

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

March 2005 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

RAKIURA RUGRATS VISIT ULVA ISLAND



"I hope the wind doesn't come up or Mary Poppins will have nothing on us!"

On Wednesday, 9th March, despite the damp weather, the Rakiura Rugrats (ten children aged 4 months to 4 1/2 years) and twelve adults, put on lifejackets and climbed into Mr Ford's and Mr Ken's boats to Ulva Island.

We already knew Mr Ford by name, as he's the Rugrats' next-door neighbour and, hearing the adults talk to Ken as we were getting ready, well - he was obviously "Mr Ken" the children decided.

We've been learning and talking about *where we live* and visiting places around and about the village, but going across the water in a boat was by far the most fun! It was VERY exciting. There were some priceless looks on ten little faces peering out from under their raincoats as we sat on the boats.

We had Ulva Island pretty much to ourselves (because of the weather probably) and, to begin with, we climbed up lots of big (for us) steps to Flagstaff Hill. From here we could call out and wave to people we know back on Stewart Island. A bellbird sang to us as we climbed those steps - that was a nice song.

Down at Sydney Cove we found some seaweed bubbles to pop, a yellow-eyed

penguin, lots of shags in the sea and a friendly weka bird to entertain us as we sat in the shelter for kai time/morning tea.

As soon as we could, we were back down to the beach to run and explore. We found pinecones and sticks, we drew and wrote in the sand, we climbed, we swung on the tree-swing and we sang in the rain. We even made funny footprints in the sand. Next we found a cave that was dug out by the sea - we were disappointed that there weren't any bears or penguins inside it, so we pretended to be little blue penguins ourselves.

Then we had another big walk (for OUR legs) and a carry for others, back to the jetty at Post Office Cove and a second exciting return ride on one yellow boat and one red boat back to Golden Bay and home for some dry clothes and lunch. The Rugrats had become Water-rats for a few hours!

We want to say a BIG thank you to Mr Ken of Seaview and Mr Ford of Seabuzzz for a great morning. We had heaps of fun and we learned lots on our trip to Ulva. We'll remember and talk about this for a long time (and we really hope you get to eat some chocolates!)
From all the Rugrats families.



Morning tea at the Sydney Cove shelter

MUSEUM NOTES

GENERAL: The main achievement this month would be completing the work for the “New Zealand Museums Standards Scheme”, and we now await a visit from two Peer Reviewers – Bronwyn Simes from the Christchurch Art Gallery, and Ngapera Hoerara from Te Papa.

It has been decided to purchase a digital camera, along with a computer, scanner and printer, so that our records etc. can be safeguarded on CD's. Investigations are under way to bring us into the 21st Century!

Following our February meeting, an afternoon tea was held during which a presentation was made to Merv King for his work on behalf of the Museum.

There are no new acquisitions to report at present.

Boat of the Month: **PILOT**

This vessel was built at the Invercargill Heads in 1865 by a Mr Blair, who succeeded Mr Akers as the Pilot at the station there. She was a 16 ton cutter, measuring 41' x 13' x 5'6", and was owned by “the Ruapuke Maoris.” Captained by W. Anglem and Wm Sherburd, she is on record as taking a party of goldminers on a prospecting trip west-about round Stewart Island in 1867, during which they found no sign of payable gold.

She was reported in the Southland News of 1st August 1867 as”returning from Preservation Inlet with a quantity of coal from there.” At this time she was commanded by a Capt. Meadows.

She is also recorded in Chas Traill's account book as carrying mail and cargo to and from Ulva Island in the years 1868 to 1873.

In September 1874 she reportedly sank while at anchor in Henrietta Bay, Ruapuke Island, and nothing more is known of her.

That's all for now folks – see you next month! Merv King.

Mussel Kebabs

**Stewart Island Community Centre Fundraiser
Easter Saturday 5pm**

Being sold at the notice board by the shop:

Mussel kebabs \$3 each



HALF MOON BAY BEAT

Tod Holebon has been off the Island for a while and has not had time to send in his usual monthly report. Hopefully this will return next month.

This space has been held until the last moment and as no other contributors could be found, a few space-fillers have been included.

