

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

June—July 2011

\$2.50

### New Library Hours:

**Monday 12.30 - 1.30pm**  
**Wednesday 2.30 - 3.30pm**  
**Friday 12.30 - 1.30pm**  
**Saturday 10.00 - 12.00**

*These new hours are on a six-week trial. Next month the official schedule will be offered in SIN as a cut-out for your fridge.*

The chook house tour, complete with chicken-themed cocktails (haha) and sober drivers, was a great success. Did you know some chook houses here have curtained windows? And libraries? (p12)

Speaking of Libraries... If you haven't already, stop by the SDC office or the Library and say *hello and welcome* to Kirsten Hicks, who is our new Council lady and



Planking Island-style. More on p3.

Librarian. (My last Library News is on page 9.)

Sadly, we are now a none-horse town. See Salt's obituary (p10).

Folks have plenty to say about the proposed tidal energy plan, see *Letters* on page 4 for one local's perspective. (Google *Langlee Wave Power Facebook* to see a little video made on the island with some funny pub footage.) There are always murmurings about other power solutions, including a cable across the Strait tapping us into the mainland source. Stay tuned...

Thanks everyone who supported our special March issue Fund-raiser. The *Stewart Island News* sent the month's takings—\$1,232—to the Red Cross Earthquake drive. The latest swarm of shocks have been deeply upsetting to many anxious and exhausted Cantabrians. To our ChCh family and neighbours: our doors are always open; come down here and de-stress for a while.



As usual, Islanders represented us proud at the Bluff Oyster Festival.

### Congratulations to Bay Motels! See page 14.

Bevan Mudie amazed us with his portraits which were on display at the Hall. We have a new generation of aspiring artists here, see Poppy's HMB School News (p14).

Next month I will have my hands too full for *SIN*, so send items to Kari (contact info on back page).

—Jess

### Marine science conference to be held on island

by Becs McLeod

The island community might get a bit of a wake up in early July with an influx of 150 marine scientists to attend the New Zealand Marine Science Society conference. The conference is being organized this year by Otago University, who are in the process of setting up a field station in Oban. Marine Science is very wide ranging and includes biology, chemistry, aquaculture, ecology, oceanography, fisheries, geology, management, law – basically anything and everything to do with

the sea. The conference is usually held in one of the main centres, so this year will be one to remember. For most of the scientists this will be their first visit to the island.

There are some great talks lined up, and members of the public are more than welcome to attend the following talks at the Community Centre:

**Malcolm Francis**, a fisheries scientist from NIWA will talk about the latest findings from the white shark research that is being carried out around Rakiura. There will be a chance to ask Malcolm questions about the research at the end of his talk. **Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:40 am.**

**Alison Ballance**, biologist, documentary-maker, author and now presenter of *Our Changing World* on National Radio, will speak about some of the many adventures her work has taken her on, including her visits to many Sub-Antarctic Islands.

**Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:20 am.**

**Neville Peat**, a Dunedin-based natural history author, will be talking about the history of Stewart Islanders and the sea. Neville recently published the books *Rakiura Heritage – A Stewart Island History and Guide to Historic Sites*, and *The Tasman – Biography of an Ocean*. **Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:20 am.**

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# VOLUNTEERING – EVERY MINUTE COUNTS



19 – 25 June 2011

## volunteer awareness week

To celebrate Volunteer Awareness Week, the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community & Environment Trust (SIRCET) is holding a

# TRAPPING REFRESHER WORKSHOP

at 9:30am on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June  
Meet at Fuschia Walk (Traill Park, Stewart Island)  
followed by morning tea, site to be confirmed

*SIRCET's main project is the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project which aims to create an open sanctuary in our backyard and includes activities such as predator control, monitoring of birds such as Kiwi, Little blue Penguins and Titi/ Sooty Shearwater, plus planting and beautification projects and more.*

The time and effort generously donated by our volunteers is undoubtedly the backbone of SIRCET's work. Their help, in so many ways, makes our projects so successful. Thanks to all our volunteers who contributed over **2000 HOURS** to the project last

year alone!

**SIRCET recently reported a record high number of rats in the project area, and is currently undergoing a review of its trapping techniques in order to get back on top of the little rascals! This workshop aims to assist volunteers to both brush up on trapping methods and also to pass on some new tips and techniques we've recently picked up.**



Volunteer Awareness Week is being celebrated throughout New Zealand this week (19-25 June). It

is a great time for first-timers to give volunteering a go. Our volunteers tell us they get a lot out of being involved with SIRCET. They make friends, learn new skills, have fun, make a difference by giving something back to the community and they pursue their passion.

**Invite your friends, family members and co-workers and come and join us for a morning of fun learning, share your experiences and discover the wide range of activities you can get involved with, no matter what age or background – everybody has something to contribute and "Every Minute Counts"!**

Contact Denise on (03) 2191 159 or [denise@sircet.org.nz](mailto:denise@sircet.org.nz)





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**SHIP TO SHORE NEWS**

Lucky Locals four week promotion has just finished. 981 prizes to be won.

Our in store winners are:

**week one** kambrook stick blender winner Sandra Whipp

\$50 voucher winners Lorraine Squires and Lania Davis

**week two** Electric salt & pepper set winner Sue Munro

\$50 voucher winners A & J Knowles and Kylie Moxham

**week three** Oral B vitality toothbrush winner Christine Pullen

\$50 voucher winners Gary Coker and Judy Erickson

**week four** Kitchen scales winner Steve Kenny  
\$50 voucher winners Nicolette Thompson and Phred Dobbins

Weekly group winners are drawn Southland wide, These are for the major prizes.

We have two weeks of winners up in our store to be viewed. The next two weeks still to come... fingers crossed we have a Stewart Island winner...

**Remember shop winter hours  
7.30am to 6.30pm**

Always here to look after the locals.  
*Cheers, Ship to Shore staff.*



The **planking** phenomenon has made it to our shores. The anchor chain, the Oban sign, bollards and buoys have been planked. Our remote locale has earned our plankers some measure of fame... But they've surely been outdone by a bored cray crew who recently planked the Puysegur Point lighthouse!

