

Stewart Island News

Box 65 Halfmoon Bay, STEWART ISLAND, New Zealand

Changes in Stewart Island News

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Over four months have passed since the last edition of Stewart Island News was printed and many of you will be wondering what has become of our promised monthly newspaper. We regret the delay and hope you haven't lost faith in our ability to produce a community newspaper.

There are several reasons for the delays but the main reason has been the lack of a computer to work on since Big Glory Seafoods Ltd. have shifted their office and computer to the salmon farm and it is no longer easily accessible for Sam. We are grateful that we were able to use their computer for our early editions.

The first 5 editions of Stewart Island News have been mostly the work of Sam with a few contributions from other writers. You will all appreciate that many hours of work have gone into putting the newspaper together. With Sam working for Stewart Island Travel as a full-time tour guide over the summer he has run into difficulty trying to co-ordinate spare time, available news items and access to a computer. It had never been the intention that Stewart Island News would be a one man operation and Sam has battled on without any editorial committee to help him compile the newspaper. Since the first edition Sam has been paid an hourly rate of \$7 per hour for the work he has done on the newspaper, this money has come from the Lottery Board's Community Assistance Scheme which was to cover wages for Stewart Island News.

On the 27th April a meeting was held at Halfmoon Bay School to form an editorial committee which will ensure that Stewart Island News comes out during the first week of every month

from now on. That committee will comprise Sam Sampson, Barry Rhodes, Kathy Walker and Margaret Hopkins. In the event of Sam being snowed under with other work or absent from the Island then the newspaper will still come out. By maintaining our first week of the month deadline some editions may be a little thin if news is not readily available. We would encourage all groups and individuals who contribute to the newspaper to please have their articles in by the 30th of the month. Our new collection depot will be the Rakiura Museum or you may hand articles to any of the editorial committee.

Upstairs at the Rakiura Museum will become the office for Stewart Island News as was originally intended. Members of the editorial committee will use Apple computers, a number of which are already owned by members of the community.

This edition of Stewart Island News has been put together by Sam using the material he has been gathering over the past 5 months. After this month Sam has decided to relinquish his pay and we hope to get permission from the Department of Internal Affairs to use the balance of the grant money for printing costs, software and other running costs the actual cost of producing the newspaper exceeds the present \$1 subscription price.

- Margaret Hopkins

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STEWART ISLAND



From the SIN BLN

Dear "Edita",

I am writing to you to express our sincere and very grateful thanks to all those who helped us during and after Shannon's illness.

I would specially like to thank Wally & Rose, Jo-Anne, Alec, Cathy & Terry, the Police Officer involved, and pilots Murray and Phil - sorry to interrupt your party fellas, hope it went OK. Also thanks to the ambulance man who came over, Beryl & Fox, Shane, Debby, Doug & Judy, Albert & Marion, Rene & Ken and all the kind people who expressed much kind concern.

The first night we arrived at the hospital, Shannon underwent a lumbar puncture, X-rays and various other unpleasant and painful tests and then went to Intensive Care. Following that, she was in Ward 2 on a drip containing fluids and antibiotics. I have never been so scared in my whole life, but knowing so many of you cared, helped so much, keeping me sane.

She is fine now, recovering rapidly as babies do, but if she hadn't had the help of so many of you, it is very likely she would not have got through that night.

Thank you, Islanders and townies, you are all wonderful.

Yours sincerely
Debbie Kennedy

Correction Note:

Mrs Cosgrove did not run Oban House in the 1920's [as stated in the last issue of SIN]. She owned and ran Seaview House, now known as the "Baick House", which was next door to Oban House. Oban was run at that time by Mrs Annie Hansen.

- Neta S Rawle

[Thanks for the correction Mrs Rawle - Sam]

Ross's Rumblings

As can be seen from the heading, Mike's Message is no more. With his transfer to Temuka I suppose that he is giving the people there the "Message".

Many thanks to the people who welcomed the family and I to the Island. It certainly makes life easier to have a few people shake you by the hand or knock on the door and say "Welcome". Thanks very much.

