

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

July—August 2012

\$2.00

O for *Awesome*. The aurora that lit up our skies this month awed many of those who got to see it. Check out Peter Tait's beautiful photo at his blog sailsashore.co.nz/blog

O is for *Obituary*. The Island lost two Horseshoe Bay icons this month. See page 10 for Stropo the whitetail's obituary; page 3 for a tribute to the lovely *Secret*.

O is for... Oh, you know. *Drilling divides locals. Drilling destroys natural beauty.* You've seen the headlines. *Islanders up in*

arms. Fears over second site. Horror as drilling approved. Sigh. How can this wee tabloid compete with all the drama spun in the national rags? Hmm... How about: *Pub explodes during stag do and tram crashes atop it.* (That would take care of the pesky "Pub crowd"...)

Pub crowd versus non Pubbers, oldies versus maggots, Horseshoe Bay versus Halfmoon Bay; soulless Earth raping villains versus sanctimonious whinging Greenies; sophisticated versus provincial... Is it really all that bad here? Are the oozing fault lines right amongst us? Or is the recent press distorting things a bit? These pages contain your feedback and it runs the gamut of perspectives on Greymouth Petroleum's presence here. We also hear from GP themselves.

I sincerely believe that everyone who lives here loves this Island dearly. Some dislike and distrust oil ventures so much they don't want them on these shores for any reason, and believe the risk and mess isn't worth any possible short-term benefit. Other residents differentiate between an exploration and flat out oil drilling, and think the exploration drill is good for the island's winter economy and hopefully, if cleaner greener cheaper



Trevor Johnson and his sons Mark, Karl & Hayden aboard the *Secret*.

natural gas is found, a solution to our power woes.

Lots of people I talked to conceded they don't know enough about it all to confidently express an opinion. There are two big topics to study: the oil industry, and the consent processes.

Thanks to everyone who have shared their comments. Keep them coming and keep in mind we are all on the same page when it comes to our love for the Island, so curb the personal attacks and divisive "us versus them" language. Hopefully the oil guys and their gear will be gone soon, the old quarry site (which was never a postcard) will be less unsightly, and maybe we can reassess the public notification process on the Island. Okay, *O* for *Over and Out!* —Jess



Tom, driller for Greymouth Petroleum, stands in front of 12-meter high "Orange Toughy" at Horseshoe Bay.

Horseshoe won't be the same without the beautiful *Secret* gracing the Bay.

She was built by Ned Johnson in Horseshoe Bay in 1898 and fished by generations of Johnsons until she was sold to Welshman Alun Evans in 2001. Alun did restoration work on her, and took her up to Doubtful Sound. But he brought her back to Horseshoe Bay. (Incidentally, Merv King wrote about the *Secret* for his final Boat-of-the-Month in the *SIN* in January 2006). While anchored at Millar's Beach, Alun passed away on her deck in 2009. The *Secret* was sold at auction to...the Johnson family! She gave their family much joy. During a windy night last month she broke from her mooring and was dashed against the rock wall. She was towed to shore but the damage was beyond repair. It was a horrible and heartbreaking event, and our hearts go out to the Johnsons. See p3.

**INVERCARGILL
GLASS & MIRROR**

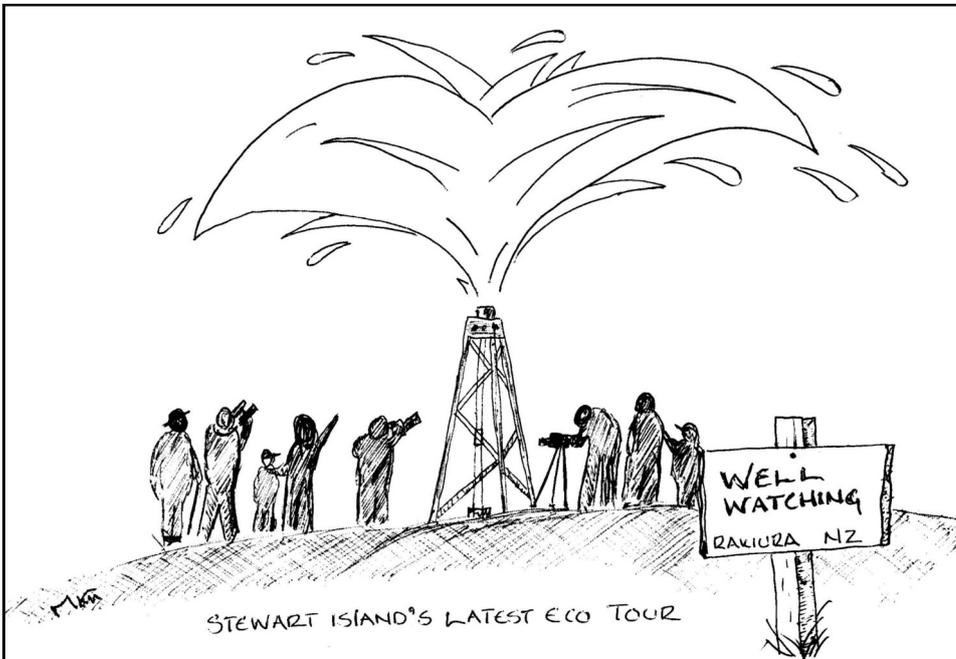


Retro-fit Double Glazing into Existing Homes

Professional tradesmen, friendly service

03 214-0918

Cnr Bill Richardson Drive and Fox Street



CORRECTION

If you have ever worn an editor hat then you know the difference one tiny misspelling or one little word can make. The ink was still drying on the last issue when I got an email from the chief reporter of the *Greymouth Star*, saying a reader had informed her that according to *SIN*, Greymouth was sending barge-loads of gear to a Stewart Island quarry. Oops. I meant Greymouth *Petroleum*...

Then a local reader mentioned the omitted word confused her and others who concluded Greymouth was just a small West Coast mining company.

I am sorry if anyone was confused or misled by this mistake.

—Ed

Stewart Island Try-a-thon

(Don't panic - there's no running, swimming or kayaking involved - unless of course you want that activity added ...)

A fun community weekend to learn new skills, listen to guest speakers and try your hands at different projects!

It has been 10 years since the last weekend of entertaining and educational workshops was organised here on Stewart Island with the assistance of SCEP (Southland Community Education Programme) and we're keen to see these revived. So be sure to keep free the weekend of **21st - 23rd September 2012**

We hope to hold a variety of workshops and talks with something for everyone - you can attend for the whole weekend - or just come to the sessions that interest you the most!

