

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

July—August 2014

\$3.00

Jess is away kicking her heels up (or more likely running around after Charlie, Moby and Stu) so you get me for this month!

And what a hectic month it's been one way or another, with heaps happening on the Island. The Conner cousins have been tricking us all with Tyron walking on water and Sophie magically causing all the lights to disappear? (See bottom of page) Poor old Vodafone struggled valiantly to woo us in the pub with their new products that we couldn't actually see in the dark, but it was fun!

4 Square turned 90 and Richard retired! We'll all miss his smiling face and cheeky quips!

Someone else with a little more time on his hands these days is Squizzy aka Richard Squires; you can check out a couple of his new cartoons inside and there are more in the pub for your perusal. I had a phone call asking how he was, so last time I saw him at the pub I asked after his health, with this response:

*"Reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated"* So now you know!



Spider Orchid from Carolyn Squires

Marion Whipp had a chimney fire and Carolyn wishes to praise the Fire Brigade for doing a very professional job, leaving a minimum of mess and doing some follow up calls after the event. Great



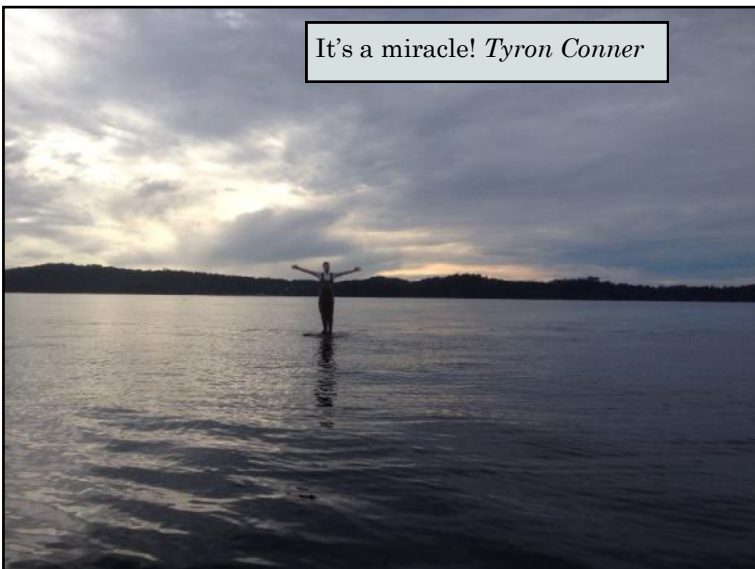
Happy 90th Four Square!

job, we all appreciate the effort our volunteers put in!

We've also seen Stewart Island in the news with Len and Sue's consent being granted for their oyster farms and one not so good media mention. A strange building has appeared in front of the Nurse's Clinic; I've heard rumours it's going to be Hippy's naughty room or the start of Bruce Ford's senior accommodation. In fact it's their new storage shed to declutter the waiting room, which means Quiz has once again got money to support your Island projects, just have a chat to either myself or Helen.

Have a great month and happy reading! Vicki  
*PS If you'd like a full colour SIN at a cheaper price why not subscribe to the "E"dition, see back page!*

It's a miracle! Tyron Conner



Sophie's Magic Wishes!

On Friday 27th June Mum and us kids went to celebrate Matariki with the rugrats at Stu and Jess's, it was lots of fun. I took my bright bugs some trick lights that attach to your fingers and you push a button to make them glow they work really well in the dark, the kids really liked them, I did a little magic trick with them. I think I fooled them all.

We left about 7pm and mum had to finish off reception at the hotel so I took my bright bugs in to play with until she finished. I got Jeanette to come into reception and I said "I wish I could turn the lights off" and flip that is when the power went out, Molly said "could you turn the lights back on please" so the power cut was all me ha ha ha  
 Soph



Thanks to Richard Squires for his take on Island life and politics!



# WISE UP TO WEEDS



environment  
SOUTHLAND  
Te Taiaroa Tonga

## DARWIN'S BARBERRY (*Berberis darwinii*)

Everyone on Stewart Island will have heard of Darwin's barberry and its potential to invade the forest understorey. How can you help? Remove it from your garden as soon as you see plants popping up.

### What is it?

Darwin's barberry is a shrub with small shiny prickly leaves. It has bright orange flowers in October and purple berries in late spring and summer.

### What is the problem?

This woody shrub produces lots of small berries that are spread by birds. It creates dense thickets, preventing other plants from growing.

### How to control it?

- Pull out seedlings by hand.
- Cut and paste the stems with a herbicide gel, it may require follow up control.
- For larger trees drill 10mm holes sloping downward at regular intervals around the base. Pour 25mm of concentrated Roundup into each hole.

**Please contact the Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz) or telephone 211 5115**

# OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER

by Jo Riksem



## Theresa Ward at Halfmoon Bay Wharf with Oban Presbyterian Church overlooking the bay

Storms, fishermen, boats and miracles were all part of June’s study of the book of Mark, taken by our “**Local Talent**” Beverley Osborn who led us in a study of the stories and happenings which had roots back in the Old Testament book of Leviticus. I’m sure our good Lord used many kinds of boats during his life on earth much like the little dinghy in the above photograph as well as some bigger ones. We’ll be looking forward to what happens this month, as we continue our study of Mark.

**Don’t forget!!!** 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oban Presbyterian Church at Labour Weekend, October of this year. Not long now. Be sure to watch this space for events that will be happening to celebrate this milestone and if you can help in any way we’d love to hear from you.

**Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.**

Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

A great turn out for the restart of the Stewart Island W I club. (Women’s Institute)

The club formerly ran on the Island from 1941 to 1998 until it unfortunately ran out of steam.

The club will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7pm at the Fire Station, the first meeting to be held this Thursday, 17th July (we couldn’t wait until next month for the first ‘proper’ meeting! All ladies welcome to pop along and see what we’re doing! Contact Vicki or Shona for details.



## Need a Resource Consent?

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**LETTERS** ☒☒**RE Ulva Island drop comments:**

Brodifacoum (rat poison) and Warfarin (human anticoagulant) are made from coumatetralyl; the poison brodifacoum dropped on Ulva Island is indeed made from the same compound as Warfarin. However they are very different preparations (chalk and cheese). Warfarin is never used to control high blood pressure. Warfarin is used for stroke prophylaxis in patients with heart valves and atrial fibrillation. It is closely monitored as it has nasty side effects if the dose gets too high or low. The dose in the Ariel pellets compared to a tablet are massive and cannot be realistically compared. This leads to the study carried out at four weeks. The absorption rate to achieve steady state clearance in humans is 36 hours (MIMMS). A tiny dose (Warfarin) in a say 100 kilo human compared to a massive dose (brodifacoum) in a two pound blue cod. It is possible that the fish tested at four weeks ate only sub-lethal doses and survived, whereas fish that ate doses say 24 hours post drop would have died well before the four week testing period. The Study in my opinion was totally inadequate and poorly timed. Paterson Inlet is a pristine environment and should remain as such. Any intentional and accidental poisoning of marine species is undesirable and could potentially put people's health at risk. The facts are that this poison did enter our food chain and the study has proven this fact as stated by Andy Morris (Department of Conservation) in the Southland Times. I will ask the question will you eat blue cod livers, or feed them to your children after exposure to this aquatic poison.

*Martin Pepers* QSM/MA/RN/Mataitai Committee Member

**Shark Cage Diving**

My concerns on the practice of shark cage diving are not derived from some hysterical knee jerking uninformed reaction to an imaginary threat but based on a lifetime at sea fishing Island waters and bearing witness to a somewhat alarming change in the behaviour patterns of the Great White over the past seven years or so.

Now this could be purely coincidental but up until they started luring these professional killers (no offense to the animal but that is what they are by nature) alongside boats feeding them, and hence training them, I had never seen a live great white in my life.

They are now regular visitors and whilst it is always a somewhat nervous thrill to observe the sheer savage lethal beauty of the beast they dangers they can pose is very real (having had two unprovoked attacks on the 40ft boat).

Having said unprovoked it was interesting to note that both attackers targeted a large red float tied to the rail of the vessel, also interesting to note that bait used to train the great white is tied to a float off the shark boat. Also of some concern is the fact that they now follow us, we did have a 20 foot monster follow us for 1 1/2 hours to three different islands for a distance of 10 miles. When we came steaming back up the bay some of our kids were enjoying the beautiful day and swimming around us, honestly making me sick with dread.

Those making money out of this venture scoff at our concerns for peoples lives maintaining they are doing what we have done for years, fed sharks our fish scraps, maybe so but the fact remains we did not train them nor did we seek them out so that they become familiar and attracted to us nor did we tease them by dangling an idiot over the side during dinner time just to make sure they got the message that people equals food. They are messing with one very smart mega predator T-Rex with fins, caution and respect discarded for a dollar and a thrill.

It is my belief that for the safety of both the great white and all who use our waters, these animals should be left unmolested and not exploited as is occurring now.

*Richard Squires*

**More Thoughts on Cage Diving**

My thoughts on shark cage diving are brief but straight to the point, my opinions come from the worry of the safety of my children, and husband, extended family and also visitors.