To a more sombre note. One of the first things I noticed when I arrived was the number of vehicles on the roads without the appropriate paperwork attached to the windscreen. If your vehicle is without a Warrant of Fitness, is un-registered or is in a general state of dis-repair, I suggest that it is either taken off the road or brought up to a road-worthy state. It may save you an embarrassing court appearance - not to mention the dollars!

There are a few gas bottles going missing from the filling station at the South Sea Hotel. They may be taken by mistake, but there are light fingered people around, so may I suggest that your bottle is marked vividly with some permanent means of identification such as your name, phone number or whatever.

A final note. I shall be away from time to time over the next two to three months, attending to Court matters and courses in other centres. There will be a reliever or part-timer here during my absence, and he will be domiciled at the Hotel - so it will be business as usual.

- Ross Dymock

LOST & FOUND

- ✱ Tools: found at Lonnekers Bay in February
- ✱ Distinctive style purse & money found in Golden Bay Rd
- ✱ Sum of money found in Willett St in Feb.

Any person having knowledge of above, please contact the Police

[Welcome to Stewart Island and the Pages of SIN, Ross - we trust you don't have to deal with too many major sins in the community while you are here, the occasional search for missing hunters should be enough - Sam]



Community Hall

I have been gathering information on community halls with the thought in mind that an engineer's report has given our present hall only a further 10 years structural life before major repairs would be required.

Sometime soon I will be calling a public meeting to gauge interest in what will be a major community project if this is to get off the ground. Watch the noticeboard for further details and in the meantime your club, sporting or cultural organisation might like to give thought to what kind of facilities you would require in a new community centre.

- Margaret Hopkins

Social Welfare Beneficiaries

At a recent public meeting about electricity it was brought to my attention that many senior citizens or other social welfare beneficiaries may be unable to meet the costs of rewiring their houses if required. Also there may be some who would like the service wires to their house placed underground but may not be able to meet the cost difference between overhead and underground.

On discussion with officers from the Social Welfare Department it seems there is financial assistance available for such expenses.

Application forms are available at the County office or contact the Social Welfare Department if you have any further queries.

- Margaret Hopkins



Rakiura Museum Opening

A crowd of more than 200 residents and visitors attended the official opening of the new Rakiura Museum on Saturday 20th February.

Mr Bruce Ford, Chairman of the Stewart Island County Council welcomed everyone and paid tribute to all those in the community who had been involved in the project.

The Secretary of the Museum Committee, Mrs Margaret Hopkins praised Invercargill draughtsman Barry Allan and builder Keith Bartlett for their skill in design and the fact that they were able to incorporate the walls of the old museum in a cost saving effort.

"The new museum and the excellent D.O.C. Information Centre are the kinds of positive developments this community needs to put its efforts into to promote and encourage tourism on Stewart Island," Mrs Hopkins said. "These facilities not only entertain and inform visitors, they go a long way towards fostering further interest and appreciation of Stewart Island, its history and natural history."

Mrs Hopkins went on to say that "this museum is not only for tourists and visitors, it is an integral part of this community, housing the history of many Stewart Island families. Since opening our doors in August, 300 locals have visited the museum and local school children have been frequent visitors."

Credit was given to the many people who worked and provided services voluntarily. The total building and fittings has cost \$88,600 and it is totally debt free Mrs Hopkins reported. She gave special praise to the local Lions Club for their large donation of \$8,500 which she felt was an incredible effort for a small group. It was their original donation which set the wheels in motion for this whole project and for which we are greatly appreciative.

Thanks was also given to the N.Z. Tourist and Publicity Department for their generous grant of \$48,000 and to the JRMckenzie Trust and the Trustee Bank Southland for their donations of \$1,000 each. N.Z. Lottery Board assisted with a subsidy of \$2,000 towards display cases.

Mr Tui MacDonald, past secretary of the Museum Committee recalled the original museum building with its "rising damp". Mr MacDonald presented the museum with a 16mm film of the earlier museum opening and other Stewart Island functions made by the late Captain George Turner.

Mrs Neta Rawle who has also had a long association with the Rakiura Museum, congratulated those who had organized the building and displays. She asked those present to remember history and preserve it as it is all too easy for things to be lost or destroyed through fire or families shifting.