We need your help to choose what should be offered. We've extended the deadline for the mail-drop about this weekend for another week - so it is not too late to submit your ideas and register your interest in attending.

Ideas so far include:

Cheese-making, Positive Parenting, Social Media & Computing, Chainsaw Basics, Patchwork, Seasonal Cooking, Essential Legal Issues, Beer tasting, Wildlife Photography, Writing for Publications, Acting/Drama,

Eco-friendly Cleaners, Intro to Financial Planning, Wine tasting, Painting, Mosaics, Gardening, Flax Weaving, Cake Decoration, Felting, Basic Butchery, Pasta making, Wild food cookery, Bow hunting, Clay bird shooting, 4WD Course, Using Herbs..... the list goes on!

So what do you think?

If any of these ideas take your fancy, or you have something else you'd like to have a go at, then we'd love to hear from you.

You can use the feedback form at the Post Office, or contact Vicki, Sharon, Di, Margaret, Kari, Anita or Wendy

Alternatively email Alison Broad who is helping to co-ordinate this event

alison@jhug.co.nz

And if you have a hidden talent that you could pass on to others, please be sure to let us know!



A big thank you from Trev to Stu, Luke, Rastus, Len, Squirt, Andy, Rex, Arkright, Jim, Colin & Brad Johnson. And thank you to Hayden, Mark & Karl, for all the help they gave their Dad. Thanks guys, you did a great job! A special thanks to the "gas guys" at Horseshoe for their help and assistance.



We've been staggered by all the offers of help at this sad time, The *Secret* will certainly be missed at Horseshoe sitting out on her mooring. She was special to us all, and a big piece of history has now gone, for the Johnsons, as well as the Island.

We have many precious memories, hundreds of photos of family and friends on her, right down to the grandchildren, who will remember the happy times we all had.

Little Hayley in South Australia, has a photo she loves in her bedroom, of Trev's "Green Boat" When told we were all going on a cruise, she was sure Trev was on his way to pick her up in the Green Boat. She just couldn't work out how a swimming pool fitted on her. Was most disappointed it was a white boat and not The Green Boat!

We feel as if we have had a death in the family, and all a bit shocked still at the outcome.

—The Johnson family

Questions and Answers with Robert Brady, GM exploration for Greymouth Petroleum

The newspapers are reporting you are going to be here for four months.

The drilling will take about three to four weeks. Then we will pack up everything, clean up, reinstate the site, and leave, which will take about another 3-4 weeks. We need to allow for weather conditions which is why consents were granted for four months. We were conscious of the fact this is a tourist destination and that is why we are drilling in Winter, outside of the tourist season.

What is the diameter of the hole?

6 inches

About how far down will they drill?

Greater than 500 meters deep

How far out into the bay will they drill?

It will depend on the results, but it's likely to be over 1000 meters.

How does the drill go from vertical to horizontal?

It can bend three to five degrees per 30 meters so it's a gradual curve down and out.

How fast does the drill go down?

Right now about 10 hours for one decent. The top of the mast is 12 meters high and the drill is 10 meters high, right now it's at it's slowest and loudest because it's only a few meters down, it's moving less than a meter an hour. As it gets deeper and there's more weight on the pipe it will move more quickly and quietly.

Will they squirt any chemical substance in with the drill to break up rock?

No – the drill does circulate mud to help carry rock chips back to surface but we don't 'squirt' any corrosive chemicals down the hole.

What happens to all of the water and mud waste?

We use the water to make the mud, and we actually recycle our mud, so we take it back off the island with us. We have a cutting drier which dries the rock chips so they are easier to take away. We are not going to leave anything behind.

Why did you choose Stewart Island?

Our long-term goal is understanding the Great Southern Basin. We need to prove there is oil and gas there and this was the most likely place to make an exploration well.

People are worried that if you find billions of dollars worth of oil under us we are going to get trampled. If you find oil will you try to set up shop here and extract oil from Stewart Island?

No. This is primarily an information-gathering exercise. We might find a small amount of oil or gas and then we would have to decide what to do, and get any necessary consents for minor facilities. However, our main geological targets are far off-shore.

If they find oil and decide to set up a more permanent rig will they do it in Horseshoe Bay? in Foveaux Strait?

We don't have any permits to set up anything more than the current exploration well. After we drill this well, all equipment will be removed from the site and the site will be reinstated. Permanent production facilities would take a lot of planning and additional consenting.

If you did find heaps of oil and you applied for and got consent to drill for oil would your offshore well be right off our coast? Where would it be?

It would most likely be way out to sea, out of sight of Stewart Island.

Can you confirm there will be no "fracking"?

The well will NOT be fracked.

I have heard you are an internationally owned company.

We are a relatively small oil and gas company, and we are 100 percent Kiwi-owned. We do everything on our own, we aren't part of a joint venture, and we own all of our equipment.

If you find natural gas can you hook up the island with it and turn it into electricity for us?

Yes, we have a gas generator that can generate electricity. It's a long shot that we will find natural gas. But if we do find natural gas in great enough quantities, Stewart Island is the first logical market for it.

I have heard the noise and smell are going to be terrible.

It sounds like a generator, and there isn't much of a smell.

What does Stewart Island get out of this?

A boost to business during the slow season. As much as possible we try to use local contractors and local people. And wherever we do business we look around and see where we can financially help with a program or something for the community.

Have you talked to Britt?

Yes, we went into her cafe for a coffee and had a chat with her.

What's the chance you will drill at the other site on the Island near Ringaringa?

Any consenting for that site is on hold while we drill the Horseshoe-1 well; there's a low probability that we'll want to drill on that site.

Why is your company named Greymouth?

When the two men who started the company first met, they realized the one thing they had in common was both their families come from Greymouth.

How do the Greymouth guys like Stewart Island?

They love it! They have had great hospitality from the locals and really enjoy being on the island.

—Jess Kany

The Horseshoe Bay Drill: Comments from the Stewart Island Community

I am delighted to inform you that we had an excellent turn out with a broad cross section of Island residents to sign a petition 1. against present and future oil drilling on Stewart Island; 2. demand for 'public notification' in future oil drilling applications; 3. for independent environmental impact studies. In addition, some non resident holiday home owners expressed their desire for public inclusion in the decision making process via email and phone calls. Other locals expressed support but were away on holiday and were unable to sign the petition on Saturday. We also had phone calls of support over the weekend from New Zealanders in the North and South Island who value the existence of a pristine Stewart Island. In addition 6 British tourists (who did not sign) but expressed their shock at the drilling rig along the picturesque shores of Horseshoe Bay.