*Photos from Stacey Wilford.*

# LETTERS

## ☒☒☒ Tidal Energy Proposal

Having read the proposal and resource consent application for the wave generation system (it took me 5hrs) there are a few points I would like to make.

But first let me make a few qualifications. I am no scientist and so all of these observations might have some fancy high tech answer, but having read the proposal very carefully if they are contained in it, they are very well hidden.

Second, I am strongly for renewable energy. I believe solar, wind and tidal/ wave are the way of the future.

So having said that let me begin.

I am against the proposal for the following reasons.

### *Proven track record*

The system as stated in the proposal is not a proven system. What is on offer is a proof of concept. The company offering to build the wave generator has trialled the system in a tank test and has a computer model, but has no proven track record that this ¼ scale model will work as stated. To state that this is to be a 50kw generator is at best a stretch of the imagination and at worst a porky. There is no proven data that this will even work or produce 50kw. As any fisherman who has built a new boat will tell you, no matter how much you think you have got the power to weight, length and construct correct, there is just no proving it until you get it built and get it on the water. And even then you are dealing with a history of boat building and years of data of what works and what doesn't.

What this proposal has is a fishing boat of untried, unproven design (possibly a submarine) using a totally unproven method of catching fish (possibly harpooning). (Actually not either of these as they are both proven methods of doing something).

As stated in the accompanying documentation to the proposal there is only 1 wave generation system in commercial operation in the world. Pelamis. Named after a sea snake, and in commercial operation in Portugal. But viable because it is heavily subsidised by the EU and Portugal. So why not just buy one of these. It has a proven track record and power output.

### *Wave resource*

As stated in the proposal, the ¼ scale proof of concept model will be placed into the sea roughly between Bench and Ackers Rock, because of the wave resource. The company is using a NEWA mathematical model to predict the wave height and frequency (well that's what the proposal states). Probably the same one that TV uses to predict our weather. So even if it could produce 50kw there is no guarantee that the wave resource can produce it. As a

comparison when NZ Windfarms built its wind farm in the Tararua Ranges using the Windflow 500 wind generator, for a year prior they mounted data gatherers on the hills to confirm the resource. Then Windflow took the data and gave a guarantee to NZ Windfarms that with that wind resource and their generator, they could provide 500kw per generator for 95% for the first 2 years of their operational life. They failed, only got about 93% because the company connecting the wind farm to the national grid took longer than expected. But as you can see, if you are serious about building a power system, even with a mathematical model, you still need hard data.

### *Exclusion Zone*

This is the major reason that I oppose the building of a wave generator in this, or for that matter any other area of Stewart Island. The resource consent glosses over exclusion zones. It states that the power cable and possibly the generator itself will require an exclusion zone. It does not state what kind of exclusion zone. For example, an exclusion from fishing/ anchoring. Or a total exclusion zone like around an oil rig. The document states that the ¼ scale model is approximately 15m x 15m. And that the full scale model would be 25m x 25m for a 250kw version. They also state a final ability to create a 1Mw wave farm by chaining together 4+ 250kw generators. As there is so little data in the document about exclusion zones, except the mention of them. I have made a few assumptions (sort of like the whole wave generation proposal) The document uses a picture of the world showing trans-oceanic fibre-optic cables (sitting about 1400m deep) and also makes mention of the Cook Strait power cable. So a power cable laid from the ¼ scale generator back to the island would require a 500m exclusion zone (either side of the cable). This would stop people fishing, coiffing pots, dredging or anchoring within a 1km strip along the cable length. The Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act 1996 provides severe penalties for breaches of the Act. These include the following:

Up to a \$100,000 maximum fine for fishing or anchoring in the cable protection zone (\$20,000 for non-commercial operators).

Up to a \$250,000 maximum fine for damaging a cable, whether wilfully or negligently. Forfeiture of a vessel or other property used in an offence may, upon conviction, be ordered by the Court. Fines of up to \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively may be imposed for:

(i) failing to identify to a protection officer a vessel, its master and owner

(ii) failing to leave the cable protection zone when instructed to do so by a protection officer where there is reason to believe an offence is being committed. (Cook Strait cables are patrolled by vessels and a helicopter)

The other problem is the generating fixture itself. Two

*(Continued on page 5)*

*Over the past six years the money raised from the ball has gone to lots of local good causes, here are some of them!*

Stewart Island Health Committee \$7000  
 Toi Rakiura Art \$1000  
 Stewart Island Rugs \$3700  
 Defibulator for the South Sea Hotel \$4455  
 Stewart Island Players \$3500  
 Southland Cancer Society \$3500  
 Matt Langley Fund \$1000  
 Ronald McDonald House \$1000  
 Southland Alzheimer's Society \$1000  
 Rakiura Search & Rescue \$3000  
 Stewart Island Library \$1929  
 Stewart Island Community Centre \$8000

## STEWART ISLAND RAKIURA

### SEARCH & RESCUE A.G.M.

SATURDAY 9 JULY, 5pm

OBAN FIRE BRIGADE

Nominations to K Hicks

*Please bring a plate*

statutes provide for the establishment of safety zones around offshore installations. The Continental Shelf Act 1964 - covering the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone and the Maritime Transport Act 1994 – covering the territorial sea only. They provide the ability to restrict entry within 500m around the structure. Entry into these safety zones is prohibited to all except authorised vessels. A fine of up to \$1,000 may be imposed for navigating within the safety zones. Yes that is correct, \$1000 for just transiting through the area.

#### *Benefit To Stewart Island*

Having read the proposal I can find little or no benefit to the people of Stewart Island. The document states it will reduce the dependence on diesel generation. Says who? Unless the people who are building the generation plant are prepared to sign an agreement which states that they will supply x amount of electricity at x price for x number of years then this statement is just a pipedream. They can't even guarantee that their system will produce 1kw because it is still in the concept stage.

They state that the manufacture of the generation facility will provide jobs and skills. But it is obvious that the skills and fabrication facilities are not available or cost effective for anyone to produce on Stewart Island.

They state tourism will benefit by visits to the structure. How? The computer generated picture of the ¼ scale model shows 4 pipes sticking out of the sea. But you won't be able to see them from outside the exclusion zone.

