

Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre Receives Recognition from the Ministry of Environment



From left: John Warren, Bill Todd, Lousia Palmer, Mark Browne, Bruce Ford and Winnie Laban (Parliamentary Secretary for Environment) pictured at the Ceremony in Wellington

Minister of the Environment, Marion Hobbs, announced the Green Ribbon Award for Excellence in Community Action for the Environment. It is presented to the community as a whole and to the Resource Recovery team.

The initiatives taken to manage our rubbish – albeit prompted with the expiry of the land fill approval – have generated considerable interest and commendations. This exposure will endorse the efforts of the community. The response from the community has been extremely encouraging in making this such a success. We will no doubt need to keep a finger on regular assessment and system checks to ensure standards continue to be high.

This Award is one of eight categories, and 220 nominations were received. Our nomination was supported by letters from various agencies and individuals, including Mayor Frana Cardno and Environment Southland staff.

The nomination was prepared by Donna Peterson, Southland District Council, and we thank her for writing such a comprehensive document. The same nomination was entered for the Environment Southland Awards, unsuccessfully.

An invitation to the ceremony in the Great Hall, Parliament, Wellington, was made from the Ministry of Environment, and as guests of the Ministry, Bill Todd (Ward Member), Bruce Ford (Chair, Community Board), John Warren (RRR/SIESA), Mark Browne (Engineer, SDC), and Lousia Palmer (Full Circle/Carter Holt) were honoured to accept the Award.

The Stewart Island Community has risen to the challenge and the excellence of the achievement has been duly recognised nationally. ■

MUSEUM NOTES.

Sorry to have missed last month's notes. Sometimes the clock and calendar run away on us! The main news this month is that our Chairman Ron Tindall has found it necessary to tender his resignation due to other commitments. His decision was accepted with some regret, and his position has been filled until our A.G.M. by Lorraine Hansen.

In the meantime our activities carry on!

The photograph collection is being sorted and cataloguing brought up to date by Lorraine Hansen and helpers. This is a long job, but progress is good. Curator Elaine Hamilton and her team are working through a tidy up of the area upstairs.

ACQUISITIONS:

Mrs Mavis Tait has presented us with a collection of wooden clothes pegs, which will expand our display of early household items – thank you Mrs Tait. Once again can we say “Please think of us before you throw out those old bits and pieces!”

Boat of the Month:

HO-HO

A well-known vessel in southern waters during the period 1954 to 1961, the **HO-HO** was built in Bergen, Norway, in 1947 by Berger Bryn. She measured 52' x 17'6" x 11'6" and was double skinned with a total planking thickness of 3 ¼", and was of the typical heavy displacement double-ended Norwegian design. She was ketch rigged and powered by a Burmeister engine.

HO-HO was sailed out to New Zealand by her builder, and in 1954 was purchased in Auckland by the Squires family to fish the Stewart Island, Solanders and Fiordland waters. Graham Squires was the skipper, with his brother Neville (Mick) as crew.

During her time at the Island she was chartered by the Government for trips to the Snares and Auckland Islands, and brought back samples of the giant crabs from the Aucklands. In 1959 she carried frozen fish to Bluff in deference to the then relieving ferry, the tug “**JAMES O'BRIEN**”

Her connection with Stewart Island ended in 1961 when she was sold to the Hunter Bros. of Wellington and set up for trawling out of the Capital. She has had several owners since then, and was last heard of running tourist trips to Australia's Great Barrier Reef under her new name of “**REEF RUNNER**”.

Hope you found this of interest – see you next month. Merv King.

Readers will probably notice there is no chocolate award this month. This is because (despite several gentle hints) no offers of sponsorship were received. I am reluctant to keep approaching the same organisations month after month. Here's hoping for next month.

Book Review by Sue Ford

“Eats, Shoots & Leaves” (The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation) by Lynne Truss, Profile Books 2003.

So why would anyone want to read a book about punctuation? Or should I have said: “So, why would anyone ...” etc? All it takes is to have a well-read friend who is passionate about it. Then you wait for the present.