I can see the appeal to go shark cage diving, BUT when it's done in close proximity to Halfmoon Bay etc it effects the safety of all who use the waters. Eg, divers, people fishing in dingys, kayakers and people swimming on beaches or snorkelling around the shores.

I feel the baiting definitely changes the sharks natural behaviour and teaches them that boats and dingys mean food! Which screams disaster to me.

My children are pretty wary about swimming in

the water with all the shark sightings seen close to shore and up the inlet in the recent months when the weather was warmer. This makes me angry, Winiata loves to go snorkelling but is put off by fear of a great whites and getting eaten, I don't blame him!

And also of course a mother's fear! I have noticed that one of the shark guys was coming up the inlet on almost a daily basis heading up sawdust bay way for the whole day.... After that I heard great whites were sighted at Ulva and near the beaches. Laurence has mentioned also that he comes up the farm and drives around, making the divers angry and uneasy! To me with him boating all around the place it seems likely that if the sharks see his boat in particular as something that offers food, then why wouldn't the sharks follow him?

I think there definitely needs to be strict areas if this continues to where he can and cannot take his boat, as he could be luring them into other places unknowingly and putting people in and on the water at greater risk.

I feel we are now just waiting for someone to be attacked if not killed if this shark cage diving continues without the guidelines that us as a family/ community set.

Cheers

*Lania, Laurence, Winiata and Ngakau Edwards*



### **Thank you Fire Brigade**

...I remember years ago, Bob coming home one lunchtime with a great brigade laugh. While he had joined with Doc workers and the members of the voluntary fire brigade in the putting out of a fire at the rear of the pub, some painters had unconcernedly carried on with their paint work on the beach side of things. Bruce may come out with the old song, "Ah yes, I remember it well."

...I am not thinking of that one small fire at the South Seas Hotel as I reply to you, but rather I am delving into the past to remember three other boarding houses that did not "Make it!"

Over the years, especially in the days of candles and matches, house fires have always been a dread on The Island, let alone owning a guest house with its many rooms occupied by guests used to electric lighting. I recall Dad Hicks telling how he would take a customary check down the dimmed corridors at Ferndale every night to make sure that all was fine before retiring himself. The bogey of Fire was always there.

Years later, I well remember the night that Ferndale House burned. The Penrod oil rig crew were housed there at the time. Bob had to be drawn away from its ashes the next day. He was born there and some fifty plus years later the house on the hill still had a very special place in his heart. Ferndale was just one of the four accommodation Houses in those busy early days in the Bay.

Of note there was Fred Trail's Woodslea House on the hill behind the Bay, and just out of the Bay was Thomson's Greenvale House. This also burned down.

So a big thank you to those Gals and Guys pictured in last months SIN. You work towards keeping Island homes safe and we are truly grateful.

*Mavis Hicks*



### **Re Last Month's Letters**

I just want to notify the readers of SIN of a formal complaint to me regarding my letter to the Editor in the June / July 2014 SIN: "FERRY TIMETA-BLE / PRICES / TACTICS"

The letter is from Stewart Island Promotion Association of which I have been member for many years.

This is the second such letter regarding my "code of conduct" during this year! The first letter a general letter with no details - pretty hard to defend. I wonder how many other members have received a code of conduct complaint? When does the private business of two people - spoken in private become the concern of Stewart Island Promotion Association? Why should we shut up and put up and keep on taking the punches?

The latest letter dated 7th July 2014 states:

*"The Executive Committee of the Stewart Island Promotion Association was concerned to read your comments regarding the Stewart Island Promotion Association in the Letters section of the current Stewart Island News."*

Can an organisation truly curtail freedom of speech through its code of conduct? If so please let me know how and why?

A healthy, democratic society! Surely we should be able to voice valid concerns and worries WITHOUT fear of retribution...

*(Continued on page 12)*



# ban **G**lobetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

## Lord Howe Island by Sandy King

Friends of mine are living on Lord Howe Island, providing an excuse to visit which I'd been putting off until recently. However, in April I finally got it sorted and spent about 8 days there. I had the impression that there are some parallels between our two communities, and was looking forward to finding out a bit more, as well as catching up and relaxing with friends.

Lord Howe Island is part of New South Wales, Australia, but physically is in the north Tasman Sea on a line between Brisbane and Auckland. It was listed as a World Heritage property in 1982 based on its "outstanding natural heritage values", and is also surrounded by a Marine Park. Its economy is based almost solely on tourism. Most visitors arrive by air; Qantas Link operates daily flights, taking 2 hours from Sydney in a Dash 8 aircraft. Flights are often disrupted by weather. I was lucky and my flights on and off the island went to schedule, but while I was there several flights were delayed due to weather. Sound familiar? Before I went I was told that tourist numbers are capped at 400 on the island at any one time. This is apparently dictated by the combined total number of beds available in the accommodation facilities, (but there is some uncertainty as to whether those beds are singles or doubles). However when I booked my flights, through a travel agent, this was never mentioned so I'm not sure how the random tourist is supposed to know this and ensure they have a bed when they arrive, or what would happen if someone did turn up and all available accommodation was full. There are no camping facilities on the island, and no backpackers. Anyway, for me it didn't matter because I was staying privately.



Lord Howe Island Airport

The island is the exposed remains of the rim of a large volcano and is long and thin, lying roughly N-S, with steep bits at both ends and more gentle terrain in

the middle which is where the community is. The world's southern most coral reef and lagoon protect the western side, and the east is mostly exposed rocky coastline. It's not very big, about 1400 ha - the size of Codfish Island. However there are some very high and steep mountains - Mt Gower and Mt Lidgbird rising to 873m and 777m respectively. They tower over the south of the island, often disappearing into cloud. Mt Gower can be climbed with a local guide and takes "a solid 9 hours" to get up and back.

My first impression flying in was that it looked a bit like some of the subantarctic coastline with black basaltic cliffs and a pounding swell. Then we circled and came in low over the lagoon's lone windsurfer, coral heads and white sand, palm trees materialised on shore and my impression immediately switched to subtropical. Disembarking passengers were greeted by a smiling young woman asking where we were staying and directing people to their waiting hosts. Returning locals got a smile and a nod - the population is about 350 so everyone knows just about everyone.

My first afternoon was spent snorkelling in the lagoon which is just across the road from where my friends live. A snorkel was an almost daily ritual, but it was not until the last day that I got to see some of the creatures I'd been hoping to see - hawksbill turtles. I spent a good 20 minutes watching one turtle cruising effortlessly over the coral, occasionally surfacing for a breath. The water was very clear and the turtle looked like it was floating in nothingness, strangely graceful for a heavy shelled creature that should by rights have been sinking. It eventually settled for a rest on top of the coral - a turtle's breath holding ability must be the envy of any paua diver!

Another watery highlight was feeding fish at Ned's Beach. Fish food is available and you take a scoop and walk into the water, knee deep. As soon as the first food pellet hits the water the surface is boiling from the feeding frenzy of several fish species. They swim all around, bumping into your legs and occasionally mistaking a toe for food. Lurking in the background were two Galapagos reef sharks. They didn't come right up close, but close enough to get a good look, and photos to prove that I've swum cage-less with sharks, only about 1m long but definitely sharks!

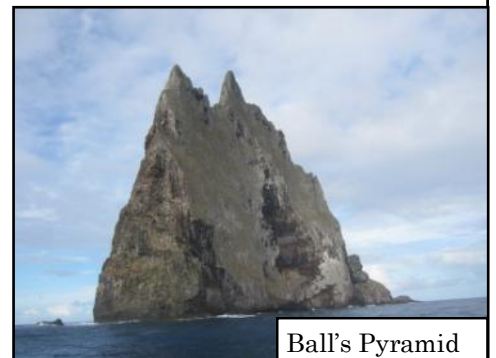
Afternoon snorkel sessions were gener-

ally followed by a barbeque. At most of the popular beach sites barbeque facilities and wood are provided, you just buy food and drink. This is provided by the Lord Howe Island Board which is the island's governing body. The Board is run by 7 members (3 appointed by the NSW State Government, & 4 Islanders who are elected by Islanders - giving the Islanders the balance of power). The Board employs a number of people to administer its decisions, from a CEO to the guys who provide the wood for the barbeques. The Board takes on roles that would be done by a number of different agencies here, it's like the Southland District Council, DOC and Environment Southland all rolled into one. One thing I found interesting was that no-one owns any land, all properties are leased from the Crown, yet some of the families have been there for six generations.



Barbequing

Always, I find the wildlife and natural history of any place interesting and like to get out and into it. I was lucky to get a space on a boat taking people out to Ball's Pyramid, another eroded remnant of a volcanic crater 23km south of the main island. The trip took a full afternoon and included a circumnavigation of the main island, laying some berlei which brought flesh-footed shearwaters right up to the boat, spotting other seabird species, and commentary and wit from our Islander skipper. This trip is also very weather dependant and the afternoon when I went was the only time the trip ran while I was there. On other days our skipper took people out on fishing charters (the fishing industry



Ball's Pyramid

supplies the island's restaurants but no fish is exported), and also guides parties up Mt Gower.

