

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May 2015

\$3.00

I'm not sure what all the boxes are that a visitor must tick to become an Honorary Stewart Islander, but it seems HRH checked a bunch. He mucked about with rat traps, ate mutton bird, awoke to one of our incredible sunrises (which he photographed and put on Twitter), rocked out to the Rakiura Rockers (performing Johnny Cash's Ring of Fire), had his eardrums shattered by Vicki's Quiz whistle (and laughed at one of his mates getting "taped"), was amused by kaka, opened an oyster, ate fish and chips at the Pub, received a kiss from Lola, got grilled about when he was going to have children, read the SIN, walked the rimu floors of the Community Centre, drank our rain-water, and had his name on the chalkboard at Ship to Shore. If it weren't for the entourage of bodyguards and bomb sniffing dogs and paparazzi, he could have passed for just another visitor soaking in the relaxed vibe of the island, wandering along Elgin Terrace, loving it here. With the exception of transport to and from his helicopter, he walked everywhere on the island. He didn't put on any uniforms while he was here and we didn't put on our sequined ball-gowns. There was no dressing up, no performance, and no pretence. We liked him because it seemed like he was just being himself. And I think he liked us for the same reason. Hopefully on his next visit he leaves the media scrum behind and gets to hunt a whitetail, dive for a paua, catch a cod, see a kiwi, and maybe do better at Quiz (he came in second to his bodyguards).

Why are we advertising for a family? Yes it's true, on Trade Me the school has listed a package to entice a family to trial living on our beautiful Island with the hope that it will result in an additional family to our community.

The reason for this is that currently the school has 24 children but needs 26 to retain definite staffing of two full time teachers. While other schools are subject to the same ratio, it is the mixed age groups from years 1-8 that make this staffing ratio an unfair situation in rural schools. Really it's a "no brainer" to realise that 25 children aged 5 to 13 are going to be considerably harder to teach, and teach well, than a classroom of children at the same age. We believe that to offer quality education this ratio needs to change in all rural schools and so we will lobby the Government for this change. Wish us well!

Back to the package, it is for a family for 4 weeks accommodation, return transfers Bluff-Stewart Island and a host of other wonderful enticements. The successful applicants will be required to enrol at least 2 children at the school for the duration of their stay. A big thank you to everyone who has offered sponsorship so far. If you would like to contribute to this package in any way please contact Jeanette at the school on jeanette@halfmoonbay.school.nz or talk with Diddles or Mary. If you know of a family interested in relocating to Stewart Island please let them know about the advertisement on Trade me. It is auction listing 888203724. It closes 27th May.

—HMB School



Above: Prince Harry presents Tyler with a jersey for winning the 100m at Southland athletics. *Photo from super proud mum Simone Dawson.* Below: "Birdwatching" on the deck of the Stewart Island Lodge. *Photo from Lisa Benson.*



HRH, Debs Dillon and Phil Dove at the Community Centre. *Photo by Jules Retberg*

Ambergris



New Zealand's longest established dealer of Ambergris. AmbergrisNZ is wishing to buy all grades of Ambergris, please refer to our website: www.ambergrisnz.co.nz
 We are offering top New Zealand prices.
 Contact: Terry & Wendy
 Email: info@ambergrisnz.co.nz
 Or
 Phone: 0274 991 881

Stewart Island Senior Housing

Public Meeting

Tuesday 26 May 2015 - 2pm
 Stewart Island Community Centre

Following on from the information gathering public meeting held in December last year, this next meeting will present the findings from the Options Assessment Report and a discussion can take place regarding the 'where to from here'.

The meeting will be facilitated by Venture Southland.

If you require further information please contact either:

Juanita Thornton
juanita@venturesouthland.co.nz
 211 1417

Cr Bruce Ford
bruce.ford@southlanddc.govt.nz
 219 1282



Media at the Community Centre: this small group represented a small percent of the dozens of reporters that descended on the island during the week of Prince Harry's visit. *Photo by Jules Retberg*



Helen Cave of Southern Seafoods and fishermen Heath Allen and Colin Hopkins talk fish with the Prince. *Photo by Jess Kany*

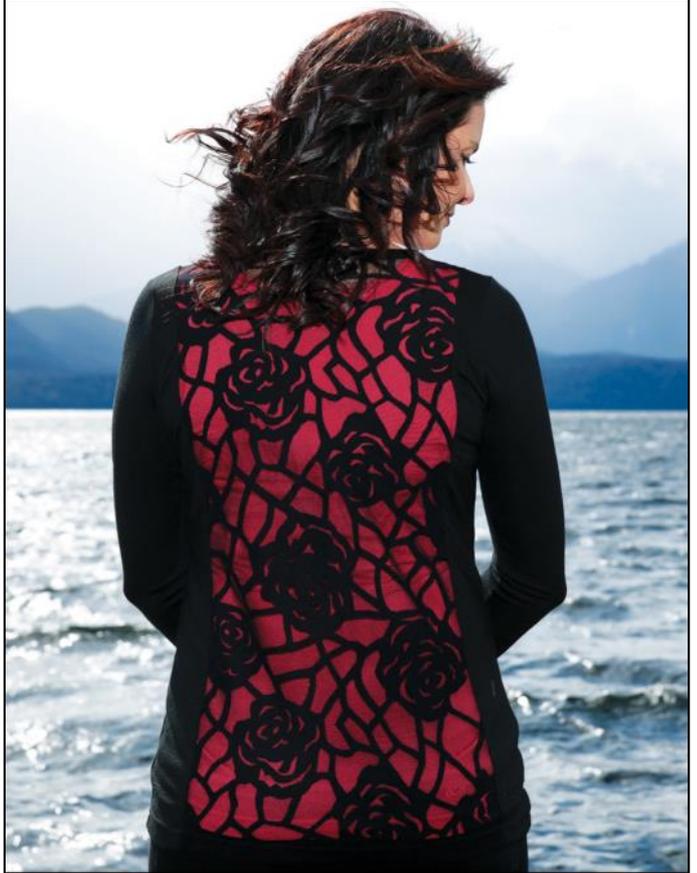


Put your coins away... payment for the *Stewart Island News* at the shop is now done through the till with the rest of your stores. We even have our own important button on the cash register's screen.



Gobstopper... \$1.20 or priceless? See page 21.

Village Centre, Oban : glowingsky.co.nz



Glowing Sky Merino. All You Need.



Above: Angus Kenny chats with HRH about the Bowling Green. Below: Harry meets Lola. *Photo by Sandra Whipp*



Welcome to page 3. Depending on how sick/lovesick you are regarding HRH, you're either getting a sinking feeling, or feeling happy about this issue. Honestly, if you're sick of Prince Harry this royally saturated SIN will turn your stomach so put it down now! Next month we will return to normal. —Ed *Photo by Jules Retberg.*



Chris Sera, Diddle and Sophie Conner talk about the Stewart Island Community Centre with the Prince.

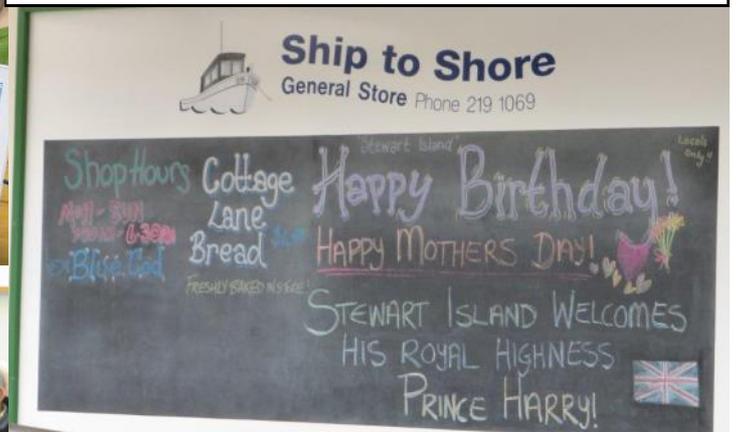
Above: Locals and bodyguards look on as Prince Harry peeks into a bucket of muttonbirds. Photo from Jess Kany Below: Prince Harry says hello to the on-line language teacher at HMB School. Photo from media pool



Signs around the Bay welcomed Prince Harry. Photo from Kari Beaven



Furhana Ahmad of LAND SAR was the first to greet HRH when he arrived in the Community Centre Photo by Jules Retberg



HRH chats with Gwen Neave and Beverley Osborne. Photo from Jess Kany

RAKIURA TRACK: A Great Time on a Great Track
by Elaine Hamilton

Three generations of the Hamilton Family, Elaine, Andrew and Harry left Lee Bay at 12-30 on Sunday 12th April. The forecast predicted gales, rain, hail, snow to 400m, thunder & lightening, all of which proved to be true.

