

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

March 2015

\$3.00



Photo by Carolyn Squires

Summer is winding down, the days are shorter, but we remain busy bees and the island is a hive of activity.

If you have any of Margaret Fairhall's paintings, please consider loaning them to Toi Rakiura for the exhibition on 4th April. Get in touch with Gwen if you can.

Dog Owners: there will be a Kiwi Avoidance session over Easter weekend, watch the noticeboard for details.

DoC has granted the Discovery Channel permission to film sharks here again. Shark Week groupies will be delighted to see the familiar faces of Shark Week stars around the

place (according to their current permit they will be here until the end of March). Permit conditions include limited bait; no touching sharks; and an on-board observer. Some locals have been concerned about the methods this crew has used in the past: will it make everyone feel better that permit conditions forbid the use of human body parts as bait? (Complete list of conditions page 14.)

Halfmoon Bay School represented awesomely at the Southern Zone Athletics this month: Tyler, Wini and Angus all won "Age Group Champions"; in relay the 12-year old boys placed FIRST and the 10-year old boys placed third.

The island made big bird news recently with the country's first sighting of a dusky Woodswallow, made in Golden Bay by Japanese visitors.

The season is underway for the most sumptuous Foveaux Strait aphrodisiac ... reports from the beds are good (the oyster beds!)

### RAKIURA ROCKS

by Lisa Benson

Who rocks? You rock...  
WE ALL ROCK!!  
But the question was...  
"who rocked it?"

These were the words on everyone's lips for the days the little sign gang popped up like mushrooms. We all rocking was the talk of the town. With rumours and speculation...the accusations and sideways glances were flying. And it wasn't just Kylie and I ... there was a swathe of possible suspects. I loved that this community thought it was us, and I loved the fingernail checks for tell-tale signs of paint. The playful questions and the knowing looks, the hum of excitement as people played with lists of contenders, looking for

I love this photo (taken by Klaartje), it's so *rock star*. Here we have Dan, Storm, Sandy and Timu at the Neck carrying out research for the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. Is it just me or does this image evoke The Beatles crossing Abby Road; the Reservoir Dogs; the A-Team...



And our dear hoiho are in all kinds of trouble, people. As if they didn't have enough problems what with sea lions, starvation, disease, etc., they are now contending with barracoutas! Yes, the ones with a mouthful razor sharp teeth! Horrifically, our yellow-eyed penguins are getting their wee feet and bums bitten to bits. They need your help.

The YEP cause is close to my heart, I walked in those boots for some of the most exhausting and thrilling (and humbling) miles of my life when I first arrived on the island. Like washing dishes at the South Sea Hotel, or dancing with Friday, "penguinning" with Sandy King is a bit of an island rite of passage for many.

If you go to the YEP Trust site [www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz) there is an easy click-to-donate button. PLEASE reach into your pocket or pengy bank and donate, even \$5 helps, and these wonderful creatures need all the help they can get, and the wonderful trustees and volunteers "on the ground" need help helping them.

I had the pleasure of attending the YEP Trust BBQ recently and was reminded that there are such dedicated people doing such hard work for many years now, endeavouring to save these penguins.

Also, if you are a Facebooker check out the YEP Trust page and "Like" it, so you can stay abreast of YEP issues. See official YEP news page 9.

—Jess

(Continued on page 6)

# Margaret

An Exhibition of  
Margaret Fairhall's work

Stewart Island Community Centre

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 7pm Exhibition Opening

All Welcome

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 11am – 2pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 11am – 2pm

Toi   
Rakiura  
Arts Trust Stewart Island



Purplette Nicolette Thompson shows off a purple potato. Read more on page 18.

## WISE UP TO WEEDS



### PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrium salicaria*)

**What is it?**

Purple loosestrife is a tall herb, growing 1-2m high. It has stunning purple flowers in early summer. The stems are woody and square shaped, with narrow pairs of leaves growing along them. It dies down over winter.

**What is the problem?**

This plant grows well in damp places, producing up to a million seeds per plant each year. It forms large dense patches that other plants are unable to grow through.

**How to control it**

- Cut and paste each stem. This plant may require a follow up treatment.
- Dig out small areas. Be careful with the green waste as it will re-grow from root fragments.

**Please contact the Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email [shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz](mailto:shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz) or telephone 211 5115**

# Stewart Island Ball Labour Weekend

## Saturday 24th October

Stewart Island Community Centre  
7.30

the theme is B for Ball

Now is the time to start thinking of what you  
could wear that starts  
with the letter B

Butthead, Bob the builder, Beautiful Babe, Blackbeard

Bountious Supper and Cash Bar

The Band is Quantum from Invercargill and we  
hear they are  
bebopping beauts

Courtesy Car will be available



Glowing Sky  
Tech Merino  
The ultimate  
protection.  
Womens Tech  
Hoody \$159



Between the Pub & The Shop.  
or at [www.glowingsky.co.nz](http://www.glowingsky.co.nz)



### The Noble Family

*Mexico's biggest box-office success!*

Screening Saturday 21st & Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7.30pm

#### The Noble Family

(M) Dir. Gary Alazraki, Mexico, 108 min.

In Spanish with English subtitles



When a successful construction mogul, Germán Noble, realises that his adult children are spoiled beyond belief, he stages a fake company bankruptcy and seizes of all their assets tricking them into believing that they have become fugitives of the law. Left behind is the palatial mansion, expensive cars and bottomless credit cards as Germán moves them all into their grandfather's dilapidated home in a poor neighbourhood. There they have no choice but to do something that none of them has ever had to do before – work. A slick, stylish and very funny riches to rag story that carries real heart.

"The performances are genuine and the narrative beats land solidly for a perfectly enjoyable feel-good dramedy."  
– Los Angeles Times

Bookings Suggested and can be made at the theatre (10 Main Rd) or email us on [bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com)

TICKETS - \$15 Adults & \$13 Seniors



It is my privilege to have been recently appointed in the newly created role of Promotions Officer for Stewart Island and I am excited about developing opportunities to promote our wonderful Island for

the economic benefit of our community. Over the last couple of months I have been spending time with our local businesses and I have developed a real appreciation for the wonderful products and services we have on offer here, not to mention the authenticity of our people. It is a great base for me to build from in creating some sustainable pathways for marketing our unique piece of the world. I am really motivated by this challenge and look forward to working with the community as a whole. I will be keeping you all up to date with regular spots in the SIN but please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss ideas, opportunities, or things that you think I should know about.

Jo Learmonth  
[visitus@stewartisland.co.nz](mailto:visitus@stewartisland.co.nz)  
 2191-555 or 027-441-0166

## UPCOMING EVENT



In its 4<sup>th</sup> year, the Tour of NZ is an international road cycle race covering the length of NZ. How it works is that there are 2 teams of approximately 200 riders each. One team starts in Cape Reinga



*Klaartje Van Schie, Chris Visser, and Pete Bain discuss details with organisers for the island leg of the Tour of NZ cycle race in April*

and the other in Bluff. Each team rides 700km in 7 days, meeting in the middle for a final race in Wellington. Although competitive, the main focus of the event is fundraising for their selected charities: St John, Heart Foundation, TEAR Fund, Akina Foundation, Fallen Heroes Trust, and Unicorn Foundation NZ.

