# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## *CELEBRATING RAKIURA*

**June—July 2012** **$2.00**

Saturday Library hours are reduced for the Winter, they will be open 11-noon (rather than 10-noon). See page 11 for Library News.

Speaking of books, the new ambergris book hit the shelves last month and yes, a copy has been purchased for the Library. (Don't pester Kirsten as it hasn't arrived yet.) *Floating Gold* includes the author's account of visiting Stewart Island.

Has anyone seen the Discovery program *Gold Rush*? In a recent episode, MSHA (the mining industry's equivalent of MAF) paid the mines a surprise visit, bombarded them with paperwork and red tape, and shut some of them down. An outraged old-timer miner from Porcupine Creek said "A piece of paper never kept me safe *ever*." I'll bet plenty of people say *amen* to that.

*If it ain't broke don't fix it.* That's just not the motto of bureaucratic government departments, whose creed seems more like *If it ain't broke overwhelm it with a headspinning number of regulations and fiddly paperwork and tell them if they don't comply they're going to be broken* and *broke.*

**Uh-oh...RugRats have been seen on Ulva Island. (p7)**

Rugrats was sent into a bit of a tailspin recently due to a slew of tough new regulations. But a meeting renewed the board's faith that this organization is running perfectly well as is and it's worth fighting to keep the status quo. The room was packed with people from all walks of the community voicing their ideas and support. See Rugrats News p 13. (Whether you have wee ones in Rugrats or not, it's worth finding out what's happening with groups that make this a family-friendly Island.)

I got a funny email the other day from a woman wonderfully named Philothea Flynn, a rights administrator for *Te Ara / The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand.* While looking for a photo to accompany their "Stewart Island" entry, they surfed through *SIN's* online archives and came across Kitty Kain's 2007 snap of the sea lion in the Pub loo. So they've chosen that pesky potty-poaching pinniped to represent Rakiura! (If you weren't there for the event, there's a photo on the hall wall outside the ladies' room in the hotel; or check the *SIN* archives February 2007; OR... Visit the Encyclopaedia and smarten up! www.teara.govt.nz )The entry is due to launch at the end of August.

Horseshoe Bay is about to get super busy. Greymouth Petroluem is sending barges packed with gear to set up shop at the old quarry.

Good for the Oyster Festival gang, who won first runner-up for their food stall in Bluff.

Margaret Fairhall shared this cool website: www.showmystreet.com is worth checking (but it might make you paranoid).

***Condolences to the family of long-time Island resident Lindsay Lord.***

### THE QUIZ TOUR REPORT

*by Vicki Coats*

It all started off well; dolphins frolicking around the ferry in the way across the Strait (thanks Stewart Island Experience). Nek minit.... lady on bus standing yapping for 15 minutes and then "I must just go to my car to get...." saw the shuttle leaving late to drop us all around Invercargill. Oh, great, I'm thinking, how the heck do I get to Balclutha now? Was the tour over before it even began??? Luckily Kevin knows his roads and I got to the i-site with time to spare.

A warm welcome happened in Balclutha, Ross and Anna had gone out of their way to procure prizes from his reps and a fantastic turn-out happened too, very ably assisted by Pihi and Bev and their respective teams! With a huge total of $565 raised.

I was stoked! Was this the way it was to be; hosts advertising the heck out of their towns to get people to come along? Prizes galore? Ex/Current-Stewart Islanders popping out of the woodwork? Money growing on trees?

*(Continued on page 2)*

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**Professional tradesmen, friendly service**

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**Cnr Bill Richardson Drive and Fox Street**

As the dates draw closer to our departure we would like to say farewell.

We have enjoyed 11 fantastic years on the Island and will miss it and the community especially those spectacular sun rises seen from Ringaringa.

It is time for life's next little adventure so it is with heavy hearts that we depart Paradise on the 21st June.

We wish everyone well for the future and assure you we will return.

*David & Kerry Squire*

A couple of snaps poached off Vicki's FB page: Islanders representing at the Bluff Oyster Festival (and on the ferry!)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Well, no, not always was the answer to that!

Some places were busy, some weren't. Generally it came down to how much of an effort the pub had made, but not always. Events always clash, especially in small places; the Lions in Tuatapere were holding a games night on the Quiz night, but they had a collection between themselves to add to the total which was fab.

