

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

June—July 2014

\$3.00

It's June, it's supposed to be slow, why another whopper SIN? Because there are many more burning questions to be answered! Why is someone taking a beetle for a walk? (did last month's nasty dog control article scare people into putting leashes on *all* their pets?) Why is Sandy King giving herself electric shocks? (because it feels better than being in the Governance Group?...) Were there really actual *traffic jams* on Horseshoe Bay Road? (see page 12) Why did the chicken and the cow cross the road? (to irritate Dale p8) Why did Rastus park his van *next to* the wharf? (see tough new wharf rules page 8).

Moby has a particular fascination with **submarines**, so he was delighted when Rastus drove his van off the wharf. I ended up with so many photos (and a video) sent to me of Rastus' van being pulled back onto land that I was going to make SIN into a flip book this month. But...no room. And does Rastus really need to re-live putting a vehicle into the tide? (Maybe he does...he's done it before!)

Congratulations to Tyler and George who came in **FIRST** for 11 years and 8 years for Southern Zone Cross Country.



Wild weather and fierce tides cut deep grooves through our beaches.
Photo from Greg Northe



"We make our own fun on Stewart Island." Submarine-Van pix from Ulva

Stewart Island kids are **CHAMPIONS!**

For those in the community who think Len's **oyster farm** proposal was just a minor concern compared to **THE FENCE** (the predator fence next to Kai Kart), think again. For better or

worse, richer or poorer, the nod to aquaculture outside Big Glory could change the face of our coast. Giving the green light to Len's operation has signaled the Community Board's willingness to let the horses out of the gate, allowing aquaculture farms beyond the confines of Big Glory and closer to home. If you're rolling your eyes thinking *yeah, closer to homes out in Horseshoe, nothing to do with me...* See page 9.

The first round of **Stewart Island Levy** funding went through and several community groups now have the funds to proceed with their projects (page 9). The Levy has proven to be an awesome windfall of dollars for the Island.

Some nasty bugs have been going around the place; a few residents caught a rare strain of **mad cowboy** disease, spending weeks trying to wrangle loose cattle back into their paddock. Anyway, put your lassos away: it's been sorted.

Vodafone's having a **party at the Pub** at 5pm 27th June (details p15).

Safe travels to all of our Island holiday-makers, migrators, and voyagers.



—Jess



A beetle on a leash? Yup. It's June, let's get weird (see Spider story this page). *Photos for article by Vikki Smith*

Spider surprises on Stewart Island by Vikki Smith

Lying in the dark under a boat, with a beetle in one hand and a garden trowel in the other, may not seem typical behaviour for a visitor to Stewart Island; but that was what we had come here to do. I, and my friend Ashley, were on the lookout for Stewart Island's three unique species of trapdoor spider. Following in the footsteps of the great arachnologist Ray Forster, we visited each known population of trapdoors to collect specimens for my PhD at Lincoln University.

Trapdoors are not your typical leggy, bath-lurking spiders. They belong to an ancient (360 million years old) group called mygalomorphs, which includes tarantulas and tunnel webs. As baby spiderlings they are cared for by their mother until big enough to feed themselves, whereupon they leave their mother's burrow, dig another one a few centimetres away, and live there for the rest of their lives (up to 25 years).

(Continued on page 22)

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WARNING: DISTURBING CONTENT.

Photographic evidence of an actual traffic jam on Stewart Island.
There have been unconfirmed reports of horn-honking.
Photo from Sandy King.

Predator-free Survey results are up. If you have fallen foul of SIPS (Stewart Island Procrastination Syndrome), you can still email me for a paper form or hand in the form you have sitting on your table at home (yes, you!) and I will update the website as and when. I've turned the online survey off as it is too expensive to run full time.

Results can be found at <http://rakiura.weebly.com/>

Sandy, Garry and I went through the residents comments (all up on the website) yesterday and took out what we thought were

the key issues and concerns expressed by locals for the Governance Group to answer.

These included bio-security, toxins, fence issues among others. Sandy has passed these on, and hopefully next time we meet, they will have some more answers for us!

Answers are being put up sporadically on their website <http://predatorfreestewartisland.org.nz/> and you can always accost Sandy, Garry or Jill if you would like any other comments passed on or questions answered. —Vicki



WISE UP TO WEEDS



SPANISH HEATH

(Erica lusitanica)

Spanish heath is found around Oban from the airstrip down to the township. It will take off and become very dominant, so remove it while there's not too much around.

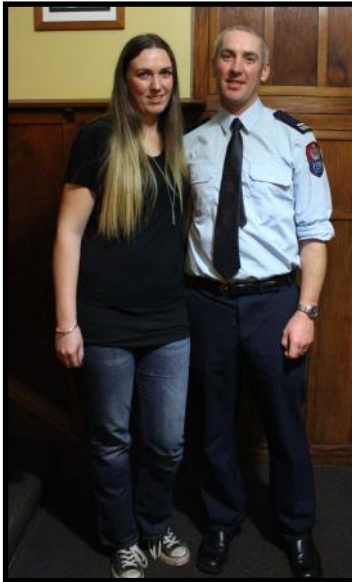
What is it?
Spanish heath is a woody shrub that can grow up to 2m high. The flowers form in sprigs, with a large number of small white flowers browning with age. The leaves are small, thin, soft and bright green.

What is the problem?
Spanish heath is often found in grasslands and other short vegetation and can form dense stands to exclude other plants. This shrub is very tolerant of harsh conditions.

How to control it?

- Pull out seedlings by hand.
- Cut and paste the stems with a herbicide gel – follow up control may be required.
- Spray with a glyphosate (Roundup) at 10ml/L – follow up control may be required.

Please contact the Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email service@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115



Congratulations to Tim Dawson (left) and Serena Dawson (right) for receiving your three-year certificates. More photos from Sarah Tranner page 19



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Scene from the ferry. Musician Dave of Wheel of Experience reads as his stuffed bird looks on. Gwen Neave reviews their show page 21.



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If you are handy with a pen and camera and enjoy getting out and about and wouldn't mind FREE tickets to local events... get in touch. *SIN* is seeking an arts & entertainment reporter.



Hawksbill turtle: Happy and alive. A tonic for last month's front-page photo of a deceased turtle. This is a sneak preview for next month's *Oban Globetrotter* about Lord Howe Island.



Dave Smith of SurfSafe (www.surfsafe.net.au) recently paid a visit here to trial his shark-deterrent gear in Foveaux Strait. More on his visit and this intriguing product in the next issue of *SIN*.

LETTERS ☒☒☒☒☒
FERRY TIMETABLE / PRICES / TACTICS

I have been concerned about the regular changes in the ferry timetable with no prior warning given to the Community, tourism operators or other businesses.

It doesn't seem right that a "respected" organisation like Real Journeys seemingly does not consult or pre-warn the community and other businesses.

Again having found out after the event that the May 2014 timetable had changed from previously advertised, I remembered the same occurrence last year. The winter timetable has also changed yet again. How long will this experiment continue?

I have wondered if Stewart Island Promotions members are having to pay the price through an annual brochure update, amendment or whatever it is being called, when for many years a two yearly brochure sufficed for what is mainly a membership made up of small operators without the means to generate much off-season work. I wish I owned a ski resort! But who knows what the membership comprises, because as members we are not allowed to know how many members there are and who they are.

Trying to sort out suitable tour timings in conjunction with when clients arrive and depart the Island, without stable information is difficult. Then having to change advertised tour times or prior bookings because the ferry timetable has changed incurs a cost to us, but who cares. I can only be cynical as to why Real Journey's is operating in an exclusive manner and ignoring the needs of the wider local community and other local businesses.

At the recent Stewart Island Promotion AGM and general meeting, our Chairman told us that as a member, he was not representing Real Journeys, however, we were encouraged to offer free tours for children during the school holidays, seemingly to encourage more people to travel on the ferry and compliment Real Journeys marketing campaign "Kids Go Free". I wonder why Real Journeys does not just drop its high ferry prices and encourage more visitors instead of mopping up the market with its 20% all year round multi-purchase saver, which mainly benefits itself, counters its high ferry prices and does not necessarily bring people to the Island willing to spend money. Yes I am well aware that people visit and go away and may come back again or tell others, but so do people who have the disposable income and willing to experience other tours. And for anyone who now thinks I don't like kids or families on my tours, please! I have had some fabulous tours with kids and their families and will continue to do so. However, there is a reality - this is my home and where I work, I need to earn a living too.

I am also disappointed that the new Yellow Pages has a listing which states as the first

line under Stewart Island Experience's advert "Visitor Information Centre". Having had a number of visitors telling me they weren't informed of all options, this concerns me. I wonder what outcry there would be if I did the same - advertise as a Visitor Information Centre instead of simply a booking office!

Furhana Ahmad
Ruggedy Range™ Wilderness Experience

☒
Aerial Poisoning

Congratulations to Vicki for conducting the survey that should have been conducted by Mr Morgan before he went charging off to establish the Governance Group, to produce economic appraisals and preliminary outline documents, and to establish a trust.

Mr Morgan's infamous survey found that 84% of 163 respondents supported the concept of a predator free Stewart Island, but wanted to know more before approving any plan. Vicki's survey separates visitor responses from resident responses (which include residents, ratepayers, and ex-residents) and eliminates the possibility of duplicate responses. The preliminary results from Vicki's survey found that residents support (84%) the idea of a Predator Free Rakiura, support (98%) manual trapping of predators, support (90%) manual poisoning of predators, but do not support (83%) aerial poisoning. The percentages within the brackets considered just the yes and no responses, in order to be consistent with Mr Morgan's survey. Vicki's survey is obviously much more enlightening than Mr Morgan's survey.

Assuming that Vicki's final survey results are not drastically different, the big question is: Can total island eradication be achieved without aerial poisoning? The 2008 DOC "Scoping" document that was prepared for SIRCET states (on page 60) that "An aerial application of a suitable toxin, combined with an intensive ground based approach around inhabited areas, seems to be the only practicable method available that would achieve the total eradication of rats from Stewart Island / Rakiura." So, the answer appears to be that total island eradication cannot be achieved without aerial poisoning.

I may be naïve, but it seems to me, that if aerial poisoning is required in order for the project to proceed, and that if the community is against aerial poisoning and also has veto power, then the project cannot proceed. One would assume that Mr Morgan would be extremely concerned about Vicki's survey results, would be upset that he omitted this step, and would want to sort this out immediately. DOC needs to provide a statement indicating to what extent aerial poisoning is required for the total project. The Governance Group needs to determine if Vicki's survey results adequately represent the views of the island community, or whether additional information regarding the views of the community is required. And, then the Governance Group needs to decide whether the total island eradication project has a future.

Once again, good job Vicki. Mr Morgan should compensate you for your time and the expenses you incurred while conducting this project.

Ron Morrison

☒
So, why exactly is a predator fence necessary?

The Preliminary Outline document for the predator fence states in bold print, right in the centre of the first page, that "This Halfmoon Bay project cannot proceed without the fence."

This is interesting because the 2008 "Scoping the potential to eradicate rats, wild cats and possums from Stewart Island / Rakiura" document, which DOC prepared for SIRCET, presented the community with two, apparently equally effective, options. Under the "Would a pest proof fence be useful?" section (page 63), it is stated that "Integrating general aerial and ground-based eradication operations in the vicinity of the town would pose logistical challenges, especially if animals can move freely between the areas. To overcome these issues, the two treatment areas need to be separated either by large overlapping buffers in treatment, or by a physical barrier such as a pest-proof fence."

So, a predator fence might be useful in the 2008 DOC "Scoping" document, but is a requirement in the Preliminary Outline document mentioned above. Why?