For further details visit their website: [www.tourofnewzealand.co.nz](http://www.tourofnewzealand.co.nz)

This year, the southern half of the tour will be coming to do a pre-race on Stewart Island the day before their official start in Bluff. Approximately 25 riders will be coming over to do a 12km circuit from Halfmoon Bay, out to the end of Lonneckers and back and then out to the end of Horseshoe Bay and back. We are also entering a Stewart Island Cycle Racing Team to give the racers some competition on our challenging hills – **this is open to anyone who would like to give it a go**, road bike or mountain bike, or just take part for the fun of it. We encourage all Islanders to come out and support these riders and our own team - look out on the noticeboard for further details closer to the time or contact Jo on 2191-555.

**When: 10th April (approximately 11:30am)**

CYCLISTS WILL ADHERE TO ALL ROAD RULES AND WILL BE GIVEN A FULL SAFETY BRIEFING HOWEVER, WE ASK THAT LOCAL DRIVERS TAKE SPECIAL CARE ON ALL SEALED ROADS BETWEEN 11am-1pm ON 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AS THERE WILL BE UP TO 40 CYCLISTS OUT THERE.



### Rakiura Music Scene

*Story and photos from Lisa Benson*

You like live music and you live on Rakiura... so you know you have to take whatever you can get. Luckily for me I like maudlin folky music played on oldy wordly wooden instruments. And I like ironic lyrics sung in beautiful harmonies and I like dancing. So if you like live music, I really don't understand why you weren't there, unless you were looking after the kids so your ladies could be there...yeah fellas, thanks for that.

Last month we had two opportunities to fill our ears with live sound and dance the night away...and I took them both. And what fantastic and fantastically different nights they were.

Into The East, a sexy little duo from just over the straight, who looked so beautiful in front of Bevan's magnificent Bad Jelly Backdrop. It looked like you'd painted it especially for the wistful tones these two transported us with.

The second gig of the week, at the ideal venue on the wharf, Beyondsemble were rocking it so much Dee asked the boys if they would play at mine and Kylie's wedding ... they said yes ... I'll let you know if I do. Anyway, there was a moment on the dance floor, when I looked around and proudly thought "these are the people I live with" ... don't worry, I'm not claiming I feel like a local or anything, just a moment of energetic enthusiasm that made me excited to be living on this island, in this community, at this time. Be warned, these events are not for the faint hearted. Many were seen with hangovers on Sunday following Beyondsemble and bodies were harmed in enthusiastic appreciation. A big thanks to the bands and the sound guys! ... and to Vicki and the Toi Rakiura Arts Trust for all they do in getting these creatives on our island ... it make our lives richer!



**Acoustic Recorder Forest Bird Survey** from Predator Free Rakiura

When talking about the concept of a predator free Rakiura, one of the comments that we often hear is that there is no need for this work as the birds are doing fine. For those who spend a lot of time visiting sites outside of Halfmoon Bay, they would be well aware of just how incorrect this statement is. For most of the island, the birds are disappearing. In fact, my experience would be that if you exclude Halfmoon Bay and Ulva Island, then Stewart Island has less birds than most forested mainland sites.

To try to demonstrate this dramatic loss of birds, an acoustic survey of forest birds was completed at five sites about Stewart Island over the last month. The survey was complet-

ed for the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group.

Five sites were selected for survey. Ulva Island represented a pest free environment. The Dancing Star site represented a fenced and predator controlled environment. Ackers Point represented the township, while Port William and North Arm represented areas where no long-term predator control has occurred.

Ten digital acoustic recorders (ARs) were deployed at each of the five sites between January 19 and 21. They were then collected approximately 10 days later. The ARs were programmed to run for 10 hours each day from 04:30 to 14:30. They were deployed at > 200 m intervals along predator control network tracks for ease of retrieval. In three instances (Port William, Dancing Star and Ackers Point) we sampled most of the

available habitat. At the other two larger sites (North Arm and Ulva Island) the recorders were deployed in similar clusters to the three small sites. There was a five day period that all ARs were simultaneously recording (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>) and we analysed 5 minute sessions after the dawn chorus (06:30 – 07:30), giving a total of 2580 samples.

Initial results analysed for kakariki indicated that over a five consecutive morning period kakariki were significantly more likely to be detected at the Dancing Star and Ulva Island Sites where pests are either absent or maintained at very low densities.

These are preliminary results only. The large number of samples will take a while to work through and full results will be detailed in the next *SIN*.



**ACOUSTIC RECORDER (AR) SITES RAKIURA, JANUARY 2015.**

(Continued from page 1)

patterns that might reveal where these things were coming from. And I can still honestly say..."It's not my project!"

The black and white signs appeared all over town. Slowly at first. Three on the Valentines morning, a few the next day, and then they came in droves. By the end of the week, around 35 signs were peppered all over town. Appearing in broad daylight from Butterfield Beach to Golden Bay. Then, mysteriously appearing in the middle of the night, on the way to Ackers Point, and all about the centre of town. Someone sure had this town talking. And talking about something other than the weather, the sharks or idle gossip!

The mastermind of this beautiful project was a visitor to this village. An astute outsider named Kc, that had a sense this community had a need. A need for the project that had gone so beautifully on his own small island, Haida Gwaii. Kc's community is not as small as this island's, and he knows it well. So when Kc made his signs here he needed some inside information. Here he had to rely on the small interactions he had during his few short weeks on the island and the names he gathered from asking a bunch of obscure questions. Of course he had some help...and yes, Kylie and I did help. We helped with the gathering of resources...collecting boards, a circular saw and a tape measure. Others helped too - with materials, paint and name suggestions. And even though the signs may have been painted with my brushes, I didn't paint any of the signs.

A few unrelated names appeared at first. One sign assumed the status of a sweet Valentines gesture, another thought to be feedback for a great stay at a holiday home and another, quickly removed, thought to be a bad taste prank. Once the project began to unfold, people took it less personally and got into the swing of it. When the signs like the GARY ROCKS and the PETE ROCKS moved magically about town, slipping from one rocking Gary and one rocking Pete to the



next, the collective tone of the project was clear... All the Gary's. All the Pete's. So you rock, even if your name is spelt with or without a particular letter...Yes Jon, that means you rock too!

Kc's intention here was the same as in his home town; to encourage people to love the folks around them...to see and celebrate each other's strength and to learn to value our own. A black and white fight against the internal loathing we have that so easily splays out to those around us.

Whether your name appeared on a sign or not, we all had something to say about it. Was my name coming? Why did he get one? What's this all about? Who is doing this and who do they think they are? There were some mixed feelings about the project. But I'm hoping Kc's writing helped those that didn't understand it, or thought it meant something different. No one asked Kc to do this, he gained no financial remuneration or power from it. He did it for fun, simply wanting us all to feel our intrinsic value. What a gift...a strange man from a strange town encouraging us to value ourselves and the people around us. Great work Kc! You made us all think. Because if we were sad our name wasn't on a sign, or delighted it was, this project invited us ALL to feel part of the we...the valuable, delightful, sometimes challenging WE ALL, in this wild southern community of native and vagrant rockers.

