

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

MARCH—APRIL 2008

extra big issue, extra 50 cents please **\$2.50**



As we gorge ourselves on oysters and Girl Guide biscuits, sharks have been snacking on tuna bait provided by the shark tagging team. Kina's extraordinary footage from the shark cage features muttonbirds diving on the bait around a white pointer's head, while several other big biteys cruise in the shadowy background. Paua divers take heed: they identified *at least five* white pointers at the back of Edwards in one evening. The huge turnout for Clinton Duffy's shark talk reflected the community's interest in the study.

The Island has seen a rise in rat numbers. MAF officials are here. The weather has turned a bit wintry. Penguin data is looking hopeful.

*Au revoir* to Fanch aka Franky aka Francois (the guy behind the Brittany flag at Church Hill Restaurant).

For thoughts on our beloved bivalve, I've turned to some wise men: "Oyster, dear to the gourmet, beneficent oyster, exciting rather than sating, all stomachs digest you, all stomachs bless you!"—*Seneca, Roman philosopher, 25 AD*

And from more recent history but no less profound: "We're going to a secret patch. Trouble is it might be so secret that even the oysters don't know about it."—*Paul Bartlett, Southern oyster fan, 2008 AD*

Please toss an extra 50 cents in the *SIN* can this month. The past 2 issues have been extra big and hardly an ad in sight! Your silver will help.

### Rakiura Rugrats bask in National media glow

by Chris Griffiths

The glamorous mothers at Rugrats are coping as well as they can with a surge of paparazzi knocking at the (childsafed) door. Since the call went out around New Zealand and the world for a new pre-school teacher a media scrum has quickly developed with stories in the *Southland Times* and *NZ Herald* prompting the hasty arrival of TV crews and radio hosts all eager to expose the wild heart of our island lives, and to help publicise our plight.

The newspaper stories that have emerged range from a garbled local version (where

did "advertising for whalers" come from? Crumbs, we'll have the Japanese harpooners down here looking for a welcome) to a reasonably clear national version, (where Stewart Island was labelled chilly and rugged, and we all know it is never chilly and rugged here).

These attracted an Invercargill TV crew followed by a TV One crew and a National Radio interviewer. Said glam mums are becoming scared of answering the phone in case Paul Holmes is on his way, and the BBC can't be far behind.

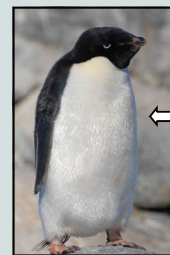
That's not altogether a joke as when, several years back, a small article appeared in the

(Continued on page 2)

### Yo ho ho and a bottle of Aerogard

It may be time for prospective fugitives to take note: Stewart Island is *not* the best place to do a runner. In fact, it's a close second to worst (you may get chased through bush lawyer and savaged by sandflies here, but at least you won't get down-trowed and hog-tied.) (Unless you really annoy Vicki at Quiz night.)

Late last year, a fugitive hid in the Rakiura wild for a month before he was captured and hospitalized, as



the bush got the better of him. No sooner had the final chapter of his tale been written (his sentencing in court news, *Southland Times*, 15th March) when we heard an off-schedule flight, and cops, cars, and dinghies were zooming around the show as tongues wagged.

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## The Rakiura Museum

has updated the list of boats about which we need more information for the Stewart Island boat book. Please check the *SIN* website for the updated list:

Go to [www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com) and click on Rakiura Museum

Also we **urgently** need photos of the following boats where the photo we have is not the best for printing purposes. The ones we have will be used if others don't come in but we'd like people to dig deep in their photos in case they have any of the following

AMETHYST  
AORERE  
ATUA  
AVENAL  
AWANUI  
COLOMBO  
CRUSADER  
DESIREE  
DIOMEDEA

DOT - the one associated with W.E. Wigg  
DOVE  
ECLIPSE - Robert Scollay's  
ELIZA SIMPSON  
ENCORE  
ENTERPRISE - Robert Scollay's  
GAIL HAKATURI HARBINGER  
HELGA  
HUIA - Joe Harrold's  
IONA  
JO ANN  
JOHN BULLOCK  
JOSEPH WELLER  
KOWHAI  
LADY SARAH  
LERWICK  
MARAROA  
MARGARET  
MARGARET SCOLLAY  
MARLBOROUGH  
MARY BRILLIARD  
MARY VAN EVERY MAUREEN/VY  
MAVIS  
MINNEHAHA  
MISS STEWART ISLAND  
MOATA

MYSTERON  
MYTH  
NANCY  
NIGHTINGALE - Arthur Traill's  
OCEAN RANGER  
OLGA  
OWENGA 8  
PENDELLA  
PILOT  
RAIDER - Ron von Tunzelmann's  
RIMU - Neil Hamilton's  
ROSA  
ROSE  
RUAHINE  
SEA DIVER  
SEA DIVER II  
SNIPE  
SURPRISE  
TANFIELD LEA  
TANGAROA  
TE KIWA  
TWILIGHT  
VENUS  
VIKING - Buddie Willa's  
WAIKARE MOANA  
WANDERER  
WATERLILY

*(Continued from page 1)*

paper about Holger's seaweed bread he fielded calls from reporters in London and Berlin, as well as from all over the country — all clamouring for the ultimate shaggy loaf story. Sad but true. However not as sad as the visit from MAF that followed: 2 officers sent undercover from Invercargill to catch him at home with his mountain of illegally harvested seaweed. When confronted with a margarine container holding 2 tablespoons of dried kelp they at least had the grace to look embarrassed.

The brief spotlight of international fame will soon move on from Rakiura Rugrats, and with a sigh of relief parents can relax and chalk up the TV interviews to experience (good work everyone).

We'll be keeping our eyes peeled for the item to appear on the news and for the sight of our kids on the telly. The call from reality TV cannot be far off (*Survivor Sub Antarctic*).

Mostly we are hoping that our purposes have been served and a wonderful teacher will not be able to resist the sound of the island and the preschool centre. So far we have had enquiries from Austria, Germany, Australia, Brunei, and within the country. Rugrats committee members will meet before Easter to go over CVs, and maybe more will have come in by then. We know who to measure them against now — thanks Josy for coming back to help for a month! And thanks too to Steph for helping us out now while we are teacher-less — we appreciate it.

Anyone interested in listening to the interview on National Radio Nine to Noon programme, it can be heard online at [www.radionz.co.nz](http://www.radionz.co.nz). Just type 'Stewart Island' into the search.

The article, as it has appeared in media around the globe, is printed to the right

—C. Griffiths

*Following is the Rugrats article by Chris which has appeared in media around the Globe:*

## STEWART ISLAND'S KIDDIES NEED THEIR PRE-SCHOOL

A late 19<sup>th</sup> century campaign to attract settlers to Stewart Island is about to be revived – but this time the call is going out nationwide and worldwide for a pre-school teacher.

Extraordinary journeys were undertaken by immigrants from Scotland, especially the Shetlands and Orkney Islands, Norwegian whalers and German missionaries, all who chanced their luck on Stewart Island in the past. Through the magic of the internet Rakiura Rugrats ECE Centre is hopeful of enticing an equally intrepid settler from overseas, or naturally from other parts of New Zealand, who will be excited by the idea of living and working in a small, focused pre-school at the far end of the world.