And I did see heaps of Islanders and it was so great to have their support! A friendly face (or heckler!) in the crowd makes things a lot easier, but the people of Southland and Otago that I've met couldn't have been better. There was always an offer of a ride available, whether I needed one or not and the donations people bought for raffles was amazing. Tod and Heather's huge courgette had a wee tour all of it's own! And the bus drivers from Atomic Shuttle, Nakedbus and Tracknet were all fab; once they knew what I was doing they always had a smile for me and a wee chat while I went back and forward from Queenstown to Wanaka (should have planned that route a little better....) and kudos to all the companies for letting me travel FOC.

Last stop, of course, was Stewart Island. All kinds of raffle prizes were donated for the raffle table (thanks everyone) and the total raised was the highest for the tour, $1180.70, beating Winton who raised $1048.60. Even the jar of Marmite I took around and raffled raised $388.60! That was won by a lady from the Omakau pub. Final tally; $10,965 (some more money was donated even after the tour had finished!).

So cheers to everyone who helped and supported, especially Hippy, who had to fend to himself and the cat for a few weeks, thanks Hippy!

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place classifieds.
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www.weekendtrader.co.nz

Civil Defense invites you

Tuesday 19th June 6.30pm

Fire Brigade

*? When a disaster strikes, what happens on Stewart Island ?*

Come along and find out

Bring a plate and a friend

See you there

**Halfmoon Bay School CONCERT**

1.15pm on Friday, 22nd June
at the Community Centre

The students will again be performing for the community - showcasing what they have been working on in music this term.

*Make sure you keep this afternoon free and bring along friends and family.*

**STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE**

Thanks to all who supplied seaweed, soil and plants for our June planting project on the Golf Course.

Our get together in July will be the wine making attempt at Helen Bennetts. Anyone wanting to have a go please come along you will be very welcome.

Thursday 12th July at 2.0 *pm*
*at Helen Bennetts*

## NURSES' NEWS
## Stewart Island – a Healthy Island

**The WHO says a "Healthy Island" is a place where; children are nurtured in mind and body, environments invite learning and leisure, people work and age with dignity and ecological balance is a source of pride.**

Winter season is here and the coughs and colds are amongst us!
Flu vaccines are available at the Clinic- no appointment necessary.
Older people, young children, pregnant women, and people with certain medical conditions are at a higher risk of developing serious complications from influenza, such as pneumonia, and the flu vaccine is free for these groups.
For the cost of $32 the flu vaccine is available to everyone else, except those with an allergy (anaphylaxis) to eggs or allergy to the vaccine itself.

The shorter days and longer nights will lower our immunity so it is important to maintain health by getting enough sleep, regular exercise, healthy eating, and some fun social activities.
Frequent hand-washing or sanitizing, and catching sneezes in a tissue, helps stop bugs spreading. Stay home if you are sick and phone the Nurse for a visit to stop illness spreading.

Research is proving that small "island like" groups of people are living very healthy lives into very old age, 100+ years. Several are island based populations. To see their secrets visit www.bluezones.com

Thank you to all the St John team for their help and support over the summer.
Thanks heaps also to all the gardeners, and please come and get fresh vegetables from the Community Garden.
And thank you also to the Health Committee for their support over the year, and please remember anyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

**Services**

**In EMERGENCY dial 111**

**Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 426 285 (Nurses Bleeper).**

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

**Clinic Number- Phone; 2191 098**
**Fax; 2191 072.**

**Women Health/ Cervical Screening;**
**Please phone clinic for an appointment with Deb Dillon.**
**Well Child/Tamariki Ora /B4 School Checks;**
**Please phone clinic for an appointment with Deb Dillon.**

Sadly, the island's "poster dog" for conservation died this week, aged 14 ½.

Craka featured on posters, in magazines and films as a "kiwi dog" wearing his muzzle and usually sitting with a kiwi he had just helped to locate.

He worked tirelessly alongside Brent until his hearing went, when he retired to be a general pot-licker about the house.

## Save that "Penny for your Thoughts"

*By Kari Beaven*

"Write down everything you spend your money on, and be honest with yourself while you're about it," was Simon Tierney's advice this month when he spoke to Stewart Islanders about ways to make their income do more for them.

