

Stewart Island News

March 2004 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island



Worm's-eye view of current Halfmoon Bay bowling green.

Bowling Green due for major upgrade.

The view (left) of the bowling green at the Pavilion might well be the last time it looks like this for a summer season.

Plans are well in hand to raise funding to revamp the area into a full competition-standard green. This will involve replacing the grass with an artificial, all weather surface.

Project champion Alister Eade provides the full story and explains how funding will be sought in the interview below.

Exciting New Enterprise for Halfmoon Bay

Local entrepreneurs Alister Eade and Russell Skerrett have put a lot of personal time and effort into the proposed new-look outdoor bowling green in Ayr Street .

Months of work and research culminated in a public meeting at the Pavilion on the evening of Monday 15th March when office holders and a committee were elected to establish the new Stewart Island Bowling Club Incorporated.

The meeting agreed to pursue fundraising initiatives and raise the required capital for the venture. The area will have eight full-sized rinks. Each will be "sold" to a sponsor or, if necessary, shared between multiple sponsors.

One of the fullsize rinks has already been sponsored by Beaumont Meats of Invercargill. A half rink has also been taken up by an anonymous company. Smaller donations have already been pledged. The support of locals is, as always, crucial to the success of such an enterprise so there are bound to be a few calls for volunteers. "The community hall project shows what Stewart Islanders are capable of," said Russell. "This project will be much smaller in scale."

Alister pointed out "This will add another attraction to the array already available on the Island. Benefits to transport companies, accommodation providers and local shops will be ongoing and significant."

The surface is estimated to have a minimum lifespan of twenty years. If the whole project becomes viable, it will include a petonc pit, astroturf borders and shelters for bowlers.

The endorsement of the Pavilion Trust will be the next step towards commencing the fundraising and then it will be "all go".

Local businesses will be approached to sponsor all or parts of the rinks and smaller groups or individuals will be able to put their name on plots of 1 square metre for the price of \$25.

Alister hopes this will encourage a buy-in to the concept from everyone interested and give them a permanent memento of a small part of Stewart Island.

Dancing Star Foundation Concludes Another Island Fest

This year's Fourth Annual Island Fest was fortunate to have a distinguished group of speakers from throughout New Zealand. At a time when ecological problems across the planet abound, these speakers made clear the possibilities for hope and renewal. From the deeply philosophical and personal dedication on art and environment by Nigel Brown, to Don Merton's in-depth overview of some 40 years at the forefront of rescuing endangered bird species, IF4 celebrated a unique reality that is undeniably at the heart of conservation in New Zealand: a love of life, and a respect for the precious beauty and fragility of this earth.

Dancing Start Foundation is committed to exploring that reality, and Stewart Island/Rakiura is a rare window on that world: a human community whose cultural traditions are varied and date back centuries with a biological heritage which remains one of the most important and unique anywhere on earth. As zoologist Ian Jamieson and ecologist/filmmaker Rod Morris explored in their respective presentations, there are countless issues with respect to maintaining the health and viability of ecosystems that are not yet fully understood. Genetic variation within species – such as kakapo or the Chatham Island Black Robin are challenging; and the maintaining of robust ecosystems – such as those being clear-cut in British Columbia, or Tasmania – is key to rich and sustained biota that will be enjoyed and treasured by future generations.

Bio-security, coastal and marine balance were also areas of focus during IF4, as was a glimpse at some comparative ecologies, such as the unusual circumstances, history and unique scientific facets of three national parks in the United States. The film on whale sharks revealed how one person can make a difference: a young photojournalist, with a video camera in her hand, was able to impress on government officials in the Philippines her

belief that the endangered whale shark should be granted protection.

Many thanks to the students of the Halfmoon Bay School who contributed tremendously by providing wonderful works of art reflecting their own perceptions of the beauty around them. Nigel McAlister of Business Visuals in Christchurch provided expert technical support for film and slide demonstrations at the Centre. Thanks to the Southland Museum and Art Gallery in Invercargill where Director David Woodings and Programme Director Ronnie Kelly lent their considerable talents and commitment, and those of the Museum to the perceptive merging of art, culture and natural history.

Dancing Start Foundation greatly appreciates the help and support of Eunice and Johann Breitenbach; Jill Skerrett and the staff of Ship to Shore; terrific food preparation by Wendy Glover; Dave and Jayne of Oban Taxis for shuttling visitors to the nursery; Cath O'Loughlin, Bonnie Leask, Fiona Hall of Halfmoon Bay School; Lee Wadds and Ulrike Herzhoff for framing and hanging the student art; Stewart Dovey and the Community Centre for providing a splendid venue for IF4 events; members of the Department of Conservation including Jessyca Bernard, Ann Pullen, as well as Eamonn Ganley and Steve Black for manning the nursery and providing helpful expert advice on propagation and native plant survival. Finally, special thanks to every member of the community, all the volunteer and professional conservationists who love and care for this remarkable island.

by Michael Tobias and Jane Morrison

FOR SALE

Balclutha Builders red Nissan 4WD.
Registered and current WOF

\$1700 Cash

Telephone 03 418 1926

Stewart Island Promotion Association

* Enterprise Training

Venture Southland are again running the successful workshops for businesses. For anyone interested, Colleen has the timetable and information at the District Council office.

