

RAKIURA RAMBLES

A STEWART ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

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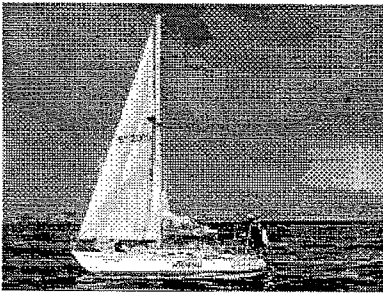
March 1999

Lone Yachtsman

by Margaret Hopkins

The fine weather this summer has seen another influx of visiting yachts, with a noticeable increase over these past few weeks.

One yacht that sailed on by, unseen by the community, was the 32ft *Lionheart* skippered by lone yachtsman, 17 year old Jesse Martin.



Jesse aboard his yacht *Lionheart*

Jesse is attempting to break the current record for the 50,000 km around the world voyage, solo and unassisted.

A request from Jesse's mother Louise Martin of Sassafras, Victoria, to the Riverton coastguard saw Jesse rendezvous with the *Aurora* 7 miles off South West Cape late in December to throw over a parcel of film to send home.

Jesse began planning his trip when he was 13 and hopes to publicise the need for the world to drastically reduce the burning of fossil fuels and so reduce the effects of global warming.

Jesse is working closely with the Australian Conservation Foundation and his trip is being followed by thousands of people and schools throughout Australia. For information on his adventure check out the Internet site at:

RAKIURA HERITAGE TRUST

A meeting was held on January 14th to finalise Deeds for the Rakiura Heritage Trust which is now the legal entity governing the Rakiura Museum.

Since its inception in 1959, the Rakiura Museum was administered by a committee formed following the Centennial celebrations which saw the publishing of Basil Howard's book, *Rakiura* and the building of the museum.

The new charitable trust status for the museum ensures a more formal governance and will enable the museum to apply for funding without relying on the Southland District Council as an umbrella organisation. Ron Tindall was elected as Chairman of the Trust with Margaret Hopkins secretary/treasurer, and Elaine Hamilton the new curator for the museum. Ron Tindall expressed appreciation to Nancy

Schofield for her duties as curator since Mrs Willa's departure in 1986. Nancy will continue on the museum roster and assist with research.

Myra Leask recently retired from the museum roster - after more than 20 years as a volunteer! Her contribution, along with many other volunteers, ensures that the museum continues to provide a focus for local history where photos and artifacts can be stored for the benefit of the whole community.

We currently have 8 people on our roster who help man the museum for 2 hour periods when the Council office isn't open.

Volunteers are needed. With desk manning hours; historic research; conservation of exhibits and public education, there are in excess of 470 hours per year provided by volunteers.

Are you able to help?

SADDLEBACKS ON ULVA

DoC has recently reached agreement with the muttonbirders on Big Island to transfer up to 30 South Island saddleback to Ulva Island. This transfer will mark the culmination of the years of effort to rid Ulva of rats, and signal beginnings of the proposed "Open Sanctuary" for the island. The absence of rats creates ideal habitat for this rare bird now confined to offshore islands. To celebrate the release of the saddlebacks, set down for March 14, DoC is planning a special day for the island and will be inviting the HMBcommunity to come along.

DoC is releasing the Ulva Island Open Sanctuary proposal on the day. The proposal is explained in a brochure which will be available to islanders to explain the open sanctuary concept and plans for the future. It is hoped those interested will provide feedback to the department so the islands future includes the community's needs. Lookout for a flyer in your mailbox.

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Beginning of the end

Far from the notice of most Stewart Islanders and on isolated beaches such as Smoky, East and West Ruggedy and Hellfire, the introduced marram grass has just about been eradicated.

Dedicated efforts begun by Terry Morecraft back in 1993 are beginning to pay off. Most observers scoffed at the impossibility of removing this plant but these beaches are now almost free allowing the native sand coloniser, pingao, to re-establish.

The next steps are Murray and Doughboy. Earlier this month spraying operations at Doughboy using a R22 Robinson Helicopter were undertaken.

