

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

March 2019

\$4.00

Hearts soar at the sight of sails. Thanks to Les Pullen for sharing his beautiful photos of the SSANZ yachts throughout this issue. It was all kinds of exciting-wonderful to host the yachties again and follow their travails and triumphs online via their FB pages and the online tracker, which turned us all into sailboat stalkers. We wish the men of Motorboat II, Krakatoa II, Titanium, Coppelia, Arbitare and Gale Force all the best as they complete their circumnavigation of NZ. Not sure what Yoda would say but something like: *May Champagne Sailing Be With You.*

The yacht race's arrival dovetailed nicely with the school's plans to start a sailing programme for the island kids. The sailors took time to meet with the students, show them around their boats, and helped them build their own cardboard boats to race (big kids in real ones on the Bay; littler kids with toy ones at the pool). Everyone's feeling quite inspired.

This issue launches a new column: Mahi Māra Rakiura / Stewart Island Gardening. If you've got something you'd like to share on the subject, get in touch with Raylene. Page 2.

Sonar; shark harassment; depression; disorientation ... There are many theories around whale strandings. One guy on social media floated this idea: "It's a group ascension process where they all leave their bodies at the same time." Anyhoo, the phenomenon has been much on our minds since a group of pilot whales arrived on the island's proverbial doorstep — Halfmoon Bay — and proceeded to beach themselves at Lonnekers! More on page 5 (and there are plenty of pix & vids on the Stewart Island News FB page.)

This is from DoC's website: "On 4 September 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled that shark cage diving is an offence under the Wildlife Act, which means that shark cage diving companies will have to cease their operations.



Krakatoa II. Photo by Les Pullen



In early January the International Dark Sky Association officially announced that Stewart Island/ Rakiura has become the world's fifth International Dark Sky Sanctuary. Read all about it on page 10. Photo: Sandra Whipp Photography

... The latest findings mean the activity is now considered an offence under the Wildlife Act and people undertaking the activity could be prosecuted." So, this raises the questions: WHY has a shark cage diving company continued to operate in Foveaux Strait all this past summer? What was the point of the years of litigation, piles of paperwork and money and effort and decision-making, if the High Court ruling is essentially ignored, and the law is not enforced? What precedent has this set?

Bong-Tree grows? What's Paddington's Peruvian name? If you do, you "coulda been a [Kid Lit Quiz] contenda!" See more on page 8 (and watch *On the Waterfont* with Marlon Brando for the contenda reference).

For stuff happening "between SINS" follow the Stewart Island News page on Facebook where links to island-relevant news items are regularly posted. And for a treat check out the Stewart Island Home Land page where Bryan Fowler has shared copies of the *Rakiura Herald* from the 1960s-70s!

Happy March everyone! Enjoy your oysters, green beer, Ides, Earth, Autumnal Equinox, and, um, possibly Brexit. —Jess

Do you know who wrote the *The Emperor's New Clothes*? Who sailed to the land where the



Locals rush to help whales. Photo from Lairka Photography

Mahi Māra Rakiura

Stewart Island Gardening

The inspiration for this column came from a book *Island Gardens, Havens of Beauty around the British Isles* written by Jackie Bennett and with photography by Richard Hanson. I loved every bit of this beautifully presented book. Its chief appeal was the discernment which the author and photographer brought to each island situation and each garden, explaining and illustrating the special challenges and rewards of island gardening. I kept thinking, “Yes! The same thing here!”

And often it is the case of the same plants - here or there. The giant echiums (*Echium pininana*), those towering plants with flower spikes of blue verging to pink which line the roadsides round Halfmoon Bay are native to the Canary Islands and have colonised the Scilly Islands, as have those big succulents (*Aeonium canariense*) with the huge rosettes of leaves and yellow flowers. Now both are busy making themselves at home here. Who brought them here, I wonder.

Equally architectural plants, our flaxes, harakeke (*Phormium tenax* and *cookianum*) and cabbage trees, ti kouka (*Cordyline australis*, *indivisa* and *banksii*) made an early and much admired entry into British gardens. A fascinating reference book just gifted to the Rakiura Museum by Martin Traill records that about 1869 Charles Traill, the first postmaster on Ulva, sent seeds of *Phormium tenax* to his brother Dr William Traill of Ronaldsay. The resulting plants thrived in the tough Orkney conditions as do their descendants today.

The many-branched Traill family history is studded with naturalists. William’s and Charles’ half-brother, Arthur William Traill married Gretchen Wohlers. Their son Roy was Stewart Island’s highly respected Wildlife Ranger and father of Alex Traill and sister Sheila Natusch. A talented family!

New Zealand flaxes, cordylines, hebes and even manuka are now common in public gardens and urban plantings throughout Europe.



Sandra Whipp Photography

Something of a lump-in-the-throat moment to see the creamy flowering panicles of a cabbage tree in deepest France.

Thanks to Sandra Whipp for this beautiful photo of a kaka gorging on flax flowers. Are those amazing colour matches biological camouflage or just serendipity? What a show the flaxes and cabbage trees have put on this summer! Does it reflect a mild winter and lovely spring or does it portend a harsh winter to come?

Our gracious editors, Jess and Shona, have agreed that this column will be an inter-active exchange of ideas and information about gardening on Stewart Island, so please come back to us with your suggestions – especially if you can add information or correct any mistakes! We want to hear of your successes or your queries. If you have an interesting plant we would love to come and photograph it.

Happy gardening! Raylene



Cabbage trees
Photo by Raylene Waddell



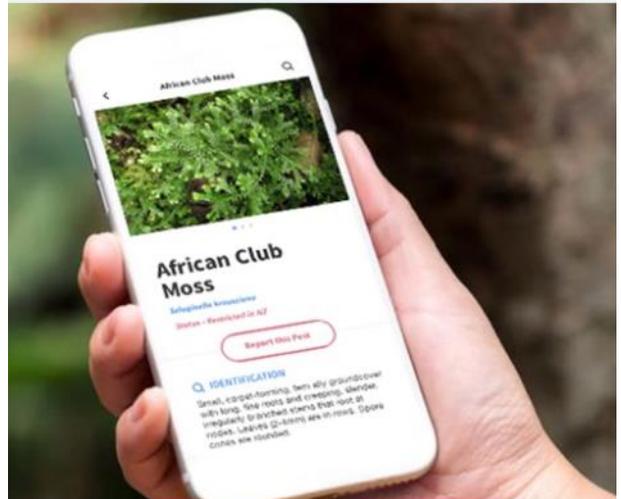
FIND PEST

We need your help to keep Stewart Island / Rakiura's environment safe from pests, diseases, and weeds.

To make reporting biosecurity risks as easy as possible, there's a new NZ smartphone app; Find-A-Pest. You can use the app to learn about the most important weeds and pests to look out for, and to report them and any other unusual new species that you find.

We are fortunate to be one of first groups in NZ to pilot the app, from now until the end of April. The app developers are keen to get your feedback and ideas on any improvements that are needed before the app gets promoted across New Zealand.

We need your help. We need people on / Stewart Island / Rakiura who are interested in protecting the island from weeds and pests to download the Find-A-Pest app, and report exotic species, especially those new or still spreading.



The Find-A-Pest app has been developed by Scion and Lincoln University in conjunction with the BioHeritage National Science Challenge and, regional councils, supported by the forestry and kiwifruit industries.

The app is available for **Android or iPhone** and is free and simple to use.



Get it at www.findapest.nz

SIRCET will be running short training sessions on Saturday 16th of March outside the community centre from 9:30am.

Please get in touch with Willy Gamble if you would like to attend.

Email: willy@sircet.org.nz or txt: [0204 167 4160](tel:02041674160)



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Poison free and easy to use.