Ball's Pyramid itself is spectacular – about 1km long, 200m wide and 570m high. It is sparsely vegetated, not much can hang on to those cliffs, but is an important breeding site for many sea-bird species. Amazingly it has been climbed more than once, and visited occasionally by scientists. On one of those visits the LHI phasmid was rediscovered. What is a phasmid? The best description is a large chocolate-dipped stick insect. Phasmids were once common on the main island, but rats were accidentally introduced in 1918 and by the 1930's the phasmid (and 5 species of land birds) were considered extinct. Some phasmids were taken from Ball's Pyramid in 2001 and kept in captivity, with the hope that one day they can be re-established on the main island. Later we visited the captive phasmids, they are impressive insects and would make a good meal for a hungry rodent.

On the main Island there are a number of walking trails, all maintained by staff from the LHI Board but, dare I say it, nowhere near the standard of our local tracks. This also surprised me, given the number of older visitors. However, I coped and walked most of them, rewarded with spectacular views and more wildlife spotting. Currawongs seemed fairly common – big black crow-like birds with fierce yellow eyes but a call reminiscent of kokako, golden whistlers hung out near the house along with banded rail and a family of LHI woodhen (closely related to weka), and around the coast were red-tailed tropic birds. Providence petrels breed on the main island (thanks to the removal of feral pigs and cats) and were present day and night near the two mountains. One evening on dusk we went to a place called Little Island near the breeding colonies, where there were birds flying all around. A bit of war-whooping (a ritual known to seabird enthusiasts) brought a half dozen birds plopping down to the ground and scurrying around to investigate the source of the whooping. They showed no fear, one even nibbled my fingers.



LHI Woodhens

I also went and had a look at the refuse station – not a regular tourist site but I was interested because it was put forward as a model for Stewart Island when we were investigating options for refuse disposal some years ago. They claim to be diverting 85% of their waste stream from landfill which is pretty good. Recyclable paper & cardboard, and plastics and metals are sorted and sent back to Australia. Glass is finely crushed and used on-island as clean fill. Food waste is mixed with compostable paper and treated in a Vertical Composting Unit (VCU) which was experimental state of the art technology when



Refuse Station with VCU

installed. Initially it didn't work as planned and only relatively recently have they got it functioning almost as required. The end product can't be sold back to gardeners as compost either, because they can't vouch for what went into it. In hindsight it may be a good thing that we didn't go for the VCU option here.

Perhaps the most topical parallel between the LHI community and Stewart Island is the plan to eradicate rodents (rats and mice) from LHI, which has been on the table since 2001. Rodents are held responsible for the loss of several endemic species, many of which had disappeared by the 1930's. Until recently the island had a thriving kentia palm export industry which rats continually threatened by eating the seeds which were collected from the wild, and this provided some of the impetus for the proposed eradication. However, following the Global Financial Crisis the demand for the palms (once a potted feature in almost every office) decreased; the industry collapsed and with it much of the perceived rationale for the rodent eradication. Even so, there is an on-going rodent control programme in the community area using bait stations and a variety of poisons over the years. 84 kg of poisons in 121 tonnes of bait in bait stations was used to control rodents between 1986-2009, compared with an estimated 840 gms of poison in 42 tonnes of bait required for a one-off eradication. Eradication would end the need for on-going poisoning but the level of community support isn't as

high as it needs to be for the project to proceed at this time. I had the opportunity to ask one of the elected Board members why so, and he told me the planned method of aerial baiting was a show-stopper for some. The plan allows for hand baiting in the community area, but one look at the steep sided mountains is enough to tell you that ground based methods would be impossible over much of the island, so the result is a stalemate. He also felt, in hindsight, that the Board hadn't put enough effort into community consultation early on, allowing all sorts of mis-information to take hold. Hopefully this is something we can learn from regarding the Predator Free Rakiura project, and I think by asking the community to engage via the Governance Group, website, SIN etc, and by undertaking a feasibility study to provide detailed information about the options before deciding whether to proceed, we are taking a better track. Time will tell.

I could write a whole book on the rest of the topics that fascinated me about



Redundant Palm Nursery

Lord Howe Island (power from diesel generators at mainland prices, a formal definition for what constitutes being an "Islander", regulations about who can own vehicles, the bicycles that distinguish tourists from locals, invasive weed and African Big-headed ant eradication programmes, getting fresh milk by leaving a named bottle and some change at the milking shed, magnificent banyan trees, the human history and shipwrecks, early New Zealand settlers, a wrecked Catalina flying boat, the museum coffee shop, bats, rainbow skins, the Co-op,.....) but Jess would probably freak out. I'll finish by saying that I enjoyed exploring this amazing little island and meeting some of its people.



## Mazda Foundation supports Stewart Island Community

The Mazda Foundation has finished its first round of funding for 2014. This round saw more than \$75,000 donated to local charities and community organisations across the country, the largest amount granted since 2009.

The Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community & Environment Trust (SIRCET) was a recipient in this round and received \$2,736 to put towards equipment for their Kiwi Advocacy and Protection project, which aims to increase the local kiwi bird population.

A part of this project is to protect kiwis from the threat of dogs by running training sessions where pet dogs are taught to avoid a kiwi bird when they see one. A second part of the project is placing transmitters on kiwi to track their progress. The transmitters are due to be changed soon and the grant will allow SIRCET to purchase new ones to keep tracking the kiwi birds' movements.

SIRCET is a small group of passionate people who are dedicated to improving the environment surrounding Half-moon Bay while protecting local kiwi bird population.



### SIRCET Kiwi Advocacy Update

*By Cherie Hemsley*

My final monitoring of the kiwi released into the Ackers Project area 16 months ago has showed us that the kiwi have settled in well.

Takati (our golf course lady) has had her partner retransmitted! This has proven his identity as TX87! This pair has been together since their release 16 months ago in February 2013. When I first started monitoring them they used to hang out together at Evening Cove, but over the last 11 months it would seem the lure of days spent playing golf has moved them closer to the city! My original assumption that Takati had found a new man and was lured away from the bush to the city was incorrect! Turns out this was a mutual decision made with her original bush boy. Maybe they both compromised and settled in-between so they can have the best of both the 'big city' living of Oban and the quiet seclusion of the Ackers bush. Whatever the case maybe, I wish them luck and many 'birdies'.

inland where he has been for the past 7 months. I figure he must be a plant man as he seems to love hanging out in crown fern and astelia! A botanist after my own heart! We had game camera footage at one stage of him in a burrow with an unidentified female but we haven't seen her since. Maybe his obsession with flora was too much for her? I still hold out hope that he has met a fellow botanist and they can enjoy the Blechnum Discolor (crown fern) and Astelia Fragrans (bush flax) together!



And our only confirmed breeding pair Matatika and Ngaio, Matatika has been in the same area for 16 months but his mate Ngaio popped back up on my radar in October 2013! And since then it has been clear that her and Matatika are a couple. On a game camera in December we caught sight of a young chick! The first confirmation that any of the translocated birds bred! Well done to them! Both of these birds recently had their transmitters changed and I was privileged enough to be there when that happened and to see them up close, it melted my heart. Ngaio is a feisty mama and Matatika is a docile dad and here's hoping they continue to add chicks to the Ackers Point population.

For more information on the Kiwi and other things SIRCET is involved with check out the website [www.sircet.org.nz](http://www.sircet.org.nz)

*Here's to your garden  
Here's to your kids  
I heard you in the neighborhood  
I've been 11 months on your grids  
And kiwi's I'm beside you  
You run from the river when it long ran over you  
This is for you standing up to a bone chilling wind  
This is for the failures you collected from my sins  
And this is for your survival fears I never lay aside  
This is for your hanging in for the hope that never dies*

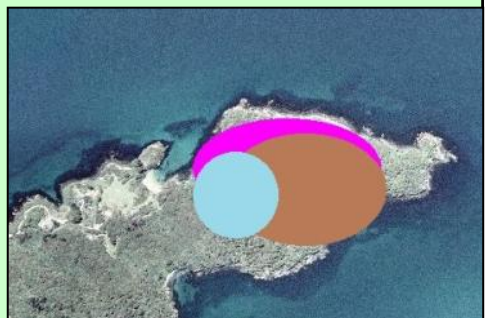
*And Kiwis I'm beside you  
You run from the river when it long ran over you*

Ka Kete Ano E Hua

*Cherie*



TX22..... well what can I say. I have a bit of a soft spot for this boy! Originally he used to hang around the Harold's Bay area but then he moved further



Territory map of the Ackers kiwi over the last year. Blue circle is tx 22, pink is Matatika and brown is Ngaio



**RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem****Handled with tender loving care, special archives are preserved in archival materials**

When acquisitions are made to the museum, they're not just stored on some dusty shelf to disintegrate over a period of time but handled with high priority. As you can see from the photograph above from a recent acquisition of archives of notes taken by Cedric and Elsie Smith, each one is put into tissue and then into a folder and lastly into a box all made from archival material which will preserve them for many generations

This next photograph shows the storage and handling of objects which are in special crates and each item has an individual "nest" made for it and special cloth tabs to pull the items out so handling can be kept to a bare minimum.