The book begins with a dedication: “To the memory of the striking Bolshevik printers of St Petersburg who, in 1905, demanded to be paid the same rate for punctuation marks as for letters, and thereby directly precipitated the first Russian Revolution.” This sets the tone for the rest of the book. Lynne Truss then writes – most knowledgably it seems to me – about punctuation. There’s a whole history on the subject which provides endless amusing anecdotes. However, she brings the story of punctuation up-to-date. For instance, she rails against the lack of punctuation in the title of the movie “Two Weeks Notice”, and attempts to wring tears of pity for the poor apostrophe, treated so cruelly in the naming of the (defunct) singing band, Hear’Say.

As examples of mis-punctuation, she lists – among many other examples: Adult Learner’s Week (lucky him); Member’s May Ball (but with whom will the member dance?); Cyclist’s only (his only what?); and a sign seen in New York: Nigger’s Out, under which was written, wickedly: “But he’ll be back shortly”. And later: “The driver escaped from the vehicle before it sank and swam to the river-bank.”

Well now, this is all very well, but have I benefited from the book? Yes, indeed! However, not only are the ordinary, everyday uses of punctuation explained clearly, I have chuckled, giggled and even, occasionally, laughed heartily at Ms Truss’s explanations. Ms Truss’s? She doesn’t need that last ‘s’ after the apostrophe, I hear you say. And I would probably have agreed with you, but now I know about the Oxford apostrophe – arguments for and against. Ms Truss explained it all quite clearly, though I had to wipe my eyes of tears of laughter in order to be able to see it.

Lynne Truss writes in a racy style, irreverently, and yet practically. She defends her position (as a Stickler or Pedant) in matters of punctuation most ably but with hilarious asides. I should have had a text book exactly like this when I was at school. And the title? Well, it’s like this: a panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats, it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air.

“Why?” asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

“I’m a panda,” he says, at the door. “Look it up.”

The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

“**Panda.** Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves.”

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

The June Meeting of the Garden Circle was held at the home of Wendy Hallett on Thursday the 10th. Everyone enjoyed wandering round Wendy's lovely new home. We welcomed back Olive Carter who, along with her husband, has made a welcome return to the island until September.

The Roll Call "favourite gardening book or magazine" turned into lots of interesting discussions, as did the supply of gardening hints. Judging by the silence it caused, the in-house competition must have been one of our most uninteresting ones. It was won by Anita Geeson.

Competition results were:

Piece of Bark:	(1) Jenny Gell	(2) Anita Geeson	(3) Myra Leask
Primroses:	(1) Lil Skipper/Anita Geeson	(2) Olive Carter	(3) Myra Leask/Mavis Tait
Weed:	(1) Anita Geeson	(2) Pat Bethune	(3) Olive Carter

The next meeting will again be held at the home of Wendy Hallett at 2pm on 8th July.

For those readers who have patiently waited for part three of the G'Day story.....

"These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work."

"You aren't going to believe this, Chief. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it."

"What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life."

"You had better sit down, Chief. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and have then taken away."

"No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and keep the soil moist and loose?"

"After throwing away your leaves, they go out and buy something called *Mulch*. They take it home and spread it around in place of the leaves."

"And where do they get this mulch?"

"They cut down trees and grind them up."

"Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?"

With thanks and acknowledgement to the Australian Lawn Mowing Association and Irene Holliday.

LIONS CLUB OF STEWART ISLAND

Stewart Island Lions Club recently held elections when the following members were elected for this year:

◆ PRESIDENT	Wayne (Jack) Frew	2191 136
◆ SECRETARY	Janine Murray	2191 545 (re-elected)
◆ 1 ST V.P	Helen Bennett	2191 252
◆ 2 ND V.P	David Squire	2191 145
◆ 3 RD V.P	Anita Geeson	2191 014
◆ TREASURER	John Spraggon	2191 449 (re-elected)
◆ BULLETIN EDITOR	John Spraggon plus members	(re-elected)
◆ BBQ CO-ORDINATOR	Ken Geeson & Anita Geeson	2191 014 (re-elected)
◆ TAIL TWISTER	Ron Dennis	2191 110
◆ DIRECTORS	Because of the smallness of the club at present, it was decided that all members are directors.	
◆ PAST PRESIDENT	Ian Sinclair	2191 045

S. I. Lions Club holds meetings monthly (1st Wednesday each month) to share a meal, conduct on-going business – from fundraising ideas and implementation to organizing working bees to chop and deliver firewood to the senior citizens, etc and to enjoy some good fellowship.