Mrs Rawle presented three silver yachting trophies won by her father Mr T.K. Bragg, between 1900 and 1923, to the museum for safekeeping.

The museum was then officially opened by Mrs Eileen Willa who was curator of the original museum for more than 20 years.

After the opening and museum viewing guests were entertained to afternoon tea provided by the Presbyterian women.

- Margaret Hopkins

Straits Swim

Fog disrupted air access to the Island in early February, and a few frustrated passengers contemplated swimming, but only one person actually took the plunge. At 6.30am on Thursday 11 Feb, well known long-distance swimmer, Sandra Blewett of Auckland touched shore at Bluff before heading across Foveaux Strait for the Island.

The straits were mirror smooth, without even a ripple for the start of the swim, as Sandra struck out towards the fog bank hiding the Island. Once she entered this after two hours in the water, her visibility at reduced to around 50m, and stayed much the same for the entire crossing. Her first view of the Island was right at the end of the swim, when the rocks of Saddle Point finally loomed out of the murk, less than 100m away.

When Sandra made her first stop after a half hour, a cape pigeon alighted beside her, swimming up to peck lightly at her outstretched fingers. From then on the bird accompanied her right across the Strait, flying as she swam, and alighting close by each time she stopped for food and drink. Other wildlife seen on the trip included a couple of seals which swam under Sandra, and a shape which could well have been a shark passing by, intent on its own business.

The sea got somewhat rougher as the crossing progressed, and the escort vessel, "Supries" moved to give Sandra some shelter in its lee. Unfortunately the fog pushed exhaust fumes down to sea level, so she moved back upwind of the boat, preferring the chop to the smell.

John Hawkless and Billy Ryan, and the two crew of the "Supries" were joined by triathlete Mike Hughes and Tom Pryde of Invercargill. For the last quarter of the trip the boys donned wet suits and took turns at joining Sandra in the water. To her consternation she found them

keeping up with her pace with no trouble at all. It was some time before she realised with relief that her strength wasn't failing, but rather it was because the guys wore flippers.

Sandra had the tide to contend with for the last two hours of the swim, and this coupled with the fact that she could still not see land made her anxious that she was getting weaker and was losing ground, despite the crew of the support boat assuring her that the radar showed that the Island was indeed getting closer. About 400m offshore they told her they could see land, but Sandra still wasn't convinced that Stewart Island really existed. Saddle Point finally came into view, and she eventually made physical contact with the rocks under her hands.

After 12 hours and 5 minutes in the water, the decision was made not to attempt the return crossing, so Sandra boarded the "Supries" for a much quicker and warmer trip back to Bluff.

Sandra later returned to visit the Island she had touched briefly at the end of her swim. While here she visited the salmon farms, and spent time instructing pupils at the school pool, and advising how to set up swimming training courses.

Although Sandra was disappointed that she did not complete a return crossing of Foveaux Strait, she still felt the swim was a success. She is already planning a return visit to our southern waters for next summer.

Sandra uses her swims as fund-raising ventures, and intends to use next year's crossing attempt to help raise money for a Stewart Island community project - preferably associated with the upgrading of the school pool.

Congratulations on the swim Sandra, and thanks for the offer to help a community project when you return. I'm sure when the time comes you will have the support of the Island. - Sam

DOC's Diagnosis

The annual Summer Nature Programme began in late December and most events were well supported, despite the inclement weather. The day trips to Ulva Island were as popular as ever, with people wanting to find out a bit more about the bush, birds and history of the Island. A 6.00am start didn't deter a hardy bunch who were keen to see or hear a kiwi at Ocean Beach. They were rewarded with a good sighting of a wild kiwi - something that few New Zealanders ever get to see.

Also featuring in this year's programme was a trip to Pryse Peak, a walk from Port William to Halfmoon Bay, evening talks and seashore studies.

Thanks to Sam Nichol, skipper of the chartered vessel *Toa Tai* for his assistance.

The two most recent attempts to capture and transfer kakapo to Codfish Island were relatively successful. Four birds were moved in Dec 1987, and another nine birds made the journey in January and early February. The total number of birds on Codfish is now 16, there being eleven males and five females.

