

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

"CELEBRATE STEWART ISLAND"

July/ August 2002 First Issue Free

WELCOME TO STEWART ISLAND NEWS!

CHRIS VISSER

Welcome to the latest version of the Stewart Island News (SIN). As some of you will know, Stewart Island has had newspapers in the past (SIN and Rakiura Ramble). Now is a good time to resurrect some form of newspaper - there are many positive things happening in our community and I am hoping that this newspaper will become a good and useful way for us to keep each other informed.

This paper is about who we are, what we care about, and what we are doing. I've subtitled it "Celebrate Stewart Island", and hope that indeed you will find many things to feel good about in it! In putting it together I have been amazed at the variety and volume of things happening around the community, and the sheer volume of effort and time spent by people, often in the background of our community, in organizing events and sharing their knowledge on a voluntary basis.

This newsletter has been put together by a small team of volunteers and we

hope to publish it at least four times a year. We would really appreciate any feedback about the newsletter to gauge if there is any support and interest from people to keep it going and if people are willing to help us! This first issue is free and has been circulated as widely as possible to get people aware of it. Future issues will be for sale around the island for \$1.00 (to cover costs). If you live off the island get in touch (contact below) about subscribing on an ongoing basis.

If we have missed out any groups for articles please understand we have not done it on purpose - and please get in touch with us.

You can drop a note in the special box we have put at the Stewart Island Flights Office - or post to: Chris Visser, PO Box 123 Stewart Island, or email: possum.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz, or give me a call on 2191 494.

The team and I look forward to getting your feedback, suggestions, contributions and offers of

help! The ongoing production of this paper will rely on whether or not people are willing to continue to contribute to it. Thanks to those who have supported this first issue, and those groups we contacted who haven't made it for this issue - hope to see you next time.

- ❖ DEADLINES FOR ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE - FRIDAY 27 AUGUST
By email if possible.
- ❖ NEXT PUBLICATION DATE - 2 SEPT

I hope you enjoy this first issue!

Cheers, Chris Visser.

In this issue:

- ❖ The future for Stewart Island Waste Management
- ❖ Community Group update
- ❖ Halfmoon Bay Beat (Rob Fox)
- ❖ Five Go Mad in Matuaral
- ❖ Governor General to visit Stewart Island
- ❖ Upcoming events and Community Diary
- ❖ And MORE!!!

Read on.....

Stewart Island Waste Management – oh what shall we do with our rubbish??

Jed Lewis & Chris Visser

Our current landfill / dump will have to close at the end of 2003. Apart from the fact that this will result in hungry wild cats and rats this poses some issues and challenges for our Stewart Island Community on how we get rid of rubbish.

The Southland District Council (SDC) have been consulting with a group of locals called the Waste Liaison Group (made up of Helen Cave, Jim Barrett, Paul Wright, Murray Cavenagh and Rodney Hansen) and together they have come up with a Draft Waste Management Strategy for Stewart Island. SDC have consulted with the wider community on this strategy – you may recall a questionnaire sent to you in June about it.

The draft strategy is well worth a read – and is available from our local SDC office or by contact Justin Reid at SDC in town. There is an article from Justin in this issue detailing some of the various options in the strategy and the process involved in sorting the issue out from here on.

In late June our community received a visit from Cliff Calquhoun – who runs the "Community Business and Environment Centre" in Kaitia. At a public meeting held in the RSA Cliff told us about his non profit community run organisation which manages recycling and waste management for Kaitia and Waiheke Island. The inspiring thing about this business is that it is community run and as well as running a successful business it provides works for locals and runs local community environmental projects such as a garden centre and environmental education projects.

Cliff was very enthusiastic about the possibilities for our Stewart Island Community to do the same. He made the comment that with less than 400 people we have a real opportunity to do something exciting and positive for ourselves. A bunch of people in the community believe him – and as a result a public meeting held on the 9th July set up a Community Trust with the objective of (in conjunction with the Southland District Council) setting up a Recycling , Resource Recovery and Worm Farming business on Stewart Island to deal with as much of our rubbish as possible. This project will bring to a minimum the amount of rubbish we will have to send off the island to the regional landfill on the mainland. The worm farming aspect of the business will provide worms and compost (vermicast) that can be either sold on the mainland or used locally.

Robbie Dick from Central Wormworx LTD in Cromwell visited the island in early July and told us about his worm farming operation in Cromwell which deals with 100 tonnes of food scraps and green waste a year. He was also very supportive and positive that Stewart Island could do similar.

So it is all go!!

The Trustees of the Stewart Island Waste Management Trust are; Jed Lewis, Rodney Hansen, Fiona Hall, Jim Barrett, Chris Visser, Dil Belworthy and Sandy King. Meetings of this trust will be open to anyone who wants to come along and notices will be placed of upcoming meetings on the notice board in front of the District Council office and the community notice board next to the store.

Keep your eyes open for notices in your box or on local notice boards about the progress of this project. And start thinking about how you can sort your rubbish into recyclables, "reuseables" and "rottatables" in the future!

✂ SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL VIEW; WHERE ARE WE AT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT ON STEWART ISLAND

JUSTIN REID - SDC

A draft strategy that has been circulated for over a month now and has met with general support from the community as gauged by the feedback received. Key points of the plan include;

- Close and remediate (including covering all refuse) the Braggs Bay Refuse site as a landfill when the consent to discharge expires in Dec 2003.

Once closed the Braggs Bay Refuse site is planned to be an area where clean fill can be disposed of, and also a place where tree stumps and green waste that may have viable noxious weeds (after being composted) can be put and controlled.

- In the ensuing period, before Dec 2003, implement a waste minimisation programme led by a local champion of the cause and plan to ship all residual waste off the island to a regional sanitary landfill once the local refuse site is closed.

