

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

June 2023

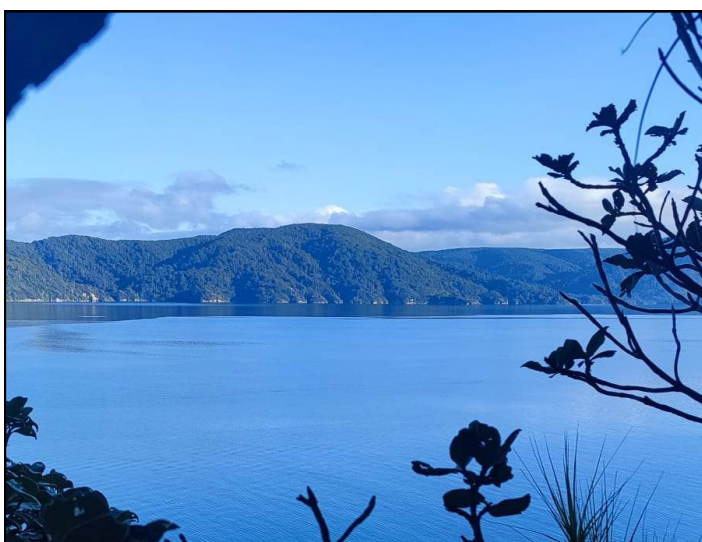
\$4.00

~ What's inside? ~

- Letters to the editor about current local issues (p4,5)
- Community meeting recap (p1,9)
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- Updates from Police, SIRCET, DOC, and more!



Another SIN, another mushroom...
Verdigris Waxcap / *Gliophorus viridis*
Photo credit: Andrew Eastwood/Easti



Beautiful winter weather. A sunny day looking out from Ulva Island. Photo credit: Kristen Clements

Sadly, Jimmy Gliddon passed away this month. Condolences to his loved ones. Jimmy was well-known and respected in the community, and will be missed.

Stewart Island Community Meeting 30th May 2023

Future Rakiura would like to thank our meeting co-hosts Southland District Council and Stewart Island Promotions Association, the speakers from the 13 groups who shared updates, and over 80 members of the community in attendance for what was a great night of informative and encouraging talks.

Ngā mihi nui, many thanks, to whānau from Te Pā who opened the evening with a mihi whakatau. This was a warm welcome for the district Mayor, Rob Scott, who introduced himself to the community with enthusiasm for the role and pride of the south.

Boffa Miskell informed us of progress of their contract to alleviate the challenges of access to Golden Bay Wharf, with design options for additional parking and footpaths. A draft of their emerging masterplan will be presented to the Community Board this month and they welcomed feedback at the public consultation session the following day.

Stewart Island Health Committee shared the history of the working group, advertised their upcoming AGM in June with the need for diversification of members (male representatives, and that of young families in particular). The current and ongoing projects are the Mental Health support pilot scheme and the upcoming St Johns '3 Steps for Life' training. (Julie Asher)

Rakiura Māori Lands Trust updated us with statistics from their successful eradication of pest species on the Neck, which is resulting in great regeneration of the bush. They also shared their plans for future tourist

(Continued on page 9)

Bruce Ford receiving his MNZM (Member New Zealand Order of Merit) for Services to the Community from the Governor General. Congratulations Bruce!



**WEED
OF THE
MONTH**



Cotoneaster Species - Cotoneaster franchetii, C. glaucophyllus, C simonsii

Cotoneasters compete with native plants in a variety of habitats. They can form dense stands, have long lived seeds and mature quickly, giving them an advantage over other plants. Seeds are spread by birds.

To identify - Evergreen shrub with shiny green leaves, can grow up to 3-4metres. Young leaves are pale and downy. Clusters of small white flowers in November to January,, turning to red berries.

To remove - Dig out small plants

Cut and paste stump treat with metsulfuron-methyl or picloram gel. Paste ends of branches that are left on site. Spray with metsulfuron-methyl + penetrant per 10L water during summer-autumn.

Check regularly for seedlings, and new growth on stumps, and replant with dense ground cover.

Plant instead - Coprosmas, Corokia, or Pseudopanax species.



**Fabulous Fungi
Community Exhibition**

JUNE 19TH - JULY 16TH

**SIRCET Environment Centre
(beside Glowing Sky)**

&

**Rakiura Museum
Te Puka o Te Waka**

**Including items from the Dorothy Jenkin
collection of fungi watercolours**



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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 at stewartislandnews@gmail.com

How to contact the editor

I (Freya) welcome questions/comments/chats about the SIN, however I am working full time elsewhere. If you want to talk about anything SIN-related with me, please contact me by email stewartislandnews@gmail.com in the first instance, or text 02041796127. I will respond to you out of hours when I am available. I appreciate your patience and understanding. Shona Sangster will be editing the July issue.