Thankfully these days a teacher won't have to row to a schoolhouse at The Neck or Maori Beach, hack a clearing in the bush for a crib and another for kumara, or harpoon whales to supplement their income. Pre-school and primary facilities on the island now rival and in some ways better those on the mainland, but Rakiura's rugrats

*(Continued on page 3)*





### Halfmoon Bay Police Beat

Hi, my name is Rob Jones and I am the relieving cop here for the next month.

Basically I am stationed in Dunedin and have been in the job for almost three years. I am originally from Hamilton but have been in Dunedin for 4 years.

Hopefully I won't try to be your typical North Islander and I'm really keen to meet and get to know the locals.

My goal while I am here is to get along with the locals, learn about the island, and improve my policing knowledge. This is my first time relieving so am a bit nervous but excited too.

I am glad that me and Jon were able to catch those three young kids that were running loose on the Island, so it is good that you won't have to worry about locking your doors. Ha Ha.

I look forward to my time here and hope that I will get to know you all.

Please don't be afraid to ring me any time as I am here to help you guys.

*Cheers, Rob Jones*

# Scavenger Hunt 6

"St Trinians!"

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2pm (Easter Saturday)



@ The South Sea Hotel



\$10 per adult \$5 per child

Includes free sausage sizzle from the Stewart Island Rugrats

\$100 cash for the winning team!!

All proceeds to Stewart Island Rugrats!

Break out the gym slips + school ties!!  
Best dressed team wins a mystery prize!

Get a list of 30 random items, you have four hours to get as many as possible; the team with the most items in the shortest time wins!

Register your team now!!!

Prizes and Scavenger Hunt dependant on getting at least 30 adults to participate!

Register @ the South Sea Hotel Bar.



Enquiries: Vicki on 498 or 0275 211 895

*(Continued from page 2)*

are losing their teacher. And in a small and geographically isolated community, parents do not have the luxury of the choice of another preschool.

Parents passionately dedicated to the creation of the community-based and teacher-led centre 6 years ago and committed to its future want to find a lively and loving person with an independent teaching style to keep the 15 or so children engaged in learning and growing – ready for the move along the corridor to primary school. They hope to attract an energetic outdoorsy type ready for a change for the better in their work-life balance. As the job is 22 hours a week including 8 hours paid non-contact time, the new teacher will have the time and space to dip their kayak into the bay in the afternoons, gather paua and mussels, tramp and fish and watch the birds, or just drink in the tranquillity.

However, assistance with finding further work is available if wanted. This could be, say, managing holiday accommodation, working in the shop, pub, restaurant, gallery or wharf, gardening, cleaning, kayak guiding or driving a bus – there is a lot of varied work on Stewart Island.

Modern times have thankfully reached the island so the teacher will not have to give up their broadband internet access or their mobile phone coverage. Nearly everyone is on mains power and sewage. Getting to and from the island is also a breeze with a fast catamaran service

across Foveaux Strait or a 15 minute scenic plane ride to the heart of Invercargill. Although, the aforementioned breeze may be pretty lively.

The position is sole-charge, with parent-help, and so a good level of experience is necessary. The Centre is part of the primary school buildings and so the children gravitate together from one end to the other as they grow, and this provides a great sense of continuity and belonging. Rakiura Rugrats encourages and supports its teacher's professional development and assistance is available from the Ministry of Education and the Dunedin College of Education. The management committee provides strong leadership and covers all the Centre's administration. A relocation package will be negotiated along with help for the new person to find a house and for a partner to find work and any children to get settled.

Having the same kind of education opportunities available as on the mainland is extremely important to island families and this helps to attract other people with children to the island. A healthy thriving pre-school centre powers a healthy primary school roll and helps enliven the whole community.

*Experienced, registered teachers with a minimum of Dip Tch (ECE) please apply with CV to: Stewart Island ECE Centre, P O Box 37, Stewart Island. Phone Mary 03 2191223 or Nicolette 03 2191511.*

*Email [rakiurarugrats@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rakiurarugrats@xtra.co.nz) or [chittenden05@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chittenden05@xtra.co.nz).*

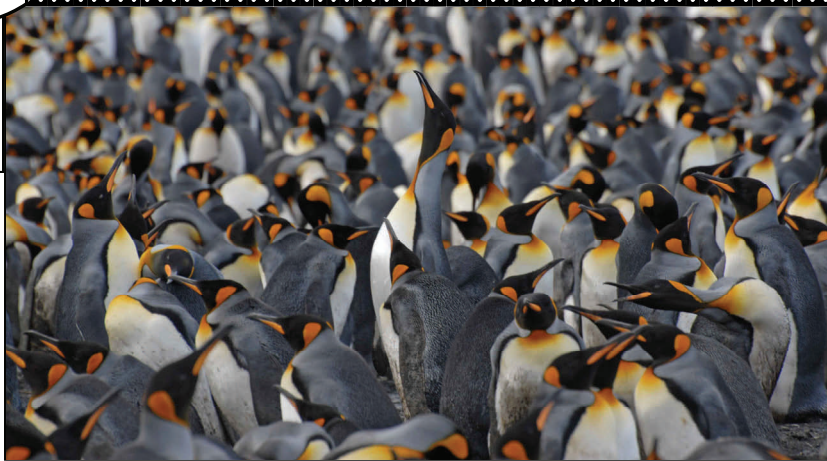


# Globetrotter off-Island Adventures.

*Brent*

*Beaven travelled to Antarctica in January, following is an account of his experiences at "the Ice."*

PHOTOS: B. BEAVEN



MacQuarie king penguins.

for our first day, but no one minded as we took in the majesty of Antarctica. It is a place that you cannot photograph. It stretches away in every direction as far as the eye can see - white, white and

Antarctica!! I still remember the excitement that this word caused in me as a ten year old boy. The thought of a huge continent covered in ice and penguins stirred my interest unlike anything since – how could I get there?? Finally, twenty five years later, I found a way. In January this year I boarded the MV Orion and steamed out of Hobart, following in the footsteps of adventurers to Antarctica.

My thoughts on going to Antarctica had always involved struggle and adventure. Nothing in my dreams had prepared me for the class and comfort of the Orion. It is fair to say that the Orion pitches at the "higher" end of the market. Check out its five start quality at [www.orioncruises.com.au](http://www.orioncruises.com.au).

We were bound for Cape Denison in Commonwealth Bay (Australian claimed Antarctic territory). This place is also

known as the Home of the Blizzard due to the katabatic winds that flow down from the continent's interior, building up speed over hundreds of unimpeded miles. It was also home base for Sir Douglas Mawson's scientific expedition (1914-1916). While growing up on a diet of Scott and Shackleton's adventures, little did I realise that we had Australian and New Zealanders down there at the same time struggling to survive with only a timber hut for protection - a tale of great endeavour, discovery and tragedy.

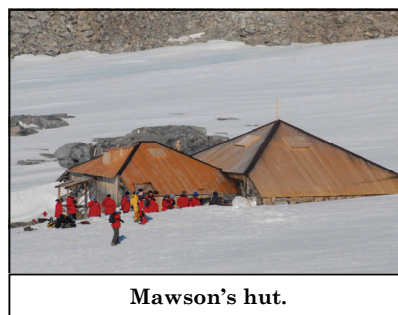
Five days after leaving Hobart, our first iceberg loomed out of a foggy night on our starboard side. The excitement that that one berg

caused was put into perspective the next day, when I could count over 50 bergs from the back of the ship. Icebergs are an amazingly beautiful sight, the sculptured and compressed ice ranging from pure white, to a purer looking blue. Some of the larger bergs that we passed were over 5km across, standing about 60m out of the water (with close to 200m of ice beneath!).