The Preliminary Outline document also states that "The full island eradication requires significant research and development in new technologies before it can proceed. The Halfmoon Bay project would be undertaken using current tools and techniques, so that the environmental (and subsequent economic and social) benefits can be experienced by the island community within the immediate future." In other words, the sooner we build the fence, the sooner tourism dollars will flow in. This is a carrot, not a requirement.

If it is possible to avoid building a fence, then we should avoid building a fence. What is wrong with just delaying the project until the required "significant research and development in new technologies" is completed, or more realistically near completion - if it means that we can take advantage of the "large overlapping buffers in treatment" option?

Page 5 of the 2008 DOC "Scoping" document, states that there is "no timeframe for any proposed eradication" and that it "would only occur when the community wants it to, be that five years or fifty years". Since none of the documents provided by the Governance Group require or propose a specific start date for the project, there appear to be no technical or logistical issues with a delay.

Ron Morrison

✉
Kiwi capital of the world

Wow! Thanks, Jess—the last edition of SIN was a great read including balanced reporting on the Predator-Free Rakiura concept and Lania's easy-to-follow (and very yummy) scroll recipes. The SIN reminds me of Doctor Who's TARDIS – small on the outside but jam-packed with goodies once you open it up.

There have been kiwi sightings galore in the township lately and I wondered if the community would like to unite in a campaign to keep them here; where else in New Zealand can you see kiwi in the CBD?

A trap-intensive buffer zone around the township would give us a focal point and may attract funding and/or visitors keen to share in this community project. This could be the unique point of difference needed to extend our visitor season through the winter months—my imagination runs wild with night-vision webcams that you can check over the internet, signs outside our houses saying 'Kiwi Live Here' and Oban possibly being the first place where every dog has a kiwi aversion course certificate.

I believe this is a project we can manage 'in-house' and as part of our current lifestyle—a working bee here and there to make traps and buckets of enthusiasm to 'infect' others. Let's be the 'Kiwi capital of the world'!

Warmest regards

Wendy Bailey

✉
School concerned about WiFi

The Board of Trustees and staff of Halfmoon Bay School are very concerned to hear that funds from the Visitor Levy Scheme have been put aside to extend the free WiFi. We are certain that any extension to the current WiFi hotspot at the community library will allow free WiFi to be accessed inside the school grounds.

We believe the verandah area in front of the classrooms at school would be a magnet for those wanting to access free WiFi. This area is undercover, but still gets the sun; has a lovely view of the Bay and plenty of seating - as a place to 'sit and surf' it would be a far more appealing site than the doorway of the Community Centre or a picnic table by the Kai Kart (as it rains most days of the year here).

We are concerned about people using our school as a place to surf the WWW for a number of reasons:

After school hours the school-grounds are used by two significant groups: school aged children playing unsupervised, learning to be independent in a controlled and safe setting where help is always nearby; and pre-school families riding bikes, playing in the big kids' playground and learning to feel comfortable in the school environment. Strangers accessing the Internet and children playing **DO NOT** go together!

We already have issues with pedestrians using the school as a thoroughfare - staff often have to leave the classroom in the middle of teaching to ask people not to walk through the school. Unfortunately erecting signs at each entrance has made little difference. Should the area in front of the classrooms be a free WiFi zone this problem of strangers in the school grounds during school hours is sure to be magnified.

Although we are a very tech focused school we also know that there are many risks in the online environment. At school our Internet is **restricted, filtered** and **supervised** so that our students are safe while working in online. We strongly disagree with children having unrestricted and unfiltered and unsupervised Internet access. With around 80% of our students aged 9 and over having WiFi capable devices, giving them increased free WiFi access will lead to nightmares for parents as they seek to try and keep their children safe in the ever increasing online environment.

While the Board can see that an extended Wi-Fi hotspot would be nice for visitors we believe that it is a bad idea to have free Wifi accessible in the school grounds as this will have negative effects on the Island's children.

Halfmoon Bay School Board of Trustees

✉
Aquaculture Planning & Prospects for Stewart Island

Recently, there has been support from the Community Board, from myself and other residents of the Island for a small oyster growing project off the Horseshoe Bay area.

I believe that economic development should be the primary reasoning to enable further employment and financial well-being in our community. We have had our "eggs in one basket" too often in the past, with the result that changes in an industry have often impacted negatively on us when our community financial security has been tied too tightly to that one industry, e.g. tourism during the financial "crash" of 1988-1990, or the changes to the fishing industry soon after. We suffered great hardship then and recovery was slow and painful. We need to spread the load of reliance, and aquaculture has been a wonderful example of how this can be one such avenue open to us.

All proposals must apply for a consent from Environment Southland, which processes consents through the rules of coastal management, etc. This is usually an expensive exercise and requires considerable research to achieve a successful outcome before work even starts. It's not a process for the faint-hearted or those not fairly sure of the successful outcome of a new project.

There is direction from Government to expand the aquaculture industry, and if you "Google" MPI Aquaculture and Environment Southland aquaculture prospects (see links below), you will find extensive research and directions for expansion. I have no doubt that our region will receive further

proposals from organisations that see our cool, clear waters as a sound financial proposition. So, I think it is imperative that we make the best use possible of these *probabilities*. I feel that we must ensure the future financial viability of our community which includes encouraging diversity to avoid the mistakes of the past.

links: www.mpi.govt.nz/fisheries/aquaculture and <http://www.es.govt.nz/publications/plans/aquaculture-zoning/>

Bruce Ford

✉
Feeding Kaka in Stewart Island

I want to thank Ron Morrison for caring enough to raise our awareness on the issue of feeding kaka. His article in the April - May 2014 issue of SIN was appreciated.

I am wholeheartedly against feeding kaka and other wild birds and animals unless there is a good reason to do so - for their health and well being.

If anyone would like to see copies of the autopsy reports on 5 dead kaka - please contact me.

A concerned resident,

Furhana Ahmad

✉
War memorial information needed

I'm assisting with the research for a book on first World War heritage sites, and I'm trying to find out more about the WWI memorial in Halfmoon Bay which was unveiled on 10th December 1933.

I'm interested in anything to do with its origins, such as if it was funded by council, if any local families donated funds, if there was a committee or if it was the brainchild of an individual, etc I am specifically trying to find out where the funding came from, and who decided to erect it. It's unusual because it wasn't unveiled on Anzac or Armistice Day, and I'm curious as to whether there's a story behind it. I was wondering if you might know anyone who could help me?

Regards,

Martha van Drunen
 Martha.vanDrunen@mch.govt.nz

✉
Winter Adventures from the comfort of your couch!

As many of you know, I'm quite attached to my internet and email and the ease you can send information from A to B, but did you know I also use it to find real-life snail mail entertainment? (Iona, Barry and John do! Thanks for your patience guys!)

I've spoken about www.bookcrossing.com before, where you register books and track

(Continued on page 7)

Response to the Survey

The Governance Group wants to acknowledge the work of Vicki Coats on her survey. It is great to see most people are still backing the Predator Free Rakiura concept. The devil is always in the detail of how such an eradication would take place, which is why we are proceeding with the full feasibility study to ensure the approach taken is acceptable to all partners.

The Governance Group, particularly community reps Jill and Sandy and fishing rep Garry, will be working with Vicki to look at the detailed results of the survey and comments to see what we can learn from it. We must all remember though it is early days and we are only at the beginning of full evaluation work. We cannot or should not expect to make intelligent decisions without full information. And that information takes time to gather, assess and subject to peer review. This project evaluation is being done properly and everyone needs to respect that process.

The difference between predator control and eradication

The project team has fielded many questions about the need for a fence and different eradication methods. These will be the subject of a detailed feasibility study, the scope of which is discussed in FAQ 2d on the website. In the mean time we thought it was worth explaining one crucial aspect - the difference between predator control and eradication.

Eradication is the **total removal** of the population. Every individual of the target population **MUST** be removed or killed. In the case of the proposed Halfmoon Bay project, this would be the total removal of feral cats, hedgehogs, rats, and possums. [Deer are **not** a target – the detailed feasibility study will include options for maintaining deer populations.]

Eradication requires as much of a ‘closed’ population as possible (hence why they have only been achieved on offshore islands or behind predator fences). It is critical to manage reinvasion into the operational area for any eradication. Reinvasions will occur but if predators are able to readily invade without any action to remove them, it becomes impossible to totally remove all individual predators. In addition, the predators must be removed faster than they can breed (to drive the population to zero individuals). In order to achieve this, in most cases, eradications are a ‘one time’ operation targeting all individual predators at the same time (with ongoing biosecurity to manage the inevitable but occasional incursion).

Control seeks to **suppress** the population, often to some pre-set measure of ‘success’ (e.g. 5% tracking rate of rats within the control area). For control to have the desired conservation outcomes, it usually requires constant or targeted suppression of the predator population. As a result, repeated use of the control methods (e.g. trapping or poison in bait stations) is required over extended timeframes. If the control methods are stopped, the predator population will quickly return to their pre-control level. Given that the aim is population suppression to a set level, control can deal with an ‘open’ population (with immigration into the operational area and the continued presence of some individuals considered acceptable).

Eradication	Control
Every individual predator must be killed or removed	Every individual predator is not targeted – suppressed population level is the target
Requires as ‘closed’ a target population as possible	Population can be ‘open’
Reinvasion must be managed – biosecurity is critical	Reinvasion is acceptable – the goal is population suppression, not individual predators
The target predator must be removed faster than they can breed	Breeding is acceptable, as long as control methods can suppress population level
Often it is a ‘one time’ operation	Requires repeated use of control methods over time

Impact of Toxins on the Marine Environment

Introduction from Garry Neave, fishing rep on the Governance Group:

Our marine environment is part of our Island and important to us all. Every endeavour will be made to minimise any impact to us on land and sea. It is important that we keep talking about the Project, asking questions and understanding the proposal. Please approach me (or any member of the Governance Group) at any time if you have questions and I will do my best to find the answers.

We have received a lot of comments and questions about the impact of toxins on the marine environment, and this article was written to set the record straight about what happened after the poison drop on Ulva.

To be clear, no decisions on eradication methods have yet been made. That is the purpose of the detailed feasibility study due out end of this year/ early 2015.

Most people are aware that there was a baiting operation to counter the reinvasion of rats on Ulva Island in 2011. Removal of these rats was successfully achieved by two applications of brodifacoum – a toxin that is particularly effective on rats and has been used on all of our rat eradications from islands around New Zealand.

Firstly, what is brodifacoum? It is an anti-coagulant, similar to that used to thin blood for people with high blood pressure. If an animal eats enough of it, their blood thins so much they die. It is great for taking out rats because they keep eating the bait without noticing the impact it is having on them - the symptoms don’t appear until days after the bait has been eaten.

So DOC used brodifacoum to take care of the rat reinvasion in 2011. That was successful. However, there has been a lot of talk about this poison being found in fish and other marine species. This is true, but you probably haven’t heard why this was the case and in what quantities?

Firstly, the talk around town was that this was a DOC "stuff-up". That really isn't the case. The Mataitai committee highlighted this as a concern and hence DOC planned an operation to further reduce the likelihood of it happening and also set in place plans to monitor and keep everyone informed in case it did. DOC did this despite all of the evidence that had been gathered nationally and internationally suggested it wasn't an issue, which was confirmed in the case of Ulva Island.

The difficulty with addressing this concern is that Norway rats prefer coastal environments, therefore you need to spread bait right up to the tide line. Think about it, if you are going to all the bother of eradicating rats on an island, you have to get every one otherwise it is a waste of time. What if there are a few critters living in a log or nibbling on a fish corpse on the seashore? You have to put poison there in case there are rats. Therefore, a spreading technique that used a "trickle bucket" was used for the coastal regions. This type of bucket drops bait straight down (as opposed to the spreader buckets that spread bait over an 80m swath), ensuring that bait wasn't being thrown out into the sea. Despite this, some bait did end up in the water as the pilot flew as close to the tide line as he could.