The last month and this next month we are fortunate to have Jo Massey, our Southland's Roving Museum Officer giving her time to train and help us with the many items we have to store. We also have Russell Beck, a specialist in Murihiku Maori culture material and pounamu (greenstone) coming to check over and name our archaeological collection. There will be a special open afternoon if anyone wants to come and watch, or bring in your own material for identification. This will be on the 31 July from 1 – 4 pm.

Orders are being taken to purchase the DVD of the Whalers Base that we had running in the hall during the Norwegian Weekend. We are including some footage from the other activities that happened during that weekend as well. This will be about 6 weeks to 2 months before they are ready for sale. Cost will be approximately \$25-\$30. Once again another great Christmas gift.

Museum hours up until the end of September are Monday thru Saturday 10 am-12:00 noon, Saturday 10am-1:30 and Sunday Noon-2 pm. We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 or [stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz)

**Urgent:**

Does anyone have photos or footage of the Norwegian Weekend Saturday dinner showing people and also the setup of the tables. Please bring or send to Rakiura Museum so we can get a good scan."

## Predator Free Rakiura – July SIN Update

From Geoff Simmons

Work on the detailed feasibility study is underway, and the Governance Group will be meeting again on July 29 so there will be more to say in the next SIN edition. In this issue we promised to look in detail at the survey carried out by Vicki Coats. Once again thanks to Vicki for her work on the survey. We were encouraged by the fact that the majority of respondents to that survey were, like the poll we took over a year ago, keen to see a Predator Free Rakiura. The only question, and it is important of course, is how we get there. That is the focus of the whole project evaluation exercise.

You have already heard the headline results of this recent survey. However, a few of our Governance Group members (Sandy and Garry) sat down with Vicki and waded through the detail of comments made. This proved to be very useful, and threw up a bunch of topics that we will cover off in our SIN updates over the coming months.

A few of the questions/comments raised have already been discussed in SIN or in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Predator Free Rakiura website ([www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz](http://www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz)). These questions include impact of the eradication upon deer and pets, the costs and benefits of the project to the islanders, eradication methods, biosecurity, and the fence. We will cover these questions off this month. In future SIN issues we will look at some of the bigger questions raised around the fence, the impact of toxins (if used), what happens on private land, possibilities of a genetic bottleneck among bird species and the research into new technologies.

First up, deer and pets. Remember that deer are not one of the target species for the predator eradication. Feral cats are a target species, but that shouldn't preclude people having pet cats and dogs in the future – as long as they are identified and are neutered (to stop them breeding if they go feral).

The issue of how to protect deer and pets during the eradication will be covered in the detailed feasibility study. This is standard operating procedure for any eradication – identify risks and work out ways to reduce those risks as much as possible.

### FAQ 2d) What are the steps to finalising a proposal for public consideration?

There are many and we will work our way step by step through them. Clearly not all are known at the outset as feedback from stakeholders is an essential part of the process. But as much as they are known right now, on the technical side firstly they involve DOC deciding whether in concept the objective is feasible and providing an initial idea of how the project might be approached. The latest (April 2014) overview on that is available on the Predator Free Rakiura website, along with a report on the likely economic and social impact. It is not too late to provide the GG with your feedback on these reports – we encourage everyone to do so; feedback received will be considered in the feasibility studies. The feasibility studies will cover the following

- A biosecurity plan (with options for managing the risks)
- A scoping study of the predator fence (looking at best location, design specifications, cost, etc)

Detailed assessment of the options for eradication (including options for maintaining deer populations throughout the project – this was initially presented as a separate project but is actually inseparable from eradication options)

### FAQ 3a) Will the islanders need to fund the projects?

No quite the opposite. In pure economic benefit terms the financial benefits for the Stewart Island economy are major. Whether individual islanders take advantage of that is their concern; as with all such major investment projects, some people do some people don't. There is more on this in the Economic and Social Impact report, which is available on the website. We don't expect increased tourism to increase infrastructure costs, for a number of reasons:

- Predator free status would likely

attract higher spending tourists rather than greatly increased numbers of tourists.

- The tourist levy is expected to also help cover costs of any additional infrastructure.

Quotas and higher prices can be used to limit numbers, if issues were encountered.

As for rates, the Councils participating in the Governance Group have not made any decision to contribute financially to the project as yet. Any proposal to do so would be subject to the Council's usual Annual/Long Term Planning public submission processes; whereby the Councils would identify any proposed funding contribution in their draft Annual Plans and then any party would have the opportunity to lodge a submission either in support of or opposition to any such proposed contributions.

### FAQ 5a) How reliable is the fence technology?

Fences are not infallible. They need to be well designed and constantly monitored as any fallen branches or damage to the fence can cause breaches. Also the end of fences can cause problems with animals moving around them. Knowing the weaknesses of a fence allows us to plan for breaches and ready the response required to reduce the chance of populations re-establishing with the predator free area. DOC is continually reassessing best practice in these barriers and specifically looking at ways to reduce these issues for the Halfmoon Bay fence, such as building the fence onto jetties at either end. The predator fence scoping paper (as part of the detailed feasibility study) will cover the issue of reliability (amongst others).

### FAQ 6a) What eradication methods will be used and what will be their impact on the community and environment?

At this stage no proposals have been made nor decisions made on eradication methods for either project. Detailed options will be developed under the guidance of the Governance Group, and the communities of interest will have plenty of opportunity to seek elaboration and express preferences over which one(s) they want to see implemented. Aerial application of toxins

will not be used for the township area, and work is going into new technologies for the rest of the island.

**FAQ 6b) What biosecurity measures will be used to prevent reinvasion?**

This will take some work during this next stage of feasibility assessment to work out how intensive the island biosecurity system needs to be. Certainly some work will be needed on the wharves at Halfmoon Bay and Bluff, as a minimum, to ensure rodents are kept off the ships and not mistakenly bought to the island. Protecting a predator-free Halfmoon Bay (and ultimately, Stewart Island) will require vigilance from everyone. It should be noted that Rangitoto and Motutapu islands in the Hauraki Gulf are pest free and currently operate with little obvious island biosecurity measures; indeed the system is virtually invisible to individuals. The aim is to recreate that experience on Stewart Island as far as possible. A paper on biosecurity proposals will be developed as part of the feasibility study for the project.

**Economics – the Costs and Benefits to Stewart Island/ Oban Economy**

A number of questions or comments were made about the economic study and whether the Oban community would really be better off under the proposal. To reiterate, our estimates of 88 jobs and \$10m in revenue for the

local economy were conservative. Most predator eradications have led to tourism doubling or tripling. Our estimates are far lower than this.

One related issue seems to be that people don't think a Predator Free Rakiura would really increase birdlife in the Halfmoon Bay area. As stated in the report, many predator free areas have more than doubled the number of native bird species present, and already existing species become 2-3 times more prevalent. We will revisit this issue in future SIN updates.

There were some questions about whether the cost estimates for the fence were accurate. We are sure that the ballpark figure is right, based on the current average cost per metre for these fences, plus a margin for the additional costs posed by building on Rakiura. These estimates will be confirmed in greater detail during the detailed feasibility study..

However, the fact this question was posed raises a couple of interesting points. Firstly it is worth emphasising that locals won't be asked to contribute to the costs of the project. If anything the local economy gets a boost from building the fence as that means more employment and money spent in the area. In fact in the short term, the biggest boost from this project would come from the workers employed to build the fence and eradicate the predators in the Halfmoon Bay area.

Someone asked if Ulva Island could be a World Heritage site and gather the tourism benefits we highlighted. This is unlikely as there are other predator free islands around New Zealand that would rate above Ulva in terms of size and biodiversity. Currently there is no predator free area with the scale to really challenge for World Heritage status.

Another person questioned if we could look at the overall income generated by fishing on Stewart Island/ Rakiura as opposed to tourism. Unfortunately there is no data available at this level from Statistics NZ due to privacy protection. Although we note that the questioner wanted to include charter boats in the fishing data – this is actually classed as tourism within the official statistics.

**Note: We had one follow up question to the piece we did on marine impacts of poison drops in the June SIN, on whether there would be impacts on mussel/oyster aquaculture. This issue has been studied previously (such as on Great Barrier Island) and there was no impact. This is because aquaculture is further from shore than the wild mussels mentioned in the Ulva study.**

**Seniors Housing Update**

Over recent months, I have been busy with staff at Venture Southland, investigating the possibilities of progressing a business plan, and also the respective financial needs of capital and ongoing commitment, all required to make the project self-sufficient in perpetuity.

An application has been successful and approved at a Venture Southland Directorate Meeting on 23 June to commit \$15,000 in order to employ The Property Group from Wellington to prepare all the necessary paperwork,

complete with financing possibilities and likely funding agencies.

The Property Group operate country-wide with this type of work and are both capable and with those Government agencies that might provide funding. It will also be necessary to provide some of our own capital finance, and whilst some may come from agencies in Southland, "local" capital is also very welcome.

In addition to the \$15,000, the Sampson Trustees will assist with additional funds to cover travel and disbursements, which may cost \$3-\$4,000.