Stewart Island's newest venture

If there's one question that has been wearing thin over the past 18 months, it's "when will your gin be ready?" The keepers of the Island's worst-kept secret are now finally in a position to proudly answer that very question! The answer is "right now!"

There will be very few people unaware of the conversion of Loosey's old garage at 23 Main Road into New Zealand's southernmost and Stewart Island's first legal distillery by the Rakiura Distilling Company. The Island was never going to be an easy place to start a distilling operation with the logistics around freight and compliance sometimes overwhelming and seemingly financially ridiculous, but frustration and perseverance has finally paid off. After two years of planning, consultation, consents, building supply issues and many cases of "two steps forward, one step back" the dream of being able to produce a local gin on the Island is finally a reality.

Dave Patterson (Head Distiller), Jim Turrell and Ben Hopkins got together back in 2021 and came up with the idea to take Dave's excellent recipe commercial and scale up from a 20L stove-top operation to a 400L custom-built copper Alembic still imported from Portugal. Affectionately named "Harold" after Ben's late grandfather and local character Ernie "Harold" Hopkins, who was known to enjoy a gin or two in his earlier days, the still forms the centrepiece of the whole operation.

Along the way they were joined by Ben's cousin and photographic artist Hannah Watkinson from Christchurch, whose creativity, design-skills and experience in similar businesses (along with her ability to stop three blokes from going off on tangents!) has been invaluable in setting up the customer-focussed aspects of the enterprise, such as the website and social media presence necessary in today's online world.

Containing locally-foraged botanicals including manuka, rimu, horopito and Stewart Island honey, along with some of your more standard ingredients found in gins worldwide, Third Island Gin is a refreshing and tasty hand-

crafted spirit, which hopefully those who try it will enjoy as much as those who make it! Over time the team will experiment with new recipes and ideas to produce a range of different products, all while keeping the original Third Island Gin in stock. So watch this space!

At last count there were over 140 distilleries in New Zealand, however we feel that keeping our base on Stewart Island sets us sufficiently apart from the rest and we consider it to be more a part of showcasing what the Island has to offer than trying to compete in what is now a very crowded market.

Unfortunately due to the terms of the resource consent, we are unable to offer tours and tastings on site, as it is strictly production-only, however the South Sea Hotel now stocks Third Island Gin at the bar for people to try and bottles can be purchased online at www.rakiuradistilling.co.nz with an option for free click-and-collect at the gate or delivery by arrangement for locals and visitors to the Island. For a locals- and SIN readers-only 10% discount, enter the promo code LOCAL at the checkout.

We also ship throughout New Zealand, so follow us on Facebook and Instagram and help spread the word!



COMMENT

The former DOC Director General Mr Lou Sanson spoke at the recent Rakiura Māori Lands Trust AGM.

Mr Sanson made a number of statements relating to hunters, hunting, and previous activities on Stewart Island which are factually incorrect or misleading.

He said, “recent data shows whitetail deer in record numbers.” I am unaware of any research to ascertain population density or any evidential record of numbers of whitetail deer. The source of Mr Sanson’s data is unknown and is in sharp contrast to reports from hunters.

“Hunters shoot one deer in ten days”, he said with no further explanation. This is correct from hunter reports on Conservation Land. RMLT does not collect data from hunters so to generalise this applies to RMLT land could be seen as misleading. What Mr Sanson did not say is that in those ten days each hunter encountered only four deer, one deer seen every 2 ½ days hunting. One whitetail deer killed for every four deer seen is probably the best hunter result for any of New Zealand’s deer species across the country.

In answer to a question about 1080 from the floor Mr Sanson said: “Predator Free Rakiura is going to have to use 1080. Cost is in the order of \$70M. The last use of 1080 was 2018 ground based.”

Mr Sanson was asked a question from the floor “So why is it that 1080 has not been used since 2018? Sanson replied “opposition from hunters!” This is

blatantly untrue. The ground based 1080 program on Stewart Island ended in 2018 when DOC diverted the funding that was required to continue the poison program to the “Battle for the Birds.” Mr Sanson was the Director-General of Conservation at that time. Hunters did not oppose this use of ground based 1080 poison on Rakiura, in fact many hunters supported poisoning possums using this method.

Sanson also reported “RMLT are the most popular blocks on the Island” This statement is factually incorrect. 620 parties were issued DOC permits to hunt on 35 Conservation Rakiura blocks in 2022 (April – March). The majority were issued for 10 days.