-Provide a service for greenwaste soon, later this year hopefully, - by establishing a recovery centre where green waste can be mulched and composted.

-Identify and develop a site for the recovery centre which will be a focal point for recycling on the island and also become the transfer station for residual waste being shipped off the island.

A range of potential sites for the recovery centre have been investigated including:

- On the existing Braggs Bay refuse site
- Beside the oxidation ponds
- Behind the Horseshoe Bay council gravel yard
- Beside the Power Station on Hicks Road.

Land behind the gravel yard has the physical characteristics of a very good site. However they

are actually located on a cemetery reserve, although well clear of the known graves it would require a change in reserve status through a public consultation process. If this has support of interested groups, individuals and the community it may become the preferred site. Beyond this the Braggs Bay Refuse site and the oxidation ponds are also short listed contending sites at this stage. Roading issues are currently under review for both these sites.

In the next few weeks a final draft of the waste management strategy will be completed. Following a meeting initially with the waste liaison group (Jim, Rodney, Helen, Lurch and Friday) and the proposed community trust (Jed, Jim, Rodney, Sandy, Chris, Fiona and Dil) and then the Community Board it will be adopted and then implementation can commence.

**STOP RIGHT THERE ... don't put that dead printer cartridge into our Stewart Island Landfill!!!
RECYCLE IT.**

Glowing Sky will collect ALL used printer cartridges and forward them to the Toner Recycling Centre in Auckland. All proceeds will be donated to the **STEWART ISLAND PLAYGROUP**.

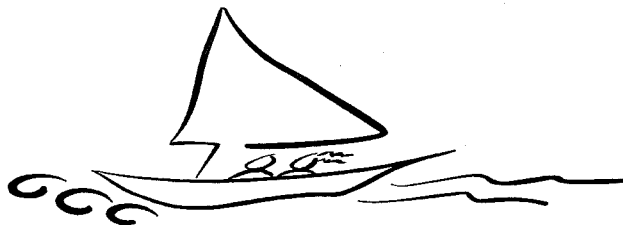
So you can help the environment and the local pre-schoolers all in one go!

Hewlett Packard, Canon, Lexmark, Epson
Laserjet and inkjet.

All empty printer cartridges received by TRC are recycled into other cartridges or reused to make 'plascrete'. Contact Cathy Belworthy (249) if you have any queries!

RAKIURA SEASCOUTS

David Squire



Rakiura Sea Scouts and Cubs are up and running! Scouts are meeting every Monday night at Traill Park hall from 7pm to 9.00pm and is open to all children 10years old and up. Cubs meet at the same hall on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.00pm and is open to children from 6 1/2 years old to 10 years old

Currently 10 children are involved in Scouts and 8 children in cubs

We are now 2 terms through the Scouting year and things are going extremely well. The group as a whole has settled into their work quickly and efficiently and the youth members seem to be enjoying themselves.

Scouts have worked well over these two terms and have all passed their Emergency Service badge

and nearly all have completed their Bronze pathfinder award. The Scouts also participated in the Anzac Day Parade and it was particularly pleasing to have a 100% turnout. We are working towards acquiring a Sea Scout cutter which will mean that we can spend time on the water both rowing and sailing.

Cubs are working extremely well and have a full and exciting programme working through their achievement awards and interest badges. Leaders Amber Leask and Karen Adams are a dedicated duo who work hard to bring an exciting programme each week.

The community support for the group has been amazing. People have given their time to pass on their skills to the Scouts and cubs. Businesses and

individuals have been amazingly generous in providing the group with resources, materials, donations and time. We are extremely grateful and this has made our job so much easier.

On the 20th of October Scouting Southland is holding an Area Touch rugby Tournament at Oreti Park. It is proposed that the whole group go over to participate in this Tournament. We propose to go to Splash Palace for an hour or so first so that the scouts can pass their swimmers badge.

We are still on the lookout for 1 or two Scout Leaders who along with Rodney Hansen & Jon Spraggon and myself could go on a roster system to provide a continuity for the Scouts. If you know of anyone that could help please contact me at 2191145.

Ship to Shore News

Donna Hamilton

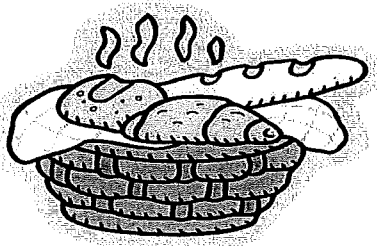
Congratulations to "S.I.N" and its first edition, what an awesome resurrection thanks Chris, and may everyone contribute regularly! Having just put out our update recently we are pretty "gossip free" but couldn't resist offering input for the first edition!

And to celebrate the occasion we have put "Aquila" on special for \$6.50 per bottle. (OK, so Donna over ordered and we now have a glut, so out they go cheap!) The shop has been steady thru June and we are noticing that now a lot of locals are heading off for a couple of weeks or more, enjoy your holidays – but please don't forget to cancel your paper and bread orders. Apart from that, the shop is ticking along merrily, we are all having a ball, and thanks for all the entertainment you guys provide everytime you visit us!

COUPON FOR SHIP TO SHORE

TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST ISSUE OF S.I.N BRING THIS COUPON IN TO THE SHOP AND RECEIVE A FREE

"GOBSTOPPER" (offer valid till Sat 31 August)



Hotel News

Sue Graham

Don't forget buffet night
Tuesday 6-8pm \$15 all you
can eat, roasts, fish, veges
and salads.

Due to customer numbers
the restaurant will be
closing at 8pm every night.

Wednesday 31st July is Quiz
night - \$10 per team of 4
and proceeds to go towards
Community Centre
equipment, spot prizes and
lots of fun, get your entry

form from the Hotel
reception!