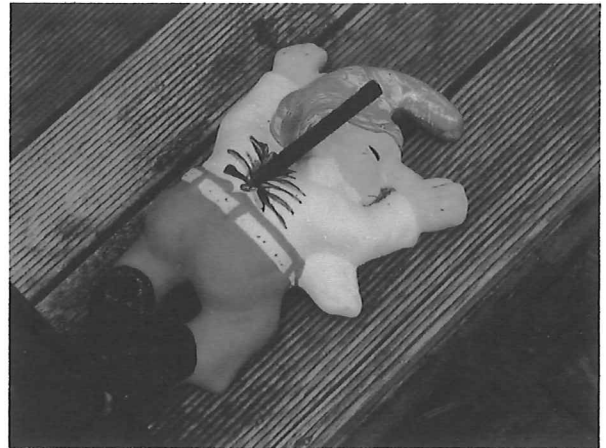
A new version of the recent and popular caption contest invites readers to send in their captions to the following photographs. As always, I have had the first say!



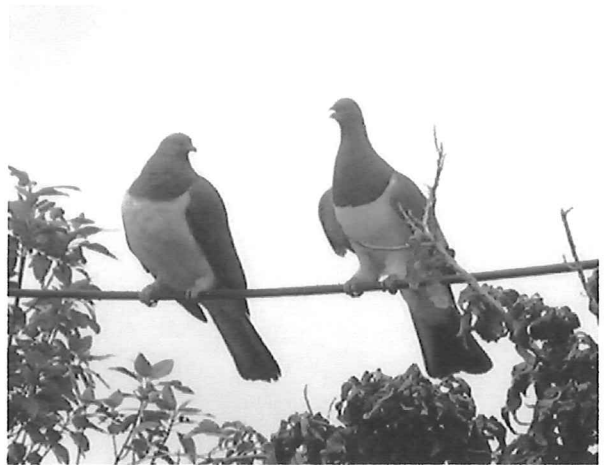
Rock star Cindy sings “A life on the Ocean Wave!”



David Bellamy impressionist, Chris Visser, takes up Evangelism posting on Ulva Island .



Stewart Island ratepayer (Labour Party version)



“I don’t know about you Dear, but I get a lovely tingly feeling off the cables!”



Local cheese-making contest attracts good crowd.

Send in your entries, and please surprise us all !

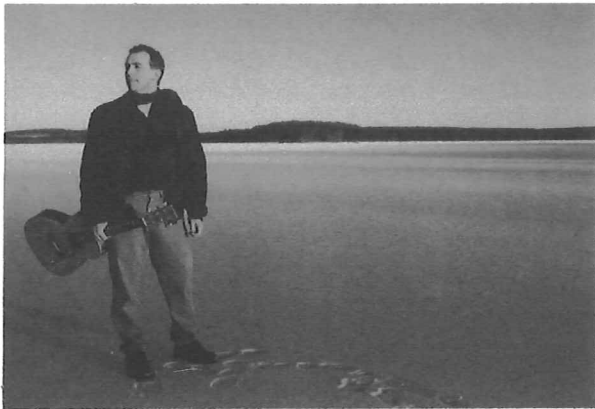
Creative Workshops
and NZReiki bring you...

Peter Forster The Awakening Heart Tour

Native American style Flute and Drum.
Acoustic Guitar and Tibetan Singing Bowl.
Music to bring you home to the heart.

Stewart Island Community Centre
Tuesday April 5th 7.30pm \$15
Inquiries to 03 439 5095,

www.soulssong.com or nzreiki@ihug.co.nz



On April 5th Peter Forster, a gifted inspirational musician recently returned from seven years in Europe, will be giving a live performance on Stewart Island.

Peter Forster's music works a magic that takes us deep into our heart centre. I have used Peter's music with Reiki relaxation and healing work for a number of years and have always been awed by the way it helps bring people to a space where they can relax fully. I frequently see people go into deep states of healing while receiving Reiki with Peter's music resonating gently through the room.

Peter begins by being inspired by and recording nature's voice in the sound of water, birdsong and bush. He specialises in making and playing Lakota style North American flutes and acoustic guitar. He composes, records and produces his own



music including the photography work for his CD covers.