The real question is how big an impact did the poison have? A month after the poison drop, several different marine species found within 50m of Ulva Island were tested to see if brodifacoum had found its way into the local population. Of the ten species that were looked at, only 3 had any sign of brodifacoum in their system. The species that contained brodifacoum were blue cod (no surprise there, they eat anything), mussels (filter feeders so again not fussy), and limpets. Nothing was found in kina, paua, pipi, banded wrasse, spotty, trumpeter and girded wrasse.

Of the blue cod, brodifacoum was detected in the liver, but not muscle tissue. Lab studies estimate that a person could daily consume at least 10 g of cod liver for every kilogram of their bodyweight e.g. a 60 kg adult could eat 600 g of cod liver per day, without any effect. For those interested in the detail, this is based on a 'no observed effects level' (NOEL) value for brodifacoum exposure of 0.001 mg/kg/day, derived from laboratory animal studies and the highest residual concentration measured in the monitoring (in blue cod liver at 0.000092 mg/g). It is also worth noting that no poison at all was found in the majority of cod (92%), so the risk of people eating enough to cause harm is even lower than this result suggests.

So the chances of human health problems as a result of eating sea-

food harvested from around Ulva after the eradication are very low. Most of the critters sampled had no poison in them, and those that did had it in levels so low that it wasn't a risk to the animal, let alone to a human eating it.

Still, we want to be cautious about this stuff. The good news is that when DOC went back and sampled things again two and a half months after the poison drop (and in later samples), no brodifacoum was present in any of the blue cod samples. No other species had brodifacoum present in this further sampling either.

Now that this knowledge is available, one of the obvious ways of now managing this potential risk is by having a temporary no-fishing zone in the area of poison drops. This would be in the order of 2-3 months – but again remember that we don't know yet what methods would be recommended for use for the Predator Free Rakiura project. Obviously these issues will be part of the evaluation of options.

The results of the DOC monitoring study are being finalised for publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal and should be published within the next few months.

This is a really good example of the work DOC does to minimise the impact of any eradication on the environment. Most methods of predator eradication have their downsides. In each case risks are identified, and a plan is formulated to manage the risk. In the case of Ulva Island everything went as planned.

Remember, no decisions on eradication methods have yet been made for the Predator Free Rakiura project. This article is simply clearing up some of the misconceptions around the recent Ulva Island eradication.

Staying in Touch

While the detailed feasibility study is being completed, questions are welcome from the Stewart Island community, and anyone else interested in the project, through a variety of avenues. Obviously SIN is one! You can also make direct contact with the members of the Governance Group, and there are updates on the website www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz. The website also contains a Q&A page, and allows you to sign up for email or RSS updates.

submitted by the Governance Group

(LETTERS Continued from page 5)

their progress around the world. Good fun, but doesn't really reciprocate back, unless you go further afield hunting books. Although Hippy and I did attend a convention in Queenstown which was a laugh!

Over Christmas I stumbled upon www.reddit.com, the self-proclaimed front page of the internet. This website is a bit like a huge forum with thousands of "subreddits" dealing with all kinds of different topics. And by gum, if there's a topic, there's a sub for it! Sports teams, places, religions and lots and lots of things you never thought you'd need to know! There are 2.45 million users!

The one "sub" that caught my attention was Secret Santa. They were attempting to break the World Record for the largest Secret Santa, basically I send a gift to someone, they send one to someone else, etc etc. In total they had 121,814 participants in 164 countries spending about US\$3,820,988.66 in total, so should have smashed the previous record but wouldn't find out until the Summer if Guinness World Records have approved it.

I sent a gift to a lady in Canada and I also received a gift from a guy in Canada; he's a radio DJ and asked his listeners what they thought he should send me!

Since then I have participated in 14 exchanges, from bookmarks to condiments to ugly mugs! It's good fun, but a word of warning, you can get stiffed, where someone doesn't send you a gift. It happens in about 6% of the exchanges. But there are other subs you can participate in like Snack Exchange, Mystery Box, Culture Swap to name just a few where you can exchange one on one, I even started a

Birthday Exchange myself!

Reddit tends to use a lot of abbreviations, ELI5 (Explain like I'm Five), AMA (Ask Me Anything, even Barack Obama has been on to let people ask him questions), NSFW (Not Suitable For Work), the list goes on... so that takes a bit of getting used to, but Google is your friend!

However, my new find is www.postcrossing.com. In the same vein as secret santa you send a postcard to a random person. When they receive your card, you are sent a card from someone else! I have sent two so far, one to a guy in Russia, a fairly new user, and one to a lady in Germany who has received 442 postcards in the last one and a half years!! I can't wait to see who I get one back from!

Here are their stats:

476,733 members
213 countries
146 postcards/hour
23,880,197 postcards received
465,721 postcards traveling
121,874,417,221 km traveled
3,041,158 laps around the world

Being as it's winter and for some reason there don't seem to be as many people fishing (!), if you'd like anymore information about any of these sites, or indeed anything internety you can't get your head around, give me a call and come round for a cup of tea and a snack. Root Beer Barrel, Pretzel M&M or saltwater taffy anyone?

Vicki



Police News

Reported Crime:

A recent incident attended by Police where a resident of the Island was told to leave the island by other residents, has highlighted a misconception of the law. To clarify: Only owners, occupiers or authorised agents of the owner or occupier can ask persons to leave **their** property.

Stewart Island is not solely owned by one person so no resident has the authority to tell another resident or visitor to leave 'Stewart Island'.

The offences: Intimidation or Threatening clearly describe this behaviour.

Traffic:

Wandering Stock. In the last couple of weeks I have come across or had reported to me Cattle, Horses, domestic birds and dogs wandering on the road. Privately owned animal or domestic livestock are required to be controlled. Should the wandering stock cause a vehicle accident insurance companies may seek reparation from the Animal/live stock owner. With the low numbers of domestic stock on Stewart Island the owners can be easily identified. Please keep your pets/livestock under control.

Note: I also came across a lot of deer and kiwi's but the insurance company would have trouble finding their owner.

THE WHARF

At a recent meeting of the wharf committee. An issue with the one vehicle park, at the entrance to the wharf was identified. The problem is that this vehicle park is obstructing larger vehicles when turning in the turnaround area.

As a result it was agreed to eliminate this parking place. The Wharf rule 6 (6.No unattended parking on wharf other than in the one approved park on beach side of entrance to wharf, for loading or unloading only.)

Has been replaced with **rule 6 following.**

Note: The parking and the flow of pedestrians, freight, luggage, and vehicles on and off and around the wharf has been reviewed by the wharf committee. Look forward to some improvements in the near future to try and make this area work better for all.

The Wharf Rules:

(To make the Wharf more user friendly)

1. Police will enforce loading zone time limit, No parking lines, No parking and parking on footpath.
2. Park Vehicles in 30 minute loading zone with vehicle facing away from wharf. (Stop bottle neck at turn around area)
3. Park inside broken parking lines where possible.
4. No parking in turn around area. 'Keep it clear'.
5. South Port (Jon SPRAGGON) to enforce parking on wharf.
6. **No unattended parking on wharf. (May load or unload but vehicles may not be left unattended)**
7. No pedestrian traffic on work area of wharf.
8. All Bulk Freight to be moved off Wharf within 24 hours of arrival.
9. All Bulk Freight to be pre booked before going onto wharf.
Non Perishable bulk freight/freight items to be uplifted/dropped off outside of Ferry/Freight boat arrival departure times.
10. Small amounts personal luggage to be taken to Wharf office via walkway and then placed in bins by office.
11. Drop off bulk amounts of Luggage early.
12. If you have large amounts of luggage personal items wait until the congestion is clear before loading/unloading.

Senior Constable Dale JENKINS

TRAILL PARK

Please note that long term parking and storage at the Traill Park gravelled entrance is only with the prior permission of the Community Board.

Please do not use this area without permission.

Contact Jon Spraggon (Chair) or Kirsten Hicks (Secretary)

LOCATIONS

**WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD
STEWART ISLAND
REAL ESTATE**

**FOR ALL LOCAL LISTINGS
HOUSES, CRIBS, SECTIONS AND
BLOCKS OF LAND**

**OUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE IS:
JEANETTE MACKAY SUCCEEDING DIANE SMITH
SEE OUR WEBSITE www.locations.co.nz
FOR ALL CURRENT LISTINGS**

**LOCATIONS
WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD
MREINZ**

As *SIN* goes to print, the jury is out on Len Lind's proposed oyster operation in Horseshoe Bay. Whether he receives consent or not, a significant aspect of the process is the fact that the Stewart Island Community Board and Cr Bruce Ford submitted in support of this farm operating outside of Big Glory. For decades, aquaculture on Stewart Island has been confined to Big Glory in Paterson Inlet. Now, the horses are being let out of the gate, and things could change.

Big aquaculture companies hoping for new water have been making enquiries to Environment Southland, sniffing around the Paterson Inlet Mataitai reserves. Mataitai reserves are permanent but this doesn't mean an aquaculture farm established within it is *impossible*. It's feasible, actually.

In fact, it all smacks of inevitability. With big companies keen to get in here and our local government holding up a green lollypop sign, well, it all seems GO. For those in the community who thought Len's oyster farm proposal was just a minor concern compared to THE FENCE (the predator fence, not random berm fence next to Kai Kart), think again. For better or worse, richer or poorer, the nod to aquaculture outside Big Glory could change the face of our coast.

While Len's oyster operation has repeatedly been described as a small humble cottage industry where he hopes to sell oysters in a basket next to eggs by his house... the Community Board and Cr Ford endorse this endeavor as a boost to our economy. Why the double message? The answer is that while Len's project *is* relatively small scale, there are likely more players waiting in the wings. Len's operation is the first but will probably not be the last request to farm closer to homes, and if you think this is just Horseshoe nobs whinging about their views, there will likely be more operations proposed for other bays around the place. Will they all get consent? That remains to be seen.

I asked the Community Board "are you supporting this one project in particular, or is this an indication that you are giving the nod in general to aquaculture operations existing outside of Big Glory?" Chairman Jon Spraggon replied: "The Community Board reviews each consent application impartially and in relation to the details supplied as part of the application process. No decision taken by the Board can or should be taken as a green light for other applications to be made and supported by the Board, due to the individual information as to size, location etc which is part of any consent being applied for." Supporters of the project repeat the rote: *it's good for the economy*.

Residents who made submissions against the project have been called not-in-my-backyarders and short-sighted nay-sayers. One Horseshoe resident was dismissed as a "selfish rich prick" when he questioned one of our local officials on the subject. (Note to our community representatives: not the ideal way to communicate with the constituents you have been entrusted to represent!)

To be fair, I live in Horseshoe and when I think "backyard" I don't think of just Horseshoe Bay, I think of all of the local bays and township, as do most Horseshoe residents. Not in my backyard means *not in anyone's backyard, not in any bay near the township, keep it confined to Big Glory!* As for nay-saying, opponents to aerial poisoning and the predator fence have been called the same, when really most of those people simply want to proceed with caution lest a major stuff-up cost us the very thing we love the most: this beautiful island. What's the point of living in a booming economy if every lovely wee bay becomes chocka with fish farms and we have to pull our curtains at night for the blinking lights? As one submission pointed out: "Stewart Island is advertised as having untouched coastal scenery with secluded bays and is a stunningly unique area of New Zealand, why would we put marine farms in such a beautiful coastal area? Tourists fly over this area, is marine farms the first sight tourists want to see?"

Some proponents of increased aquaculture around the township and Inlet are excited about the possibility of new ventures, new jobs, and welcome a potential boost to the island's economy. Others just don't see what the fuss is about: it's just one guy, just one lil ole farm out at Horseshoe.