Finally, we arrived at Commonwealth Bay in the midst of a screaming katabatic wind (a bit like Paterson Inlet in a strong South Westerly). All landings were cancelled

white.

The next day dawned calm with clear blue skies, and we were



Mawson's hut.

straight off the boat at Cape Denison. Cape Denison is one of the few spots

where the rock of the continent protrudes through the ice. Where ever this occurs, Adelie penguins gather and Cape Denison was no exception with the thousands of penguins parading past the large resting Weddell seals. Adelie colonies are an amazing sight, tens of thousands of identical, black and white, flightless birds stealing rocks from each other in an attempt to impress their mate with the best 'nest'.... and they all look exactly like the 'Bluebird chips' advert! The lack of vegetation of any sort (apart from a couple of lichens) took quite a bit of getting



"—Some of the larger bergs that we passed were over 5km across, standing about 60m out of the water (with close to 200m of ice beneath!).—"





Antarctic base on an island near a glacier that continuously calves icebergs, surrounded by Adelie penguins, snow petrels and adjacent to an emperor penguin colony (this was quite handy for keeping the huskies fed in the early days of exploration). Dumont d'Urville was one of the early Antarctic explorers. He also spent time in New Zealand and the Sub Antarcics, with occasional features bearing his name.



Weddell seal.

used to, as did the 24hr daylight. We happily stayed on the ice until 10pm that day, then returned for dinner. While quietly having a celebratory drink in the bar (still in broad daylight), I was very surprised to discover the time was 2am!

The following day we popped around to Cape Jules and then the French Base Dumont d'Urville. The French have their

After pushing through a bit of sea ice, it was goodbye to the big icy place as our good ship turned its nose for home via a quick stop at MacQuarie Island, the Auckland Islands and the Snares Islands.

Instead of satisfying my life time yearning, this trip has re-kindled it. I'll be looking for another opportunity to turn South.

*We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time.*

—T.S Eliot from *Little Gidding* '42



“Just the tip of the ice berg.”



Adelie penguin colony.



Adelies: the closest they'll come to flying.

### Wanted! Stewart Island Players

“Players” are once again looking for help from our community. For example, if you are you well-organised and innovative, you could be our “Props”! Handy with a paint brush? Our Scene Painter and/or our Stage Manager could both do with a hand – or several. We are always pleased to add the name of another seamstress to our short list of needle-pliers too, or anyone interested in make-up, or any of the other thousand-and-one jobs it takes to get a production off the ground. It goes without saying that if you play a musical instrument, can sing, dance or want to be on stage, there's a good chance that Players have a more public role for you.

Please contact **Bruce Ford** on 2191 282 or our secretary, **Kirsten Hicks** on 2191 309 to put your name on the “register of interested parties”. It's difficult to talk about dates until we find out who is available, to do what jobs, and when. But the sooner we know who you are, the sooner we can bully and bribe The Director and Assistant into agreeing to direct yet another Stewart Island Players masterpiece! The first meeting is anticipated for mid-March – exact date to be confirmed – so even if you can't make the meeting (watch the Notice Board for details), we'd be pleased to add you to our list so we can call on you for Meeting No. 2.

—Sue Ford

**The eggs have hatched!**

by Kari Beaven

About 70% of the titi/muttonbird eggs found in December have survived to hatch (as well as through the first week or so of life outside the egg, which often sees a higher mortality than the remainder of chick life).

We are pleased to say, this is similar to the previous, excellent year and while twenty-seven chicks now growing up in this colony\* doesn't sound like very many, it is a good place to start. Results just a few years ago indicated just one single chick survived to fledging age that year, a result which would almost ensure the disappearance of that colony

in a short period of time. Our target is that 50% of nests will survive to fledge, which has seemed like a pretty high level of survival for this colony until now. Maybe this will be the second year in a row to achieve that goal.

The colony is by no means secure, even with this year's level of breeding. We are watch-

ing the population carefully to see if trends show it is at risk of collapse. Colonies, by their nature, have a 'critical mass'. When numbers fall too low, we risk there not being enough returning chicks to replace the older generations. The Ackers Point colony is an important one for people to visit, as well as being one of the few remaining

**New Zealand Underfoot**

*You may have heard about the pair of trampers who walked the length of New Zealand, and then came to Stewart Island to unwind with the North West and Southern circuits! With all of the country under their belts, it was interesting to hear their perspective on our island in the following exclusive SIN interview:*

*What did you do on Stewart Island? We hiked the North West and Southern circuits over 13 days, including side-hikes to Mt. Anglem and Rocky Mountain. We really loved it down there and it turned out to be one of our favourite sections of the entire trip. We loved all the different beaches we walked along and meeting such a wide variety of both international travellers and locals.*

*Was Stewart Island noticeably different from the rest of the country? Stewart Island had much more wildlife, especially bird life than the rest of the country. It was great to have the opportunity to be able to do a continuous 13 day section, it is hard to find stretches that long up north without coming through towns. The community seemed extremely tight knit and friendly. Dennis tried fishing while we were on Stewart Island. We had carried basic fishing*

equipment during our trip but we often didn't have time, or weren't camped by a good spot. We tried fishing at most bays and had success a few times. He caught some striped Parrot Fish which were a delicious addition to our dehydrated meals.

*How did the tramping compare?*

The bush tramping was reminiscent of the North Island. While tramping in the South Island we spent most of the time in wide open landscape above the tree line, so it was a nice change. It had been a long time since we spent time on the coast, so we enjoyed experiencing all the different beaches.

*Did it meet your expectations? It was everything we had hoped for and more. Before we came, everyone we talked to said it was the most amazing place we would visit on our hike, so it had a lot to live up to. That statement was usually followed by, but the mud is thigh deep. It was a unique place and we definitely picked the best summer for the mud.*

*Did you see any wildlife? 5 Kiwi along the sides of the track during*

the day, one we were able to watch for 40 minutes. 4 penguins; 3 yellow crested and 1 yellow eyed diving through the waves which was amazing

*Encounter anything particularly fascinating? We met Jim and Phil in the Rakeahua Hut, and later Jim's wife, Hilli, owner of the Kai*

*Kart. Jim offered to take us out fishing on the day we got back to town if the weather was nice. The day turned out to be beautiful, we caught 6 blue cod, and got to see his mussel farm which*

*turned out to be a great experience. Jim and Hilli were so kind to us, just lovely people. Everyone we have met down the country has been so interested in our trip, heaps of "good Kiwi Hospitality" and it's these experiences which really stand out on our journey.*

*What were the most rewarding aspects? Finishing with a sense of accomplishment. We planned the trip for 8 months before starting. It took a lot more planning and organisation than we anticipated at the start. But it all paid off during the trip, we never had any major problems with route finding or equipment. Before we left, it was*



Summit Mt. Anglem



mainland colonies in New Zealand.