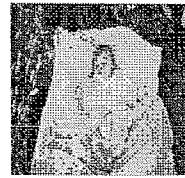
The entire beach dune area was covered in less than three hours and this will be re-

peated next year. Rare plants found in the Doughboy dunes, including Gunnera Hamiltoni (found only in five places mainly on Stewart Island) were surveyed earlier to ensure the spray operation would not endanger them. A recent survey of Mason Bay by Mike Hilton of Otago University has provided the basis for us to consider the eradication of marram at the site. Although Mason Bay appears to be infested with marram, in fact only 75ha of bay is dominated by the plant. Mike does indicate in his report that unless action is undertaken soon marram will dominate Mason Bay within the next twenty to forty years. A challenging task!

Birth

Heartiest congratulations to Dil and Cathy Belworthy on the birth of their daughter Michaela. Cathy had gone up to be with her in-laws in Timara for the birth. Michaela was born on Tuesday 26 January at 8.20 a.m. in

Our New Island Baby



Timaru Hospital. She was 53cm long and weighed 3.68kg (8lb2oz). Cathy's Mum and Nan came out from Britain to share in the excitement and welcome the new addition to the family.

Wandering Dogs - a perennial problem

DoC has received a number of letters and verbal complaints about wandering dogs around Halfmoon Bay, all pointing to the concern that they may be attacking wildlife. Many speak of the loss of their neighbourhood kiwi or weka. Some locals have indicated the downturn in wildlife around the Bay has got to the point of non-existence. A local dog has previously even been seen killing a little blue penguin - in front of a visiting family. Seen a weka around the bay recently? They once were common. Little blue penguins (Ackers Point, Waterfront, Lee Bay, Golden Bay, etc., etc) are particularly vulnerable. DoC has intercepted several visitors with dogs intent on taking them into the back country. The law allows DoC to destroy dogs caught threatening protected wildlife and the entrance signs on local tracks have a clear "No Dogs" message. If you care about the wildlife on the island AND your dog please, PLEASE keep dogs under control.

A letter from Annabel Frew

Dear All

Here it is, the article you've all been waiting for... the adventures of *American Fly* (Kirsten composed a song, to the tune of American Pie, for me before I left.) I need a New Zealand flag, full sized, proper up the mast type thing. It annoys me that Mr Billow has an assortment of flags hanging up in the choir room but the closest he gets to us is the Australian flag, not that that's close or any-

thing... but I feel I need to present him with one. No rush though, still got 10 months! Anyway, task in hand... some answers to *most asked questions* must be: No, we don't have kangaroos. Well, a kiwi is a fruit but it was a bird first. *My most amazed response* - What do you mean do I speak British as well as English?!?

Well, here I am in the United States of America, munching bagels and sipping soda, mar-

velling at this great nation as I channel surf between "The Jerry Springer Show" and CNN coverage of the President's Impeachment trial! Morality aside, Life as an American teen has thus far been "interesting" (remembering, youth ambassadors, that difference is neither right nor wrong, but interesting!).

It seems that wherever I go I cannot escape the inevitable

(Continued on page 3)

Annabel's letter

(Continued from page 2)

question "Do you have MTV in New Zealand?". My response: "We did, but nobody watched it, so it was taken off air!" is met with mixed reactions. The adults chuckle at the wisdom of the Kiwi youth and the kids cannot comprehend life without the guy who looks as though he has come out on the wrong side of a fight with a weedcater.

This weekend I am to engage in what I am told is the ultimate in teen pastimes - hanging out at the mall. Gather a group of friends, catch a movie, grab a bite to eat: pretty fly really!

My lingo may be becoming Americanized, but the accent is intact - for those of you who threatened to drown me if I came back sounding like a Yank!

Then, of course, there is my

main reason for being here - Southside High School. What can I say other than "very interesting"! I have come here from a small single-sex boarding school of 400 girls, where chapel is held twice a week and wearing jewellery results in detention.