Just Horseshoe... just Horseshoe... Something in Bill Watt's brief jumps out: "In the medium term... it's not hard to imagine 20 or more areas similar to the three proposed by Mr Lind, within the area Mamuku Point to Acker's Point, and it is also highly likely that experience will show that at least doubling a pot density is ecologically sustainable and viable." Got that everyone? From Bob's Point to Acker's Point. Think of all the wee bays and coves in between. Consider those bigger companies looking at Paterson Inlet. Think blinking nights at night (Real Journeys is asking for lit buoys for consideration of navigational safety). Consider that where there is a farm there is NO swimming, kayaking, diving or recreational activity; NO boating, no fishing.

While diversifying our economic options is a good idea in principle, it fails if one option kills the other, and we must be cautious to keep the aquaculture industry from encroaching on the natural beauty and tranquility that tourists seek here, and that we residents enjoy. On the other hand, we can't say no to every economic proposal that comes along, and we must think about what our children are going to do for a living when they grow up and want to remain living here. Perhaps Stewart Island *could* become a thriving centre of aquaculture. Perhaps Len's oysters-by-the-gate could lead to the island becoming a world mecca for oysters! No telling what the future holds, but for *now* residents should be aware of the implications of aquaculture outside Big Glory.

"I have no doubt that our region will receive further proposals from organisations that see our cool, clear waters as a sound financial proposition," writes Cr Ford.

No doubt.

—Jess Kany

**Stewart Island/
Rakiura Visitor
Levy Allocations
approved 2014**

Southland District
Council
\$50,000
Replace jetty at Port
William

Stewart Island/
Rakiura
Community Board
\$25,000
Upgrade Horseshoe
Bay track

Lions Club of Stewart
Island
\$3,000
Purchase and
Installation of picnic
tables

Stewart Island
Promotion Association
\$2,400
Extend free Wifi
coverage

Stewart Island/
Rakiura Community
Environmental Trust
\$5,282
Costs for Volunteer
Co-ordination.

**Total funds
allocated
\$85682.00**

The Port William
wharf re-build is on
the Jetties Committee
Agenda for Monday 9
June, and combined
with existing reserve
funds, could now
proceed.

**The SDC Allocations
Meeting on 13 May
approved the
following local
assistance:**

Stewart Island
Bowling Club: signage
\$565

Stewart Island
Pavilion Trust:
refurbish chairs **\$800**

A brief history of Stewart Island hunting huts by John DeLury

Hunting whitetail deer on Stewart Island is on the bucket list for most New Zealand hunters. As many as 3000 hunters visit the island every year and over time semi-permanent camps were established in the most popular hunting blocks. Hunters brought with them all manner of cheap materials for building these shelters and by the 1990s some of the camps were becoming untidy tarpaulin shacks, some infested with vermin and many littered with rubbish.

A condition of hunting permits is that hunters must use the designated campsite which does put pressure on one site being used continually. Some of the more popular hunting blocks have up to 100 hunters on them every year and the average stay is 7 ½ days.

When Greg Lind was Field Centre Manager at DoC Stewart Island in the early 1990's he identified issues around many of the 35 blocks managed by DoC. Greg recommended the building of three sided shelters on a number of the blocks.

Providing accommodation for hunters was low on the department's priority and the plan never went anywhere.

The Southland Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) organized a cleanup of the campsites in Paterson Inlet which led to the realization that something better could be done. Interested parties representing deerstalkers, Stewart Island Lions, transport operators and DoC attended a meeting at Halfmoon Bay in 1999, to come up with a better way of managing the hunter camps.

Three principle goals were identified:
 To reduce site degradation (trees being cut down to build shelters)
 To eliminate rubbish (mainly plastic and other shelter material)
 To improve sanitation (providing Norski toilet facilities)

At the first meeting hunters committed to being involved only if the proposed three sided shelters were abandoned in favor of a rat proof hut. The plan was to provide a hut which would serve mainly as a cooking area & shelter. The design had to be simple enough to allow construction by volunteers.

Rakiura Hunter Camp Charitable Trust was established to raise funds for a simple and cheap hut design to replace the temporary shelters. The current trustees are Kerry Butson, Dave Howden, Steve Long, Ray Phillips and John DeLury. All have extensive hunting

experience on Stewart Island.

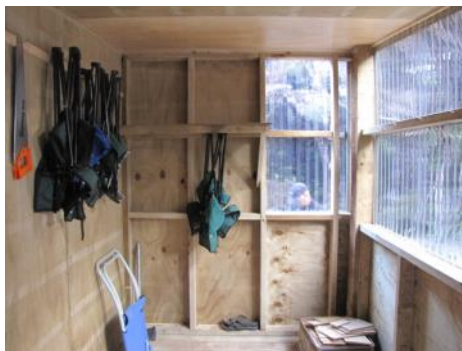
The initial funding came from the Department of Conservation which put up \$20,000 spread over two years. Individual hunters and hunting clubs (mainly NZ Deerstalkers Association Branches) contributed \$26,000. The Community Trust of Southland provided a grant of \$30,000 and a further \$11,000 came from the Lotteries Community Grants.

This became seed money to pay for the material costs of building a simple 6-bunk hut. The design the trust came up with was 3.6m x 8m containing 6-bunks and a multifuel potbelly, a 2m veranda, clad in tanalised ply with a coloursteel roof. As clean water was often hard to find at some campsites a 1000 litre watertank is also part of the build. The aim was to have the material cost of each hut come in around \$5,000 with the construction labour provided by the volunteers.



With nearly all the hunting blocks accessible by boat, the transport operators, particularly Ian Munro when he owned the Stewart Island Ferry Service, helped out with cheap logistics to the remote building sites. Other operators such as Bob Hawkless, Herb Hansen and Colin Hopkins have also assisted.

The first six huts the trust built cost on average of \$8,500. In order to get the most huts build for the dollars available these first huts were a little more basic than the 2014 version. Subsequent developments have been the provision of sliding windows with fly screens and an aluminum door. In recent years the early huts have been upgraded and it is hoped that North Big Glory will be upgraded in the next year.



With the cost of building consents, and changes to the building code, this has risen over time to around \$30,000 but is still a remarkably cheap and efficient way to build a 6-bunk hut.

Every hut has been precut at the home secretary/treasurer Ray Phillips.

The first two huts the trust built replaced camps in the two southern Port Pegasus blocks where the Stewart Island weather can be at its wildest. The Stewart Island Lions Club helped out with the labour on these Pegasus huts. Since then the trust has also built huts on the Little Glory, Hapatuna, Chew Tobacco, South West Arm, North Tikotatahi, Kellys, and Abrahams Bay Homestead, Martins Creek, Upper Lords and in Februray this year at Murray River.

The trust has also built five huts outside the National Park on hunting blocks owned by the Rakiura Maori Land Trust (RMLT). The RMLT paid for the huts and

retains ownership, while all the construction labour was done with the Hunter Hut Trust plan and volunteers.

An important aspect of the hunting huts is that they are all the same so that once a hunter has been to one they know exactly what to expect if they go to a different block.

Existing huts on hunting blocks of Bosom in Port Adventure, Christmas Village and Cavalier have been upgraded and are being maintained by the Trust.

In 15 years the Rakiura Hunter Camp Charitable Trust has achieved something remarkable in transforming the experience of hunting on Stewart Island. It has raised over \$270,000 to built 14 of the 16 huts it originally envisioned, the trustees estimate there have been over 10000 voluntary man hours spent fund raising, building, maintaining and inspecting their huts.

While the majority of volunteers have come from Southland Branch other NZDA branches such as West Coast, Taranaki, Gore, Blue Mountains and Central Otago Deerstalking Club have also been involved in their construction. In the most proactive way possible the trust largely got rid of the bad habit of hunters bringing in makeshift shelter that quickly degenerated into rubbish left behind.

All the huts the Trust manages are open to the public, and all people staying in them pay a flat levy of \$30 to the Trust regardless of the number of nights they stay. Hunters that have booked the block have booked the hut and have first priority. Noticeable since the construction of these huts has been the increase in wives and girlfriends accompanying hunters and their use by family groups over the summer periods when hunters are not so active. Some huts are also used by kayakers and other boatees over the summer.

The Trust operates under a concession from DoC which requires that each hut undergoes an annual inspection by the Trust. The Trust also provides a cat/possum cage at each hut. We and designed a bait station to hold 4 x 225 gm blocks of Contrac rodent bait in an effort to reduce rat numbers around huts and the Trust spends about \$1000 annually on poison.

Most Islanders will be familiar with the building process. Last October saw the start of the build of a new hut at Murray River with the application to SDC for

building consent and the ordering of the aluminum joinery and stainless steel bench. The Clean Air Act killed the production of the Yukon pot belly stove and a search produced a suitable replacement of a Wagener Sparky.

Ray Phillips is in charge of ordering all other materials and over the years we have established a concise specification list down to the last nail.

As the volunteers have day jobs hut preparation work can only be undertaken over four weekends leading up to the actual build. The floor ply receives 4 coats of Polythane and the interior wall and ceiling ply gets two coats of polyurethane. A day is spent by four men at Ray Phillips property precutting all the timber for frames, floor joists and ceiling rafters. The last weekend involved taking all the materials to Rakiura Ship-



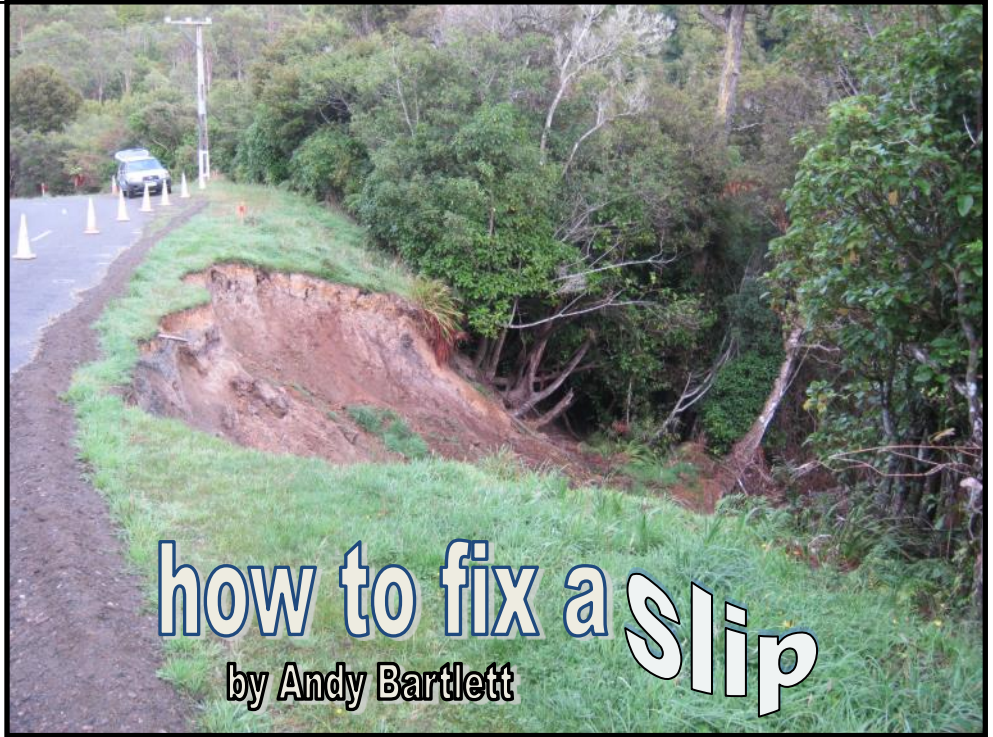
ping depot at Bluff along with a cubic metre of concrete gravel shoveled into one hundred bags at six shovels per bag and 25 bags per fadge for lifting by the helicopter. Brian at Rakiura Shipping has been very helpful with this phase.