- Six blocks were booked for more than 200 days.
- Two were booked for more than 270 days.
- Three were booked for more than 300 days.

Best usage estimate of 9 RMLT hunting blocks is a total of 103 weeks booked (721 days total). Clearly Mr Sanson’s statement does not stack up when just three Conservation blocks have more bookings than all nine RMLT blocks.

Such comments cannot be left unchallenged, and I trust your readers who attended the meeting or listened to the online recording will get a better understanding of the facts as a letter to the RMLT trustees has not been acknowledged.

- John DeLury

Response to John DeLury’s Letter from Rakiura Māori Lands Trust (RMLT)

The Rakiura Māori Lands Trust is grateful for the chance to respond to Mr DeLury.

We could argue back and forth on a number of the issues John raises and but after a lengthy conversation between him and one of our trustees, it’s clear we agree on more than we disagree. Information from our hunters would indicate that deer numbers are increasing but John believes that this is not the case.

RMLT agrees that more scientific surveys of deer density would be beneficial to the management of both their lands and the National Park.

Lou’s comments at the RMLT AGM are correct but possibly out of context. The ongoing project to get Rakiura to Predator Free status by 2050 will require all options to be considered. There has been opposition to 1080 from hunters in the past but they may not have been members of the

Deer Stalkers Assn.

Lou’s comments re: the popularity of the RMLT blocks are correct in that we cannot meet the demand for huts and they would be blocked out for 5 years in advance if we allowed future bookings. So despite their higher price tag, RMLT blocks still remain the premium choice for many hunters.

However we apologised to Mr DeLury for not responding to his email and have now committed to working more closely together as RMLT has had some negative feedback from the community re: the actions of some hunters who are more interested in fishing than hunting and how we can get a better handle on the density of deer and promoting better management of deer to improve the biodiversity of Rakiura.

RMLT thanks John for sharing his concerns and looks forward to a closer relationship with the organisation in the future.

- Rakiura Māori Lands Trust

Letter to the editor: Felling of historic Hawthorn

by Raylene Waddell

The Southland Times news article (09.06.23) about the felling of the historic Hawthorn at Horseshoe Bay revealed further links in the chain of bureaucratic obfuscation to which those of us seeking accountability from Environment Southland, the Southland District Council and the Stewart Island Board have been subjected.

That said, I am grateful for the honesty of Environment Southland acting biosecurity operations manager Kathryn McLachlan who is quoted in the article:

Environment Southland had contacted the district council and given it the option of either removing the pest plant or applying for an exemption.

Given that S.D.C. was aware that an exemption for this tree was available, some functionary there still saw fit to inform the Stewart Island Board thus:

Under the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan all known Hawthorn plants must be eradicated. We understand there may be some concerns raised in the community about this tree’s removal but we have no choice but to remove it. We have therefore engaged Fulton Hogan to remove the tree. We understand that this will happen on Tuesday 30 May. We would recommend any concerns or feedback about this should be addressed to Environment Southland.

Councillor Jon Spraggon, the Island’s S.D.C. representative, must have received this notification on the 29th of May at the very latest and most probably earlier than that. The tree was felled on the 1st of June. This means that there was time for our

Councillor and/or other board members to take up the cudgels on our behalf and press for a stay of execution. Were our board members ever informed that an exemption was available? If not, our local board would appear to have as much significance to the desk-wallahs at S.D.C. as a benign appendix in the intestines of the body politic.

What is particularly galling in all this is the absence of proof that Hawthorn represents a problem on Stewart Island. The felled tree had been there for approximately 130 years. There is open terrain around it on the edge of the bush where Hawthorn could germinate. In all my roadside and bush walks I have never seen Hawthorn seedlings anywhere. Plenty of gorse and broom, blackberry, escallonia, aluminium plant, montbretia and what about the wilding pine towering above Golden Bay wharf sending its seedlings down the cliff?



Most Stewart Islanders are passionate about preserving our beautiful Island habitat, are quick to report the nasty stuff to E.S and S.D.C. and are very accepting of property inspections and control methods but this latest imbroglio has done nothing to cement that good relationship.

The regular and stratospheric rise in E.S. rates rubs salt into the wound. In 2020 my E.S. rates were \$234.01. Last year they were \$356.90, about a 66% increase over 2 years if my basic arithmetic is correct. E.S. would do well to use the increasingly large amounts of revenue extracted from Stewart Island property owners to fulfil its statutory duty to rid Rakiura of truly pestilential plants.