It's no surprise, really, that I am a little culture-shocked to be in a co-ed school of 1200 students where religious instruction is against state law and a policeman roams the hallways, keeping check against any illegal happenings. The other day we had a debate in my English class about whether Southside should provide on-site day care for student's children! Welcome to the real world, as they say.

I couldn't write about my introduction to the USA and not mention the cheerleaders.

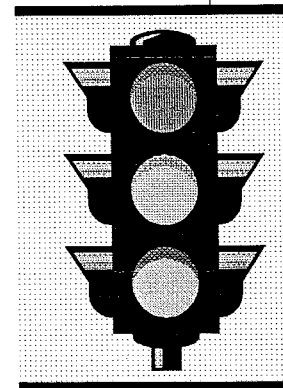
The universal concept of American high school cheerleaders being the pretty, yet clueless girls of the school, the ditzzy ones who toss their hair and giggle a lot is true! Completely true.

I can only wonder if they are selected on the basis of their intellectual deficiencies or if they feel as though they have a preconceived image to live up to? Hmm...

Well, for now I must conclude my tales of adventure and wonder in the land of the free. Stayed tuned.

Annabel :)

And yes, people did ask me those questions in the beginning!!



Rumour has it that Bernie's new year resolution was to be a changed man - on my first official duty of welcoming in the ferry, I think some of you were worried he had gone just a bit too far!

Relax, the transformation is a short term one while Bernie gets the chance to take a break from the stressful Police duties that occur on this island paradise.

A big thank you to those who have made me feel welcome on the island and helped me out with their local knowledge a definite plus when following up any enquiries.

It's great to see the good

Penny's Thoughts

(while Bernie was away on leave!)

social spirit that's on the island, with all the different activities that are organised to keep the spirit alive; it's surely something those across the water could learn from. But for those of you who like that feeling of rolling out of places after a few liquid refreshments, just ensure you get a good pace on in order to roll all the way home, or alternately get someone to pick you up. The combination of alcohol and driving has the same results on Stewart Island as it does throughout the rest of New Zealand. I've just got to meet most of you; I don't want to spend time having to clean you or your mates up off of the road.

It's really pleasing to find so many people quick to hand in property that they have found around the place, unfortunately there are still a handful of other items that have strangely developed legs and walked from where they were left.

If you do come across something, but don't have the chance to drop it off at the station, just call and it will be picked up.

On that note, I'll get out of this office and do my regular 3H.

Take care and have a good one.

Relieving Constable Penny (the flat foot in high heels)

Stewart Island Community Board news

REFUSE SITE

The Southland District Council was recently granted a resource consent for a 5 year period to operate the current refuse site at Braggs Bay. Conditions of the consent placed a restriction on the dumping of green waste and a requirement that the refuse site be controlled.

Urban Engineer Trevor Grey told the community Board that this would require restricted hours with an attendant to be employed. Many Board members questioned the practicality of this and the likelihood of public support but were told that the refuse site would more than likely be closed down if the consent requirements were not met. Another area of concern to Board members is the 'one way' access road to the site which could pose problems if residents are restricted to a certain time. Mr Grey has suggested that the community be canvassed with regard to the most suitable times for operation. He suggested 2 hours a day, 5 days a week, excluding Tuesday which is rubbish collection day. The Community Board would welcome submissions on possible hours of operation.

BLACK HOUSE

Board members were given notice that the 'Black House' on Elgin Terrace is to be removed by the owner by 5 March 1999.

In the event that the owner does not comply with the notice Council may apply to the District Court at Invercargill for an order authorising it to carry out the work at the owner's expense.

COMPLAINT REGARDING BACKPACKERS ACCOMMODATION

In response to a letter to the previous Community Board meeting from a group of dissatisfied clients, health inspector Ivan Nicholson has carried out an inspection of Innes Backpackers. Specific issues involved provision of adequate toilets and showers for the number of people being accommodated and standard of kitchen and laundry facilities.

Mr Dunstan has written to the Community Board since the inspection outlining his intentions to rectify any problems and bring the building up to legal requirements. Community Board members agreed that anyone providing backpacker accommodation on Stewart Island should be doing so to the standards required as it reflects badly on the community when tourists encounter substandard facilities.