Alan Dawson on the freight boat brought the building materials to Murray River and in 40 minutes flying Grant Goatley of Deep South Helicopters had everything on site ashore. Six

volunteers got stuck in and by the end of the day the piles were concreted in and the bearers, joists and floor were on. Although it poured down for the next two days the work continued and on day five the last nail went in. Two coats of exterior stain and the job was done. Cost, just on \$30k.

All hunters have been supportive of this project and many have assisted with small maintenance and other jobs at the huts. The benefits to hunters has been a hygienic hut to use without the need to improvise and dismantle a shelter which gives them an extra day hunting as well as the opportunity to dry hunting gear to allow more hunting time on rain days. Most parties are taking firewood and coal with them and it is not uncommon to find bags of fuel left at huts. Rubbish and site degradation at hut sites are no longer a problem. We believe that the project has led to a better relationship between hunters and DoC. Former Field Centre managers, Jessica Bernard and Sharon Pasco have been very supportive and a big thanks to Dale Chitenden and Gary Cocker and other staff for their help. This project is an example of what can be achieved by a few people determined to put something back into their sport as well as doing a little for conservation.

Sometime between New Year's Eve 2012 and New Year's Day 2013, heavy rain and gravity caused a massive slip along Horseshoe Bay Road right by the Motorau Moana stairway. For the past year and a half, that section of road has been a road-coned, one-way affair along a precarious drop-off into a quagmire of dead trees and fallen traffic cones. This month... It has finally been rebuilt! The road was completely closed at times during the project leading to actual traffic jams which residents diligently photographed and sent to SIN as proof that it actually happened. Passing by the slip every day for 18 months, I often wondered how on Earth can this be fixed? Now that the job's almost done I quizzed engineer Andy Bartlett and the SDC team involved about the fascinating task of tackling the mess. Much thanks to Andy for taking the time to explain it to us!



The slip below Horseshoe Bay Road is caused by layers of loosely compacted fill material moving and sliding away in sections. This former quarrying site was originally dug out, then backfilled with all kinds of spoil material. Preliminary engineering and geotechnical investigation undertaken in 2012 by Southland District Council and consultants MWH Limited surveyed the slip area at 17 metres long and up to 8 meters high.

Continued instability of the area including the fill material under this whole section of Horseshoe Bay Road, risked cutting-off road access for Horseshoe Bay residents and visitors entirely.

Interestingly the road alignment used to run tight to the boundary of the Motorau Moana Gardens reserve with what was presumably a very steep bank next to the road along the extent of today's slip site. This old road also formed a very sharp and dangerous curve at the intersection of Brags Bay Road with Horseshoe Bay Road. As the area below Motorau Moana was back-filled with material over time, it became possible to make the road alignment far safer for both vehicles and pedestrians. The new road eased the shape of the curve and created a verge frontage to improve access to the Gardens via the steps from Horseshoe Bay Road. The road initial design evaluation looked at four possible engineering solutions which included moving the road back to an alignment away from the current slip. As the safety improvements resulting from the original realignment would have been lost and the road area would still have remained at risk of further slip action in the future this option was not chosen.



Designing a remediation solution for a site like Horseshoe Bay Road needs professionals from several engineering disciplines working together to develop a working design. Geotechnical assessment was completed to determine how much unstable material had moved, how much of this weak ground remained

(Continued on page 13)



and what could be done to make the site stable again. Civil and structural engineers then took this information and determined that a timber post and panel retaining structure provided the most cost-effective design to

Horseshoe Bay Road has been no different in this respect. Essentially the retaining structure design was adapted by engineering and construction staff on-site to sit on top of the rock and span across the small deep gully at the centre of the slip, formed by the old quarry. Telecommunication cables and the section of the sewer line installed ten years ago had to be carefully identified and protected. We also had to contend with several days of heavy rain and high winds during May, which required the site to be carefully monitored to ensure that both the excavation and the temporary traffic management remained in a safe condition during the worst of the weather.



minimise the chances of further material moving down the slope. This option is strong enough to hold back the weight of the material remaining above it and support the road (and the traffic) safely, minimising the chances of future slips. It also uses construction techniques that have been previously used on Rakiura which requires very little specialised machinery to be brought over on the barge and could be built with minimal disruption to the community and road users.

On completion Horseshoe Bay Road itself will then be re-formed on the current alignment. The site will then have a new seal overlay once the weather is suitable to undertake this work in early summer.

Building retaining structures always includes some elements of the work where the team does not know exactly what they are dealing with until the construction gets underway. It's often extremely difficult to get a full picture of the underlying ground conditions at deep depths.

Throughout the works the Contractors, Duncan Farm Holdings, have been using two 6x4 trucks to transport 5 tonne loads of excavated spoil away for disposal and bring clean rock and fill material from the extraction site at Duncan's Quarry. Two twenty-tonne excavators have been on-site for the construction period to handle the heavy materials and excavate the working areas and trenches within the road to install the timber piles, steel rods and anchor posts. Specialist attachments for the excavators were kept on-site by the contractor to drill the holes for the timber posts into the slip material and then to drive the posts up to 6 metres depth. The job has required up to 6 staff and sub-Contractors working on-site at any given time, and has been routinely monitored by MWH Limited's Engineer and Site Representative, on behalf of the Southland District Council.

The slip remediation works at Horseshoe Bay Road forms one site of four slips on Rakiura, being repaired during the 2013-2014 construction season. The total contract value for all these works is approximately half a million dollars. Horseshoe Bay Road is the most complex repair technically, but other sites have required the far larger amounts of rock and fill material.



Council have appreciated the community's assistance and understanding during the works, particularly during the period of trenching operations across Horseshoe Bay Road, when it has been necessary to close the road to through traffic for short periods.

Photos from Andy Bartlett, MWH NZ and Dave Brownlie, Duncan Farm Holdings

The Sad but Significant Tale of Two Dead Kiwi and One Lively Little Dog

by Raylene Waddell

What a year it has been for kiwi encounters around the Bay! MacPherson, my lovable but very active Cairn Terrier, would do them fatal, if unintentional, harm, should he get hold of one. Not a happy prospect so I signed him up for a kiwi-aversion course set up by the Department of Conservation.

MacPherson was given an appointment time and we duly made our way to Traill Park. A nice lady put a special collar on Mac. Set free, he promptly took off after a couple of mallard ducks who soared into the sky, delivering a strident and unflattering outline of his pedigree as they flew off. Wrong target, Mac!

The DOC trainers encouraged him to the edge of the bush where a real but sadly lifeless kiwi had been propped up against some ferns. Live kiwi, have a very distinct smell, and it was expected that this one (which had been stored in a freezer for purposes such as this) would still give off an irresistible aroma. Now Mac loves to chase anything that moves but an inert kiwi held no charms for him. He danced around the corpse, looking for fun but not giving the kiwi a second glance.

One of the trainers mentioned that short nosed breeds weren't great smellers. Huh? Mac can smell a beef bone on the other side of the house. I was asked to move my beloved but disparaged boy further through the park where another unfortunate Apteryx australis was propped up in the middle of the path. This time Mac moved in boldly, stopped, checked, then strode forward fearlessly to challenge the intruder.

As nose touched feather, there was an agonised yelp (agonising for Mac's "mother") and Mac leapt into the air. That special collar had just delivered a short electric shock. Bottom down, Mac took off down the track, every inch of his diminutive form displaying outrage at such treatment from the "bird".

He had the last laugh, however. Possession is ten tenths of canine law and Mac still had the collar! Off he took into the impenetrable

forest and no plea or blandishment would entice him back. The trainers looked philosophical and said they had another collar so the programme could continue... but they would like it back sometime.

I rushed home with the intention of heading out from there into the bush to look for Mac, my thoughts a jumble of "what if's" and "oh please not's". Not to worry! Mac was already back, sitting regally on the deck, monarch of all he surveyed. His Highness accepted my lavish endearments as nothing less than his due.



The collar was returned and Mac pronounced suitably trained. He was even given a certificate to prove it. But the true reward came that same night with a pair of courting kiwi singing a love duet in the garden just out my bedroom window.



Six months and many kiwi calls and sightings later, Sandy King offered Mac a "top-up" test. Having seen his reaction first time round and knowing the minimal extent of my ability to exert any form of discipline on my pooch, she organised a long extendable lead so that he couldn't take off with the one special collar she had at her disposal. Mac reconnoitred every message left at the helipad by all the other dogs trained that day. Then we finally got out on to the road. Sandy alerted me to the proximity of the kiwi and almost immediately so did Mac! Down went his bottom and back he shot towards the helipad. Coaxed past this distressing spot, he regained his mojo and was prancing along with all his usual bravado. Then whoops! He got a whiff of kiwi No. Two. Same reaction this time

round. Sandy and Di Morris were very impressed and Mac's mother was so very proud – and relieved that her boy had proved he could learn to recognise something other than the sound of the fridge door opening.

On a more serious note, as an accommodation provider, I know the fantastic impact kiwi calls and sightings have on our visitors. If we can maintain this, what a great selling point we will have - Stewart Island where kiwi, community and canines live in harmony. Please, if you have a dog, do take advantage of the kiwi-aversion course. And please ask visiting dog owners not to let their dogs wander.

Raylene Waddell, Glendaruel



Photo from Carolyn Squires.



The YEPT is currently reviewing its yellow-eyed penguin monitoring on Stewart Island, in order to ensure that the objectives and data gathered are still relevant and are delivering the information needed to advance the conservation of the species.

We've commissioned a report from an ecological consultancy (Wildlands) to assist in this review process.

That report endorses the current Trust thinking that the Stewart Island yep population is a very important part of the overall South Island yep conservation management unit (CMU), and that monitoring

should continue.

(N:B; the South Island CMU includes Stewart Island as the latter is connected to the mainland in breeding terms – with the exchange of adults and chicks; in contrast to the Subantarctic yep CMU which is completely distinct with no genetic exchange with the South Island CMU)

What will be decided over the next couple of months is the exact form this monitoring will take, including the sites that are included.

Dave McFarlane
Field Manager
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

STEWART ISLAND SEARCH & RESCUE

Training Night - usually held first Tuesday of every month. Check the local notice board for topics, timing and venue.

All welcome, members & non-members

EVENTS CALENDER

12th July 2014

Training: Skipper Search Methods Training**How to carry out a sea search.**

For: All skippers, their crew and any interested parties.

Venue: Oban Fire Station

Time: 1.00 pm to approx. 3.00 pm

19th July 2014

AGM, Election of Office Bearers & BBQ

For: All members, family, friends and non-members and anyone that wants to come along for an informal chat and social evening.

Venue: Oban Fire Station

Time: AGM 4.00 pm and BBQ 5.00 pm

Bring: A plate either salad / dessert / nibbles

Contact:

Chairperson: Garry Neave 03 219 1385

Secretary: Furhana Ahmad 03 219 1066

Vodafone Connect Stewart Island

Vodafone will be arriving on Stewart Island on Friday 27th June (from 5pm) to meet with local residents and explain the benefits of the new cell site (part of the Rural Broadband Initiative)

Vodafone will hold an informal meeting/event at the Hotel from 5pm onwards and give locals the chance to see the extent of the new coverage and what this means. We have some great special offers that will only be available to the islanders. We will discuss the great deals exclusively for Stewart Island residents and family including a great community offer.

During the evening we will have a number of great prize giveaways including free handsets and accessories. Everyone is welcome to join us and we'll be shouting some food and maybe a drink or two.

Vodafone will also be available on Saturday morning for those who prefer a coffee.