It is now clear that the S.I. Community Board and the SDC did not grasp the fact that Islanders recognise they are negatively impacted by oil drilling and would have liked to chance to voice this in the resource management process....I am not amused that we have to set up petitions to verify this. It is clear people are upset they were excluded from the process as it goes against two decades of developing an ecotourism based economy though various community based strategies and plans.

Some locals confused Greymouth Petroleum's "open meeting" with community empowerment though 'public notification and consultation' which it was not. Public consultation empowers a whole community (on and off the Island) to influence the decision making process on an application so it is setup by the district council. This DID NOT happen in the case of Greymouth Petroleum's exploratory well application which got fast tracked though a 'limited notification' procedure.

Common concerns voiced at the petition signing included:

- * damage to Stewart Island pristine image;
- *long term damage to ecotourism businesses;
- * lack of economic benefit to the community from oil exploration;
- *reduced property values in a village with oil drilling;
- * absence of a forum for public input;
- *invisible pressure to 'go along' with what the pub crowd wanted.

Community empowerment on any issue requires a variety of forums to collect an accurate cross section of opinion. This is because it is difficult for people to stand up and be counted in small communities were the tall poppy syndrome dominates. Not everyone will go to a public meeting or sign their name to a letter or petition. We thank everyone who was brave enough to voice their desire to be counted in resource management decisions such as oil drilling that impact their lives.

Stewart Island drilling approval is such an extreme example of how the Resource Management Act is failing communities though lack of public consultation that we hope to help press for legislative change to the Resource Management Act. This change would require all oil drilling on land in N.Z. to be publically notified. Drilling was also approved in Gisborne last week without public notification which has upset environmentalist. If we can make legislative change to a standard 'public notification' individual communities will have a chance to be empowered in the decision making process.

Britt Moore

I believe the oil-and gas-drilling on Stewart Island is unavoidable in the long run, but that the effects are so enormous that all Stewart Islanders should be involved and somehow brought into the matter, instead of acting on the belief that one public meeting and the purchase or lease of private land plus its consents is sufficient enough to go ahead.

The opposition shows if anything that there is far more consultation needed and that in each and every case all Stewart Islanders are affected by the drilling and without proper input by a substantial majority of Stewart Islanders there should be a stop.

Manfred Herzhoff

Drilling for oil/gas within a few hundred meters of a National Park and potential world heritage site. Not a great look.

The biggie for me is not so much a test rig doing some exploratory drilling , but the “be careful what you wish for” aspect of the whole thing.

What if the drillers dreams come true and economically viable quantities of oil or gas are found.

What happens then?

Do you then have to face all the massive, intrusive infrastructure development to extract the oil?

How could you ever be sure that any accident, be it spill, support vessel sinking or bio-security breach, could be handled by the resources available on the Island or from Bluff?

Could the economic benefit to your community of development ever outweigh the risk ?

Stewart Island is a fishing and tourism based community, both those economies rely on a pristine environment, and one relies utterly on the reputation of having such an environment.

Big risk.

Storm Stanley

It's a test well for a 4 month period and if all the neighbours and the Stewart Island Community Board agreed then there is probably very little the Southland District Council could do to oppose the application based on the details put before them. The conditions imposed by SDC and Environment Southland will have to be strictly adhered to. Those who attended the public meeting with Greymouth Petroleum were told that the well is a test well only and it will be capped and the site restored when they have finished. If in the future an application to drill at other sites for extraction purposes is made then I'm sure it would have to be a notified resource consent application and everyone will have the opportunity to express their opinions and concerns.

Margaret Hopkins

The exploratory oil drilling by Greymouth Petroleum on Stewart Island has my support. It needs to be remembered it is only a test drilling operation, but findings could be very beneficial to the island.

Donna Goomes

I support the test drilling by Greymouth Petroleum. It is a test drill.

Like getting tests for cancer or whatever, you find out what's there and you don't have to take the treatment!

Peter Goomes

They're just doing exploratory drilling not putting in big noisy permanent drilling wells! How many of the complainants went to the meeting in April or was it May? Is it the usual case of the misinformed complaining about what their other misinformed friends told them the Greymouth company were planning to do!?

As Greymouth Petroleum have to put the site back exactly as it was before they started test drilling have they taken photos to make sure the rubbish and junk etc are correctly returned to the correct place?

Are the complainants prepared to give up their cars and diesel power?

Wendy Hallett

Broad Points to Consider re the Drilling in Horseshoe Bay:

The Consent for the current drilling operation is specific. It is so specific that it only allows this one prospecting hole, to take approx. 3 weeks to drill.

The extracted core and rock samples that come out of the hole provide geological information on the possibility of hydrocarbon presence. In turn, hydrocarbon presence is one of the indicators that there could be more to explore.

Modern drilling practice must meet stringent safety methodology with the N.Z. Government Labour Department criteria and hence the drill gear will have been approved at a high level of environmental safety. My basic knowledge of and curiosity about engineering indicates that all the gear included in the project has been subjected to this intense scrutiny.

If there were a gas strike, one option suggested is to use the gas to run electricity generation – rather than transport gas away or import diesel for the existing power supply. It must be remembered that this possibility is a very long-shot for this type of exploration, and if it did happen, it would require a whole new consent process on a different level, as well as much greater assessment.

As you have noted from other media, Jon and I believe that the majority of the community have a positive view of this operation. We believe that the community is benefitting from the increased personnel in town and the spin-off to transport, accommodation services and food providers. This provides much needed winter income for businesses and keeps more local staff employed during the normally barren winter months.

Bruce Ford

Support from the community board, including myself was given in relation to this one off drilling at Horseshoe. Concern was expressed about the Wohlers Road site in relation to transporting the materials to the site from Horseshoe Bay. If Greymouth Petroleum find gas...oil, or if they wish to drill any additional holes, then they have to start the consent process again.

Interesting to note, that other than those who expressed concerns at the public meeting that I chaired on behalf of Greymouth Petroleum comments to me have been positive as to the benefits this one off operation will have on the island.

Jon Spraggon

—the oil well drilling is something that we have been feeling and thinking very strongly about. In relation to that, something I thought was strange in the last issue of the *Stewart Island News* was how the oil company was simply referred to as 'Greymouth', Instead of Greymouth Petroleum. I have talked to people on the Island who thought that they were a small west coast business not a national/internationally owned Auckland based oil mining company.