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Saturday, May 4th, 7pm to 8pm Venue - TBA

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REIKI TRAINING DATES: May 4th to 6th

1st DEGREE: 4th 7-9pm, 5th/6th 9.30am - 12.30pm

2nd DEGREE: 5th/6th 1.30pm - 5.30pm

VENUE: 10 Petersons Hill, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island

All inquiries please contact either:

Diane Smith: ph: +6427 672 4405

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Cathy Cremen: ph: +6427 262 2448

e: cremenclan3@gmail.com

Last month's Crossword

Puzzle solution: Across: 1 Chew Tobacco, 8 Go, 9 Aorta, 11 Dusky, 13 NL, 14 Rim, 15 Tipoff, 17 Akin, 19 Wrath, 20 Oil, 22 Epee, 23 Teetotaler, 26 Lei, 28 Nonstop, 29 Lycra, 31 Hailed, 34 OE, 36 Redeem, 37 Psychosis, 38 Moa, 40 Pots, 41 Propane, 45 Turnip, 46 Repossess, 47 AOS, 48 Dill, 49 Screens

Down: 1 Codswallop, 2 Ecstatic, 3 Tryphena, 4 Buffoon, 5 Can, 6 Cola, 7 Or, 8 Gainer, 10 Tripe, 12 Kite, 16 Fits, 18 Kelpie, 21 Lathes, 24 To, 25 Load, 27 Eyesore, 30 Rockpools, 32 Lemon, 33 Emotions, 35 Horns, 36 Rid, 39 Asp, 40 Price, 41 Prod, 42 Opal, 43 Ass, 44 Eels, 45 Tsar. Highlighted word: Herekopare

THE RAKIURA CHALLENGE

Registration opens on 1st April for the Rakiura Challenge Trail Run taking place 5th October. Limited to 250 competitors: *first in first served.*

All information will be on the Stewart Island Promotions website www.stewartisland.co.nz/rakiura-challenge/

“Pilot Whales in the Bay!”

I’d just brought the boys and their cuzzy home from school on Friday, 22nd February when I noticed that FB post from my friend Tash Lundin. So me and the kids jumped back in the car and drove to Halfmoon Bay in hopes of glimpsing a fluke. As we approached, I could see dozens of cars and people along the road near Lonnekers. In the water, about 20-30 whales were grouped extremely close together, moving among the moored boats and mussel buoys. There were occasional tail slapping and much spyhopping (the cetacean behavior of whales poking themselves vertically out of the water to have a look around above water.) It was cold, windy and raining, so one by one, over the course of the next hour, carloads of people left. “They’re still just going back and forth,” my boys complained after an hour and a half. A passerby slowed his truck and made the annoyingly pessimistic comment: “This is going to end in tears.” Why the hell would he say that? As far as I could tell the whales were just cruising around and it was fun to watch them.

But... the boys were now bored and cold, so I decided to leave. I was heading back to the car when suddenly, the whales started moving again. I thought they were finally going to exit the Bay so I walked along the road with my niece watching them, trying to line up a photo of the pod with Pihī & co’s dilapidated boatshed in the foreground to send to him.

It was a few minutes before 6pm. The whales abruptly swerved and started to make a beeline for the shore at Lonnekers. Shocked, I did what any 21st Century dingdong would do in such a moment: held up my phone and started filming. As the first whales hit the beach they flipped on their backs and began to twist and thrash in distress.

There were still about 20 people watching and we all stood, stunned for a few seconds, our brains catching up with our eyes and processing what we were seeing. Then, with a yell, Rakiura Herzhoff ran down to the beach and jumped in the water. He was immediately followed by a dozen more Islanders (including James Sherriff, Shane McCarthy, Ian Miller, Craig Hind, Britt Moore, Manoj Amanono, Laire Kalamaika, and Phred Dobbins) who clambered down the bank and waded out into the cold waves. In teams of two and three, people worked to right the whales and push them to deeper waters. Once the whales were re-floated, the people formed a line, creating a human barrier between the whales and the shore, and moved forward, splashing and banging the water, trying to discourage them from coming back to shore. Afterwards, three dinghies with DoC staff shepherd the whales out of the bay, and they were last seen swimming east that night. To our knowledge they weren’t seen again and haven’t re-stranded.

There are different schools of thought regarding beaching whales, and some people think “if they’re going to strand they’re going to do it no matter what, so don’t interfere and let nature take its course.” However, in this situation, two things came into play: it felt almost humanly impossible to stand idly by and just watch distressed animals when there was a chance of helping turn the situation around. And, even if anyone thought they’d just strand elsewhere later, “elsewhere” seemed

preferable to Lonnekers. There are obvious compelling reasons we wouldn’t want a small local beach to become a graveyard for 30 huge decomposing mammals.

WHY??

Whales have a universal appeal, and the phenomenon of whales stranding gets people wondering and talking. *Why do they do it?* Theories abound. Are they purposely killing themselves because they are distressed due to sonar activity/illness/unhealthy oceans/depression? Are they *accidentally* going ashore because they are disoriented due to any of the aforementioned? Shallow sandy sea-beds could disrupt the whale’s ability to navigate correctly using their echolocation.

One interesting idea is that whales, who evolved millions of years ago from the land mammal Pakicetus, have some association hardwired in their brain of land being a familiar, safe space. So when they are feeling threatened, their turn toward shore is a kind of homecoming, with deadly results.

Many people watched the whales in Halfmoon Bay that Friday and there are various takes on what was going on. Later, I asked the pessimistic passerby why he anticipated the stranding and he said it seemed to him the whales were pacing back and forth, looking for a place to go ashore.

The whales did a lot of spy hopping among the boats, which is how whales see above water. Were they scoping out a beach to swim to? Whales have been known to spyhop near tour boats just to get a better look at the tourists and see what the fuss is about. There were a dozen cars parked along the edge of the road and heaps of people standing in the rain that afternoon, watching the whales. Were the whales watching us... did they come closer just to see what the fuss was about? “Curiosity killed the cetacean”?

Pilot whales are some of the most common stranders. They have strong social bonds which means that if one strands for whatever reason, the entire healthy pod strands just to stay with him. It seemed to me that when the first big whales beached at Lonnekers and flipped up, the whales at the back immediately spun around, but then lingered. As if the idea to die on a beach wasn’t their idea, but they wouldn’t/couldn’t leave the group no matter what. Many witnesses noticed that when the whales turned toward Lonnekers and swam to the beach it seemed very *deliberate*. And the pod had spent hours going back and forth in the area, and spy-hopping, so it’s difficult to believe their swim to shore was *accidental*.

The Mason Bay stranding of November 2018 in which 145 pilot whales had to be euthanised is still fresh in our minds, so the

The evolution of a viral story

To be filed under: *Global Village*... A Welsh journalist based in New York City called me (an ex-New York journalist based on Stewart Island), to ask for permission to use my and Estonian artist Laire Purik’s images, and the resulting cobbled-together story then whirled round the World appearing in articles in Vietnam, China, Peru, Turkey, and the NY Post. On-line, footage of the incident was shared hundreds of times, and Laire’s video, as of this publication, has garnered 44,000 views and counting!

Closer to home, the feel-good story popped up in news outlets around New Zealand. *Stuff* posted it to their page with the heartwarming message: “Incredible work from everyone involved” garnished with dozens of positive and supportive comments (with the exception of a shark cage company lady who wrote “If only the locals cared about the Great Whites as much as they do the whales”. To be filed under: *Nasty*.)

Like a telephone game, each time the story was repeated and translated it picked up more inaccuracies. “Mason Bay Island.” “Tides pushed whales to shore.” “First whales seen in HMB in 30 years.”

But, at the end of the day, it was nice to be part of a feel-good story with a positive outcome.

Lonnekers event, however brief (20 minutes), had a bit of a healing feeling. Of course, it’s not some kind of weird math equation where one happy-ending stranding cancels out a tragic-ending stranding. But it’s good to know a successful re-floating is possible. Anyone familiar with the island’s layout knows that the whales beached almost literally at the doorstep of one of the people heavily involved in the Mason Bay stranding, and it was surely nice for him -- and all of us -- to enable a different outcome this time around. Maybe those whales will end up re-stranding. Maybe they won’t, and the young whales we saw will have a chance to grow up and live out their lives.