I suppose you could admire the navigational lights.

The only benefit I can see is if they hire fishing boats and Rakiura Helicopters to patrol the power cable and generator. As I stated at the beginning of this rant, I am no scientist but if you read the provided documentation then you don't need to be a genius to see that there are a lot of holes in the ability of this company to provide even 1 watt of electricity to Stewart Island. In fact I would bet \$20 that Stewart Island fishermen will be codding from submarines with harpoons before a single light in Oban is powered by this wave generator.

*Manu Pereira*

#### ☒☒☒ Immunization

I have read with interest the letters in the Stewart Island News commenting on a meeting held in April regarding child immunisation.

I have noticed that most comments refer to the vaccines used in immunisation, but little or no mention of the diseases themselves, or the possible on-going problems that can occur, seem to be included in these discussions. Is this because the diseases are no longer commonly encountered in our society?

I have had first hand experience of two illnesses (Diphtheria and Polio) involving myself and my late husband, which might have been prevented had immunisation been available in the 1940's. After what seemed like a complete recovery in both cases, it was not until later in life that the long term ef-

fects of these illnesses became apparent.

I urge parents faced with the decision of whether to immunise or not, to find out as much as possible about all illnesses for which immunisation is offered, and the potential short and long term effects these illnesses may have on your children.

I strongly believe that the decision to immunise or not is one which parents can only make after thorough research and consideration of all the pros and cons involved.

*Pat King*

#### ☒☒☒ Thank you

On behalf of the Young Whanau we would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Stewart Island community for the help and outpouring of love and generosity while Dan was in hospital and during his recuperation. Your support has helped Angela, Dan, Tyron and Kaden greatly. Words are no compensation for how overwhelmed and thankful we truly are with the kindness that has been shown and the continued inquires of Dan's health status. All the members of our Whanau are deeply saddened at the sudden and tragic death of Jason and we are doing all we can to support Dan with the grief of losing his "best mate". Please know that all of you have helped him as well. This is a personal and heartfelt acknowledgement to you all.

Arohanui kia Koutou katoa

– Geoff, Trish Young and families.



# ban Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

We often see Sandy King quietly walking her dogs on Horseshoe. Did you know this unassuming lady leads an incredibly adventurous life off-Island? Following is an account of her latest journey.

In April I went to Macquarie Island on the *Aurora Australis*. Not the familiar pale grey, 4am reminder of the cray season underway (if you live within ear-shot of the Bay); this was a different *Aurora Australis* and the similarity stops with the name. The vessel I was on is a fire engine red/orange, 94.9m, 3911 tonne ice breaker owned by P&O Polar and on hire to the Australian Antarctic Division (the AAD) for shiploads of cash



Dogs on heli-deck

were off-loaded and weighed and we were allowed to board. The *Aurora* is a pretty comfortable ship to travel on. She can accommodate up to 116 passengers in 3-4 berth cabins, but our voyage was only about half full so in most cases there were only two passengers per cabin. Each cabin has its own shower & toilet, fresh water wasn't an issue as 45,000 liters can be produced daily by a desalination process. The food was awesome and way too

Macquarie Island, and to undertake a variety of Antarctic marine research. The voyage I was on was the last for the 2010-11 season and its purpose was two-fold: to complete the annual re-supply and staff changeover for the station on Macquarie, and to deliver additional personnel, 4

abundant – cereals, fresh and canned fruits, yoghurts, bacon, eggs (usually done several ways), tomatoes, sausages, beans, pancakes, croissants,

helicopters, 12 dogs and around 300 tonnes of poison bait containing brodifacoum (the same stuff that is being proposed for use on Ulva Island) so that the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Project (MIPEP) could begin.



Fuel farm & dog kennels

MIPEP aims to eradicate rabbits, rats, and mice from 13,000ha Macquarie Island by aerial spreading of the bait – more on that another time.

toast, muffins, crumpets, teas, coffee (instant or espresso) hot chocolate and juices were all on offer for breakfast just for a start. Then came morning tea, followed by lunch (amazing salads, soup, multiple choice hot dishes, freshly made bread, and desserts), and dinner (ditto, but the choices were different). Hot and cold drinks, the toast making facility, a variety of crackers, and Tim Tams and Caramel Crowns (an inferior ver-

Macquarie is roughly 1500km south-east of Tasmania and traveling at 12-14 knots the ship takes about three days to get there from Hobart. The journey begins with the shortest bus trip ever; port security doesn't allow passengers to wander up to the ship so we had to assemble at the gates before loading ourselves and bags into two buses where AAD shipping staff checked our names and identification. Then we began the 100m journey to the ship, bags



Sardined helicopters

per day. (I can imagine the gleam in Colin's eye if he reads this.) Every summer the AAD hires the ship to service its three Antarctic stations and



Aurora Australis at Macquarie



LARC ashore

sion of Toffee Pops) were available anytime of the day or night. Fortunately it was only a 3-day voyage each way, because it wasn't rough enough to curb my appetite!

Entertainment was "limited" to watching DVD's, reading, playing board or card games, enjoying the southern ocean views from the bridge, chatting with fellow passengers, and in my case – dog walking. I was one of 6 dog handlers on the voyage, responsible for the welfare of the 12 dogs which had to be fed, exercised, toileted, trained and groomed each day. The helideck at stern provided the perfect exercise / training / toileting area and



Flags at half-mast, ANZAC Day

dogs were housed in crates in one of the laboratories below. They were taken out several times each day, as much as the weather and sea conditions allowed, and put through their paces under the watchful eyes of two trainers who accompanied us. The dogs have been trained to indicate rabbits or rabbit sign and will have a key role to play in the rabbit eradication part of MIPEP once the aerial baiting has been completed. They and two of



The shortest bus trip

the handlers remain on the island, the rest of us returned this time but the other 4 handlers (including myself) will go back when the baiting is completed.