I am completely opposed to any oil company having anything to do with Stewart Island. It is quickly becoming a national issue so it's important that the full variety of opinions are discussed in the community and SIN.

—it seems like the 'oil rush' is reaching lots of New Zealanders at the same time and its raising issues close to so many hearts

Allisia McPherson

I, like most, if not all Stewart Islanders appreciate the quiet pristine and green environment we live in and don't want to see this special place ruined by large-scale industry or to have tourists put off by tales of filthy oil wells all over the place. There would be nothing worse than a large refinery in our midst, belching gases and chemicals into the atmosphere and throwing up major light pollution into our dark skies. I used to visit many of these facilities around the world as well as our own one at Marsden Point and they are deeply unpleasant, yet necessary to keep the wheels of our cars or the propellers of our boats turning. So long as they are in somebody else's back yard!!

I watched the news and Close Up with amusement as the end of our world as we know it was being forecast. A noisy dirty oil rig, I'm sure this one at Horseshoe Bay is! It looked it! It also made me think back to how the site looked before the drilling rig appeared. I remember an old quarry with a large shed nearby, old discarded machinery lying around, etc. Not something you would stop and show tourists.

In a month the site went from being something you wouldn't stop and show tourists to something everybody stops and looks at. After a short period of drilling, during the tourist off-season, the site will be packed up and returned to its original state. It will once again be a place you don't stop to show tourists, but at least it will be tidier. So far nothing has happened that wasn't mentioned at the public presentation, which was very informative and from which some recently high-profile opponents were notably absent. Plenty of people took the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns.

As for the alleged lack of public consultation, this initial stage of the drilling is simply digging a hole, which will only affect the immediate neighbours, all of whom gave their permission for it to happen. Not all resource consents are publicly notified and nor do they need to be. It's the next phase, as the well is tested and plans are made for future oil or gas production, that has the potential to affect the wider community and this is where the consents are almost guaranteed to be publicly notified, regardless of a petition.

As Greymouth Petroleum have openly pointed out, they are interested in gaining information on what is offshore in the Great South Basin. Stewart Island is not an ideal location for production, but it is a good one for information gathering. I, for one, wouldn't complain if a small-scale gas-fired electricity generator was set up on the Island, potentially lowering the price of electricity and reducing our reliance on imported diesel. However I would complain bitterly about a large-scale refinery on our shores.

Having recently been working in Taranaki, I see the potential benefits of "oil money" to communities. Not just in direct employment, but also in the way the oil companies use local suppliers where possible, paving the way for small businesses to be set up and tailored to their needs. Another area of huge benefit is in corporate sponsorship of community facilities and events. For example Todd Energy pour millions into Taranaki with the Aquatic Centre, WOMAD music festival and cancer care facilities to name a few. Everywhere you look there is Todd this or OMV that. Communities can do very well out of their willingness to keep everyone on side.

In my opinion it's an exciting time for the Island and I think we all need to keep an open mind about the future of energy exploration in our region. There are upsides and downsides, thorough research and conspiracy theories. As a community with the help of the council we can keep them in check, but we can also work alongside them for our benefit. Don't write them off until we have the facts. Unless, of course, they want to build a big refinery!!

Ben Hopkins

I think everyone would agree that the best way for Stewart Island and the world is clean renewable energy. I also believe that we haven't got a workable solution yet, therefore we still need to rely on fossil fuels to live if we choose to keep living the way we do. So what's the alternatives? Go back 200 years, get rid of technology and sit in the bush making clothes out of possum skins etc or carry on using fossil fuels.

While we'd rather not have them in our backyard, I'm sure most people would not either, regardless of where they live. I think it's a bit selfish to expect someone else to have the dirty work, so to speak, and us reap the benefits.

At the moment, the exploration work has provided an income for many people on the Island, the pub, the ferry, the plane, rental cars, tradespeople etc (including me), during an otherwise dead time of the year.



I wish I could say this was the first time I've been breathalysed on Horseshoe Bay Road. Before stepping foot on the drill site all visitors are breathalysed, quizzed on site safety, issued steel-capped gumboots, bright jacket, hard-hat and glasses. All employees are breathalysed too.



The dance of the diggers. Three barges came over to Horseshoe Bay packed with Greymouth Petroleum's gear, and it was a hustle-bustle timing the unloading with high tide, crap weather, two diggers, and hundreds of tonnes of gear.



Rodney, one of the diggers.



Heard of trainspotters? There are truckspotters too. For real. I caught somebody snapping photos of this beast like a weird wheel fetishist. He said it was "for a friend."



The barge awaits high tide.

I don't have room in the *SIN* so I am going to put information about the Greymouth Petroleum company and their plans at the Library. If you are a Horseshoe Bay resident with concerns about the drill, see page 13. If you are an Island resident with comments: send them IN to *SIN*. (Informed comments are particularly welcome...) This little newsletter is not as big a venue as *Closeup* but it gives a lot more SAY than sound-bytes from three locals!—*Ed*

As has been rightly pointed out, if this does cause a down-turn in eco-tourism, the main person to blame will be the "anti-drill leader" by splashing it all over the media. It would have been gone by summer! After all, not many people walked past the quarry and remarked what an eyesore it was!

The drilling has commenced, I urge anyone worried about noise to go down and check it out, it's a steady hum and the surf and the birds help dull it. If they DO find gas or oil, then we should address that issue then and not pre-empt the situation.

Many companies here have been supportive of the Island: Glowing Sky, the pub, the shop, RJs, the flights, Rakiura Helicopters, DOC, the Fernery, Ruggedy Range, accommodation providers etc etc etc (and apologies to any missed) all step up to the plate when fund-raising happens with services and goods to help. This is in stark contrast to the business owner

who is leading the anti-drilling cause in the media, so it seems a little late to be the voice of the people now, in my opinion. And canvassing people in their own homes seems just plain rude and pushy to me.

Maybe all the people who have stood up now to be counted, should show willing next time the elections for the Community Board come up? After all, we voted them in as our representatives and I think they do their job admirably. Long drivel over!

Vicki Coats



I feel very privileged to live on Stewart Island in such a unique environment and believe my children are very fortunate to be growing up here, surrounded by this natural paradise. The Island is a precious place where we often see and hear wildlife such as dolphins, penguins, kaka, and kiwi etc. just outside our 'front door'.

This is a place to treasure and preserve which is why I am deeply concerned about the current drilling of an exploration well by Greymouth Petroleum at Horseshoe Bay and the potential for further oil or gas exploration on or around Stewart Island.