The Hawthorn Tree – Pest?

by Elaine Hamilton

I wonder who decides what is a pest. What scientific process is applied? The Hawthorn Tree felled on Thursday 1st June 2023 at the south end of Horseshoe Bay has never been a pest. Its roots did not cause any damage to water tables, nor was it a traffic hazard. It offered welcome shade for picnics and often had a dinghy tied to it.

Hawthorn may be a pest elsewhere but throughout the many generations members of my family have lived at Horseshoe Bay, this tree has never been known to spread seeds. It was part of our Island’s history.



Three elected groups were or should have been involved: Environment Southland, Southland District Council and Stewart Island Community Board. When questioned, E.S. and S.D.C. passed the buck to each other. Our Community Board would appear to have had no input into this sorry saga?

Where is the justice in some ‘expert’, sitting in an Invercargill office, getting paid to order the destruction of a tree which had stood for decades and had never been a problem?

What about the roadside eyesore above Mill Creek, where the vegetation was removed to install a footpath. It is now covered in unsightly weed mat, and the bank has been planted with tussock brought in from off island, What an insult and a waste of time and money.

I am very disappointed and concerned as to how our Island is being managed.



Congratulations to all members, past and present, of SIRCET on the occasion of your 20th anniversary. The work and the fundraising have been arduous and sustained. It is wonderful to see imaginative plantings and an increase in birdlife around the Bay. In particular, kakariki are now a constant feature, on bush and roadside walks and in our gardens too, where these emerald bullets, normally so frustratingly difficult to photograph, are tarrying longer and even investigating the garden plots. SIRCET, take a bow!

One of SIRCET's aims has been to encourage us gardening folk to dig out potential (introduced) pest plants and replace them with natives. However askance this may have been viewed by us older, traditional gardeners, there is no doubt that there are some magnificent native plants which do very well here. So this is me doing my bit for SIRCET by listing some of these plants, but a warning: none of them is endemic to Rakiura/Stewart Island.

Renga Renga Lily/Rock Lily

Arthropodium cirratum

Don't groan! If you can protect it from the deer, renga renga is great groundcover and makes a lovely show in December. There are two forms growing locally, a fine-leaved, smaller flower one and a broader-leaved stubby flower one. The latter makes a particularly fine show, as can be seen on the roadside bank at the bottom of Lania and Laurie Edwards' driveway.



Renga Renga at Lania and Laurie's

Chatham Island Forget-me-not

Myosotidium hortensia

Last summer, this megaherb* grew and bloomed in Island gardens as never before. Native to the Chatham Islands where it is happiest growing in sand, it has large, fleshy, pleated, glossy, dark green leaves and stubby panicles of blue flowers. It is very easy to grow from seed. There is a white-flowered form but it is not as hardy.



Chatham Island Forget-me-not and Chionochloa flavicans in the museum garden

Chionochloa flavicans

What a mouthful!

Nicknamed 'Miniature toe toe'

As its nickname suggests, this looks like a small toe toe but it is not closely related. It is tough and hardy, great groundcover and in spring it produces eye-popping citrus green plumes which slowly fade to a creamy beige. Easy care and easily removed if it gets too bulky.

Kaka Beak

Clianthus puniceus

This is one of New Zealand's rare leguminous plants, a handsome shrub, producing panicles of bright red (sometimes pink) nectar-rich flowers. Different plants seem to flower at different times, some in summer and some now in June. There are a couple of white forms; *Clianthus puniceus alba* White Heron is stunning.



Kaka Beak flowering in October

Kowhai

Sophora

Another leguminous plant, kowhai never made it to Stewart Island on its own but has been introduced by gardeners who appreciate its yellow shout out to Spring. Nectar lovers, tui and korimako, are equally appreciative, as are kereru, which tumble about in the often less than substantial branches, gluttonising on new foliage and flowers alike. There are many species and forms of kowhai from small shrubs to towering trees. *Sophora* Dragon's Gold grows into a handsome, clumping shrub and lights up winter with its lemon yellow flowers. It tolerates pruning and makes a fine hedge.

*It is difficult to define the geographical range and biological history of megaherbs, luscious plants which proliferate in colder climates. Check them out on Google. Punui, or in the local dialect boonawee (Thanks, Ulva!) aka *Stilbocarpa lyallii*, is another megaherb; this is a florist's dream foliage plant, with elegantly curving, pleated leaves. On Rakiura mainland it has been largely eaten out by the deer but survives on the outer islands.

Megaherbs are one of the huge drawcards for the sub-Antarctic islands. At the SIRCET gathering last Sunday evening, the speaker referred to Rakiura as an 'honorary' sub-Antarctic Island. So there you go!