During January the team at Scollays Flat found themselves entertaining visitors on two separate occasions. The first was a visit from Fran Wilde as part of her Stewart Island experience. Then, totally unexpected, a film crew turned up. They were filming "A Day in the Life of Bill Black", which should screen on "That's Fairly Interesting" later in the year. Conservation Officer Andy "Norris" Roberts and a kakapo called "Ralph" featured

prominently. "Ralph" demonstrated that kakapo have a carnivorous tendency, while Norris demonstrated extreme self control as his finger was chewed on.

A survey of Stewart Island's coastline began earlier in February. Between eight and ten divers from DOC, Oceanographic Institute of DSIR and the Aquatic Weeds Division of MAF dived along the coastline between Ruggedy and Lords River. They surveyed and recorded the presence of as much marine life as possible, in an attempt to build up an inventory of habitat and marine flora and fauna.

Of special interest to the team are invertebrates, seaweed species and presence and size of shellfish such as paua and kina.

As this is just the beginning of the survey we should see more divers in subsequent years, looking at other areas around the coast.

There have been two new additions to the deer pen outside the DOC Information Centre. "Joe" a whitetail fawn arrived courtesy of Joe Cave. "Stroppy" is the smaller of the two. They still seem to be growing by the day and provide some company for the solitary hind.

- Sandra King
Conservation Officer
for District Conservator
Department of Conservation
RAKIURA

National Parks & Reserves Authority Visit

The recent visit by the National Parks and Reserves Authority was to inspect the reserves of Stewart Island and to see the work being done by the Department of Conservation. "As Stewart Island does not lie within a National Park and Reserves Board area, the Authority is effectively the board responsible for the policy and oversight of the reserves of the Island", said David Thom the chairman.

Aspects that particularly impressed Authority members were the Visitor Centre, not built when the previous Authority visited in 1980, ["Good displays that present a lot of information about the values of the Island"], the landscape of the Pegasus area, and unusual plant associations of the magnificent sandhills of Mason's Bay. "However", said Mr Thom, "the highlights of an immensely enjoyable visit were the enthusiasm and dedication of DOC staff and especially the friendliness and real concern of local people." The Authority was delighted to have opportunities for discussing local views and concerns. In a two day programme the Authority looked at the Port Adventure area, kakapo country inland from Pegasus, Mason's Bay and Codfish Island. On the second day the group took to the sea, but weather conditions limited the inspection to a visit to Ulva Island.

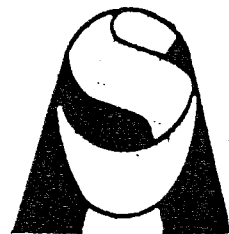
This was the first visit by a National Park Authority since 1980, and the first since National Parks legislation changed in 1981. It was first acquaintance with the Island for a number of members.

"The wild weather we were operating in certainly added drama to our visit", said David Thom, the chairman. The Authority was greatly impressed by the quality of everything they saw - and by the work the Department of Conservation is doing.

The Authority ranges the whole of New Zealand in its work, from the Kauri Forests of North Auckland to the lakes of Fiordland. "Stewart Island is clearly one of New Zealand's conservation gems", said Mr Thom. The department is doing some very important work, in three areas particularly; kakapo research and relocation, marine inventory, and the support it is giving to research into short tailed bats.

The Island is a kind of treasure house of a number of species that are rare or extinct in other parts of the country. "Add this to the great natural beauty of the coastline and some extraordinarily distinctive and unusual landscapes, and you get the picture of a very impressive situation", said Mr Thom.

NPRA Press Release



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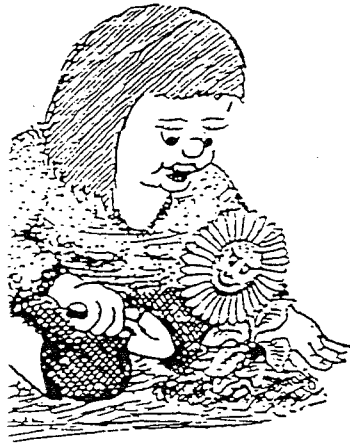
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Garden Circle

December's meeting at Mrs D Timpson's saw a real good turn out of members and a couple of visitors from Canada. It was also farewell to Linda as our secretary, and all the best for the

future. Mrs J Riksem was elected to replace Linda. Our Canadian visitors were most interested in our fly-resistant carrot seeds which are available here in New Zealand, but not in Canada.