The biggest mistake people make is that they try to kid themselves about what they're spending their money on. Simon says if you smoke, and it's costing you $50 per week to do it, then write that down. If you drink $50 a week in alcohol, then write that down too.

"You want to know, now, whether you'll be making headway or be in debt in three months' time." Writing it down lets you make choices before the bank balance dips. As scary as it can be to see you're headed for several hundred dollars of debt after the next WOF or phone bill comes through, Simon says all too often, people leave out the expenses they don't want to acknowledge, and then buy them anyway (smoking addictions are strong), taking their cost out of their grocery money or the rent tin. In walks the debt.

Simon's advice to smokers is "don't give up smoking in your budget". After our horrified gasp subsided, he went on to suggest smokers cut down first if they feel like they are spending too much of their week working to pay for cigarettes. Limiting yourself to a number of cigarettes per day is much more likely to be successful. Writing down how much you could buy with "cigarette money" can be a fantastic incentive to quit, or to choose not to smoke that one extra cigarette at the tempting moment, but giving up entirely on paper can often set people up for an over-spend.

Have goals and have fun were the other two key points. He didn't mean have fun working out your budget (though we did wind up having quite a bit of fun during the workshops), Simon has met with people who worked away six years of their lives to pay off the mortgage, and missed all of the opportunities in that time for fun. Taking slightly longer to pay off your mortgage can mean you can enjoy life along the way. It's all about balance, and above all, choices. Your choices.

Setting goals gives you incentive to stick with your choices. They should be grouped into short term goals, like to afford a weekly coffee with friends, medium term goals, like buying a nice birthday present for a friend or your kids, and long term goals, like a holiday, a house, car or saving for retirement.

The first step to making a budget is to find out

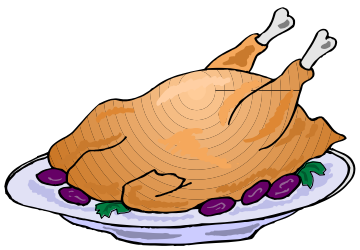
# STEWART ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS

## MID WINTER TRADITIONAL FEAST

## SOUTH SEAS HOTEL

## ON TUESDAY 26TH JUNE

***ALL STEWART ISLAND RESIDENTS OVER 60 WELCOME***



**WENDY 357** **JENNY 219**

what your balance will be if you write down all of your income and expense as they are. Make sure you remember to include the bills which only crop up from time to time, and include a column for saving the amount you choose for each of your goals.

If the balance at the end of all that has a little "minus" symbol by it, then set about changing some of the values. Whatever you do though, make sure "food", "home" (eg rent or mortgage) and "heating" are given top priority. Walking, riding or car-pooling one day each week can save a few dollars, which add up over the year. Writing a week or fortnight's meal plans in advance can save you money by combining meals and leftovers, choosing in-season produce and by reducing trips to the shop (saving fuel and impromptu buys). A few hours extra work here and there is another way to make the numbers balance.

Finally, Simon showed how many thousands of dollars it can cost to have a credit card owing money. That cost stops you from saving, which means you need to put more money on your card, which winds up costing you more interest. There can be an awful lot of pressure from banks and department stores to take their credit cards.

Simon's advice is, unless you can use them entirely to your own advantage, resist the card and flash-looking weekly payment schemes. Save up for your purchases and use the cash as bargaining power at the store. When you do the maths, you could be saving the cost of a new television set every year, just by buying that first year's purchases **after** you've saved for them, not before. In fact, save as a habit. He's often advised people to form a habit of saving, even before they've paid off their other debts. The habit grows stronger and makes it easier to make the right choices, paying debts off faster.

Finally, sometimes hard decisions have to be made. People often feel pressure to go into short-term debt with high interest rates to pay off an electricity bill or the vet. Instead of opening yourself up to debts you can't manage, negotiate with the vet to pay your bill off at a rate per week. Saving yourself the high levels of interest will mean you can pay them back faster. It's not ideal, but it's better than getting into negative spiral.

Jubilee Community Budgeting Service offer one to one assistance and advice and education workshops. They also take on a role of advocating on behalf of people who find themselves in financial difficulty, allowing them to make achievable commitments to pay back their money. Their website is www.jubileebudget.co.nz

The Ruggies had a ball on Ulva Island this month.