Knowing that Stewart Island has some of the most beautiful natural parts of the country and that Peter hadn't yet visited the Island, I made sure it was on the itinerary for his upcoming Southern Tour. I'm sure the bush, birdsong and beauty will inspire him to record and photograph for future CDs.

Peter also teaches Voice, Sound and Overtone singing workshops after having trained with top sound healers in Europe. There will be a 'Soulssong', (Peter's very appropriate trading name), two-day workshop in Oamaru and in Gore during early April. These workshops are for anyone who would like to benefit from using their voice - no experience needed. Everyone learns in a friendly, easy-going atmosphere. It doesn't matter if you've never sung before, this workshop is guaranteed to give you confidence and reconnect you to the beauty of the natural voice you were born with - all mixed in with lots of joy, fun and laughter. The Friday before each workshop there will be a Reiki Retreat day featuring Peter's music as we bliss out on Reiki, neck and shoulder massage, foot spas and stress release.

Peter has been a professional musician for ten years and during that time he has released five CDs selling over 10,000 copies world-wide. Enchanting, healing, magical, Peter's music ranges from sublimely meditative to lyrically beautiful, joyful and fun while still holding heart-healing vibration. *Gill Logan*

Garden Circle News

The Stewart Island Garden Circle meets on the second Thursday of each month. Meeting details are posted on the notice board a week prior to the meeting. At present the group has a membership of twelve and, while members share an interest in things horticultural, any non-gardener who would like to join is most welcome.

Fund raising activities are minimal. However, annual grants from the Southland District Council Community Development Fund enable the club to carry out community activities, host visiting demonstrators/speakers and hold an annual plant expo.

If you have any suggestions regarding community projects the group could help with, please come to a meeting or contact the secretary, Anita Geeson, on 219 1014.



Garden Club members tidy up the War Memorial area prior to Anzac Day

Basin Award

This month there is a "Clayton's" basin award – the basin award you have when you are not having a basin award. The reason for this is that the most deserved recipient is (once again) Jack Frew but, considering his many faux pas over the last few weeks, it would be kinder on the global stocks of trees and A4 printer paper to not list them here. See you on the 6th, Jack!

Book Review by Sue Ford

“Sea Glass” by Anita Shreve

Each of Shreve’s books is different in the same way! But even if you are not a “Shreve Fan”, you should give Sea Glass a fair go. It is a fascinating insight into a small American town in the late 1920’s, just as The Depression begins to make in-roads into ordinary life, and as the Wall Street Crash turns the monied classes upon their ears.

Sexton Beecher falls in love with Honora Willard. Sexton is by no means a perfect human being, a typewriter salesman with a slightly dubious patter, and a way of obtaining a mortgage that is skating on thin ice. They are very much in love, however, and Honora overlooks his faults and flaws as she begins her new life in a run-down house on an isolated beach. Further up the beach is a new house, built by Dickie Peet, and to which the bored and wealthy Vivian comes.

The nearest town is Ely Falls, a mill town, caught up in the burgeoning union movement. One of those workers with the least taste for unionism – or a simple but realistic view of the politics at least – is McDermott. He befriends a boy, Alphonse, who also works at the mill. These two are drawn into the hub of the movement by McDermott’s sense that something has to change at the mills, especially for youngsters like his new friend. Alphonse should still be in school and enjoying boyhood pleasures like fishing, McDermott reasons. The union’s charismatic leader helps of course.

The weaving of these and other characters into the whole of the story is so skilful. You feel that you know each of them, or at least that Anita Shreve is telling a true story about people that *she* knows. And, of course, there are a lot of plain facts, events that truly happened. It is the author’s skill that blends the lines between fact and fiction until what happens to Honora, to Sexton, and to the others, becomes compelling, page-turning stuff.

The ending is truly shocking, heartbreaking; you want to make Shreve re-write it to come out differently. And yet you know that real-life doesn’t end “happily ever-after”, that all the loose ends of one’s life are never neatly tied. This is a “wise” story, written by someone who knows what people may be like behind the façade of perfectly ordinary lives, and to what heights of joy and depths of tragedy those ordinary people may be driven by events. Riveting stuff.

Nurses’ News

Autumn is in the air and we will soon have available the "flu" vaccines. These are free to the over-65's and those with certain medical conditions related to the heart, lungs and immune system. Please call the clinic if you wish to have a 'flu" vaccination.