SEE YOU THERE!

What's up at DOC ...

Brent Beavan

Congratulations to Stewart Island News on its resurrection! For DOC, this is another opportunity to let you know what we are up to, as well as keeping you informed on topical conservation issues.

You may have noticed that there are less staff around town over the winter months, nevertheless work continues. This is the time when much of the planning for field work takes place, outstanding tasks are caught up on, and training occurs. For example, all staff recently completed a one-day radio operators course.

Biodiversity (Budgies and Twigs) staff are continuing to meet regularly with the pest management liaison group and are developing possum control contracts, as well as building deer exclosures in the Anglem area. Keeping Ulva Island free of rodents is an ongoing task, as is work with some of the species on Ulva Island (Saddleback, Stewart Island Robins, etc). Darwin's barberry eradication is continuing around the village, albeit at a much reduced rate. The Darwin's barberry team is gearing up for another full scale assault in spring. Plans are also afoot to develop a community native plant nursery.

Big changes are afoot in the Visitor Assets (Bridges and Tracks) field, with three new full time staff due to start over the next few months. A lot of swing bridges are being maintained, as is the

Ryans Creek boardwalk and the Freshwater jetty. Work is also underway repairing a wash-out on the track between Mason Bay and Freshwater. A specialist is coming over to look at erosion concerns around Golden Bay and Freds Camp and will advise on appropriate repair techniques. On a monthly basis, all local tracks and huts are inspected and maintained and track counter readings are noted.

Meanwhile, in the visitor centre (Bookings and Tourists), staff are busy updating track guides and visitor information for the months ahead when the annual tourist migration occurs. Remember to keep staff in the visitor centre informed as to whether you are open or operating, as it can be frustrating for the visitors who do choose to visit the island during the winter months chasing around after operators who are closed or holidaying.

The Department of Conservation is looking forward to working closely with, and as part of, the community over the coming season.



SHUFFLE OFF WINTER BLUES with Stewart Island's Line Dancers

Sue Ford

Every Monday at 1.30 p.m., come rain, come shine, a small bunch of Islanders meet at the Community Hall to strut their stuff. Or more accurately – to plait their legs! We don't take ourselves too seriously as you can see. However, we do have a lot of fun and a gentle work-out at the same time. We are pretty much self-taught, but are very excited by the occasional visit of "real" Line Dancers, who come and show us new dances – and very often, what we are doing wrong in the old ones.

We don't go in for special boots, cowboy hats, fancy belts or fringed shirts. For one hour a week, we just relax and forget the rest of the world, as we "Tennessee Waltz", "Slap Leather", "Honky Tonk Stomp" and "Senorita Sway" to a wide range of music. If you can't stand "country music" but would still like to have a go at dancing, this is the place for you. True, some of the tunes are true-blue country, but nowadays, with bands like The Mavericks, and popular singers like Shania Twain, the lines are becoming a bit blurred between country music and "pop" music – we take full advantage of the blurring.

We do learn new dances regularly, but the stalwarts of the line dancers like nothing better than to see new people "in the line" as that means we will be going back to basics and doing some of our favourite old dances with the simplest of steps. In fact, if there is enough interest out there, we are very happy to work on the idea of doing a Beginners Half Hour to start each session. We do have two or three new regulars who would be delighted to have some other newcomer support. Let us know. And it doesn't matter at all if you can only come occasionally – we regularly have visitors (line dancing cont...) who are whiling away an hour before the ferry leaves, and they have just as much fun as we regulars. Just pop in any Monday – you know we'll be there.

Contacts for Line Dancing: Sue Ford – 2191 282, Elaine Hamilton 2191 027 or Margaret Rooney 2191-065

Friends of Rakiura

Jim Watt

An occasional free email newsletter is currently available. Anyone with an email address can request it. Simply send an email message to friendsofrakiura@clear.net.nz with the words 'New Subscriber' in the subject line. It is intended mainly for off-island folk, both visitors who want to keep in touch, and crib owners who find it difficult to keep up with news, doings and issues.



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at one of the member's homes. As a reminder a notice is put on the Notice Board a week before the event.

We each take a plate for afternoon tea, and three plant items, decided on at the previous meeting, for the competition, the results of which we would like to publish in the 'SIN'

Each year the Garden Circle tries to do something for the community, last year we brought a representative of Diacks Garden Centre plus plants over from Invercargill for the day, and re-vamped the plant boxes at the Cenotaph.

We welcome new members and visitors (you don't have to have a garden), our Secretary is Raylene Waddell on 092, and President Jenny Gell on 219.

The Garden Circle would like to wish the 'SIN' all the very best.

ST. ANDREWS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Jenny Gell

St Andrews in Excelsior Road holds two Church Services a month. On the second Sunday each month at 10.30am the Rev. Airdy Dyson-Leask officiates, and on the forth Sunday at 10.30am there is usually a visiting minister.

After these services morning tea is held in the Church Hall.

On the Sundays there is no church service the Bible Study Group holds its' meeting in the Church Hall at 10.30am.

Visitors are very welcome any Sunday.

Secretary:	
Carolyn Squires	353
Warden:	
Jenny Gell	219

TIE YOURSELF IN KNOTS WITH THE STEWART ISLAND YOGA GROUP!!

Chris Visser

Yoga is back.....

On Saturday 13 July a group of 20 women got together as the RSA to tie themselves in knots. None of us were particularly flexible so there were not

many knots – just little mutters and exclamations of pain....

But despite this we are KEEN to get a yoga group up and running again. So come along – if you have done it before your

experience will be welcome – if you are a beginner we know enough to get you started. So come along – and for the boys at DOC who were asking "what is yoga?" – I reiterate it is a lot like Jelly

Wrestling and there are lots of women there...