DRIVER LICENSING

Driver's licence testing has been contracted out and will no longer be a police function. Our local police officer will not be able to carry out driver licensing on the Island. Arrangements have been made for him to continue with senior citizen licence renewal, but anyone else requiring a new licence will have to travel to Invercargill to sit their driver's test unless they are in position to pay full costs for bringing a licence tester to the Island.



LONNEKERS BAY RINGARINGA WALKING TRACK

A Community Task Force group has been on the Island upgrading the walking track from Lonnekens to Ringaringa. The track, used by many visitors for access to the golf course, is being upgraded with funds granted from the Community Amenities fund. Board members have also discussed access steps onto Lonnekens Beach and Ringaringa Beach from the roads which are in need of repair. Trevor Grey is to look into this and may be able to get the Task Force team to assist.

WOHLERS ROAD BUILT UNDER BUDGET

A combination of lower costs, a \$20,000 contribution from Department of Conservation and lower interest rates has meant that the loan for the construction of Wohlers Road will only need to be \$17,376 payable over 2 years instead of the planned \$61,300. Good news indeed!

RATES

The Stewart Island Community Board, after considering estimates for the 1999/2000 year, recommended that the Southland District Council levy the following rates and charges: Community General Rate to

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DID YOU KNOW?

In Maori legend Maui, having fought with the Sun, asked the saddleback to bring him fresh water, but the bird refused. The angry demigod seized the saddleback with his still fiery hand and flung it away, leaving scorch marks across its back which became the chestnut 'saddle' that clearly distinguishes the bird.

Stewart Island Community Board news

(Continued from page 4)

collect \$60,157 (plus GST) which is .007252 cents in the dollar (last year was \$63,269)

Sewerage Rates:

177 full charges @ \$225.44 (\$253.62 inc. GST) \$39,903
95 half charges @ \$112.72 (\$126.81 inc. GST) \$10,709

The rates for 1998/99 were:

157 full charges @ \$212.00 (\$238.50 inc. GST)

132 half charges @ \$106.00 (\$119.25 inc. GST)

Sewerage Loan Rates:

130 charges @ \$441.51 (\$496.70 inc. GST)

The 1998/99 rates were:

128 charges @ \$540.28 (\$607.82 inc. GST)

A Cynic's View

Marriage is a bribe to make a house-keeper think she's a householder

Thornton Wilder

COMMUNITY CENTRE LEVY

The Community Board recommended to the SDC that a Stewart Island Community Centre levy of \$20 (plus GST) per residence be established. In

support of this recommendation, Margaret Hopkins provided a breakdown of the estimated running costs for the first year of operation for the Community Centre. She explained the difficulty in trying to estimate what the actual running costs and recoveries will be for the first year. In the long term it is envisaged that the Community Centre will run at no cost to the ratepayers with income expected off the community mussel lines which are to be set up and the active marketing of the facility will also ensure a high usage rate providing income from hire charges.

The first two years will require support from ratepayers in line with past charges from

rates for the old community hall. An additional cost that would have been incurred even for the old hall is the annual sewerage charge of \$1192.50.

A comparison of costs for previous years for the old hall which had virtually no maintenance carried out are:

1995-96 \$4030.00

1996-97 \$2634.68

1997-98 \$2257.87

1999-2000 \$6179.50

Insurance on the new Community Centre will be approximately \$1900 on a \$1.5m valuation, which along with the sewerage charge forms a considerable part of the running costs.

Ultimately, a manager will be employed for the Community Centre who will take bookings; promote the venue for conferences and sports events; co-ordinate sports training sessions and ensure maintenance and running of the complex is to a high standard. This is to be funded from the mussel project, venue hire and fund raising.

Margaret Hopkins said members of the Community Centre Trust are determined to see this major project completed and equally determined it will be an asset to the community rather than a cost to ratepayers. "We hope to link in with Tourism Southland in promoting the Community Centre as a conference venue, but the first year will be one of establishing and testing the facilities to iron out any teething troubles before it can be marketed properly."