The competitions gave everyone a look at some very unique ways of using flowers in a Christmas decoration.

Christmas Decoration

- 1st S Munro
- 2nd I Tait
- 3rd C Morecraft

Garden Flower [less than 20cm high]

- 1st L Skipper
- 2nd S Munro
- 3rd I Tait

Hostess Competition

This was to identify a variety of leaves

- 1st P Wilson & N Fife

The February meeting of the Garden Circle was held at the home of Mrs M Tait on a beautiful summer day. Mrs Fallow, Mrs I Gough and Mrs H Gough were our visitors. Mrs Slingsby was able to inform members of the different competition sections in the flower show which was held on 27 Feb. Hints and problems seemed to centre around pests such as bag moths, spittle bugs and stink bugs - the latter being one not to squash as your nose would regret it because of its malodorous aroma.

Competition Results

A Pink Flower

- 1st P Wilson [Protea]
- 2nd D Whipp [Spiaria]
- 3rd M Tait [Antirrhinum]

Potato

- 1st A Walker
- 2nd I Gibb
- 3rd M Tait

Hostess Competition

This was to see how many plants you could name that began with "C":

- 1st N Fife
- 2nd Mrs Fallow
- 3rd P Wilson

Gardening Guide for March

- ✱ Lift potatoes right away if tops have died
- ✱ Lift carrots and store in damp sand in a cool place. Make sure tops are off.
- ✱ Plant out broccoli for spring, also cauliflower and spring cabbages.
- ✱ Sow Webb's Wonderful or Neopolitan for winter lettuce. Also turnips and spinach.
- ✱ Don't leave stumps of cauliflower, silverbeet, cabbage etc. in your garden, as this exhausts the ground to no purpose.
- ✱ Now is the time to be planting and planning the spring bulbs that you want for an early showing of colour.

Jo Riksem
Secretary

Autumn Flower Show

The Autumn Flower and Produce Show was held on 27 February. Entries reflected the heavy weather of the previous week, but judge, Mrs Fay Morris of Invercargill, was satisfied with the standard achieved.

Section prizewinners were:

Floral Section:

Mrs Dianne Smith & Mrs Jenny Hayden 1st equal

Dahlia Section:

Mrs Dianne Smith

Potted Plants & Houseplants:

Mrs Iris Tait

Floral Decorative:

Mrs Erica Clelland

Floral Art:

Mrs Erica Clelland

Kitchen Garden:

Mrs Jenny Hayden

Kitchen Garden Harvest:

Mrs Helen Bissland

Generous support and donations towards the prizelist were received from the following:

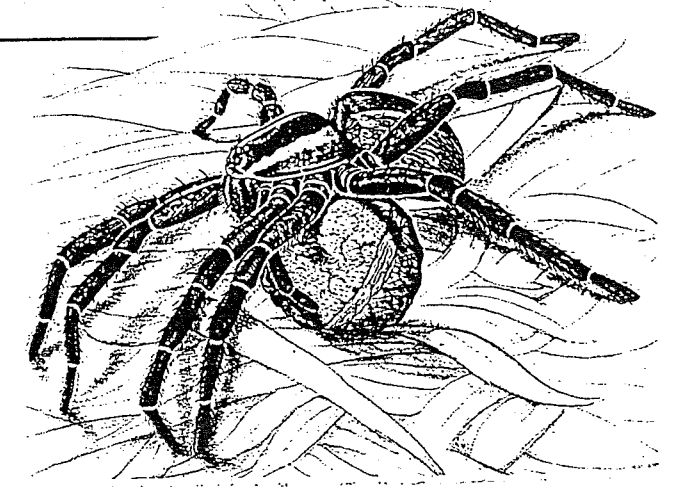
Cadbury Schweppes Hudson; Craigs Ltd; Camera House; DIC Ltd; Electrix Ltd; John Edmonds; King O' the Road; Placemakers; Postbank; Rices Refrigeration Ltd; Southern Electronics; Southland Times; Stewart Island Charter Services; W.M.Todd Ltd; Trusteebank Southland; Warnock's Ltd and H & S Young.