Yoga – 5.30 pm Tuesdays at RSA

Cost - \$2.00

If you have any questions, call Trudi 515, Fiona 440, or Chris 494.

(And no Yoga is not very much like jelly wrestling - sorry boys - but come along anyway!)

TOI RAKIURA - Perspectives of an Island

Brent Beavan

Toi Rakiura (The Stewart Island Art's Trust) are running a photo exhibition. The exhibition is of photos taken by Stewart Islanders of Stewart Island. It aims to showcase the view of a particular segment of the community. In this case, it is those islanders who have had at least 60 years life experience.

Each exhibitor was given a small disposable camera and set off to snap their life. Of the photos taken, they chose what they considered to be their best three for judging. It is a selection of these photos that make up the display.

The exhibition kicks off on Friday 2nd August at 7.30pm with an official opening accompanied by drinks, nibbles and music. We are honored to have her Excellency The Honorable Dame Silvia Cartwright PCNZM, DBE Governor-general of New Zealand, opening the exhibition.

Everyone is invited to the opening. Come along to see a unique view of Stewart Island!

Halfmoon Bay Beat

Rob Fox

By now most of the community will be aware that the Highway Patrol Squad that I warned about arrived here on Stewart Island as they have in other small communities in Southland.

While here it appears they have issued quite a few infringement notices. In part this makes me grit my teeth as I have been warning locals this was going to happen and I am not informed until they are ready to leave Invercargill. My way of Policing is to be fair to all, however, take heed of what I tell you as we are still part of New Zealand and with the changes in traffic enforcement happening we are not immune. They have stated that they will return and I would rather see the money stay in your pocket than go into traffic fines.

The Highway Patrol has noted the large number of farm registrations on vehicles. The farm registration are just that and it appears that those who have them may be committing a criminal offence under Fraud and be liable for Prosecution. If you need

further information please come and see me.

The Senior Sergeant that attended with the Highway Patrol team noted the amount of unlicensed and unregistered vehicles was not as high as first thought, however, **if your vehicles warrant or rego is nearing expiry then get it under way and keep it legal.**

Anyway enough of the bad stuff. Next month a number of locals will be presented with volunteer medallions in relation to their services to Search & Rescue on Stewart Island. I will have a guest speaker for Search & Rescue and will also outline the plan for Search & Rescue on Stewart Island, keep a watch for details of this evening.

In closing I would like to add in this which I was told actually happened and not having been a Highway Patrolman or any form of traffic cop I thought it good.

A woman motorist was stopped by a Highway Patrol cop for speeding.

As the officer stood at her window opening the ticket book she asked him if he was going to give her a ticket to the Policeman's Ball.

The Highway Patrol Officer replied "No Policemen don't have balls"

A silence ensued as the officer realised what he said and the lady driver began to smile

at which point the officer closed his ticket book, said good day Madam and went back to his patrol car and drove off.

It was sometime before the lady driver was able to stop laughing and also drive off.

Regards from Rob (just a country cop)

LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR BILL TODD - Bill Todd

Thank you Chris for resurrecting the Stewart Island newsletter, which I trust will encourage residents to feel positive about what people are trying to achieve for Stewart Island – Rakiura.

It is now some nine months since I was elected as your local Councillor on the Southland District Council. The Council is responsible for the community's infrastructure and amenities. As well as Mayor Frana Cardno, there were 11 other councillors and a large staff to get to know –this meant meeting some of them for the first time. Others were old acquaintances. I found that everyone was supportive of the overall objective of having the Southland District held in high esteem throughout New Zealand.

In advocating for Stewart Island – Rakiura, the first lesson I have learned is that procedures take time to work through and that the Southland District Council does not have a bottomless well of funds.

The rating take for Stewart Island – Rakiura does not in any way equal the expenditure. Funding from the likes of Transfund is necessary to keep the infrastructure intact. To this end, with National Park status having been given to a large part of our land area, the Government has undertaken to provide funding to help upgrade and maintain services. A strong case has been put forward to the Government and, although we have yet to receive a response, I feel confident support will be forthcoming.

Our island is changing. The bounteous surrounding waters supply a wonderful resource which has increasingly been landed and processed on the mainland. This will not change and as locals, you can perceive the increasing tourism potential. Please welcome these new enterprises. Support them and encourage and welcome our visitors, who all come to experience and enjoy the unique character of our island.

Through open debate, I feel that all concerned with the Pest Management Strategy issue have reached an understanding. I am confident that everyone concerned will be consulted fully.

Most of you will be aware of the recent purchase of a fully contained 650 kva generator unit as a standby source of electricity for the island's supply. This will ensure full power can be supplied to all customers in the event of a shutdown of the existing supply units. The purchase of the generator was funded entirely from SIESA reserves.

Dialogue is continuing with those who are responsible for the maintenance and improvements of SIESA's facilities. With the Community Board's input I trust we will all see improvements undertaken in the near future.

My door is always open to residents and ratepayers.
Bill Todd
Councillor

The following document was handed to Stewart Island News by an anonymous Islander who claims to have 'found' it while cleaning the room of a certain journalist who visited the Island earlier this year. Our investigations lead us to believe this was the first draft of an article that later appeared somewhat altered in a certain magazine. Those of you who were completely baffled by this journalists published report on Stewart Island may find this glimpse into his cynical worldview most revealing...