Greymouth Petroleum has undertaken a very clever public relations exercise and has promoted their exploration drilling and how it could benefit the local community. Unfortunately their information is biased and it did not fully inform the public about the risks and negative effects of the drilling on our special environment and wildlife.

I am extremely disappointed and disillusioned by the lack of public consultation by the Stewart Island Community Board and the Southland District Council and ask that any further consent applications for oil/gas exploration be publicly notified and open for submissions.

Belinda Dobbins

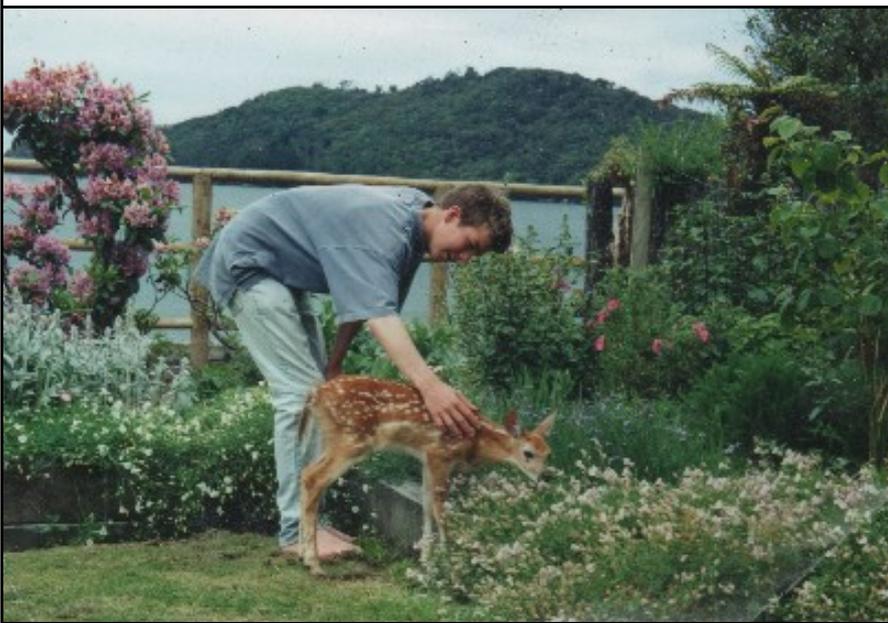
STROPPY

1992ish — 20th June 2012

Stroppy (a.k.a. Mugwa) passed away peacefully at Horseshoe Bay on the Winter Solstice. He was either 18 or twenty years old (the 1992 might be 1994); either way he was quite old for a whitetail. Over the course of his long life he was cared for by Grant Cave and his family, the Department of Conservation, and the Thompson family. He had many fans, friends, and admirers, he appeared in films, and he ate *a lot* of bananas.

I taxed Helen and Liz Cave's memory for Stroppy's earliest days: here is their recollection:

Grant and Billy chased Mugwa down from the top of the hill above the house. I guess Grant was 13 (so about 1992). Stroppy diverted from the chasers and ran into the workshop and jumped into Grim's arms!



Grant and "Mugwa"

He was kept in a shed and pen next to the workshop where Liz and Grant bottle fed it. Liz was his main carer as Grant was at boarding school.

The pen was not enormously secure and he got out from time to time. Finally we gave up on the pen and he just wandered around the garden.

Judy Eriksson saw Grant run out the gate and along the road one day, followed by big bros Richard and Stu. She was worried about Grant's welfare as he was always in trouble with the brothers, so thought she should keep an eye on him. Then they all turned around and walked back disconsolately ...followed by Mugwa. It turned out Mugwa had run away and they were frantic to catch him, but they sadly gave up and

trudged home, not realizing the deer was following right behind!

He went to live in the DOC pen when their deer died. DOC came around with a catching plan, but he just hopped into the van.

When DOC decided it was not really green to be keeping noxious animals (at the same time they removed their main display which was a whale harpoon), he came back to Horseshoe under the care of Nic and George.

From Nicolette Thompson:

We got Stroppy in October 2000. He'd been in the DOC pen but was reaching his prime and had started to live up to his

We loved him heaps, before I got pregnant when I was working we were doing Barberry up by Stroppy's pen and it was our highlight to see him, give him some broadleaf and the odd banana. I felt privileged cause Stroppy gave me kisses. Since Si has been at home with Betty, he has taken her up to see Stroppy at least once a week, Si loved Stroppy heaps and was sad to hear the news of his passing, Betty's none the wiser at this stage, but she loved going to see Stroppy and Maaa (the sheep). We will miss him loads, I think he might be the oldest deer I have ever met, and the only living deer Betty has ever seen! —*Cherie Helmesley*



Going bananas with Si

new name “Stroppy”. We heard he was going to get put down because he was dangerous so decided to bring him round to our already deer fenced paddock. Sounds easy but took a whole afternoon and a keen group of men to eventually get hold of him, tie him up, put him in a bulk bag and then drive him round on the back of a ute!

He had tiny little stumps of new velvet growing at the time and when he got released he ran at the fence to start with and cut his velvet. Every set of antlers from then on had an extra little basil snag sticking out!

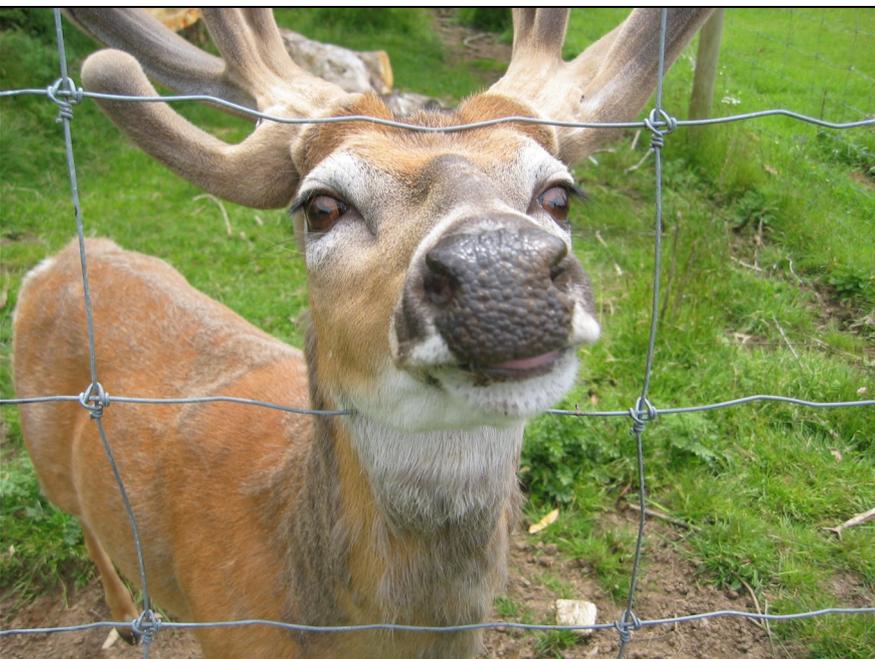
He grew new antlers every year. They began growing in the summer covered in velvet and got as big as 11 points but decreased to 7 points in more recent years.