Happy Gardening!

Raylene

Church Chatter

by Jo Riksem



took the time and didn't rush. I highly recommend this way of travelling.

So many people have lost everything in the floods; homes, livelihoods, members of family. It did not take much, a hug, a small act of kindness to bring a smile to faces. Let us be so grateful for the many blessings this Island bestows on us and be kind and loving to each other, whatever the differences and as the visitors return, making sure we give them the same kindness too.

Services for July 2023

Sunday 9 July – John Anderson

Sunday 23 July – Rev. Richard Aitken from Invercargill. Communion will be served.

During these uncertain times with covid still in our midst, our church will stay closed except for Sunday services. If anyone would like to visit the church on other days please contact me at jriksem@gmail.com or 027 455 2191 and I'll do my best to arrange a time.

I hope everyone is enjoying our magnificent skies this winter. The one above was taken in June of 2013. Sometimes having to get up early for guests has its benefits.

Recently Bill and I took a six week holiday “overseas” to the South and North Islands. We took our time spending at least two or more days in each place. We noticed in the North Island, with everything they'd gone through, how grateful people were to see us shopping in their stores, eating in their restaurants and cafes, staying in their accommodation too. We found some wonderful places and met great people because we

ANIMAL FLOW® This system is designed to improve strength, power, flexibility, mobility, and coordination for all levels of fitness enthusiasts.

A group of us trains regularly here on Rakiura. For the next few weeks: Saturday morning 10.30 – 11.30 and/or Wednesday evening 5.30 – 6.30 at the St Andrews Hall, Excelsior Road. (Small koha to cover the cost of the hall). Please can you phone/text me if you are coming so I can plan the session.

W J (Bill) Watt,
Certified Level 1 Animal Flow Instructor,
 027 495 9288.



May SIN Cryptic Crossword Answers:

- Across:
 3 - Currency
 5 - Pedestrian
 8 - Tip
 10 - Throws
 11 - Mortality

- Down:
 1 - For sure
 2 - Weight
 4 - Depot
 6 - Regret
 7 - Pleasant*
 9 - Idle
 * Apologies to the hardcopy SIN subscribers for an error 7 Down. Should have been 8 letters not 7 as was listed.

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Kia ora

In the winter months it is a time that here in our community things slow down somewhat in visitor numbers and people take an opportunity to take a break from the seasonal influx of visitors.

I ask that people take an opportunity to go through and review the status of their drivers and firearms licences as to whether they are coming up for renewal so that you don't get caught out with an expired licence and some explaining.

With respect to your motor vehicles, check that the warrant of fitness and registrations are up to date. If not, get them off the road and preferably off the island by getting in contact with Karl and Bruce at the Resource Recovery Centre.

Several people are now hunting with bows and crossbows in an effort to harvest the white tail deer that maybe decimating their or their neighbour's gardens and also to help put food on the table. I ask that you make sure you are aware of what the bow hunting minimum criteria is so that if you are hunting on public conservation land, you are aware of those requirements and meet your obligations. Making a more effective and cleaner kill of any animals you happen to encounter as opposed to potentially just wounding or maiming them causing great stress to the animal and potentially any non-hunters that may see the animals roaming about with the remnants of a bolt or arrow protruding from them. Ensure you are aware of the areas you can lawfully hunt and have the landowner's permission.

Those of you that are out hunting, to take responsibility in the safe and effective despatching of the animals while you are lawfully hunting. If you are uncertain of what those requirements are, I recommend that you perhaps go and look at the Department of Conservation website and look up the bow and crossbow hunting rules to help give yourself a better understanding.

Talk around the boat ramp, I hear about the fishery particularly in Paterson Inlet being hammered, over fished, and simply exploited by some. Ministry for Primary Industry do conduct regular patrols however they cannot be everywhere all the time.

Any suspicious activity in the Mataitai and Marine Reserve please contact MPI on 0800 4POACHER (0800 476 224), I recommend that people again take the opportunity to refresh themselves with the current regulations of harvesting in the inlet and the strait for that matter and even referring to the adage of 'Limit your catch, not catch your limit'. Fresh is best.

I'd also like to say thank you in general for the support and courtesy shown to the relievers that have come along in my absence while I have been undertaking Police duties elsewhere, it reflects on what a great supportive community we have here and they have genuinely appreciated it.

Kia pai tō rā

Senior Constable Stuart NEWTON
Halfmoon Bay
Stewart Island

400 Words

by Beverley Osborn

I read recently that in 1965 Pope Paul VI pleaded before the United Nations General Assembly, "No more war. War never again"! Since then, there have been over 120 wars or regional conflicts between nations or ethnic groups.