It was too rough to get ashore when we first arrived at the island, but the following day the swell had abated enough to make landing possible. This involved a descent down the side of the ship via a "Jacob's ladder" into a

zodiac sent out from the island, and from there a transfer to a LARC for the trip ashore. LARCs are amazing things – ex-military Light Amphibious Resupply Craft, they are a clumsy looking boat with wheels which are a more efficient and safer means of transferring people and cargo through the surf than the zodiacs. Our LARC chugged in through the breakers then lumbered up the beach and drove us right up to the station buildings. The dogs followed later in the day, having been slung in their crates down directly onto a LARC, and were introduced to their home for the next few years. They all seemed happy to be ashore, and exploring the unfamiliar sights and smells of penguins, elephant seals, tussocks and wallows. This period ashore was the last opportunity we as handlers would have to work with both the dogs and their trainers so the next few days were spent familiarizing ourselves with our dogs and their individual quirks, and gaining as much knowledge as we could from the trainers.

While we were doing this everyone else was busy with the resupply and changeover. The 4 helicopters which had been de-bladed and packed head to tail like sardines in the ship's hangar, were brought out, bladed up and began the process of flying pods of bait and other cargo ashore whenever weather was suitable. In-coming station crew and their belongings were brought ashore so they could have some overlap with their out-going



LARC & Zodiac

counterparts – the station leader, chef, doctor, plumber, electrician, carpenter, mechanic, meteorological observers



Refueling

and communications technicians. MIPEP staff included helicopter pilots, ground crew, engineers, an operations advisor, project leader, bait loaders, GIS operator, plus the dog handlers and trainers. Also, round tripping researchers came and raced off to carry out their various projects. The influx of people must have been a bit overwhelming for the existing station crew, some of whom had been there for up to 18 months. Prior to our arrival there had been about 20 people on the island; the station can accommodate 40 but this was exceeded for the time we were there and new arrivals were crammed in wherever there was space for a mattress on the floor.

Because it is an Australian territory, the personnel on Macquarie are usually all Aussies. However, New Zealand is a world leader in island eradication projects and the MIPEP team brought a strong Kiwi contingent. The project leaders, advisors, GIS operator,

(GLOBETROTTER *Continued from page 7*)

helicopter pilots, half of the ground crew and engineers, 4 of the 6 dog handlers, and 5 dogs were Kiwi. This was reflected on ANZAC Day, with the New Zealand flag flying at half mast alongside Australian flags and the Union Jack. Dawn services were held onboard the *Aurora Australis* and ashore, Anzac biscuits were supplied but the rum coffees were sadly lacking.

One of the most important tasks carried out was refueling. The station has 24 hour power supplied by diesel generators so topping up the tanks was a priority. The fuel farm has 9 tanks, each holding 36,000 liters – that's 324,000 liters in total. Average use is 13,000 to 17,000 liters each month, meaning that when full there is enough fuel to last at least 19

months. Fuel is pumped directly from the ship's tanks, which hold 2.4 million liters. The process is quite complex, a fuel hose is towed ashore by zodiac then a "pig" is sent along the line. Terms like "pig launcher" and "pig catcher" were being used by the refuelers – in my mind's eye an unfortunate porker was being catapulted from the ship and caught by the mechanic with a giant catcher's mitt. Not so. The "pig" is actually like a wad of cloth and is inserted into the hose and propelled along by compressed air to ensure the line is clean before pumping commences. After pumping the line is "pigged" again to push out the 10,000-odd liters of fuel left in the hose. The refuelers have to allow for this additional amount when signaling to stop pumping. Once everything is set up fuel can be pumped at around 40,000-50,000 liters per hour. On this occasion 243,000 liters

were pumped in around 5 hours, completely filling all 9 tanks.

Of course all of this is very weather dependant, if conditions are too bad nothing can be done and a lot of time can be spent waiting for an improvement. We were fortunate and had reasonably good weather and everything was completed on the 11th day after arriving. Everyone returning to Australia was back on board late that afternoon and we were fare-welled with a display of flares from those remaining on the island as we headed north towards Hobart. Since our departure the MIPEP team has completed the first round of aerial baiting and is awaiting suitable weather for the second bait drop. A third drop may be carried out over some of the less accessible parts of the island, and when that is completed those of us waiting will get the call to return! —S. King



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

## DOC Spot

by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager  
Community Relations / Field Centre  
Supervisor

### Ulva Island Update

**Resource Consent granted** – The Department of Conservation was notified on Friday that consent has been granted for the proposed aerial drop of brodifacoum to rid Ulva Island of rats. This approval is subject to conditions and a 15-day appeal period, meaning the earliest the drop can take place is the first extended period of fine weather after 30 June 2011. The submission hearing for the consent was held on 19-20 April. Environment Southland received 29 submissions - 24 supporting the planned operation and five in opposition. At the hearing, seven people spoke in support of the operation, including a number of Islanders who had travelled across for the day. Three people spoke opposing the application but offered no viable alternative method - all three of these people live off Stewart Island. The Department appreciates the time and effort put in by submitters, especially those who turned up in support, as this level of support is seldom seen in consent hearings. Copies of the evidence presented and the decision of the consents committee will be posted on the Ulva Island section of the DOC website in the near future..

**Readiness Check** - Members of the Island Eradication Advisory Group came down to Southland 23-24th May and audited our preparations and planning for the Ulva Island operation. Feedback indicated that we are well on track.

**Availability of information** - A recent letter to the editor of the Southland Times suggested that the department has been hiding information from the public, especially about the likely impact of the bait operation on the birds present on Ulva Island. Although unsure where this conspiracy theory came from, it did trigger a thought that not everyone may know where they can get information. As well as regular email updates to all Ulva Island concessionaires and others who have expressed interest in Ulva, monthly updates are currently being provided via Stewart Island News and we are also keeping the Ulva Island section of the DOC website up to date with the latest information (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/restoration-projects/ulva-island-rat-eradication/>). Anyone who has a question or concern that hasn't been answered on this web page should feel free to contact Brent Beaven or Sharon Pasco.

**University of Otago starts bird monitoring** - The University of Otago has

developed a monitoring plan for the birds on Ulva Island. This monitoring will determine the impacts of the bait drop as well as determining some of the impacts that the rats have had in the time they have been on the island. Two field researchers spent approximately 10 days on the island carrying out pre-drop monitoring in late May. The team will return to Ulva after the bait application to re-measure the bird populations.