In March he would strip the velvet on trees and eat it. About this time he would also lose his orange summer coat and get his dark brown thick winter coat. This was also when he was ready to breed and at his stroppiest for a few months!

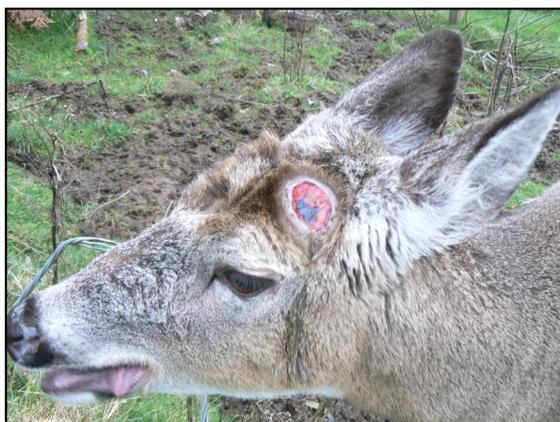
Late July or so he would knock his antlers off one at a time usually against a tree. One year it was a few days between antlers so he looked like a cartoon character with one antler! A few months later he would molt, turn bright orange again and begin growing another set of antlers.

I always told people that Stroppy was our garbage disposal. We fed him all our scraps including avocado skins, citrus peels, lots of bread crusts and his very favourite: banana peels. These made him make a purring noise! He wasn't overly fond of cabbage, they'd be eaten last, and the only things he didn't eat were onions and leeks.

He had a lot of months of the year when he was very friendly and loved to lick the salt off our skin, hands usually but a few keen faces were licked too! He never bothered our cat who went right through his paddock and had been seen giving her and our dog licks through the fence. We put the kids' pet lamb in with him last year and we often saw them licking each other the same way cats groom each other!!



This year he was looking extremely skinny, even after being drenched and fed regularly with deer nuts. He didn't strip his velvet either, instead it just kind of rotted off. He was still running down to the fence for food when we called though!



Seems very weird not to see him every day...

—Nic

About ten years ago I was a tourist at the Pub when a fisherman invited me and a bunch of people back to his house at Horseshoe for further revelry. I hesitated.

The Pub was fun, and warm, and within stumbling distance of my tent. Horseshoe Bay sounded like Mars to me. The fisherman leaned down and made a promise in my ear: *you'll get to feed a banana to a deer*. Well, that clinched the deal. Horseshoe Bay became my home, the fisherman my husband, and the banana-eating deer a beloved pet. Stroppy liked five-finger too, and spaghetti, and, well, all food. But he made a particular noise when he ate bananas. His growl of greatest pleasure was when he was fed strawberries. I once fed him strawberries while holding the phone up to his mouth so my mom in New York could hear the sound. “Well, now I've heard it all,” she said. He amazed and delighted everyone who encountered him, and it was an honour to be able to live so close to such a beautiful animal. Not many people in the world can say they've been nuzzled by a whitetail... but plenty of people on Stewart Island can!

Thank you Stroppy for all of the joy you brought us. Rest in peace, dear deer.

Strawberry (and banana and five-finger) fields forever...

—Jess

DOC Spot

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

There's not a lot to report this month, so I will keep this month's DOC Spot quite short.

The upgrade of North Arm hut has been completed and is now re-open for use. Some painting and minor touch-ups are still required, however a band of willing volunteers from the Winton Rotary Club have undertaken to carry out this work within the next few months. As we've mentioned in previous articles, the hut has been extended by 4.8 metres. This extension allows visitors more room to prepare their meals and then the space to sit and eat it in relative comfort, while enjoying a stunning view out over the inlet. A major revamp of the bunkrooms was also carried at the same time. Costs are still coming in for the work, but we estimate that it will be well within budget – certainly significantly less than the rumoured cost of \$200k we have heard bandied around the village. Since introducing a booking system for the Rakiura Track, revenue from these huts and campsites has increased by 15%. We are hoping that we will continue to see an increase in the numbers of people on this track and the spin-offs that will bring for local businesses. As part of its national level marketing strategy, the Department is promoting its Great Walks as nine unforgettable journeys, which includes a major sponsorship deal by Air New Zealand. Don't be surprised if next time you travel with the airline you see Stewart Island / Rakiura questions featuring in their quiz. Be sure to take a good look at the picture on the cup they serve your hot drink in and take time



the new look North Arm Hut

to flick through the Kia Ora magazine, which over the next nine months will feature one of the Great Walks. Glossy new brochures are also part of the Department's marketing boost to encourage more visitors to experience the great outdoors. To help fund these brochures we are seeking advertisers, particularly those offering services that would assist visitors to plan for their Rakiura Great Walk experience. We have sent out an invitation to local businesses who are members of Stewart Island Promotions, to take out an advertisement. However if you have a business but don't belong to Promotions, or are planning to start up a new business this coming season and would like to know more, then please don't hesitate to contact me. The deadline for confirming an advertisement in the 2012-13 brochure is August 6. Next month's DOC Spot will have more about the event we are planning to mark the completion of the Rakiura Track upgrade and commemorate the 10th anniversary of our national park. So watch this space ...

Book review *from Deb Dillon*

"Gift from the Sea" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

Every now and then you find a book that really speaks to you, and enriches your thinking. Well I came across one of those books today. I picked it up from Kirsten at the Library. She had phoned me to let me know it was in as it's an inter-loan book—\$5 to pay—a "quaint looking book" she said. Home I came and settled into reading it — three hours later it was finished and I am looking to buy a copy! The theme is an island holiday and the author speaks about shells, the channeled whelk, oyster beds and the paper nautilus to name a few. The clever thing is how she uses the shells as metaphors for the life cycle of a woman. As you all know I am mad about islands and "islandness" and her thoughts really resonated with my feeling that there is much richness in island life. Although it was published in 1955 it is still fresh and relevant. Recommended reading for island women!