We had a stop at Maori Beach for a sandwich and a look at the sawmill relic's. I enjoyed showing the 'boys' the boiler where I had slept as a teenager. No packs or a sleeping bag then, ferns for our bedding and our equipment was a couple of blankets strapped to our backs and a billy. Great days!

The track from Maori Beach is much easier now and sidles up the hill, and it wasn't long before we were at Port William. We thought we'd be the last to arrive but 2 couples from the Waikato appeared an hour later. They had flown to Dunedin for the Rod Stewart Show the night before, driven to Invercargill, caught the 1pm plane to the island and went straight on to the track – still raving about a great show.

There were 18 of us at the hut and in spite of the weather some went looking for Kiwi – we sort of mentioned that no sensible kiwi would be out in that weather, however!!

Monday –after a good sleep everyone was up early and on their way promptly. Preferring to miss the rush we had a leisurely breakfast and left at 9-45am. Shortly after we reached the turn off to North Arm we came across a large kiwi, looking as if it had just got up. The track as I knew it has been altered - now goes along the ridge and down past the haulers. A much better idea than a side trip up hill as it was before. It wasn't long to the first bridge then a half hour to the second one and we were up to the top by noon.

There are no views now as there is no longer a look-out to climb. I guess structures are a thing of the past but the previous view had been a spectacular panoramic!

We enjoyed the walk along the top, playing I- spy as we walked. Great fun in the bush - we all became very creative.

The track down to North Arm is very different from earlier days and is a much better grade. However there had been a lot of rain so the track was quite muddy and it slowed us down. Harry was amused to see a buoy hanging above the track saying halfway. Thankfully not for

us but we figured it was for those running the track from the Bay. We arrived after 6 hours to find the ground white at the Hut. A couple of deer were entertaining the other walkers who had not seen a kiwi, lucky us. Harry soon had the cards dealt for another game of "5 Crowns". We had a very cosy night and a good sleep.



Tuesday. People started heading off about 8 a.m. with murmurings of propping up the bar, hot showers and spas. After Harry had given me a cup of tea in bed, we had breakfast, cleaned up and sauntered off at 9-45.



A very pleasant walk out with me reminiscing about the times I had spent at North Arm with Roy Traill and at Kidney Fern with the Poyntons.

A journey the three of us will remember.

A couple of observations: people still like to play with fires! And headlamps have replaced candles. I wonder why anyone would carry glass bottles of wine & whiskey, after all 'Duck Shooters Port' travels very well in plastic bottles.



The huts are a credit to DOC, with doubled glazed windows, and plenty of dry firewood. The hut fees ensure we get a bed which is great and that the huts are in kept in tip top shape!



Update from Cr. Bruce

Seniors Housing: The “options assessment” for Seniors Housing has been completed and is to be presented to the community on Tuesday 26 May at the Community Hall at 2.00 p.m. This paper progresses the discussion from our last meeting at the Fire Station, and confirms in practical dollar terms the real possibilities that may exist. Whilst this has been on-going for some time, now may be the opportunity for capital funders to enable the operation to be self-sufficient but with respectable rents. If you know of any benefactors or corporate funders, please let Debs or myself know. It appears that the formation of a small trust will be our next best move to get this going.

SDC Council Table Notes: Long Term Plan – the hearing of submissions from the draft Long Term Plan will be held in Council Chambers Invercargill from 19-22 May. **Haast-Hollyford Road** – Many folks have shown interest in the proposed Haast-Hollyford Road proposal; this was recently discussed at Council, and it was agreed that there are merits for the Region as a whole, for Westland tourism, and for Stewart Island tourism too. CEO Steve Ruru was to further investigate the opportunity and report back.

Stewart Island Renewable Energy: You may have spotted in the Southland Times an article from Mayor Tong on Stewart Island’s electricity. This proposed having a renewable electricity supply operating by 2018. This work is progressing with Mayor Tong, myself and advisors.

Stewart Island Visitor Levy Allocation: the Committee meets on 26 May – watch SIN for the approved projects!

There’s quite a lot going on at Council at the moment, so keep your eye on the newspapers, our Notice Board, Council’s newsletter, etc., and don’t hesitate to contact me or the Community Board if you have something for consideration.

LOCATIONS
WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD
 Stewart Island Real Estate
 For all local listings
 houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.
 See our website www.locations.co.nz
 or contact our local representative
 Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589
 for current listings.



Kylie Bakker made this portrait of the Prince as a gift for him. Other gifts from Stewart Islanders include the school calendar and recipe book from HMB School, a water bottle and book *Seaberry Stomp* from Ruggies, and merino jocks from Glowing Sky.

Right: Meeting fans outside Community Centre *photo by Jane McKenzie*
 Below: Chatting with Diane & Phillip Smith, Elaine Hamilton, Bev Cowie and Allan Wadds
Photo by Jules Retberg





MPs Winston Peters and Clayton Mitchell visited on 21st April for a meeting to discuss how to stop the **shark cage diving** near Stewart Island. Local fisherman Brett Hamilton took them out to Edwards Island so they could see how close to our community the shark cage businesses are operating.

Winston Peters gave a talk at the Community Centre that evening in which he shared his thesis that we and other small communities have been forgotten by Wellington, despite the fact that our province creates much of the country's wealth. He noted that in the last election only 30 people on the island had voted for his party, and urged us to rethink our loyalties. Playfully acknowledging that he isn't the most popular name amongst some households he asked for the vote "even if your mother or father might come out of the grave to haunt you." He was a great speaker and got a plenty of laughs from the crowd, closing with his modern version of the story of Malaki who prayed daily to win the Lotto, and finally the Lord boomed down from the sky: "Malaki! Help me out, buy a Lotto ticket!"



Peters scathingly read aloud the letter written by Conservation Minister Maggie Barry declining Clayton Mitchell's invitation to join them on their visit to the island. "She got the job in October, and now she's a shark expert," he quipped. "She's not coming to see you... if she could jump on a plane with Prince Harry she would."



A week later, on 28th April (the date marking 20 years since the Cave Creek tragedy), Clayton Mitchell stood up in Parliament and questioned Maggie Barry about the shark diving issues here. He asked: "Does the Minister feel that the public consultation on the conditions of shark cage diving permits was predetermined, given that the submissions closed 2 days after the draft permits were released to the two operators?" She responded "No." (The entire session is available online at www.inthehouse.co.nz/video/36604).

Photos from Kate Hamilton/Jess Kany/Jules Retberg

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford

Sam invents an on-line dating program so successful, he is sacked – no repeat business, you see! But he was the original guinea pig and met his soul mate, Meredith, inconsolable when her loved grandmother dies. So Sam invents another program: this takes all Grandma's details – every last little byte of on-line time - and builds an interactive 'screen Grandma'. Meredith's cousin, Dash, sees the business potential and the three of them build RePose, where the newly-bereaved give Sam all the data on their dead loved ones (DLO's), so they can continue to interact with them. The results vary! Hilarious in parts, full of one-liners that will leave you grinning, **"Goodbye for Now" by Laurie Frankel** also leaves you to contemplate our technological near future. The story becomes less lively in tone as it plumbs the depths of sadness and depression later in the book. RePose is, after all, everything to do with death, and Sam's technology can't transcend the grimness of reality. (P.S. Did you see the episode of 'Sunday' in which facial recognition and DLO's come together? This Frankel story seems even closer than ever now!)

Peter James' "A Twist of the Knife" is actually 30 short stories, some horror,

some thrilling, some quirky, some quite funny, some with ghosties and ghoulies, and mostly with things that either go bump in the night or are bumped off in the night! Published in 2014, nevertheless, some of the stories seem 'old' to me – as if I've read them before, a long time ago. But enjoyable 'small bite' reading. And if you've used Trade Me, you might enjoy **"Trade Me – The Novel" by Geoff Vause**. jade24, daughter of wealthy parents, steals her parents' designer clothes to put on Trade Me. She doesn't know that her father is an industrial spy and the 'label' jacket (too big for him, never worn, sold to crystal66) holds a secret. But the jacket has a life of its own, creating lots of giggle moments.