It is likely that once we have a suitable proposition operating that other parts of Southland may be able to utilise our model. This is a further exciting step. Meanwhile, please keep in touch with nurses Debs or Marty who are encouraging these moves, or with myself. We will be asking all interested seniors and their families and friends to a further meeting as soon as more info is available.

Bruce Ford

(Continued from page 5)

**LETTERS** ☒☒

Its a shame we don't get a letter of "Thank You" for working your butt off and looking after visitors, for staying open in the off-season to provide a service, for unrelentingly promoting Stewart Island, and YES, YES, YES for striving to keep good standards.....

Perhaps its time the Stewart Island Promotion Association constitution was revamped.

Furhana Ahmad  
Ruggedy Range™ Wilderness Experience

☒  
**What Is Full Information?**

*By Ron Morrison*

Have you noticed that the Governance Group spends a lot of time telling the community that intelligent decisions cannot be made without full information? Have you also noticed that they say this while fast-tracking the 'Halfmoon Bay Project'?

The 'Halfmoon Bay Project' is all about doing something now. It proposes to eradicate the township area while DOC undertakes several years of research in order to determine whether or not eradication of the entire island can become technically feasible (it currently is not). But, starting now comes with a cost – a predator-proof fence.

A predator-proof fence is required to prevent reinvasion of the eradicated township by predators from the untreated adjacent area. DOC does not feel that any other technology

currently exists that is equivalent to or better than a fence with respect to preventing reinvasion.

But, large scale detection tools, capable of detecting "very low numbers of predators across large landscapes at high sensitivity", have been identified as the number one technical innovation challenge, with respect to establishing the feasibility of total island eradication. Total island eradication will require dividing the island into zones, with each zone eradicated separately, and it will probably take a couple of years to complete. And once again, eradication is only feasible if reinvasion from the untreated adjacent zones is prevented. It is important to note that in this context, the township is just another zone.

In order for this new technology to be successful, it will have to be equivalent to a fence with respect to preventing reinvasion. Technology with this sophistication would also provide the methodological improvement needed to prevent reinvasion of smaller eradicated islands (remember Ulva Island). If this new technology is unsuccessful, the alternative is an island covered in a maze of fences.

We seem to be proceeding as if starting now is a requirement, with the community only able to choose between the options presented to us. But, the 'Halfmoon Bay Project' is actually just a proposal, something to do while DOC does its homework. If we delay township eradication until DOC determines how total island eradication will proceed, then a predator-proof fence may not be required. Starting now is not a requirement, it is an option.

Five years of research has the ability to present the community with an entirely different view of the options available for eradication – for both the township and for the remainder of the island. Given that the community appears to be against a predator-proof fence, and that new technology may eliminate the need and costs of a fence, what is the point of starting now?

Let's wait for full full-information.



### Air NZ background info

Air New Zealand and DOC are working together as a partnership to protect, preserve and promote our unique flora and fauna for future generations to enjoy. Air New Zealand sponsors four of the nine Great Walks around the country, and we are fortunate enough to be one of the chosen four. This funding will help bring back some of New Zealand's rarest native birds to their natural habitat. The other chosen three Great Walks include: the Routeburn, Lake Waikaremoana and Milford.

This three year partnership started in 2012 and has been extended to 2017. "This is a "win, win" situation for everyone, with opportunities to promote our Great Walks through domestic and international travel," Philippa Green Stewart Island DOC Ranger says. "You may have seen Bear Grylls in-flight safety video, which is very popular and great for promoting our Great Walks, so much in fact this increased our number of visitors on the Rakiura Track for the 2013/14 year by 21% with a total of 8,130 bed nights. There has also been an 17% increase of visitors using our Great Walks throughout the country. With its million frequent flyer data base, there is strong value with conservation gain in encouraging and connecting with people to get out and experience our Great Walks."



The partnership between Air New Zealand and DOC is worth about \$1 million annually. Air New Zealand will also contribute staff time, with members of the Air New Zealand's 'Green Team' set to take part in conservation initiatives. Recently we have had two visits from Air New Zealand this year, in March the Air New Zealand corporate team helped out with the Ecological Integrity monitoring of Ulva Island Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve, with results due in the next SIN. In June we had the Air New Zealand Gold Elite Competition "winners" exploring the Rakiura track pest control programme, Kiwi Spotting at night, and heading out with SIRCET and DOC staff for a routine health check and transmitter replacement on two Tokoeka Stewart Island Kiwi.

"Our partnership's long term vision is for visitors to see some of our rarest native birds, some of which have not been seen for over a century, on these premier Great Walks."

### Air NZ visitor and Kiwi transmitter replacement with DOC and SIRCET

Two weeks ago we had our Air New Zealand Gold Elite Competition 'winners' Toby King, Misako Mitchell, Susan Sidey and Giorgio Haendle. They had won a competition through Air New Zealand to spend a day or two with a DOC Ranger relating to the Air New Zealand/DOC part-

nership project. Air New Zealand sponsored the translocation of 11 kiwis from Ulva Island to Ackers Point in February 2013. The purpose of this was to increase the population of Kiwi around the Halfmoon Bay area; giving visitors an opportunity to see Kiwi in the wild at the start of their Great Walk journey. This was an added bonus by increasing the genetic diversity of Kiwi on Ulva Island, replacing these birds with Kiwi from Stewart Island (Masons Bay area). This allowed the Ulva birds to 'fill in the gaps' that the survey results showed, allowing the birds to establish new territory. The purpose of this was to increase genetic diversity of Kiwi on Ulva Island by replacing these birds with Kiwi from Stewart Island (Mason's Bay area), and fill in the gaps on Ackers Point to establish new territory for the Ulva Island Kiwi.

Our Gold Elite winners won this amazing opportunity and were very eager to get out and experience this once in a life time privilege to see Kiwi up close and personal; but before we could start searching for Kiwi we needed to go through a kiwi handling demonstration. Kiwis are so delicate and need to be held carefully and correctly and being a national treasure (tāonga) we need to remember this is all about the safe and wellbeing of the birds, with limited disturbance as possible. Another point we needed to make clear was that we may not catch a kiwi today, as these kiwi are smart and can be tricky to catch. After our briefing we put our tramping boots on to head off track to Ackers Point. They were impressed with our pristine waters and beautiful rugged coastal bush, which has been lost or degraded in areas where our visitors come from. Along the way our visitors couldn't believe the kiwi sign that Cherie Hemsley was so enthusiastically pointing out, even getting them to sniff the unique unmistakable smell of kiwi poo! We climbed up to the top of Ackers Point to some beautiful open bush tracking the birds using telemetry gear. We found Matatika and Ngiao and successfully replaced their transmitters then released them back to their burrow.

Seven of the 11 transmitters have failed or fallen off the birds transferred to Ackers Point; currently there are four birds with transmitters. Matatika and Ngiao are in good condition and doing well, SIRCET is carrying-out the monitoring of this project with technical advice and support from DOC.

For more information visit: [www.doc.govt.nz/airnewzealand](http://www.doc.govt.nz/airnewzealand) or contact Philippa Green at DOC Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Centre.



## Diary of a Girl Mechanic

By Sharon Ross

As we are still experiencing some winter cold as I write this I thought I would continue on with the theme of gas and safety. I have to thank Consumer magazine for some of the inspiration as they obviously though likewise and also had an article on gas safety this month especially in regard to free-standing heaters.

LPG is a great source of heat (and especially helpful for BBQ's ) but burning it produces harmful gases – namely nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide – which can cause serious health effects and even death. There have been instances in NZ where people have died from carbon monoxide poisoning using portable LPG appliances indoors or in poorly ventilated areas.

Carbon monoxide is the most harmful of these gases, it causes sleepiness and loss of concentration and at high levels can be fatal. Nitrogen dioxide can worsen asthma symptoms. In 2009 a couple took a possibly faulty patio heater into the bedroom of their Taumarunui home to keep themselves warm whilst they slept. Sadly both of them died overnight, the coroner who ruled on their death hoped that this incident should serve as a reminder to others.

### To use an LPG heater safely:

When the heater is lit always keep internal doors **and** a window open.

Only use your heater when you are awake – even if you should be thinking of a short nap – turn it off (and who wouldn't be thinking of a short nap on a quiet Sunday afternoon!)

If you have children, use safety guards – and always

adhere to the “keep a metre from the heater” rule.

Keep flammable items well clear of the heater

Be careful not to place the heater near curtains, bedding or drying laundry

When you're not using the heater – turn the gas off at the bottle – ALWAYS!

Store gas bottles in well-ventilated areas and away from open flames

Each time you connect the gas bottle test for gas leaks – you just need a little bit of soapy detergent water and a brush. Brush the water round the connection – if it is bubbling it has a gas leak and should not be used. Tighten up all connections and re-check.

Never use unflued LPG heaters in a bedroom, bathroom, caravan or other small confined space

Don't use an LPG patio heater, camping heater, camping stove or any other LPG fuelled appliance to warm an enclosed space – this includes tents

Don't be tempted to use your BBQ inside during winter. If you do use it in the garage leave the door open and ensure there is good ventilation.