For more information, check out the DoC Sounds of Science podcast in which Marine species expert Hannah Hendriks talks whale strandings, post-mortems and crucial data.

—Jess Kany

Cetacean euthanasia Beached whales face a prolonged, agonizing death. Their skin blisters and peels in the sun, and their organs are crushed under their own weight. They start to cook from the inside out. If re-floating is impossible, the decision to euthanise the animals is made. Sometimes the situation involves a single sperm whale; sometimes, as in the November 2018 Mason Bay stranding, more than a hundred pilot whales are suffering. Euthanising whales is logistically, physically, and emotionally an enormous task. Even a single sperm whale can be a challenge. It’s a job you want to get right the first time around. Sperm whales have the biggest brains of all mammals. They are killed with a head shot but it must be a precise shot to kill them instantly. (In the case of sperm whales, a high-powered specially adapted rifle known as the SWED Sperm Whale Euthanasia Device can be used.) On Stewart Island, stranded pilot whales are typically euthanised with a bullet in the brain. The cetacean euthanasia officer is trained to take into account the anatomy of the particular species of whale: the thickness of the skull, the size of the animal’s brain and the precise place/angle to shoot to penetrate layers of fat, tissue, and thick skull, in order to deliver an instantly fatal shot. To add to the difficulty, these are often moving animals, which might be responding to the sound of the gunshots nearby. The process must be accurate and swift and often takes place in waist deep cold water surging with tide. And, of course, it is a highly emotional task.

Stewart Island kiwi research update
by Emma Feenstra

This year has been a busy one for us so far. Towards the end of January, we put out four grids of equipment to monitor kiwi at Mason Bay, Port Adventure, Kaipipi and Ulva Island. In doing this, we are hoping to show that non-invasive methods like trail cameras and acoustic recorders can be adequate for obtaining information on kiwi populations, without the need to catch & directly interfere with birds. This is our third non-invasive survey, with the first happening in February 2018, and the next scheduled for Winter/August 2019.

We also started the invasive part of our project, which will help us prove the use of non-invasive methods (by direct comparison), and will provide the first ever in-depth study on Stewart Island kiwi breeding and chick survival. For this, we had two teams in the field for two weeks, one team at Kaipipi & the other on Ulva Is. The purpose was to attach transmitters to adult kiwi, in order to track them into the breeding season and subsequently monitor their young. Stewart Is. Kiwi are notoriously difficult to catch, being active during the day, often roosting above ground, and quick to scarper! Needless to say, there was a lot of learning involved. I'm always happy to report when animals have the one up on us Biologists... I know what I would do if someone was trying to catch me... run into a jumble of supplejack! All things considered, the trip was successful, with 21 birds transmitted at Kaipipi, and 5 on Ulva. Two of the birds on Ulva still have their metal bands from when they were originally translocated from the West Coast in 2013 (Cavalier or Mason Bay). One of the Kaipipi females weighed in at a whopping 4kg! Which is very heavy for a kiwi. Additionally, it looks like the Kaipipi birds are bigger in general than any others measured on Rakiura previously... so big that even the largest bands available for kiwi couldn't fit. We also found some large group burrows, with 4 and 5 birds all together, including sub-adults and chicks. Both populations are looking in pretty good shape from this initial data.



Stewart Is. kiwi researcher Emma ready to release a newly transmitted male tokoeka

Now that these adults have transmitters on, we are able to track them remotely using VHF telemetry (essentially using radio waves and an aerial). From this, we can start mapping their territories, find out how large their home ranges are, their favourite places to hang out, who they share their burrows with... and who is likely to mate with who this coming breeding season! We will be back towards the end of March to collect our non-invasive surveying equipment and catch the remainder of the adult kiwi at our two sites.

This work would not be possible without a lot of local help (best community EVER!) – a big thank you in particular to Stewart Island flights, Stewart Island Backpackers, Aurora Charters, Rakiura Charters, Ulva Island Ferry, Cherie Hemsley, Mike Douglass & the Mu.

Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/Rakiuratokoeka/>, and contact me with any comments, questions or just to say hi! We are always on the lookout for keen volunteers, and options for accommodation are always welcome at emmafeenstra@gmail.com

Emma & the Stewart Island kiwi Research Team



Volunteer kiwi practitioners Kat & Nicole carefully attach a transmitter to the first kiwi caught on Te Wharawhara, a male.

‘TOUCHING BASE’ ON ELSE by *William J (Bill) Watt*

It was a very pleasant but otherwise unremarkable little picnic on a beautiful ‘pet’ Stewart Island January day on the waters of Paterson Inlet.

Unremarkable ?

Except that we were on board Else, Raylene Waddell’s little 6.7m (22 ft) Norwegian *snekke* brought out from Norway in 1927. Else, known initially as The Captains Gig, was first owned by Sigval Johannensen, manager of the now derelict shipyard we often call “The Whalers’ Base”.

Except that with us was my brother Jim Watt, who has made a life-long hobby of documenting the history of the Kaipipi Shipyard and the threads of influence and social contact that extend around the world (see reference, below).

Except that the combined ages of the boat, and the three of us aboard her, exceeded 300 by a significant (but very confidential!) margin.

So it was something of a pilgrimage back to a familiar and special site, for Else and Jim, with Raylene occupying the ‘owner’s suite’ and myself as ‘mud pilot’. The pilgrimage had been an ‘idea’ for several months and we had been looking for the right day.

So, once aboard, we do a quick check on fuel and basic safety gear. I ‘swing the Lister– give it heaps, then “*puketa, puketa, puketa* – flick the decompression lever - **PUK-ETA , PUKETA PUKETA**” – that distinctive sound of a Lister firing up. Then we cast off from the Back Thule mooring, putt -putt through Faith and Charity, past the Dirty Islands, aim for the ‘lighthouse’ rock (where the Norwegians hung a lamp to guide night return launch trips) and then swing to port to find an anchorage at the ‘Base’.

We enjoy a ramble ashore. Shoreline erosion is taking its toll, unearthing fragments of the occupation which are respectfully laid out on one of the concrete berms. We wonder what more could be done to care for this historic site. I go for a swim on the warmest day of the year, thinking of the Norwegians whose fitness regime included a morning dip year-round.

Then we head back on board Else, to champagne and goodies kindly provided by Raylene. We ‘toast’ the Base and the Norwegians who manned it. The Norwegians are remembered with respect and affection for their contribution to the life and vitality of the Island community. They left their mark on it in a very positive way.

Reference: Watt J.P.C. Stewart Islands Kaipipi Shipyard and the Ross Sea Whalers. Published by the author in 1991.

Note: Roy Traill, a well-known Islander and also an old friend of our family, used to refer to those special, really lovely Stewart Island days as ‘pet’ days



Raylene and Jim toast the "Base" and the Norwegians who staffed it

Kids Lit Quiz 2019 *by Jess Kany*

On 8th March, for the first time the HMB School sent a team to compete at the Kid Lit Quiz. KLQ is a literature quiz offered to children aged 10-13 years. Quizzes are held in countries around the world including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, the UK and USA. There are heats all over the country, then national champions compete in a World Final.

The island team attending the Southland heat in Gore was made of up four of our school's most voracious readers: James Dyer, Sam Asher, Aiofe Fitzsimons and Tai Simpson. The scope of the quiz is vast: fairy tales, fables, nursery rhymes, picture books, poetry, book-related vocabulary and anatomy, graphic novels, comics, children's books and young adult literature – classics and contemporary. And MORE: mythology, popular culture, movies, superheroes...

We studied and studied and studied some more. Last year I added dozens of classic and popular contemporary children's literature titles to the library shelves. We went over the books they'd read to make sure they knew them inside out. We tackled Greek, Roman, Maori and some Norse mythology. No stone unturned in Alice and Wonderland; A Bear called Paddington; Winnie-the-Pooh; the Wizard of Oz. We became experts in To Kill a Mockingbird, The Hobbit, and Harry Potter. We earned our doctorates in Dr Suess, Maurice Sendak, and CS Lewis.