- Helen Bissland

Nature Notes

Summer has been and gone, the Mill Creek kingfisher has taken up station on the new power wires, penguins are moulting and adult titi are preparing to migrate north for winter, as muttonbirders congregate to take this year's crop of chicks.

Despite the weather, many plants put on a brave show and having had a good seeding year, we may face a winter invasion of rats. Such is life near the bush - or even near stacks of paua shell, as Kay Cooper explains:-



Homes for Spiders

Five tonne of paua shells sat, shunned by all, or so it seemed. It was even preferable to go fishing rather than pack it up. So they sat, but the abalone's home became in turn homes for spiders.

While packing up, I had many close encounters of the hairy kind with this secretive but fascinating creature. I estimated at least a quarter million spiders had bred in "Johnny Weka's" shell - though I propose the "Spider Proliferation Award" should go to Jeremy Foley, who, quite unintentionally, has created a sandfly-free zone up Hicks Road.

Spiders tend to be "Oh Yuk, Squish" creatures, which is a pity [especially if you're the spider] and not much is known about them. NZ has a large range of species - indeed, if you capture a large or obscure specimen, University Zoology Departments happily receive them.

Bored Paua-shell Packers Guide to Spiders:

Tiny Spiders: There were tiny white spiders, just hatched zapping around inside their egg sac. Ms Spider has an adjoining room and despite the disturbance won't abandon ship unless poked out.

10-cent Sized Spiders: This is probably Pa Spider, who doesn't grow as big. He scoots away when he's decided which direction to go - it takes a while to look around.

20-cent Sized Spiders: This is the unpredictable adolescent female. There is always the chance she will run up your arm and then down your neck! This size is easily propelled 10 feet with a quick flick of the finger. As spiders climb when threatened, a flick ensures she doesn't whip up your leg, aided by the hairs.

Huge Spiders [50c and over]: After the inevitable shriek on discovering this lurking under a shell, I overcame my squishiness and

became quite fascinated. I captured several and spied on them [with a safety barrier of glass in between]. They are quite amazing through a magnifying-glass, with their mandibles juggling up and down.

This is definitely Ma Arachnid, because she's spreadeagled over large eggsac. No sudden movements are possible with this clamped underneath, which was very reassuring - I became almost bold! She tip-toes around, a bit like someone who has wet their pants, and this for over four weeks.

I read between the lines, which after most male species said: "The male dies soon after mating" - I bet he gets cannibalised! I secretly think that Pa Spider is the most chaste male thing in the world. But obviously the urge gets the better of him in the end - that's why there are no large male spiders. Pa Spider is terrified of his prospective bride. She, having done this kind of thing before, is probably quite kind until she gets tired of it and bites him in the neck. He goes out in a blaze of glory, and Ma Spider thinks "Alas, I knew him well".

Other opportunities to observe arachnids include "watching the big one that got trapped in the bath" - often a recently matured male wandering in search of a mate.

And of course there is the outhouse spider, quite a different kind, with a morbid sense of humour. At the least hint of a torch, it zapps out and crouches in its web, quite terrifying you as you sit like a stone statue, hoping it doesn't descend. It inevitably induces constipation. These web-spinners aren't springing models, but that is no consolation at the time!

So next time your neighbour stuffs another load of smelly shell under the hedge, two feet from your bedroom window, don't threaten to ring up and get them to come and take them away, aha, ahee - just think of all those homes for spiders!

- Kay Cooper

Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club

With the publicity surrounding the imminent opening of the new golf course on Roger Hicks' property at Ringaringa, it was only a matter of time before a golf club was formed. Initially an inaugural meeting of all interested persons was held at the OYFB Station on Tue 29 Dec 1987. This meeting was chaired by Sam Nichol and the guest speaker was Mr Gerry Soulsby, the President of the Eagles Society in Southland, as well as the manager of the Southland Golf Team. Mr Soulsby advised that the Eagles Club would assist in the formation, support and operation of setting up a local club and would particularly aid in the area of junior golf and tournaments.