The Friday afternoon reveal was a much anticipated gathering and I can only wish that the Rakiura Rockers had been organised to play. People

wanted something...a presentation, an explanation...an event...something that wrapped up the project. I've known Kc for only a month, but I reckon he's not much for public speaking (get him one-to-one and he will talk about his project for hours), and it was always his intention to have live music to support the unveiling.

The named ones were welcome to take their signs home, and the coveted signs bargained over. I know a few doubles were whipped up and perhaps there is an opportunity for a fundraiser in the future. I've seen a few propped up proudly, so we'll be able to remember the week RAKIURA ROCKED for a while to come yet.

I liked the subtle ways it touched us. The smiles and intrigue were a delight, but I am interested in how we might reflect on the ways in which we each reacted to the project...Did you love it when it was a mystery but it let you down in the end? Was your first response mistrust? Did it make you smile? Did you think it foolish? Was it the audacity that annoyed you, or the clunky roughness of the signs? Was it the wrong people's names? The right people's names? Or did you simply love it?

All these reactions and ways of thinking about something so out of the blue, so delightfully left field, give us an opportunity to see how we each meet the world we live in.

And I love too, that this community knew it was art. Art doing Art's job...not that Art has a job! Aaaahhhh, Contemporary Art...the tricky, icky, ugly, beautiful stuff of living in 2015. We knew it was here to make us ask questions, to wonder about things...to see things in another light. And that is what it has done. So thank you Kc. We LOVED it. We love you. Thank you for being cheeky enough to rock into our town and throw love around the streets.

Images from Kc's Haida Gwaii project can be seen at [www.yourock.ca](http://www.yourock.ca)

This is the “pre-quel” to last month’s front-page story about Fern Davis reuniting with a Milford Track ranger.



FERN NEAVE  
Little girl, big walk.

as been grounded and the busiest times of the

## GIRL AGED 5 BECOMES YOUNGEST PERSON TO WALK MILFORD TRACK

They breed 'em tough on Stewart Island.

This is the opinion held at Milford Sound after five-year-old Fern Neave had trotted 31 jaunty miles through the heart of Fiordland to become the youngest person to walk Milford Track.

Fern, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Neave, proprietors of Fern-dale House, did even better than that. She ran the last half-mile of the final stage because she thought brother Garry would beat her.

The Neave expedition to Milford Track was a real family affair. It was, in fact, a three-generation affair because in addition to Mr and Mrs Neave and their four children, Mrs Neave's 66-year-old mother went along.

No one, however, considered grandma's effort to be outstanding. It was just another walk for Mrs E. P. Miller, who is an enthusiastic

member of a Christchurch tramp-ing club.

The party walked the track last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Heavy rain had swollen some of the creeks and Mr Neave had to pickaback Fern through these — but otherwise her own little legs carried her throughout the three-day trek.

“I think she actually finished fitter than any of us,” Mr Neave told The News this morning. “And she is small for her age — just a big three-year-old, really.”

One of Fiordland's old identities — a man who has been working on the track for many, many years, told the Neaves that he was sure no one younger had ever walked the distance.

But Fern is far from being the youngest person to make the jour-ney. Last season a trumper car-ried his eight-month-old child over in his pack.

## WEDDING OF KING OF BELGIUM



Rakiura Rocks. Photo from Lisa Benson

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CAPTION CONTEST! Photo from Bev Cowie



**Voice of a Girl Mechanic** by Sharon Ross

Sitting writing this as steady drizzle rinses my washing for the fourth time already this morning and it's only 10 am, I am reminded of why our 4 days away was such a delight! We have just returned from Waihi Beach where even overnight I don't think it was below 20 degrees and even nicer you could swim in the water without needing a 7mm wetsuit – my idea of bliss!

My computer seems to be infected with some nasty gremlins which will not let me be distracted by my favourite website – Once-it – for those who love a bargain, or access my internet radio – which is TERRIBLE – yesterday I had to sing to myself, today thankfully I remembered to bring a CD so am happily humming along to The Eagles – in preparation for this weekends concert at MT Smart Stadium – can't wait!!

Our thanks to Mona and Jeanette who very ably held the fort in our absence, and also Jack, Bryan Cronin and Bruce Ford who provided our back up plan, whilst we were in Waihi Beach attending Pete's daughters wedding. Wedding season seems to be upon us, we have only been to two weddings in the last 7 years (one of then our own)and now have 2 to attend in the next month, plus a couple of other ones pending. It makes for a good excuse to indulge in some retail therapy for a new dress and shoes!

Michaela and Fintans Wedding were all you could wish for in a beautiful wedding, albeit not without some dramas, one of the 6 Irish brothers who came over for the wedding missed it as he was in Tauranga Hospital getting an abcess on his tonsils treated. His sister and the only other single brother reckon it was the most effective contraception ever – having to mind their 3 nieces (also the prettiest of flower girls) in the absence of both parents for 12 hours. The girls though looking delightful did not act the same way (they were only 5 , 2 and 1 year old) and the one year old in particular was inconsolable for most of the 12 hours apart from her Mum. However the rest of the ceremony went off well, and we managed to meet a real Irish Mammy of 7 boys and 1 daughter, she was amazingly sane for raising all those children and a real delight to spend time with.

**Contact Rockgas LPG HomePack – what it should contain**

Here's what a Rockgas LPG HomePack should comprise of.  
Customers will receive two 45kg cylinders from their local Rockgas supplier and should contact their gas fitter about the other required fittings as these may not be available from us in all regions.



The topic this week is installing gas bottles and what to consider in way of placement – I will leave the technical stuff of the how and what to Rex – our Island expert. The following handout is available from us at the garage for anyone thinking of relocating or installing a new gas cylinder. With all these new houses being built on the Island it is a good time to be mentioning it and a point to have considered prior to the installation happening. For those of you who are like me and are more of a visual learner there is even a picture to demonstrate!

**SECTION 3: LOCATION OF CYLINDERS**

**3.1 Location of Cylinders**  
Cylinders and associated equipment should be installed external to buildings, except where AS/NZS 1596 permits.

- 3.2 Prohibited Locations:**  
Cylinders should not be installed in the following locations:
- (a) In an inaccessible location;
  - (b) Under a stairway;
  - (c) In a location where there would be no air movement across the cylinder;
  - (d) Under a building, other than permitted in 4.5
  - (e) In a position that would obstruct egress from a building;
  - (f) Buried in the ground; or
  - (g) Where damage is likely to occur, unless adequate protection is provided

**3.3 Requirements for cylinder deliveries.**  
Cylinder installations should be located such that the delivery of gas can be made safely by one person without excessive manual handling or risk to customers property. In situations where the following conditions cannot be satisfied, other options such as locating the cylinders remotely and piping to the installation should be considered.

- (a) Cylinder installation must be designed to be capable of accommodating the size of cylinder intended for use.
- (b) A minimum distance of 600mm should be provided between front of the cylinder installation and other structures to allow adequate access for the cylinder delivery to be made.
- (c) The cylinder compound should be accessible by cylinder trolley.
- (d) Paths should have a minimum width of 600mm.
- (e) Steps should have a minimum of 2: 1 tread depth to tread rise. Maximum tread rise should be 125mm.
- (f) Steps should not exceed 1.5m total rise.
- (g) Paths should not exceed 20 deg gradients.
- (h) Total distance from cylinder delivery truck parking area and cylinder installation should not exceed 75m.
- (i) It must be possible to legally and safely park the truck while making the delivery.
- (j) Access route should be firm and compact even in wet conditions.
- (k) The access route should not be over delicate or decorative surfaces such as terracotta.