**Some genetic results** - Initial results have come back from DNA testing of the rats that have been caught on Ulva Island since December 2010. The results tell us they are all offspring of just one individual. Therefore, it looks like one pregnant female invaded the island, avoided the traps and bait stations and gave birth to the rat population that we are trying to eradicate. The good news out of this is that we are still dealing with an average invasion rate of one rat per year and not a sudden increase in the number of rats invading. This helps with planning biosecurity procedures, such as frequency of trap checks. Over the next few months we will attempt to capture enough rats from mainland sites to see if we can determine where this particular individual came from.

### Other items in brief:

**Barberry programme** - The weeds team is now on winter Barberry work





This is my last "Library News"; next month our new librarian Kirsten Hicks will be writing it. Firstly, to dispel any silly rumours, there has *not* been a

coup ousting me from the position. I spoke with SD Libraries manager Lynda Hodge over a year ago about my wish to ease out. Eventually, the SDC decided to create a combined Council office/Library manager job. Colleen's retirement from the Council, coinciding with the imminent birth of my second child, has made the timing perfect for Kirsten to step into two pairs of shoes. Change is good, and I welcome Kirsten and wish her all the best!

It's been an honour and lots of fun running the Library since October 2004 and I'm grateful to Pat King for giving me such a great opportunity. I couldn't have done it without Team Library, and my hat's off to Jenny Gell, Megan McLelland, Mary Chittenden, Kerry Squire, Ulva, Sharon Pasco, Margaret and Margaret, Loraine Hansen, Michelle, Pat King, and all of the others who have helped along the way.

We've seen some wonderful additions to the place over the past seven years including HEAT (thanks Ali!); new Internet computers (thanks Aotearoa People's Network); a boat for

the kids (thanks Helen Cave); new blinds (thanks Lions); new shelves; an excellent DVD collection; and a terrific audio book library.

I am most proud of the development of our permanent collection of books. Visitors are often amazed by the calibre of literature we have on shelf down here. While the Council provides us with the popular novels du jour, I've worked hard to ensure we keep up with the best contemporary fiction and non-fiction being written today while trying to round out our classics.

We have one of the most outstanding collections of Maori non-fiction on-shelf in the country. I've tried to feed the interests and obsessions of the community: If there's a book pertaining to fishing, lighthouses, sustainable energy, weather, or shellfish, we've got it. Thanks to Weedbusters, our nature and science books are plentiful and beautiful. Our cookery collection is delicious, and you could get lost amongst our crafts books. We have a small but ravenous readership of fantasy and I hope they have been partially sated by the addition of over 100 books to that genre. The children's section has seen approximately 300 new picture books added. Overall, since 2004 our shelves have seen over 2,000 new books!

I hope that the Friends of the Library will continue this tradition. Currently, Jenny Gell and I co-chair this group. This loosely self-appointed arrangement springs from convenience as Jenny and I are co-signatories on the Friends bank account, I've been choosing and purchasing the books for the past seven years, and Jenny and I have been processing them... so for now we thought we'd "keep on keeping on." However, I have recently been urged to formalize this organization with a public meeting and I realize there are others who might like to head this group and hold meetings with a secretary and minutes and a presiding President etcetera. I am a hiccupping heffalump right now and timing-wise if I called a meeting anytime soon the chances are I wouldn't be able to attend. So, meeting *To Be Announced*. In the meantime, share any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding Friends of the Library with Kirsten, me or Jenny, or pen your thoughts to *SIN*. If you'd like to step into my shoes I'm happy to drop these reins, as formal meeting are not my thing these days (and, as I said, *Change is good*.)

To the few chronic complainers and grumblers, I won't say I'll miss you. To the many many lovely Library friends: I thank you for inspiring me with a shared love of one of mankind's most wonderful products: books. See you at the Library!  
*Jess*

(Continued from page 8)

around the village area. At present staff are working around the Horseshoe Point



area and Hicks Road sites. The total area of control is approximately 1200ha, of which we aim to undertake approximately 300ha per year on a four-year rotation. The Barberry eradication project has been going for some years now, and some may recall dense stands of Barberry hedging and trees around the bay. We have made some real progress since the days of chainsaws and now use hand saws to deal with the majority of it, or hand pull juvenile plants. Some sites are now designated low density, while others we are now tackling are still very dense, which can be slow going. If we haven't quite got to your place yet – don't worry - we shouldn't be too far away. If you have just the odd Barberry plant on your property and are happy to deal to it yourself, then please call into DOC and ask for Al Check. He can loan you a kit and some stump paste. This means the amount of seed being dispersed is reduced and when we do come to your place our progress will be a lot quicker. For a description of Barberry check out

<http://www.es.govt.nz/documents/biosecurity/pest-plants/barberry.pdf>. And thank you for allowing us on to your properties to undertake this work.

**Campsite to be re-located** – Staff are currently investigating the feasibility of re-locating one of the three campsites on the Rakiura Great Walk, following ongoing complaints about the suitability of the Sawdust Bay campsite. Staff propose to re-locate the campsite closer to the North Arm Hut and are looking at a site on the ridge above North Arm, which would provide adequate space for four 4-person tents, a basic cooking shelter, watertank and toilet. If this proposal goes ahead, the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust are keen for the existing campsite at Sawdust Bay to be retained as a separate hunter camp facility and have offered to take over maintenance of the site.

**Tracks checked for windfalls** – Visitor Asset staff are currently catching up on a number of small maintenance tasks. These include checking the Rakiura Track for windfalls and cleaning and general maintenance at Long Harry and North Arm huts.

**Visitor Centre hours reduced for winter** - The Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre is now operating on winter hours and is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm weekdays and from 10am to 2pm at weekends. The centre offers a warm refuge for visitors looking for something to do on a miserable day and has a small

retail outlet for anyone wishing to shop for gifts or souvenirs (plus a sale bin for those bargain hunters amongst you). Numbers through the visitor centre year-to-date are down approximately 10% down on the corresponding period last year.