I have definitely seen a few of those rules broken over the years (particularly the BBQ one, but not by me!) and until now have never really thought of the potential effects of it. These reminders can be very handy to ensure we all are safe!



## Good weather for knitting!

It's that time of the year again to pack up the knitted blankets etc for the “Mission without Borders” group to send overseas. So far this year we have 7 blankets, thanks to Ann Pullen, Pat King & Loraine Hansen, also to everyone who knitted squares, whether it was one or thirty, it all helps.

A special mention to Barbara Wilson in Te Anau and her friend Angela who gave me some squares in December and sent another lot last week. [I believe Angela learnt to knit doing the squares and has now gone on to knit jerseys for her nephews, good one!] Also to Rosemary Dunlop for her 30 squares.

Thanks to Vicki for getting us wool last year.

Keep up the good work everyone, remember it is on going and children's jerseys, hats, gloves etc are welcome as well. It is also good weather for knitting.

Thanks Elaine, ph. 2191027

For your reading interest, a new essay from Dancing Star Foundation.

<https://econewsnetwork.org/2014/06/eco-essay-love-of-birds/>

**SIRCET Update**

*Shona Sangster*

July is proving to be a bittersweet month for SIRCET as we have recently farewelled our Pest Manager Denise Hayes. We would like to acknowledge the fantastic contribution Denise has made to SIRCET and thank her for her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication. I thought I'd let Denise sum it up in her own words – a fuller version can be found in SIRCET's July newsletter which is out now.

“Due to personal reasons, I am heading back up north for a few months and have therefore resigned from SIRCET. Over the last couple of weeks, I have been reflecting on all that I have learned and achieved during my 3 and ½ years as the Pest Control and Nursery Manager for the Trust. Despite appearances – it certainly hasn't all been about rat trapping!! ....I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all the local volunteers that continue to support the project by undertaking a variety of tasks within the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project. Also my thanks to staff at DOC for the opportunities, advice and support they have given me during this time. Lastly but not least, a huge thanks to the members of the Trust for their ongoing support and opportunity to have been part of this wonderful, fulfilling project. Look out for me in a few months' time when I return to the island - I will no doubt be

taking on some trap lines as a volunteer!!”

The sweet to go with the bitter is that we have had our night bird 2014 call count results in, thanks to Jo McClelland and all our wonderful volunteers, and there is a marked increase in the number of calls over what was recorded last year. This year, over the 68 hours of monitoring, 61 kiwi calls were recorded, 34 weka calls and 82 ruru calls. Last year we recorded 24 kiwi calls, 17 weka calls and 58 ruru calls. Pop into the environment centre to check out our data in more detail.

We also farewell one of our Trustees with Cherie Hemsley resigning. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of the Trust! We are always looking for new trustees to help share the load and now is a great time to join the team. It would be great to have more people on board to share our vision of the Stewart Island community embracing environmental ecosystem protection and restoration. If you are interested in getting involved contact one of the existing Trustees, Di, Letitia, Jim, Sharon, Alina and Matt.

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

Rauhuia; New Zealand linen flax (*Linum monogynum*)



Linum monogynum produces lots of pure white flowers (sometimes tinged pale blue) from late spring through to the end of summer. With its wispy, refined appearance, rauhuia seems at odds with the ferocity of the coastal environments in which it is mostly found. Its delicate foliage just doesn't look up to receiving the attentions of a salty gale, but nevertheless, this compact shrub takes its place as one of the many beautiful details that adorn cliffs and rocky ground of our coastlines.

Rauhuia is an easy plant to grow, but requires some thought in its placement, due to its relatively short lifespan. It is ideally suited as a gap filler or a floral highlight, rather than as a structural shrub. Plants seed themselves freely within suitable conditions, providing gardeners with a continuing supply of material for following seasons. After plants have set seed, it is best to trim the longer stems, to encourage a compact form.

**Church Hill Craft Brewing Festival 2014**

Are you a keen craft brewer ?

Are you keen to meet other brewers and celebrate the craft ?

This is your chance; let us know you are interested

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014 is the Church Hill Craft Brewing Festival

If you want to enter a brew or two then email:

**restaurant@churchhill.co.nz**

Details updated on our website

**www.churchhill.co.nz**

*I know there are a few keen brewers out there so don't be shy*

Entry by July and brew ready by mid-September



Show Me Shorts film festival is coming to the Island.

Show Me Shorts is New Zealand's premiere short film festival, bringing Kiwi and international shorts to theatres throughout New Zealand

(see <http://www.showmeshorts.co.nz>)

Highlights from the festival will be screening at the theatre on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Keep an eye out for further information on [www.facebook.com/bunkhousetheatre](http://www.facebook.com/bunkhousetheatre) or in the SIN and make sure you save the dates so you don't miss out.

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford

**“The Circle” by Dave Eggers and “A Special Relationship” by Douglas Kennedy**

“The Circle” is a novel about what could so easily happen, given our reliance on the internet and social networking. It’s scary stuff and if you are easily frightened, is enough to make you want to cancel your Facebook membership and dump your online banking! When Mae Holland leaves her safe and boring job for the utopian campus of The Circle, she enters a world where personal privacy counts for nothing. The Circle is a company with a trio known as The Three Wise Men at the helm. The acknowledged leader is a visionary in the computer world, and he and his two off-siders successfully operate and market to the world the concept of one password, one PIN, one identity, for every human being. To begin with, being useless at remembering passwords and PIN’s, I thought this was a splendid idea but knew there must be a downside or there would be no story! Using this single “identity”, you can shop, work, eat and have all your health needs taken care of. It works on a smaller scale within The Circle itself, where the employees have unlimited access to everything from state-of-the-art gyms through to exposure to up-and-coming poets and musicians. The downside that we perceive – but which Mae seems immune to – is that this is the beginning of “big-brothering” to the max. The twist is, will Mae eventually realise what the enigmatic Kalden and her best friend Annie are hinting at, especially when Mae becomes the inadvertent catalyst for the final step to be taken by The Circle in its quest for a form of world domination. This is a page-turner, a thriller; there are no murders or spies or any other conventional tools of the thriller. The suspense is quite remarkable, however; the characters are quite believable; the situation isn’t beyond the realms of possibility; the outcome is quite mind-blowing. If you have doubts about our reliance on things “internet-ty”, this will reinforce your doubts, and if not, you’ll still enjoy the tension.

It was difficult to find something to get my teeth into after “The Circle”, but “**North of Boston**”, a debut thriller by **Elisabeth Elo** did at least take my mind off it. There are

dead bodies in this one –of animals, whales in particular, as well as men (‘goodies’ and ‘villains’ alike) and though it speaks to conservationists and environmentalists, it doesn’t preach but relies on thrills and suspense to keep your attention. It had me nervous until the end.

In complete contrast to either of the above, “**A Special Relationship**” charts the relationship of two highly successful journalists, their marriage, the birth of their son – and then Sally’s descent into the black pit of total despair known as ‘clinical depression’. It also shows how easily both The Law and people can be manipulated, and how money may not buy happiness but *lack* of money can certainly cause immense sorrow and terrible trouble. I have – thankfully – no personal experience of ‘clinical depression’ or ‘post-partum depression’. After reading this gripping tale, I have complete admiration for those who battle this appalling disease. It is difficult to realise that Kennedy isn’t writing from personal experience. Again, it isn’t a thriller in the accepted form of the genre, but is nevertheless a page-turner, and turns into a real ‘court room drama’ with an ending which is the stuff of both dreams and nightmares. If you had told me in advance what a dark story this was, I would have passed it over in preference for something lighter. I’m so pleased I picked it up, however. The blurb on the back doesn’t do justice to this brilliant story – I should have realised I wouldn’t be short-changed by a Kennedy novel, and I highly recommend this as yet another gripping read.

## WANTED:

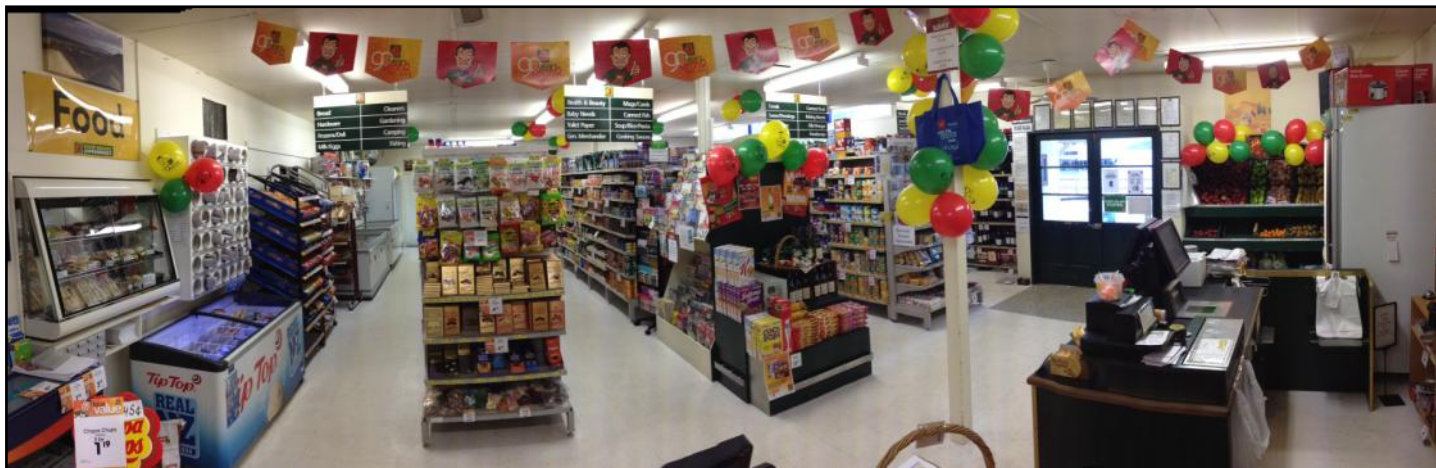
Volunteers to be in a Stewart Island cooking show!