To digress a little, but still on the topic of gas bottles – we are getting a huge build-up of 9 kg bottles in our shed once more and with the cooler weather coming on, it would be good to utilize this space for our coal supplies – therefore we are going to start enforcing our policy on picking up gas bottles – if not uplifted and paid for within 2 weeks of being filled it will either be left outside the gas shed (at your own risk) or delivered to your home and charged accordingly. It is also appreciated if you pay for a refill at the time of dropping it off, I am tired of sending out so many accounts, any 9 kg gas bottle account I have to send out will incur a \$5.00 administration fee.

To finish on a more positive note – wishing all the readers a very Happy Easter and ANZAC weekend – yay 2 long weekends in one month is always good! Cheers, Sharon and Pete (who like Easter Eggs a whole lot – just saying!!)



## The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust visits the island

by Luke Gardener, *Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Emerging Leader Trustee 2014*

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has had a long standing presence on Stewart Island. Recently I was privileged to join the Trust's general manager, Sue Murray, and a number of other board members to make a trip to the Island to renew ties with long serving contractors and supporters of the trust. It was also an opportunity for new board members to gain an understanding of the realities of yellow-eyed penguin conservation work on the Island.

Ian Wilson, Stewart Island Water Taxi & Eco Guiding, provided transport around a number of key monitoring sites, from the Murray River on the northern coast, to sites around Paterson inlet. Thankfully the sea was as friendly as Ian, and trustees avoided experiencing the nastier side of Foveaux straight, instead enjoying an almost tropical day on the beaches on the Northern Coast. Sandy King, long time contractor for the trust, took great delight in taking new trustees to a number of previously monitored nest sites. When most people are asked to describe the habitat of penguins the first image they think of is a) an ice berg, or b) a windswept beach leading into sand dunes. It's unusual that someone would think to describe the towering rimu of Stewart Island, miro, rata, lancewood,



Sandy King and Lala Frazer at Murray Beach  
*Photo from Luke Gardener*

and bush lawyer (oh so so much bush lawyer), making up a thick forest canopy, providing shade and isolation for the yellow-eyed penguins, which like their privacy. Whilst this means that penguin nests are often in beautiful bush clad locations, it also means that monitoring these birds involves spending most of the day walking, crawling, hopping, and climbing through bush that some people might describe as being a 'tad horrendous.' This is of course the reality of yellow-eyed penguin monitoring, particularly on Stewart Island, where this work is made more logistically challenging by the need to access most sites by boat. This provided an important eye opener for new trustees who were able to get an idea of the time consuming and physical nature of the field work as well as the enthusiasm of the field workers we employ.

Between visits to penguin habitats around Paterson Inlet, the Trust was also able to spend time visiting Ulva Island, catching up with old friends, and making some new ones, as well as re-establishing ties with a number of Stewart Island DOC staff.

Penguin conservation work is expensive, particularly in the more remote areas of the country, as such, the trust is extremely grateful for the discounts that a number of Stewart Island businesses provided to us during our visit; Stewart Island Flights and particularly, Ian Wilson, who has supported the work of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust for a number of years. The Trust would also like to give Sandy King a special thank you for the continued work she does for the trust both as occasional contractor, and advocate for yellow-eyed penguin conservation work, as well as being our guide around the island for three days.

### Kiwi monitoring update

Kiwi being monitored in the Ackers Point area have kept me entertained during the past couple of months.

In January the male Tx52 had been residing in the same burrow near the golf course for several weeks so a trail camera was used to keep an eye on his suspected nest. This showed a pattern where his mate Takiti would arrive and enter the burrow late evening while Tx52 went out foraging. At around 4-5am TX52 returned to the burrow and Takiti left, presumably foraging and snoozing elsewhere. In early January I noticed a change in this pattern with both adults spending more time near the burrow, entering and exiting several times during the night. Finally, after a week or so of this different behaviour, the camera captured an image of a chick at the entrance to the burrow! Exciting news, as this is the second successful breeding record from the birds transferred from Ulva Island in 2013.

I switched the camera from still to video mode and in the following days got several short clips of the chick when it emerged for short periods each night. It looked like a fluffy tennis ball with a bill, and was quite wobbly and unsteady on its feet at first. However it became notably stronger and steadier and moved further from the burrow entrance as time went on. Several attempts were made to catch the chick to fix it with a small transmitter to monitor its survival but it eluded our efforts. After about 10 ten days the chick disappeared and tx52 was tracked in another location.

Unfortunately the game camera also caught an image of a black pet cat with a red collar investigating the burrow about a week before the chick hatched. This highlights one of the many threats (cats, dogs, cars etc) that impact on these birds that live near us.

*Sandy King*



Kiwi chick who disappeared soon after this cat was caught on camera investigating the site.





## Medicinal and Edible Gardens Project

by *Letitia McRitchie*

This garden has had a great summer!! After planting occurred in September 2014 Bella and I spent time covering the area in cardboard (thank you Ship to Shore!), with weed-mat on top. Thank you to the Southland District Council who purchased this and supported my desire to use eco friendly products. The weedmatting is a wool product and the pins to hold it down are biodegradable. This was then covered with a thick layer of wood chips, laid out by Dave and Fiona who managed to not cover up any of the small plants!! The woodchip was chosen as it is about a third of the cost of bark chip.



And all that care and attention the garden got off to a great start. For a dry summer all the plants have grown amazingly well and there has not been a single one die!! Several have flowered and nearly all have established well, with the ground covering Beach Spinach spreading beautifully, as you can see in the photo. Almost ready for a nibble!!

There are a couple of spots still to fill in and I have some plants ready to go...

Prickly Mingimingi (*cyathodes juniperina*) is not a favourite plant when walking through the bush (the name gives a clue) but does have an edible berry. I have tried these myself and I wouldn't describe them as tasty, more of dry turpentine flavour, but maybe I just tried them at the wrong time of the year. I remember that kakapo used to love them!! The leaves were known to be boiled for tea for a wide range of conditions from asthma to kidney trouble.



Showberry is relatively common in subalpine areas here and the berries are edible. One book says that the berries that are large and white are more tasty and red and pink berries less so. Hopefully next year there will be some berries to try! The leaves were rubbed to remove the hard outer covering and then either used directly on wounds or boiled up into a liquid as a soothing and healing balm.



## SIRCET Update

Would you like to win a great prize? SIRCET will soon be holding a quiz competition, starting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March and finishing over Easter weekend (5 April). Head into the

Environment Centre next to Glowing Skies, pick up an entry form and answer the questions based on the information you can find in the Centre. Then pop your entry into the box provided. A winner will be chosen over the Easter weekend, only one entry per person. Keep an eye on the Environment Centre if you're keen to be in to win!

We will also be having our regular six monthly Kiwi Avoidance training sessions for dogs over the Easter weekend, so if a dog you know needs to attend or have a refresher, then get in touch to book a time. More details to be advised on the noticeboard closer to the time. With the wonderful amount of Kiwi we are seeing and hearing around, these free sessions are an important part of responsible dog ownership. SIRCET also have cat collars available for sale.