Martin is well started in his studies in Dunedin and we have had requests for "more textbooks please"! Replacing Martin is Kirsty McArthur who some of you have met already. Kirsty is loving the Island and, as far as replacing Martin is concerned, she has been on her first rescue to Christmas Village and did very well. I have nearly finished my last assignment for my Masters Degree and applying for Nursing Council approval for prescribing.

Enjoy the autumn weather and consider that flu vaccine!

Regards, Debs.

RAKIURA SEA SCOUTS

The Rakiura Sea Scouts have been gifted a pram dinghy complete with mast and sail by Mr Jim Watt. The group would like to thank Jim for his very kind donation.

We are expecting visits over the next couple of months from three groups from the mainland. They are cub packs from the Gladstone and Waverley scout groups in Invercargill and approx 30 scouts from St Mary's group in Gore.

Our group leader David Squire has just been awarded a national award – the medal of Merit for Services to Scouting.

Wanted.

A person with boat maintenance skills who would be willing to give an hour a week during term two and three to help the scouts do up our new dinghy. She needs a new floor in her. If anyone is able to help, please contact David Squire on 2191581 wk or 2191145 home.



My appeal for ideas last month didn't exactly bring in a flood of nominations but happily there were enough to clean out the chocolate supplies.

Therefore this month's deserving winners are:

1. Hilli and Jim Barrett for tidying up the skateboard ramp next to the Kai Kart
2. Bruce Ford and Seabuzz for providing a free trip to Ulva for the Rugrats (see story).
3. Ken Geeson and Seaview for also providing the Rugrats with a free water taxi to Ulva.

The donations of chocolates were made by:

Colleen Dawson (originally donated to Loosie but graciously declined)
Anonymous \$20 donation left at Ship to Shore
Port of Call/Eco Taxi (this box went to Hilli and Jim)

Many thanks to everyone concerned.

More donations and nominations needed for April please.



Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

c/- Post Office, Stewart Island

Ph: (03) 2191 533

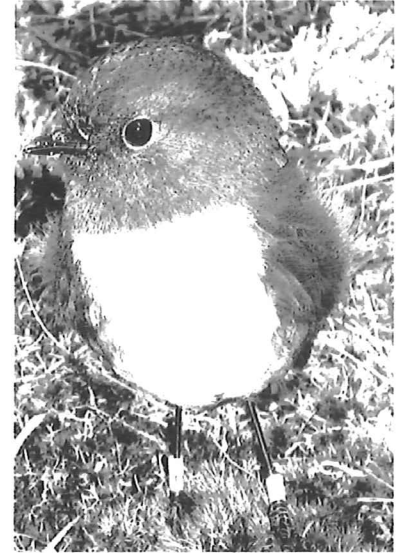
e-mail: habitat@glowingsky.co.nz

www.glowingsky.co.nz

Stewart Island Robin/ Toutouwai Returns To Halfmoon Bay

On behalf of the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust, I would like to thank everyone involved for their generosity and support towards last month's release of Stewart Island Robins back in to Halfmoon Bay

Everyone present would agree, Saturday 26th February was an exceptional day, with calm weather, blue skies and the first song of Stewart Island Robins at Ackers Point for over 50 years, as SIRCET carried out the release of this charismatic, native bird back into safe habitat on Stewart Island. After stirring speeches and a welcome by local Iwi, the students of the Halfmoon Bay Primary School released the birds from their boxes. Some people were moved to tears by the significance of the day.



The Stewart Island/ Rakiura community have been removing rats, possums and wild cats from an area of land around Halfmoon Bay for the last eighteen months. The trapping operation has been made possible by the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds, a joint fund of the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Conservation. The work will be ongoing, in order to maintain the pest numbers at our goal of a less than 5% rate of trap catch.

Local businesses and community members have been quick to support the work, with donations, sponsorship, volunteered hours and the provision of services free of charge. The Stewart Island Department of Conservation has been an outstanding support, giving us advice on the set-up, planning and other aspects of the project and a vast amount of logistical support.