**Paradise Lost - An unbiased and factual report (honest),
by Warwick Rogered for South and North magazine.**

"The 1080 rain pelts down, sending a pack of marauding rottweilers running for the cover of a derelict fishing boat on the beach. Outside DOC's new Eco-Disney theme park a group of black-belted thugs smoking suspiciously pungent roll-your-owns are shot-gunning holes in the statue of Sandra Lee, stopping only to look eerily at me as I begin my comprehensive 30 minute fact-finding mission. I shudder and head for the Pub, where I have been told that I will find the TRUTH about Stewart Island. It takes a long time to be served, as the barmaid is busy handing out her phone number to locals who want to write nasty things about her on the toilet walls. The locals snigger and make loud comments about my suspect sexual preferences when I ask for a glass of Pinot Noir. I decide it might be diplomatic to order Speights in the bottle next round.

A slightly heated discussion breaks out in the lounge bar, and I decide this is sufficient evidence to justify the 'Stewart Island Civil War' story I wrote back in the office before coming to get the facts. I've seen enough I think, and start to leave, only to find the door blocked by a man with a swandri pulled up over his face. He says nothing, but slips me an envelope marked 'Really Really Secret'. This contains an anonymous document that reveals; Tourism Southland's plan to turn the Island into the Las Vegas of The Sub-Antarctic, DOC's plan to 'purify' the Island with nuclear weapons and let evolution start again, The White-tail Hunters Club's plan to introduce a genetically modified deer that will grow 35 point antlers and eat nothing but introduced pest plants, and worst of all... the Kai Kart's scheme to expand a traditional small town Fish 'n Chips operation into the worlds largest McDonalds.

By now I only want to 'see some nature' and escape, but my rush to the hire car is thrown into disarray by another bombing run from the 1080 helicopter squadron. This turns out to be very fortunate, because just as I find cover in the pub doorway an explosive device planted by a psychopathic media-hating local detonates in the car. Someone leans out the Pub window and dryly comments "ah, just an accident mate, those bloody Lada petrol tanks always were a bit dodgy".

I decide to give nature a miss, and as soon as the Rottweilers have skulked off with the last pieces of tourists maimed by the blast I flee for the safety of the plane.

I can't quite put it into words yet, but I have sensed on Stewart Island an air of brooding unease. As the plane banks to avoid yet another wave of DOC choppers I catch a glimpse of Traill Park below. The whole community is gathered, half at one end of the park, half at the other. They seem to be armed and about to commence battle. A comment from yet another anonymous local comes back to mind,

"Any issue quickly becomes very personal here, everyone takes sides"

I am not sad to leave. And I have the strong impression the locals are not sad to see me go.



In the last year we have had a number of new little people born
into our community... WELCOME to;

Sophie Rose Connor,

Jack Dobbins,

Timu Butler

and Marley John Wright!!

OBAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Fire Extinguisher Demonstration

The boys at the Fire Brigade will demonstrate how to put out Pan and Oven Fires and the correct way to use a Fire Extinguisher. A notice will go on the Notice Board when a timetable can be confirmed.

FIRE SAFETY TIP

With Winter in full swing with many of us keeping warm and cosy with wood / coal burners. Are your homes adequately fitted with "Smoke Alarms"? Smoke Alarms can be purchased from Ship to Shore.

Remember in a Fire Emergency - Ring 111 - not the Fire Brigade members personally This not only saves many precious minutes - but is the correct format in all emergencies and remember to give clear precise information.

Keep fire safe this winter!
Regards, OVFB

A STEWART ISLANDER ON MACQUARIE ISLAND.....

Sandy King

Macquarie Island is a subantarctic island 1466km (833 nautical miles) south east of Hobart, Tasmania, and 1294km (735 nautical miles) from Antarctica. It is only 700km (398 nautical miles) south west of Campbell Island but in spite of this proximity to the New Zealand subantarctic islands it is an Australian possession. It is a Nature Reserve administered by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, and also has World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve status which recognize its special ecological and geological values.

At 34km (21 miles) long and up to 5km (3 miles) wide, Macquarie Island has an area of 12785ha which makes it only slightly larger than Campbell Island. It consists of a long narrow, undulating plateau 100-350m above sea level, bounded on all sides by steep slopes or cliffs. The climate is truly subantarctic, the average annual temperature is 4.8 degrees, there is an average 2.2 hours of daily sunshine, 309 days with precipitation, 268 days of strong wind and 74 days of gales.

I was fortunate to be able to spend 12 months on Macquarie Island during 2001/2002, one of a team of 6 Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service rangers. Our job was to search for sign of any remaining feral cats after an intensive cat eradication programme that began in 1998. As well as using our own eyes to search for sign we had the aid of two specially trained dogs to help sniff out any particularly shy and elusive cat. Fortunately, in spite of our best efforts, no cat sign was found and the island should soon be officially confirmed cat free. This is a real tribute to the hard work done by previous teams in what can sometimes be an arduous and challenging place to work.

Most of our time was spent "in the field" searching for sign and living in any of the 9 field huts. For about 5 days each month we returned to the Australian Antarctic Division scientific station at the northern end of the island. The station is permanently manned by AAD staff and very well set up and maintained. Facilities include a mess/living area, industrial kitchen, surgery, accommodation blocks, various workshops, scientific laboratories, gym, spa and sauna, two dark rooms, library and an extensive video and CD collection. During the winter months there were 18 people on the island. These included a station leader, doctor, chef, carpenter, plumber, electrician, mechanic, radio

officer, communications technician, 3 Australian Bureau of Meteorology staff and 6 Parks and Wildlife staff. In summer an influx of scientists, studying everything from invertebrates to the ionosphere and anything in between, brought the number to 39.

Fascinating encounters with the abundant and incredible wildlife occurred daily. In how many places can you watch the birth of an elephant seal pup and the spectacular territorial battles of the 3500kg males from the hut window while eating breakfast, or have half a dozen king penguins join you for a stroll along the beach? For me it was an opportunity not to be missed and I'd love to go back one day.