Our latest fundraiser was a quick fire one for the MRI scanner for the Southland Hospital. This was done as a raffle with five draws of seafood. \$500.00 was raised and S.I. Lions added another \$500.00 to bring a total of \$1,000 to go towards this worthwhile cause. We also have our barbecue fundraisers, which we are forever doing every year and these are proving very popular. Our next really big fundraiser is the HANZ fishing competition, which is held every year in August. This brought \$50.00 in last year from the meet 'n' greet and this was donated to the Riverton Coastguard plus S.I. Lions added a further \$500.00 to this, to bring it to a grand total of \$550.00.

In the last financial year we have also given: - Cancer Research - \$500.00. Borland Lodge - \$500.00. Plus we sponsor a puppy for the blind at \$30.00 per month. We have also bought paint, etc to paint the RSA building, which we hope to paint as soon as the weather allows. Last month we catered for a wedding held h on the Island.

We would also like to remind those who sponsored Janine to dye her hair purple last year, (this was to fundraise for the Life Education Trust for which \$420.00 was raised) that the hair dye will be Lime Green this year. But this is under some discussion at present with the Life Education Trust nationally, so keep your eyes and your pockets open for this fundraiser. The money raised will be spent on our very own Southland children including Stewart Island. This is spent on education about drugs and their misuse, and all about their emotions and bodies while growing up. **Those interested in learning more, are very welcome to attend our July meeting when we will be hosting a guest speaker from the Life Education Trust, informing us all about their work etc.** Further information available from Janine Murray.

A reminder also to everyone that we will again be collecting eye-glasses (this includes sunglasses) in October. If you still have some, don't discard them – keep them for recycling in 2004 when they will be sent to the less unfortunate overseas.

We very much welcome new members, so if you think you would like to come along and share with us – get in touch. Our President is Wayne (Jack) Frew - phone: 2191 136 and our Secretary is Janine Murray - phone: 2191 545 or get in touch with any other member of Stewart Island Lions.

“WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING AND MEETING YOU.”

Weedbusting on Stewart Island

Halfmoon Bay School on Stewart Island have just spent a day looking after one of their local beaches. As part of the Department of Conservation's 'weedbusters' initiative, the school has adopted Bathing Beach and has been working with DOC to get rid of the weed marram and replant some of New Zealand's native sand binders.



The school started the day by visiting the community nursery to look at plant propagation and to select their own individual pingao plant. "It was the most fantastic day", said Stewart Island Biodiversity Programme Manager Brent Beaven. "It was educational and fun, and the students will be able to keep going back to see the difference that they have made".

A quick trip down to Bathing Beach allowed the students to learn about the weed marram and then plant their pingao in the dunes. The plants were all individually named and labelled so that the students can map their growth over time.

Stewart Island's beaches, like the rest of New Zealand, have been invaded with dune weeds. "Marram is vigorously taking over some of our most spectacular beaches, out competing threatened native plants such as pingao, and changing the very way that dunes are

formed", said Brent Beaven. This change in landscape also removes breeding habitat for bird species like the endangered New Zealand dotterel, banded dotterel and pipit.

The Department of Conservation's Stewart Island Fieldcentre is launching a major assault on Marram this year. This will be focussed on one of Stewart Island's biggest and most iconic beaches – Mason Bay.

Mason Bay, described as a dune system of international significance, will have marram completely removed and pingao restored over the next ten years. This is the biggest single dune protection project in the Southern Hemisphere and has been enabled by the government's new biodiversity funding.

For more information please contact Brent Beaven at the Department of Conservation, Ph 03 2190007; bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz. Background information is available at www.doc.govt.nz



Class 3 preparing to bust some weeds

In May I visited Wastebusters Trust Canterbury in Ashburton to learn all about their Education Programme for Primary Schools. The trip was paid for by Stewart Island's Community and Environment Trust, and Halfmoon Bay School allowed me the time off work. I learned heaps about the programme, which has units on subjects such as zero waste, worm farming, composting, and making recycled paper. Halfmoon Bay School children will get into their first unit next term, and I can't wait to get started.

While I was in Ashburton, I picked up some very useful information for everyone out there who has begun (or is thinking about trying) worm farming. All of the following information was learned from Wastebusters Trust Canterbury. Firstly, worms like to be fed small amounts regularly – although, if your worm farm is well insulated with damp newspaper and carpet, they'll survive quite well on those for a while. Too much food (or not enough worms) will result in your food going mouldy and smelly. Clearly you need to stop feeding your worms for a while, and let them clear up what's already in there. Consider whether you have too few worms (are they dying for some reason?), or whether its time to make an additional worm farm or a compost heap to deal with the new food scraps.

Worms love fruit (including banana peel), and the fruit and vegetable content of your scraps will keep the worm farm moist. Foods to avoid are: too much bread, as it will mould and make your farm smell; and meat, which is better re-used as dog food. Worms don't like orange peel, either. However, one person I met in Ashburton told me that if you soak it in a tub of water for 3-4 weeks, so that the peel ferments, the worms will then love it! It's worth a try. If your farm begins to smell "sour", bread or citrus peel may be the cause. You can fix it up by removing any bread and peel from the top and sprinkling in a little lime or wood ash to "sweeten up" the farm. Take off the lid and pause before doing this, so that the worms have time to hide from the light – they can be harmed by a handful of lime straight on their skin.

Worms don't like to get too hot or cold. Damp newspaper blankets (dunk them in a bucket of water before putting in the farm), and a square of old carpet or damp hessian sack can buffer both cold and heat. People I spoke to had concerns about the type of black plastic farm that I use, as they thought the worms might overheat in summer. However, weather on the Island tends to be more moderate than elsewhere in New Zealand, and I seem to be getting away with it so far. It might be worth keeping your farm out of the sun in high summer, and in the sun in winter. If rain gets into your farm, and it gets soaked, it will become anaerobic (lacking air) and will smell. You can rescue your farm by adding little strips of dry newspaper or shredded paper, and feeding a little less for a while.

Other problems worm farmers can have are other insects. Most of these (e.g. slaters) are either harmless or a bonus to the process, so its worth putting up with them. You might get a thin white worm, which can be removed by baiting with a slice of bread, but they aren't a serious problem. If you add tea bags and coffee grounds to the farm regularly, they tend to keep the white worms away.

If your farm isn't working, its likely to be one of the above, i.e.: too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, too much food, too much of one sort of food. You might need to get some rubber gloves on, and have a good look through once in a long while, but for the most part its not too hard to do. The benefits are the ability to deal with your own scraps at home as they arise, and producing some excellent plant food for your garden. The Warehouse sells very tidy plastic kits for around \$30.00, which seem completely rat proof (if you weight the lid). I can also give anyone who is interested information on building a tyre worm farm (cheap and highly successful), or on a source for wooden worm farms. ■

SCHOOL REPORT – Halfmoon Bay School

As usual the Term is running away with us. We are in week seven, with three more to go until the mid year break. In week two all parents and students met with their teacher for an interview to catch up on individual progress. Then both teachers spent two days in town to learn more about PrEP (Primary Enterprise Programme), which we began to run last year. This year we will make some adjustments, but most things will remain the same: an afternoon per week when the children split into enterprise groups and decide on ways to make “money” on Market Day. This might involve making things, providing a service, or planning some sort of entertainment. There are CEOs and accountants, bankers and warehouse managers. All decisions are made by the children (although in the case of a protracted dispute, they can write to the benevolent Governor General, Mrs Leask, for assistance). Good luck, Mrs Leask!

Mrs Hall visited Wastebusters Trust Canterbury (Ashburton) and learned all about their education programme (thanks to our local Community & Environment Trust for funding). We thank Laura Cavanagh for helping out with extra teacher-aiding, and welcome Mandy Pink who is also doing some teacher-aide work for a Term. Winter Clubs have begun, and everyone is enjoying the relaxed afternoons that lighten the darker days this Term. Daniel and Brent from DoC are running the Plant’s Club, Caron Hodge has been running Baking, Pete Bayne has organised Games, and Eunice Breitenbach has been our wonderful taxi driver! Thanks folks.

Brent Beaven from the Department of Conservation secured \$910.00 funding for the school to run a programme on re-vegetation at Bathing Beach (replacing the Marram Grass with native Pingoa and Sand Spurge). This was to include a trip to the Community Nursery and the beach, and resources such as books for follow up study. Since Oban Tours provided the transport free of charge we were able to spend the full amount on books about the environment, animals and plants, and related topics. It is wonderful to be able to select up to date and appropriate resources for our library, and we really appreciate the contribution by both DoC and Oban Tours!

The new Board are settling in, and will soon be consulting with the wider school community as part of a two-year cycle. One thing they will be looking at is the future of the school pool. (Yes, again!) Over the Christmas holidays the Board spent nearly \$6,500.00 on repairs to the skimmers and rusting areas. We had hoped that we might have some warm autumn weather, and made preparations to get the kids in swimming. However, while setting up our caretaker noticed that a part of the filter needed replaced, and we investigated the problem further. Our Property Consultant discovered that we are likely to come up against yet more costs to maintain the pool, some of which will be ongoing. The known and estimated future costs are as follows:

Regular costs:

Annual budget for chemicals etc	\$1,500.00
Monthly running of pool pump	\$300.00 estimate
Salt Water Chlorinator Cell	\$500.00 every 3 years
Minor repairs and maintenance	\$2000.00 every 10 years

In the next few years:

New chlorination system	up to \$3,000.00
Replace sand filters	\$9,700.00
Coating surface	\$7,000.00 to \$15,000.00
Treat and repaint steel braces	unknown
Replace “clearlite” cladding	unknown

Those who have read previous articles will know that we value our pool, which was built for us by our community around thirty years ago. We know that it took a massive effort. However, the Board can no longer afford to spend the sorts of money listed above on retaining the facility in the future (for less than twenty children). It has been suggested that it might be better use of funds to send the children to Splash Palace in Invercargill, for one week each year, to be trained by swimming instructors. The Board would like to hear from any community members with views on any of the above, particularly those who are interested in co-ordinating fundraising for the pool (Chairperson - Caron Hodge, 2191 087).

School Board of Trustee meetings will now take place on the **third** Tuesday of each month (previously the second), except January.

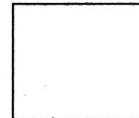
Brain Teasers (Answers on page 10 – no cheating!)

a) T
R
A
T
S

c) K
I
K I N G S
G
S

b) 0
M.A
B.A.
B.Sc.

d) GROWN



Port Pegasus Flight
by Stewart Dovey

I was lucky enough to be offered the spare seat in a helicopter trip to Southwest Cape at the end of May. A beautiful day made for a memorable flight. Tip to any budding photographers: If you take photos from inside a helicopter, make sure nothing is reflecting in the perspex. The human eye filters the image out but the camera doesn't -as can be seen at left.

Request from Recycling Centre staff to all Residents of Stewart Island.

Please ensure you do not put anything into the food scrap buckets that cannot be eaten by the worms on the farm. They cannot eat:- Mussel shells, oyster shells, crayfish frames, etc. If you are unsure, please ring the staff on 2191581 – they prefer not to have to sift through the buckets. Thks.

Ship to Shore General Store, Oban

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the community for their continued support. We are pleased to have just celebrated our first birthday in the shop and have enjoyed and appreciated all the good times and continued patronage.

The year has flown for us and it seems like a long time ago that we were, for the first time, wrapping up for the cold morning treks to the shop. We would like to let you all know that our winter hours are:

Monday to Friday	7.30am to 6.30pm
Saturday and Sunday	7.30am to 6pm

We are still running our in-store specials – call in and check out our table.

Wendy has scored some great winter warmers in the liquor area.
Stones Ginger Wine, Stones Alcoholic Ginger Beer and Mountain Thunder Mulled Wine.
All a must for cold evenings indoors!

Free Timber

The Recycling Centre has a quantity of timber to give away – all different sizes and lengths. Contact David Squire on 219 1581

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly, as material permits, by Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island. Your contributions are welcome and should be forwarded preferably by email to sdovey@es.co.nz as an MsWord™ attachment.
Deadline for the July issue is Friday 16th July 2004.

Answers to Brain Teasers – a) Upstart. b) Three degrees below zero, c) Kings Cross, d) Outgrown

If you wish to have this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island. For ten issues posted to an Oban address cost is \$20. For a New Zealand Address, cost is \$25

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