Whilst the above is played strictly for laughs, **"The Soul of Discretion" by Susan Hill** is very different. Hill's portrayal of brutal, sadistic abuse and murder is too close to some factual newspaper stories for me. I can't recommend this to anyone who reads for amusement or entertainment – too dark and disturbing, and not enough literary merit (even the ending is off-key) to rescue it from the label 'Distasteful'. You have been warned. And how to review **Fred Vargas' "The Chalk Circle Man"**? Jean-Baptiste Adamsberg isn't your usual Parisian detective: he's

a dreamer, relying on intuition rather than fact. Mysterious chalk circles begin to appear throughout Paris, and J-B has the hunch that there is something evil about them – and his hunch is duly borne out. It's a good mystery story, with good clues – but it's sort of 'Hercule Poirot meets Inspector Clouseau'. I'm still thinking about it, and maybe that's what Vargas intended?

For something different, try **Steven Erikson's** fantasy series, starting with **"Gardens of the Moon"**. Published more than 15 years ago, this will be old hat to fantasy readers. It has elements of "Game of Thrones" - your loyalties are divided and there's a lot of blood, but with sorcerers! Complex, but fun. **"The Black Madonna" by Peter Mil- lar** is complex alright but unintentionally funny - a sort of 'poor man's "Da Vinci Code" as histographer, Marcus, tries to help out his ex-girlfriend, archaeologist Nazreem, with a chase around Europe. They must avoid bible-belt Texan Protestants, fanatical Catholics and Islamic fundamentalists, all searching for the statue that Nazreem found in Gaza. How Marcus attained his degree with so few brain cells is the biggest mystery! Read for entertainment value only.

**Pete Ross
Automotive**

Have Available for Hire

- Rug Doctor
- Lawnmower
- Chainsaws
- Waterblaster
- Chimney Brush
- Rotary Hoe
- Spare Printer, Computer and Screen (New)
- Laminator (New)
- Clothes Dryer (New)

Have For Sale

- Hydraulic Hose Gear
- 9 kg Gas Bottles
- Fire Extinguishers
- Bicycle Tyre Tubes and Repair Kits
- Weedeater Cord
- CRC and Degreaser
- Fuelite and Meths
- Emergency Tyre Weld Kits (New)
- Coal and Kindling
- Wood - can order in fadge lots
- Weedkiller
- Jumper Leads
- Funnels, Fuel cans and plenty more!

**Winter Hours
(From May 1st)**

- Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
- Sat 10am - 2 pm
- Sun **Closed**



**STEWART ISLAND
Promotion Association**

We are seeking advertisers for the 2015/16 edition of the Stewart Island Brochure. This publication is the Official Visitor Guide for Stewart Island and is distributed widely throughout New Zealand including to all i-SITES.

Your advertisement will inform intending visitors about what your business, or activity, can offer them during their Stewart Island holiday.

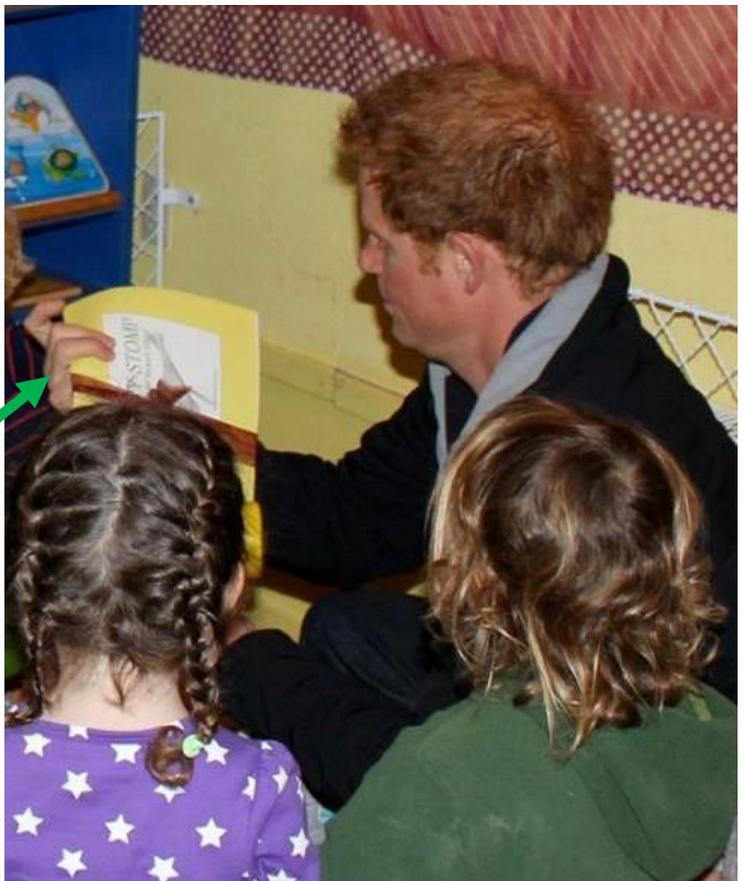
Interested? Contact the secretary for further information at promotion@stewartisland.co.nz or by calling into the SDC Office during business hours.

Jason Gunn & Lana Searle of More FM's Christchurch Drive Show have been plugging Stewart Island bigtime after they decided to come down and do what Prince Harry could not: win Quiz! They're also planning to broadcast live from the Pub, so pop down to Quiz 24th May to see if they can do it!

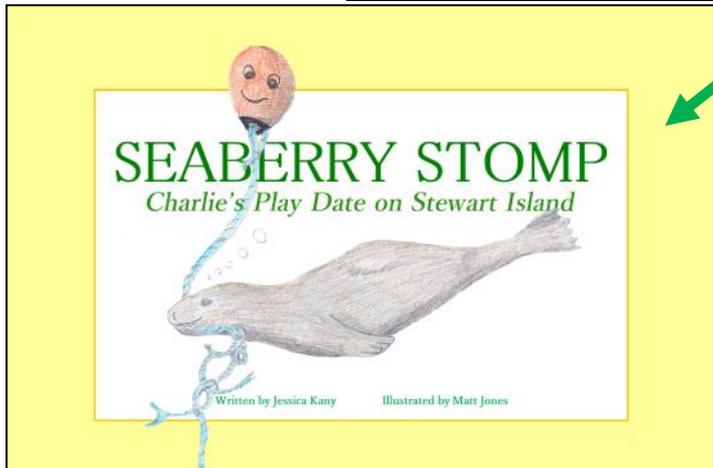


That rascal HRH photobombing this lovely picture of Sue Ford! *Photo by Jules Retberg*

ATTENTION RUNNERS! If you love running and you love Stewart Island, check out the new Facebook page *Rakiura Runners*. Post your tales from the trails!



On behalf of Rakiura Rugrats, Charlie Cave presented Prince Harry with a copy of *Seaberry Stomp: Charlie's Playdate on Stewart Island*. You reckon Harry will re-gift it to Princess Charlotte?



Children's book written and illustrated by island residents. Available in local shops and on Trademe. All proceeds from its sale will be donated to our pre-school Rakiura Rugrats.

Message from Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group

The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group met for the 7th time on Thursday May 14th in Invercargill.

As most of you know, the Governance Group asked for detailed options to be prepared on how any removal of predators from the Halfmoon Bay area might be achieved. This work has been concluded and the papers will be published and distributed as soon as possible. They will be released alongside a series of public workshops. Dates and details will available in the next SIN.

Despite the research, some uncertainties remain. In particular one big unknown is the home range size of kiore on Stewart Island Rakiura and how this might change when more dominant rat species are removed. More research is needed into their behavioural patterns to ensure that any ground-based operation could be guaranteed to remove them. This research could make a huge difference to the potential cost of the project, and therefore its chances of going ahead.

The costs of implementation are still being refined, and can vary depending on the different options. Some of the options will not be affordable, but they will allow a good conversation. Further work is required on the costs to ensure an accurate estimate is achieved.

Plunket Car Seat Co-ordinator
by Sharon Ross

I have a new hat!! I was approached shortly after my arrival on the Island to see if I would consider being the Plunket car seat co-ordinator and thus began the long process to become certificated. I naively thought it would be simple – I mean how hard could it be to install a car seat or two! Well after being given 2 folders of “stuff” to read, attend a study day (5 hours), and being told there was both a 5 page theory assignment and an hour long practical exam (of installing 5 car seats) before I could be certified I found out just how hard it could be!

Pete and I both did the theory so he is officially certified too and can install the bolts should your vehicle not have one – or have one in the wrong place!