The KLQ took place on the same day the rest of the class attended athletics in Invercargill, so we all went across together on the morning ferry. Mind you, when Stewart Island teams compete, they've often been awake since dawn, spent an hour crossing Foveaux Strait on the ferry, and endured a mad scramble in Bluff to start a car trip north. Organizing students into groups with their assigned parent helpers, and sorting out cars and car seats and disembarking from the ferry to the destination in time is literally a sport in itself. By the time we hit the Bluff Highway, I was soaked in sweat! Our KLQ team arrived in Gore with ten minutes to spare.

The format is much like our Pub Quiz: the teams chooses one category where their points will be double, and each category is ten questions. There were 27 teams – some of the bigger schools had two teams representing. These kids were *all* truly inspiring. It's one thing to know the characters in a book; but to be able to deliver that knowledge under pressure, and then, during tie-breakers, to stand up in front of hundreds of people and raise your hand to answer, aware if you get it wrong you've let down your team... that's a whole different ballgame. At the end, there was a tie-breaker for placing third, and my heart went out to those 10-13-year-olds who knew if they raised their hand and got it wrong, they'd lose the placing for their whole school. Eight kids stood, listening to the Quizmaster ask the question, and then a young girl in a plaid skirt raised her hand. In the grand scheme of things, just a tiny scene in a Gore school. But in the moment, it was inspiring. She got it right. Courage! Her team placed third.

I was super proud of the Stewart Island team, who faced much bigger schools and super tricky questions with enthusiasm, good humor and wisdom. When they didn't know something they made educated guesses which in one instance paid off! Ultimately, they placed 11th among the 27 teams.

A hi-light was Tai Simpson, Hunger Games expert, politely correcting the Quizmaster on a detail from The Hunger Games. James won one of the spot prizes which was pretty cool.

I sat in the back and throughout the tough questions I

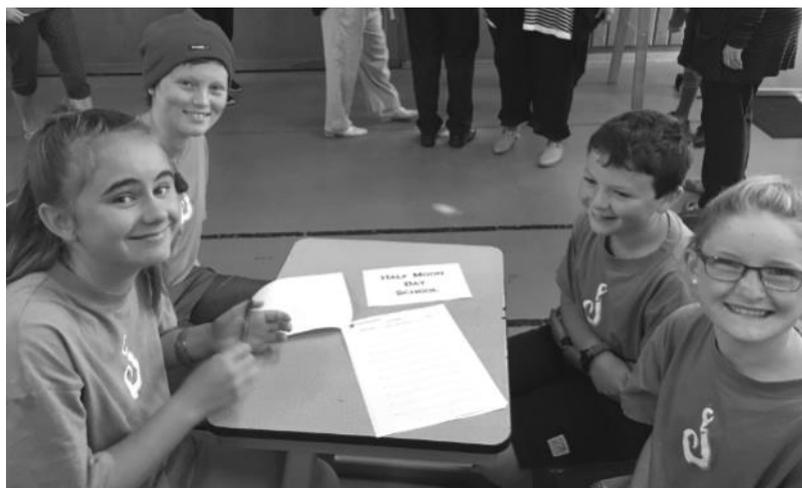
kept peering worriedly at the team who sat slack and blank-faced which made me more worried. I didn't realise they'd agreed to "poker faces."

It was a challenging quiz. Like I said, we'd studied Greek, Roman, Maori and Norse mythology, but we didn't cover Hindu mythology which came up during the "archery" category! I'd covered Yertle the Turtle and the Mock Turtle and the Hare and the Tortoise, but I hadn't touched on the Mutant Ninja Turtles which came up in the "Masks" category. I'd grilled the kids about every detail of every fairy tale, but we weren't prepared to know the title of the fourth Shrek movie in the "books turned into movies" category.

Overall, it was a fun and challenging experience. Hopefully next year Stewart Island will represent again.

Here's a few questions for you which I'm confident the four kids pictured below would know in a heartbeat!

With what kind of candy does the White Witch use to bribe Edmund?
 What does the giant in Jack and the Beanstalk threaten to use as an ingredient in his bread?
 What is Peter Rabbit looking for in Mister McGregor's garden to soothe his sore tummy?
 What colour are Dorothy's shoes in the book The Wonderful Wizard of Oz?
 What's Harriet the Spy's favourite kind of sandwich?
 In Greek mythology, what beast lived at the centre of a maze?
 The BFG is dedicated to Olivia. Who is she? How did she die?
 Who is the wisest toy in the nursery in The Velveteen Rabbit?
 What colour is the wall in Good Night, Moon?
 Who does Paddington have his elevenses (morning smoko) with?
 In what popular children's book does the King of the Elephants die after eating a toxic mushroom?
 What are used for croquet balls and mallets in Alice in Wonderland?
 What kind of creature is Mister Tumnus?
 Why are the orange and yellow crayons no longer speaking to each other?
 Where did Trixie leave Knuffle Bunny?
 What's the Roman name for Odysseus?
 Name the gods of the sea in Greek, Roman, and Maori mythology.
 Who dined on mince, and slices of quince, Which they ate with a runcible spoon?
 The Mock Turtle's song is also known as what?
 What colour is the hat of Curious's George's best friend?
 What kind of trees are chopped down in the Lorax?
 What is the first message Charlotte weaves into her web?
 What kind of creatures are harfoots, stoors and fallohides?
 What animal is Haathi in The Jungle Book?
 Whose home is Asteroid B 612?
 What are Joanne Rowling's pen names?
 What's the name of Bad Jelly the Witch's cat?
 Who is the giant lumberjack of American folklore?
 Who said: Let the wild rumpus start!
 In what town are the shops Zonkos and Honeydukes located?
 In what book is Lapine spoken?
 In Winnie the Pooh, how does Owl spell his name?
 Name Tintin's dog.
 Who killed Smaug?



MUSEUM MATTERS by Jo Riksem

HOUSE OF THE MONTH



Old Norwegian House

Brought from Norway in sections on the Rosshavet whaling ship, "C.A. Larsen" and erected on Golden Bay Road in 1930. The timber is Norwegian Spruce and the weatherboards are fitted together without nails, being dove-tailed instead. This house was built as a home for Harald and Violet Askerud. It became the holiday home of Grant Vickery and is now owned by Sue and Greg Cowles.

Acquisitions for February 2019

Archival material on the Robertson Family
 Book on the Traill family
 Items re Sheila Natusch

Searches for February 2019:

Widdowson family
 E.A. Phillips - photographer

Groups for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019:

Tahakopa School
 Operatunity Tours
 Mossburn School
 Cruise ships

Summer hours October through April:
 Monday - Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm,
 Sunday 12 pm - 2:00 pm

BREXIT. Unless an extension of time is agreed upon, Brexit is slated to take place at 11pm on Friday, 29th March (which will be noon on Saturday, 30th March for us NZ-time). There are a few



UK ex-pats on the island... what are you planning on doing on the day? Freaking out? Celebrating? Crying? Watching TV? Fishing? Keeping calm and carrying on? Nothing? It's never happened before so there's no precedent for proper Brexit Behaviour anywhere in the world, not in the UK, nor the EU, and certainly not on SI! What's your Stewart Island Brexit Day strategy?

400 WORDS by Beverley Osborne

CONNECTIONS

Someone once told me that a family often squabbles more among themselves than does a similar-sized group who are just acquaintances. The reason suggested was that living together was like being in a hot-house, producing rapid growth in small irritations, as well as knowledge of how best to exploit each others weaknesses.

The reverse side of the coin, of course, is the loving loyalty that will go into bat for a family member facing adversity. However, when we're in "squabbling mode" we don't always remember that we care about each other. It can be like that too on an Island – as a community or in separate interest groups.

Several years ago, I was part of a get-together marking the landing of the first of my paternal family to come to New Zealand, 150 years before. It was good to spend time with family members I'd never met before as well as those I knew but no longer had the chance to see on a regular basis. These big family re-unions are opportunities to learn about our roots and to make connections. That adds to our stability and confidence because we know more clearly who we are and where we belong. The family would be poorer in quantity and quality without the contribution of each individual. And though, between us, the family can enumerate many gifts and skills, each member is valued simply for "being".