It doesn't matter how well you think you cook, it's just for fun!



If you're keen or want more info please contact Jo at [jejmcclelland@gmail.com](mailto:jejmcclelland@gmail.com).





**A Special Shop Talk by Jules Retberg**

**Four Square celebrates 90 years strong!**

You'd think poor Four Square Charlie could retire having reached 90 years old on 4<sup>th</sup> July. But no, Richard beat him to it, and he's not even 90 ...

As many of you know, Richard has retired from the Stewart Island Four Square. We'll really miss having him around but wish him well as he explores the island and does all the things he's never had time to do. We've heard rumours of a possible new career as house-slave, chef, and volunteer dog-walker ...



While Richard steps into his slippers by the fire (or works out how to hang them from the heat pump), Sam will be stepping into the bubbling cauldron of managing a bunch of unruly staff! He has taken over Richard's part of the business with Jill so the shop will be business as usual.

To celebrate Four Square's birthday we had a well-attended wine tasting afternoon, a delicious chocolate birthday cake, prize giveaways, balloons for the kids and general merriment! The celebrations continue through to mid July and there will be a fabulous colouring competition, not to mention a free Four Square biscuit tin for purchases over \$30 plus the chance to win a Four Square branded MINI – yes a real life size MINI!

And now for something completely different. The winter ferry timetable means some of our deliveries now come at night. Yes we unload it in the dark, so please be patient!

**MONDAY:**

Bread comes off the 5.30pm ferry – we try to have it on the shelf by 6pm.

**TUESDAY:**

Chilled and frozens come off the 10.30am ferry. We fill the chillers 11am-2pm.

**WEDNESDAY:**

Bread, milk and main grocery order comes off the 10.30am ferry – on the shelf from 11am onwards. Big day for us, it can take well into the afternoon to get everything unpacked.

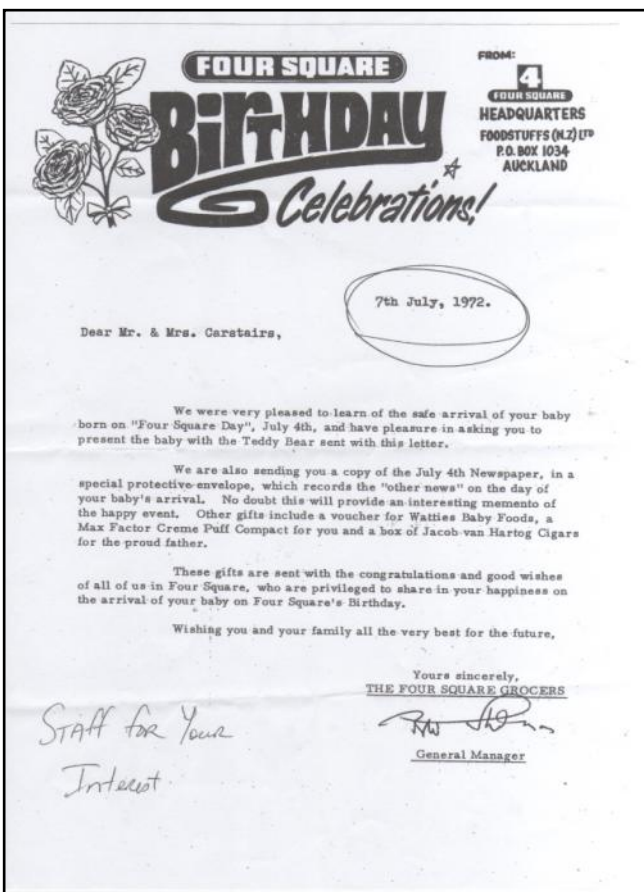
**FRIDAY:**

Bread comes off the 5.30pm ferry - we try to have it on the shelf by 6pm.

**SATURDAY:**

Milk comes off the 10.30am ferry. We fill the chillers from 11am onwards.

How Four Square *used* to celebrate bub's birthday; cigars all round!



**SOUL KITCHEN** by Lania Davis

I love group cooking, enjoying each other's company, laughing, maybe have a wine or two, it's family, creating the meal together, for each other.

Food brings people together, and I guess it's one of the reasons I enjoy cooking so much. The Italians have definitely got it right! Cooking together, drinking good wine, and laughing and eating great food as a family. When I say family my friends are included as family, they are a part of me and are important in my quality of happiness in everyday life.

Food happiness is homemade soup when you have the flu. Baking from a community member when you arrive home with you new baby.

Sunday roast with family and friends.

Even a good old shop brought pie when you drunk too much the night before hehe. This never happens to me by the way.....



I recently had a pasta making day at home, an invited anyone keen to join in, we all enjoyed the ease in which it was too make, helping each other to roll out the sheets of pasta to the desired thickness

and through the fettuccine roller to making our nests of pasta to take home.

Pasta is one of my comfort foods and my whole family LOVE pasta so I am lucky! Even the husband got in to making pasta with me last time and we ended up making a whole day of it, finishing with deep fried ravioli with dipping sauce!

So if you haven't got a pasta machine, you can pick up a cheap one for around 20 dollars, but if you plan to use it a lot I recommend paying more for a better quality one, as with my experience the ones with the plastic clamps eventually break. So I upgraded.

Without further ramblings here is my recipe for egg fettuccine, best of all it's only two ingredients and you don't need type 00 flour to make it!

**PASTA DOUGH**

measure 600 grams of high grade flour ( I use pam's )  
6 large room temp eggs

**METHOD:** add flour to large bowl and create a well. Add 6 eggs and gently beat together with a knife till combine roughly with flour.

Turn mix onto a floured surface and kneed until dough

forms a smooth elastic ball. Takes about 5-8 minutes. You can test elasticity by making a small indent with your finger and if print bounces back up, you're ready to wrap your dough ball in glad wrap and rest in fridge for half an hour.

When dough has finished resting, cut ball into 4 slices. Flour each side, and using your pasta machines highest setting (where rollers have the biggest gap ) roll through your first piece. When through fold each side of pasta sheet to the middle so one side is over lapping the other, and repeat process several times till dough is even sized ( this doesn't have to be perfect!) once this has been done for all sheets, continue rolling pasta sheets through roller reducing dial on side each time you past dough through rollers, till you reach desired thickness. Each pasta machine is a bit different here, I recommend stopping when you can just see the shadow of your hand through sheet. Cut sheets into manageable lengths, and move crank handle to fettuccine side, run sheets through, and sprinkle flour over fettuccine and fluff it through your pasta, place into Palm size nests.

**TIPS FOR PASTA MAKING:** always dust sheets with flour as you roll out sheets, it stops the dough sticking! You should get around 9-10 nests out of one batch. I recommend freezing your nests in a container with baking paper between layers. You can then get it out to cook straight from frozen when water is boiling! Takes around 5 minutes from freezer to plate!

This sauce will taste very familiar if you have ever had pasta at church hill. I asked Deanne If I could share her delicious creamy pasta sauce and luckily for you all she was happy too.

**CREAMY PASTA SAUCE**

100 ml white wine  
600ml cream  
1 Tbsp of dried tarragon  
2 Tbsp freshly chopped parsley  
Salt and freshly ground pepper  
50g Parmesan cheese ( grated)

**METHOD:**

Put wine, cream, tarragon, salt n pepper into pot, bring just to the boil, then simmer for 10-15 minutes till sauce has thickened. Add whatever else you like, cooked bacon bits, mushrooms, toasted pinenuts, cooked chicken pieces etc. just before adding pasta, add fresh parsley and Parmesan cheese to sauce, reserving some of both for garnish. Stir through pasta and serve and enjoy!

I hope everyone with some spare time gives pasta making a go, you won't be disappointed! Thanks to

Deanne for sharing her Church Hill creamy sauce recipe, and most importantly have fun with whomever you rope in to with doing it you.