I have a selection of a booster seat, car seat and capsule for hire and can get more from Invercargill should they be required. Please make sure you use our service and keep our local children (and any visiting children) safe and compliant. The law changed last year to make it compulsory for children to be in a car seat until the **age of 7 or 148 cm tall**.

Invercargill Plunket believe me to be the first certified Car seat co-ordinator on Stewart Island and have been delighted to offer this extended coverage for their district. They have been great in providing support and resources and a special thank you must go to Vicki and Quiz night for funding the training and the purchase of at least two of the seats. For all those new Mums-to-be (and grandmothers) I have a folder full of photos to look through of carseats and capsules (they are not all created equal) should you require any assistance in choosing the carseat for your new baby/grandbaby and can help with the choice of whether to rent or buy.

Sadly Plunket have recently announced they have chosen not to continue with renting out seats and will be phasing out the service in the next 12 – 18 months. Pete and I are determined that Stewart Island will continue to have the service and will be working with any new providers to ensure the service continues now that we have it here!



Wait...what does a giant head of broccoli have to do with Prince Harry? NOTHING! This is proof that not every photo in this issue is of HRH, and therefore the SIN editor is not a besotted royalist paparazzi stalker. Ahem. Anyway Kirsten Hicks sent this beauty to us: grown in the community garden, and big enough to cast a shadow!





ANZAC Day Centenary dawn ceremony included an original poem read by Cilla McQueen, and readings by HMB students George and Winiata. It was a beautiful morning and featured on national news. *Photo from Matt Jones*

ANZAC DAY, RAKIURA.

Whatever it takes, however long it takes,
Wherever you must go, you do what you can,
Give what you are.

What can outweigh your need
Of home and family, fill you with salt
defiant tears?

Some imperative commitment
To past and future. Faith in your people.
Aroha. Loyalty

To family; this whanau
This Rakiura morning, remembering
Your sacrifice, wish you Godspeed.

*Cilla McQueen, Bluff
April 2015.*

So many people helped to get our war memorial ready for ANZAC Day. Thanks to the SI Women's Institute who worked hard to fund-raise and paid for everything along with the former Stewart Island Garden Circle who donated a fair chunk of cash. Most importantly though, thanks to the following people who helped; Shona Sangster for cleaning out the original planters and for discussing the plant choices with us, Kirsten Hicks for the awesome help also with the plant discussions, with the painting AND replanting the planters, my wonderful sister-in-law Margaret Cowley who works at Diacks Plant Nursery who helped us out by sourcing and held plants for us, Graham Cowley for the chainsawing and cutting of the wood for me (since I'm scared of skillsaws) and for getting the white shell, Graham Okey for painting the white walls, Chris Dawson for getting me more shell and most importantly Sharyn Hensman who made the most fabulous ceramic poppies. I hope we have done justice to the brave people for whom this memorial is for. —*Megan Cowley*



Museum Matters by Bev Cowie

Instead of following the past theme of 'happenings during past years', I found this little ditty in one of our files recently and thought it may help your diction.

Thith ith tho thilly.

[See how rapidly you can read it aloud!]

Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle-sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb. Now, if Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle-sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb, see that thou in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust not three thousand thistles through the thick of thy thumb. Success to the successful thistle sifter!

The end of the season is certainly obvious with the slow-down in visitor numbers to the Museum, but it has been a very busy season with entry numbers up on previous years. Very welcome leading up to the new museum project. Chris Currie (Museum Designer) had a very successful meeting with some of the trustees last month, and also met up with Allan Wadds and Russell Beck, (authority on Maori adzes and chisels etc) in Invercargill the day prior and the day following. Chris will now concentrate on the themes to be displayed and create a model, either in a 3D image or as an actual model.

General queries are still coming in and have proved to be very interesting and varied. With Jo still off the island some of the answers are yet to be found.

A special thank you to Raylene Waddell for making and laying our wreath for Anzac Day, and also thanks to Emma Hopkins and volunteers for setting up our Anzac display in the museum. This will be on display for at least 3 months and will then revert back to the mining display, but the main feature of the Anzac display, the framed silk embroidery showing 'Les Halles d Ypres' on fire, will still be on show in the museum until November 2018.

Our winter hours are, as from May 1st;
Monday - Friday 10.00 - noon. Saturday 10.00 am - 1.30pm. Sunday Noon - 2.00pm



It is that time of year again when your annual subscription is due.

The membership subscription remains the same as last year - \$50.00 Adult membership. Please pay this direct to our Treasurer, Jenny Twaddle or by internet banking paying into our Account 03 1750 0373951 00. Make sure you put your name in the reference so we know who the payment is from.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPENING AT THE CLUB?

- Coaching days
- Local Tournaments
- Novice training
- Club days or evenings

Talk to any committee member or drop your suggestions into our PO Box 6

This year's committee is:

- President Lynn McPherson
- Vice President John Pool
- Secretary Megan Cowley
- Treasurer Jenny Twaddle
- Club Captain Friday
- Co Club Captain Greg Everest
- Green keeper Justin Bungard
- Assistant Green keeper Steve Black
- Committee: Ali Eade, Graham Okey

Elaine Hamilton has clarified some information about her family's history which she shared last month:

The letter dated 25/4/15 was to my father Archie Johnson aged 11 at the time and the uncle referred to is John Robertson who was going off to war. He was killed in WW1. John's [Jack] medals & details are on display in the museum. They both lived at Horseshoe Bay.

My mother was Maude Laugensen and the diary belonged to her uncle Theodore. Mum was 1 of 12 & had a brother Louis killed in WW2.

My late uncle Bert Johnson was in the 20th battalion in WW2 & lost a special friend Jim Hunter. When asked later in life what he thought of war, he paused and said simply "No good. nobody wins". He just sat quietly & said no more. How true!

Mum (the Laugensens) came from Kaikoura, to work for Noeline Baker who had built the lovely big house at Moturau Moana, later destroyed by fire in 1967, met Dad & stayed, (thank goodness).

Great News for Rakiura Heritage Centre - CToS Major Grant \$300,000!

We are very excited to have been granted \$300,000 from Community Trust of Southland's latest funding round in April towards our new heritage centre. We are grateful to them for taking that first step of faith as a major funder and giving Rakiura Heritage Centre such a boost. It is wonderful to have such an organisation as Community Trust of Southland helping big and small projects around the south, especially here on Stewart Island where it is not so easy to raise big dollars.

Thank you to all the ratepayers and residents who have responded to our recent funding appeal, it is helpful to show local support and we have had \$7500 come in already over the past month from that appeal. Remember that

donations over \$5 are eligible for a tax credit. Grants over \$250 are acknowledged on our website.

Total cost for the heritage centre project has been estimated by a quantity surveyor as \$2.9m and to date we have \$1.17m which includes potential income from the sale of the existing museum building and land. Unfortunately we fall outside the ILT area and also we are not eligible for money from Gaming Foundations. Trying to raise \$2.9m on Stewart Island with only 480 residents is not really feasible. Small fundraising events keep ticking along but it takes a long time to build up funds that way. We would really like to appeal to all of the people in New Zealand who have a Stewart Island / Rakiura connection - whether it is through family, or people who have lived here in the past or even those who have come here on holiday, tramping, hunting, fishing etc. Most people who visit Stew-

art Island are in awe of the place and yet it is one of New Zealand's forgotten treasures. We have such a rich history which needs to be told.

Subdivision and land lease from NZ Fire Service is expected to be completed within the next 2 - 3 months. Detailed design plans have been completed for the new building so the remaining big task is to raise the funds for the project. There are several major grant opportunities over the next 12 months and local fundraising initiatives will continue. Watch out for our upcoming raffle with a great prize of 3 nights of accommodation at Kilbride, Mason Bay and flights for two. Details for raffle sales will be available in the next SIN.

Donations can be dropped off at the Rakiura Museum or can be made online via our website www.rakiuramuseum.co.nz

Margaret Hopkins

What's so funny? Share with the class...

Kylee Young, Vicki Coats, Prince Harry, Mayor Gary Tong & Jo Learmonth after Quiz *photo by Luke Squires*





Gary Huggins gives away the secret smoked salmon recipe to HRH.

Need a Resource Consent?
 ... I can help!