This is a great chance to meet with the local Vodafone team. We'll have our special phone Ninja's available to help anyone with any smartphone related questions.

Vodafone team will be on the Island on Friday and Saturday. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Hotel from 5pm on Friday. We'll be sticking around for a few drinks and to watch the highlanders take on the Chiefs.

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – by Jo Riksem

Amongst our acquisitions last month we were given George Turner's Repton School (Derbyshire, UK) Volunteer Cadet Corps Shooting Fixtures Score/Result Card from 1910. This school was founded in 1557. Now that's an old school. We also received a brochure put out by a real estate firm of J. Hensley and C.W. Brown of Invercargill from many years ago titled "The Tourist's Paradise Stewart Island, The Land of Heavenly Glows" Here's a small extract: *"To those at all anxious to secure holdings in this lovely spot an inspection will mean a purchase. The terms on which the sections will be sold are 25 per cent deposit and the balance in two years at 5 per cent interest."* Wow that is going back some years ago.

Enquires that kept us hopping last month covered sealing, Shetland Islanders at Port William, George Mackie and family, War memorial names from WWI, Power cable to Stewart Island, eagle mast on the "Othello" and the boat, "Manuhua"

Looking for that birthday, anniversary or just a "happy Wednesday" gift, we have a lovely assortment of good books including Stewart Island Boats, Wiig diary on the ship C.A. Larsen, Bailey and Wiig family history with lots of Stewart Island history and great stories, Rakiura Heritage by Neville Peat, Whaling and Sealing by Lloyd Esler, and Whalers Base by Jim Watt. Also available are a variety of cards and small booklets for all tastes. For those that have already purchased the Bailey-Wiig history and have found errors in it please get back to us with corrections so we can pass them onto the author. We also have mugs, pens and pins from the Norwegian Weekend if you missed out.

We would like a show of interest from anyone wanting to purchase the DVD of the Whalers Base that we had running in the hall during the Norwegian Weekend. It is also possible that we could include some footage from the other activities that happened during that weekend as well but need to know the level of interest before we proceed.

Museum hours up until the end of September are

Monday thru Saturday 10 am-12:00 noon, Saturday 10am-1:30 and Sunday Noon-2 pm. We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 or stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz



George Turner photo of the boat, "Pearl" in which he made many trips

More on kiwi avoidance training

by Sandy King

Since kiwi & dogs both featured in last month's SIN I thought a little more information on avoidance training would be a timely thing. As many dog owners and their dogs already know, three avoidance sessions have been held, with the last two at Zane's hangar. A big thank you to Zane for allowing us to use the hangar area. The kiwi avoidance training scheme was started by an organisation called Kiwis for Kiwi, which runs training sessions throughout the country in conjunction with DOC and community groups. SIRCET have taken up the cause here, arranging for me to be trained as a trainer and purchasing an electric collar.



Gadget wearing the collar. SIRCET are about to purchase a second collar that is better suited to petite dogs!



electric collar (the receiver) which is controlled by a transmitter held by the trainer (me), and the "props" – whatever it is that you want the dog to learn to avoid. In this case the props are kiwi from the DOC freezer (two victims of previous dog attacks on the Island), and some kiwi poo gathered from my lawn.

The transmitter has 5 buttons. One turns it on and off. The second is a dial which sets the intensity of the "correction" (i.e. the shock) given to the dog and has a scale of 0-127. The third button is labelled "Page" and when pressed it makes the collar vibrate but doesn't deliver a "correction". The sudden vibration gives the dog a bit of a fright or a reminder to move away and can be used instead of a correction for very

sensitive or nervous dogs, or for dogs that have already had a correction but are still a bit hesitant about avoiding the kiwi a second time. The fourth button delivers a "correction" – literally a short sharp shock that lasts about 1 second. The final button is labelled "Constant" and delivers a correction for as long as the button is depressed, for up to 12 seconds. I've never used this function and can't imagine a circumstance when I would use it on a dog.

The theory behind the training is that the dog doesn't associate the correction with the collar, or the owner, or me. The correction comes from moving in on the kiwi, when the dog actually puts its head down to have a good sniff.....WHAM, the kiwi bites. The dog learns that a certain action hurts (i.e. close approach to kiwi). It's all in the timing, the correction has to be given at precisely the right moment. The advantage of the electric collar is that the correction can be given in a split second and from a distance so that the dog doesn't associate it with the owner or me.

For our training I set up the two (very unfortunate looking) kiwi some distance apart and put a good sprinkle of kiwi poo around each one. Ideally this is set up so we approach into the wind and the dogs

get a chance to scent the kiwi before getting close. When the dog arrives for its training session the collar is put on, reasonably firmly so that the prongs make good contact with the skin, but not so tight that the poor dog is being strangled. Dogs with a lot of thick fur might need to have their necks wetted as well, to ensure good contact. The transmitter is set to about 80 – a level which gives a good whack but doesn't send sparks flying from the dogs bum! (And yes, I *did* test this on myself before using it on any dog; and no, the collar is not available for party hire so don't even ask.....). Then we (dog + owner + me) go for a walk and pass close to the first kiwi, the owner walking right past pretending not to know the kiwi is there while I watch the dog. Most first time trainees go straight to the kiwi, have a good sniff and receive a correction. Then we continue to the second kiwi and repeat the process, but this time most dogs will deliberately avoid walking close to the kiwi and that's it – training over. Some dogs will go straight to the kiwi again and get another correction, maybe even a third correction, before moving away. Some dogs will hesitate a couple of meters away, sniff from a distance, and then move away. Some dogs will do the same but don't move away so quickly, in which case they get a "page" which reminds them to move off.

It seems simple but it seems to work. We had several dogs that attended the first training last October return at Easter for testing, and most avoided both kiwi. This is a national training scheme, and records from the national database tell us that 87% of dogs remember the training for the first year, but after that remembrance tails off as time goes on. It is therefore important to keep up the refresher training and we plan to hold training sessions every six months, around Easter and Labour Weekend each year. Any dog over six months old is eligible if it is still able to get out and about.

We will try to vary the training location so that experienced dogs don't start to associate the location with the training. We are also thinking about ways to introduce a bit of kiwi movement into the equation, to make the situation more realistic than the awkwardly thawed kiwi propped up with sticks that we have now! Keep an eye on SIN and the notice board for details of the next training session, but in the meantime I'm happy to answer any questions and maybe run an extra training session if there is a need.

As most people know, kiwi are being encountered more frequently around the Bay, even right in the centre of town! Of course dogs can pose a threat to kiwi if they are not properly controlled, as emphasised by the recent media report of the young kiwi Otatahahi being killed by a dog. It is great to know that so many owners here are aware of the risk and are taking the time to do something about it by putting their dogs through the avoidance training. Thirty-six individual dogs have now undergone the training. But, having just said that I need to emphasise that **the avoidance training is not a substitute for good dog control and dog owners still need to take responsibility for their dogs' actions and whereabouts. If you don't know where your dog is, you don't know what it is doing!**

So, what is involved with this training and how does it work? Kiwi avoidance training, as the title suggests, is intended to train dogs to avoid kiwi. The same sort of training could be used to teach dogs to avoid weka, penguins, chickens, to stop running off with your shoes or pulling the sheets off the washing line, etc. The basic tools are an

DOC staff on Stewart Island found a dead young male sea lion on Deadman's Beach, on 30 April 2014. The carcass was sent to Massey University for autopsy. The post mortem results reveal that the sea lion was shot twice, fracturing both shoulder blades. The sealion probably survived for about three days before dying of infection and starvation. The full pathology report is available at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/marine-mammal-pathology-reports>

We have produced a media release appealing for information, but there is currently no basis from which to form an investigation. Should

the public provide any information, then we will refer this to the police.

Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 there are penalties of up to six months imprisonment or a fine of up to \$250,000 for killing or harming marine mammals plus a further fine of up to \$10,000 for every marine mammal the offence was committed against. It is less than a year since a female sea lion was shot at Port Adventure, Stewart Island.

—Brent Beaven

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

Building a bridge to a healthier lifestyle

Which story are you more likely to believe: “Healthy diet means eating 10 portions of fruit and veg per day” or “Chinese to fund building a bridge to Stewart Island”? A few people fell for the latter, but whether you know it as April Fools’ Day or All Fools’ Day, April 1st is not the best day to make announcements in the media. And yes I know it’s June now, but the 10-a-day thing has been bugging me.

The story has been recycled through many media avenues since it first appeared in the UK press in March. A study by University College London found that eating at least seven portions of fruit and veg a day could reduce a person’s risk of premature death. I’m not sure eating 10 carrots a day will save us from premature death should a rogue-Rakiura-sized meteor fall out of the sky and squash us all (although the Vitamin A would certainly help us see it coming in the dark) but I think the study refers to prevention of heart disease, obesity and diabetes. I read the stats (and honestly tried to retain them!) but after a few percentages my brain turns to mashed potato. It was something like ‘X’ percent of people ate 3 portions and decreased their risk by “XB” percent; ‘Y’ percent ate 5 portions and decreased their risk by “YB” percent; and ‘Z’ percent ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ and I had a nice dream about chocolate.

Bottom line is we need to eat more than 5 portions of fruit and veg per day; 10 would be great; 7 would be good; preferably more veggies than fruit; preferably fresh fruit rather than tinned or frozen. A bar of Whittaker’s Fruit & Nut does not count as one of your 5, 7 or 10 a day. Dammit.

My mind went on one of its mad rambles and I started to think about how you’d get kids to eat 10 portions of fruit and veg. I used to make food into faces on the plate for my nieces and nephews (think spaghetti hair, sausage smiles ...) but my mind wandering ramble got out of control: artichokes have hearts, bananas have skin, potatoes have eyes, ears of corn, a hand of bananas, blood oranges, navel oranges, a head of swede or lettuce. That’s almost a whole fruit and vegetable person! We might even allow cucumber warts, kidney beans, crown pumpkin (or dare I say it, melon balls!).

Of course no-one in their right mind would eat my imaginary fruit and veg person but it wouldn’t do us any harm to try to eat more fresh fruit and veg. Yummy soups full of winter veg are easy enough to make and most of us in the shop have a favourite recipe or two if you need inspiration. I promise not to talk about cucumber wart soup ...

And if you have a better head for numbers than me, the study has been published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. That’s the study about 10-a-day, not how to make a fruit and vegetable person!

Pete Ross Automotive

Have Available for Hire

- Lawnmower
- Chainsaws
- Waterblaster
- Chimney Brush
- Rotary Hoe
- Rug Doctor (New)

Have For Sale

- Hydraulic Hose Gear (New)
- 9 kg Gas Bottles
- Fire Extinguishers (New)
- Bicycle Tyre Tubes and Repair Kits (New)
- Weedeater Cord
- CRC and Degreaser
- Fuelite and Meths
- Kersosene and Turps
- Coal and Kindling (New)
- Wood - can order in fadge lots
- Weedkiller and Garden Hose
- Fittings (New)
- Jumper Leads
- Funnels and plenty more!

Winter Hours

(From May 1st)

- Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
- Sat 10am - 2 pm
- Sun Closed

**STEWART ISLAND
GARDEN CIRCLE**

by Jenny Gell

Next meeting will be at
Lee Wadds at
2 o’clock
on Thursday
10th July



QUIZ UPDATE from Vicki Coats

So at the beginning of the year we decided to save up and buy the Nurses something BIG! We floated the idea of a handheld scanner, but then we realised that not only were we ahead of ourselves technology wise, no one would be able to read the results anyway, so the \$10,000 ornament idea went out of the window!