Through your pages I would like to say thank you to Kerry and David Squires for selling their piece of paradise to us, we won't be there all the time but want Kerry & David to know they can stay from time to time if they wish. Stewart Island is a special place and Ringaringa Bay is especially lovely.
Mary and Lindsay Molloy

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Our first effort at Wine making took place at Helen Bennetts and went off to a flying start with lots of fun, Rhubarb wine (thanks to Nancy) and Lemon wine, (thanks to Helen).

August 9th Garden Circle we will meet at Ann Pullen's for a look at her lovely garden and afternoon tea.

Thursday 9th August at 2.0 pm at Ann Pullen's



Stewart Island – a Healthy Island

The WHO says a “Healthy Island” is a place where; children are nurtured in mind and body, environments invite learning and leisure, people work and age with dignity and ecological balance is a source of pride.

Winter is passing quickly but the frosts and rain make our environment very slippery so please take extra care.

Martin is off on leave this month so relief nurses from the Emergency Department at Southland hospital have been covering Debs days off. Martin has just completed his Independent Vaccinators Certificate revalidation and Debs has just completed her post graduate advanced pathophysiology paper with SIT.

Podiatry services are important to keep people comfortable and mobile. If you are interested in “getting your feet done” for whatever reason please let Debs know and arrangements can be made.

Thanks heaps to the Health Committee for their support and also the St John volunteers.

Services

In EMERGENCY dial 111 and the PRIME Nurse on call will attend you.

Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 426 285 (Nurses Bleeper).

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

**Clinic Number- Phone; 2191 098
Fax; 2191 072.**

**Women Health/ Cervical Screening;
Please phone clinic for an appointment with Deb Dillon.**

**Well Child/Tamariki Ora /B4 School Checks;
Please phone clinic for an appointment with Deb Dillon.**

Cosmo Kentish-Barnes of Radio New Zealand’s program *Country Life* will be visiting the Island in August gathering stories so if you see him spin him some good yarns about the place.!

Notes from Horseshoe Bay:

I live at Horseshoe Bay. Twice I heard a big growly industrial sound and thought *Oh my God the drilling has started!* But I went to the window and realized it was just Loosy’s

jet boat. I visited the drill site and couldn’t smell anything. No one’s wearing ear protection and you can stand there and carry on a conversation. They use bright lights at night as it’s a 24-hour operation and the residents are aware of them, including some

confused roosters down the road. Tom the driller says if you are a resident and something about the site is bugging you (ie lights, noise) please come tell him and he’ll try to sort it out, he’s able to make some adjustments.

—Jess

Stewart Island’s Ecological Fence

Many people have seen the ecological fence running from just beyond the beach at Lee Bay into the bush, with its tail poking out onto a rock behind the fish sheds at Horseshoe Bay. The fence was put up by a nationwide company called Xcluder, who developed the “Xcluder predator-proof fence” design, and it is one of the internationally effective tools that help to keep the 172 hectares of forest and grassland behind it free of rats, possums, wild cats and deer.

For the last 5+ years, the property has been maintained as functionally free of rats, possums and wild cats. That means the odd one or two individuals which do manage to find their way around the ends of the fence are removed pretty quickly, before they can start to affect the interior.

In just a few short years, the forest regeneration has been impressive and the

bird and insect numbers have blossomed.

In 2008, brown creeper/ pipipi were transferred back to the property, the first translocation of this species in New Zealand, followed by rifleman/ titi pounamu in 2009. Both groups are now growing to sizeable populations and are heard right throughout the forest. In years to come more species will be returned to the property to fill niches left empty by local extinctions here on Rakiura.

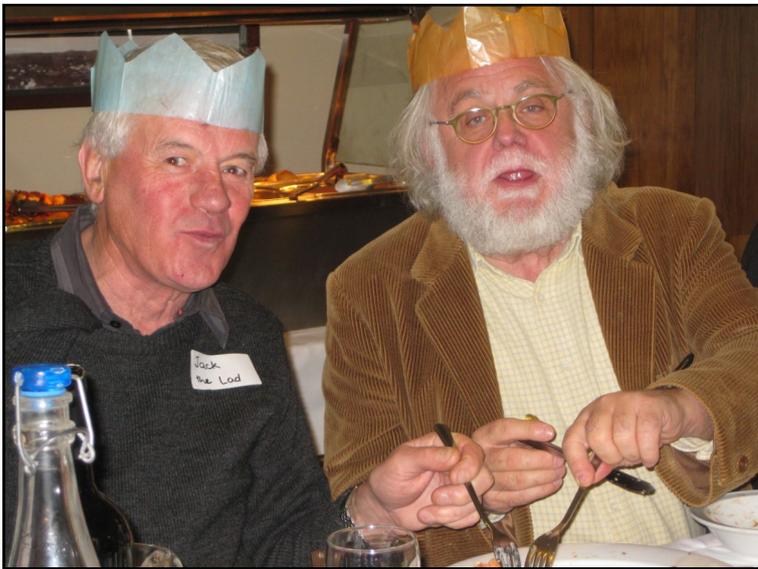
The goal for this area is that it is a safe place for Stewart Island species to live and breed; that the fence and efforts to keep the area non-native predator-free gives the land some “breathing space”; so that it can become a nursery for local species to strengthen in number and health, eventually moving out over the fence into the National Park and the township.

The property is owned by a Californian-

based non-profit corporation, which is involved in biodiversity projects around the world, called the Dancing Star Foundation (DSF). In order to prevent most of the “eyesore” complaints anticipated by erecting something new like this, the fence was not built on the boundary of their property but rather set deep inside DSF’s land, the real boundary of which is Lee Bay Road. To date all work carried out there has been funded entirely by DSF, with expertise, advice and support from DOC, the services of Contract Wild Animal Control and the efforts of some wonderful volunteers.

DSF is also currently lending the land on which the Community Nursery is located at the corner of Lee Bay Road and Horseshoe Bay Road.

If anyone would like to know more, please contact Kari Beaven – 533. You may learn about DSF by visiting their website at www.dancingstarfoundation.org.





**THE WINNERS
OF THE
STEWART
ISLAND SEN-
IOR CITIZENS
RAFFLE WERE**



First Prize	Raylene Waddell
Second Prize	Jo Learmouth
Third Prize	Russell Squires

← Kath Kain sent this photo of one armed-Jack sharing a plate with Manfred.
CAPTION CONTEST: send your caption ideas in. The winner gets a bottle of cheap wine OR a box of chocolates!