New nest camera footage is also helping us to see what is actually going on inside that burrow. *Very soon*, you will be able to look at that footage on [www.sircet.org.nz](http://www.sircet.org.nz)

*\*we take the number of burrows measured in four 'plots', times the number of burrows in the entire colony to work out an approximate number of how many chicks are still alive in the colony.*

**Rumours** are that some Islanders go 'birding' in the Ackers Point colony each year. If this is you or a friend of yours, please *please* give it a rest. This colony is much smaller than the titi islands and struggling to survive. The removal of even three birds is equal to more than 10% of all chicks. This colony can't sustain birding (plus it has formal protection, making birding illegal).



Baby Molly: refreshingly ginger.

like we had two full time jobs, we were working seven days a week to save enough money, then come home every night to print maps, research gear etc. It was very rewarding to have all that planning pay off, and complete a successful, unforgettable trip. We can't quite believe that it's over, and are wondering what to do with all our free time now.

*Most grueling aspects?* The hardest part of our trip was the road walking. We walked on trails as much



Summit, Rocky Mountain

as possible, and just used back roads and 4WD tracks to link up the trail sections. The roads were boring with less views and we had to deal with cars and narrow shoulders. It was the hardest on our bodies too. Walking on trails is very dynamic, and you use all your different muscle groups. Road walking, however, gets very monotonous and having the same stride all day gave us sore hips and feet.

*Did you get on each other's nerves?* No, we travel really well together.

*Deal with any major physical problems?* Alice suffered knee pain in the North Island but that stopped when her legs strengthened up, she also had chronic blisters the whole time. Surprisingly, her feet didn't callus up to stop this which was very frustrating. We went through endless band aids and medical tape. We've actually found it hard now that we've stopped walking every day and we have to ease back into normal life.

*Have moments when you wanted to just stop?* No, we always wanted to finish the trip. Stopping was never an option for us, nor was accepting one of the many rides we were offered. We developed the mentality early on that you have to take the good bits with the bad. If we had a boring day, we figured that not every day out of five months can be the best. It gives us a real sense of satisfaction to know that we never cheated.

*Meet any real weirdos?* No, everyone we met was incredibly supportive and friendly.

*What was the faultiest gear you had?* We didn't have any faulty gear in the end. Alice wore out 2 pairs of boots, Dennis went through 3 pairs of trainers. We made our own light weight stove out of Pepsi cans, we set one of these on fire in the North Island because our wind shield was too tight. That was our own fault though, but we carried a spare because they're so light.

*The most unfailing?* We loved our Garmin 60CSX GPS, it made route finding so easy. Often it can be hard to tell where you are with just a map and compass when you're in thick bush and can't see any landmarks. We also had some bushwack sections which were made much easier with a GPS. We also really liked our Black Diamond Trekking Poles. They made walking up hills much easier, as well as balancing on rocks during stream crossings, and around the Stewart Island mud pools.

*Alice and Dennis walked to raise awareness and money for Project K, an organization that helps bring Kiwi kids into the outdoors. If you would like to read more about their trip or make a donation to their excellent cause, go to [www.nzunderfoot.com](http://www.nzunderfoot.com)*

**CHOWDER, SAUSAGES AND CAKE —ALL THE MAJOR FOOD GROUPS ARE REPRESENTED!**

*by Chris Griffiths*

Many thanks to all those involved in the last fundraising effort for Rakiura Rugrats — a sausage sizzle, chowder and cake stall held on Sunday 2 March beside the t shirt shop.



Josy and the Rugrats

Special thanks to Jill and Richard at Ship to Shore for the sausages, bread, onions and spoons, Alistair Eade for the mussels, Creans Food Service Invercargill for the carrot cake, 60kg of flour and 5L of tomato sauce, Helen Cave from

Southern Seafoods, Holger Lachmann for the chowder and all others who supplied the tables, BBQs, time and effort.

Despite having to

cancel the stall on the Saturday due to horizontal rain, and coming very close to cancelling altogether when Sunday dawned with that well-known jet-engine noise of a gale coming down the inlet, thankfully volunteers took a punt on it clearing up and it was a fantastic success - almost \$1000 was raised in 4 hours. Ten litres of Holger's fab chowder flew down grateful throats in 40 minutes. Phred was particularly enticing with his sausage spiel. And to all the parents who made cakes, they were well received.

Thanks also to Vicky Coats who donated \$500 of proceeds from pub quizzes to Rakiura Rugrats. That's fantastic.

**Stewart Island Health Survey**

*by Jessica Haydon-Clarke*

Thank-you very much to all those who took time to fill out the anonymous survey or were involved in other ways. I really appreciated your input! I loved having the summer on the island, catching-up some people I hadn't seen for years and meeting some of the new(er) faces. Leaving (again) wasn't so enjoyable!

This is a short summary of some of some of the findings of the study. A longer summary can be accessed at the health clinic and you can get the full version from Jessica (see the contact details below). As there was so much data in the survey, work on it will be ongoing!

The study aimed to describe the health needs and issues of Stewart Island residents, how health needs are met and possible improvements to current health care services.

One-hundred-and-four surveys were returned and analysed. Four interviews were undertaken with health professional stakeholders. Finding included:

- The three most common self-reported health problems were arthritis (24%), back (18.3%) and heart problems (16.3%), hypertension (29.8%) and being overweight (19.2%) were also common health issues. These rates are not dissimilar to the NZ Health Survey of all New Zealanders undertaken in 2002/3

- On the plus side many people got plenty of exercise (males got more exercise than females on average) and felt they ate a healthy diet. There were few reported work-related accidents.

- The mental health and wellbeing screening questions explore general mental health and can indicate when further assessment is advisable. This showed there may be higher than average rates of depression

- Alcohol use was high, especially amongst males, who also smoked more tobacco and marijuana.

The majority of the respondents used the health service provided on Stewart Island and rated this service very highly, many commented on the dedication and abilities of the nurses who run the service. Respondents and the health providers interviewed felt there were a lack of other health professionals available on Stewart Island especially dentists, physiotherapists and mental health services.

It was concluded that the service provided to Stewart Island residents by the clinical nurse specialists is of very high quality and is a useful model for service delivery in remote areas. There are also opportunities for health services funders to improve access to specific areas of health care delivery not currently available on Stewart Island.

Thanks again and if you would like to ask anything about the survey (or just say hi!!!) my email address is [hayje664@student.otago.ac.nz](mailto:hayje664@student.otago.ac.nz) or you can contact me on 0273538714.  *kindest regards and all the best*





## Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

The fat chicks have swum, most of them anyway. At the end of the first week in March only a few chicks were left on some of the islands in the Bravo group. These all looked well, most had moved away from their nest sites and were found closer to the water than before, as though they were getting ready to venture out any day. When these chicks were weighed in February they were generally a little smaller and less developed than their Anglem coast counterparts, but when last seen they all had a complete coat of feathers, and some were looking quite chubby.

In contrast, the six surviving chicks in our monitored section of the Anglem coast, which were heavier and more developed than the Bravo chicks in February, had all departed by the end of February. One day they were there as usual, next day they had vanished without trace. Of course, lurking in the back of our minds was the thought that maybe they had died somewhere well hidden, but after a thorough search of the area by two people this seems unlikely. The official statistics for the Anglem coast this season will be that 6 chicks fledged.