Whether it's a birth family or a church family, whether it's a group with a mutual interest or a whole community, whether it's a local or an international group, the connection between the members is much more about the relationship of belonging, than about having the same opinion on everything.

What we all have in common, is that we all exist. The world would be different now and in the future if we did not exist which means we are all of value to the world.

Since each of us has such an impact, simply by being, it follows that we must make choices about the nature of our impact. If we respect the existence of each other and try to make the world a better place, we are increasing the goodness of the world – like gardeners improving the soil with care.

And isn't that just the way it was meant to be, right from the start, when the world became the responsibility of humankind?

RAKIURA RIDDLE

My name's two words; the first means twice.

Let's toss the second like a nice salad of lettuce, sprouts and KALES.

Or better yet, let's set sail round from LEASK Bay to Hellfire.

The boats' sprung LEAKS! The danger's dire!

Go to shore, head east inland.

It's hot and dry in all that sand.

I can help you cool and SLAKE your thirst. Now, let's have a break.

A glass of red: time to kick back with a drop from Vintner SELAK.



STEWART ISLAND RAKIURA DARK SKY SANCTUARY

Celebrations are in order now Stewart Island Rakiura has successfully achieved International Dark Sky Sanctuary status! As a community your support has been crucial to this significant achievement, the benefits of which will be evident for generations to come. This newsletter provides an update on the implementation of the Sanctuary and how you can be involved.

Southern Success

In early January the International Dark Sky Association officially announced that Stewart Island/ Rakiura had become the world's fifth International Dark Sky Sanctuary. This is a truly outstanding achievement which wouldn't have been possible without the strong support shown by the Stewart Island community.

Adam Dalton, the IDA Dark Sky Places Program Manager, said the successful accreditation was unanimously endorsed by the IDA Board.

"Stewart Island/Rakiura's pristine night skies are a rare treasure and through the sanctuary's enacted policies the area will remain a resource in a world where access to the night sky is becoming increasingly scarce," Dalton said.

Stewart Island Rakiura International Dark Sky Sanctuary will bring significant recognition to the island and ensure the views experienced today are protected for future generations.

At this stage there have already been a large number of enquiries from within New Zealand and from inbound tourism operators interested in bringing new visitors to the island to view the night sky.

What Happens Next?

Promotion

Now accreditation has been gained, Venture Southland and Stewart Island Promotion Association are working to develop the supporting material required to promote the Stewart Island Rakiura International Dark Sky Sanctuary. This includes:

- A Stewart Island Rakiura International Dark Sky Sanctuary brand logo
- Signage marking the Sanctuary that will be installed at appropriate locations on the Island

- A brochure on the Sanctuary for visitors
- Online content for SouthlandNZ to promote the Sanctuary to potential visitors

Launch Event

An event to officially launch the Stewart Island Rakiura International Dark Sky Sanctuary is currently being planned. The event is intended to be a celebration of this achievement and will attract media interest near the beginning of the winter season. More details will be shared when these are available.

Education and Outreach

The International Dark Sky Association requires that all Dark Sky Sanctuaries work with their communities to share information on the night sky and the importance of reducing light pollution. In line with this several activities will take place on the Island, providing opportunities to find out more about the night sky and its preservation.

Events planned to take place this year include dark sky content at the annual 'Island Inspirations' event, dark sky content created for DOC visits to local schools, and a Matariki event. These are all still to be confirmed and detail on each will be shared by the Stewart Island Promotion Association.

Education and outreach is intended to include surrounding areas so opportunities for Bluff and Invercargill are also being considered.

How Can I Be Involved?

There are several ways you can help to support Stewart Island Rakiura Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Lighting

Prior to the Dark Sky Sanctuary application being complete all street lights on the island were upgraded to comply with IDA requirements. This change helped achieve 94% compliance for lighting on public protected lands. The percentage compliance for all other categories of lighting reviewed were:

- Public Community Buildings - 44% (20 non-compliant lights)
- Private Commercial Property - 79% (27 non-compliant lights)
- Private Residential Property - 58% (234 non-compliant lights)

As residents and business owners you can help by assessing your own outdoor lighting to see if any improvements can be made to achieve compliance. Private lighting is not assessed by the IDA for Sanctuary status but improvements made to lighting on the island will help to ensure sky quality readings remain high or better yet, improve further. Non-compliant

lighting often lights an area wider than needed and can also be more expensive to operate. Therefore, addressing this lighting and making changes not only impacts on light pollution levels but can also reduce costs.

Further detail on how you can assess your lighting and examples of suggested fixtures can be found in the Rakiura Stewart Island Responsible Lighting Guide made available last year. If you would like to see a copy of this Guide please contact Stewart Island Promotion Association.

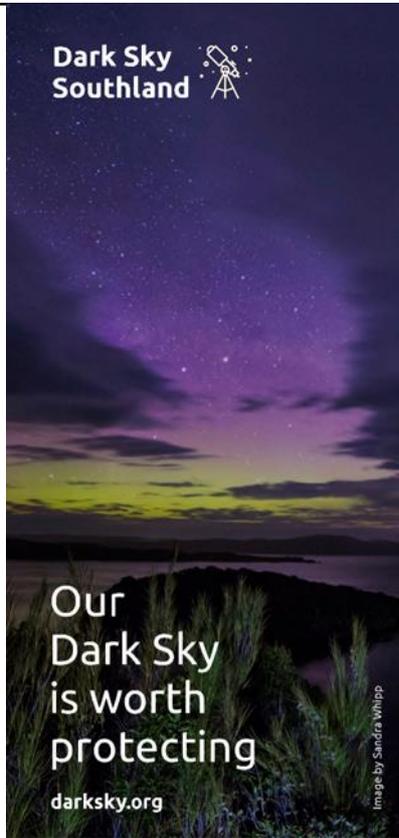
Stewart Island Rakiura Dark Sky Sanctuary – Working Group

The IDA requires that all Dark Sky Sanctuaries carry out an Education and Outreach Program and continue to monitor night sky quality each year. Stewart Island Promotion Association is currently establishing a working group in order to help achieve these goals. Membership will include representation from key stakeholders as well as community members. If you are interested in being involved and have the time and skills necessary to be part of this group please register your interest with Stewart Island Promotion Association by contacting kirsten.hicks@southlanddc.govt.nz

Certain events and activities may require even further support so if you are not interested in being part of the working group but would still like to help, please also get in touch with the Association.

Educational and Outreach Events

As noted above, various Education and Outreach activities will be held throughout the year. You can support the Sanctuary by getting involved and using these opportunities to learn more about the outstanding skies above Rakiura. Knowing more will help enrich your knowledge and enable every



Responsible Lighting Guide

<p>1 Light only what you need</p>	<p>2 Shield lights and direct them down</p>
<p>3 Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need</p>	<p>4 Choose warm white light bulbs ≤3000K</p>
<p>5 Use only when you need it</p>	<p>6 Use sensors to provide security</p>

Credit: International Dark Sky Association www.darksky.org

Dark Sky Southland

member of the community to be an ambassador for the island, sharing the story of the night sky with friends, family and visitors.