**Southern Right Whale, Tohora sightings** - Southern Right Whales may be spotted along our coasts during winter and spring which is their breeding season. These baleen whales can be recognised by their strongly arched mouth, lack of dorsal fin and V-shaped blowhole spray. Any sightings of this species should immediately be reported to the Stewart Island / Rakiura DOC office or via the DOCHOTline (0800 362 468) to allow researchers the chance to also observe the whale. If at all possible, take photos of the whale's callosities (and any obvious scars or identifying features) to help identify individual tohora.

**Increase to the DOC 'family'** – Finally, we would like to congratulate Phil and Heather Brooks on the birth of their son on Saturday June 11 2011. Trent William James Brooks weighed in at 8lb 5oz (not bad Phil – I seem to remember that for your introduction to the community in December 2005 that you wrote that you were a '*confirmed batchelor*'. Now you not only have a lovely wife but a wee baby to boot – well done!)

## Salty Boy Squires

1974 - 2011

Salt our Welsh Mountain Pony travelled on board the MV Wairau 24th Dec 1980 to Stewart Island for a Christmas Surprise for Lisa Bridget & Simone Squires. He was the best kept secret arriving on the early sailing. We took him from the wharf to Colin & Margarets Hopkins place then transferred him to our back paddock early evening for 'the Christmas morning' surprise. The girls were delighted and had so much fun learning to ride and he became a much loved family member. I needed to read a horse book for the next few months as I knew little how to care for them.

He soon grazed our hill and was regularly tethered around the village and with the Caves at Horse-shoe and occasionally we would get a phone call to say he was found wandering and was tied to a pole or a tree nearby, many people have been so kind to him over the years and we thank you all. He was the most delightful pet and gave the girls a lot of fun times. They would take him away camping, he also liked to swim, race the other horses on the beaches and the fire brigade's enclosure by DOC in the middle of the village was a definite favourite for him as the children and adults would give him treats and help brush him down.

He was ridden as a wedding horse once, raised funds for the odd school fair giving rides and in 1989 he appeared in the fashion



quarterly magazine with Tracy Neave, he was sooo handsome...!

1983 saw Lisa go away to High School, 3 yrs later Bridget, then Simone all the girls had gone away so I needed to ride him, then along came Josh Frazer and Becky Cavanagh who rode him and took very good care of him. The only accident he had was when Simone was racing her cousin Jamie on Prince her horse, and the roads were due to be tar sealed, there was little traction so on the corner near the turning to the Power House his legs went from under him and Simone took the impact on her elbow and chin, Scott Pringle saw this happen and raced into village to get Doc Marty who attended to her & the bruised Salty Boy for several days after that.

Barry Atkins took care of his feet for years and 5 yrs ago we had to get a Farrier over as he needed specialist care several times a year. We did indeed become a one horse town, with ( Petra's) Jumbuck & Charlie (Liz's) horses dying whilst they were with Salt just a few years back.

He loved to roll on the Bay Beach and sometimes I would leave him

there for a good roll he was quite content and the shop would give him the odd bit of fruit bread etc. Last year he appeared as a promotion for the Melbourne Cup and was part of a local fund raising effort and appeared on the front page of S I N.

He had a second home at Lonnerkers Beach with Rodger & Brenda Hicks over the last few years, visited the Dobbins family, Britt, and over the hill to Lindsay & Loraine's, Colin & Margaret from time to time, The Leasks in their Bay, Jed & Chris whilst we were away ! Takes a Village to Raise a Horse !

Sue (Diddles) & Sophie had him on the bay beach having a lovely time on the Thursday, then he went into the DOC enclosure and a few days later had trouble standing up. It had been an awful cold week and his new waterproof coat wasn't as good as it should have been. So Bridget brought him back up the hill to home and with the help of a few friends put him under the house and dried him off best they could. He was comforted well into the night but didn't make it by morning. He was 36 human years which made him over 100 horse years.

Bridget rang us back on the Wednesday morning we were in Christchurch for a Wedding and I so wanted to be with him at the end. With the help of Jack and the hiab he was taken to his favourite spot under the Totara Tree near our house and Graham Okey used his digger as quite a large grave was needed. I thank you both very much for that.

Sadly his August birthday party & Lolly cake he shared with the school Children is not to be, but they can come visit him, anyone can.

—Squires Family



## Senior Citizens Housing Survey

With the increasing number of residents becoming 'senior', it has become appropriate that consideration be made as to the desirability – or not – of the inclusion of suitable accommodation in the community. This is being considered to cater for folks that are looking to downsize from a family home and gardens, and the relevant economies of a continued comfortable lifestyle. Whilst we have seen, over time, people shift away to enable their closeness to services perceived as available on the mainland, it is very obvious to me that the general ability of this community to look after our seniors is probably already working, thanks to all the usual helpers. This is due not least to the medical services we have that many other parts of the country would envy.

However, I also believe that the level of care and commitment for older folks that is required from our nurse practitioners and their teams would be mitigated or made easier if warm, comfortable, economical unit or cottage accommodation could be achievable at affordable cost. I also believe this would allow the increasing numbers of senior citizens in our community to stay on the Island for longer when they so wish, and to maintain healthy and active lifestyles for longer amongst

their Island friends, families and neighbours if they lived in warm and properly insulated homes where the upkeep of the home was less draining on both physical and financial personal resources. It is also my own reasoning that this would benefit the community too – the knowledge, experience and even (to put it bluntly!) the sheer practical usefulness of having "grandparents" around our young families is not something that should be lightly discarded.

The subject of Senior Housing is on the Community Board Action Sheet for consideration, and a survey form will be in your mailbox soon. I ask that whatever your age, whatever your current position or status in our community, that you fill in this form, adding as many notes as you like, and get this back to the collection box at the Post Office. And whilst thinking about the pros and cons, don't hesitate to speak to members of your Community Board, a member of the Health Committee or myself – to use us as "sounding boards" or to ask for our own individual opinions and reasonings. We need individual input from the community regarding the possibilities and opportunities, so we need to hear from you all. I look forward to seeing the collated results of the survey very soon.

*Bruce Ford*

## Nurses News

A huge thank you to all those who are helping with the Clinic garden and car-park renovations! Special thanks to Debs Barry, Graham Okey, Ian Munro, Ian Sinclair, Sue Munro and the members of the Stewart Island Health Committee. It is looking much less wild and woolly!