To our wonderful Rugrats teacher Becky:

We are all going to miss you HEAPS!

Do you feel a bit unraveled at times?

Want to unwind with some great company?

Like crafts?

Want to learn to knit or crochet?

Or maybe you have a craft project to show and tell about!

Come along to **"Knit and Natter"** and yarn away the winter, have a few laughs and a yummy afternoon tea!

Gatherings held weekly on a Tuesday afternoon from 2pm until around 4pm.

Please phone Wendy Hallett (032191357) for this week's location.

All very welcome!!!!

Left: Tessa and Ngakau brush up on their ABCs.
Below: rugged-up Ruggy knackered in a knapsack.

## Stewart Island Health Centre Garden

Thank you to the South Seas Quiz Night and Vicki for the Donation of $400 dollars to buy plants for our garden. We purchased evergreen Azaleas and some more Rhododendrons. Thanks also to the health committee members who helped in the initial clean up, also to Debs Dillon for planting and Debbie Barry for putting on the pea straw. A big thanks to Sinky our perpetual grounds man. The garden on the opposite side of the carpark is on hold in the meantime. —*Sue Munro*

## Rakiura/Bluff Relay for Life March 2012

*by Sue Munro*

Sorry for the delay in getting this in print. The team would like to thank all this year's sponsors. We were a smaller team than usual for various reasons but we still managed to raise a good $4208 .

The weather was a bit inclement and we really appreciated the marquee sponsored by Bruce Dickens Tree Topping a lot of teams had a pretty soggy weekend and we stayed nice and dry. Thanks also to Ship to Shore , Jill and Richard allowed us to have raffles in the shop and also supplied a lot of the prizes ,Vicki ran them for us. $546 in total

Kaye Cake Kitchen. Coca Cola, Bowens Electrical Bluff all supplied prizes.

Stewart Island Community Hall Trust supplied Stewart Island Rain which was sold to our team members on the day.

Stewart Island Singles Ball also paid us a substantial donation for cleaning services.

A prize package for two people was given by Stewart Island Experience ( Return travel ) Bay Motel (accommodation ) South Seas Hotel ( dinner) Ian's Digger Co (bottle of wine).

The lucky winner was one of the Bowie's Bee's team, it was bucketing down when we delivered the prize and he had gone so we didn't get his name, but his team mates were all buzzing and he will definitely be over to dry his wings out.

All proceeds go to the Southland Branch of the Cancer Society.
*Thank you, Sue Munro*

**www.stewart-island-news.com**

Greymouth Petroleum's rig and gear will cross Foveaux Strait on the barge and land at Horseshoe Bay soon. Here are a couple snaps of the equipment en route to us.

Above: the rig passing through Kaikoura on its journey South. Below: the rig being loaded onto the truck.

**BOOK REVIEW** *from Sue Ford*

"Never Go Back" by Robert Goddard,
"After the Darkness" by Honey Brown,
"The Book of Fate" by Brad Meltzer

If you've ever watched the Brit TV show "New Tricks", you'll have laughed at three "old codger" retired policemen recalled to work on cold cases. The two main characters in Never Go Back – Harry and Barry - are reminiscent of these old guys. And it happens like this: Young Harry was called up to do his National Service in 1950's England, along with Barry, a petty conman with more charm than brains. Was Harry naïve or just dazzled by Barry? Whichever, they find themselves faced with either a court martial or a three-month stint at a remote castle in Scotland being used as educational guinea-pigs. It's a no-brainer, and once there, they find they are two of a party of 15 Air Force "chaps" in a similar situation – military punishment or this education experiment. The 15 spend the 3-months amicably enough, trying to fill gaps in their formal education, as remotely connected as Shakespeare and The Theory of Relativity.

Eventually, the 15 say their goodbyes and go their ways, redeemed in the eyes of the Air Force. Back in Civvy Street, Barry is unchanged, and our two end up running a garage which Barry bankrupts a few years later by running away with the secretary and the money, leaving Harry to face the music. Harry's life is less dramatic from then on, though his adored 2nd wife and daughter take him to settle in Canada. Only the death of his nonagenarian mother calls him back briefly to England in 2005 where he meets two of the original 15 who have been trying to trace him. A third member of the group has become very wealthy and has hired their old castle – now a flash tourist hotel – for a 50th reunion of the group. Some of the men are untraceable, some have died, but with a mixture of reluctance and curiosity, Harry consents to attend the all-expenses-paid reunion of blokes with an average age of 70+. Then, on the train heading for Scotland, one of the old men goes missing…..