Every day there are reports of the wars being waged and most of us are horrified, grieving for the suffering, condemning the waste of lives. War is toxic because even the so-called victors become victims of the violence of their own behaviours.

So WHY do humans keep on resorting to war? We avoid toxic food, mask up to protect from toxic fumes and viral infections, pass laws about driving impaired by alcohol and drugs in an effort to prevent injuries and death from road accidents but, over and over, humans turn unashamedly to the deliberate killing of each other.

Underlying most violence is the mindset of differentiation – categorising people as "them" and "us". Then it seems to be an easy slide into a conviction that the "them" are less deserving than the "us", that it doesn't really matter what happens to them, even that they should be punished or exterminated.

Most of us would never question that our country should have health and welfare systems, law systems, regulations about dangerous working conditions, rules about the unacceptability of verbal and every other type of abuse, and a police force to ensure the rules are kept. All of these systems exist because of the understanding that a prime requirement for a healthy society is that we look after each other.

Beside the instinct to kill opposition or "otherness", there also exists in humans an essential goodness, a recognition that building blocks of hope and love and compassion are more efficient than tools of destruction. The violence levels of bombs, tanks, missiles and armed drones may seem beyond the ability of Stewart Islanders to mitigate but we can fight against the shadows of violence in ourselves – recognise and teach our children that the real enemy to fight is the destructive one with many faces inside ourselves. They have names like prejudice, ignorance, timidity, arrogance, greed, judgmentalism, intolerance of religions, cultures, races, sexual orientation different from our own.

The Bible contains many wise precepts, like the one about dealing with others as we would like others to deal with us. Could we cultivate our "goodness" and only fight those weeds with faces?

(Community Meeting Summary - Continued from page 1)

ventures (partnering with Real NZ) and asked for interest from local businesses who might help with the building of a whare and floating pontoon there. (Jill Skerrett)

Toi Rakiura has a few exciting events in the pipeline for us and are welcoming members with interests in any of the arts and seeking to work with other community groups to bring more to the island. One great success has been securing continued funding for recording further oral histories to be enjoyed at the museum. Keep your ears to the ground for live music and an Arts weekend of workshops, in response to a recent survey of what is of interest. (Tanya Dann)

Future Rakiura has launched an online calendar to aid time management for event planning in the community and to connect locals and visitors to all that is on offer- www.rakiuracalendar.com. Thanks to Kevin Carter who has worked hard to get the website to this stage, we are now inviting community members to use it and groups to submit their events to be advertised! (Rakiura Herzhoff and Kevin Carter)

Predator Free Rakiura shared an overview of the huge task proposed by the project of removing six species to protect the island's taonga, highlighting the potential benefits if this could be achieved and the complexity of working with stakeholders and the latest research to inform the process. The small project team will be growing with employment and volunteering opportunities for the community as this unfolds. (Bridget Carter)

Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust updated us on the Jobs for Nature grand totals of pest control achieved in the last two years as it nears the project end, including a war on the invasive weed Darwin's Barberry which would have taken 10 years of the usual 3-month efforts per year that

funding previously allowed. The trust celebrates its 20 years and is seeking funding to continue its efforts. (Shona Sangster)

Senior's Cottage Trust is working to keep our seniors in comfortable, affordable, downsized accommodation on the island with six purpose-built units at 11A/B Argyle Street. The search for funding continues and the trust, chaired by Bruce Ford, welcomes any ideas or leads to philanthropic organisations who would be willing to work on this.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/stewart-island-seniors-cottage-trust> (Bruce Ford)

Te Pā shared the journey of Pippa Hakopa bringing the opportunity for learning Te Reo Māori to the island since her arrival in 2019, which has resulted in the formation of Te Kāhui Manu Tītī Trust in 2022 in order to secure lease of the whare on 38 Miro Crescent. The space is for the program of learning te reo but also for the community, and has welcomed many groups so far. Pip and the whānau share a warm welcome for anyone wanting to visit for a cup of tea or learn more about the program, or are interested in Pip's cultural competency training. (Pippa Hakopa)

The Department of Conservation advised on upcoming eradication projects on Ulva Island, for both deer and rodents, and of the increased efforts and staff resources allocated to counter the issue of the decline of the Southern Dotterel (with a population of only 126 birds making this their most urgent work). Dune restoration continues on the west coast of the island, and the construction of the Observation Rock viewing platform will commence in July. DOC has seen a 66% increase in visitors to their centre this year compared to the last, and a bias towards domestic travellers on great walk bookings (who pay a smaller fee, although increased). (Jennifer Ross)