* Bi-Centenary of Foveaux Strait

O F Smith discovered Foveaux Strait in 1804 and this would make the discovery 200 years old this year. We need to confirm this from several sources so if anyone can help with this, it would be great to hear from you. It is thought that activities such as fun boat races, dressing up and recreating the event would be an innovative community idea.

We do need to get on to this. Please, if you have any suggestions let Sue Graham know . (Phone 2191 166) It would also be a great opportunity to work with Bluff Promotions, as they have indicated their interest to do this. Sue feels it could be an awesome celebration.

* Bluff Oyster and Seafood Festival

This year's event is to be held in Invercargill in April. We have registered our interest in participating. We intend to increase the amount of food to be sold. Last year we were sold out too early in the day.

* Laminated Park Maps

These are now available at DOC for \$25.00 for members and \$30 for non-members.

* EFTPOS/Credit cards/Cash flow

It has become quite obvious that some businesses and operators are accepting only cash or cheques for payment of services. It is very important that these businesses advertise that this is the case and it would be good to tell guests when they make reservations of this fact. We would like to encourage some of these operators to consider purchasing/hiring their own machines and providing these facilities themselves. Many visitors to the Island do not bring cash. As a consequence, a few businesses are constantly being expected to provide cash to the general public to pay for services received elsewhere. This is a big expectation of one or two businesses. Please try to do your bit in this area.

* Constitution

At the last General meeting it was approved that a few minor changes take place to the Constitution.

The Annual General Meeting will take place in May. It is time to start thinking about the people you would like to see filling the office-bearer positions.

HOUSE SWAP ??.

Want a FREE holiday on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia ?? I have a house that is within walking distance of the beach and a CARI

Would like to swap for same on Stewart Island sometime during Autumn. Can be flexible - lets have a talk. I am a mature, tidy and careful housekeeper.

For more details contact Kerry Jackson Ph 2191 566 (until mid April) or e-mail: kerryjackson2003@yahoo.com

MUSEUM NOTES

Hello again ~ time to kick the old brain into gear. Not a great deal to report this month, but the visitors keep coming, and with them come some awkward questions! A couple of answers here may help?

The red painted metal “dish” standing at the west end of the front verandah is a log skidder, which was placed under the end of a log to prevent it digging into the mud etc when being hauled out of the bush on its way to the mill.

The aluminium can-like object on the floor next to the old style hand operated washing machine is actually an agitator. It was apparently placed in the washtub with the laundry and plugged in to a power supply, which set everything a-shaking!! We can't imagine it being legal these days, and it probably tickled up the odd laundry-maid!

We have no acquisitions to report on this month.

The Boat for March is KEKENO.

Built in 1879 by Messrs Sims & Brown of Auckland at a cost of 729 Pounds, she was originally named “**KOHIMARAMARA**” and set up as a Naval Training Schooner. She was 55'6” x 16' x 7'9” and 37 tons. It was not long before she was fitted out by the Marine Dept for work in the sealing grounds and renamed “**KEKENO**”.

In 1882 she was placed under the command of Capt J.B.Greig as a Revenue Cutter, and patrolled the southern sealing grounds and oyster beds, replenished castaway depots etc. She rescued the boat's crew of the “**SARAH W. HUNT**” at the Campbell Is in 1883, and the case of a gold watch presented for this to Capt Greig by the President of the USA is on display in the Rakiura Museum. On 24th September 1886 she was wrecked and abandoned at Bluff, to be refloated by the tug “**AWARUA**” and eventually slipped by Barker & Jones at Greenpoint on behalf of the Bluff Naval Volunteers who set about repairing her. This was a long drawn out job, and it seems was never completed by the Volunteers, but in 1904 she was registered under the ownership of William Barker and William Jones, who fitted a steam engine to her. Barker's death prompted her sale in 1907 to Tom Bragg in partnership with a Bluff fish merchant Thomas Crockett, and a 14hp oil engine replaced the steam engine.

She was used by the Bragg brothers to salvage items from the wreck of the S.S.”**WAIKARE**” which sank in Dusky Sound in 1910, (the seat outside “Ship to Shore” being one of them). A freezer was fitted, and “**KEKENO**” then served as a depot ship for the Fiordland and Pegasus fishing operations, carrying fish to Bluff and supplies back to the boats and settlement at Pegasus.