What happens next is a "who-dunnit" with humorous overtones: e.g. imagine two elderly gents, sleeping off yet *another* evening at the pub, clambering out of the bedroom window in their PJ's in the middle of the night to escape their fire-bombed house! And both have an amusing turn of phrase and excellent dialogue. Definitely an enjoyable read – I was torn between wanting to know what happened next and fear of reaching the end of the story. Just what a ripping good yarn *should* be like! But if the plot line of "Never Go Back" is a bit stretched, "After the Darkness" is way off the beam – but equally 'un-put-down-able'!

A middle-aged couple have just had a romantic break from the kids and the business, and idly stop at a "Gallery Open" sign on a deserted Australian road on the way home. The horror that they live through then is mind-boggling, surely, but the degree of shock and panic they suffer takes a peculiar turn, and they are led into a veritable labyrinth of distrust and fear. Despite the unlikely reaction in our pair – but which allows the rest of the story to progress – the writing is taut and tense, and created some late nights of reading on the edge of the chair.

"The Book of Fate" has a more well-worn plot but has brilliant characters and excellent building of tension. The main character is Wes, weak, a coward and with a bit of Uriah Heep about him. He *was* aide to the U.S. President, but following a supposedly botched assassination attempt on the President – which left poor Wes horribly disfigured – and a failure to be re-elected, Wes is now aide to the *former* President. Woven into the tale of mixed loyalties betwixt all those enforcement agencies with an acronym, there is the psychopathic religious maniac. A predictable enough "conspiracy" story, saved by the interesting characters – especially poor Wes – and the weaving together of some slightly off-beat sub-plots which make this story equally tense and readable. But I do wish the people who write the book-cover summaries would read the books they are writing about – I thought I was in for a "Da Vinci Code" sort of book featuring 'facts buried in Masonic history' and a '200-year old code invented by Thomas Jefferson'. The elements are there, but are quite incidental to this modern thriller, and not pivotal to the plot. Good job Meltzer is a good enough author to hold the attention – or would that be his editor as mentioned in the *three pages* of Acknowledgements?

Saturday morning at the Library: Isabella has story-time with Zoe and Guy.

WINTER
LIBRARY HOURS
MONDAY 12.30-1.30
WEDNESDAY 2.30-3.30
FRIDAY 12.30-1.30
SATURDAY 11-NOON

## STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

As the winter seems to have set in, it's time to curl up somewhere warm with a good book. And we have a whole selection of new ones for you to choose from. The books kindly donated by Quiz Night, Friends of the Library and readers in general have hit the shelves.

Some of those with particular appeal are:-

"A Warm Kiwi Welcome" by Ronelle Henning.
This is a guide to running successful kiwi-styled accommodation.
"The Larnachs" by Owen Marshall.
An account of the life of this flamboyant family.
"The Day She Cradled Me" by Sasha De Bazin.
The story of the infamous Minnie Dean, notorious Baby Farmer.
"The Silver Spoon" The bible of Italian Cookery.

So whether you want to revamp your accommodation business in the off-season, see how the other half used to live, whip up an Italian feast or deal with the kids(??), we have a book for you.

We also have all three of the Suzanne Collins Hunger Games series, the first of which has been made into a blockbuster movie.

Library Hours:
Now that the darker days are upon us, our kind volunteers who run the Saturday morning session have reduced their hours. Instead of the usual 10am – 12 noon, they will be open 11am – 12 noon, effective 23 June.
Remember we are open Monday 12.30-1.30, Wednesday 2.30 – 3.30 and Friday 12.30-1.30, so hopefully everyone can find a time that suits them.

Happy Reading!
*Kirsten*

SEARCH & RESCUE
LANDSAR
RAKIURA / STEWART ISLAND

## Update from Rakiura / Stewart Island Search & Rescue

The Rakiura / Stewart Island Search and Rescue Group would like to thank Vicki and the South Sea Hotel Quiz-goers for their ongoing support of the local Search and Rescue Group. A donation of $900 was gratefully received recently to purchase a printer and whiteboards, which will be based at the Fire Station for the use in managing emergency situations, including: Fire; Civil Defence and Search and Rescue.