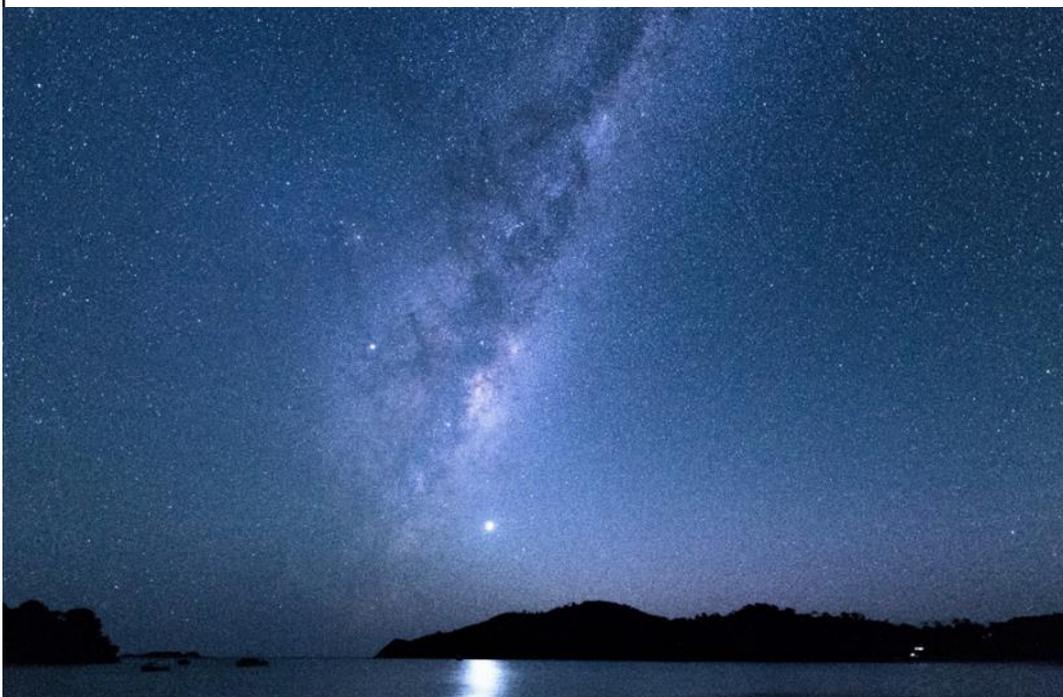
Business Support

With Sanctuary status achieved, an increasing number of night sky enthusiasts are expected to visit Rakiura. If you are an existing or new business looking at dark sky opportunities Venture Southland may be able to provide guidance and support. Please contact Cameron Richardson at cameron@venturesouthland.co.nz to find out more should this be of interest to you.

Looking Up

This is an exciting period for Stewart Island, with Dark Sky Sanctuary accreditation providing an opportunity to attract visitors during the winter months. Growth during this time would help to address the seasonality of tourism on the island and reduce any associated limitations. Stewart Island Rakiura Dark Sky Sanctuary not only provides an opportunity to preserve the island's outstanding night skies, but has a multitude of potential benefits for the island and its community.

Images by Sandra Whipp



LETTERS

I do enjoy reading the news of the Island and its people.

My family and I lived on the Island at the schoolhouse (on View Street) for all of the 1970s and had a boat shed at Watercress so enjoyed exploring Paterson Inlet and tramping through much of the tracks. It was in the time of such notables as Eric Leask, Roy Traill, the Squires and Smiths – the list goes on.

This year I am embarking on a trip south called Kiwi Excursions – South Island Best of Rail (an escorted tour). We don't go to Stewart Island but go as far south as Invercargill and Bluff. There is an optional excursion to Stewart Island on day 10 of the 14 day trip so I hope I may revive old memories if time and weather suit. Since our trip begins on April 25 I expect a day trip might be possible weather permitting.

Some of the older folk who attended Halfmoon Bay School in the 70s would remember Miss Claire Harcox who taught the infants then. She now lives in Coromandel as a retired Anglican Vicar. Married with children she is as jolly and friendly as ever.

Those people still on the island may remember Claire. She stayed at Ferndale at the time. We were raising funds to build a learner swimming pool and sold "Stewart Island passports" to assist in fundraising. It cut into the school day during the warmer weather before we had the pool finished because the teachers would take the pupils to either Golden Bay or Bathing Beach for swimming lessons depending on which beach was sheltered from the wind. It was good fun really. It did take time with the walk to the beach and return. Great times though with the youngsters changing in the bush and I suppose happy to be avoiding the usual school studies.

When the pool was built we sometimes had boat races on its surface with model boats built by the children.

On a visit a year or so ago I was amazed to see the pool now covered and heated! A great advance, together with the magnificent town hall and sports area. Many changes, including diesel powered electric power for the community. All good, I thought, for the natural beauty remained and honoured.

My ears prick up whenever Halfmoon Bay or Rakiura is mentioned in the news. After all, we spent nine years happily there and the memories are precious.

Well, as I'll be ninety one years very shortly and inclined to rattle on, I had better close now. Best wishes to all Islanders and thanks for the news I receive from the Stewart Island News.

*Laurie Anderson
Katikati*

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

A couple of months into the year and Parliament, as usual, is a hive of activity. National is focussed on the recent proposals from the Tax Working Group, which amongst a raft of taxes, suggests a Capital Gains Tax should be introduced. We believe these taxes are a direct attack on New Zealand households, farmers and business who have worked hard to get ahead.

The proposed CGT unfairly targets small business owners, lifestyle block owners, farmers and homeowners who have flatmates or boarders; yet art collectors and people living in multi-million dollar mansions will be CGT free.

Over a third of Stewart Islanders are employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector — the vast majority of these work for small businesses.

For small businesses, the proposed taxes also raise the costs of compliance, making our simple tax system extremely difficult to navigate. To put it simply, the days of doing your own tax returns would be long gone. National will fight to stop a CGT.

I have been heavily involved in education matters locally. Last week I was in Invercargill where National's Education Spokesperson Nikki Kaye joined me for a public meeting to gain feedback on the Government's education review, 'Tomorrow's Schools'.

The formation of 20 'Education Hubs' could mean the power school boards currently have over the governance of Invercargill and wider Southland schools will go to Christchurch and Dunedin.

A one size fits all approach doesn't recognise the different interests that

local communities have. Listening to Southland's parents and teachers, it's clear the needs of an isolated school like Halfmoon Bay are very different to those in Invercargill.

Nikki told me after her Future of Education public meeting on Stewart Island that she has huge admiration for the principal of Halfmoon Bay School and the local community. She understands the challenges schools like Halfmoon Bay face, in part because she's got Great Barrier Island in her electorate. Nikki is keen to return at some point soon for a longer visit.

With respect to the future of the Southern Institute of Technology, I also attended Education Minister Chris Hipkins' public meeting about the Government's proposed polytechnic mega merger.

Despite the Government considering massive changes to the Polytechnic sector, the consultation period has been rushed. Indeed, National was only informed a week before that the consultation review panel would not travel to Invercargill – a public outcry at this decision resulted in a turn around.

Like Halfmoon Bay School's unique identity, SIT is a well-run institute run by highly competent people. SIT's growing role, and the fact that it can respond quickly to regional labour needs, are shining examples of the institute's success.

But the Minister is wedded to ideology and, with little regard of his reforms' impact, is seemingly set on a path of centralisation. Why else then would he destroy a Zero Fee Scheme that is held in such high regard throughout New Zealand?

from the office of Sarah Dowie MP

Over the tea cup *by Peter Schofield*

Alison, from Sanford, said to me, "You're the Chairman of the Marine Farmers Association, write something about Big Glory Bay."

"Alison," I said... because that is her name, "Nothing happens in the Bay. I go, get wet, then come home. Same thing every day. Sometimes it's salt water sometimes it is fresh."

"Write about the early years." She persisted, and persist she does.

So here I am sitting at my computer as the astute are outside having fun ... now I am not one to philosophise but I have always said, you should only do something when everyone else thinks you are an idiot. Get into something when everyone is getting out, and get out when everyone is piling in. This is how I began fish farming.

I got my first mussel licence when farmers in Marlborough were losing their houses. Why stop there ... why not get into salmon farming ... Trading Banks in Norway were only going broke after lending to salmon farmers in Scandinavia.

It was in this economic climate that Schofield Sea Farms was conceived. It consisted of two mussel lines and a small 40 tonne salmon farm.

Our mussel lines quickly expanded to three when a large fishing boat ran through one of the lines and cut it into two. So there I was 20 something and the proud owner of a nine-cage salmon farm and a three-line mussel farm, albeit I was two anchors short.

Now I have never lost my home or even a trading bank. Did lose a grandkid once - in the Melbourne Aquarium, somewhere near the alligator enclosure. Told his parents that it was only for 5 minutes ... didn't mention the alligator.