While it is tempting to celebrate this “successful” breeding season – last season’s result has been bettered six-fold; we have to remember the bigger picture, and that  $6 \times 0 = 0!$  Part of the bigger picture is that 25 chicks hatched on the Anglem coast this season, 6 fledged and 19 died; that’s 76% of the season’s chick production that died and that is nothing to crow about. Another part is that only around 15% of chicks that fledge are expected to survive the first year at sea, in this case 15% represents 1 chick. Yet another part of the big picture is that this is the fifth consecutive year that chick production along the Anglem coast has been desperately low, which is real cause for concern and has serious implications for the long term future of the population.

Now that field work for the season, and indeed for



A chick tests the water.

this part of the 5-year project, is over the process of collating and analyzing data from the last 5 years has begun. This process is interesting, but slightly tedious at times. There have been 2929 individual observations at nests over the 5 year period, and each observation has an individual entry on a spreadsheet (thanks Mum!). The usual end-of-season report needs to be written, and this will be followed by a full report covering the whole five years of the project. At the end of April we will have a de-brief meeting which will take stock of what we have observed and learned over the past five years, including how much we’ve learned about what we don’t know about these birds, and the question of what to do next will be considered.

In spite of discovering how much we don’t know, we have learned a lot over the past five years, and this simply could not have been achieved without the generous help and support from our sponsors. This is an appropriate time to thank them all, and in particular the sponsors and supporters for this season who are: Church Hill Restaurant, the Community Trust of Southland, Department of Conservation Southland Conservancy, Gribbles Veterinary Pathology, Mainland Brand (Fonterra NZ Ltd), Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Members, the Southland Locator Beacon Trust, Stewart Island Experience (Real Journeys Ltd), Stewart Island Fisherman’s Association, Stewart Island Flights, Stewart Island Lions Club, Stewart Island Water Taxi and Eco Guiding, and volunteers Annett, Ben and David.

Sandy  
***Sandy King***  
***Projects Officer Southern Islands***  
***Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust***  
*Dunedin office Ph: 03 479 0011*  
*Ph: 03 219 1102*  
*Email: [yeptrust@gmail.com](mailto:yeptrust@gmail.com)*  
*Email: [sdk@callsouth.net.nz](mailto:sdk@callsouth.net.nz)*  
*[www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)*

*Vicki has shared this with us: this is pretty cool, might be someone on the list from here!*

**[www.ird.govt.nz/unclaimed-money/unclaimed-money-0.html](http://www.ird.govt.nz/unclaimed-money/unclaimed-money-0.html)** Inland Revenue provides a service for the true owners of unclaimed money. Unclaimed Money is not tax money or unpaid tax refunds, it is funds left untouched for six years or more in financial institutions such as insurance companies and also includes unclaimed funds such as un-presented cheques and wages. This list was last updated in September 2007.

### Up-date on Community Affairs

by Bruce Ford

Hope those of you who filled in the survey are pleased with your energy-saving light bulbs? The next step in the energy study and analysis is to begin during March. The contractors from Righthouse will be installing solar-gain equipment, and possibly a test windmill, in the town, to evaluate the economies that may be possible.

It is very early days yet, and the seasonal variances need to be taken into account for system considerations, but there is action happening, and many more options are likely to come to "light"!

Road works are to resume mid-March with the remainder of seal rehabilitation and shape correction that Works Infrastructure began as part of the bay-front upgrade. Council instructions insist that all road consolidation must not be re-sealed until it has approx. six months stabilisation.

There are substantial funds to be expended over the coming months, with seawall protection from Horseshoe Bay – Halfmoon Bay – Lonnekers to be seen to. There is also funding being completed to repair the \$1.7m. flood damages from last year – we are receiving considerable "offshore" assistance funding for this which could never have been provided from local funding.

Whilst I have been busy mowing roadsides, I have noticed a build-up in "the bush" of abandoned vehicles and junk. It is likely that a call will be made to tidy up the town, and I am sure your own community pride will prevail.

It is great that Stewart Island now has all the Community Board positions filled – and with a healthy cross-section of residents representing diverse parts of the community too. I am very much looking forward to hearing their combined conclusions,

and to taking even more of our community concerns to Council. As expected, I am finding it a challenge – though an enjoyable one – balancing Stewart Island's concerns (and the need for funding to rectify some of these) against the steep learning curve required to keep abreast of the concerns of other community boards within the Southland District. The up-side of this is that I am becoming very aware of both mistakes and marvellous steps-forward taken by other communities. I am determined that we on Stewart Island should learn from both their mistakes and their triumphs, over time.

Meanwhile, the Community Board and myself are both keen to hear from you so that we can prioritise over the next three years. As you know, one of my chief priorities is to see a more economic and sustainable energy source on Stewart Island, but there are many other areas requiring our attention. We need your input regarding your priorities.

### Worried about your fitness levels and general physical health?

Sid Cummings from World Health and Fitness Gym, Invercargill, will be visiting the island on April 04/05. He will present a Nutrition Seminar and work with individuals to set new, or update old fitness plans.

Sid is an excellent personal trainer and health coach. He trains successful triathlon and marathon teams and individuals and will charge a special island rate of \$25.00 for a one on one session.

*Be in quick to avoid missing out!*

For appointments see Debs at Clinic 2191098, Gwen 2191385 or the Community Centre.

### The Royal New Zealand Ballet First Island Performance *Ever* 13th April at 12 noon at the Stewart Island Community Centre

Yes, your eyes do not deceive you! The Royal NZ Ballet Company is sending a troupe of dancers to the island to perform a work called "A Day in the Life of a Dancer".



The programme shares with the audience an intimate look at a dancer's daily training. All aspects of dance, costuming, production and choreography are covered. Don't miss this special Stewart Island performance. See the notice board for more details shortly.

*(Yo Ho Ho Continued from page 1)*

A chase through bush led to the capture of three more fugitives from the mainland! Our brand new (temporary) policeman Rob Jones had only just gotten here himself when he was alerted to the arrival of three lads in breach of bail and strenuously avoiding the Invers paw of law. Robert spent his first day on the job alerting Islanders of their presence. That evening an observant local (is there any other kind) noticed a red dinghy making its way toward Evening Cove in boat-unfriendly sea conditions. "That's funny," she thought, reaching for the phone...

Soon, the cops (our former temp cop was here too) were racing toward Evening Cove, in a successful bid to beat the stolen dinghy before its pirates could see the paddy-wagon and panic. The cops immediately saw where the dinghy was anchored, and observed the threesome heading into the bush. A pursuit through podocarp ensued and soon the young men were subdued, and shipped back to the mainland. The whole thing went down like clockwork. As someone by the milk fridge at the shop observed, "It was just like Nancy Drew."

*(Continued on page 11)*



# BOOK REVIEW: "Sailing Alone Around the World" by Joshua Slocum

by Sue Ford



If you never bother with any other 'talking book', please break a sad tradition and listen to this one! You'll not regret it, I promise – man or woman, sailor or landlubber.

Joshua Slocum is credited as the first man to sail single-handed around the world, in the sloop 'Spray', and his adventures en route make for fascinating listening. This is one of those books that, when I put in the final disc, I dreaded reaching the end, because I didn't want the adventure to finish. Slocum's journey around the world lasted three years, during the late 1890's, and he was 'lost at sea' on 'Spray' in 1909, aged 65. His own ending is both almost impossible to credit, given the degree of his abilities and seamanship, but, you might think, the only fitting end for a man of this calibre. Meanwhile, we have "Sailing Alone".