LandSAR lobbied for more members after a decrease over the years, emphasising the need for both local and mainland-based training commitments and the reliance on Department of Conservation as the backbone of many of their operations, for which they were full of praise and thanks. The Tautuku Cup was a great event which was credit to the group. Andrew King is chair while Kath Johnson and Rachael Sagar are training officers, if potential members would like to learn how to get involved. (Gary Neave)

Stewart Island Promotions shared a great promotional video for the Rakiura Challenge- this year's event will be on the 7th October. Along with this were some statistics for island visitation- 33,500 visitors in the last year, and the island will expect an additional 9 cruise ships (to total 29) next season. (Jennifer Ross)

First Mate previewed the services available to on-island fishers and marine farmers as part of the national initiative to provide support for all matters arising with the industry (business support, finance, compliance, mental and physical health, MPI etc...) Richard Langdon is the navigator for services on the island and is a go-to, as well as a hotline: 0800 237 438. (Richard Langdon)

And as usual we enjoyed the personable and light-hearted chairing from Jon Spraggon, who kept us all in line, on time and on good form! Thanks Jon.

If you would like to give us feedback, or be added to the list of community group representatives who receive direct invitation to future meetings, please email us at rakiura.future@gmail.com. While this meeting has been waylaid the past couple of years, we aim to run a community meeting twice a year to keep islanders connected and in the loop, as is one of the main aims of this group.

What's up, DOC?

Southern New Zealand Dotterel Programme

Flock counts (population census counts) were completed in April and unfortunately this showed that the overall population declined by approximately 18 birds. The estimated total now sits at 126. The drop was most likely due to increased feral cat numbers resulting from a rat plague which followed the mass podocarp fruiting event last year. This project is one of the top priorities for DOC Rakiura.



Dedicated dotterel rangers are working to expand feral cat control into the preferred cat habitat down in the forested valleys. These lines will enable winter predator control to focus on areas where feral cats are most dense, reducing the overall number prior to the breeding season start in early Spring. Additional traps are on the way. A special order has arrived from the United States and is in transit to Rakiura. The project looks set to continue with increased funding relative to the 2021-2022 financial year allowing us to maintain year-round management of the dotterel, giving them the best possible chance at survival.

It's time to review our operational plan which will guide the predator control work for the next 12 months (minimum). The field project team and technical advisors have begun strategic discussions looking at various options to achieve the optimal balance of predator suppression (reduction of overall numbers) and interception (removing predators from high-risk areas at high risk times) using a range of ground based trapping and hunting methods. We will be running a consultation round on the proposed plan to give everyone a chance to feed into the plan to help save the dotterel.

Deer on Rakiura

We have recently received some funding for an assessment of deer impacts on Rakiura. This has been made available through DOC's National Wild Animal Management Programme. We are in discussion with the Wild Animal Management team and Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research) who will be contracted to complete the report. The aim is to have this work finished by end of the calendar year. This is a good start, and we hope to build on this foundation with additional primary surveys (remeasuring forest health plots/deer fenced exclusion plots) as soon as we can secure funding for this work to go ahead. Getting fresh data will enable a range of additional assessments to be completed.

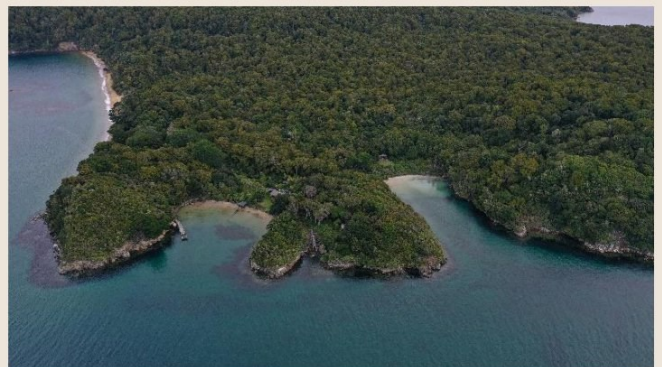
Observation Rock platform

Construction is set to commence on the new viewing platform at Observation Rock around 17 July 2023. The site will be closed for approximately four weeks, and this may also include road closures. More information will be provided in an upcoming mailbox drop.

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara eradication planning

Planning is well underway for an aerial Brodifacoum operation to eradicate rats and return Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara to its predator-free status. The eradication will involve two aerial brodifacoum applications, each taking place on a single day. These dates are weather dependent but planned to be undertaken in the first good weather window from 17 July 2023.