We’ve been quietly beavering away at quiz as we do, then the Health Committee came back with a new want; a portacabin for out the back of the Clinic. You may have noticed that the waiting room is somewhat cramped. There’s a lot of gear stored that only get used maybe twice a year (dentist chair for example) and some of the emergency equipment that gets used with the helicopter. Having it all out the back in a lockable building is going to free up a lot of space within the clinic and give the nurses a bit more elbow room! It will also make it a bit more

hygienic getting rid of some of the dust collectors!

The Health Committee has had a shop around and found an Invercargill company that fits the bill nicely and have sourced a great portacabin which fits the bill nicely and doesn’t require building consent and all the other red tape things that normally stand in the way of these projects.

I just had a count-up and was pleased to give the Health Committee \$5,500 towards the project. That means along with the \$615 we donated at the end of last year, Quiz Night have donated about 3/4 of the project costs, thanks to everyone who participates and donates, we couldn’t do it without you!

And now that means the quiz money is free again for smaller projects, so if your group needs something, please let us know!

SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

After trying the traditional vanilla Creme Brulee years ago when dining out, I decided to have a go at making it myself and sourced a recipe (I think via internet...) that worked for me. I don't know about anyone else but I was for some reason under the impression that it was really hard to make...

But once I had made it for the first time and many more, I have always found it simple to make, and totally satisfyingly creamy luscious!

Sorry! Am rather excited about eating my dessert as it still awaits me in the fridge.... all I have to do is put the sugar on top and caramelize it using the blow torch, so once it's cooled I can crack through the hard caramel to the layer underneath of smooth silky lemony custard.... (cue Homer Simpson dribble.)

O.K so I may not make it through writing this article\recipe without eating my dessert during typing, it may be messy but I think my stomach and taste buds are more that willing to try! One of the many great things about doing these recipes for SIN is they need to be made to take photo's of, so of course I get to eat them after! Well that's my reasoning anyway!

The place of origin for creme brulee is of course France, and when translated for a recipe book in English was called "burnt cream".

Traditionally it is made with vanilla pods\seeds, but you can also flavour the cream with lemon or orange zest, Liqueurs, green tea, chocolate and many more flavour's. Some say the traditional flavour shouldn't be messed with, But it's up to to the cook, and since I was down vanilla pods and the shop was all out, I went for lemon flavour as it's another of my favourites!

CREME BRULEE

500ml of cream (or half milk half cream)
100g Caster Sugar
4 egg yolks
1 vanilla pod-deseeded

METHOD:

set oven to 150 degrees C.

Add cream (and milk if you decide to use half and Half), vanilla seeds and left over pod. Bring the milk to a slight simmer, and hold it there stirring so milk doesn't burn for 4-5 minutes. IF you want to use lemon zest instead, zest the whole of one

lemon and add as you would vanilla.

Using an electric beater, beat egg yolks and caster sugar till pale, thick and creamy, this only takes a few minutes.

Pour cream mixture into egg mixture and whisk continually till slightly thicken, it only takes a few minutes also.

Strain mixture into a large jug and pour evenly into ramekins filling up to around 1 cm from top. Place ramekins into a oven dish or something large enough to

hold ramekins and hot water. Add HOT water to dish until it is half way up the outside of ramekins.

Place carefully into oven, and cook for around 35-45 minutes till set. I suggest checking at 35 minutes first as each oven is a bit different. when ready they will be set with a slight wobble like a jelly when dish is gently shaken.

HINTS: If you add cream mixture to egg mixture and it appears to look like it may split sometimes you can save it by putting bowl into cold water and whisking, helps cool down custard, if this doesn't help and it looks grainy you must start over again! Some people spoon foam off before pouring custard into ramekins, as it gives an even top with no bubbles set on side, your choice!

Remove Ramekins from hot water bath and place on a cake tray or chopping board to cool. Once cooled a bit place in fridge to finish cooling down. when ready to serve, add 1 to 1 1/2 tsp of caster sugar to top of creme brulee and shake out evenly or use the back of the spoon to spread sugar.

If you have a kitchen blow torch then you will find this next step easier. Once sugar is spooned over creme burlee use blow torch to caramelize sugar to a golden brown, let sugar and ramekin cool and serve!

If you don't own a blow torch You can use your grill, but you must set it at a hot temp and well before you put them under as you want to caramelize the sugar not melt the custard underneath as-well! watch like a hawk as this happens quickly and all of a sudden.

Also if your worried about your waist you can easily make this dessert with trim milk and use even less cream (as long as you have 500ml of liquid e.g. milk\ cream) It still works well just lacks the really silky smooth texture you get from full fat cream and milk.

So there you have it! Very easy to make, plus you can make it the night before your dinner party and leave in the fridge till your ready to add sugar, caramelize and serve!

And just in case your wondering, I refrained from eating my creme brulee while typing as I decided it deserves all of my attention and enjoyment!



OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER

by Jo Riksem



George Swain Family one of many families associated with the church

We said farewell to Bruce and Diane Keeley at the end of May. We hope they will return some time as they were an asset to our church and community, helping in so many ways with always a cheerful smile.

Ian Crawford – was with us on the 1 June. He spent 25 years as a teacher of children and then graduated from Carey Baptist College Auckland, to go to Ashburton Baptist Church where he ministered for ten years. He has spent the following ten years in PCANZ in two Southland parishes and presently walks alongside ten small parishes helping them to walk the walk of faith in Jesus, and keep

the light of a Gospel burning in their communities. He speaks from the heart and has a great sense of humour.

Heather Kennedy – of First Church, Invercargill, one of our regulars came to us on 8 June.

We enjoy her lovely bubbly personality.

Then it's "**Local Talent**" for the next few weeks with some surprises along the way. Always a joy and a blessing each Sunday.

One of the great things about belonging to many of the groups and organisations on Stewart Island is that you become part of the "Island Family" and as in any family, people are there for you when you need them. Andy and I would like to thank all for the outpouring of love that has surrounded us, as we go through a particular difficult time in our lives. We would like to help others going through similar journeys. We're not losing hope. Miracles do happen.

Don't forget!!! 110th Anniversary of Oban Presbyterian Church at Labour Weekend, October of this year. Only four months away so please keep digging through those photos for any people that have been part of our history over the years. We'd love to hear the stories too. Laughter and tears, whatever memories our church has for you.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

Fiordland to regain undaria-free status

The introduced seaweed *Undaria* has become commonplace around Oban, as it is in most parts of New Zealand. You may have noticed thick *Undaria* forests while diving, and lots of it washing up on the beaches. Scientists are still trying to figure out what the presence of *Undaria* means in ecological terms, but it's fair to say that while *Undaria* is not particularly welcome it is here to stay.

Until 2010, Fiordland was an *Undaria*-free zone. In April of that year the discovery of *Undaria* in Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound triggered a response to eliminate it from the area. This was no small undertaking, involving chlorine treatments, the relocation of 35,000 kina to mow down the seaweed and dive teams monitoring the area on a monthly basis (this still continues to happen). In total, 1888 *Undaria* individuals have been detected and removed. As time has gone



on, fewer and fewer *Undaria* have been found by the dive teams – an indication that the programme may well achieve it's goal of local elimination of the species.

Perhaps in the months to come, those involved in the eradication programme will bite the bullet and declare the area to once again be *Undaria*-free. If so, this will be the first time that *Undaria* has been successfully eliminated from an area anywhere in the world. It has involved a combination of lots of resources, perserverance, innovation and a lot of luck. It has also been a real team effort with

brains and braun coming together from Environment Southland, DoC, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the Fiordland Marine Guardians. We can not assume that the discovery of *Undaria* or any other pest species in this precious environment would similarly be successfully eradicated, and so our focus has shifted towards preventing the pests getting to Fiordland in the first place. More information about the development of the Fiordland Marine

Pest Pathways Plan can be found at the Fiordland Marine Guardians website: <http://www.fmg.org.nz/content/whats-new-0>

If you're planning a trip to Fiordland, you can help protect this place from further threats by checking your vessel's hull before travel, and if it's fouled, cleaning it.

Ensure your antifouling paint is thoroughly applied and effective
Check, clean and dry any mooring lines, buoys, pots, kayaks and any other marine equipment before using them in Fiordland's waters

Remove all marine growth from diving gear and rinse and soak gear in fresh water. Allow to air dry for a few days if possible.

Rebecca McLeod, Fiordland Marine Guardian

Derek Richards, Biosecurity Officer, Environment Southland

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202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

Stewart Island in the Media

The legendary Sheila Natusch gave an awesome interview on Radio New Zealand, go to www.radionz.co.nz and search for *Natusch*.

Also on RadioNZ,

Brett Hamilton and Glen Carbines discuss the fish survey study, go to same site and search for *What a Catch*.

Voice of a Girl Mechanic

by Sharon Ross



In mid April we were fortunate enough to have a visit

from Craig – the Contact Channel Development Manager and Richard – the Invercargill Rockgas Manager – who supplies us with all our Gas from Invercargill. Since their visit Craig has supplied us with lots of information in the way of handouts to make sure all our customers who have gas are using it and handling it safely. One of the first things that was noticed was the way the majority of LPG bottles are being transported on the Island which is not the safest way of transporting. In Invercargill if you turn up with a station wagon (or other such vehicle) in which you cannot stand up your gas bottle, they will not allow you to take it away, and instead will deliver it your home. Every customer that I am aware of that has gas, will get posted this flyer with their next gas rental invoice to reinforce the safe transport of cylinders. As I have been “fortunate: enough to hold the Health and Safety Officer position in just about every workplace I have ever worked in (the perils of putting it in your CV I think!) I am pleased to be able to help the Rockgas team deliver this message.

My grandmother had gas in the home I remember her in when I was a small child, and I hated it, it always smelt of gas (and burnt cabbage) so when I was “all grown –up” and purchased

my first home I was gutted to realize it had both a gas hob and gas fires. I expected it would smell the same but thankfully it didn't, the gas technology must have improved a lot since the late 60's! It was going to be the first thing I got rid of as soon as I could afford it, but of course once I could, I no longer wanted to, loving the convenience and ease of the fire and the speed of cooking (though did have to replace a couple of pot handles before I realized you had to watch the flames width compared to your pot size!)

I couldn't finish this article with out a reference as to why we were away part of the last week in May, and a big thank you to Jack and Mona for doing a sterling job in managing things in our absence. My daughter Devon was graduating in Wellington with a first class Honours degree from Massey University in Spatial Design – this does not mean she can design space ships as one well meaning friend thought!! (but she could design the inside of them I suppose!). I am glad you can't actually burst with pride as I am sure I would have, as I watched her cross the stage at the Michael Fowler Centre. It was such a joyful experience, watching all these young people fulfil the first part of their career dream. The atmosphere in the auditorium both before and after the ceremony was wonderful, all that happi-

ness and positivity in one place was great to be part of. The centre of Wellington had flags on every pole with “Congratulations to the Massey Graduates” on it for the duration of our stay, and every place we seemed to visit, the staff asked what we were in Wellington for (obviously we didn't look like locals!) and gave their Congratulations to us and Devon on her achievement. Well Done, my beautiful daughter, 4 years of hard work and dedication has paid off, the world is now your oyster and I know you will continue to make your mark on it, in your own talented way!

Dear Customer,

Correct transport of LPG Bottles

- All LPG bottles are to be transported upright, securely and outside the vehicle.



In-correct transport of LPG Bottles

- LPG bottles must in no circumstances be transported on their side. This causes liquid LPG to fill the pressure relief valve and valve outlet which creates a much larger gas leak (250 x larger).

The ratio between the volumes of the vaporized gas and the liquefied gas varies depending on composition, pressure, and temperature, but is typically around 250:1





SIRCET Kiwi advocacy update

By Cherie Hemsley

Monitoring this month of the kiwis that were released into the Ackers project area in February 2013 has given us some more interesting game camera footage!