SIRCET's vision is to see the South Island Saddleback/ Tieke, an endangered species which currently occur only on our pest-free islands, return to the gardens within and around Halfmoon Bay.

Aurora Charters, sponsored this first re-introduction with support from other local businesses Stewart Island Water taxi, Ship to Shore and Stewart Island Flights, who provided their services free of charge. It featured twice in the Southland Times and on two TV networks, giving welcome coverage for the project. SIRCET did not do any formal head-count, however from several people within the crowd, we estimated around 130 people were there.

"It is fantastic to see communities putting their hands up to protect their own back yard," said Brent Beaven (DOC's Biodiversity Manager for Stewart Island). "This transfer is the first step in establishing a new population of robins around the Halfmoon Bay area and guaranteeing the survival of this species into the future."

Thank you all.

Further info can be found on the Trust's website www.glowingsky.co.nz, or by contacting:

Kari Beaven, project manager for Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust ph: 03 2191533



Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

c/- Post Office, Stewart Island

Ph: (03) 2191 533

e-mail: habitat@glowingsky.co.nz

www.glowingsky.co.nz

Protecting Biodiversity in the Backyard

A Workshop Hosted by SIRCET

Guest Speakers Duncan McMorran & Steve Boot of Connovation

Saturday 9th April 2005

The Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust are hosting a workshop for Stewart Islanders about protecting the wildlife in your own backyard.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to hear from one of NZ's leading designers of pest-control traps. We believe it will be especially informative for those of you who attract paying visitors to your homes and businesses, those who would like to protect the native wildlife throughout Halfmoon Bay (both within and outside the current Habitat Restoration Area) and those of you who would like to see the latest, safe techniques for removing possum and rat pests from your own patch.

The workshop will be a relaxed affair, during which Duncan will demonstrate the traps, discussing their design, history of change over time and the most effective lure for each pest. Those present will be given the opportunity to have a go at each one and watch them being set off.

Members of SIRCET will present information about the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project and demonstrate the techniques being used to protect 250 hectares of private land around Halfmoon Bay.

The workshop will run from 10 am - 11.30am at the RSA Pavillion.

Morning tea will be available afterwards and an opportunity to stay longer and discuss anything further with Duncan and Steve or SIRCET. If the weather is nice, we will have transport available to see some of the traps in operation in the Habitat Restoration Area.

Keep an eye on the notice board for any changes to the time or venue.

For more information or contact Kari Beaven on 533, or e-mail habitat@glowingsky.co.nz

Stewart Island Indoor Bowls Club

Annual Competition being held at the Community Centre on Saturday 9th April 2005. Come along and see the best indoor bowlers from around the country compete against our local teams. For further details contact either Alister Eade (2191103) or phone the Community Centre on 2191477 and leave a message. Visitors and prospective members very welcome.

Letter to the Editor

Regarding introduction of robins to Ackers Point area by the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Environment Trust, your note in Stewart Island News (Feb2005) says: "After an absence of 50 years, the Stewart Island robin/ toutouwai is being brought back home to Halfmoon Bay."

That puts robins in the Bay in 1955. I was born in 1926 and have taken an interest in native birds since I was three or younger. In all my years of growing up on the island and revisiting it, robins were seen and heard at the head of the Inlet, never about the Bay. Tomtits - yes, robins – no.

They were one of the charms of trips up the SW Arm, sure to come hopping about when one went down to the river to fill the billy. They might have done the same in the very early days of settlement, eg. around the Kaipipi sawmills, but if there were cats about they wouldn't have lasted long.

Guthrie-Smith's books, and later L.E. Richdale's, mention robin habitats of their time. My father's exercise books, kept over all the years when he was a ranger, were gone through at the time when robins were thought to be safer on Ulva than up the Inlet. (I couldn't find anything in Chas Traill's papers about robins on Ulva).

It is good that they are doing so well on Ulva, of course, and I hope very fervently indeed that these trustful little ground-fossicking birds will do better than those that *may* have preceded them in the territory where they have been released.

The Karori Reserve Sanctuary harbours robins but they are rat-free with rat-proof fences. A cat-neutering programme wouldn't be a bad idea in the vicinity of these homes nearest to your robin resort. Good luck to you, but most of all (to quote a caption) "Good luck, Mr Robin".