Slocum leaves from Nova Scotia and crosses the Atlantic, intending to sail through the Suez Ca-

nal, but at Gibraltar, he is warned about pirates on the Mediterranean, so crosses back to South America. This was in the days before the Panama Canal of course, and meant taking the tortuous route through the Straits of Magellan. This he was forced to sail around twice, taking over a month, being almost beaten by unimaginable (to me!) weather conditions and the ferocity of 'the natives'. At last, he manages to escape the unfriendly environment, and sail via Pacific islands to Australia, then north and west, via Africa, and once again back across the Atlantic, and home.

Joshua Slocum tells the story with the absolute minimum of fuss regarding the horrors and dangers that confront him along the way; with poignancy, as for example when he describes being unable to kill a single living creature in the treacherous southern waters – because it is such a desolate region that every scrap of life seems precious; with great charm when he relates meetings with various dignitaries – like Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson for example; and with great wit and humour throughout. Regarding the latter, his humour is dry and understated: the story of meeting Paul Kruger and being told by

that Premier – who believed the world to be flat – that he was wrong, Joshua could not mean he was sailing *around* the world, but *in* the world, since the former was impossible; then there was the goat that he took on board at one point, and he regrets the loss of his Panama hat when the goat eats it, but not as much as the loss of the charts upon which the goat also feasts. The story of Fuegan pirates being beaten off by the expedient of liberally sprinkling the deck of 'Spray' with carpet tacks will also make you chuckle, despite the present danger; and his comment on the naming thus of the 'Pacific' ocean will probably echo what many a Stewart Island fisherman has felt at some time.

The whole story is made all the better by the reader, Alan Sklar. Sometimes, talking books can be ruined by the narrator, but in this case, he adds considerably to the tale – it's difficult not to believe that Joshua Slocum himself is narrating. It is such an amazing story that I say again – if you never listen to another 'talking book', do, please make this compelling, witty, and essentially romantic story of courage, adventure and wonder, the exception to the rule.

(Yo Ho Ho Continued from page 10)

"The locals were a big help," said Rob, expressing gratitude for the assistance he received from residents.

Hardy Boys, James Bond, call it what you like—Would-be Rakiura runaways take note: Stewart Island just isn't the best place to hide. Nobody does anything here without everyone and their dog knowing about it—the old bush telegraph is quicker than sinister CIA satellites. We've got eyes on both sides of Foveaux Strait, and after we've seen you boarding the ferry, and

disembarking here, we don't even have to glance up from our tea to know whose dinghy you've stolen just by the sound of its outboard.

This is not a Disney cartoon where you can bury a treasure chest and dance under a swaying palm tree with a bottle of rum. The bush here is no joke, and if the police and ever-observant locals don't find you ... the sandflies will.

Sincere thanks to Rob for getting those guys on his first day at work here. And for bringing the *HMB Beat* back to *SIN* (see page 3) —Jess

**Did you know your Library has one of the best collection of oyster books in the country? Here are some of the pearls you will find on shelf: *Oyster, Chesapeake, The Oyster Collection, The Big Oyster, Consider the Oyster, The Oysters of Locmariaquer, The Great Scallop and Oyster Cookbook, and Pearls: a Natural History.***



### Let's Try Again! Kia Ora Ano!

by Gwen Neave

Well, last year's efforts to secure a Maori language course on the island failed because of the Te Reo Maori Manager's family illness cutting into his allotted time for the island. So here we go again – *ano* – and

hopefully 2008 will bring better results.

The language course runs over 36 weeks and we need 15\* people to register interest in it please. The SIT managers now prefer the straight 36 week run (one lesson delivered each week) with a tutor coming across each Tuesday night. Their mode of

travel has yet to be confirmed by SIT but an evening class of 2 hours each Tuesday evening seems likely.

**Te Ara Reo** is a very well organised and resourced programme that teaches language and culture to participants. Henry (Rusty) Johnson who is one of the regular tutors is considering the

island's request for a programme very seriously.

Please indicate your interest by 'phoning: **Gwen 2191 385** or **0274336037**. (*leave me a message if I don't immediately answer*).

\* Participants must be over 15 years of age and NZ citizens.

### Halfmoon Bay School Report

by Kath Johnson

**WALK TO THE SEA** A great big thanks to DOC and SIRCET staff: Morvan, Kate and Kari who accompanied us on our walk around the Horseshoe Point Track last Thursday. We had a wonderful day out and really enjoyed our walk.

**WOMEN IN CONSERVATION** Congratulations to Sophie Conner who has been asked to represent the school at the Women in Conservation Day to be held on Stewart Island on Monday 17th March. Sophie was asked to represent the school by Kari because of her wonderful interest in and knowledge of our local environment.

**FEET FIRST WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK** well done to everyone (especially Mums and Dads and Aunties and Grandmas) who made a big effort to get the students walking to school everyday last week. I have collated our results and sent them off to Land Transport NZ. Remember walking Wednesdays - the schools who have the most students walking to school every Wednesday for five weeks are also in to win!

**WELCOME** A big welcome to our newest school boy Harry Hamilton. We hope you enjoy your time at Halfmoon Bay School.

**SAILING** A big thanks to Neville Bennett and Phred for helping out with sailing!

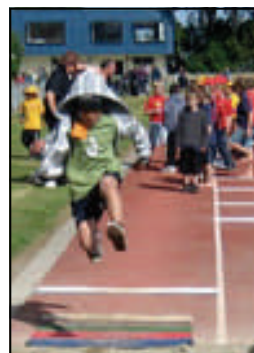
**ATHLETICS** Last week we all travelled to Surrey Park for the Southern Zone Ath-



letics. It was fantastic to see our students mixing with students from other schools and giving a big effort in all events. The Junior students then had lunch at Queen's Park before meeting the rest of us at Splash Palace. Once again thanks to Real Journeys for providing free ferry travel for the

students. **Great results:** Meg Kenny 1st out of 38 for 7 year old girls high jump; Manoj Amanono 1st out of 66 for 7 year old boys shot put. Also a special mention to Logan Leask-Davis who kept the crowds entertained and came 4th out of 37 for 9 year old boys high jump.

**HOCKEY** We have been exceptionally lucky to have Michelle, who is currently on the Island, taking the students for hockey. We are so lucky to have people like Michelle come into our school to give the students new experiences.





# Sailing ... Have a Go!

by Kari Beaven

Sir Peter Blake had a vision, and believe it or not, the bus parked across from the Post Office in mid-March was a part of that vision. Our late great sailor envisioned a system of travelling instructors who would visit schools to make the sport of sailing accessible to all kids. This dream was realized on Stewart Island when *Sailing...Have a Go* arrived in the form of a bus, trailer, numerous wee sailboats on Halfmoon Bay, and eventually dozens of kids rosy-cheeked with salt spray and exhilaration.

Sunday was a gorgeous day on the water, a few breaths of wind to keep us happy as we set sail with "Sailing ... Have a Go!" This visiting learn-to-sail initiative was offering adult lessons over the weekend, after a week of fun with the school.