Library News

Pat King

It's been some time since I last wrote a newsletter for SIN or the Rakiura Rambles. Since then we have moved into the new library and I'm sure everyone appreciates the vastly improved conditions. Everyone who works there certainly does. One obvious spin-off is the increase in membership and greater use by visitors during the holiday periods.

We are always trying to update the library and regular borrowers may have noticed

that there are empty shelves here and there. This is because we have started to catalogue the books and put them on to computer. Many thanks to Kerry Squire for her efforts in setting up a programme for us. When finished we hope that it will be easier to find books held in the library. Talking of books; to all Stephanie Plum fans. The latest book in the series "Hard Eight" is now on the shelves. Also books 11 and 12 of L.E. Modesitt's "Recluse"

series are now available.

Other recent additions to the shelves include "The Ashley Book of Knots" and "Iris" the story of author Irish Murdoch. As from July 1 there has been a change in the cost of requesting books from other libraries. The charge is now \$3 per request, payable in advance.

Library hours are as follows
Wednesday 2 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.
Friday, Saturday 11 a.m. – 12 noon
Happy reading!!

2002 Publicans Fishing Contest

Barry Rhodes

The Southland Branch of The Hospitality Association of NZ are running the annual fishing contest again on Stewart Island on 12/13th August. Co-ordinator Dave McNay said "we have had a record number of entries this year. One hundred and sixty participants will be here and what is pleasing is that many of them are new people along with old faithfuls".

The proceeds of the competition are earmarked for the Riverton Coast Guard who expect to receive approximately \$3000. Obviously other operators and businesses and the Island also benefit greatly with welcome income at a quiet time of the year. The local Lions Club for their efforts and "party packs" hope to raise \$1500.

In keeping with tradition the minimum sized cod allowable is 37cm which is greater than the regulations. This is a deliberate ploy to have the fishing contest a success and enjoyable [while] respecting the need for conservation.

Dave asks that the locals organise fine weather for this occasion.!

From Halfmoon Bay School

Lee Wadds

Last term Miss Julie Andrews (a new principal release teacher at H.M.B. school) was teaching Room 1 how to interview

people. The class learnt to write open ended questions and wrote a short article based on the answers. This piece

below indicates a future journalist, perhaps.

North to South – Katy McGinity

Many of us don't leave our home province let alone our country. Though for a young woman who left her home town of one million for her O.E. and ended up in a town of three hundred it was Mother Earth 'who done the work'. We spoke to Fiona Hall about her childhood, favourite foods and the climate.

Fiona Wilson left Scotland expecting to be back by the end of the year, but things turned out very different. She was working for D.O.C. in Invercargill and was going to Te Anau for the weekend when she was told there were floods there. She then decided to go to Stewart Island for the weekend instead.

The boat ride over may have been rough but it was all smooth sailing from there. Fiona fell in love with the place and started looking for work.

She quit her job in Invercargill and moved over to Stewart Island. She was working for Steve Hall and fell in love with him, but you're probably all thinking - how would you break the news to your parents! *(oh I Love this – such absolute wisdom from one so young! How WOULD you break it you're your parents that you had fallen in love with Steve Hall.Ed)*

It was easy she said. Her parents loved the idea and whenever they were missing her they would think of the good times. For instance, sailing around the west coast of Scotland with her parents.

Fiona left the island as Fiona Wilson and came back as Fiona Hall. She and Steve were married in the State Insurance Building registry office, and loved it. She then returned and has been happily married ever since.

So all in all, the accents may have changed, the climate's got a bit warmer and there's no Greek restaurant where she can eat her favourite food, but she's happily married and looking forward to summer.



Ulva Island Charitable Trust Update.

Peter Goomes.

The Ulva Island Charitable Trust was set up in late 1999 by a group of Islanders who support the open sanctuary vision of benefiting conservation, education, and community. The trust members are Peter Goomes - Chair, Ann

Pullen, Iris Tait, Ian Wilson, Dil Belworthy.

The aim of providing community based assistance, both physical and financial, toward the upgrade of visitor facilities on an open sanctuary is quite a new concept, and

has been working extremely well.

Our first step was to raise enough money to add to D.O.C.'s contribution and do the whole visitor facility upgrade in one project. This went even better than our hopes, and our thanks go to those organisations who saw

the worth of the scheme and donated so generously.

The successful tenderer started on the new tracks in April 2001, with the project being finished for the official opening On the 27th of October 2001. This was a great day for all involved to see what could

be achieved when all the parties come together. Special thanks to the contractor John Henderson and his crew for the extra effort to do such a great job.

This is all supported by the positive comments we get back from local and overseas visitors who enjoy

the easy walking and can concentrate on the bush, birds, and tranquillity that make Ulva Island so special. There have been three endangered bird species released, more are being planned, so the future is looking bright for the Ulva Island Open Sanctuary.

NOTE THESE NEW PHONE NUMBERS!

A couple of phone numbers have been changed around town – to confuse us all they are not 2191 numbers anymore;

POLICE	219 0020
DOC	219 0002
Visitor Centre	219 0009



Exciting times on Ulva Island.

Díl Belworthy.

I was originally happy to join the Ulva Island Trust because I support the concept of the community working together with D.O.C. to create something of benefit to everyone. The longer I have been involved with the Open Sanctuary project the more excited I have become about the results achieved already, and the ever increasing potential benefits to conservation, education, and community to come.

For conservation, I have been amazed at how quickly the island has developed since becoming rat-free in 1997. All who worked on laying baits from '92 to '95 should be very proud of their involvement! The forest floor is more luxuriant with growth every year and the bird life is increasing at an incredible rate. Where else have can you see 15 Bellbirds feeding on a single bush?