Sheila Natusch (nee Traill).
Wellington

Kari Beaven replied:

Thank you Sheila, for your letter and your words of support. You are absolutely right, the Stewart Island Robin has been absent from the Halfmoon Bay Area for longer than 50 years and I will correct our note to state "for over 50 years." If anyone else has any history of the robins or other bird life around Halfmoon Bay I would be keen to hear from you. Knowing the history of this area will help us all manage its future.

Kari Beaven
Project Manager,
Stewart Island/ Rakiura Community and Environment Trust

DANCING STAR FOUNDATION'S ISLAND FEST 5
ON RAKIURA/STEWART ISLAND AND IN INVERCARGILL

Dear Friends,

All Island Fest 5 events were well attended and we hope you enjoyed them. The Foundation was delighted to have held Island Fest at the Stewart Island Community Centre for the fifth year running. Stewart Dovey was patient and helpful. Jan West was a gracious and tireless hostess. Jill Skerrett and Kirsten Hicks of Ship to Shore prepared really marvelous food. Sharon Pasco wonderfully volunteered in the trenches. We are deeply grateful to you all.

Following the events at Rakiura/Stewart Island on March 12th and 13th, Island Fest continued in Invercargill at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery on Monday and Tuesday, March 14th and 15th, 2005.

In Invercargill, Island Fest 5 guests – Southland Conservator Kevin O'Connor, Natural History Unit Head Michael Stedman and museum director David Woodings – again presented versions of their Rakiura/Stewart Island illustrated talks.

Dancing Star Foundation additionally presented Auckland-based sculptor Greer Twiss who generously offered lively and fascinating slide presentations and discussions of his provocative and beautiful metal sculptures of birds. Greer captured his audience with a combination of self-effacing wit and charm.

Our final guest speaker was painter, ornithologist and trenchant commentator on life and art Don Binney (who joined the audience on Rakiura). Don's longstanding love affair with Rakiura and his ardent and fearless commitment to conservation were stunningly conveyed in riveting engagement of his audiences in two offerings of wit and wisdom.

We are grateful that each of the participants partook so generously in dialogues with the local and international audiences in Invercargill which included members of Forest and Bird, Environment Southland and the Department of Conservation, and previous Island Fest participants, including painter Nigel Brown and conservationists Ruth Dalley and Lance Shaw, among others.

The Island Fest 5 art exhibit – "Island Fest 5: Wild Visions" - features Rakiura paintings of Don Binney, albatross sculptures by Greer Twiss, as well as works of New Zealand nature photographer, Craig Potton (a former Island Fest participant). The exhibit opened on March 14th and runs through to March 29th. On Saint Patrick's Day, the Right Honorable Helen Clark visited the Southland Museum and Art Gallery and spent time viewing the works in the Foundation's museum exhibit.

There was press coverage for IF5 events and participants by National Public Radio, the Southland Times and Southland T.V.

Best regards
Jane Morrison
Dancing Star Foundation

Stewart Island Community Centre News

Gym Memberships

Our Community Centre manager, Stewart Dovey is no longer able to do the regular 1pm – 2pm office hours but will still be checking messages left on the answer phone or in the mailbox. Those requiring a gym membership or renewal can pick up a form to fill out from the telephone bench beside the office. A price list and instructions will be posted on the wall above with envelopes provided. Please fill in your details and put this with your subscription in the envelope and place in the mailbox on the office door. Stewart will issue you with a swipe card next day.

Mussel Kebabs

Look out for the girls selling barbequed mussel kebabs on Easter Saturday 5pm at the noticeboard. These delicious bacon wrapped kebabs can be bought for \$3 each. Help support our Community Centre.

Community Centre Levy

With the anticipated rise in rates this year the Community Centre Trust has decided to retain the Community Centre levy collected from ratepayers at the same level as last year. This will give us an income of \$5550 from which we will have to pay \$7000 insurance and \$1847 in rates. The resulting deficit of \$3297 will have to come from fundraising efforts.