**40 years' experience in local government
 and I know how to achieve results.**

- planning
- resource management/consents
- mediation
- facilitation

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Above: Harry regales Harry with a tall tale
 Right: Prince Harry and the Carrick girls *photo from Jane McKenzie*



Unforgettable morning at Halfmoon Bay School

QUIZ NEWS from Vicki Coats

You don't get many Quiz nights like that in a year! Prince Harry and entourage turned up at 6.30pm and got stuck in. The media and everyone else was banned from cameras and phones, which proved tricky for a few of them, most of them getting taped up! And the sneaky bodyguard who tried to pinch a look at Harry's sheet got his eyes taped. Harry was most taken with this and asked permission to take a photo! Anyway, apart from the crazy cribbie with the crappy cake, all Stewart Islanders respected his privacy and let him experience the quiz as it is. *Well done y'all!*

- The Bodyguards 30
- Ginger Ninjas 28 1/2
- Eh, what's up..? 28 1/2
- The Deciders 28
- Normandy Nomads 27 1/2
- Mrs Brown's Brood 27 1/2
- Not the Sunday Roast 26 1/2
- Seb's Plebs 26 1/2 (lost 3 points for having too many media in the team!)
- Stewart Island Backpackers 24
- The Pumpkin Eaters 23 1/2
- Hells Belles 20 1/2
- Should've stayed at Bay Motel 20 1/2 (although 10 points off for not saying Stewart Island Backpackers!)
- Harry's Hotlips 20
- The Inventors 19
- Media Moghuls 18
- Smoked Salmon 18
- Bunkers 16
- His Royal Taxi Service 15 1/2
- Karkariki is green 14



Ginger Ninjas chat with Vicki after the Quiz.
Photo by Luke Squires.

At the Quiz the prince was offered a glimpse into a Sunday night at the Pub with locals: we toasted Vicki's recently deceased beloved cat Toby; congratulated Margaret and Colin on their anniversary; and laughed at each other getting "taped" (including Heath, Ozzy Pete, a bodyguard ... and four reporters at once!).

Stewart Island Community Centre News from Phil Dove

What a fantastic occasion the Community Centre hosted with the visit of Prince Harry! There was a wonderful array of Stewart Island activities represented - the facility and everyone involved did the island proud. Sorry Marty that you had to leave on an emergency callout a couple of minutes before Prince Harry arrived.

Could parents please ensure children under the age of 15 years old are directly supervised please. Children have been climbing upstairs from the main gymnasium to locked areas, and a light costing \$89 was broken up there recently.

FactFile:

Your Stewart Island Community Centre Insurance valuation (2015): \$6,140,000

Your Insurance Premiums (2015): \$18,814.62

Before repairs & maintenance and improvements that's a lot of money to find! There is a new Fees & donation box inside the foyer (thanks to Helen Cave & Greg Northe), so please ensure everyone contributes for their use of the Centre's facilities.

Hopefully Badminton and volleyball will start up for the winter soon!

**Much thanks to the
South Sea Hotel**
for helping to pay printing costs
for this special full-colour issue
of the *Stewart Island News*

A story written by 4-year-old Tessa about the media presence at the school visit: "Prince Harry came to visit us at school. The media made me feel cuckoo because they were crazy." This photo shows what the students were facing! *Photo by Nicolette Thompson*



TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

I feel fortunate to have been able to bike the Tour of New Zealand, the South Island section. First of all I would like to express my thanks to: Sam and Jill from the Four Square and the supermarket crew for all their support and my awesome, unique bike uniform! Thank you to Jo for the promotion, setting up raffles and fundraising and to all the people who helped with baking, selling and buying cakes. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Heart Foundation, this is such an awesome community!!

I really enjoyed the week of biking, meeting great, like minded people, and biking through very nice scenery every day. The pre-race stage was held on the Island and participants were still talking about it during the rest of the week! They expressing how much they enjoyed the ride on the Island and many people would like to come back and spend more time here.

The daily distances varied from 70 km to 130 km per day, with some great climbs over the Crown Range and Lindis Pass and snow on the side of the road. In Wanaka, Lake Tekapo and Hanmer Springs it was minus two degrees at the start so it was challenging to keep my hands and feet warm, but after a couple hours the sun warmed us up and as we travelled North it became a bit warmer. I learnt to ride in a pack, which was challenging at times! It was hard not to hit the wheel of the person in front. On Stewart Island I mainly biked by myself or with Pete with no chance to practice pack riding. I got better towards the end of the Tour and realised that it makes a big difference in speed to ride with other people and share "the load". Nobody got hurt or fell off their bikes.

After each day there was a prize giving ceremony for the winners and briefing for the next day as well as time for socializing. 120 people biked the Tour from Bluff to Picton. In Wellington, we met the North Island bikers, who biked from Cape Reinga down to Wellington and there was a combined party and final prize giving.

It was an awesome week! Thanks again for all your support. *Klaartje, aka Claire*



Claire raced for seven days through the South Island and won second female overall and FIRST in her category. *Photos from Scottie T Photography Ltd*



LETTERS

Where in the World is Harry?

Actually he could be anywhere however the fact that he spent just on 24 precious hours on Rakiura; Stewart Island is now set in history. I first became aware of this intended visit earlier in the year but was sworn to total secrecy, like total and utter silence to not only protect the Prince but to ensure that he could fulfil his wish to travel to Stewart Island and experience life amongst you all.

After a couple of covert trips I was able to introduce Jo Learmonth to the Prince's personal secretary (Ed) and the contingent of organisers. I was asked a few questions by the community as to why I was on the Island and for obvious reasons "I lied" Sorry about that.

If it wasn't for the increased visitors to the island at that time I am sure the covers of the others would have been blown, however they weren't and the planning went ahead with ease and top marks to Jo for bringing this together.

Many, many emails and phone calls went backwards and forwards with Wellington and London to achieve a low key visit without pomp and ceremony – the wishes

of Prince Harry.

To the Community inside and outside of the community centre – an awesome response and some special time for you all. To the Ulva Island team, the church visit and service – excellent comments from Harry.

But wait, then there was the quiz – Vicki carried on as usual and ran a "bloody good show" (words of Harry's media rep) and the atmosphere from that evening is already out there in cyberspace and being talked about.

The Teachers, Parents and children at Halfmoon Bay School – what a positive and confident presentation to Prince Harry. Your music, speeches and obvious leadership qualities were evident even in the "Rugrats" room with Bella stealing the show, tear to the eye stuff and thank you for the recipe book and calendar.

Anyway, I think you all know that this visit was special and I am sure visitors to Rakiura will increase in the months to come. To all of you a BIG THANK YOU for taking this in your stride and a special thank you to Jo and those that were taken into confidence to achieve what can only be described as a success-

ful and Prince safe visit to Stewart Island that will reap dividends in time to come.

Gary Tong
Mayor of Southland District Council

Seeking information

I am doing a book on rabbits and possums and I'm keen to find out about the rabbits that were on Native Island before being exterminated. Also keen to get pictures and stories about possums and possuming.

Lloyd Esler 2130404
esler@southnet.co.nz
Invercargill

Reading recommendation

Thanks to you and your community for the excellent newsletter. I have just read *Catlins Bound*, a book of wooden ships and steel men, by Mike McPhee, ISBN 978-0-473-15461-5. A must read for local historians. Pages 129, 130 and 137 record shark attacks on vessels 1864 and 1875. Very interesting, enjoy.

Stoney Bourke
Bluff

A chat with Stewart Island's Promotions Officer Jo Learmonth (pictured here at the Pub Quiz with Southland Mayor Gary Tong). Jo helped coordinate the Prince's visit, organise his lunch, and was on his Quiz team! Jo is conscious that she was in a privileged position of trust being invited inside Prince Harry's inner circle while he was here, but she was willing to answer a few questions:



Q: *How did you feel when you found out you were going to be on the prince's quiz team? In a million years did you imagine that would be one of your "duties" when you got the promotions job?! On that note, how did you feel about organizing/cooking his lunch and the whole general visit, was it enormous pressure, were you nervous, were you amazed that this is one of the first big jobs of your new role?*

A: I was not originally going to the quiz. Prince Harry's squad had booked three tables for them including the Mayor and his wife. When the Mayor's wife was unable to come to the island the Mayor invited me to take her place at the quiz and cleared it with HRH's crew – I assumed I would be with his staff or DIA. Before HRH arrived one of his household decided who was going in which team and they put Gary Tong and I in the team with HRH – very exciting! I was reasonably relaxed though as I had already met and chatted with him at the lodge and had also met and talked to his Private Secretary Ed, who was also on the team, several times, they are both just really nice guys. I certainly never anticipated that this would be part of my Promotions Job but thrilled that I was given the opportunity (although even the Promotions Assn were kept in the dark for a long time).