Winter is here and is the season to watch out for slipping, tripping and falling- please make sure your decks and steps are not slippery as this has caused nasty accidents lately.

Remember to be kind to yourselves over winter and keep up eating fruit and vegetables, taking exercise in the fresh air and getting plenty of sleep to keep your immune system strong.

Flu vaccines will be available until the end of July.

Lately the nurses have been

updating their skills in emergency care, chronic disease management, maternity and children's health. Debs is nearly finished registration as a Well Child Provider, and Martin has been working with the St John service.

We can also provide support and medications to assist you to become Smoke free. It's never too late to quit nor does it matter if you have tried to quit a few times already.

Our relieving nurses Tania and Kirsty will be working in July while Martin is on leave.

Thank you also to our St John volunteers, who were recently presented with three year service awards. They are available to help the Nurses and we really appreciate their dedication.

### Services

**In EMERGENCY dial 111**

**Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 000 606 (Nurses Bleeper) or**

**Ph 03 2191098 (Nurses Cell Phone).**

**General Primary Health Care Clinic; Daily 10am-12.30pm. (No appointment necessary).**

**Clinic Number- Phone; 03 2191098 Fax; 03 2191072.**

**Women Health Clinic; Wednesday; 9am-late pm. Please phone clinic for an appointment.**

**Well Child/ Family Clinic; Thursdays; 9am-late pm Please phone clinic for an appointment.**

### Websites worth a look:

The June 2011 Bulletin Aotearoa, published by Rural Women New Zealand -

[www.ruralwomen.org.nz](http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz) contains a round up on many different issues, including topics such as health and education, and the implications for rural New Zealand.

The New Zealand Heart Foundation at [www.heartfoundation.org.nz](http://www.heartfoundation.org.nz) has heaps of recipes and tips on staying healthy over winter.

Go to [www.isalndstudies.ca](http://www.isalndstudies.ca) and read about small islands and businesses, and read the online Journal about different small island issues.

For the kids go to [www.sparc.org.nz](http://www.sparc.org.nz) and get some great ideas for activities to keep them busy, and fit and healthy at the same time.

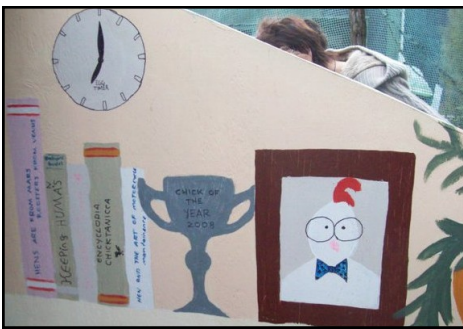
Or go to the Te Papa website [www.tepapa.org.nz](http://www.tepapa.org.nz) where they have cool interactive games to learn stuff and have fun.

—Debs Dillon

### Chook House Tour

Poem and photos by Vicki Coats

Sat 1pm and the chicken glasses full,  
 Thankfully the weather's not too dull,  
 Chic Ken Stewart and Chris TmasChic Ken,  
 Were both voted the mascot men,  
 Off to Ewan & Jenny's; number one stop,  
 A big fright as the guinea fowl went over the top,  
 Belinda next, she can pick her's up,  
 A quick stop to fill up the cups,  
 Slippery sliding down Dawn's slope,  
 A bit of a trek but we coped,  
 Bonnie out of the shower in a bit of a daze,  
 Wasn't expecting so many to visit the maze,  
 A quick stop at Karen's but Pete was



hiding,  
 Off to see Tyler, he's always smiling!  
 Down to Horseshoe to see Chris' chooks,  
 Jed's curtains made us all stop and look,  
 Helen's coop was kind of empty,  
 But the next stop we made had plenty!

Sue and Len's fine aviary was great,  
 Plenty of breeds to visit near made us late,  
 A scenic tour round the back road,  
 Off up the hill to Percy and Karen's abode.

A few more steps up to Holger and Chris, Hippy's mansion last on the list,  
 A BBQ and a few more drinks,  
 Another one planned for next year me-thinks.

A big thanks to everyone who let us nosy round their houses, Jo for the most excellent rooster shortbread, Chris & Jed for being our sober drivers and Michelle & Jamie for the yummy food!

For more photos check out Vicki's album on Facebook

### TWO ISLAND PROJECTS IN THE RUNNING FOR AWARDS

by Michele Poole, Environment Southland

Two Stewart Island projects have been nominated for Southland Environment Awards this year, and locals are welcome to attend the awards function next month to support their community nominees.

The Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRCET) is a

past winner of the awards, this year nominated for their ongoing pest control over 210ha, providing a safer environment for native birds to repopulate the area, and also for the group's community nursery and ongoing education work. SIRCET is nominated in the Community Group category.

The Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre is nominated in the Commercial category for its continuous efforts to make recy-

cling and waste minimisation a way of life on the island.

The Southland Environment Awards will be presented at a function at Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill, on Wednesday 6 July. Guest speaker is Mark Solomon, the Kaiwhakahaere (Chief Executive) of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu. Admission is free but seats are limited so please register by e-mailing [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz) or phoning 0800 76 88 45.



### The National Garden Bird Survey is coming!

Between 25 June and 3 July you are invited to *watch* birds in your garden for *one hour*, and record the highest number of each species you see or hear at any one time.



You don't have to watch your whole garden, just part of the garden will do. You can even do the survey from the luxury of your kitchen or living room!

*By participating in the survey you will help build up a picture of how both native and introduced birds are faring in our gardens over the years. Let's see if we can make this year's survey even more successful than last year's record breaking one!*

For more information (including survey instructions, a bird identification poster, a downloadable survey, data entry forms and other country's results) go to [www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz) and search 'Garden Bird Survey', or contact Alina on (03) 219 1487 or [alina@sircet.org.nz](mailto:alina@sircet.org.nz).

The National Garden Bird Survey was established by Landcare Research, in collaboration with Forest & Bird and the Ornithological Society, to monitor the distribution and population trends of common garden birds in New Zealand.