The Golf Club would, in fact liaise closely with Roger Hicks who owned the course, and to this end a steering committee was established with a particular view to being involved in the organisation and preparation of the events for the opening. This committee consisted of Sam Nichol, Barry Rhodes, Alan Gray, Judy Eriksson, Pat Smith, Hetti Atkins, Wayne Frew, Doug McGrath and Beryl Wilcox. After some discussion about the promotional aspects for the opening day, the evening finished with a video on the tuition of golfing techniques as shown by golf pro Greg Norman.

On Wed 20 Jan 1988, the meeting for the formation of the Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club was held at 8pm at the Fire Station. There was a large number present and the club was formally established with the committee as follows:

President
Wayne Frew

Secretary/Treasurer
Barry Rhodes

Club Captain
Doug McGrath

Handicapper
Ted Rooney

Committee
Judy Eriksson
Sue Munro
Terry Moorcraft
Hatti Atkins

The Club fees were established at \$50 per annum for local members, and \$40 for "overseas" or country members, with family rates also available.

Already there have been several Club Tournaments held at weekends, which have been enjoyed by all, both newcomers to the game and "old hands". It is hoped that in the near future there will be some "clinics" held on the Island to teach interested members how to play correctly, so as to enjoy the golf course to its maximum.

- Beryl Wilcox

Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Course Opening

The great day arrived on Sat 16 Jan 1988 for the Celebrity Tournament which marked the opening of the Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Course. The name was chosen by the Hicks family as a result of the competition which was featured in the Southland Times. The winner was Mrs Kerry Grindell of Invercargill and she and her husband won a "Stewart Island Holiday for a Lifetime". This weekend trip coincided with the opening and featured prizes in excess of \$600, sponsored by many local businesses.

Many celebrities arrived on the Island for the opening, most noticeably Mr Bruce Soulsby - a New Zealand professional who had just returned briefly to NZ after having been on the US circuit. Other invited guests were:

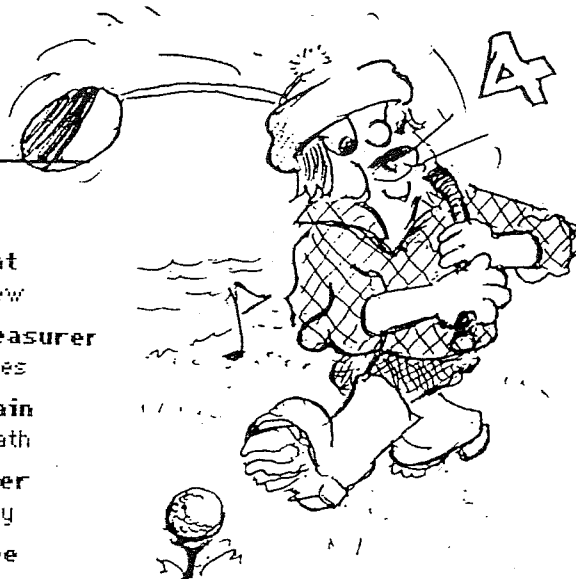
Mr John "Boggy" McDowell - Southland's 4ZA
Mr Dave Sutherland - Foveaux Radio
Mr Tommy Dick - Dominion Breweries
Mr Jim Valli - Southland Times
Mr Bruce Ford - SICC
Mr Gerry Soulsby - Pres Eagles Club

Mr Alan "Dusty" Miller - Course Rater
Mr Keith Smith - Southern Air

Also playing in the opening tournament were Ian Sinclair, Lorna Hitchcock and Bill Thornbury who were to a major extent responsible for setting up, construction and formation of the 6-hole course.

Mr Owen Marshall was also present - he is Roger Hicks' uncle and also piloted the first Tiger Moth onto this same land [see "Memoirs of Owen Marshall" in this issue]. It was interesting to hear his reminiscences of when he flew to Ringaringa to collect Mr Jensen [who had just completed morning milking of the cows] to take him to his daughter Peggy's wedding to Alan Wilson on Oct 18 1951. Peggy Wilson still has a photo taken to record this day.