***

The Rakiura group has also been fortunate to gain funding from LandSAR for uniform and other equipment in recognition of the group's ongoing commitment to training and reporting of activities. A supply of pack covers and beanies have already arrived and we are now awaiting the arrival of shirts and rain jackets. These will be allocated to members who have regularly turned up for training and have made themselves available for call-outs.

***

A community farewell for David and Kerry Squire will be held at the Fire Station on Saturday, 16 June, commencing at 5pm. This will take the form of a pot luck dinner and all are welcome to attend. During their time on the island David and Kerry have been members of many groups, including Search and Rescue, Civil Defence and Fire Brigade. Their contribution and commitment to these organisations will be missed.

***

The AGM of the Rakiura / Stewart Island Search and Rescue Group will be held at the Fire Station on Saturday, July 14 commencing at 5pm. Nominations for all office holders will be accepted on the day, or can be forwarded to the secretary - Sharon Pasco (email spasco@doc.govt.nz or to PO Box 190, Stewart Island). A potluck dinner will follow the meeting, which partners and family are more than welcome to attend. Some meat and fish will be provided for a barbecue and a cash bar will be available. —*Sharon Pasco*

# DOC Spot

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

**Ulva Island rat eradication debrief**

There will be a public debrief of the Ulva Island rat eradication operation on 22nd June. Everyone is welcome to attend. The debrief will look at what has happened since rats were first found on Ulva Island - through to now - and try to tease out what has worked well, what hasn't and what lessons we can learn.

**When:** 7-9pm, Friday 22nd June

**Where:** Stewart Island Community Centre

If you are unable to make it, but have some ideas then please feel free to e-mail these through to Brent Beaven bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz

**Rat found on Ulva Island**

It has been eight months since the rat eradication attempt on Ulva Island and indications were looking positive that it had been successful. Extensive trapping, tracking tunnels and two checks with a rodent detecting dog, up until late last month, had not found any sign of rats on Ulva Island.

Unfortunately, on 29th May a male Norway rat was found caught dead in a trap. The rat was caught on Tamehau Island (one of the small islets off Ulva Island). This islet has two traps on it, which have been checked regularly since the eradication.

A sample of this rat was sent away for genetic profiling. Since the 2010 rat invasion of Ulva, DOC has been building up a library of genetic profiles of rats caught from that event, together with profiles of rats caught from mainland populations surrounding Ulva Island. Comparing the profile of any rats caught on Ulva or the surrounding islets against the library should enable us to determine if they are re-invaders or survivors from the eradication attempt, as well as where they came from.

The results from the genetic tests on this particular rat show that it does appear to be a new invader. The testers have reported that its origin is difficult to assign but that it seems closest to previous samples caught around Halfmoon Bay. More precision should be possible as we get more specimens sent up from the mainland for comparison.

While it is great news that it isn't a survivor from the eradication attempt, the team are putting some extra effort in to ensure that it is only a single rat. Traps around the capture location are being checked regularly and wax tags are being put out on the islets (rats chew on these wax tags, leaving distinctive teeth marks).

Ulva Island is prone to reinvasion, with history following the initial eradication showing that on average one rat per year manages to get to the island. If this is a "re-invader" then our biosecurity trap network has been successful in killing it on arrival.

**New technology helping to keep Ulva rat-free**

As part of the biosecurity improvements for Ulva Island, the DOC team are now using iPads to collect information on every trap in the field. With over 200 traps to keep track of on Ulva, it is vital to have some system that ensures checks and maintenance are recorded accurately. These iPads are pre-loaded with information on where the traps are located, what has happened to them before, any maintenance requirements and also have special screens set up for trap data to be entered. At the end of each check, the iPads get up-loaded to a database at DOC. This database allows us to run reports showing history of checks, any captures, all maintenance issues and more.