## ZIMBO VENTURES

*Imports originating in the USA.*

We strive to get anything people may want. It's a good time for Kiwis to take advantage of the NZD USD exchange rate (over 80cents). No need to wait for any potential savings (that often never comes) to get through to the retail level here in NZ. We can source all sorts, new or second hand outboards, outdoor power equipment, motorbikes, cars etc. Some of the more miscellaneous items we have brought in are: athletic strapping tape, baby gear, and exercise equipment. Take advantage of using a Kiwi business with US connections to save you all the headaches of dealing with overseas purchases.



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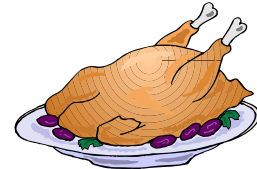
## STEWART ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS

### MID WINTER TRADITIONAL FEAST

### SOUTH SEAS HOTEL

### ON TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY

### ALL STEWART ISLAND RESIDENTS OVER 60 WELCOME



Thanks to Toi Rakiura for bringing another stellar theatrical performance to the Island stage. The audience loved the guys of *Strange Resting Places*. Photos from Kari Beaven.



When the Rolling Stones came to town.

## Aspiring Artists at HMB School

by Poppy LeQuesne

The Halfmoon Bay School kids have turned into little artists this term.

This term a teacher from Myross Bush called Mrs Wilcox came for her second time to teach the kids about art. But instead of doing clown paintings she decided to do some landscape paintings and a Stewart Island A-Z.

The kids had to bring a photo of a landscape and then paint it. Mrs Wilcox showed them how to use different

shades of paints to make their paintings work. The kids are all really proud of their paintings and were very proud to show them in assembly.

The Stewart Island A-Z idea came from another A-Z that Mrs Wilcox had brought. Everyone came up with a word that went with each letter, like Ackers



Point for A and Blue Cod for B. Then each kid chose some letters to do and then drew a picture to go along with each of these chosen letters. In each picture a bit was coloured blue or orange to go with the Stewart Island sea and sunset colours.

These kids are all so talented and maybe in time, they will be some of the most famous artists in the world.



## 2011 AA Supreme Host of the Year Award Winners – Brett & Jenny Twaddle and Robin Campbell, Bay Motel

This award is for excellence in the motel industry and is based on visitor reviews sent into aatravel.co.nz “Been There Reviews”. Marks are given out of 10 for Service, Value and Cleanliness and Bay Motel is a 10/10.

Service starts from being passionate and proud about the place you live in and Stewart Island has that magic so the three of us are always eager for all visitors to experience the best on offer and to go away wanting all they come in contact with to visit Stewart Island and experience the same. Coupled with the fact that we are also enthusiastic about the Bay Motel which we think has all the comforts needed for a great stay and with caring staff who are always willing to assist. Our service is fantastic, we hope to offer the best value and our cleanliness boasts a Qualmark 4 star.



“Absolute comfort and enjoyment” is our priority for all staying at the Bay Motel and on Stewart Island say Jenny and Brett Twaddle owner/operators since February 2008. South African born Jenny spent many years as financial manager of a large retail outlet in Johannesburg where “customer service” training was an important requirement. Together with Brett, a local building contractor, they settled on Stewart Island to enjoy a wonderful lifestyle and great community. After two years of dedication and hard work in the motel/tourism industry help was needed to keep visitors happy and we were fortunate to have Robin Campbell, “A little gem” as expressed by Amanda Cushen – Qualmark Assessor, join us as Manager.

Also with a financial background, Robin started in the motel industry in 2005 as manager for Edgewater Motel and in 2009 as manager for Lakefront Lodge both in Te Anau. Robin’s enthusiasm and strong work ethics ensures we go the “extra mile” to assist our visitors in obtaining the most from their stay through superior service, local knowledge, recommendation of activities and becoming their friend and confidante from arrival to departure. “I LOVE MY JOB!!” says Robin and all the guests love him.

## KNITTING FOR CHRISTCHURCH

by Bev Osbourne

In the last week of May, Knit and Knatter despatched two very full cartons of knitted clothing to Christchurch. These were supplemented by a further two cartons of new adult sweaters, donated by Mrs Coral Hotchkiss. Knit and Knatter members are very grateful to Stewart Island Flights for transporting all the cartons to Invercargill and to Loraine and Herbie Hansen for delivering them to Christchurch.

So far beanies have been delivered to all the children in twelve primary schools and twenty-two pre-schools. Baby clothes will go to the neo-natal unit and to Plunket and slippers, scarves and other garments to some of the support hubs. Knitting has come from all over New Zealand and our distributor was delighted to be able to add Stewart Island to their map dotted with donation stars.

Photo shows some of the collection displayed at Oban Presbyterian Church which donated \$100 towards the buying of wool.



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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ posters  
 (enter number of posters you require)

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 Stewart Island/Rakiura Search & Rescue

**Post your order to:**  
 Kirsten Hicks, PO Box 72, Stewart Island 9846

**All proceeds go to Stewart Island/Rakiura Search & Rescue. Thanks for your support!**

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For big jobs, small jobs and the jobs that need doing quickly we have a team of hardworking experienced builders who are available any time if required.



It will cost you nothing for a quote – so give us a call.

# CONGRATULATIONS

*Newlyweds*  
**Jan and Rastus**

*New parents*  
**Heather and Phil**  
*Welcome Trent William James*



**STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE**  
Will meet at the home Raylene Waddell at 2.00 pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Visitors welcome

## MEALS ON WHEELS

For Senior Citizens (65+) are available each Sunday evening.

Prepared by the kitchen staff at the South Seas Hotel. Delivered by members of the Stewart Island Lions Club.

For Enquiries & Orders contact Tracy at the S.S.Hotel 059

**Yoga** 5pm Wednesdays at the RSA \$3.00 beginners welcome! any queries, give me a call Chris 219 1494 or text 027 3812348

**ATTENTION BUSINESSES:** if you have offers or discounts for the **Singles Ball** send them to Vicki Coats so she can include them on the website. [stewartisland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewartisland@xtra.co.nz)

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Please send articles and enquiries to Kari at PO Box 27, Stewart Island News, HMB Post Office or to [editor@stewart-island-news.com](mailto:editor@stewart-island-news.com)

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- 12 issues to an Oban address or Internet address \$24
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