This month we completed some Kiwi advocacy in our Half Moon Bay School. This was an awesome experience for me. What was highlighted was that our tamariki get such a different experience with our native flora and fauna than mainland children, especially Kiwi! When asked if anyone had seen a kiwi, **ALL** hands went up! Their knowledge of what makes our Kiwi special and their personal Kiwi advocacy stories were incredible, I'm sure that nowhere else in NZ would those answers have been given! They have all gone down on my 'Why I love Stewart Island' List!

We ran two competitions, a colouring competition for the juniors and a story writing competition for the seniors.



Dayton and Summer won a Kiwi soft toy each for their coloring competition and Timu won the story competition, his prize being able to name our golf course gal TX12.

The name Timu choose is perfect! Takiti (short for Takitimu after the Maori waka that survived rough seas). All the stories and the colouring competition entries are being displayed at the Environment Centre, I highly recommend you check them out, I'm sure everyone would be as proud of our tamariki as I am!!!

Also we tried to replace the transmitters on these birds, but could not catch Takiti and TX22 nor could we locate Matatika and Ngaio. We have some very smart Kiwi on our doorsteps! Could they smell us? Could they hear us? Or were they just out that day?

I have set up a game camera outside Matatika and Ngaio's burrow, here's hoping I get some good footage to share!!

Takiti our golf course lady has headed a little inland for the winter, to the cottage in the bush. Game camera footage has proven she is still with a male, he is banded (but we cannot see the band number on the footage) and this confirms his identity finally. He is another Ulva release, so Takiti could not be swayed by the lure of city

boy bright lights, it would seem Takiti prefers the bush boy to keep her warm over winter!

*Hey, I got a lot of faith in ya
I'll keep you safe- that's the bottom line
Yeah, you have a lot of fun don't ya
And looking for you is a ball of a time
Hey kiwi when the mood gets you down
Your bottom beak's near dragging on the ground
That's when I gotta trap those cats for ya
and possums, and rats, to help you breed*

*Howdy Kiiwi
Where did you hide your wings
Their love shines over Ackers Point-
they're a slice of heaven
Loud Kiwi calls over Ackers Point-
they're a slice of heaven*

Until next month,
Ka Kete Ano E Hua

Cherie



Wheel of Experience
by Gwen Neave

Well, it was a case of pulling out all the superlatives to describe the brilliant concert delivered by this band to an extremely appreciative island audience on Tuesday 20 May.

Peter Daube's powerful vocals held us rapt from the opening song of their programme. Here is an actor singer par excellence. His character portrayals were gripping and compelling theatre. Peter co-wrote with David Ward, the lyrics of all the pieces we heard – strong, raw ballads that told of a young country, its new settlers, sealers, gold seekers, Chinese and Italian immigrants, rogues and diehards. We were treated to a veritable musical history lesson of early New Zealand.

The three band members including

David Ward and Dave Khan all played a range of instruments, some unfamiliar to most of us. Banjo, guitar and fiddle, mandolin and banjo were easily recognisable but the zhong ruan and cigar box were fascinating visual and aural additions to the band's collection. Their compositions were tight, and harmonies deep and beautiful. Wheel had toured the North Island and some of the South before coming to Rakiura and the rave reviews that preceded their visit were well deserved. This was a class act and the enthusiastic audience revelled in the Wheel's experience and musical expertise.

A BIG thank you from Toi Rakiura to Arts on Tour Aotearoa, Creative Southland, Invercargill Festival of the Arts, Real Journeys and Wendy Hallett – Goomes for their support of Toi Rakiura.



Church Hill Craft Brewing Festival 2014

Are you a keen craft brewer ?

Are you keen to meet other brewers and celebrate the craft ?

This is your chance; let us know you are interested

Saturday 4th October 2014 is the Church Hill Craft Brewing Festival

If you want to enter a brew or two then email:

restaurant@churchhill.co.nz

Details updated on our website
www.churchhill.co.nz

I know there are a few keen brewers out there so don't be shy

Entry by July and brew ready by mid-September

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford “Wake” by Anna Hope

I began the month’s reading in lighter vein with Sebastian Faulks’ “Jeeves & the Wedding Bells”. Faulks has worked on this with the full co-operation of the Woodhouse family, so you can imagine that it is pretty faithful to the familiar Bertie Wooster and Jeeves stories of old. The author is too modest about his achievement – which he hopes will encourage readers ‘to go back to the peerless originals’. This time, B. Wooster interferes in the romantic endeavours of his friends. But Jeeves seems to be acting ever so slightly out of character. Why? Is it a Faulks *faux pas*? No indeed! Soon, you begin to pick up the clues that Wooster misses. Jeeves is on the button as usual, doncha know chaps! Not many belly laughs, but lots of chuckles, jolly good show, what? Then on to the more serious stuff...

“Wake” is a first novel and I couldn’t get into it to begin with, persevering only because I didn’t have anything else to read. I’m pleased I did. Set over a period of four days in November 1920, the principle characters are three women who don’t ever know that they share bonds forged in The Great War.

Hettie is at the bottom of the social class system in post-war England. At 19, full of youthful naivety and selfishness, she lives with her widowed mother who ‘chars’ 12 hours a day to make ends meet, whilst Hettie hands over half her earnings every week to keep the household running. She sells herself as a ‘dance instructress’ at sixpence a time at the prestigious Hammersmith Palais. It’s not the most lucrative job, and Hettie resents her once ebullient brother who returned from the War to sit and stare into the fire or to roam the streets aimlessly. Why can’t he get a job, Hettie thinks, and release some of her hard-earned

cash for pretty dance dresses? Ada is one of the middle class. Her husband works hard and she cares for him and - until he went to The War – for her beloved only child, Michael. The note informing Ada and her Jack that Michael is dead is short on detail, so brusque and strange that Ada doesn’t truly believe Michael is dead at all. And meanwhile, some – including Jack – think Ada has gone loopy with grief because she continues to ‘see’ Michael. Unfortunately, so does the enigmatic Rowan Hinds. Returned from The War suffering from ‘fits’ and with one useless arm, selling door-to-door for a pitiful living, he ends up at Ada’s house one day – and, taking a fit, ‘sees’ Michael. Evelyn Montfort, from further up the social scale, is bitter (her lover has been killed in The War), a spinster, working in the Pensions Office, dealing day-after-day with maimed and unemployed returned servicemen. Why does she bother with such relentless work? Then Rowan Hinds calls in, trying to trace a Captain Montfort. His memories are obviously less than fond.

At the same time, The Unknown Warrior is being selected from the mass graves of unknown soldiers from the battlefields of France, to return to England to represent ‘the fallen’ – at 11.00 a.m. of the 11th day of the 11th month. The clever interweaving of the stories and the conclusions to be drawn make poignant reading. From the bitter condemnation of war to the more blasé attitude of those who cannot understand, this is a wonderful book to read as 100 years since the beginning of The Conflict is commemorated (and coming hot on the heels of the performance of “Too Far From Heaven”). The title itself is a clever play on words, as can be seen from the three definitions listed at the beginning of the book. Difficult to get into, yes, without a doubt, but I am so pleased I had nothing else to read and so kept doggedly on. It was well worth it by about half-way through.

(SPIDERS *Continued from page 1*)

Despite their home-loving natures, trapdoor spiders are found throughout New Zealand. There are 42 known species, and probably many that are unknown, some on Stewart Island. But how did they spread so far, with rivers, mountains and seas between their populations? By looking at their DNA, I hope to build a family tree of New Zealand’s trapdoor spiders. Using computer software and geological evidence, I should be able to indicate how long ago our trapdoors evolved from their ancestors, and whether they arrived here recently (over the last 20 million years) from Australia (like most of NZ’s wildlife) or if they have been on New Zealand since it was part of the supercontinent, Gondwanaland, 80 million years ago.

Our early excursions around Halfmoon Bay, Golden Bay, Big Glory and Akers Point proved fruitful. We found spider holes in banks, under boats and rocks, and at the bases of trees. Trapdoor spiders in most of New Zealand build holes with wafer-thin flappy lids. Some forest species build holes with no lids at all, but the species on Stewart Island remarkably build walls of silk and mud on one side of the entrance to their hole, as if they started building a flap but then got



tired. Their hole normally has fine silk around the inside, holding it together. Trapdoor spiders are nocturnal,

so when Ashley and I found some holes we had to either dig the spiders out (which is tricky since their 30 cm deep burrows wind around stones and tree roots), or use a new method known as beetling. In order to beetle a spider out of its burrow, you tie a cotton thread around a smallish beetle to make a sort of harness and leash. The beetle is led up to the entrance of a burrow, and you wait with bated breath for the bait to be taken. When the beetle triggers a silken tripwire near the burrow, the spider darts out. In the same instant, the researcher thrusts a trowel behind the spider, blocking its burrow. The beetle seems oblivious to its near-death experience.

We weren’t only collecting spiders on Rakiura, but also on Whero Rock and Bench Island. Phred **Dobbins** from DOC was an excellent ally, briefing us on what to expect on the islands, and ensuring we were equipped with safety gear. However, Whero Rock was an adventure and a half. Warned by Phred that great white sharks were plentiful in the area, we leapt for our lives from the boat onto a rock face whitewashed with bird droppings. Slipping on seaweed and tripping over dead birds, we scrambled to the top of what really was just a rock sticking out of the ocean.



Piles of rotting bird droppings made a kind of soil, from which grew various stumpy plants. I carefully lifted the remains of a hut that used to shelter a researcher here. Beneath them I found several spider burrows (and a lot of weta). We didn’t want to stay the night on such an exposed rock, so we set to work digging up the spiders.



Ashley radioed the skipper to collect us, and by the time he arrived we had collected three specimens of Whero Rock’s own species of trapdoor spider. Delighted with ourselves, we half-climbed, half-slid down the foul rocks and jumped back onto the boat (I’d never known how far I could jump until then). That night we washed our interesting-smelling clothes and had a well-deserved dinner at the South Sea Hotel.

The spiders we collected from Stewart Island are now in the freezer at the Department of Ecology at Lincoln, waiting to have their DNA extracted. We are extremely grateful to DOC (especially Phred!) and Rakiura

Charters for their support and local knowledge, and the friendliness and helpfulness of the Stewart Islanders made our field trip not only successful but also thoroughly enjoyable.



FIRE BRIGADE HONOURS NIGHT.


We are fortunate to have this service and we honour them: They look fabulous. They can put out our fires... (*and tie our shoes*). *photos from Sarah Tramner*

Midlife Crisis Midwinter Buffet



SATURDAY 28TH JUNE
SOUTH SEA HOTEL
DRINKS 11AM ONWARDS
BUFFET 1.30PM
\$30 PER PERSON
(BUY YOUR OWN DRINKS)

Places need to be pre-booked *Please see Karen or Jules at the shop or Vicki*
Over 30's to under 60's plus partners welcome! *Why let the seniors have all the fun?*




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 ★★★★★ CBC WINNIPEG
 ★★★★★ "SPIFFING." EDMONTON JOURNAL
 "AN ATTRACTIVE BALL OF A SHOW." NZ HERALD

Monday 23 June 7.30pm
 Community Centre, Stewart Island
 \$20 Tickets at door




Roadwork at the Horseshoe Bay slip. Photo from Greg Northe

Competition Time! Toi Rakiura have 2 double passes to give away to Penny Ashton's spanking new show! All you have to do is get in touch with Vicki or reply via the Facebook Stewart Island Events page and you're in the draw to win! Winners will be notified on the morning of the 23rd June.

Thanks everyone who has sent me information about your group for the updated Stewart Island News website. It's easy to link your group with a page within the (already-paid-for site) so take advantage of that, and send me a whole poster of info about your group and when a visitor taps on your name it will lead to that. Contact me for more info.

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