Under very trying weather conditions, our 5 year olds at the HMB School were showing no fear and taking on challenges even 10-13 year olds can struggle with. Visiting Clifton School students joined local kids on the water.

*Have a Go* is coordinated between Lion Foundation, Sir Peter Blake Trust and Yachting NZ. There are two trailers in the North Island and one in the South, 9 boats, and one rescue/coaching boat. Darren is the southern representative, and tows the 20 foot trailer-full of 'Topper Tas' sailing dinghies from bay to bay. This time the trailer was loaded onto the freight boat and unloaded on this side of the strait.

The opportunity was driven by Kath Johnson who asked the Bluff Yachting club to come over to teach the kids how to sail. They in turn asked Yachting NZ and loaned out several of their boats for use in the lessons. The week has been so successful, many are talking about annual sailing lessons, and even the purchase of a few 'Topper

Tas' dinghies for the kids to use without the need for the freight boat transport.

Darren belongs to the school of *experience is best*: rather than explaining the finer details of sailing, he lets the kids hop into the boats and get a feel for the wind, the tilt and the effect

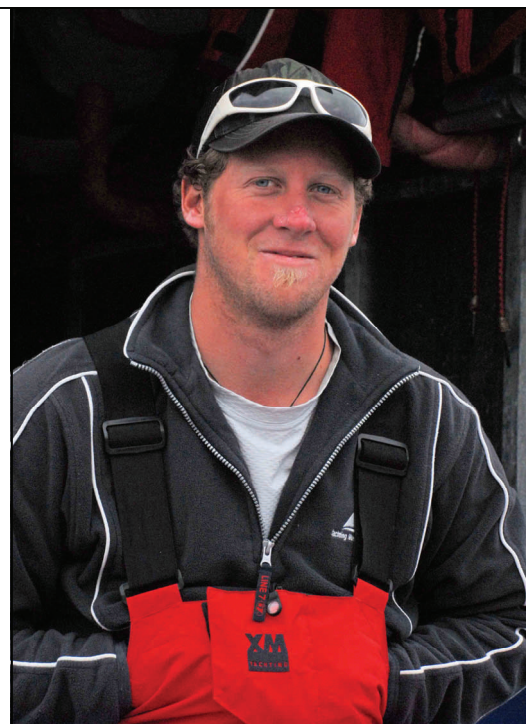
their choices have on direction, speed and how wet they get. Rescue and coaching boats zoom alongside, and in a few seconds, Darren can have hold of any boat's tow-rope, bringing the vessel out of harm's way. The kids are encouraged to fall or jump off, then climb back aboard, removing any fears of tipping the boat over. After that, it's up to each kid to test the limits of the boats without fear of what might happen.

Darren was into sailing racing when recurrent shoulder injuries ended his dreams of being a professional sports person. Coaching brought him back to life. He believes that teaching kids makes you a better sailor. "Explaining *why* sailing works and what makes you go faster makes you reconsider, and in the process refine, your own technique," he said. "Watching the lights turn on in kids' eyes is the best motivation to keep at it. Kids continually come out with new perspectives, and the longer you spend with them, the more you learn – including refinements in the art of communication."

Darren seemed to be a perfect mix of laid-back and ready-to-rescue. He was a really cool guy and the Island is very grateful for the time he took to bring his passion for sailing to us. Big thanks also to Neville Bennett who made himself available every day as a safety person in a second boat.

Sailing is a sport unlike any other – there is no other sport you can play to prepare you for sailing, though for abs-workout enthusiasts, apparently racing helps to have a good, strong set of abdominals, as you can wind up holding a 'sit-up' position for hours on end. It can be done alone, so as soon as you have two people, you can have a competition.

For more information go to [www.sailing.org.nz](http://www.sailing.org.nz)



Darren Field: wind guru and cool guy



The grown-ups have a go: Kath and Kari cut liquid tracks.

 **ban Globetrotter 2**  
**off-Island Adventures.**

*For many Island children, their first "globetrot" is crossing the Strait, a necessary rite of passage, for sooner or later Halfmoon Bay School students must go to the Mainland to continue their education. Olivia Bayne (Libby) has shared her experience with us:*

I went to Halfmoon School on Stewart Island for 4 years. But now I have decided to try something new. I now do my schooling in Invercargill at St Johns School for Girls. The school has a boarding house on site and I, along with 7 other girls stay there from Monday till Friday afternoons. The house mistresses are Miriam, Ms Smith and Mrs McKinlay. There are three bedrooms in the boarding house that we use and each girl shares a room with 1 or 2 others.

The school itself started in 1917 and has been going ever since. The roll at the moment is 120 girls, starting at year one and going to year 8, so there is quite a mix of ages.

To get to school on Monday I have to catch the ferry and then the bus up to Invercargill and to go back on Friday I have to do the same thing in reverse so it's quite an adventure.

Whilst I miss my old friends, I have made lots more and I really love the school as my new off Island home.—*Libby.*

**the GALLEY** 

**Dip for fried oysters**  
*This quick tasty sauce nicely complements fried oysters: mix together: a dollop of mayonnaise (lite Best Foods), tablespoon of chopped capers, and a splash of malt vinegar.*

*The trouble isn't making poems, the trouble's finding someone that will listen to them.—the Bat Poet.*

This edition of *Library News* contains poetry, and if that alarms you I promise it's been tempered with an exciting story featuring a headless chicken... *and* the pot has further been sweetened with an inappropriate reference to a bordello, so *read on!*



Sometimes, timing is not on our side. While the cladding on the community centre was being redone, the library book return slot was removed and then temporarily replaced without its seal. We hadn't seen a drop of rain in weeks, so who could guess that in the small window of time the drop box was so vulnerable, a hideous Easterly would soak the side of the building with rain, and that rain would all run directly into...the library drop box! Seeing the drop-box full of soaked books in six inches of water caused the librarian to squawk and run like a headless chicken for the door to see if the Hall kitchen had any tea towels. Bizarrely, and for a completely unrelated reason, the door handle simply spun around full circle in my hand and I couldn't get out. I was locked in the library, listening to rain splash *inside*, our brand new picture flap book *The Grumble Rumble Mumbler* ruined at my feet. It was a Librarian's nightmare!

Fortunately, Mary Chittenden was happening by and let me out, and kindly took the sodden books home and put them by her fire. Chris Visser showed up and loaned me a towel to soak up the pond in the drop box, and Ali Eade, my knight with shining tool box, arrived and fixed the book slot *and* the door.

Speaking of tool-wielding heroes, thanks to Kyle Learmonth for addressing an embarrassing noise that was originating somewhere in the adult fiction *A* section. If someone idly grazed the spine of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the whole unit would go *squeaka squeaka squeaka squeaka* like an old brass bed—the sound effect more cheap bordello than community library—and I was grateful that Kyle managed to tighten some screws and fix the blushful problem.

Did you know that C.S. Lewis (*Narnia chronicles*) was Irish? Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the 2007 Booker prize-winning *The Gathering* by Dubliner Anne Enright, or the fascinating history *How the Irish Saved Civilization* (941.501), or *Maggie's Ireland* (746.432): knitting with fabulous backdrops. When was the last time you sat down with a whisky and some Irish verse—doesn't get much more hardcore than W.B. Yeats (*where all the ladders start, in the foul rag and bone shop of the heart...*).