STEWART ISLAND VIN CENTRE

In recognition of the valuable service the VIN Office plays in promoting and providing information about Stewart Island, the Stewart Island Community Board agreed to fund \$4000 per year for the next 3 years towards the costs and operations of the VIN office.

A breakdown of the VIN Centre activities showed that staff sent out 754 letters in response to enquiries over the past 12 month financial period. The office was visited by 52,265 people from July 1997 until June 1998. The exceptionally good weather this summer may account for the increase in visitors to the Island.

VIN office visitors in December were 6584

December 1997	6415
January 1999	10 402
January 1998	9953

S.I. ELECTRICAL SUPPLY AUTHORITY ESTIMATES

The Stewart Island Community Board recommended the following General tariff for

the 1999-2000 year.
0 - 1250 units 40c + GST
1250 - 6000 units 38c + GST
6000 - 8000 units 37c + GST
8001 - 12 000 units 36c + GST
12 001 - 35 000 units 35c + GST

The only change from the previous year's tariff is that the lowest consumer bracket has been altered from 0-1000 units to 0-1250 units and price for the 1251-6000 unit usage drops from 39c to 38c (plus GST).

The Whisperer

* **Lost and Found:** It seems that not a few people are losing their head over the latest fashion. First a handy Aussie and his loud, well-educated bar mate, followed closely by all those salvaging their vanity while on shore. Next a visiting Scary Spice (encouraged by her local friend Spicier) lost all her hair, but was completely outclassed by the Room 3 Kid with slightly more "chutzpah" than his mother.

* **Night out:** So nice to see folk dressing up for a civilised night out at the hotel these days. Especially that gorgeous blokkette in the sequins just before Xmas. Could it be that salvage work plays havoc with the senses or just that local fishermen find sequins easier to lift and dance with than a diving suit?

* **Footy season:** What a way to herald in the footy season - a great Waitangi game of rugby. Sadly the Maoris played so poorly - drawing blood from only one pakeha. And the fashions on the sideline were more fun than the Melbourne Cup. Unfortunately the fisherman shafted into wearing shorts ended up looking like a cooked version of his catch!

* **Kareoke boating:** Nothing like a large boat complete with kareoke mike to bring out the best in our local girls. Even without crocodiles in the water, Sarah & her twin managed to get on and off the boat frequently. However, closet rockstars should keep their volume knob below the orange point!

* **Question:** How many Stewart Island men does it take to put on a roof? Answer - just about everyone! Luckily for those on the roof the ruggedly handsome "born to supervise" painter lay on the ground, plans in hand, minding the children!

* **Stallion trouble:** Quite a few blokes are having trouble with their metal stallions lately. The short-sighted one came across a corner that 'definitely wasn't there yesterday' and broke his cooking tool. Another one came a bit of a cropper but slowed his slide by hooking himself to something solid. Luckily the "Generator Man" didn't get a chance to fall off his, in the holidays, the friendly local Govt Dept. kept it safe for him. Ask for visitation rights, mate!

* **Another question:** How do you get a date on S.I.? Answer: commit a crime! Just don't get into the habit when the thick blue line returns!

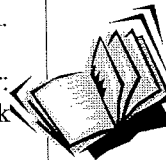
Library News

by Pat King

Greetings to you all. The past few months have been busy ones for the library. We have issued a large number of books - and the library was particularly well used by visiting holidaymakers. Some points to remember. Our library membership is free to all residents and ratepayers. Books are issued for a three week period and can be renewed once by contacting the library and getting the book restamped. There is a charge for overdue books of \$1 per week per book for adults and 50c per week per book for children. There is a slot in the door for returns out of library hours.

It is possible to request titles from the Winton Base Library at a cost of \$1 per book. Should they not hold the book, it can be loaned through the N.Z. inter-library loan system at \$3 per book.