I guess the pressure I felt was to make sure that I did everything right – for both the Prince and the Community – it was important HRH had the 'relaxed' visit that he asked for but at the same time make sure the Island makes the most out of the opportunity from an exposure point of view. And to top it all off I wanted to make sure Guy still felt

special with his birthday and first day at school in the middle of it all (and didn't notice mummy's head was in 100 other places). It wasn't so much pressure as a balancing act.

Q: *How did he seem at quiz, do you reckon he was genuinely relaxed and enjoying himself?*

A: Yes he genuinely enjoyed it, although a bit embarrassed that we came 2nd – he didn't think we'd done that well!

Q: *Did he sample his ginger beer? Did he eat fish n chips?*

A: No he didn't taste the ginger beer (unless he sipped it when I wasn't looking), he drank water (as did all his crew). Yes he had fish n chips and he loved them, eating everything on his plate – I heard him mention to Ed how amazing he thought they were.

Q: *Did you get the impression his crew were happy? Did they make any comments about what they thought of the island and how*



Visiting Aucklanders Kylee Young, Vicki Coats and Prince Harry. Photo by Luke Squires

the visit was going?

A: The crew were very happy! They always wanted it to be a relaxed time for the Prince – hence all the walking – but were a bit worried that pandemonium would occur and were pleasantly surprised and extremely happy when it didn't. They praised the community several times on remaining relaxed and being true to who we are, which in turn allowed Prince Harry to be more himself.

Q: *Paul Henry was going on about how rough the crowd looked at the pub and no one made an effort for the Prince... did you get an inkling of that sort of vibe from the Prince or his entourage that they thought we didn't make an effort?*

A: Absolutely not! The Prince did not make one negative comment all night – the one thing I picked up over the course of the weekend is that he does not expect people to act differently around him. He had been well briefed about what to expect and he was all good with it.

He did make some comments on the loudness (and frequency) of Vicki's whistle, as we were sitting right behind her it was ear shattering at times but he also commented that with her accent and 'harsh' language – he felt like he was at home in London, which he enjoyed.

Q: *Anything other details from the Prince's Quiz Night table?*

A: The team name "Ginger Ninjas" was his idea.

His comment about the Bodyguards (who won) was – "there was no way they would do any good because they didn't make a sound all night" (they were very quiet) – he actually didn't care where we came as long as we didn't come last and we beat the Bodyguards, so he was a bit gutted about that.

When the donation tin came around he very quietly asked what was a 'good' amount to put in – he didn't want to be flashy and he didn't want to be stingy – he just wanted to be like everyone else.



We've heard it reported repeatedly now: *Prince Harry is the first royal to visit the island.* He is NOT.

Local historian Elaine Hamilton has two photos of Prince Edward on the Golden Bay wharf and in a zodiac which appeared in the *Southland Times* on 7th Jan 1983. She also has a photo of Prince Phillip climbing over a fence at Masons Bay, also in the *Southland Times*, dated 10th Feb 1990.

(Not to mention kingfishers, king penguins and royal albatrosses have been seen round the place long before *anyone* mentioned above!)

← Drawing by
Richard Squires aka Squizzy



Chatting with Ulva Island Charitable Trust at Ulva Island. Photos from Peter Goomes



Some tall, cool drinks of water

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- Water Deliveries • Treefellas. Trees trimmed and demolished.

Ph/fax 03 2191494 cell 027 4646147 jed.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz
202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island



Jim Barrett teaching the prince how to open an oyster.
Photos from Jules Retberg



Prince Harry turned the tables on the media, asking a royal correspondent to eat a giant oyster he'd just shucked on camera.

He apologised (sort of, he was laughing) when she ended up with bits of shell in her craw, and oyster juice all over her face and collar.

SHOP TALK *by Jules Retberg*

A princely fairytale

Once upon a time there was a handsome flame-haired young prince who lived far far away in England.

"I'd like to visit New Zealand," he told his Royal Advisors, "but I suppose I'll have to go to Australia as well while I'm down that way."

"Where in New Zealand would you like to go, Sir?" asked his Royal Advisors.

"Somewhere quiet. Somewhere I can walk down the road without getting mobbed!"

"How far are you willing to travel?" asked his Royal Advisors.

"To the ends of the earth!"

"Have you considered Stewart Island, Sir? It has a population of less than 400 people ..."

"Sounds perfect!", said the young prince, "book me a ticket right away please!"

And so the young prince visited Stewart Island. He met people in the street, he walked in the road (just like most visitors do!) and joked outside the Community Centre with a group of ladies, "such a small community, is this all of you?!"

The young prince spent lots of time chatting with community groups and learned how to shuck an oyster. He went to Ulva Island and the Sunday night quiz and also visited the school children and made crowns with Rugrats!

He was so happy about being on Stewart Island and didn't want to leave. But he was also a little homesick. At the Four Square supermarket he found what he was looking for! A bottle of HP Sauce!

"By Royal Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen", he read. "Ah Granny!"

The young prince returned to England, a land far far away. Stewart Island returned to

normal, whatever normal is - and everybody lived happily ever after.

Some or all of this fairytale may or may not be true!

The Royal Warrant is a mark of recognition for those that have regularly supplied goods and services to royal households of The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh and The Prince of Wales for at least five years.



If you want a dollop of royal-ness on your bacon and eggs you'll find HP Sauce in aisle 2 near the Tabasco Sauce - also favoured by royalty although it doesn't display the Royal Warrant. Her Majesty is also partial to Cadbury Dairy Milk but you won't find the royal seal of approval on kiwi Dairy Milk, only Cadbury UK. There's also an impressive list of champagnes including Bollinger, Lanson, Moet & Chandon and Krug ... while Prince Charles prefers Laurent-Perrier.

Oh and Gordons Gin - cheers!

Church Chatter by Raylene Waddell

Oban Presbyterian Church

Visitors often ask if we have a permanent minister. There are several ways we can reply but the stock answer is that no, we don't employ a permanent ordained minister. We could not afford one. However, we are blessed with a beautiful manse and preachers are invited to come and stay in it. They pay a small rental and in exchange 'sing for their supper' by preaching on the Sundays they are here.

In this way we have a wonderful diversity of

preachers, their denominations and preaching styles. Presbyterian in organisation and affiliation, catholic (with a small c) in acceptance of differing views of theology, we trust that the Lord is shaping us into Christians.

Of course there is another way of answering the visitors' question. We sometimes reply that we are all ministers in the original sense of the word – servant. There is always work to be done around the church and beyond.

As winter approaches, there is less call on the manse and we have to look to our own worship resources. This year, as in the past, our members will choose a topic or theme to discuss over several weeks. It's a time of reflec-

tion. I am always impressed by the depth of thought and faith revealed in these discussions. There's laughter too!

So throughout June and July this will be the format of our services. Please feel welcome to join us and join in the discussion and debate.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday, starting at 11a.m. followed by a cup of tea and goodies.
Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.



Prince Harry had a lovely rapport with the children here — his press secretary had to tell him three times it was time to leave while he was making paper crowns with the kids at Ruggies. On his way to the water taxi to Ulva, Summer and Lily fell into step with him and escorted him to the wharf. They were drinking Mac's Apple and he asked if they were drinking beer.

The next morning Summer and Harry Hamilton walked the prince to school and when he saw her he said "You're the girl with the beer" and she replied, exasperated, "I told you it wasn't beer!" As they were approaching Ayr Street and saw the waiting media scrum, Summer said "I should have taken you the other way, there's too many people this way!" At the Q&A she asked him what he planned to get Princess Charlotte for "being born" and he asked Summer what she'd got "for being born" and went on to ask if she thought it would be all right if he re-gifted some of the presents he'd received on the trip to his new niece. "Sure" she replied.

He had lots of funny banter with Harry Hamilton too, and the Q&A at the school was just priceless. The kids all read

their questions out to him but wee Moby refused to make eye contact with the prince let alone speak to him, and just shook his head when asked to read his question. "Would you like me to read your question for you?" asked the prince, and Moby handed his card to him.

Scenes from the visit were splashed across front pages of newspapers around the world: how surreal to see a London paper showing Prince Harry sticking his tongue out at Ngakau! When asked what he liked most about the Island, the Prince replied he thinks the school is the best thing about it. The positive press coverage synched nicely with the school's desperate bid to attract more students so it can maintain its much-needed (and loved) second teacher.

For images and videos of this lovely visit, visit the Halfmoon Bay School page on Facebook.