Three new team members have started in the National Eradication Team and are working on the Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara eradication Operational and Monitoring plans.



Aerial view of Sydney Cove, Post Office Cove, and Bathing Bay on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Photo by Finlay Cox DOC

Ulva Island Rat Eradication operation July 2023

The Department of Conservation on Rakiura intends to apply cereal baits on Ulva Island to eradicate Norway rats. This will assist with the protection of several native bird species which are sensitive to rat predation, including Tieke (South Island Saddleback) and Mohua (Yellowhead).

Description of Area



Method of Control

Green cylinder-shaped cereal pellets of Brodifacoum will be aerially distributed by helicopter over the described area.

Bait will be delivered in two separate applications. The first application is planned for the first clear weather window from 17 July 2023. A second application will take place not less than 10 days after the first application.

Access will be restricted to Ulva Island on each day of bait application.

Warning signs will be placed at entry points on Ulva Island, and information signs installed at wharves on Stewart Island/Rakiura that provide access to Ulva Island.

This pesticide is poisonous to humans and domestic animals. Always remember:

- **DO NOT** touch bait
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times

A rahui will be established. Please DO NOT EAT fish or shellfish from within 1km from the coast of Ulva Island until this is lifted.

For further information contact:

Department of Conservation
Senior Ranger Biodiversity
15 Main Road, Stewart Island/Rakiura
stewartisland@doc.govt.nz
Phone: 03 219 0009

A detailed map of the treatment area may be viewed on the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz) in the Southern South Island Pesticide Summary section and is available from the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre during office hours

Introducing new team member Joel!



Kia Ora, my name is Joel Browne. I am the new permanent B-Band Historic and Visitor Ranger.

I originally hail from Wellington, and began my conservation journey with the Trainee Ranger Program. Before that I was employed in pest control for a private company under the Osprey umbrella working towards the TB-free programme. I then worked in urban pest control subcontracting for *Spencer's* and for *Kāinga Ora* homes and communities.

I moved to Stewart Island at the start of the year and was employed by SIRCET to contribute to the ecological restoration of Rakiura through controlling pests and weeds. Recreational activities I enjoy are (but not limited to): climbing, hiking, snowboarding, hunting, and/or fishing.

SEA KAYAKING WITH BILL



The bays, islets, and inlets between Golden Bay and Ryans Creek or Te Wharawhara (Native Is). 2 – 2/12 hr on the water. 1 – 4 people. \$90.00 each. We can get lovely settled, calm, ideal paddling weather over winter.

Bill Watt 027 495 9288
Or (if I'm paddling) Jo (027 455 2191)

Rakiura Heritage Trust / Te Puka O Te Waka

Safeguarding and Streamlining the Museum's Collection
Moving the Collection in 2020 from the old to the new museum was a huge and occasionally nail-biting exercise. Since then, with the help of Roving Museum Officer Jo Massey, the new storage facilities have been organised to make best use of the space and to facilitate the location of items.

During this process we have identified a number of objects, especially printed items, of which we have multiple copies. Storage space is finite and of course we look forward to welcoming many more taonga into our Collection.



The Trust has therefore adopted a new policy to deal with surplus items. From time to time these will be advertised for disposal on the Museum's Facebook Page, in S.I.N. and on the Notice Board.

We value every effort made by members of the public to bring items connected to Stewart Island in for appraisal and possible inclusion in our Collection. There is a regular and systematic process whereby each article is assessed and decisions made. Likewise there is a clear process for disposing of items considered surplus to requirements or which do not have any meaningful link to Rakiura/Stewart Island. But, please, if you see that we are disposing of something and this causes you concern, do get in touch with us. Rakiura Museum Phone: 03 219 1221
Email: stewartislandmuseum@xtra.co.nz

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. **Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at stewartislandnews@gmail.com**

If you wish to have Stewart Island News sent to you or a friend, please email us the recipient's name and address. Then pay to: Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 Please use recipient's name as reference.	The costs are as follows: 12 issues to an Oban address: \$48 12 issues to other NZ address: \$66 12 issues to international address: \$96 12 issues emailed: \$36
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Upcoming Island Nicknames Story...

Thanks to those who have been interviewed by myself or Ian about your nickname for an upcoming SIN article.

We would still like 1 or 2 more interviews before we write the article up. If you are well known by a nickname on the island and willing to answer a few questions about it, please get in touch:

stewartislandnews@gmail.com

If you have already been interviewed, keep an eye out in upcoming SINs for the article. Hopefully we can make it for July!

Cheers, Freya & Ian

Glowing Sky Merino

Between The Shop & The Pub / glowingsky.co.nz