It was fair to say that those early Big Glory Bay days were difficult. Jelly fish strikes, seals, algal blooms but to make it even harder I used to take the kids up in the weekends to give Denise a break. The three boys ranged in age from 5 to about 10 (I always had trouble keeping track of ages). I might add, keeping track 'period' would have helped... before the incident.

In my defence, I was only a few meters away when I heard the splash. We were feeding the salmon from the central walkway when Jeremy (10) took it upon himself to fall into the salmon cage. No problem he was wearing a life jacket. Unfortunately, the life jacket was a bit big. Consequently, the jacket stayed at the surface and Jeremy continued down. When he resurfaced he was doing a pretty good impression of treading water so I hand-over-hand cautiously moved out under the walkway. (The walkway was quite high above the water to keep the electronics dry and to sun-dry the nets).

Jeremy grabbed my feet and I hand-over-hand swung him back to the cage edge, to safety. The point of the story is not Jeremy's swim, but back then I could undertake such gymnastics. Nowadays my personal equator has shifted south from my chest to my waist. It is fair to say those days were hard, but I still look back in fondness.



Peter and Denise Schofield



The Gells have shared this photo of a chook on a cat and it's begging to be a photo caption contest. Send your caption ideas to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com
 Best caption wins a dozen eggs.
 Second best winds half dozen.

Can't make IT work?  **needanerd**
 your technology partner

✔ Computer and technology support for home and small business

Our qualified technician will be coming to Stewart Island each month. The next visit is 27th March.

03 217 0477 or 021 842 850 needanerd.co.nz

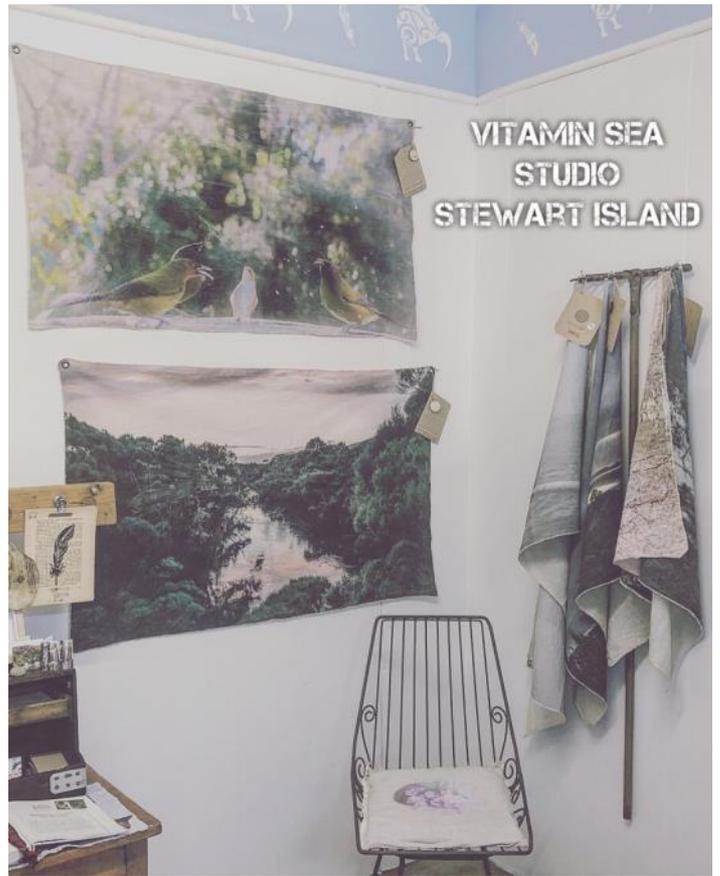


Vitamin Sea Studio

Located at the Island Garage (14 Ayr Street). Local photographer and artist Lairka has set up this art space to share her work with everyone.

"I am truly inspired by mother nature and like to play with textures and different methods to transfer these images into art forms. My style of photography is about exploring my own creative journey, to discover my own sense of style and narrative."

Stop by and see Lairka's beautiful and environmentally sustainable Island artwork.



Hopetoun Brown performing at the Community Centre.

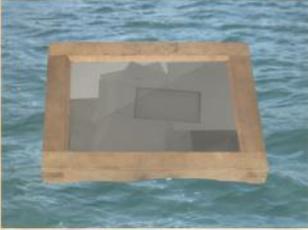
Photo from Les Pullen



REWARD

★ Please return to Lisa (or Kylie) ★
for a creative reward

Wanted WET or DRY



LOST AT SEA

Sailing in Te Whaka A Te Wera (Paterson Inlet), a small wooden and perspex drawing frame, fell into the sea. It is now a watercolour and at the whim of the winds and the tides and your keen eyes. So if you find anything like a small wooden frame, please return it home. Ph (022) 0501057



 Glowing Sky Merino
Between The Shop
& The Pub, Rakiura
glowingsky.co.nz



Across

- 1. A news article that reports the recent death of a person (8)
- 5. Goods truck (5)
- 8. Federal Aviation Administration (1,1,1)
- 9. Renaissance sculpture by Michelangelo (5)
- 11. Squash (7)
- 13. Common small-boat anchor (8)
- 14. In direction of (2)
- 16. Winter sportsperson (5)
- 17. Urban area northwest of Suva, Fiji (4)
- 19. Personal assistant or secretary to a person of high rank (eg. Military, royals, head of state) (4,2,4)
- 22. Arboreal herbivorous marsupial native to Australia (5)
- 23. Earth's southernmost active volcano (6)
- 25. All over the place (7)
- 29. A sudden sharp increase in wind speed lasting minutes, usually with rain, hail, etc. (6)
- 32. Meadow (3)
- 33. Poem (3)
- 34. Information displayed by a clock (4)
- 35. Cloud produced by aircraft engine exhaust or changes in pressure (8)

- 37. Predatory seabird (4)
- 38. Wardrobe (6)
- 39. Major north-flowing African river (4)
- 41. Precipitation (4)
- 42. Soft-bodied usually shelled invertebrate (7)
- 44. Type of grass (3)
- 45. Bitter conflict (6)
- 46. Correct (5)

Down

- 2. Old building formerly on the site next to the South Seas Hotel (5,5)
- 3. Invasive edible seaweed found throughout Southland and now Fiordland (7)
- 4. Mess up (6)
- 5. Open framework consisting of a criss-crossed pattern of strips (7)
- 6. Vow (4)
- 7. Hire (4)
- 8. Agri-, horti- or aquaculture worker (6)
- 10. Perfect (5)
- 12. Heavy machine used to move or load materials (6)
- 15. Otherwise, ___ else (2)
- 18. Large flightless Australian bird (3)
- 20. The act of washing oneself (8)

- 21. A sacred song or poem used in worship (5)
- 24. Make or become much greater (8)
- 25. 2nd highest peak on Stewart Island, Mount ___ (5)
- 26. Arab nation (1,1,1)
- 27. To berth a boat/ship (4)
- 28. Container ship wrecked on Astrolabe Reef, Bay of Plenty, in 2011 (4)
- 29. The use of irony to mock or convey contempt (7)
- 30. Troubles or afflicts (4)
- 31. Natural material created by tanning animal rawhides and skins (7)
- 36. ___ in Wonderland (5)
- 37. Half in quantity or value (4)
- 40. Body responsible for overseeing liquor licensing in the Invercargill district (1,1,1)
- 41. The number "two" in Maori (3)
- 43. Belonging to (2)
- 44. Rural Delivery (1,1)

Find the circled letters to spell a recently-created reserve.