Also a huge vote of thanks to our latest volunteer Claire Simpkin. Claire has been spending time on Stewart Island visiting her boyfriend who

works for DOC, whilst here she has been giving her valuable time off as a Registered Nurse to help out SIRCET. Claire has been helping on the trap lines and also with the essential task of rat monitoring.

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

### *Metrosideros Umbellata* – Southern Rātā

Southern rātā is a beautiful specimen tree, well known for its beautiful crimson flowers in summer but growth can be slow unless it is grown in ideal conditions with moist soil. It is easily grown from fresh seed. While it is possible to

grow the tree from softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings, these often prove reluctant to strike roots. It is ideal for coastal environments because it has a good resistance to wind and salt. Interestingly, research has shown that not only is Southern rātā an ancient Gondwanan tree but it is the basal species to which all other metrosideros species such as pohutakawa and northern rātā can be traced.



**Shop Talk** by Jules Retberg

**Jailhouse Rocks!**

We often have to play detective in the shop, donning a metaphorical deerstalker to reunite property with owners that are momentarily away with the fairies. Money left in the ATM. Bank cards, keys and phones abandoned on the counter. Cameras forgotten on the freezer while tricky ice cream decisions are being made ... and happily our success rate is pretty good.

From detective work my thoughts turned to crime. Figuratively, not literally.

Not mega-bucks-embezzling-millions-crime, but the small stuff. Like when someone is shopping and they take a bag of chips off the shelf to eat while they are looking around. Before they leave the shop they present us with an empty packet, splutter a mouthful of crumbs at us by way of explanation, we scan the barcode and they pay. Is this a crime? Technically, yes. They are consuming something that belongs to somebody else without having exchanged payment - and haven't even had the courtesy to ask us first!

By the way, this is not a rant at locals (you know we are pretty relaxed!) but there has been a significant increase in visitors chowing down in the aisles this season.

From sort-of-crime-and-no-punishment to real crime.

Shoplifting. Very disappointing behaviour from a 19-year old overseas visitor who was given many chances to fess up to what we thought was one item stolen from us. It turned out to be more than that and Halfmoon Bay Police were called to the shop. Let's hope a brush with the law helps this young man make better decisions in the future.

Huge thanks to Lania for her help with this matter.

While it wasn't quite C.S.I. Stewart Island or a job for super sleuth Sherlock Holmes, the 'You Rock' project certainly got us talking - and wondering just who was the anonymous planter of 'rock' signs. I love a mystery and was surreptitiously checking hands across the counter for evidence of black paint (and almost had my make-up brush and talcum powder at the ready to start dusting for fingerprints!). So imagine my excitement one evening when I spotted Canadian visitor, KC, expertly depositing a 'rock' sign by the chess board - the day before the big reveal!

At 3pm on a sunny Friday afternoon, KC brought all the 'rock' signs together outside the Four Square in front of a curious crowd of locals and visitors. The project achieved just what it set out to do and how amazing that it remained a secret for so long. Well done KC and family and all who were in the know, thanks for a fun few weeks!

Could we have one more sign please: "The Jailhouse Rocks!"

Finally, it's almost time for us to count every can, packet, nut, bolt, apple and lettuce...

it's our **annual stocktake on Monday 30th March - we close at 3.30pm sharp!**

**Fabric, Fibre & Fun**

Patchwork Group & Knit 'n' Natter Exhibition

**Community Centre Foyer**

Some Items for Sale

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Open From: 11am to 2pm Daily

Contact ph. Pat 219 1156

**Museum Matters** by Bev Cowie

Carrying on from Jo's report last month some more 'Snippets from the past'.

April 1958 - Stewart Island fishing boats had only 2 days during the month where they were able to get out due to weather conditions!!

April 1958 - Some of the Gums at Lonnekers were felled to allow for the improvement and widening of the road.

April 1964 - Quoted in 'ODT' in an article about the island "Oh! What a snug little island, A right little, tight little island". [Not sure just what is meant by the word tight!]

April 1961 - Ex S.I. boat the 'Endeavour' captained by W. Bragg foundered east of Cape Campbell.

She went down but all crew were rescued by the coaster 'Breeze'.

One of our acquisitions during the last month were 2 DVDs from Nga Taonga. One features two island weddings during 1947 and the other the opening of the museum and the school reunion featuring speeches and also beach races. These are excerpts from the film archives recently shown on the island.

Some Trust members and other visitors spent a very relaxing trip to The Whalers Base with Jim Watt recently, and everyone enjoyed Jims description of the operations especially how they managed to get the ships up the slip way. With his little self-made model it was easy to follow the system employed. It was a great day out, and our thanks go to Rakiura Charters, especially for the most enjoyable cuppa. Half the proceeds of the day went to the new museum fund.

The 'Cruise ship season' has now drawn to a close and we are now in the 'school groups season'. These groups are taken through the museum mainly after hours to save any disruption to other visitors. This also lets the children have a little bit more reign in the museum to answer their questionnaire. Groups are always accompanied by a museum representative.

Hours were a little disrupted last month and will be again this month depending on when Jo returns. Our Easter timetable is Good Friday - CLOSED. Saturday 10 - 1.30pm and Monday & Tuesday 10 - 12. General Hours are Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 1.30pm; Sunday Noon- 2.00pm until the end of May.

**Stewart Island Community Centre News**

A big welcome to the new Centre manager, Denise Hayes! All applicants for the position presented very well and we wished we had more positions to offer. Denise's will have the Centre office open every week from 12:30 - 2pm Mondays & 2 - 3:30pm Wednesdays and the Community Centre phone number is 2191477. All trustees extend a huge thank you to Dids for her input over years as Manager and the lead role she continues to take in the classes and activities she runs - just amazing!

Jan Keen & Greg Everest have done a fantastic job repainting the exterior textured walls all around the Centre which will keep it looking good

and well protected for years to come.

For safety & security reasons parts of the Centre have key only access. Could anyone with a key please return it to PO BOX 187 (with your name on it) before 23rd March, or contact the Centre Manager (as above). Equipment has been used inappropriately, lights left on all night etc and this needs to stop. This is just KEYS, not the blue or grey swipe tags.

Finally a big thank you to all business's & individuals who buy 'Stewart Island Rain' drinking water - this is an important part of on-going fundraising, and look out for mussel kebabs & mussel fritters during Easter!  
 —Phil Dove

**Church Chatter**

by Raylene Waddell

**April Services and Preachers**

Easter Sunday, 5 April, 11 a.m.  
 Rev. Gillian Swift. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

12 and 19 April, 11 a.m.  
 Rev. Major Barbara Sampson

26 April at 11 a.m.  
 The Gospel **will** be preached but we don't yet know by whom!



**Easter**, the defining moment in the Christian year, commemorates the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Crucifixion, *fixing to a cross*, was a hideous death sentence, carried out by Roman armies, among others, to put to death in the most humiliating and agonising way convicts, rebels and anyone unfortunate enough to end up on the wrong side. In our daily life, where a tick is positive and a cross the opposite, it is easy to overlook the raw, redemptive power of The Cross.