***Soggy notebooks are a thing of the past when it comes to recording details of trap checks on Ulva Island. DOC staff now keep tabs on Ulva's trap network by using iPads. Al Check is pictured here on one of the first trips to Ulva using this new technology.***

The advantage for the field team is that they don't have to repeat data entry. Notebook entries no longer have to be typed out at the end of the day. The iPads also provide alerts, for instance if a trap is accidentally missed an instruction will come up that the trap checker needs to go back and look for the missing trap, or enter data as to why that trap has not been checked. This is one of a raft of biosecurity improvements designed to keep Ulva island rat free. This system has been developed on Stewart Island using expertise from within the community. The system has generated lots of interest nationally from other people managing trap networks.

Well done Stewart Island!

# UPDATE FROM RUGRATS

There are and have been a lot of things happening at Rugrats over the last 6 months so we thought it was time for an update. We currently have 18 children enrolled at the centre which can make for a busy (and sometimes noisy) environment but we the kids love it as it makes for lots of fun and learning.

Firstly a big thank you to all those who attended our Community Meeting on the 31st May to discuss the future of Rugrats and how it will operate. The Ministry of Education has placed our License under review as we do not comply with the new licensing criteria which states that based on the number of children at the centre we require 2 qualified early childhood education teachers, a cost we can not afford in our current format. After reviewing all the options and the financial implications, the community support from the meeting to continue our current service was encouraging and the Management Committee will now put in plan in place to confirm the communities need and plead our very unique case to the Ministry. We are passionate about our centre and providing a quality learning environment for our children that meets the needs of our community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We have also been reviewing our kitchen facilities with the aim of providing our teacher with a proper desk space and getting some much needed storage. Last year we looked at the option of doing everything on our wish list but were knocked for six at the cost and so we parked it for another day. It is again back on the agenda and we will be looking to do a much simpler remodelling in a staged approach as funds and time allow.

Unfortunately we are to lose our beloved teacher Becky Norrish as she heads to Wellington to be with her partner Justin at the end of this term. We are very sad to see Becky go as she has become like family to us and our children. Becky is a very talented, mature, and calming young woman who will go far in whatever she chooses to do and we thank her for her contribution to our centre and our community over the last 2 ½ years.

For the last 2 terms of this year, Tracey Corbett will be our Rugrats teacher. Tracey is coming from Dunedin where her family is based and she will be joined by her two school aged sons during her time her. We would like to welcome Tracey and her family to the Island.

Finally, we are a community based centre and we welcome and encourage input from our community. If anyone wishes to be involved with the centre in anyway, whether it is helping with fundraising, telling the children stories, teaching them the history of the Island, donating art materials, etc, we would love to hear from you.

*Jo Learmonth*
Chairperson, Stewart Island Early Childhood Education Centre Trust

**OLD TOWELS** At Rugrats we use a number of old towels and clothes to clean up the various messes that small children make when playing with gloop, slime, dirt, water, paint, sand, etc. Our current supply is getting quite low (and not to mention full of holes), so if anyone has any old towels that they are no longing needing, we would really appreciate some. Please either drop them at the Centre or call Jo Learmonth on -555 for pick-up.

**STUFF TO RENT**

If you have family visiting or people staying in your accommodation that have requirements for any of the paraphernalia that comes with small children – cots, linen, buggies, backpacks, toys, books, etc – please contact us. Between all the Rugrats families we have just about everything that you could possibly need and we now have a list of what is available for a small rental fee (as a donation to Rugrats). Please contact Letitia McRitchie on 2191-535 for details.

# ** DESIGN CHALLENGE **

Rugrats are running a design challenge for an image that can be screen printed onto re-usable fabric shopping bags (with the possibility of other items in the future) as an ongoing fundraising initiative. We are aiming to sell to the tourist market and locals alike and want something that relates to Stewart Island.

The image is to be screen printed in one colour so will need to be simple by strong!! You can submit it in any format, eg, computer image, hand drawn image, or painting. We are hoping to release the bags at the Gala Day this Labour Weekend in order to have them ready for this coming summer season.

We invite people to submit designs to us by Tuesday 31st July to either our email: rakiurarugrats@xtra.co.nz or drop it into our Post Box No. 37.

If the final design is chosen from those submitted, a significant prize (watch this space) will be awarded to the winning designer. Note: by entering this challenge you waive all rights to the design, including any reproduction in any format for the purposes of marketing and promotion.

# Possum talk helpful for local residents

A big thanks to Denise Hayes, SIRCET Pest Manager, who presented a very informative and interesting possum talk on Saturday 9th June at the Pavilion. Denise shared some great tips with local community members on how to spot possum sign, preventing possum damage to your property and suitable trapping techniques.

