Hawkins Family, Maori Beach. Photos courtesy of Johnson family.



It was early in their marriage that Rata contracted TB and spent almost 3 years at the Waipiata Sanatorium at Ranfurly.

Many people may still remember Ken & Rata in their orange VW coming into the Bay on boat days.

Rata has been a part of the Island community for many years, and will be sorely missed by all, she was always thankful for the support that the community gave her, every person that delivered anything to her house went on her calendar, from Jack delivering her coal, to the Lions delivering her Sunday dinner.

So to the community, in Rata's words, *Thank you, thank you, good on you.*

## JUST ANOTHER NIGHT...

Well – we promised you a variety show, and that's what you got! Dancing kiwis, poetic soloquies, gyrating shopkeepers & sticking antique projectors.

To all those who came, saw, participated, and sometimes even conquered, a huge Thank You.

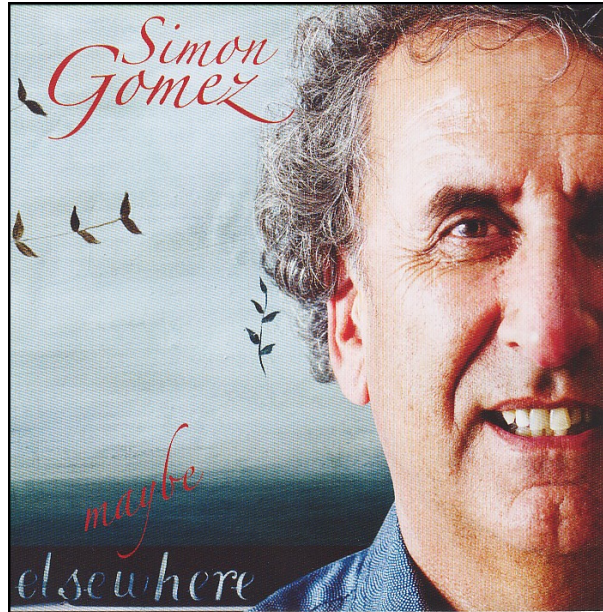
The cast enjoyed themselves, the audience seemed to enjoy themselves, the kids had a ball & stage manager Alan Wadds was even seen to crack the odd smile.

A grand total of \$2400.00 was raised which is a stellar effort for our small community. A special thanks to Real Journeys & Stewart Island Flights for their support.  
—K. Hicks

## Singles Ball Website

Time to update the deals! If you have any special deals/rates etc for your accommodation/business email me back and I'll put them up on the site, quite a few people enquiring already!

Contact Vicki Coats at [stewartisland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewartisland@xtra.co.nz)



The Singles' Ball has been immortalized in music! Simon Gomez's new CD *Maybe Elsewhere* features three Islandy tracks: *Old Men of the Sea*, *Rakiura*, and *The Island Singles Ball*. It is on sale at the South Sea Hotel and Stewart Island Flights.

Cost is \$20 —\$7 of which will go to charities.

## Stewart Island/Rakiura Search & Rescue

A.G.M. was held on 3 July 2010.

Office Bearers elected are

Chairperson – Garry Neave

Deputy Chairperson – Dale Jenkins

Treasurer – Dale Chittenden

Secretary – Kirsten Hicks

Training – Andrew King, Al Check

Marine Advisors- Maureen Jones, Tim Dawson

Land Advisors – Phred Dobbins, Claire Kilner

Thank you to these people who are volunteering to serve their community. If you are interested in joining Search & Rescue or have any comments & concerns, please contact any member listed above.

## DO YOU NEED FUNDING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY PROJECT?

Dianne Williams, Grants Manager for the Community Trust of Southland (CTOS), will be visiting **Stewart Island on 29<sup>th</sup> July.**

If your community group is trying to raise funds for a project, Dianne can meet with you to discuss:

- if your project is eligible for CTOS funding,
- how and when to apply,
- completing an application form.

For an appointment email [dianne@ctos.org.nz](mailto:dianne@ctos.org.nz) or please call **0800 500 185** and for further information on CTOS visit our website [www.ctos.org.nz](http://www.ctos.org.nz)



## STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next Meeting of the Garden Circle will be held at the home of Wendy Hallett at 2.00 pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August



Competition: Herald the Spring

Do you like to read FANTASY Books? Go to Library News on Page 8 for an exciting update.

**KNIT KNATTER AND KOFFEE GROUP** have been busy knitting wool from Ron Moyle and Susan Whitley into slippers for our school children.

The group meets every Tuesday afternoon, (usually at Wendy Halletts during Winter), to enjoy pattern swapping, ideas, friendship and afternoon tea. Anyone wishing to join us, young and old for knitting, crochet, needlework etc, we would love to see you.



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- 12 issues to an Oban address or Internet address \$24
- 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30
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Check those paua shells, pockets, drawers, sofa cushions, and car floors and have a clean-out of all those useless old coins!

You have until **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** to drop your **old coins** into the Lions cans at the flight centre or ferry office. For more information go to [www.lionsclubs.org.nz/oldmoney](http://www.lionsclubs.org.nz/oldmoney)