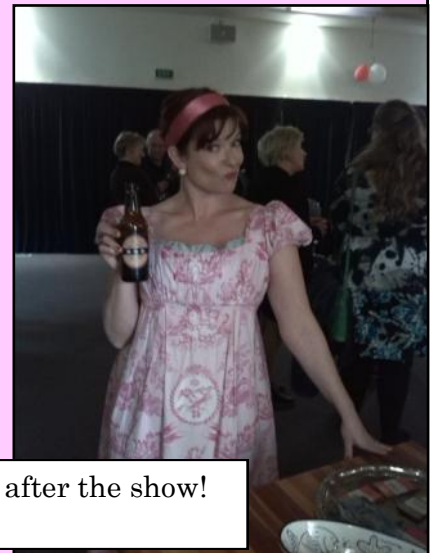
***REVIEW: Promise and Promiscuity,***  
**a new musical by Jane Austen and Penny Ashton.**

from Joanne McClelland  
*Austen Enthusiast*



Well, with a title like that, the show was already off to a good start! And it certainly lived up to its potential. Not just for the Austen fans in the audience, *Promise and Promiscuity* was filled to the brim with both Austen quotes and present-day references, as well as some toe-tapping musical numbers. Ms. Ashton portrayed an entire host of characters effortlessly, seamlessly transitioning from one instantly recognisable character to the next, and her interaction with her audience was truly fabulous. Certainly no one who attended will be forgetting Mr. Salmon in a hurry – invited up to dance halfway through, he was engaged by the end of the evening! It was a great night out, and the Toi Rakiura show had us laughing the whole way, thanks to Ms. Ashton’s fantastic energy and impishly wicked humour.

So remember folks; *it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune... wants to keep it.*



Penny enjoying a Speights after the show!

If you enjoyed Penny’s wit, you can catch up with her 7.30pm on Saturdays on Heartland, SKY TV Channel 17

**Kiwi Gold**  
*Enjoy a great night in with host Penny Ashton every Saturday night, featuring gems from the television archive celebrating the way we were, how we thought, those big Kiwi moments, and not to forget those incredible outfits and maverick hair styles!*

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## Stewart Island in the Media

Hunting on Maori TV  
 Seafood Magazine shark story  
 North & South Magazine

And don't forget Shark Week starts in August on  
 Discovery Channel with some of the shows shot  
 here on the Island!

Hunting Aotearoa, Series 10 Episode 8  
 Thursday 26 June 2014



Matus heads to Stewart Island which offers up the best of hunting both on land and sea. The target species is the elusive white tail deer, with hunters Riki Walls and Shane Armstrong.



**Maori Medicinal Garden**

*Letitia McRitchie*

I was researching medicinal plant practitioners from Stewart Island and the name Agnes (Granny) Harrold came up. A bit of research and what a fascinating character! Agnes was Canadian by birth whose mother was



Bush Lawyer, not a nice garden plant!

an Amerindian. She married James Harrold and after moving to the Orkney Islands they came to New Zealand in 1848 and shifted to Stewart Island in 1861. She lived her for over 40 years and among many other roles, she was the unofficial doctor and midwife over that time. She was well known for her use of plants to prevent and cure illness's, using a mixture of exotic and native plants. She must have had knowledge from her mother's culture and would have gained more

from her 50 years in New Zealand. I was hoping to learn some of her remedies but the only reference I could find was her use of "Squaw Tea" for mothers during childbirth. This contained raspberry tea and tansy, and helped a lot of Stewart Island babies into the world. She also recommended 'Bravo duck' (shag) soup for new mothers, not something I would like anyone to try!! (they are protected!). Does anyone know any more of her remedies?

Many locals would have noticed some changes to the town gardens with diggers putting large holes through some of them. While it was an extreme way to weed, it was necessary to repair the pipework under them. Their destruction has provided a wonderful opportunity to place a medicinal garden in a prime location in the township. This could be planted with a variety of medicinal and useful plants and would be easily accessible to visitors and locals.

I've been researching medicinal plants and have come up with some that

are not suitable to plant in a garden! Bidibid was used as a tonic for kidney and bladder problems, supplejack sap was good applied to cuts and scrapes and bush lawyer tea was good for coughs. Handy plants but not very useful in a garden!!

Manuka is a plant that has many medicinal uses and in recent years manuka honey has been increasingly used for its antibacterial properties. Maori used the crushed and boiled seeds to apply as a poultice to open wounds. This would no doubt have contained high levels of manuka oil. Manuka oil has shown to be effective against 39 separate microorganisms, in particular, streptococci and staphylococcal bacteria and fungi that affect the skin. A useful plant to have around!



A beautiful Manuka in flower

**Isolated Communities Youth Grant Fund**

On 25 June, Minister of Youth Affairs Nikki Kaye announced funding totalling \$20,000 to establish a Youth Grant Fund specifically targeted at New Zealand's remote and relatively small isolated island communities, including Waiheke Island, Great Barrier Island, Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands.

The Youth Grant Fund aims to support young people and/or organisations working in partnership with youth from these island communities. They can apply for

grants of between \$2000 - \$5000 for youth-led initiatives, projects and events for and by young people aged 12-24 years.

Examples of projects the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) would consider funding include initiatives that:

- facilitate young people's active contribution to decision-making and develop young people's leadership skills
- enable young people to implement projects and events in their communities

The funding will support a range of leadership and developmental opportunities for young people, for example, it could support young people to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award programme, or it could support a group of young people who want to lead an environmental project.

MYD will target key organisations and/or individuals from Waiheke Island, Great Barrier Island, Stewart Island and Chatham Islands to promote the Youth Grant Fund.

<http://www.myd.govt.nz/funding/>

*An interesting read to go with Sandy's Oban Globetrotter article!*

**LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD**

**PLAIN LANGUAGE GUIDE TO THE LORD HOWE ISLAND ACT**

**Who Is A Lord Howe Islander?**

The Lord Howe Island Act 1953 (the Act) defines a group of people as Lord Howe Islanders and gives them certain legal privileges. For example, Islanders have the first option to lease land on the Island and only Islanders may be elected as members of the Board that administers the affairs of the Island.

**How do you become a Lord Howe Islander under the Act?**

Generally speaking, to be an Islander under the Act a person must have either -

- resided on the Island continuously for the previous 10 years (referred to below as a "10 year" Islander) **or**
- resided on the Island immediately before 1 January 1982 and held, or have been closely related to someone who held, a permissive occupancy before 22 April 1954 (referred to below as a "1981" Islander).

**What does "closely related" mean ?**

Although not defined in the Act, closely related in this context means that the person must be the

spouse or lineal descendant of the "pre 22 April 1954" permissive occupancy holder, or the spouse of such a lineal descendant. A lineal descendant of a person is their child, grandchild, great grandchild and so on.

**Can you be granted Islander status ?**

In special circumstances and on the recommendation of the Board, the Minister has the power to make someone an Islander, including someone who has lost Islander status as mentioned below. A person wishing to obtain or reinstate Islander status on this basis would need to make a detailed submission to the Board, justifying their claim.

**What is meant by residing on the Island and what about absences from the Island ?**

The Act defines what is meant by residing on the Island at a particular time. Broadly, it means that the Island is the person's usual home, continually, and in good faith, at that time, with no other habitual residence.

There are 2 exceptions where absence from the Island will not affect residency on the Island. A person will be regarded as having continued to reside on the Island if the person is only absent from their usual home on the Island -

- to attend an educational institu-

tion off the Island; or

- to gain employment experience off the Island where the periods of absence for this purpose do not total more than 10 years.

These absences are referred to below as permitted absences.

**Can Islander status be lost?** The answer depends on how Islander status was acquired under the Act. As noted above there are 2 ways that Islander status could have been acquired. Yes, "10 year" Islanders can lose that status if they cease to reside on the Island for reasons other than the permitted absences referred to above.

In contrast, "1981" Islanders cannot lose their Islander status and do not have to continue to reside on the Island to retain it. However, if the Islander holds a perpetual lease, ceasing to reside on the Island (because of a non-permitted absence) may trigger a requirement to transfer or sublease the perpetual lease in accordance with the Act.

This is because the Islander will no longer be able to comply with the on-going residential requirement applying to perpetual leases. The Board may suspend this residential requirement but only if the Islander can demonstrate that he or she is prevented from living on the Island because of family illness or other adverse circumstances.



Someone appears to have been added to the sign...




Carolyn Squires' cat Tabitha Twitchit in odd places!



# SARAH DOWIE

## NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATE FOR INVERCARGILL

Hi, I'm Sarah Dowie, your National Party candidate for the Invercargill electorate. I'm coming to Stewart Island on July 30. Come and meet me at The Pavilion at 10.00am and tell me what you think is important to you. I am committed to making the Invercargill electorate a better place to live, work and play and I want to know what you think because your voice matters. Let's discuss the subjects that matter to Stewart Islanders – **because I will be a strong voice for your collective community.**

Visit my website [sarahdowie.co.nz](http://sarahdowie.co.nz) or follow me on  [facebook.com/SarahDowieInvercargill](https://facebook.com/SarahDowieInvercargill)



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Greg scaring Jamie witless! *Emily Joy*

Mega Walrus spotted at Horseshoe! *Jess Kany*





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**Congratulations!**

Chris Stowe and Kiri Pullen on the birth of their daughter Tui Elizabeth on 20th June!



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