AGM

The AGM for the Stewart Island Community Centre Trust will be held on Wednesday 20th April 2005 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email to the editor: sdovey@es.co.nz preferably as an MsWord™ attachment.
Short written articles can be posted to the editor:
Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island.
The deadline for the April Issue is Friday 15th April 2005

If you would like this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

For ten issues to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, please send \$25

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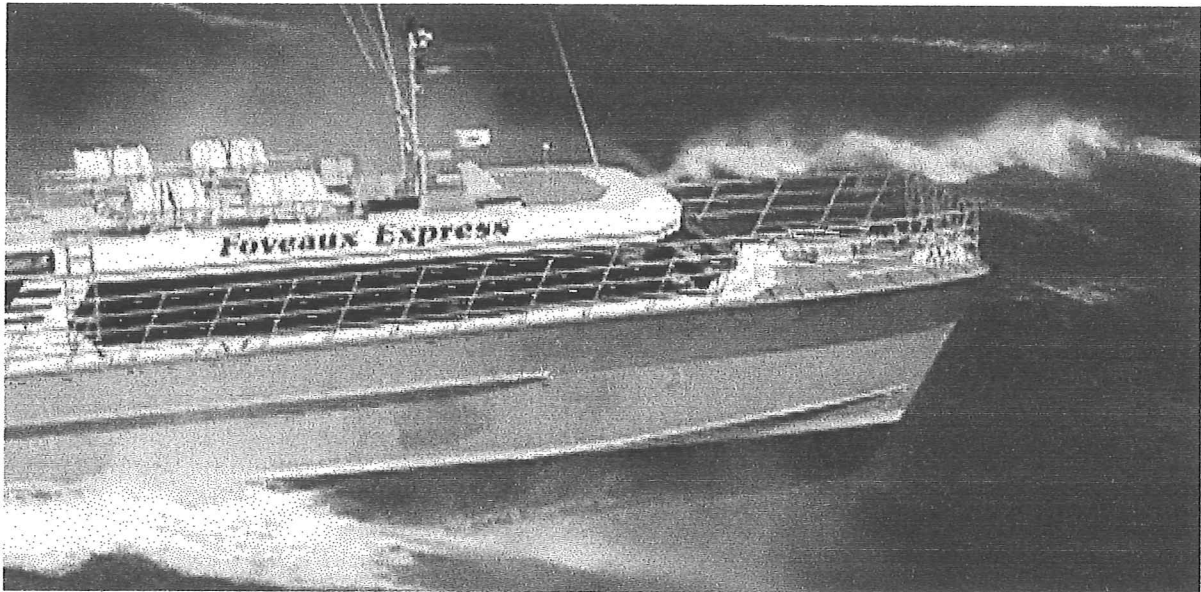
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STEWART ISLAND NEWS

March 2005 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

Catamaran Passengers soon to be Weighed



Foveaux Strait has often been unkind to passengers susceptible to seasickness

In an effort to improve the comfort of passengers crossing Foveaux Strait, a new initiative may be implemented regarding seating arrangements on the ferry. An innovative computer system is being tested to automatically allocate seats by passenger's weight. Groups may be separated as necessary and some passengers might have to travel on the afterdeck.

At check-in, passengers will now be required to stand on the scales and will then receive a seat number determined by the computer. The new system is based on a well-proven industry standard in the aviation field and is known as Computer Aided Seating (CAS). The concept is designed to balance the loading of the vessels and reduce seasickness by providing a much smoother ride across the Strait. Any disruption to social activities will have other benefits.

The inaugural trial of the new system will be on the morning of the first Friday in April and will offer special incentives to passengers weighing over 100 kg. Problems in the past have arisen on voyages leaving Bluff in strong sou'westerly conditions. In return for a full refund, these people will be required to hang off the bow rails on the weather side of the ship.

On the manifest as "Cling-ons on the Starboard Bow", they will be invaluable to the vessel's stability. The CAS system will be the key to the comfort of future crossings of the Strait and may well be known as the CASkey System. Obviously some fine tuning will be needed over the coming months and the possibility of placing a passenger weighing less than 70 kg at the masthead and removing the radar will be investigated. A loudhailer will be supplied.

Any locals with concerns over these plans are invited to contact the following website:
www.ferryweighingpassengerstostopupchuckingexceptinpaperbags.co.nz

Visitors to the island should email: info@stewartislandferrycrossingswherepeoplecanhangoutforfree.co.nz