How many crosses can you find in this photograph? You may need a microscope to pick them all out! One that is there but masked by the floral arrangement is a beautiful wooden cross which is set on the communion table. It was presented to Oban Presbyterian Church by Cyril Hicks, at the centennial celebration of the church in 2004.

The church is open every day. It is so encouraging to read the messages left in our Visitors' Book. Resident or visitor, please feel welcome to drop in, sit and rest, drink in the history and beauty of this building and go on your way refreshed.

**Introducing Rev. Major Barbara Sampson**

Barbara retired a year ago after just on 40 years as a Salvation Army officer. During those years she served with her husband Kingsley in corps (church) ministry, a short term of overseas missionary service in Zambia, and a long stint of service at the Salvation Army Training College in Upper Hutt. During her years at the College Barbara taught pastoral care to cadets (students), headed up a national prayer ministry and was regularly involved in leading contemplative retreats. For six years she wrote devotional material for *Words of Life*, published in London by Hodder and Stoughton with an international readership at that time of around 12,000 people.

Barbara is also a spiritual director, having completed her two-year training with Spiritual Growth Ministries in 1995. Since then she has offered spiritual direction to people from a variety of church backgrounds.

Barbara loves the contemplative way of life and has gathered resources over the years that she delights in passing on to others. These are the gifts and resources that she would like to be able to offer to whoever may be interested during her stay at Stewart Island from 10 - 20 April.

**AN OFFER OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** - During this time Barbara will be offering spiritual direction and resources for the contemplative way of life to anyone who may be interested, from any or no church background. Charge will be koha. Barbara is happy to work in group situations or with individuals.

For an appointment or for further information please contact Barbara anytime at 027 498 6763 or at the Presbyterian Manse from 10 April (2191339). Contact may also be made through Raylene Waddell (2191092) or Lindsay and Lorraine Squires (2191310).

# Jed's Electrical

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**Ph/fax 03 2191494 cell 027 4646147 jed.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz**  
**202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island**

**BOOK REVIEW** from Sue Ford: And More Summer Reading

**Paul Cleave's** thriller **"Five Minutes Alone"** takes place in Christchurch, and ponders the victim's (or the loved-one of a victim's) plea: 'When you get him, just give me 5 minutes alone with him!' Supposing a self-appointed vigilante with nothing to lose could give you the five minutes, would revenge be sweet? But it doesn't stop there as D.I. Theo Tate is drawn into the vigilante's plot to get even with the 'bad guys' and give victims their 'five minutes alone'. The writing is tight, suspenseful and the plot well-drawn. We know who is behind the mayhem, and why, but how will it end as innocents die because of the vigilante's exploits?

**Michael Brandman** wrote **"Fool Me Twice"** by arrangement with the estate of prolific crime writer, **Robert B. Parker**. And a good job he made of it too, with Jesse Stone faced with the attention-seeking teenager from the local wealthy family, the inept criminal activities within the local water company, and a film about to be shot using Police Chief Jesse's town, Paradise, as location. But it's not only the film about to be shot! Not riveting, not a thriller, but the crime-fiction version of 'a good read'. Another one where we knew 'who-dunnit' from the start, but no need for intrigue in this plot, just following the exploits of a quirky small-town policeman. Fun.

Nine out of ten for **Kenneth Cameron's "Winter at Death's Hotel"** featuring the heroine, Louisa, wife of Arthur Conan Doyle, a typical middle-class wife of Victorian England. But here she is, abandoned and (almost) alone in a New York hotel – and the Bowery Butcher is on the loose, making Jack the Ripper look inept! No happy endings here, but a riveting read.

No stars for **Robert Ludlum's "The Cry of the Halidon"**: take MI5, MI6, the mysterious Dunstone Ltd, the greedy Crafts (father & son), a drug ring headed by a French marquis, Jamaican fascists and communists both, and (amongst other 'stuff') a secret – the Halidon, known only by a dead anthropologist; stir with our hero Alex McAuliffe - a surveyor/double agent, and with our heroine Alison who is a member of his team (which team?). No-one is who he seems, bitter enemies join forces against a perceived common foe – which turns out not to be a foe at all... Then add more 'typos' than any publisher has a right to allow in a book, and you have the most convoluted and difficult Ludlum I've ever read! For committed Ludlum fans only, or tongue-in-cheek readers.

Spy story **"Mission to Paris"** by **Alan Furst** is something else again: Frederic Stahl is Austrian born, but a Hollywood star who has to make a movie in France –

late in 1938. Frederic discovers that the war is already underway in Europe, it's only a facade of peace with France seeming to be already in Nazi hands. I really enjoyed this atmospheric novel – a cliff-hanger to the last page.

And finally, **Iain Banks "Transition"** which makes the above Ludlum appear simplistic. Imagine our World is one of an infinite number of parallel, tangential and multi-dimensional worlds, the fates of which are overseen by The Concern. (You can't imagine that? What a surprise!) The Concern 'employs' people with special gifts – like the ability to 'transit' from one body to another. About half-way I began to enjoy this book as the weirdos with peculiar names and pseudonyms began to reveal themselves. It's the eternal fight, Good v. Evil – and that grey area where the ends may seem to justify the means. The story doesn't hang properly if you apply any degree of logic: it requires complete suspension of reason and complete free-rein of the imagination - and then it shines. Worth a read if you enjoy a foray into the weird now and again.

Back to Dana Stabenow for me now – Kate Shugak is straight-forward and uncomplicated by comparison with *all* the above! And that's saying something.

**Shark Filming Permit from DoC: SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**Injury to Great White Sharks associated with activities covered by the authority**

7. Any injury to Great White Sharks as a result of this Authority must be reported to the Grantor within one week of the injury occurring.

**Use of Attractants**

- 8. No protected species or part of a protected species, is to be used as berley or bait to attract sharks, without prior permission from the Grantor.
- 9. Mammalian based products must not be used as berley or bait, including human body parts, without prior permission from the Grantor.
- 10. Berley must be dispensed from the vessel using a ladle or pump, or from a robust container fixed to the inside of the vessel.
- 11. Sacks filled with berley or bait must not be hung from the side of the vessel, or from a float or any other device, to attract sharks
- 12. Berley must be minced finely enough to ensure it does not provide food for sharks attracted to the vessel.

- 13. Artificial lures or decoys must not be used to attract or film sharks.
- 14. The use of bait must only occur once the vessel is anchored.
- 15. The sharks must not be fed.
- 16. Only 1 throw bait to be used at a time.
- 17. Baits must not be left in the water unattended, or left hanging from the side of the vessel.
- 18. The use of bait should be minimised as much as possible.
- 19. Bait must not be pulled or allowed to drift into the cages.
- 20. Bait must not be recovered in a manner that is likely to cause a shark to collide with the cages.
- 21. Bait must not be hung inside or outside the cages, such that it would cause the sharks to potentially attack the cages in order to consume the bait
- 22. Anthropogenic sounds, chemical or electrical attractants must not be used to attract sharks.

**General**

- 23. Upon request, the Authority Holder must provide the Department with a copy of any data, photographs, or film footage obtained under this authority.
- 24. The Authority Holder must provide a summary report of the trip including the number of sharks seen, demographics where known, and results of their findings.