**Did you know?**
SIRCET has removed over **400** possums from the Halfmoon Bay area over the past 9 years!

The group heard about the development of SIRCET's possum control program and how the project continues to help protect Halfmoon Bay from this pest's devastating effects on native vegetation and bird life. Video demonstrations were shown on how the new automatic kill possum traps work and how easy it is to install them.

**Denise refreshing participants on the setting of a warrior trap**

**Paul Jacques,** Biodiversity Ranger at DOC spoke about the department's island-wide possum work, and described the opportunities available to individuals to profit from the collection of possum fur:

## Keen to earn some $ this winter?

Possum fur is hot on the world market right now and winter is the best time for possuming while coats are thick! Help reduce the Stewart Island possum population and earn $100/kg for fur. Required permits are available *free of charge* from DOC and outline what you need to know, such as distances traps need to be set off the ground to prevent catching ground birds such as kiwi. DOC also sells all the gear and can provide maps and info on high possum density areas within walking distance of Halfmoon Bay!

## Get involved! - Volunteering opportunities

- ✓ Adopt a trap line (weekly/fn checks)
- ✓ Or share a line with friends
- ✓ Trim a trap line
- ✓ Help with cat trap checks
- ✓ Warrior trap upgrade
- ✓ Rat monitoring
- ✓ Native Plant Nursery

If you would like to purchase an automatic kill possum trap for your property, or if you'd like some assistance with their installation and maintenance contact Denise on (03) 219 1159 or denise@sircet.org.nz. Denise's possum presentation is also available for download at **www.sircet.org.nz**.

**Paul demonstrates how to set a leg-hold trap for 'possuming'**

If you have a bird killing kitty, check out this product called the liberator. It's a collar that makes a noise to alarm birds, and it's more effective than bells. Go to **http://www.petvision.co/liberator.html**

# SHOP TALK

*by Jules Retberg*

**Sunny Side Up**

Remember the Ship to Shore comedy sketch a few years ago at the Community Centre, "Where are the eggs?"

This came about because an astonishing number of visitors would ask this question, usually while standing underneath the **only** sign that hangs from the ceiling of the shop, which clearly states "EGGS"! From then on it became a standing yolk.

We've recently done a spot of re-organisation in the Ship to Shore (including moving the eggs!) and the resulting scramble to find these oval delights has left a few minds fried in the process. So, to make the eggy dish of your choice:

pop into the shop
whisk yourself up to the milk
flip around and grab a dozen eggs for your basket
take the well beaten path to the counter and shell out a few dollars to pay
crack on home
eggs are versatile, so don't be a-fried to try something new!

OK, enough of the appalling puns, how about some facts. Did you know ...

if an egg floats in water it's stale
if you spin an egg and it wobbles, it's raw, and if it spins easily then it's hard boiled(personally I wouldn't try this one as I know it would end up on the floor and inevitably it would be the raw one!)
the number of folds on a chefs hat (called a "toque") are believed to signify the number of ways an egg can be cooked. Eggstraordinary!

However you like your eggs, enjoy!

## Need a Resource Consent?

## . . . I can help!

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Brrrr. It's been a bit too chilly at the RSA for the Wednesday morning **Rug-gnats** sessions, so through the winter it will be held in members' homes. Give Bridget a call (303) on the Tuesday or check the board to confirm the place for the next day. Coffee, cakes, babies, caregivers and *everyone* welcome!

Shag v. Octopus. (Shag 0; Octopus 1).

Here's one from the *Just when you think you've seen it all* files. Dan Young has shared this with us: "We were in Bluff cleaning up the boat after oystering and I went to get a bucket of water and there they were. The boat is the *Argosy*. The poor shag was bug- - - ed: the very end of the tentacle was wrapped around its beak."

**Last month I failed to mention the man who *nudged* the bollards into place at the new Fred's Wharf: Thank you to Craig Farmer!**

Congratulations to our friend Casey Lockwood (former gym manager, paua hatchery girl). She has joined the Tall Ferns in their bid to compete at the Olympic Games in London! For updates check www.basketball.org.nz (or ask her fella Kent, the *Casteaux* crew)


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