—puzzle by Ben Hopkins

1	2			3		4			5	6		7	
								8					
9			10			11	12						
			13									14	15
16						17					18		
			19							20		21	
22							23						
					24								
25		26		27		28		29			30		31
32				33							34		
				35						36			
			37						38				
39	40							41					
			42	43								44	
45								46					

RAKIURA JADE

*with Master Carver & Sculptor
Dave Goodin*

Open from 10.30am every day upstairs at
45 Elgin Terrace (next to the boat slip)

Enjoy stunning views of Stewart Island harbour
from the world's southernmost jade workshop.
Make your own treasure from your selected piece of
beautiful New Zealand greenstone
(from \$180/day; conditions apply)
Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects
made by local artists
www.rakiurajade.co.nz
rakiurajade@gmail.com
021 025 93958

STEWART ISLAND KNIT AND KNATTER GROUP Would like to say a big thank you to Stewart Island Flights. The group have put together and finished off garments knitted by Melanie Frew which went on sale at the air centre and raised \$675.00 for the Cancer society.



Stewart Island Real Estate

For all local listings -
houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.
See our website TODDCO.NZ
or contact our local representative
Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589
for all Island real estate enquiries.

WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD, LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT (REAA 2008) TODDCO.NZ

New bylaw and policy for Stewart Island

Southland District Council would like to announce the adoption of the:

- **Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Bylaw (Revision 1, 2019)** - the bylaw will come into force on 1 July 2019.
- **Stewart Island Rakiura Visitor Levy Policy** – the policy will also come into force on 1 July 2019.

The new policy and bylaw will be available on Council's website from 1 July 2019. Copies of the bylaw and policy may be inspected and obtained free of charge at your local Council office.

The amount of the visitor levy is to remain at \$5. Additional members have been added to a subcommittee who make decisions on where levy funding should go, and there has been changes to how levy funding can be allocated. There will no longer be a technical advisory group supporting the subcommittee. Council would like to thank all the people who submitted and gave their views on the changes proposed to the visitor levy.

RAKIURA PEST CONTROL

Local trapping service targeting
RATS, POSSUMS AND FERAL CATS
On Domestic, Commercial and
Bush Block properties

Non-toxic lures to humane kill traps or live
capture traps (for feral cats/possums)
NO POISON USED

**CONTACT DENISE HAYES ON 2191 159 or
0273 913215**
to discuss your individual requirements

Have you heard of the **Ides of March?** What's an Ide, anyway, and what makes the Ides of March a special day?

From Wikipedia: The Romans did not number days of a month from the first to the last day. Instead, they counted back from three fixed points of the month: the Nones (5th or 7th, depending on the length of the month), the Ides (13th or 15th), and the Kalends (1st of the following month). The Ides occurred near the midpoint, on the 13th for most months, but on the 15th for March, May, July, and October. The Ides were supposed to be determined by the full moon, reflecting the lunar origin of the Roman calendar. On the earliest calendar, the Ides of March would have been the first full moon of the new year. In 44 BC, 15th March became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar which made the Ides of March a turning point in Roman history.

Need a

- **RESOURCE CONSENT?**
- **CONCESSION?**

Or just some advice about developing your property?

I CAN HELP you get 'over the regulatory hurdles' and find your way through the maze.

I specialise in applications under the Resource Management Act to both Southland District Council and Environment Southland - I can often help with matters under the Building Act and other legislation.

I can also help you prepare your application if you need a 'concession' for an activity from the Dept of Conservation.

I have 40 years' experience in local government and 8 years' experience as a Planning and Environmental Consultant.



027 495 9288
williamwatt@outlook.co.nz



PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us at **7:45pm, Tuesday 26th March, Ayr Street Pavilion**. Inspiring guest speakers will share their stories about their conservation projects and we'll give an update on the Predator Free Rakiura project. Come for a chat over a cuppa. **ALL WELCOME**

We warmly welcome John Cushen who has joined the Predator Free Rakiura group, or rather will do, when he's returned from his Antarctic adventuring: "Having the opportunity to contribute in some small way to this Island I have visited and loved for 68 years is so exciting for me. Now that I am officially a "cribbie" having bought Margaret Fairhall's lovely house and semi retired, I look forward to supporting the initiatives that Predator Free Rakiura are developing with input from the local community, DOC and the many community groups that would love to see those who live on or visit Rakiura wake up to the dawn chorus once again. Mind you the bird life around the Bay has been so special this summer.



With a national aim of being predator free by 2050, it seems to me that Rakiura/Stewart Island has a great opportunity to show just what can be achieved when a community joins together and implements a programme that all are happy with. I hope that my passion for the outdoors and our unique natural environment along with a lot of energy and enthusiasm will help us move towards this aim.

I encourage anyone who wishes to discuss this aim to contact me at any time. My number is 0276407522, email ja-cushen@gmail.com or tap me on the shoulder (the photo is 7 yrs old!!!) when I am on the Island. I would love to hear about your concerns, views and of course suggestions."

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809), Sandy King, John Cushen and Garry Neave.

Church Chatter by Jo Riksem

I hope your Easter and school holidays will be full of magical days on Stewart Island. Feel free to stop in at the red-roofed church on the hill any time.



Speakers for April 2019

7 Apr. - Alan & Averil Bennett – If you missed Alan at the end of March now you can catch him at the beginning of this month. Rev Alan Bennett, with Averil, has part-time ministries in Gore and Edendale, after 42 years in Thailand with OMF International. Alan enjoys amateur radio, both operating and fixing.

14 Apr. 19 & 21 – Rev Nancy Parker - retired Presbyterian Minister, who was in the ministry for 15 years at Weston just out of Oamaru and has just completed 2 years part time at Leith Valley Presbyterian while Rev Richard Dawson was Presbyterian Moderator. She is also Interim Moderator at Coastal Unity in Dunedin and a member of the Synod Executive. **The 14 & 21 are Sundays and the 19 is a short evening service for Good Friday at 7:30 pm.**

28 Apr. - Glenda Hicks – Well known ex-islander and Anglican minister, it will be great to see Glenda on the island again.

Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.

Anzac Day 2019

- Poppy Day** Sunday 21st April
- Anzac Day** Thursday 25th April
- 0700hrs** **Parade will assemble outside Ship to Shore.**
- 0715hrs** Parade marches to the Memorial
Laying of Remembrance Wreath
Public to lay poppies and wreaths
Readings of Official Messages
Prayers
HMB School talks
Reading of the Ode
Last Post, Minute's Silence observed & Reveille
Parade dismissed

Any members of the public are welcome to make and lay a wreath.

After the parade everyone is welcome to adjourn to the RSA Pavilion in Ayr St. for refreshments: Tea Coffee & Rum toddies.




Lairka Photography

The Rakiura Toy Library at Trail Park is up and running, thank you to everyone for donations, volunteering and general support.

Not only can we re-home your toys but (washed and usable) children's clothing too!

Sundays 17th and 31st March
9:30 - 10:30am.
Come and visit!

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE HALFMOON BAY HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT?

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRECT) undertake a habitat restoration project in Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island. The aim of the project is to protect vulnerable bird and plant species unique to New Zealand and to Stewart Island.

The project needs help to achieve its goals and we are currently looking for **NEW VOLUNTEERS** to help check, clear and reset rat traps placed along well marked tracks in the bush.

- **Experience is not needed** as traps are easy to check and reset. However, you must be comfortable dealing with small dead animals (we provide gloves etc).
- Some walking fitness is required. Track lines follow well marked paths through the bush. There are a variety of different difficulties to suit most people, so you need not be super fit but be comfortable walking off the main track.

To become involved or for more information, please contact:
Willy Gamble
Ph: 020 4167 4160
pest-manager@sirect.org.nz
P O Box 124, Stewart Island
www.facebook.com/SIRECT

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Islanders refloating whales at Lonnekers.
 Photo from Lairka Photography

RAKIURA CHALLENGE
 trail run
 STEWART ISLAND NEW ZEALAND
 34KM · 5TH OCTOBER 2019

Registration opens 1st April.
 Limited to 250 competitors: first in first served. For details check www.stewartisland.co.nz/rakiura-challenge/

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NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTHERN MOST TRAIL RUN

Stewart Island Handyman Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance | Wooden fences and decks |
| Lawn mowing | General fencing |
| Line trimming | General carpentry |
| Section maintenance | Gutter cleaning |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree pruning | Water blasting |
| Tree removal | Spider proofing |
| Chainsaw work | |
| Hedge trimming | And more - just ask |



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

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