Starting price for this glove on Trade me auction is \$5,000. (Just kidding!) Photo from Jules Retberg



No ferry for the Prince. From Serena Dawson



That wireless hotspot at the Community Centre is such a magnet for loiterers! Photo from Serena Dawson

Lunch fit for a Prince

harvested, grown, caught, stalked, sorted out, prepared, and cooked with aroha by Stewart Islanders

Traditionally roasted & stuffed fresh muttonbird

harvested by Jimmy Ryan at Horomamae — prepared and cooked by Phillip and Diane Smith with organic onions and herbs from Diane's garden

caught by Heath Allen

Crumbed blue cod & mussels in the half shell with pesto, tomato salsa & parmesan

provided by EEC Mussel Farm

prepared & cooked by Stacey Wilford and Thorsten Dautermann @ South Sea Hotel

Oysters served in the shell with rice vinegar, chilli, ginger, and coriander dressing

provided by Jim & Hilli @ Oystercatcher's Catch

prepared by Jo Learmonth

Stewart Island smoked salmon

provided by Gary Huggins & Nic Adam @ Stewart Island Smoked Salmon

Whitetail venison back fillet served with jus made from homemade blackcurrant syrup

stalked, shot & sorted out by Kyle Learmonth; cooked by his boss (Jo)

made by Letitia McRitchie

Crayfish tails served with lemon aioli

caught by Stu Cave

prepared by Lania Davis @ Soul Kitchen

Sliced paua in a mild green curry

caught by Luke Simeon

All served with 3 different salads, bread, and bottles of Stewart Island Rainwater

salads and veg from Jo's garden

caught by Community Centre roof

Coffee & tea served with Belinda's famous coconut & rhubarb cake

Belinda Dobbins

grown in Jill Skerrett's and Richard Wilson's garden

You've heard the saying: *it takes a village to feed a prince*. Well, if you haven't you're hearing it now!

A few notes from Prince Harry's lunch: despite horrible weather forecasted, it was a beautiful day and HRH enjoyed his meal on the deck of the Stewart Island Lodge under blue skies with a magnificent view over Halfmoon Bay.

The muttonbirds, which he has specifically requested, were served quartered but one was kept whole so he could see how

it looked. Yes, he tried it, and unlike some who after one bite say "this is not for me" he started with some leg and then got into the breast meat.

He said to Jo Learmonth (who was in the kitchen at the Lodge) that the entire meal was "absolutely amazing", adding, "with food like this you should all live forever." He brought his dirty dishes into the kitchen and according to Jo exhibited "no pretentiousness or expectation that people should wait on him."

Feeding the Boys in Blue

by Christine Griffiths

The population of Stewart Island must have surged by twenty per cent on the Harry Weekend with an influx of 50-plus boys in blue and for those 48 hours the island was surely the safest place in the world.

Holger left the Kai Kart in Hilli's capable hands and waded into this sea of blue at the hall to cater for the police detail. Protecting the fifth in line to the throne was hungry work - Holger and his co-worker for the event Lucas Gawlik provided a sumptuous spread on Saturday and Sunday nights of Island seafood including chowder, mussels and cod, together with hearty roasts, chicken drumsticks, meatballs and salads. This kept the officers' strength up. Sandwiches, soups and muffins were had in the day, not forgetting the men in trees and on rooftops who got a packed lunch; Holger joked that he felt a red dot on his forehead whenever he swooped past the kitchen windows, just to keep his mind on the job.

While the bodyguards and favoured few supped local delicacies at Harry's table at the Lodge, it is a mystery whether other sundry Men in Black got to eat at all - hopefully the dozen or so Air Force guys had packed their helicopter skids with sausage rolls, and the various extras in Squads Tactical, Special, Diplomatic and Dog who might not have eaten at the hall got fed somewhere else, or grazed leftovers wherever they could.

On Sunday Holger and Lucas also catered for eighty at the community volunteer groups lunch, in the same place and at the same time as the police who moved into the stadium to enjoy theirs amongst the basketballs and moonhoppers while each group set out their wares in the function room. Media also attended this lunch and had sneaked most of the blue cod off the platters before the Prince had completed his circuit of the room. Holger did glimpse a ginger head bobbing in the crowd, but sadly did not get to shake the Prince's hand. By Monday lunchtime, and Prince Harry's departure, buttons were clearly straining across serge-clad chests as the Force sat down for their last feast and Holger was to be seen in the kitchen shaking his head in admiration at the heroic quantities of food consumed. But he was very happy to be told repeatedly by guys of every rank that it was the best food they'd had on any job. Ever.

After the usual deep clean of the facilities Holger hobbled home having been on his feet up to 17 hours a day since the Friday. He couldn't have done it without Lucas and, as ever, the Community Centre kitchen, and the Community Centre itself did us proud - the visit went off without a hitch. Holger was honoured to cater for the Police Force and to be part of the well-oiled machine that organises and coordinates, protects and feeds such a large contingent of people attendant on a royal tour. And I'm willing to bet Harry's 24 hours on the island will be his stand-out favourite New Zealand experience. Well done everyone.

Notes from a Royal's visit to Rakiura:

The weather leading up to the royal visit was hideous, but it broke clear and lovely for the duration of Prince Harry's visit, literally just starting to rain again as his helicopter flew back over Foveaux Strait.

The excitement attracted all sorts here, including a couple with a replica of Noah's Ark. (Someone wrote on Facebook: I know it's been raining a bit, but an ark?)

The hustle-bustle leading up to the royal visit was extraordinary: the island saw an unprecedented number of media and security here, and we got a taste of what it's like to live under a camera lens, with glowing press reports from most sectors, and some nasty jibes from a few: "let's face it, Stewart Island isn't exactly Monaco," snarked Mike Hosking of Seven Sharp; Paul Henry also had little good to say of Stewart Island and its "rough" looking residents. So then there was the big red gobstopper, which was gold: the Seven Sharp crew came down to do some filming, and moments after they left a shipment of Prince Harry Ginger Beer arrived on the island. Jill Skerrett from the shop thought it would be interesting for the show, so she called Barry Rhodes at the depot and he raced up to the airstrip with a bottle. Along with the beer, Jill playfully included a big red gobstopper in a wee brown paper bag. So at the conclusion to Seven Sharp the next night, Mike's co-host presented him with the gobstopper and suggested he stick it in his mouth so he'd STOP TALKING.

Various Island industries and organisation were represented at the greeting of the prince at the Stewart Island Community Centre on Mother's Day. The prince was utterly charming and his questions were charming too. He asked the ladies of SIRCET if a kaka and a kakapo were the same bird. He asked fishermen Heath Allen and Colin Hopkins why they didn't use lassos to catch crayfish. Everyone who chatted with him said pretty much the same thing, most-repeated in the media was a quote from Angus Kenny: "he was more down to earth than I thought he would be."

On the way back from Ulva Island, dolphins played around his boat. Maia and Liam gave him daisies outside the church where he went for a service.

A highlight at Quiz night was the prince asking Vicki's permission to take a photo of his bodyguard who'd just gotten taped.

The visit to the school was magic: the Q&A was particularly special with the guileless questions from the children and the warm, funny responses from the prince. The banter and laughter were priceless, and it was a truly unforgettable morning at Halfmoon Bay School. Afterwards he went to Rugrats and made paper crowns with the little ones. As he left the school grounds, he shook hands goodbye with each student.

I'm sure most people agree that the Prince's visit to Stewart Island was a brilliant success, it was great having him here and we reckon he loved being here.

And to the naysayers... well,
here's a little
something
for you:

—Jess





SIRCET Update from our Pest Manager
Kelly Bunce

As this is my first entry in the Stewart Island News I had better start with a quick introduction. I'm Kelly Bunce; I've been visiting the Island my entire life and have been living here and working with SIRCET in the Pest Manager position since December 2014.

I've been keeping busy with rat trap lines, cat traps, The Community Native Plant Nursery and visiting School groups!

Rat catch numbers were down during the warm summer months as per past years trends, but come March with cooler weather the numbers have increased significantly –only 78 trapped rats were recorded for the month of February but that figure has jumped to 278 in March!

Since December I have been fortunate to have had a number of visitors of Stewart Island giving their time to volunteering with SIRCET.