- 25. Divers must not attempt to touch the sharks at any time.
- 26. Divers must remain completely inside the cages at all times.

**Cage Design**

- 27. Cages must be designed and constructed without sharp edges or protruding parts.
- 28. Welding points must be made smooth.
- 29. Sharp corners or edges must be covered with protective strips or caps.

**When filming activities are undertaken inside the area designated for authorised white shark cage diving operations (see figure 1):**

- 30. Use of throw bait must be minimised. In the event that a white shark takes or consumes a throw bait, no further throw baits are to be used at all on that day.
  - 31. Bait must not be deployed from or attached to the cages.
- Cost Recovery**
- 32. An observer nominated by the Grantor will accompany the authority holder on board. The Grantor will recover costs for the observer's time.

**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
- Kerosene and Turps
- Coal and Kindling (New)
- Wood - can order in fadge lots
- Weedkiller and Garden Hose Fittings (New)
- Jumper Leads
- Funnels and plenty more!

**Hours**

- Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
- Sat 10am - 2pm
- Sun 11am - 1pm (until 1st May)

**Easter Hours**

Friday through Monday 10am - 2pm

*Don't forget to book the Rug Doctor, spaces are filling fast!*



# Easter Sunday Quiz

Stewart Island Community Centre  
April 5<sup>th</sup>

Doors open 6.30pm for 7.15pm start

BYO Drinks and nibbles  
(remember no alcohol sales on Easter Sunday!)

Surprise Prize!

Bring some cash – all proceeds to  
the Community Centre

[www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)



**STEWART ISLAND / RAKIURA VISITOR LEVY FUND**

Applications are invited for the Southland District Council Stewart Island / Rakiura Visitor Levy Fund.

The purpose of this fund is to provide grants for:

- i. Activities and facilities used by and/or for the benefit of, visitors to Stewart Island.
- ii. Activities and facilities that mitigate the adverse effects of visitors on the environment of Stewart Island.

Allocation decisions will be made by the Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Committee. The Committee will give priority to applications for activities or projects that demonstrate the widest public benefit.

Application forms and guidelines are available from the Southland District Council Stewart Island Office, 9 Ayr Street, Halfmoon Bay or [www.venturesouthland.co.nz/Funding](http://www.venturesouthland.co.nz/Funding) or by emailing [bronwyn@venturesouthland.co.nz](mailto:bronwyn@venturesouthland.co.nz)

If you have any enquiries please contact Bronwyn Affleck – phone 03 211 1426.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 31 MARCH 2015**



**Request for Tenders**

**New Zealand Fire Service – Seismic Upgrade & Refurbishment Oban Fire Station**

The New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) invites tenders for the above construction works.

Request For Information documents are available from the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) web-site at [www.gets.govt.nz](http://www.gets.govt.nz) Suppliers must be registered with GETS to access the RFT. Registration is free of charge by registering on line at [www.gets.govt.nz](http://www.gets.govt.nz)

**Closing date for tenders is 5pm, 27 March 2015.**

**The New Zealand Fire Service reserves the right to cancel or change this RFT at any time.**



# What's Up, DoC? *from Jen Ross*

## Information Amendment: New Multi-Use Tracks: Fern Gully, Ryan's Creek & Kaipipi Bay

Please find corrections to last month's article listed below in red.

All of the multi-use tracks begin at the Fern Gully Road End.

Track	Dogs on Leads	Mountain Biking
Fern Gully Track	YES	NO
Kaipipi Bay (3.5km section of Rakiura Track)	YES (to Kaipipi Bay <b>only</b> )	YES (to Kaipipi Bay <b>only</b> )
Ryan's Creek Track	YES (to picnic site <b>only</b> )	YES (to picnic site <b>only</b> )

### Southern New Zealand Dotterel Management Program

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has been running a Southern New Zealand Dotterel management program on Stewart Island / Rakiura since the mid 1990s. This has included a monitoring component, colour banding individual birds to increase the ability to monitor individual adult and offspring survival. The Southern New Zealand Dotterel is critically endangered with a current population of approximately 260 birds, having dropped dangerously low to 60 birds in the 1990s. Historically, a large percentage of the dotterel population has been banded and DOC has implemented cat control initiative in known breeding areas over a 20 year period.



**Dotterel eggs in a nest at Table Hill**  
Photo Credit: Klaartje Van Schie



**Southern New Zealand Dotterel at Mason Bay**  
Photo Credit: Jake Osborne

This time of the year marks the end of breeding season and the dotterels are flocking between Mason Bay and Freshwater, at Port Pegasus and at Awarua (on the mainland). The breeding season is between October and February and breeding sites on Rakiura include Table Hill, Rakeahua and Rocky Mountain. These sites are monitored fortnightly during this time by our field staff. This season of dotterel monitoring saw 10 nests, 26 eggs, 9 confirmed chicks and 5 dotterels banded with another banding trip planned in the near future.



### DOC Staff Highlight: Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Kate Richardson

Kate Richardson started with DOC late last year as Senior Ranger Biodiversity for Stewart Island/Rakiura as a permanent staff member. Previous to this Kate worked in the Waikato as a Natural Heritage Manager for the Maungatautari project where she managed a range of species conservation projects as well as pest detection systems. She has also worked for DOC in Pureora and Auckland in a range of species-related roles including bird, bat and frog work. Kate originally completed a Bachelor of Science in biology at the University of Waikato before moving to Massey University where she completed an MSc in ecology and is currently working towards a PhD in Conservation Biology. Both Kate's MSc and PhD topics have focused around mainland translocations of hihi/stitchbird (a rare North Island forest bird) with a focus on post-release dispersal patterns and improving translocation success.

Kate's role on Stewart Island involves overseeing all biodiversity projects on the island, and specifically managing the dotterel programme, possum control and biosecurity on Ulva Island. She is enjoying getting out and about on the island as much as possible and making the most of all it has to offer!

### Long Term Volunteer Programme Sponsored by E Hayes and Sons, Invercargill

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Stewart Island / Rakiura Long Term Volunteer Programme runs from November to April and is divided into two three month terms. E Hayes and Sons in Invercargill sponsor the accommodation costs during the six month period and thanks to this two-year partnership the programme has capacity to host three DOC volunteers and one SIR-CET volunteer per term.

DOC Rakiura would like to extend a huge thank you to E Hayes and Sons, Invercargill for their support and sponsorship of the DOC Long Term Volunteer Programme



The volunteer programme integrates work in biodiversity, recreation / historic assets and the community. The volunteers undergo a thorough induction and are tasked with activities that give them a wide range of rich, often new experiences - from dune restoration to pest eradication, track trimming to hut maintenance. In exchange for the work volunteers do alongside DOC employees, they gain practical skills, knowledge and confidence. They get to explore remote locations that many people don't get to see and when in the field, food is also supplied!

This year our long term DOC volunteers were Alyesha Candy and Emma Feenstra for the first term and Kirsty Elliott for the second. Emma did such an amazing job as a volunteer she was offered and accepted a two month paid contract for March and April 2015, while Alyesha has returned to complete her studies at Massey University.



**Emma Feenstra on Table Hill during her time as a Long Term Volunteer**  
Photo Credit: Klaartje Van Schie



**Current Long Term Volunteer Kirsty Elliott "rowing" to shore with Biodiversity Ranger Cherie Hemsley's help** Photo Credit: Unknown

joint campaign between DOC and Air New Zealand and the winning group will receive an amazing prize package including a chartered flight for up to 40 people, courtesy of Air New Zealand, and an ultimate Great Walks experience, tailored by DOC to the age and capabilities of the winning group. To enter the competition, groups need to walk at least half the distance of their chosen Great Walk track and seek out other conservation information to present back to DOC and Air New Zealand.

Five students from Halfmoon Bay School have entered the competition and will be walking the Rakiura Track from the 13-15 March in order to complete the number of kilometres required to enter the competi-

**Halfmoon Bay School Students Participating in the DOC Virtual Great Walker Competition**

The Virtual Great Walker is a national conservation competition designed to inspire primary school aged children across New Zealand to get out and walk while learning about the natural environment in their own backyards. It is a



**Long Term Volunteer Alyesha Candy with an elephant seal at Doughboy Bay** Photo Credit: Andrew Leask

tion. The students will research to find more information about their chosen Great Walk track and conservation in their local community to make a presentation to DOC and Air New Zealand about what they have learnt.

A follow up article will be written next month to report on how the walk went and include some photos of the sure to be unforgettable experience.



**DOC goes DISNEY to say goodbye to Jo.**  
Back Row: Megan Bogisch, Jennifer Ross, Dan Lee, Olivia Brandt, Jo McClelland, Jake Osborne & Cherie Hemsley  
Front Row: Gary Cocker, Joz Shepard, Klaartje Van Schie & Anthony Hobern

# FIFTY SHADES OF PURPLE

*by Nicolette Thompson*

The Purplettes spud dig was held on Valentine's Day this year. We started at Leask Bay where we were greeted by a large purple sign reading "Be alert! Potentially Prize-winning Purplette Potato Patch!!" Much to our disgust this turned out to be quite prophetic! We had a lovely sunny day to travel around our various gardens and stopped in at the hotel for a yummy lunch complete with purple table decorations and a potato centre piece! A few of us had dud maori potatoes this year but were saved by our second spuds doing well. There was a bit of contention surrounding these as they were meant to be Purple Passion but some were very dark purple and some were quite red looking. We think our supplier may have had some issues! The other one to have issues was our judge who incorrectly added the results and we had to re-present the silver hip flask to our eventual winner and new president, Karen Bowman (poser purplette)! Congratulations on your huge haul of potatoes this year Karen and special mention must go to Stacey who managed to win the new big purple wooden spoon even though she had a marked improvement on last year! Thank you to Mona who was our super driver and big thanks to Dids who let us borrow the black jelly bean to cruise around in.



## SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

I watched *Sunday* with my boys, and was horrified with how much sugar the average person consumes daily (correct me if I got it wrong ) 35 tsps a day! 50 kilos a year!! That's some crazy shizzle. I have quite a few recipes that use natural sweeteners like agave nectar (syrup) or liquid stevia. Coconut sugar is a better choice from regular white sugar also, with a lovely toffee colour and smell it has a low GI which is great news for diabetics, and helps curve the sugar high then low you get from regular sugar. I personally use coconut sugar for most of my baking -- it's awesome, and it's 1 for 1 replacement. I love agave also using it in bliss balls, raw chocolate and of course this recipe. Agave is low GI and sweeter than normal sugar so you use less, 25% less. It's 75% fructose and if unfiltered contains more minerals. You can change the flavour of this recipe to chocolate using raw cacao powder (not to be mistaken for cocoa powder, which has sugar added). Cacao is the bean used to make chocolate, but most people have never tried the true cacao bean or powder. Raw cacao is full of anti oxidants, magnesium, potassium, calcium, iron and phosphorus. It's a very rich bitter-sweet flavour so it's best to add a little to start with to get the flavour you're after.

### RAW LIME TART (makes 2 single serve tarts)

1/2 cup macadamia nuts (not toasted )  
 1 ripe avocado  
 1 Tbsp agave nectar  
 2 Tbsp milk  
 1 Tbsp almond butter (optional)  
 Handful of greens (I use baby spinach)  
 2 limes (wash skin first) zest of both limes  
 Juice of both limes.  
 (I added 1 Tbsp of lime juice as my limes lacked juice!)



### Method:

First blend your macadamia nuts in your processor, till it forms a fine crumb, not too much or you will end up with a paste. Press into a single serve spring form tin, lined with baking paper. Put in freezer. Add all the other ingredients to processor and blend till smooth. Taste to check if lime flavour is to your liking and sweetness. Adjust to your liking.

I chilled my filling in fridge for 5 minutes, then spoon into tin and smooth out, return to freezer for a few minutes. Use a spatula to loosen filling from sides, remove side, use spatula to slide base off baking paper and serve straight away. Garnish with fruit of your choice, I used raspberries.

If making chocolate raw tart, replace the lime zest and juice with raw cacao powder, I'd use 1 level Tbsp and blend. Taste and add more cacao or a little more agave syrup if you really need it.

Raw desserts aren't for everyone, it's usually the texture that people find different not the taste, avocado makes a silky smooth mousse filling you can change up the flavour with other fruits like adding banana for banana choc flavour, it's up to you. Give this a go you may just love it! Make the choc mousse so your kids don't see and let them decide what they think, layer with fresh berries or frozen, like blueberries or strawberries. YUM!

You can buy coconut sugar, raw agave nectar and raw cacao powder from healthpost online, [www.healthpost.co.nz](http://www.healthpost.co.nz) postage is cheap, and delivered in 2 days! I recommend Loving Earth as it's organic and raw. So packed full of goodies and no chemicals. Check out the Loving Earth raw chocolate bars for those refined sugar free people, they are awesome! You can also get most of these natural sweeteners from health shops, Bin Inn and Trademe.

*Healthy eating everyone!*

### Quality Handyman Services Guaranteed

Experienced, reliable handyman (ex Green Acres contractor) available for work on the island

#### Handyman Services

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance        | General fencing                       |
| Lawn mowing                          | Building dog kennels, chook runs etc. |
| Line trimming                        | Building/assembling garden sheds etc  |
| Section maintenance                  | General carpentry                     |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Gutter cleaning                       |
| Tree pruning                         | Moss and mould treatment              |
| Tree removal                         | Water blasting                        |
| Chainsaw work                        | Spider proofing                       |
| Hedge trimming                       | Rose pruning                          |
| Wooden fence and deck construction   |                                       |
| Wooden fence and deck repair         | And more - just ask                   |

#### Office Services

can also be provided

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bookkeeping           | Brochure, flyer & business card |
| Office administration | design & printing               |

If you want something done, and don't see it in the lists above, just give me ring. You may be surprised just what I can do.



Contact  
Geoff

### Stewart Island Handyman Services



Phone 973 0959 (Local Number)      Mobile 027 253 3106  
Email handyman@acadia.co.nz

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houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

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or contact our local representative

Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589

for current listings.

Goodbye to Princess Jo (McClelland of DoC) and best of luck in your future endeavours! (Can you guess what that gown is made of?)



**Mooring Wanted** Approx 2 months April/May  
25 foot yacht, weighs less than 2 tons.  
Contact Roger 0276671542



Cycle Race 11:30am on 10th April see page 4

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