In 1923 she was re-engined with a 50hp Kelvin twin cylinder engine, and carried timber from the Island and Port Craig to Invercargill and Bluff, being in 1929 the last trading vessel to use the Port of Invercargill.

Ownership passed to Henry Roderique in 1929, and she then engaged in various fishing and oystering ventures, as well as salvaging items from the wreck of the SS **WAIKOUAITI** at Dog Island in 1939.

In 1946 she was used for the last commercial sealing expedition in New Zealand waters, after being fitted with a 60hp Ruxton – Lister diesel engine.

She was finally sold for her oyster licences in 1955, and laid to rest at Green Point, where her remains can still be seen scattered in the mud.

That's it for now – catch you next month! Merv King.

Stopping Violence Southland

We will be running a Programme for men on Stewart Island

We invite all men to come along, to learn about family violence, and how it affects you, your family and friends. We invite people who may wish to make changes.

*Book through the Stopping Violence Southland office
phone 218 4468 or email stopviolencesthld@xtra.co.nz*

Pamphlets available from the Oban Visitor Information Centre

Dates: Saturday 20th March and
Saturday 24th April

Venue: The Community Centre, Ayr Street

Times: 10 am to 3.00 pm
Morning and afternoon tea provided.
Bring your own lunch

This Programme is educational, not counselling; teaching skills such as how to resolve conflicts, to deal with feelings of anger and frustration without resorting to the use of violence.

There are also components on parenting, relating to, and bringing up children in a positive way.

Providing educational and supportive programmes for men and women.
100 Esk Street Invercargill phone / fax (03) 218 4468
email stopviolencesthld@xtra.co.nz

Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre

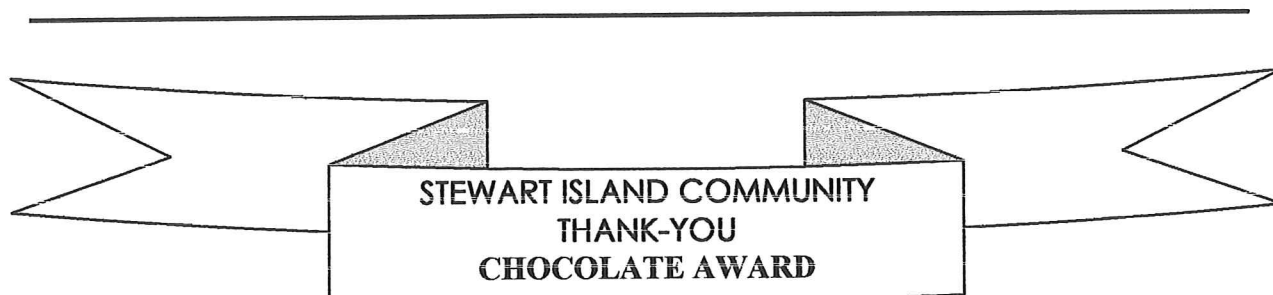
It is with regret the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre received the resignation of Brian Cronin from the position of Supervisor.

Brian commenced work with the centre in September 2003. After attending a seminar at Raglan, Brian returned with a good knowledge of how to prepare for the commencement of recycling on Stewart Island. Much of the equipment used in the recycling centre, such as sorting tables, fadge holders, bale markers and the worm farm structure was made by Brian before it opened. With the help of his wife Judy, Brian also organised, delivered and recorded the buckets and tubs used for recycling.

The SIESA management in conjunction with the Southland District Council thank Brian for his community spirited effort in the development of the Recycling and Waste Management on Stewart Island and wish him well for the future.

John Warren

FOR A BRIGHTER STEWART ISLAND REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE



This month Ship to Shore has kindly donated the chocolates. Thanks Jill & Co!

And the award goes to.....

Margaret Rooney

For her quiet, generous, continuous and much valued community work.

Basin Award

The basin award this month goes to Ali Eade for telephoning the editor of this illustrious newsletter at one o'clock in the morning regarding the spelling of the word "petanque". Apparently the message left on the answering machine didn't specify *when* the information was needed so, after returning from some *entertainment*, Ali decided I am was OK by him.

Bits and Pieces.

Salvation Army Clothes Collection.

I am no longer wishing to carry on doing this and wonder if anyone would like to take over the Annual Old Clothes Collection? If so please do get in touch with me. I would like to thank Foveaux Express for transporting the boxes free of charge to Bluff, the Pavilion Trust for storing the clothes and to Pat & Euan Bethune and others who helped me. Please do not put old clothing under the Pavilion Building unless you have permission from the Pavilion Trust.

Card Making Day.

Please keep Saturday 24th April free in your dairy. I am bringing Karen Wilson from "Inkspirations" Invercargill, to the Island that day to hold a session on ideas, new techniques and products. It will be for adults only and the cost will be \$20 for her time and materials, making at least three cards. We will start at ten o'clock and have two hours tutoring then have a play in the afternoon. She is happy to take a session in the afternoon for any who would like to do more advanced work. We need a minimum of twelve people to make it worthwhile so KEEP THE DAY FREE.