It is also fantastic to have seen the endangered Saddleback, Mohua, and Stewart Island Robin successfully transferred to Ulva. The Saddlebacks and Robins in particular are starting to show very rapid increase, and I cannot overstate how important these populations may be to the survival of those species. The Rifleman, which has become extinct on the Stewart island mainland over the last 10 years, will hopefully be introduced to Ulva from Codfish in the near future. I must point out it is this transfer that the Southland Times somehow confused with a non-existent kakapo release for Ulva!

For education, I think of all those people who come back from Ulva blown away by its beauty and life. I like to imagine them going off to all their separate corners of NZ and the World with that little seed of knowledge inside them that things CAN be returned to that state, decline does not have to be inevitable. What fruit might grow from a glimpse of such hope?

For community, I believe that the genuinely world-class attraction that Ulva Island is becoming will be of huge economic significance for the Island. I know there are some of you who do not share my optimism at this prospect, but personally I think that if a fine natural asset like Ulva

Island can provide jobs and opportunities for this community, and we can manage that asset in a sensitive way, it has to be good for our future.

Finally, to throw in an idea from left field, it has been suggested to me that endangered bird populations on Ulva may rapidly reach levels that will make possible transfers off the Island to start new populations. I have often wondered whether it might be possible to have some kind of sanctuary area around or in The Bay that might be acceptable for such transfers. Does anyone else think this an intriguing possibility?



STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY THANKYOU CHOCOLATE AWARD

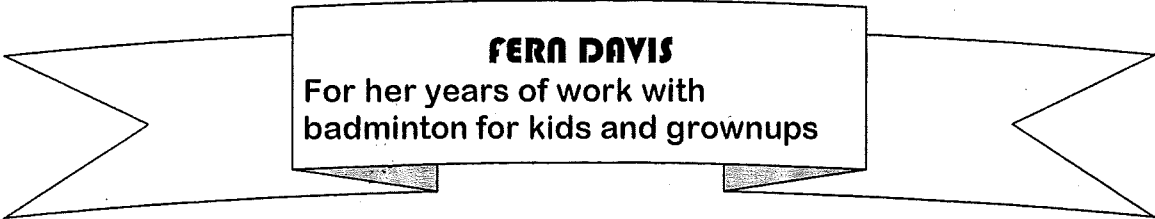
In order to give recognition to those people who do good work in the community, and for the community – SIN is delighted to introduce the Community Thank You Chocolate Award!! Readers are invited to nominate anyone whom they think deserves a thank you from the community –

and SIN has arranged for local businesses to sponsor a box of chocolates by way of a thank you.

Please drop your nominations into the SIN box at the Post Office, or contact the editor – with the name of who you think deserves a Thank You

Chocolate Award. Please include a brief explanation of why that person deserves an award. SIN will pick a name out of hat – so if your nomination hasn't won for this issue they will be in for the next issues draw. (if your business would like to sponsor the award in future get in touch....)

SIN is delighted to announce the first winner of the Community Thank You Chocolate Award...



FERN DAVIS
For her years of work with
badminton for kids and grownups

Fern will receive a box of chocolates sponsored by the South Sea Hotel.

Congratulations Fern – and our heartfelt thanks to you for what you do to make our Stewart Island Community a better place!!

DANCE CLASSES ON THURSDAYS!

"We can move it like this, we can shake it like that... on a Thursday night at 7.00pm for an hour we are all doing it in the Social Room at the Community Centre and anyone is welcome to join us. It's fun and no one has to be a ballerina. Any and every style will be attempted from time to time, to find out which one is the go for the week just look on the board at the Community Centre or ask at the Hotel reception. Hope to see you there."

LOST

One of the "perks" of being editor – I can try and find my lost things! I have lost a Macpac Reflex Raincoat – green/purple. If I have left it at your place please give me a call !!! Thanks, Chris.....

WHALER'S BASE LATHE RETURNS TO STEWART ISLAND (Or "Five go Mad in Mataura" Ed)

Jed Lewis

The lathe from the shipyard at Whaler's base in Prices Inlet has returned to Stewart Island. When the Whalers Base closed in the 1920's this lathe was shipped from Prices Inlet to the Pulp and Paper Mill at Matuara. This mill closed recently – and they offered the lathe back to Stewart Island as it has historical significance for the island. So a bunch of us went and got it..... Squirt, Compo, Trev, Shorty and myself headed over to Mataura with packs full of serious tools to take the thing apart (does anyone else thinks this is looking very Enid Blyton? Methinks the boys needed a dog, and very possibly some bicycles, HURRAH!!! It's a bugger being married to the Ed isn't it Jed?)

A bunch of guys from the Mill gave us a hand taking it apart, and McDonough Contracting LTD donated equipment and time to get the thing to Bluff. Stewart Island Marine have donated the freight to get it to the island. **So a huge thanks to those outfits!!**

The lathe weighs around 11.5 tonnes, and is 30ft long. The smaller bits are already here but the 30ft bed will hopefully come back on the EEC mussel barge. The bits that are here are currently in Arkie's shed (what isn't in Arkie's shed, honestly.... Ed).

Once we had the 11.5 tonnes safely parked in Bluff – I asked Compo "Why are we taking something that nobody actually wants back to the Island, we've got nowhere to put it and the power scheme isn't big enough to run it if we did?" Compo quietly replied;

"Because it was there"

In time we are hoping that we can install the thing as a working museum piece somewhere on the Island. For this Famous Five – NOTHING is a problem!!

▪ Stewart Island Promotion Association

In May the Annual General meeting was held of this Association. The following people were elected into positions for the following 12 months.