Seamus Heaney is not only one of Ireland's greatest living writers, but possibly the only man to pen a poem named for a favourite pursuit of Islanders (including friend and former cop Duncan):

**Scrabble (from Glanmore Revisited)**  
*in memoriam Tom Delaney, archaeologist*

Bare flags. Pump water. Winter-evening cold.  
Our backs might never warm up but our faces  
Burned from the hearth-blaze and the hot whiskeys.  
It felt remembered even then, an old  
Rightness half-imagined or foretold,  
As green sticks hissed and spat into the ashes  
And whatever rampaged out there couldn't reach us,  
Firelit, shuttered, slated and stone-walled.

Year after year, our game of Scrabble: love  
Taken for granted like any other word  
That was chanced on and allowed within the rules.  
So 'scrabble' let it be. Intransitive.  
Meaning to scratch or rake at something hard.  
Which is what he hears. Our scraping, clinking tools.

You can find poetry in the non-fiction 800s section. Please don't miss our **BOOK SALE on Saturday, 22nd March**, this is our big annual fundraiser and your support means a lot! If you have old books lying around, why not donate them to our sale and turn them into coins for new books? Thanks to Jamie Adams and all of the generous donors of books and DVDs. And don't forget, we're now open on Monday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm!  
—*Jess*



### Little Blue Penguins Make a Big Splash

*by Kari Beaven*

Little Blue Penguin (LBP) counts at Ackers Point were finished in December again this year, and again the results are up on the last two years.

The counts are a long-term measure of whether LBP numbers are increasing, decreasing or not changing at all at Ackers Point. We hoped that over several years we would start to see a gradual increase in the numbers of penguins encountered each time we walked the Ackers Point track (so long as we always walked at the same time of night, same month, same walking pace and same level of effort in looking). Doing counts on ten different nights meant we could average out the high and low ‘coincidences’ and get a fairly true measure, yet this will measure still become more robust as each year of data is collected and the trends mapped.

What we have found so far:

Year 1 (Dec 2005) we came across 16 penguins for 10 nights of walking.

Year 2 (Dec 2006) we came across 56 penguins for 10 nights of walking...

**Year 3 (Dec 2007) we came across 91 penguins for 10 nights of walking!!**

This huge initial rate of increase was not what we expected! It may be just a coincidence, LBP’s do go through population crashes; however, it stands to reason that if parents are not being killed by wild cats (where once they were on an almost daily basis), and eggs and chicks are protected from rats and possums, then numbers will increase. LBP’s begin to breed at around 3 yrs of age, so many of the first eggs protected in the project area will have ‘come of age’ in the last two seasons. The relatively recently established Mataitai and marine reserves adjacent to Ackers Point probably also play a large role in ensuring the parents’ food supply is plentiful. If numbers increase we expect to see more penguins each year on our walks; however we thought it would take many more years to see this level of increase!

I look forward to keeping up the protection with you, and to tripping over more and more penguins as the years go by!

Thank you everyone for your work and ongoing support.

### Visitors Get Hands-on Experience

*by Bevan Mudie*

People visiting the island for sight-seeing or tramping, or to catch up with friends and relatives, have given their time and energy to support the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project.

Over recent weeks these volunteers have helped lay rat monitoring lines, maintain tracks and check trap lines. Jon Brake from Auckland, here to visit family, said “working in the project for a couple of days was a great way to feel like I was part of the place. And I know what I did will help bring more birds back to the town.”

Jenna Cragg, a visitor from Victoria, Canada, and employed there in conservation management, actively sought voluntary work in Oban because she was enthused by how pro-active the people and organisations here are. “I wish it was like that back home”. “Ulva Island is so amazing – it would be great if the whole of Stewart Island was the same.”

Kari Beavan, Species Manager of the HMBHRP says “there is a wide-reaching benefit in encouraging visitors to volunteer. It is something the project and tourism operators on the island could explore more.” Around New Zealand “eco-tourism” and “volun-tourism” are significant contributors to conservation projects and to the local economy.

Bevan Mudie, Pest Control Manager of the HMBHRP, is happy to hear from anyone, resident or visitor, who has a genuine desire to volunteer within the project and to further the project’s goals. “Accommodation and other service providers should feel free to contact us if they know of anyone who wishes to help. There is always plenty to do, especially in the tourist season when many of our community volunteers are very busy.”



Tracy Neave and Nick Cameron on their wedding day.



**LIBRARY FUNDRAISER**

**BOOK SALE**

Saturday 22nd March  
10 AM—5 PM

COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have heaps of books to offload!  
We're selling books by the kilo!

Kids' picture books, fiction, non-fiction, encyclopaedia sets,  
and rare books sold well below market value.

PLUS puzzles, raffle tickets and hand-crafted magnets

**50 cents for most paperbacks or \$1 a kilo**

**\$2 most hard-covers \$5 nice new fiction**

**\$4 non-fiction \$3 puzzles**

*If you've got a bach, or run a rental accommodation, create a wee library for your visitors. Studies show that books and puzzles make happy guests.*

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD NEW BOOKS!**

**CRIB EVENINGS**  
WILL RECOMMENCE  
WED 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
JOIN THE CRIB TEAM  
AT SOUTH SEAS HOTEL  
7.30 EVERY WEDNESDAY  
VISITORS AND CASUAL  
PLAYERS WELCOME

**At long last Girl Guide  
Biscuits are available on  
Stewart Island.**

They are on sale now at the  
Information Centre

Packet of Plain \$2.80

Packet of Chocolate \$3.00

Packet of Minis \$3.00

Opening hours are

9am - 7pm daily

Phone 219 1400

All proceeds to the  
Girl Guide Association

[www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com)

**STEWART ISLAND  
GARDEN CIRCLE**

The next meeting will be held  
at 2.0 on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
at the home of Barbara Wilson



Competition:  
a Vegetable  
Sign of Autumn  
Fungi



**Chocolate Award:** On behalf  
of the library and the island's  
parents and their wee readers,  
Jess thanks Jenny Gell for the  
huge job she did covering hun-  
dreds of new picture books so they  
will be ready for their  
community debut.  
Thanks heaps Jenny, you are a  
wonderful friend to the library.

Thanks very much to the person who  
dropped of the large box of cardboard  
to the school last week.  
—Kath Johnson, HMB School

**LINE DANCING**

will start again on 1<sup>st</sup> April  
from 2.0 till 3.0 in the  
Community Hall.  
*Beginners welcome.*

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
*to discuss plan for a*  
**Rat-Free Rakiura**  
**at 7.30pm on 3rd April**  
**at the Pavilion.**

*Read up on it:* draft scoping  
documents available at  
Environment Centre and  
Library or contact Brent  
at 533 or [brent@sircet.org.nz](mailto:brent@sircet.org.nz)

Matty and Jolene and family would like  
to say thanks to everyone for their best  
wishes and for attending their leaving  
party; they didn't know so many people  
were glad to see them leave! Also a big  
thank you to the Fire Brigade for putting  
on a splendid party and a beautiful  
farewell gift. They will be back!

**KNIT, KNATTER AND KOFFEE**  
Will start again on  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at Church Hill  
Restaurant from 2 o'clock  
*Everyone welcome*

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at  
Box 156, or to [editor@stewart-island-news.com](mailto:editor@stewart-island-news.com)  
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