Margaret Rooney

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

The March meeting of the Garden Circle was held on the 11th at Jenny Gell's, where we welcomed back Barbara Miller from the Presbyterian Church, this time with Audrey Neal. The Roll Call of a local recipe for relish/chutney/pickle had us all attentive and eager to try different recipes, in fact a stall to sell the surplus was mentioned??

We discussed Stewart Island Garden Tours having now been approached by a number of different groups interested in having a look at what Stewart Island had to offer.

Competition results were:

Yellow Flower:	(1) Anita Geeson	(2) Lil Skipper	(3) Nancy Schofield
Something beginning with 'B'	(1) Lil Skipper	(2) Myra Leask	(3) Anita Geeson
Perennial:	(1) Anita Geeson/ Raylene Waddell	(2) Lil Skipper	(3) Nancy Schofield

Blue Mountain Nurseries will be on the island on the 15th April with a talk at the Anglican Hall at 2.00p.m. Everyone welcome.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Raylene Waddell on 13th May at 2pm

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY BOARD

* The Stewart Island Community Board held the Estimates meeting on Monday, 9 February 2004 at which time the rates for the 2004/2005-year were set.

It was agreed that there would be a 0% increase in both the General Township Rate and the Sewerage Loan rate. There is to be a 12% increase in the Sewerage rate, a 16% increase in the Community Centre Levy and a 117% increase in the Waste Management rate.

The increase in Waste management is because in the past there had not been a charge to the community for the old site - it was a district charge.

The shift in cost is because waste has to go off the Island. Consent costs to have obtained a new refuse site would have been considerable. It was made clear that no matter what system had been put in use, refuse would still have had to be shifted off the Island at a cost.

* The Dog Control Policy was addressed. Along with many issues it is quite clear that all dogs, except working dogs, are to be kept on a leash at all times when they are in a public place within the urban resource area and townships. Exceptions to this general rule are areas where dogs are prohibited, or where dogs can be exercised within these townships. This information is provided at the time of dog registration. If anybody is unclear about the areas in this township please ask the Dog Ranger (Bruce Ford) or make further enquiries when registering your dog. If you would like a copy of the Dog Control Policy please ask Colleen Dawson at the Area Office

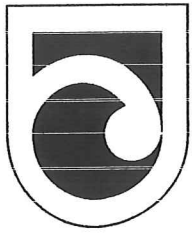
The Council has begun exercising its powers to seize unregistered dogs. Owners of these animals will be receiving a written warning. The dogs are liable to be seized if not registered within a designated period.

* Staff members from Environment Southland attended the Community Board meeting. Their policy on permits and consents was discussed with attention being given to boat sheds and their permitted use. A CD-ROM containing the Coastal Plan was sent from Environment Southland and has been placed in the community library for public use.

- It is requested that people wishing to use the Recycle centre purchase refuse tokens before making the trip around to Horseshoe Bay. The tokens are available from Ship to Shore or the Council office. Each token costs \$2 therefore a multiple of tokens will need to be purchased – depending on what it is you wish to take to the centre. The staff members around there are not expected to handle cash. Please make the effort and purchase these tokens. If you should choose to take the easy way and just arrive with cash, it may get to the point where the staff will have to refuse to take your refuse.
-

Spaces like this often appear at the end of articles and are available for adverts or other small community announcements.

Please contact Stewart for details.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

It is time for another
liaison group meeting to
discuss:

PEST MANAGEMENT
ON
STEWART ISLAND

7.30pm 15th April 2004
at the Community Centre

Anyone can attend. Any questions
contact Brent Beaven ph 2190007

Subscription Request

If you wish to renew a subscription or start receiving a regular posted copy, please fill out the form below and return to P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

Name.....

Postal address.....

**Cost \$25 for 10 copies to an NZ address or \$20 for an Oban address
Please make cheque payable to “Stewart Island News”**

Sponsors

Stewart Island News would like to thank our loyal sponsors.

Clampett Industries pay the courier costs to and from the printer in Invercargill.

Stewart Island Flights provide free freight for the *News* copy from the Island to Invercargill and then the finished copies from the airport back to the Island.

Spitfire Shuttle courier the *News* in Invercargill and provide an excellent service meeting the copy at the airport (even when the editor forgets to phone them and remind them!) and again in transporting the finished copies back to the airport.

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material and contributions permit. If you have stories or advertising you wish to submit, please contact Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island or email to sdovey@es.co.nz preferably as an MsWord™ attachment.

McDowall Print photocopy the *News* at a very reasonable cost and return the finished newsletter usually on the same day as received. Thanks to Melissa and staff at McDowalls.