President	Sue Graham	<u>Executive</u>	Helen Cave
Vice-President	Lesley Gray		Donna Hamilton
Immediate Past	Bruce Ford		Manfred Herzhoff
Treasurer	Jon Spraggon		Diane Smith
Secretary(Appointed)	Colleen Dawson		Joanne Leask
			Sue Munro

There are over 90 members in this Association at the present time. The Association has Executive meetings on the first Thursday of every month and General meetings quarterly. The general meetings are open to the public and it is always good to see a lot of our members turn up. This is their opportunity to be further informed and have their input in to what they want to see taking place for the promotion of the Island. The next general meeting will take place on the last Thursday in August.

SPELL CHECK IS EVIL!

Methinks the spellcheck function in my computer has a particularly evil sense of humour; Visser = Viper, Trud = Troglodyte (!!) and Rodney = Rodent. Hmm. So look out for:

Chris Viper,
Troglodyte Creighton
and Rodent Hansen.... THEY SOUND MEAN!!!

GOVERNER GENERAL TO VISIT STEWART ISLAND

Her Excellency, The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, PCNZM, OBE Governor General of New Zealand will be making her first visit to Stewart Island early next month. She will arrive on Friday 2nd of August accompanied by her husband and three of her staff. To mark this special occasion a public welcome, presentation and morning tea is to be held in the Pavilion (RSA) to which everyone on the island is

invited. This is be a 11.00am but in keeping with protocol people are requested to be there 10 minutes beforehand to keep the programme punctual. She will have a busy time while she is here with sometime to relax and enjoy her visit. Following the morning tea she will visit the School and be entertained by the children at their assembly and then go on bus tour. On Friday night before Dame Silvia opens the Toi Rakiura Arts Festival

she will be hosted to dinner by the Southland District Council and Community Board members.

Saturday morning the Rakiura Women's Weekend activities and later hosted to Ulva by the Ulva Trust and members of the Department of Conservation.

The Vice Regal party then fly out on Saturday afternoon for other appearances in Invercargill and on Sunday morning in Bluff.

Community Dairy for 22 July / 23 August 2002

(Please be aware, we believe this is accurate as of time of printing – but keeps your eyes open for public notices about other things coming up)

EVERY WEEK

MONDAY	Playgroup – 10am till noon – at the "playgroup room" at school Line Dancing – 1.30 pm at Community Centre Body Blast – 7.30pm at Community Centre Fire Brigade Training – 7pm at Fire Brigade Seascouts – 7pm Traill Park Hall
TUESDAY	Yoga – 5.30pm at RSA
WEDNESDAY	Library open 2pm - 3.15pm Cubs - 3.30pm Traill Park Hall Body Blast – 7.30 Community Centre
THURSDAY	Dance class – 7pm Community Centre Social Room Badminton – 7.30pm Community Centre
FRIDAY	Playgroup – 1pm – 3pm – at the "playgroup room" at school Library open 11am – 12 noon
SATURDAY	Library open 11am – 12 noon
SUNDAY	Anglican Church Service (or Bible Study Group, see article) 10.30am Presbyterian Church Service 10.30am

Thurs July 25 **Traffic Enforcement Meeting** – Rob Fox - 7pm Community Centre (see notices around town)

Sat July 27 **General Election** – polling booth is at the Halfmoon Bay School 9am – 7pm.

Sat night – Celebrate / commiserate or just wonder what on earth that was all about and give thanks that we might get more on the news than Helen Clark looking earnest, Bill English looking horrified at the TERRIBLE job done by the Labour government, Jim Anderton looking as if he knows something the rest of us don't, Winston Peters looking like he is from some other planet (where people have perfect teeth and hair), and those others looking as if they might burst into tears any moment.

✂ Editors pick on the election – "Politicians will be elected but public servants will govern".

- Wed July 31 **Quiz Night** South Sea Hotel (proceeds to Community Centre).
- Fri August 2 **Morning Tea to Welcome Governor General** – 10.50am RSA – all welcome!
- Toi Rakiura Photo Exhibition** opens – 7pm Community Centre
- Sat August 3 **"Rakiura Women's Weekend"** from 9.30am at Community Centre
- Sun August 4 **"Rakiura Women's Weekend"** from 9.10am at Community Centre
- Thu August 8 **Pest Management Meeting** – 7pm at Community Centre
- Garden Circle meets** – see article

✂ Editor's Last Word

Well I hope you enjoyed our first issue of SIN! How often we can put it out will depend on how much help we get – so please get in touch if you are willing to give us a hand! (Especially if you can type, are willing to research and write stories or have computer "layout" skills) Send your articles etc to me by Friday August 30 if you want there to be another issue, which we aim to get out Monday 2 Sept. Hopefully next issue we'll get some contributions from those who haven't got back to us this time round, including Southland District Council cos wouldn't we all like to know what is happening at Ringaringa and with the proposed sewerage extensions?

Please also send any nominations for the chocolate award, and if you are willing to sponsor it get in touch!

Feel free to submit any "letters to the Editor". Perhaps this paper could become a good way for our community to air and debate issues that affect us amongst ourselves, rather than having our views often misrepresented or misquoted by the "national media" (not to mention the Southland Times...) It's up to you.

We might put advertising in the next issue to offset the costs of paper /printing – if you want to advertise in this paper get in touch and I will probably make up some exorbitant rate on the spot

- ✂ REMEMBER – This is YOUR paper – it can be whatever you want it to be.
- ✂ All articles and contributions welcome
- ✂ Thanks again to those who have supported this first issue!

Till next time: cheers, Chris Visser and the SIN team (Chris's Sinners)
202 Horseshoe Bay Road Stewart Island – PO BOX 123 – phone 2191 494 –
email possum.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz