

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

June 2019

\$4.00

We've had a lot of different people, creatures, and plants grace the front page of *SIN*, but this might be a first time for a succulent. Seems like the perfect bit of brightness for these chilly midwinter days. I'm mightily tempted to call it a cactus, but a bit of research tells me that all cacti are succulents, but not vice versa. Here is what Iona has to say about this marvelous so-called "starfish plant" which you might have seen at the flight centre: "My mum (Olive) gave me this plant about 15 years ago. It's name is Orbea and it's a *Stapelia Variegata*. It first flowered about twelve years ago. It usually produces 1-2 flowers a year but I never know when they will appear. This year it has had at least 20 flowers at different times. I think it's because I've been feeding it once a month and it likes being kept in a sunny place."

Chris Dillon's yard cam picked up footage of a 10-pointer last month and I posted a still on the *SIN* FB page. It was pretty cool to see such a magnificent animal a stone's throw from the shop, right in the centre of our village! The image garnered a lot of attention from the on-line community, including a few sceptics and



keyboard know-all's claiming the photo was fake, or didn't originate in New Zealand! The photo is on the back page, along with a picture of a Stewart Island farmed deer from the 1980s for interest.

Famed storyteller Mona Williams (pictured left) visited the island and entertained the kids at Ruggies and every class at Halfmoon Bay School. The Wellington-based performer was born in Guyana, has lived around the world, written books, and has been a professional storyteller since the 1960s. I sat in on her storytelling session with the older students at school and it was a wonderful experience. Inside an hour she packed in singing, silly rhymes, personal anecdotes, ancient Norse legend, and an original tale from Guyana: all spirited and fun yarns on the surface, yet resonating with deeper themes such as race, class, and feminism. We were enthralled by this amazing lady!

If you appreciate this little local paper, please show your support by BUYING it. Sharing a single copy around a dozen people might save a

Notice to all residents and crib owners: A function to welcome our new resident policeman Stuart Newton will be held in the Oban Fire Brigade on Thursday 27 June from 7.30 pm. We will also take this opportunity to farewell Rosie Marchant who has been our police presence on the island since late January. Please bring a supper plate. A cash bar will provide refreshments. All welcome.



few gold coins, but this paper really needs the revenue to survive. If your place of work provides a free copy, please consider buying your own copy (so you have the crossword puzzle to yourself!). We offer paper and emailed editions and if you subscribe you're guaranteed a copy every month ... AND you're supporting your community newsletter. Subscription details are on the back page. Thank you.

Happy Matariki everyone! — Jess

Emergency trip to Invercargill – in the 1950's by William J (Bill) Watt

The golf course at Ringaringa is familiar to most of us, even if we don't actually play golf. We leave our car near the entrance now and walk on to Ringaringa. But I wonder how many people know that piece of land was the Island's first airstrip?

In the 1950's during the winter half of the year the *Wairua* came on Tuesdays and Fridays. The 'amphib' ran a scheduled air service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and spent Tuesdays and Thursdays in Fiordland. So if you got sick and needed to go to hospital urgently on Thursdays, the trip would likely have involved a 'chunderous' 3-4 hours in the

fo'c'sle of a fishing boat.

But there was another option. After WWII members of the Southland Aero Club cleared rough 'emergency' airstrips – for their own use but also as a community service – in several locations around Southland including Centre Island and Ringaringa.

I was aged 7 or 8 when I saw the Ringaringa strip being used for this purpose. As a family we were walking along the track that used to link Deep Bay and Ringaringa, where the road is now. An aircraft passed low overhead, then we heard the engine cut. We ran to see what had

happened. There was the aeroplane, intact, having landed safely on the strip. As a boy interested in these things, I was able to identify it as an Auster. It was very probably an Auster J/1 or one of its variants – in use by many aero clubs at the time. We watched in awe as the patient was loaded from Sister Sinclair's old Vauxhall car into the front seat of the Auster, then as the wheels were chocked and the pilot started the engine by swinging the propeller (Sister Sinclair in the pilot's seat to 'catch' the engine on the throttle). Then the exciting take-off run, with the aircraft apparently being 'bounced' off the Ringaringa end of the strip then dipping out of sight as the pilot turned what little height he had into airspeed.

(Continued on page 2)



The Boomerang Bags at the shop are made by local volunteers using materials diverted from landfill. Please use these instead of plastic bags and remember to return them at your convenience for others to use.

(Continued from page 1)

It was said that if you were faced with a flight off the Island, in this way, you got better on the spot or you were too sick to care.

Years later I enjoyed flying lessons at the Otago Aero Club and I remember discussing the Auster J/1 with senior pilots there. They described it as a 'horrible little aeroplane – primitive, noisy, drafty, uncomfortable, underpowered and with a nasty propensity to groundloop'. But – in the context of the time, it had one very useful attribute and that was a very low stalling speed (around 30 knots) – which gave it the ability to use small, rough landing strips. Like Ringaringa.



Mt Cook Airlines first "Auster" on display at the visitor center, Mt Cook. (Possibly the best place for it...)

A tale of caution! *by Rakiura Herzhoff*

On 28th May, my French helper (Jane) & I decided to suit up in wetsuits and go for a bit of a snorkel. Enjoying Stewart Island's under-water world is an important part of my life here and it is an experience I am proud to share with anyone willing to brave the cold – the rewards of such a subjection never get old!

We made our way to Golden Bay and hopped in the water for a bit of chill before the taking venture further afield. Into the little red dinghy and off we go - speedily in the direction of Ulva Island, specifically, Sydney Cove, to enjoy the Marine Reserve where big brazen blue cod taunt you and show off the fact that they are not hooked in these waters.

The point of re-entry into this under-water world was to be about 50m off Sydney Cove's crisp gold sand not far from everyone's favourite rope swing. My usual seaweed anchor technique was not going to cut it with the breeze threatening to gently kiss our dinghy out to sea – seaweed is slippery stuff after all, who knows when it will let go. I grab to remove the bag laying atop the anchor-bag in search of the promise of good hold on the seafloor. Stunned I was to find a furry face staring back at me - in its wide-eyed look of terror I could see my own expression of disbelief reflected in the eyes of a rat! Not just any rat either, but one that can most probably out-swim most of us Islanders!

Dropping the bag back on top of the rat, I turn to Jane and say: 'we've got a rather big problem on this small boat.' Whilst shuffling back to the engine I hurriedly explained that we had a rat aboard and that I would never live it down if I brought a rat to Ulva. Straining to hold the dinghy on a straight course whilst holding the throttle fully open we whip over the waves into deeper waters making way for Native Island. By now, our stow-away is fully aware of the gravity of the situation he is in, he had been discovered! Jane is laughing her head off whilst the rat runs circles under our feet within the dinghy, I'm busy praying it doesn't jump out and I lose sight of it!

About half-way across to Native I slow down, the rat jumps over my leg, and off the Port quarter through wind and into waves. Thankfully Jane has keen eyes and kept point whilst I made circle-back to intercept. As we get closer I grab a paddle to whack the damn thing as I come into reach. This little thing was motoring in pursuit of dry-land - Native Island – horrified I was when it changed tack and made for Ulva! I was amazed how quickly it acted when it saw me looming over it, the drenched rat dove downwards to avoid being beaten – incredible! It took about 15 seconds for it to resurface, by then, I was ready and did the deed.

Two or three more whacks and I was certain this rat wouldn't be an issue anymore. Phew! The commotion I was causing enticed a hungry mollymawk to land – perfect! Grabbing the sorry sight by its tail I lured the feathered friend closer and after a few mock throws let go of the rat. The molly first let it drop beside it with a small splash, after a sceptical inspection (for me a tense second) it was all over – rat swallowed whole by a mollymawk.

Disaster averted!

RAKIURA RIDDLE

**PEOPLE SEE ME IN MYRIAD WAYS:
DUCK, FISH, GIRAFFES,
STINGRAY**

**EAGLE, POSSUM, EMU, BEES
NET, SNARE, A MAT FOR
KNEES**

**AN ANCHOR FOR A GREAT
CANOE**

**AN OPENING THAT THE WINDS BLOW
THROUGH**

**THE CRUX OF THESE CLUES IS THAT MY
NAME**

CHANGES ROUND THE WORLD ...

**BUT MY SHAPE'S THE
SAME**



Stewart Island kiwi research

by Emma Feenstra

We have been back on the island this month checking on our transmitted kiwi on Ulva Island & at Kaipipi. As we continue tracking the birds we keep learning new things about them... like how many other birds they sleep with at night!

While other kiwi around the country tend to stick to one partner, I have a spreadsheet titled 'partners' for Rakiura tokoeka, and some groups list partner 1, partner 2, partner 3... partner 5! Maybe because it's so chilly? As I have checked a couple of transmitter fittings, I've noticed the birds have nice thick feathery coats, and when we peek into burrows they tend to be snuggled close to other birds, or sitting with their long bills tucked back under their 'wings'. While in Summer we would often find them roosting on the surface during the day, under flax or fern, they are mostly in deeper burrows now keeping warm & dry. We are also finding them in the same burrow for days in a row, which signals they are beginning 'nesting' behaviour.

This trip we began recording and translating the codes emitted by the transmitters. The most interesting things we get from the code are; the time of emergence (when the bird last initiated a period of activity), how long the bird was active for, and the mean hours of activity in the last four days. On Ulva Island in the first week of June, most birds have been emerging between 5 and 7pm, and staying active for between 10 and 14 hours. However, we have this one guy who likes to come out in the wee hours of the morning and stay out into the day, sometimes when we are sitting listening and writing down his code, he just walks right by and sniffs our boots.

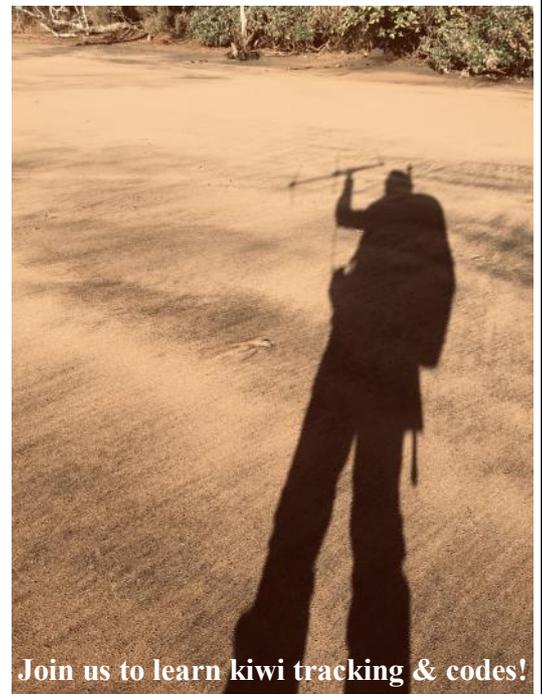
As we move into the breeding season, we will be keeping an eye on how activity patterns change, and hoping we can identify when birds start to incubate. For other kiwi species, this can be reasonably straightforward, e.g., when only the male incubates, causing a large decrease in his nocturnal activity. For Rakiura tokoeka, we are not sure how much the activity profiles will change, as it's believed both parents as well as previous years siblings all help incubate the eggs. Interesting times ahead for us as we learn A LOT about the breeding behaviour of these birds.

The more code taking we can do, the more success we will have in estimating incubation start and hatch dates for eggs. You can help! I would love to have locals involved in this project about your local kiwi. Code taking involves going into the bush with a box aerial, finding a signal and recording the code that's transmitted every ten minutes. It's a fun day out and can be strategically aligned for a sunny day, and you can take the kids! All equipment and training provided, and ongoing opportunities with Stewart Island kiwi are available.

Send me a message & follow the project at www.facebook.com/Rakiuratokoeka/, and email questions or just say hi to emmafeenstra@gmail.com

This work would not be possible without a lot of local help. (endlessly grateful) – a big thank you in particular this time around to Stewart Island flights, Stewart Island Backpackers, Ulva Island Ferry, Pete & Sharon Ross, Mike Douglass & the Mu.

Emma & the Stewart Island kiwi Research Team



Join us to learn kiwi tracking & codes!



Our daytime rogue



Transmitter check on Ulva Island

Yellow-eyed penguin

by Tai Simpson

I was lucky enough to be chosen to help Sandy King do the Yellow-eyed penguin monitoring. This has been an amazing experience.

On my first trip with Sandy, we went over to Groper Island where our aim was to find the penguins nesting sites. On this occasion, we managed to find 6 nesting sites. I highly underestimated this job as I imagined we would be walking on gravel tracks... but that was not the case. The majority of the time we were scrambling over supple jack or being captured and pricked by the much-hated bush lawyer. We made our way around the island using all of our senses to find these spectacular birds. We depended on the smell of the penguin poo or sign of the penguin poo. When we did manage to hunt down a nest, the adult would be protecting its eggs. Sandy would then put her hand under the penguin and feel around to determine how many penguin eggs there were, also another part of this procedure was to use 'The Wand', the wand is a green microchip sensor. Once we knew how many eggs there were and whether or not the penguin had a microchip, we slowly moved away to fill in the data sheets. During the process of finding the nests, we heard a roaring noise. I jumped in fright and ran near Sandy who said: "It's just a sea lion, don't worry it won't hurt you".

A sea lion? In the bush? The sealion ended up finding us, that's when we saw it was a little sea lion. We called her Mildred, Mildred followed us around like a dog. She was very nice!

On my second trip with Sandy, we went to Groper Island again. This time we had to go back to the nesting sites and see how many of the chicks survived. "OMG!! They are like little fluff balls" was my first thought. We tried to remember where the nesting sites were but failed and had to use the GPS. On this trip, we also encountered a **MASSIVE** sea lion lying on the beach at the bottom of the "penguin slide". The "penguin slide" is one of the main access tracks for the penguins who nest near. This caused more climbing around and over things to get back on track, and away from the sea lion. I must say that Sandy is very fit. Fitter than me. I got shin splints. Talk about painful!!

It was my last trip. It was time to catch these babies. On this trip, there were 6 people (but I can't remember their names). This trip was different, first, we went to Groper



Island and then we went to ????. First stop Groper!! We went to the first nest but couldn't find anything so we split up. All of a sudden I could hear someone crashing through the bush.

"Here here, I have one the other one ran left!" people were frantically running to try catch these fat little runners. Once they did end up catching them (I say they as in adults as I wasn't fast enough to catch them), they would hold their beaks and slip their neck through a bag that would fit around their body. Then one of the adults would hold the penguin while Sandy would apply special cream on the babies, then she would pull out a very very long needle from her bag and jab it in the penguin. In the needle there is a microchip, to make sure the microchip works Sandy uses the wand.

"Beep" the wand successfully detected the microchip.

This procedure repeated itself on both islands. Then the time came when I was asked to hold a penguin. "Are you sure?, I might drop it if it poo's on me" The birds did poo often!

I got very used to holding birds after a while. Then the adults asked me if I wanted to release it. "Easy," I thought.

Sandy told me "Whatever you do don't let the penguin run away with the bag!!"

The only thing I had to do was hold it's beak, undo the bag then bring the flipper side up so the baby would go through the top and right out and run away. It was hard. I did the first two steps okay, but as I started tilting it up he turned around and started attacking me. It was making a loud screeching noise as it was whacking and flopping his neck around to trying to make any contact it could with me. But I held on to the bag, tilted the bag vertically and gave the bag a bit of a shake and it finally fell out and ran away. Ohhh I was so relieved to be away from it!! It even drew blood on my hand!!!! But I still managed to get away without being pooped on!

No matter what happened to me throughout this amazing experience nothing could have changed my mind on how lucky I was to have been a part of this!! It was so much fun to see these birds grow from being eggs to babies then toddlers. In a way, I was kind of their Aunty. Big thanks to Sandy King for letting me tag along!! I'm so truly grateful. x

Free public evening to learn about Rakiura/Stewart Island archaeology.
 This year, the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) annual conference will be held on Rakiura/Stewart Island.
 On Thursday 29 August at 7.30pm, there will be an open public talk.
 The evening presents four archaeologists who specialise on the area and will speak on their specialty.
 We warmly invite anyone who wants to learn about the archaeology of Rakiura/Stewart Island to attend the public talk.
 When: Thursday 29 August. 7.30 pm – 9 pm.
 Who: Hosted by the NZAA
 Speakers: Professor Atholl Anderson, Brooke Tucker, Dr Matthew Schmidt, and Dr Peter Petchey.
 Where: Stewart Island Community Centre.
 Cost: Free
 More information is available at: <https://nzarchaeology.org/event/nzaa-annual-conference-2019>



NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Mamaku Point CONSERVATION RESERVE

The last two months at Mamaku Point have been all about the battle against the rat population explosion. The rimu mast event has led to huge numbers of rats outside the biosecurity fence, and the sheer volume of hungry rats outside the fence has inevitably led to some swimming or sneaking around the fence ends at low tide. We actually have a second fence within the main fence at both the Lee Bay and Horseshoe Bay fence ends, and these “cells” are effective at helping us to trap most of these invaders, but we have still been finding some getting around the second fence as well over the last two months, such as been the volume of rats. The battle is not won yet, but as in past mast-events, we will overcome!

On a more positive note, we recently completed the interior renovations of the main lodge building within the former forestry service “education centre”. This building has now been fully repainted, re-carpeted, had the old lighting replaced with modern



energy-efficient LED lighting, the old electric hot water system replaced with gas califonts, and, with fantastic support from the ANZ Staff Foundation the kitchen is now sporting a new fridge freezer, pantry, and flooring - see the before and after photos. So with the lodge building and bathrooms all renovated, all that is left to do to fully prepare for future school camps is replacement of the old bunk house, which is scheduled to happen later this year.

On the biodiversity side of things, we were very fortunate to have University of Otago Zoology masters student Kathleen Lalor based on the Reserve over the summer working on a full restoration plan. Kathleen has just finished her report, and this has highlighted plenty of opportunities for further research on the Reserve and the potential for a number of exciting translocations, including a number of bird and lizard species, which we will be working on in partnership with DOC.

As always, if you would like to visit the Reserve please just make contact with Antony on 021 949 960.

Crossword Puzzle: Last month's solutions

Across: 1 Pavlova, 6 Dolphin, 10 Native, 11 Raroa, 12 Nip, 13 Epauettes, 15 Rallies, 16 Awl, 17 Gear, 19 Oar, 20 Synonymous, 24 EPS, 25 Duo, 26 Sets, 27 Spun, 28 Ta, 30 Track, 31 Spa, 34 Sloe, 35 Ace, 36 Ashen, 38 Napa, 42 Ate, 44 Twisting, 46 Acheron, 47 Pie, 48 Ute, 50 Stub, 52 Ice, 53 Laminare, 56 Only, 58 Bygone, 59 As, 61 Endeavour, 63 Filo, 64 Lee, 65 Reliance, 66 Eternal.

Down: 1 Port Ross, 2 Virulent, 3 Ovation, 4 Andes, 5 Rimu, 6 Deterrent, 7 Last Post, 8 Hansard, 9 Napoleon, 14 Angus, 18 Especially, 21 Yellowstone, 22 Ostensible, 23 Mechanic, 29 Ash, 32 Peanut, 33 Ant, 37 Serene, 39 At, 40 Pipi, 41 Chemo, 43 Eve, 45 Gee, 49 Teal, 51 Under, 54 Agar, 55 Inept, 57 Yawl, 58 Bric, 60 Soil, 61 Elk, 62 Ova, 63 Fir. **Highlighted words:** Easter Orchid

Sarah's Rakiura remarks

In March this year the National Party released an ‘Environment Discussion Document’, something that I was heavily involved with in my role as Conservation Spokesperson. It underlined how National has practical, and science-based plans, to meet New Zealand’s environmental challenges

The document, which is a preparatory for our platform in 2020, asks New Zealanders to ‘have their say’ on our ideas.

One idea that I have received positive feedback on is the proposal for a new national park in the Catlins, which would be New Zealand’s 14th National Park. The deaths of yellow-eyed penguins at Curio Bay earlier this year which, reduced the colony to a single nesting pair (from three last season), has brought to peoples’ attention the need for greater protection in the area. Equally, the area is a dynamic one—farming and tourism activities are abundant as smaller communities abutting conservation areas make a living from the land in sustainable ways. As a result, I believe that this needs to be recognised

Another idea (outside the discussion document) that I have received positive feedback on is the prospect of high country land near Queenstown, including the Remarkables, being made into a national park. Speaking to conservationists and recreationalists, support for the concept is growing due to the beauty, and botanical richness, of the high-country tussock landscapes.

New Zealanders enjoy an innate connection to our conservation estate and national parks are a great way to improve our ability to enjoy nature; with Rakiura National Park’s beaches and reserves at your backdoor, it’s important to signal what protection and opportunities the Stewart Island community sees as important.

Matters of Conservation, especially those that concern the Invercargill electorate, are ones that I am extremely passionate about. That is why I encourage you all to take a look at our Discussion Document and ‘have your say’:

<https://www.national.org.nz/OurEnvironment>
Until next time.

from the office of Sarah Dowie MP



What makes a gardener garden? Is it a quest for beauty? A desire for fresh fruit and veges? Knowing what’s gone into what you’re eating? A sense of competition (yes, Murphys, I’m talking about you...)

Fishermen (the amateur variety, not our honest commercial guys) are always spinning tales about the where, the why, the how and inevitably the one that got away. Gardeners are a different breed. We will acknowledge that Schultz grows fabulous garlic and yams, Bryan Cronin (and Ernie Hopkins before him) kings of the tomato. Gardeners will even give plants, seeds and advice to friends and neighbours, so the whole competitive thing isn’t really happening. Unless of course you join that peculiar group who grow prize winning parsnips in drums and pumpkins large enough to hollow out and row around in.

So what makes a gardener spend Spring, Summer and Autumn risking insect bites, sunburn and pulled muscles? And then Winter (generally the Off Season) poring over seed catalogues, and gorgeous glossy garden magazines? Hope! Most gardeners are total optimists. The label might say plant in full sun but we are convinced we can get it to flourish in the shady area behind the water tank. Crops that have failed one year (be it weather, pests, children, animals or just causes unknown) are often planted again. Is this hope foolish and misplaced? Possibly, but the enjoyment of helping create something, or sitting to a meal mentally ticking off the provenance of each vegetable is a delight.

And just one, slightly sickly sweet quote (in a tacky fridge magnet kind of way) – “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow” – Audrey Hepburn.

Should you wish to learn a little more about gardening (when we are in the non-dormant part of the year) come along to our community garden. We’re just behind the nurse’s clinic in Argyle Street. —*Kirsten Hicks*



Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Allocations approved 2019

Stewart Island Promotion Association

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Visitor Information Collateral | \$1,766 |
| Cruise Ship Visitor Experience | \$3,375 |

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Footpath Kamahi Rd to Mill Creek | \$52,000 |
| Street Lighting Elgin Tce | \$10,000 |
| Moturau Moana Gardens | \$7,500 |
| Ulva Island Jetty | \$100,000 |
| Foreshore power point | \$3,500 |

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRCET)

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration | \$5,000 |
|----------------------------------|---------|

Total allocated
\$183,141

Do you have an interest in Recreational Marine Fishing?

The Recreational Marine Fishing Working Group is trying to establish an organisation to represent the South Island recreational fishing interests and they want input from the Stewart Island community about the creation of this organisation.

The group is meeting on the 15th and 16th of June in Christchurch, and the Stewart Island representative who will be travelling to this meeting is Tanya Dann.

For more information, or to obtain the working group’s discussion document and provide feedback (feedback is required by the 14th June) please contact Tanya via email at: tanyadannartist@gmail.com

**Island Inspirations – Rakiura Art Programme
25th-26th of May.**

The weekend was well attended, with 3 workshops running – Harakeke, Textile Printing and Astrophotography. There were 21 attendees in total, a mixture of Stewart Island residents and visitors. SIPA would like to thank our funders, supporters, tutors, participants and organisers. Thanks to the Creative Communities Fund, Real Journeys, The Stewart Island Gift Shop, Rakiura Education Trust, Pilgrim Cottage, Jo and Andy’s B&B and Seafarers. —*Shona Sangster*



Glowing Sky Merino

Between The Shop
& The Pub, Rakiura
glowingsky.co.nz



ALL IS REVEALED...

Beat the winter blues look good feel great

Ladies: Join us with a glass of bubbles at 7.30pm Saturday 29th June at the fire station.

Presenting Christchurch stylist Tracy Ilton and award-winning Southland hairdresser Jo Russell.

Evening format:

Tracy will cover how to make your wardrobe work, clothing ideas/trends including a capsule wardrobe and “illusion dressing” techniques for slimming ideas. Bring your make-up and have a go as she does the makeover on one lucky lady.

If you would like to be that person who will get a makeover including a cut and colour with Jo during the afternoon, please email ricky@kershawaviation.com with a full length photo so the guests can select the new person.

RSVP 15th June to ricky@kershawaviation.com or text 0274191228

Numbers are limited so don’t be disappointed.

Can’t make IT work?



✔ Computer and technology support for home and small business

Our qualified technician will be coming to Stewart Island on Friday 21st June.

03 217 0477 or 021 842 850 | needanerd.co.nz

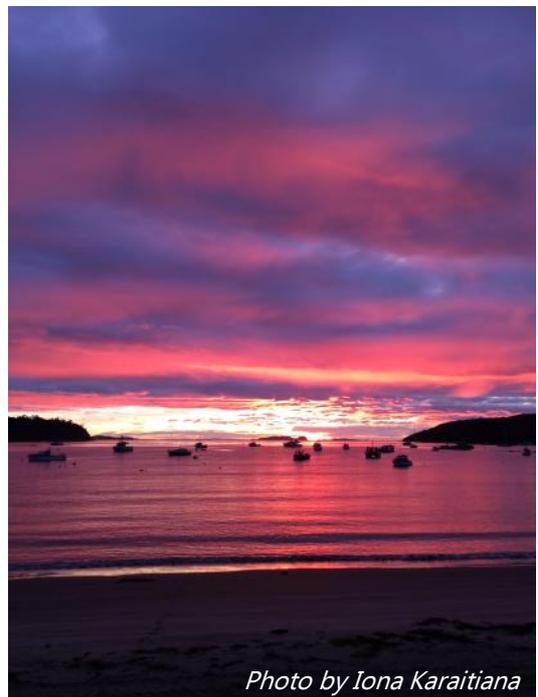


Photo by Iona Karaitiana

What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



No Recreational Drones over Rakiura's Public Conservation Land

Any remotely piloted aircraft system/drone taking off from, landing on, or hovering above public conservation land in New Zealand requires a permit for both recreational and commercial purposes. A permit makes sure that we protect local wildlife, consider people's privacy, and prevent accidents by following all drone-related New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Rules.

Recreational drone use is not allowed in Rakiura National Park and all applications that are submitted are likely to be declined.

Commercial drone use will be considered on a case-by-case basis and more information on this can be found here:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/commercial-drone-use/>.

There is absolutely **no drone use permitted on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara** and any application submitted to fly drones there will be automatically declined.

The reasoning behind the "no recreational drones" policy on Stewart Island/Rakiura is a combination of wildlife safety, visitor experience, and promotion of adhering to CAA Rules like "drones aren't allowed to fly within 4km of an airport or helipad". Most public conservation land near the Oban township is within 4km of the airstrip and Fern Gully hangar, so drones could pose a threat to Stewart Island Flights, private aircraft, or any helicopters coming to and from the island. The www.flyyourdrone.nz website is a great resource to find out what drone activity is permitted according to CAA.

Please help us to spread the word and if you see a drone taking off from, landing on, or hovering above public conservation land please take photos and/or videos of it, get the person's name if you can, and report it to DOC as soon as possible at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre in person, by email stewartisland@doc.govt.nz or by phone on 03 219 0006. We hold all records of commercial drone permits locally and will be able to tell you right away if the drone use you are seeing is allowed for.

New Sign Installed at Maori Beach

The Department has recently identified that there is a significant health and safety risk with visitors overloading structures with specific weight limits. An example of this from Mount Aspiring National Park is that the Blue Pools Track bridge (with a maximum load of 10 people) has experienced regular overloading of more than 30 people at once! This level of overloading has the very real risk of causing bridge failure.

The installation of a sign on the Rakiura Track at Maori Beach is part of a drive to improve safety signage for structures with load capacity limits since there was a concern identified that the green and yellow load limit signs may be ineffective. 47 structures have been identified as sharing this serious overloading issue and have had signage replaced or plans for replacement as soon as possible.

At the Maori Beach bridge site concerns were:

- Consistent increase of visitor numbers
- Large groups crossing the bridge e.g. school groups
- Possibility of language barriers with increased visitor diversity

We have not seen overloading of the Maori Beach bridge but are taking precautions to ensure that this does not happen.



Ranger Christina Paterson installing the new sign at Maori Beach.

Photo by Dale Chittenden DOC

(Continued on page 9)

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Rodent Incursion Response

Rangers have finished their final week of the second Tier 1 rodent incursion response on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara this year on Tuesday 4 June 2019. Every week Rangers rebaited all 197 DOC200 kill traps and checked 75 ink card tracking tunnels across the island.

Although there have been no further detections or indications of rodent presence on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara itself, there was a rat found on Tuesday 4 June in a DOC200 trap on Pipi Rocks! Because this was not on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara itself, this does not trigger another incursion response and we can declare the island rat-free once more.

It's important to remember that Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara is within swimming distance from mainland Stewart Island/Rakiura so it's normal to expect frequent rat incursions (especially with the increased numbers of rats around at present). While having rats turning up regularly might feel like a failure, the reality is that routine surveillance and regular interception before they establish a large population is what successful biosecurity looks like for now. If we were to see a rat-free Stewart Island/Rakiura in the future then we would expect to see a big reduction in rodent incursions.



Ranger Bec Baxter checking DOC200 trap (I2). *Photo by Belinda Dobbins DOC*

Mason Bay/Te One Roa Dune Restoration Programme Receives a Funding Boost

The long-standing dune restoration programme at Mason Bay/Te One Roa has received a significant funding boost as part of the Government's Biodiversity Contingency budget. Work will be underway shortly to determine the best strategy for the additional work at Mason Bay/Te One Roa but we know that it will have a pest plant focus and will aim to build on the successes that have already been achieved in the past 20 years. The extra work will be implemented in the next field season, starting in November 2019. The project also received a small one-off funding grant to double our helicopter weed spraying work scheduled for June 2019 with an additional 20 hectares now able to be controlled.

Possum Fur Trapping Permits

A reminder to everyone that it's really easy to get permission to go possum trapping on Public Conservation Land. Just call up the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre and arrange a time to come in and we'll get you set up with a trapping permit and let you know which areas have recently been trapped or toxin controlled so that you can target areas that will give you the best possum densities.

Dead or Injured Wildlife

If you find any dead or injured native wildlife please contact the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre. We have been receiving an increasing number of reports lately, which is great! Gathering this data helps us look for patterns or trends that might need further investigation. Having carcasses handed in allows us to preserve specimens for a range of reasons including cultural work, research and education.

These mottled petrels were brought in from Big Glory Bay with concerns that the birds looked saturated and unwell.

Photo by Jennifer Ross DOC



Rakiura National Park Biodiversity Programme

Please remember that there is a standing open invitation for any interested parties to discuss any aspect of DOC's biodiversity programme in Rakiura National Park and other areas of Public Conservation Land. If you have any questions or ideas please contact the local office to arrange a time to meet up. You can contact Kev Carter on kcarter@doc.govt.nz or 027 201 3543 any time.



Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust

for people for environment

SIRCET Update

It is with some sadness that we have to announce that our Project Admin Tanya Dann will be stepping down from the roll at the end of the month. We want to take this opportunity to thank Tanya for all her hard work over the last year and wish her well for the future. She'll be staying on the island, and you'll no doubt see her round in one of her other jobs. While we are sad to see Tanya go, we are excited to announce that Emily Barnett has joined the team in her place. Welcome to the SIRCET team Emily, we look forward to working with you.

Since our last update, we held another successful Kiwi Avoidance Training. 30 Dogs were put through their paces and passed. Congratulation to all those dogs (and their owners), we want to thank you for your continual support to save our Kiwi. And a BIG thanks to trainer Sandy King, who we certainly can't do this without. We'll have another round of training later in the year, so keep your eye out for those dates when they are announced.



SIRCET trustee Wayne King congratulates Nonu Retburg-Jones on passing Kiwi Avoidance Training. *Photo: Jules Retburg*

Just a reminder to stay vigilant with your rat trapping. We've seen a rise in the number of rats being caught in our project area and latest monitoring results also show an increase. If you have a rat line in our project area that you are having trouble getting to every week, please let Willy know as soon as possible so he can arrange cover.



Get involved in trapping like our resident volunteers Jen, Tash, Shona and Cath who took this photo while they were all helping each other with their rat lines. Such a great idea!

If you are interested in volunteering Contact Willy on 02041674160 or email pest-manager@sircet.org.nz (if checking rat lines isn't your thing, we also have some other opportunities as well)

Our trap library is still available to borrow traps from if you live outside the project area. In addition to rat traps, we also have traps for possums, cats and hedgehogs. If you are interested in "checking out" a trap or two, contact Di Morris on 0277599773 or email pete.di1@xtra.co.nz

RAKIURA JADE

*with Master Carver & Sculptor
Dave Goodin*

**Open from 10.30am every day upstairs at
45 Elgin Terrace (next to the boat slip)**

**Enjoy stunning views of Stewart Island harbour
from the world's southernmost jade workshop.
Make your own treasure from your selected piece of
beautiful New Zealand greenstone
(from \$180/day; conditions apply)**

**Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects
made by local artists
www.rakiurajade.co.nz rakiurajade@gmail.com
021 025 93958**

"Mission without Borders" Knitting for the overseas orphanages needs to be in by mid June, ready for packing in Invercargill early July. Many thanks to all who support this worthy cause. Elaine 2191027



Stewart Island Real Estate

For all local listings -
houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.
See our website TODDCO.NZ
or contact our local representative
Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589
for all Island real estate enquiries.

WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD, LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT (REAA 2008)

TODDCO.NZ

400 Words by Beverley Osborn

I guess most of us have heard the phrase "All is fair in love and war". It's been ringing in my head lately as I've come across things that I think are unfair. I wondered whether the phrase originally appeared in an approving or disapproving context, so I applied to Mr. Google and found it has been around, in one form or another, for a very long time. Its earliest known use was by a poet, John Lyly, in 1579 and he obviously thought it was an O.K. excuse for questionable behaviour.

The Oxford Learner Dictionary defines it as meaning that, in some situations, any kind of behaviour is acceptable to get what one wants. It's related to that other old adage - "the end justifies the means". That one encourages us to believe that, if we win, the way we achieved that doesn't matter.

I think the way we win DOES matter, of course, in love and war and in all other situations of competition. I feel that in today's society the focus on winning frequently obliterates any reflection about honourable dealing.

In the days when dueling was seen as a normal way of avenging insults or settling arguments, there were strict rules about procedure and anyone disregarding those rules was branded as dishonourable, even if they'd won the duel. For us, conduct is mostly a matter of conscience.

A mail order firm, with which I lately had dealings, combined recommendations for lengthy trial usage with a very complicated return procedure that would compromise the client's ability to meet the 30 day limit, thereby forcing the customer to pay the full price. That would be a win for the company, just as it is each time one of those annoying telephone scammers succeeds in sucking in an innocent quarry.

Then there is politics. We could hardly be unaware of the kerfuffle surrounding the leak before Budget Day. The National Party oozed delight about acquiring confidential information, but is scoring points more important than sensible debate about whether the budget was helpful to the welfare of New Zealanders?

If there's anything in business, political or social practices that outrages our sense of justice, doesn't that indicate that, at a basic level, we believe in honourable dealing? Compassionate justice, honesty and honour make good foundation stones for a society, so long live healthy outrage when they are lacking!

RAKIURA PEST CONTROL

Local trapping service targeting
RATS, POSSUMS AND FERAL CATS
On Domestic, Commercial and
Bush Block properties

Non-toxic lures to humane kill traps or live
capture traps (for feral cats/possums)
NO POISON USED

**CONTACT DENISE HAYES ON 2191 159 or
0273 913215**
to discuss your individual requirements

Need a

- **RESOURCE CONSENT?**
- **CONCESSION?**

**Or just some advice about developing
your property?**

I CAN HELP you get 'over the regulatory hurdles' and find your way through the maze.

I specialise in applications under the Resource Management Act to both Southland District Council and Environment Southland - I can often help with matters under the Building Act and other legislation.

I can also help you prepare your application if you need a 'concession' for an activity from the Dept of Conservation.

I have 40 years' experience in local government and 8 years' experience as a Planning and Environmental Consultant.



027 495 9288
williamwatt@outlook.co.nz

Following on William Watt's story in the last SIN about **Car Case Castles**, I can confirm that there is still some of that special material used today. I saved up some of the sides of the cases and by pulling them to pieces and picking out the best bits I have re-used two panels as lining in a Tiny House. Baltic Pine is quite durable and light and strong and nearly free of borer and rot. The Whaling Base buildings were mostly built of this timber as they were pre-cut in Norway. As it is also fairly stable I have used bits for tea-trays, picture frames, small cabinets and boxes. A photo of one wall shows the original lettering, 'AUSTIN, Cars for the World'. They weren't big cars. I think after 1948 they were imported without boxes. I remember some cars were kept in the boxes as garages, but it meant pushing them in and out as a tight fit. The box of pipe dies I made from some left-overs, the lettering is not original, done with a stencil. The dies

themselves were stored in Herbie Hansen's boat shed and had got a bit rusty, they were Herbie Seniors, who did a bit of plumbing here, and I wonder if they came from the Kaipipi Whaling Base in the first place as bigger than needed for house plumbing.

—Peter Goomes



Church Chatter

by Jo Riksem

I think clouds are one of my favorite subjects and we get some magnificent ones on Stewart Island. There is so much to them; colour, mood, shapes and sizes. Some think that clouds are ominous but there is so much to see in them. Sometimes our lives can be cloudy but there is always hope and love that will see the clouds melt away. Next time you see clouds think of all the positives it brings in the sky or in your life.

Speakers for July 2019

7 July – Graham and Tanya Parsons

Graham Parsons lives in rural Southland, about 7km from the small town of Tuatapere, where he works as a rural police officer. He and his wife Tanya, who works as a registered midwife at Southland Hospital, return this month. Graham grew up on a sheep and beef farm in Northland before attending Lincoln University, then worked for DOC for a few years, spent approximately 1 year serving with Youth With A Mission (where he met Tanya) before joining NZ Police where he has worked ever since. Graham is on the eldership and Tanya teaches Sunday School at Tuatapere Presbyterian Church and he is also a very active Board of Trustees member for the local Area School. Graham is a keen deer hunter when he gets the chance.

14 July – Stephen Dewdney – Stephen is a Baptist minister living in Dunedin. We look forward to his visit.

21 July - Interesting Islander. - Come along and find out which one.

28 July – Will & Rachel Cheeseman – A regular visitor to Stewart Island from Bluff.

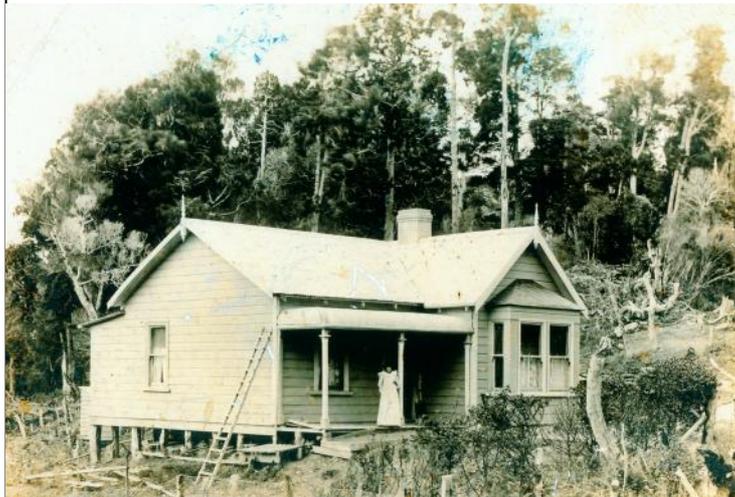
Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.



Morning clouds over Halfmoon Bay

MUSEUM MATTERS *by Jo Riksem*

HOUSE OF THE MONTH: Hansen to Hicks Home



Annie Hansen in front of house early 1900s



Home as it is today

This home was originally built in the early 1900s by Henry and Annie Hansen and they occupied it for several years. There was a paddock with the house that had horses as well. Over the years it had many owners including; James Watson, Maurice Topi, Charlie Young, Gladyn Young, Tom McIndoe, Sam and Faye Smith (Phillip Smith's brother, David Waitiri, Trevor and Hettie Atkins and present day owners Kirsten and Quin Hicks who purchased it in 2007. They have done extensive renovations to the house during their ownership and Kirsten's father, Ross Nicoll, a talented wood worker, made both the finials and lace work on the porch which incorporated anchors and fern fronds.

Acquisitions for May 2019

Large Atlas of Australasia of 1886 which shows a map of the South Island and Stewart Island with names of places that no longer exist belonging to George and Lylla (nee Wood) Skerrett of The Neck. Thank you to our donor.

Searches for May 2019:

Wrecks on Stewart Island including the "Pacific" and

"Othello", school history, Japanese lady at Doughboy, place names on Stewart Island, swimmers of Foveaux Strait, Parsons family, Hicks family and ferry "Orewa."

Groups for May 2019:

Waikaka School

Snippet:

In Sheila Natusch's book, "An Island Called Home" this snippet, "Feeling the need off and on to get away from civilisation, our uncle (Uncle Fred) would head up to his camp, which had all he needed, including slippers nailed to the mantelpiece and a notice above the door: HUBBY'S RETREAT: PEACE, HOPE, COMFORT. What Aunt Ethel thought of these sentiments we never found out."

Winter hours May through September:

Monday - Friday 10 am-12 noon, Saturday 10-1:30, Sunday 12 pm - 2:00 pm.

Rakiura Marine Guardians (RMG)

is a Stewart Island-based incorporated society. It was formed in response to local concerns about recent proposals for marine farming in Port Pegasus, and more general concerns that Stewart Islanders are being excluded from decisions that effect the marine environment that is a vital to the Island economy.

The society's purposes are to advocate for the protection, enhancement and sustainable use of Stewart Island's marine environment; and to work towards establishing Rakiura Marine Guardians as a statutory body with oversight over the Stewart Island Coastal Marine Area.

The society's name is similar to Fiordland Marine Guardians. This is intentional. Rakiura's and Fiordlands marine environments are both special. The Fiordland Marine Guardians' document *Beneath the Reflections* said this about Fiordland's marine environment:

"Fiordland's vast size and seemingly robust nature has not fully protected it from increasing human access; there have been implications for the sustainability of fish populations, maintenance of special values and the potential for invasion by pests"

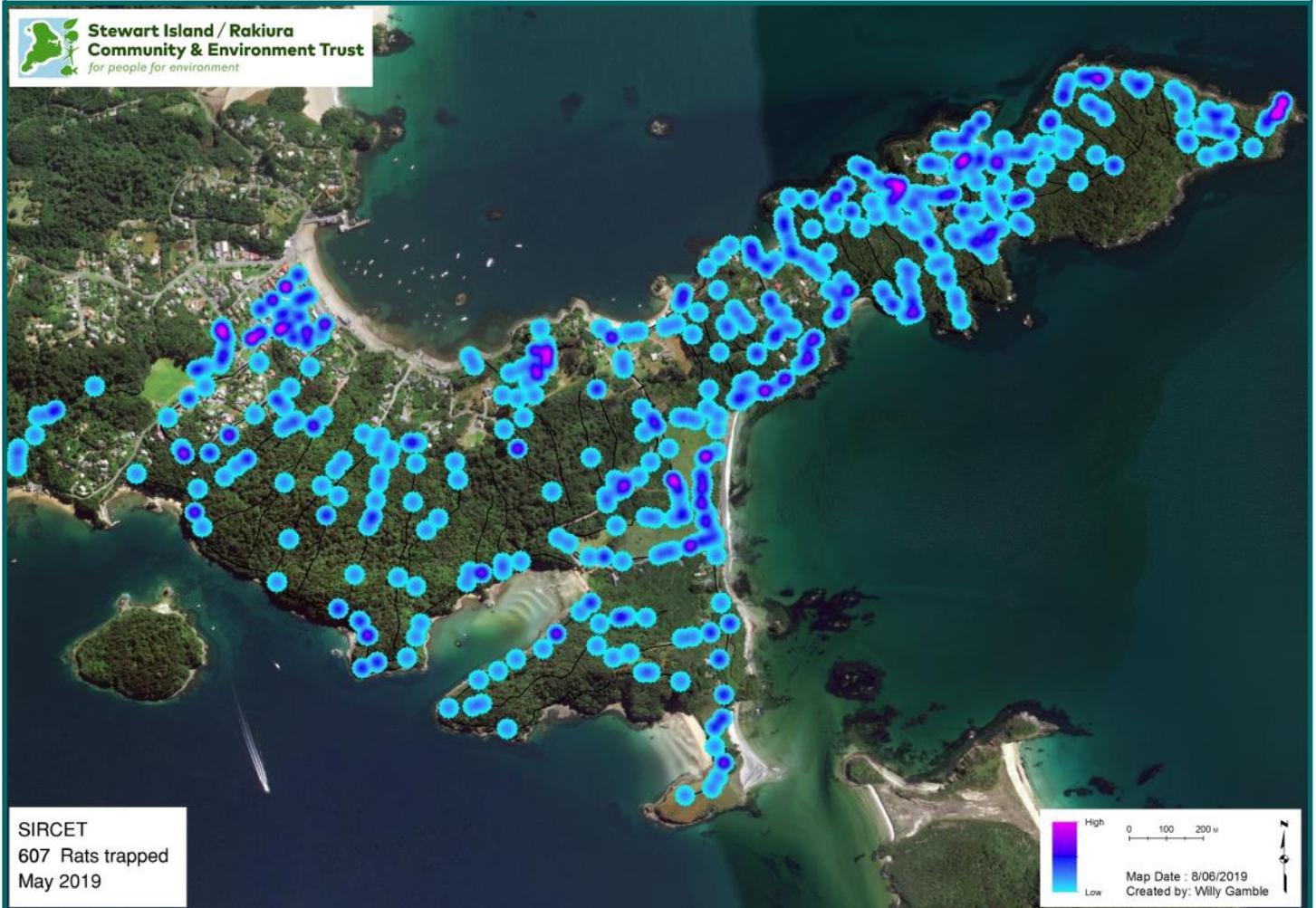
The same is true for Rakiura. RMG

favours developing a representative, multi-disciplinary group, similar to Fiordland Marine Guardians, that will directly advise the statutory managers responsible for the Island's marine environment.

Rakiura Marine Guardians urges Islanders to get involved: not just residents but anyone with an interest in and passion for Rakiura.

For more information, contact the Secretary at claydons@actrix.co.nz. Please consider attending Rakiura Marine Guardians' next meeting, the annual general meeting on July 4th. (See the notice on the back page.)

SIRCET have caught the most rats ever for a single month since records began in 2005/06!



In July our Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies and organisations of Predator Free Rakiura will be signed. Together, we look forward to celebrating this milestone which symbolises and describes the strong commitment to work through the complexity and exciting challenges of the Project. Further information in the next Stewart Island News.



We congratulate Tane Davis, who this month became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services over two decades to conservation and Māori interests.

We've been working on an application to secure three years of funding to set up the project management, community liaison and engagement roles we think are essential now. Fingers crossed.

At times it can be hard to see how to tackle such a large and complex idea: to remove the rats, feral cats, possums and hedgehogs, and to keep them (and currently absent predators, like stoats) off Rakiura and the surrounding islands. We think by doing this our wildlife and wilderness can be safer and Rakiura will be healthier, with all sorts of benefits. The recent effects of the fungal infection aspergillosis for kākāpō brings to the fore the focus on finding solutions to difficult challenges. Courage, innovation, collaboration and compassion will be required in the steps ahead and we all have roles to play. I find the work of others to restore their islands inspiring: Island Conservation's work in Floreana, Galápagos and the work of the Maukahuka Pest Free Auckland Island team are stunning, Google-able examples. I'm especially inspired by the stoic, determined collective of groups and individuals working on and for Rakiura right now.

Bridget

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809), Sandy King, John Cushen or Garry Neave.

Ambergris



New Zealand's longest established dealer of Ambergris. AmbergrisNZ is wishing to buy all grades of Ambergris, please refer to our website: www.ambergrisnz.co.nz
 We are offering top New Zealand prices.
 Contact: Terry & Wendy
 Email: info@ambergrisnz.co.nz
 Or
 Phone: 0274 991 881

Rakiura Marine Guardians Incorporated. Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Rakiura Marine Guardians Incorporated will hold its 2019 Annual General Meeting on Thursday July 4th 2019, at the Oban Fire Station, Stewart Island, commencing 7 pm.

All members and intending members are welcome to attend, as well as anyone interested in Rakiura Marine Guardians' work. Only members will be able to vote.

An important part of the Annual General Meeting is electing committee members. Rakiura Marine Guardians Incorporated rules require a minimum committee of six: three officers; Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, and at least three general committee members.

The present officers' and committee members' appointments expire at the Annual General Meeting. They are eligible for re-election, if they wish to stand again.

If you wish to nominate someone as a candidate for officer or general committee member, or are interested in being nominated as a candidate, please inform the secretary at claydons@actrix.co.nz.

P J Clarke
 Secretary, Rakiura Marine Guardians Incorporated.

Are you an Environmental Champion?

Nominate yourself or someone you know for the Environment Southland Community Awards!

Help us recognise and celebrate those protecting our future. There are great prizes to be won and categories for everyone including Rural, Business and Community.

It's really easy to enter! Visit www.es.govt.nz/awards19 for more information. Nominations close Friday 26 July



Left: 10-pointer captured on video in the village last month.
 Right: farmed deer at Horseshoe Bay circa 1987.



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

Advertise in the STEWART ISLAND NEWS

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 crib owners, former residents, and other subscribers around the country and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too. So tell all of those people about your business! Contact editor for rates. stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

If you wish to have Stewart Island News sent to you or a friend, please fill out this form and send it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island 9846.

Or
 Direct deposit to Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 — please put your name as reference and don't forget to send me an email with your address.

The cost is as follows:
 12 issues to an Oban address \$48
 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$66
 12 issues to international address \$96
 12 issues emailed \$36

Name of Recipient: _____
 Address: _____