We regularly receive a selection of books from the Base Library and purchase new books through the SDC Library Grant and a yearly donation from S.I. Lions. We recommend our new acquisition, *The Simple Truth* for all David Baldacci fans.



LIBRARY HOURS
Wed 2 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.
Fri 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.
Sat 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Health News

District nurse Marty Pepers advises that warm weather has seen an increase in skin infections and infected wounds. He asks that people pay particular attention to keeping open cuts and wounds sterile as bugs multiply rapidly in the heat.

Watch the notice board for information about when the next Doctor's Day is going to be and so support the efforts of your Clinic Staff.

HMBS 125th Jubilee

A reminder to all the ex-pupils that 1999 is the 125th Jubilee for the Halfmoon Bay School. Is someone going to organise something or is it going to go uncelebrated? There have been several enquiries from older people now living off the Island as to whether there has been anything organised.

Visiting singer

Singer/songwriter/guitarist Christina Olsen recently visited the Island and gave a concert at the Gumboot Theatre. This marvellous occasion of entertainment by a talented lady was shared by a disappointingly small audience. Hopefully future concerts will be better supported to encourage not only the performers, but also those who arrange the performances!

Introducing Jessyca Bernard

Jessyca Bernard (34) was recently appointed to the position of DoC Field Centre Supervisor, Stewart Island. Her career with DoC started on the West Coast in Franz Josef as a receptionist. She did this over the summers while studying for a degree in Parks Recreation and Tourism Management at Lincoln University. She then worked for DoC at Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu where she was the Tongariro National Park Interpreter, and, most recently, in Opotiki as a general Conservation Officer/Ranger. She has also had experience in a wide variety of other jobs - from builder's labourer and farm hand to travel consultant and holiday

programme co-ordinator. Her interests include the environment and conservation; competitive sport; wood crafts; and outdoor recreation. She has also represented Canterbury and NZ universities at soccer in relatively recent years and during what she terms her 'early years', has had other regional representation in hockey, touch rugby and swimming.

She and Joseph O'Connor, her partner, have a two year old daughter, Jordan. Joseph is a certified diesel mechanic who currently looks after Jordan 'full time'. He has previously worked as a possum trapper for DoC, and has also worked as a mechanic and as an aluminium joiner. His in-

terests are hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation generally, as well as home renovation and social basketball. They are looking forward to living on Stewart Island as we both have lived in remote locations before and enjoyed it. The combination of sea and bush is a real drawcard, and they are looking forward to taking an active part in community activities.

Quote

Common sense is the best-distributed commodity in the world, for every man is convinced that he is well supplied with it.

René Descartes

FROM: Belinda Sawyers

Date: 16/02/99

A POSTCARD FROM CYPRUS



The man that said the more places you visit the more you appreciate home was one very wise man... Cyprus is probably a very nice place but I have struck a couple of things that make Stewart Island one of Jim Hickeys 'places to be'.

If you think the odd Stewart Island driver got their driver's licence free with a 5 kg box of blue cod from the Co-op, then these drivers were given them on the street corner. We did begin as very courteous drivers but after at least an hour on the road we too are running red lights with the best of them, parking on obscure angles in obscure places and just pulling out with the warning of several short blasts on the horn. When it comes to filling up on petrol, you know Jack charges what's on the petrol pump display. The first trip to the pump caught me a little unawares... When you say 'fill it up' you wouldn't think it would sound anything like 'round it up' would you? But they surely do... to the nearest £10.00. And who wants to argue with someone that has 'the Brothers' out the back and more grease in his hair than the entire lube workshop next door!

We learnt rather quickly that the only visible difference between a yellow Cyprus Post box and a yellow Cyprus Rubbish bin is that one has more stray cats hanging around it. Maybe you are thinking that if you post it in the post box as opposed to the rubbish bin and need to retrieve it you won't be able to - not so... it's easy: you just open the front door they conveniently leave unlocked and pronto... rummage around and take all the letters you need!

Despite their quirky little ways, it is an interesting island. The Northern half is inaccessible due to Turkish occupation. This has created a hatred towards the Turks by the Cypriot people. However many goods are still imported from Turkey, including water.

Our local agent has just pioneered using large bladders for importing water from mainland Turkey. They are similar in shape to a salmon farm cage with a large 'padding pool' bladder inside. Every 24 hrs another 180 tonnes of water arrives on the Cyprus coast to relieve the water crisis.

So six weeks working with Ukrainians on an arrested ship in Cyprus hasn't been all bad. It is winter so things are a little slow... but there's one thing we could do with on Stewart Island that they have got here - that's the mild winter climate. Until next time, Belinda.

OBITUARY: Eileen Willa

M. Howell

Eileen Alice Willa

(nee Harrison) died 31st January 1999, aged 93.

Stewart Island has lost another important link with the past with the death of Eileen Willa at Vickery Court, Invercargill. Born Eileen Alice Harrison, Mrs Willa spent her childhood and married life on

Stewart Island only shifting to Invercargill after the death of her husband Percy (Buddie). Eileen grew up with a deep interest

in and love of nature, encouraged by her mother Rosa (nee Leask), an avid shell collector, and her aunty Mary whose interests were botani-

cal. Eileen began helping at the Rakiura Museum at the time of its establishment, recording collections of native flora. In 1963 she became Curator of the Museum, a position she continued voluntarily until 1985.

It was in 1943 that Eileen began collecting seaweeds seriously after a request from Vic Lindauer, a teacher and botanist. Her collection of more than 250 beautifully mounted specimens is held in the National Museum.

Three seaweeds have been named for Mrs Willa: *Ptilonia willana*, which she found at Port Pegasus in 1945; the large brown kelp *Durvillea willana* and *Crouania willan*, found at Ringaringa in 1960.

A booklet produced by the Dominion Museum in 1974 titled "The Marine Algae of Stewart Island" which was

co-authored by Eileen Willa, Dr Norris, Dr Elsie Conway and Nancy Adams, was a tribute to Mrs Willa's vast knowledge.

"The World Who's Who of Women" published in 1981 includes Mrs Willa's name and she was presented with a plaque to recognise her scientific achievements.

Eileen Willa's knowledge of Stewart Island history was vast and her work and research has left a great legacy at Rakiura Museum where volunteers today are able to use the scrapbooks, albums and notes she left, helping researchers piece together their family history.

In recent years even though she has resided in Invercargill, Mrs Willa was just a phone call away for providing historic information.

She will be missed by many.

RAKIURA RAMBLES

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OF THE

STEWART ISLAND TOURISM STRATEGY GROUP

COMPILED AND EDITED BY
M. HOWELL

P.O. BOX 86, STEWART ISLAND

Farewell to the Howell family

M. Howell

It was with regret that the Stewart Island community said goodbye to the Howell family after 12 months on the Island. Dave Howell, his wife Meryl and sons Jeff and Nicholas came to Stewart Island in November 1997 when Dave was appointed as Field Centre Manager for the Department of Conservation. The family had recently immigrated to New Zealand from South Africa and quickly fitted into Island life. The outdoor life and community spirit appealed to the Howells and they made many friends in the short space of time.

Meryl's involvement with *Rakiura Rambles* will continue despite the family's

move to Invercargill where Dave is undertaking a career change through a journalism course at Southland Polytech. With the use of email and faxes Meryl hopes to put the newspaper together on the 'other side' and maybe Dave can practise his journalist skills by contributing.

We wish Jeff and Nicholas well at their new schools and hope that the Howell family will be happy in Invercargill and that they will hopefully be returning to the Island for holidays amongst their friends.

To Meryl we extend the community's sympathy at the sad death of her brother, Tony, in a plane crash in South Africa in January.

Lions Club Project

Work has begun on upgrading the Halfmoon Bay foreshore and playground as a Stewart Island Lions Club project. New swings, slide and playground equipment will be installed in front of the South Sea Hotel.



Lions Club member, Ian Munro, said the work is expected to be completed within the next 2 months. A grant of \$3000 was received from the Southland District Council Amenities Fund towards the project.