BOOK REVIEW:

“The Innocent” by David Baldacci and
 “The Accused” by John Grisham
from Sue Ford

Who *are* The Innocent? Not Will Robie, that’s for sure – he’s an assassin who works for “the good guys”. And that’s about the only sure thing in the whole story as Will’s life begins to unravel. The trouble is, some of the good guys seem to have gone bad in this page-turner Baldacci thriller, and then Robie isn’t sure who is working for whom anymore. What he *does* know is that there is something wrong in killing a seemingly blameless young woman and her two little children. When he hesitates over that ‘hit’, things start to get complicated. And Julie Getty, a 14-year old streetwise kid, who witnessed the killing of her parents, is one of those complications. The fact that events draw this odd couple together could be sheer co-incidence, or not; and assassins aren’t supposed to fall in love either – and Will has unexpectedly discovered a chink in his armour when it comes to Annie Lambert. There is a very odd sequence of events being played out here, and Robie gets the gist of it all in time, but as he’s fond of remarking, he can’t see ‘the end-game’ – in other words, exactly who is going to massive amounts of trouble to make Will think he’s a target but is very carefully killing those around him with apparent gay abandon, leaving him unscathed. And why? For what purpose? Is The Blue Man to be trusted? Where are the moles – for the many acronym-ed security services seem riddled with them. “Super” Agent Vance, for instance – where does she stand in all this?

The outcome is by no means predictable, it *is* overly-complex in the telling I have to admit – but at least there are no red herrings, so keep your eye on all the named characters – dead *and* alive. Because I’m a Baldacci fan and enjoy his style of writing, I did manage to spot the two “holes” or weak-

nesses that Will Robie should have spotted. But then, if he had, there wouldn’t have been a fast-paced, action-packed thriller to read. Typical Baldacci fare, but I, for one, am quite happy with that.

Known for his thrillers of courtroom dramas, I wasn’t sure what to expect in this ‘Theodore Boone’ story – my first, Grisham’s third. It is written for ‘tweenies’ I suppose, the hero being a 13-year old ‘straight-A’ student who wants to be a lawyer when he grows up. As an adult reading a book aimed at a young age group – especially about a hero who is in a series! – I am aware that it all has to end – relatively – happy-ever-after for Theo. However, I did find myself caught up in the action as Theo’s life is being made miserable as he is targeted by some malicious prankster, and then – coincidentally or not - is systematically framed for a series of misdemeanours and felonies. But why? It’s obvious to Theo and the reader that it’s not a question of finding a scapegoat for criminal activity, but a personal attack on Theo’s standing, and the crimes are being committed more to involve Theo than the more usual reasons. The humour is very laboured and obvious – a detour through Animal Court involving a spitting llama, for instance was funny, but out of place as the tension built. Nevertheless, whilst making concession to a perhaps slimmer vocabulary in a pre-teen audience, and a slightly stilted attempt at the vernacular of youth-culture, overall, Grisham didn’t compromise his writing ability, managed not to be too patronising, and produced a good thriller for a young reader. J.K. Rowling he is NOT! And not even John Grisham at his best perhaps, but still very entertaining. Suitable for motivated readers aged 9 perhaps, but ideal for 11-13 year olds, the next age group up – say 14-16 year olds, who may not think a 13-year old Theo to be very cool – are missing out on something. And 60+ grannies might enjoy it as a change from the usual thriller-fare!

SHOP TALK

by Jules Retberg

Winning formula

Happy Birthday Four Square! The iconic Kiwi brand celebrated 88 years in business earlier this month - to mark the occasion more than 280 Four Square stores across the country held a kids' colouring competition. Fingers crossed that a Stewart Islander is among the ten lucky winners of an iPad. For all the adults that entered the competition, be sure to line up a kid to teach you how to use it if **you** win!

Another milestone was reached this month in the shape of New Zealand Lotto's 25th anniversary. I'm sure many of us have mused over what we would do if we won "the big one". A new house, flash car, exotic holiday ...? A big win could certainly change your life, but for a few people not in the way they expected.

Shocking stories litter the news of people plotting to kill a lotto-winning family member, in the hope that they will inherit the loot. Britain's most famous Lotto winner and loser blew more than \$15 million on drugs and gambling and now lives on unemployment benefit. An American woman astonishingly beat the odds and won the US Lotto twice in the mid-1980s (a cool US\$5.4 million) but she gambled away everything and now lives in a trailer.

For every sad story there are hundreds of positive stories thankfully, of people making a difference to many by sharing their winnings with family and friends. More than \$8 million was raised for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal in 2011 when a special Lotto draw was held, with 1.8 million tickets being sold. Surprisingly around \$75million sits unclaimed in New Zealand Lotto winnings - so check your bags and pockets for any old tickets lying around!

If Lotto isn't for you, there's a 12,000 to one chance of finding a pearl inside an oyster and a treasure chest of good honest people around you!



Need a Resource Consent? ... I can help!

**40 years' experience in local government
and I know how to achieve results.**

- planning
- resource management/consents
- mediation
- facilitation



WILLIAM J WATT CONSULTING LTD

phone 03 217 0114 mobile 027 495 9288
williamwatt@ihug.co.nz www.williamjwatt.co.nz



Cherie gets one of the best kinds of kisses:
a cold wet-nose kiss from a deer with banana breath.
Rest in Peace Stroppey. Obituary p10.

DRC

**disABILITIES RESOURCE
CENTRE SOUTHLAND**

Te Whare Arahi Iwi Memenge

SUPPORT WORKER FOR STEWART ISLAND

We are seeking to employ a Support Worker who will join our service to assist with mainly household tasks to people living on the Island.

The hours of work are varied and flexible and could be suited to being completed during school hours if necessary.

If you are looking for rewarding work with flexible hours and working as part of a supportive team – **please contact Yvonne Johnstone @ DRC for further information and an application. Phone 03 2145000 – Freephone 0800100531 or email yvonne@drcsouth.co.nz**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Newlyweds

Lania and Laurence

Proud parents

Terri and Allen

Welcome Ana Tui



Not a dry eye at Rugrats on Becky's last day when she was presented with a possum fur decorated with all of the children's handprints.

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.

**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess at
PO Box 156, Stewart Island News, HMB Post Office
or to editor@stewart-island-news.com**

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 _____

Advertise in the STEWART ISLAND NEWS

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 bach owners, former residents, and other subscribers around

New Zealand and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too.

So tell all of those people about your business!

Contact editor for rates.

Jess 03 2191 367

editor@stewart-island-news.com