Recently I had the pleasure of working with Cecile and Jerome, from France for three weeks in March and April. They helped me out in the Core Project area checking and re-baiting trap lines and baiting and setting cat and possum traps and also helped out with trap lines in the Community Zone. Back home both Cecile and Jerome's work careers involve assessing and reducing the Environmental impact of Civil and Construction projects in Paris. They have loved getting out of the office in Paris and getting their hands dirty in the bush on Stewart Island helping reduce the number of pests and predators that compete with our Native Plant and Bird life. I can't thank them enough for their contribution to our project; it was such a pleasure having them here.

Our most recent Visiting Volunteer was Sabine Pahl, Sabine is from Hamilton NZ. Sabine was an absolute Trooper! Sabine spent her time with SIRCET rebaiting and checking all our lines in the Community Zone that currently don't have local volunteers assigned to them, she also replaced and maintained traps

(Continued on page 23)



Voice of a Girl Mechanic

by Sharon Ross

Yay it is May and we now are closed on Sundays through to Labour Weekend, this should result in a tidier house and garden with having a day off each week but won't hold my breath just in case there are greater distractions clamouring for my time!

I am enjoying the excitement of seeing my 17 year old son prepare for his first Formal – it is truly scary to see him in a suit for the first time and makes it very hard to kid myself that he is still a child even though I would like to because if he is getting older I must be too! His preparation has made me reflect on my first one too, good old Taieri High and the months of waltzing lessons in Phys Ed classes in preparation. Needless to say, it was all worth it on the day and I still have fond memories of the night and the after party! Funny how I said that to my son and he looked quite horrified that his mother would have been to an after party – way back in 1979 – he seemed to think his generation had the sole privilege on fun!! Good on his principal who has insisted on no after party this year, after thinking back on some of the ones Dunedin secondary schools have had- it's probably a very wise thing! Roll on May 29th though and I hope Braeden and his young lady friend have a wonderful time in their finery and enjoy their first formal as much as I enjoyed mine.

This is all rather far removed from cars though so better get back onto the subject. I thought I would have a brief mention on the purchasing of new cars as it seems to be on the minds of rather a few lately. There are lots of things to consider (even though my first one was decided on

colour -red- I can't recommend that as the best or only consideration!)

A car already on the Island is often going to be the cheapest option, as you are avoiding the freight costs, plus you have the advantage of Pete probably already knows it quite well and can give you an unbiased opinion on whether it is a fair price. Another thing to consider is whether there are others like it here, these can often be a good source of spare parts should you require any. I love the website "NZ Dog and Lemon Guide", which has lots of interesting articles and info on vehicles to avoid.

Petrol Vs Diesel. The advantage of a diesel engine is meant to be lower running costs and also lower maintenance costs but this doesn't generally hold so true here due to the numerous short trips that vehicles do which does not let the engine get hot.

When the engine is cruising, the EGR (Exhaust Gas Recirculation) valves valve is supposed to open to allow the carbon dioxide in the exhaust to cool the combustion chamber. However, if the EGR valve jams open, exhaust fumes are being fed into the engine at all times. This can mean poor acceleration and rough running, because the excess exhaust fumes are depriving the engine of oxygen. Because there is insufficient oxygen, there's too much fuel, so the unburnt fuel starts coming out of the exhaust as black smoke, especially when the engine is at idle. Fuel consumption is likely to rise substantially. Also, due to a lack of oxygen (which is needed to complete the combustion process), the engine sometimes starts to misfire, (this misfiring may produce an unusual metallic rattle or knocking when the engine is under load). If the engine is left in this condition for too long, the engine life will be shortened considerably. In the worst case this prob-

lem may cause melted pistons and therefore engine failure. The valves in the cylinder head may also begin to stick due to being heavily coated with carbon.

However, other really nasty problems occur when the EGR valve jams closed: without the cooling effect of the exhaust gases, the engine starts to overheat. Over time, this overheating causes the engine oil that feeds the turbocharger to break down. When the engine oil starts to break down, the bearings in the turbocharger fail. When the bearings fail, the turbocharger will fail, and replacement won't be cheap. If the turbocharger is replaced without solving the EGR problem, the next turbocharger will also fail before too long.

It gets worse: when the engine overheats, more lubricating oil can enter the combustion chamber and the engine can start running on lubricating oil even if the diesel fuel supply is cut off. The engine may then begin to run on its own engine oil instead of diesel fuel. The driver may be unable to switch off the engine except by stalling it. Eventually, the engine sucks away all the lubricating oil and the engine disintegrates.

If you ask Pete, he will always recommend a Toyota, closely followed by a Nissan as good reliable brands to buy. In our Queenstown workshop, you would hardly ever find those 2 brands in for repairs, but every workshop would have its lineup of Subarus and Fords requiring parts!

Enjoy the cooler months, and remember the shortest day is only just over a month away, and from then we are heading back to summer!



that required attention and even managed to spend time helping out with the Community Native Plant Nursery. Sabine absolutely loved Stewart Island and will be returning to help out again in three years' time.

The Community Native Plant Nursery is located at Horseshoe Bay – All plants are only \$2.00 each, it's such a great way to get native plants back in to your gardens which will also attract native birds.



Sabine Pahl – Helping out at the Community Native Plant Nursery.

Cecile and Jerome trapping - Acker's Point

I would like to thank Sabine and all our volunteers – visiting and local residents for their contribution to Stewart Island and SIRCET, your efforts have been outstanding and absolutely priceless to the success of our project. If you also would like to volunteer we have a number of Community Lines that need your help – Please contact me on 027 838 2300.

School Groups 2015!

2015 hasn't been all about trapping, I have also had the pleasure of having visiting school groups either helping out in the Community Native Plant Nursery, weeding and planting at the Lonnekers Restoration Project or joining me to check rat traps along the Light house track to Ackers Point. Every group has been a joy to have. Thank you to Queenstown Primary School, The Little Brown Kiwi Group and St Thomas's School from Winton.



a student from The Little Brown Kiwi Group planting at Lonnekers.



As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

Mountain holly/Hakeke (*Olearia ilicifolia*)

Mountain Holly is a type of tree daisy found in mountain areas from East Cape southwards. It has long light green leaves with sharply toothed margins resembling holly, hence the name. Luckily it is nowhere near as painful to touch as holly can be! During spring it is covered in clusters of white daisies. It grows up to 2 metres and is best grown in a well-drained soil with some shade.

SIN kiwi monitoring update
by Sandy King

Monitoring of the kiwi released into the Ackers Point area in 2013 continues all year round, with longer intervals between checks in the non-breeding season. The suspected breeding season can extend from June-February and during this period we monitor more frequently to see whether the males are consistently in the same place. After laying that massive egg the female leaves the male to do most of the incubating, allowing him a few hours out each night to feed, so when a male is in the same place over a period of time during the breeding season it can be an indication that he is incubating. The behaviour of the un-named male Tx22 aroused suspicion recently as he had remained in the same place for several checks. I decided to check more frequently than required at this time of year, and to set up a camera near the burrow he was occupying, just to see what he was up to. It turned out to be well worth the effort;

the camera revealed that he was sharing his burrow with not just one, but two other kiwi. One of these birds is obviously a female – her long bill and large size are indicators of her gender, and she is banded thus another bird from the 2013 release. However, and this is the exciting part, the third kiwi is small and unbanded and it is quite likely a chick. This is great news – although we've recorded 2 breeding events over the last 2 years, the real measure of breeding success is the survival and recruitment of the chicks into the breeding population. The other two chicks have both disappeared after about 10 days and may or may not still be alive, but this chick has survived this far and is now about half the size of its parents. But how did this breeding event escape our notice? Looking back over the records I found a gap in monitoring between the end of June 2014 and late September 2014 – the interval between Cherie finishing and me starting, at which time I didn't have a feel for the

birds' patterns of movement. After a few checks I became suspicious about Tx22, thinking he had been in the same area for a few weeks, but then he moved and was in a different place at each check so I thought nothing more of it. Now however, I am theorising that he began incubating in late July or August, with the chick hatching in October or November. Whether or not I'm right is neither here nor there really; the project has produced a chick which has survived about 6 months and that is a good indicator of success!





Quizmaster Vicki Coats explaining some rules to Prince Harry at the Sunday Quiz at the South Sea Hotel Pub. His team The Ginger Ninjas included Stewart Island Promotions Officer Jo Learmonth and Southland Mayor Gary Tong. So, who came up with his team's name? Did he eat fish and chips? Did he have fun? See inside to find out all about it. *Photo from Jess Kany*



HMB School students learned an important lesson about being a royal celebrity: Flashbulbs hurt! *Photos courtesy of media pool*



Prince Harry saying goodbye, shaking the hand of every student.



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