In the week prior to the opening, many anxious eyes had turned skyward, trying to find a break in the wind, clouds and rain. However, the day itself dawned windy but clear, and everything was "go".



Memoirs of Owen Marshall

[As told to Beryl Wilcox Tue 12 Jan 1988]

"As a young man I witnessed a Moth take off at Surrey Park paddock, next to the Southland Racecourse. Oscar Garden was pilot and Jeff Todd the passenger. That flight was destined to land at Horseshoe Bay Stewart Island. This event is well documented in local newspapers.

Many years later, on Sep 16 1950, the late Merv Harper DFC and I, after many attempts, landed a Tiger Moth on Mr Henry Lonneker's hilly paddock between Ringaringa and Deep Bay. Beaches in the area were used sporadically as landing areas prior to and after the war. Beaches that come to mind were Horseshoe Bay, Ruapuke Island, Mason Bay and Ringaringa beach. I believe the above flight mentioned was the first on the

land of Stewart Island.

During the next 18 months, enthusiastic aeroclub members frequently landed at Horseshoe Bay, and with the help of locals, and Mr Henry Lonneker's utmost approval, a short airstrip was formed. The first passenger from that strip was Mr Henry Lonneker and his advisor Mr Bob Hicks sen. and they were therefore the first Stewart Island residents to take off from the land base.

There on the strip was used by Southland Aeroclub members and emergency services until 1960. Prior to his death, Mr Henry Lonneker generously gifted the airstrip portion to the Southland Aero Club."

Rakiura Cubs

Just before school finished nearly all our boys earned their first badges. These were for Athletics, and were earned in conjunction with the school sports. Stage 3 badge earners were: Bevan Soper, Simon Eade, Andrew Cleland and Matthew Hare and Stage 2 badges were achieved by Jeremy Schofield, Ivan Tait and Paul Duston. Thanks to Miss Moretti for testing the boys. Thanks also to Mr Rooney for showing us some of his interesting slides.

We are looking for volunteers in the community to be examiners for the boys when they do badges. If anyone would like to test the Cubs on their knowledge of fishing, I would be grateful if

they could inform Jayne Wilson or myself. It's not hard, as all the requirements are supplied.

Cubs visited town on 5 March for the International Cub Day, which is held every three years. We think this was a very worthwhile experience for our lads and we were very busy fundraising. Thank you for the support for our Pool/Darts Evening and Wednesday sausage lunches at the Hall Kitchen. If anyone has jobs the Cubs could do as "bob-a-job", the boys would appreciate the chance to work for some funds themselves.

- Erica Cleland
Cub Leader

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Southern Airlines

Well, Xmas came and New Year went, and we worked right through. A busload of German people visited on Xmas Day. Kevin Anderson took them to Ulva Island for their Xmas lunch. New Year got off to a brilliant start weather-wise. It was just ideal for resealing the airstrip. Keith and the "Tarbabies" have done a good job.

Since then the weather has broken with fog alternating with storms, but despite this we have lost very few days flying completely. Unfortunately it put paid to bringing the Tiger Moth across this summer. Here's hoping it will pick up some time.

On March 19 our lovely little office girl Lee Anne Wills was married. Best Wishes for the future! Robin has been away in Christchurch doing his instrument rating. He also recently completed his 10,000 hours, which is just over 13 months continuous flying.

Turbulence

Turbulence, to put it simply, is rough or unsettled wind. The wind on Stewart Island is predominantly westerly and as it passes Mt Anglem it becomes ruffled. Wind acts the same

as water hitting a rock in a river. It can also cause a wave motion from which you can get lift.

There is really no way of avoiding turbulence around Stewart Island, especially in lee conditions. However, an aircraft is fully controllable in turbulence, even though it may feel uncomfortable. To make you feel better, the Islander is stressed to withstand 3G positive, which means you would be grey or blue before it gets really too bad! So there is no need to worry about the plane breaking up! Hopefully the diagram explains what I have said.

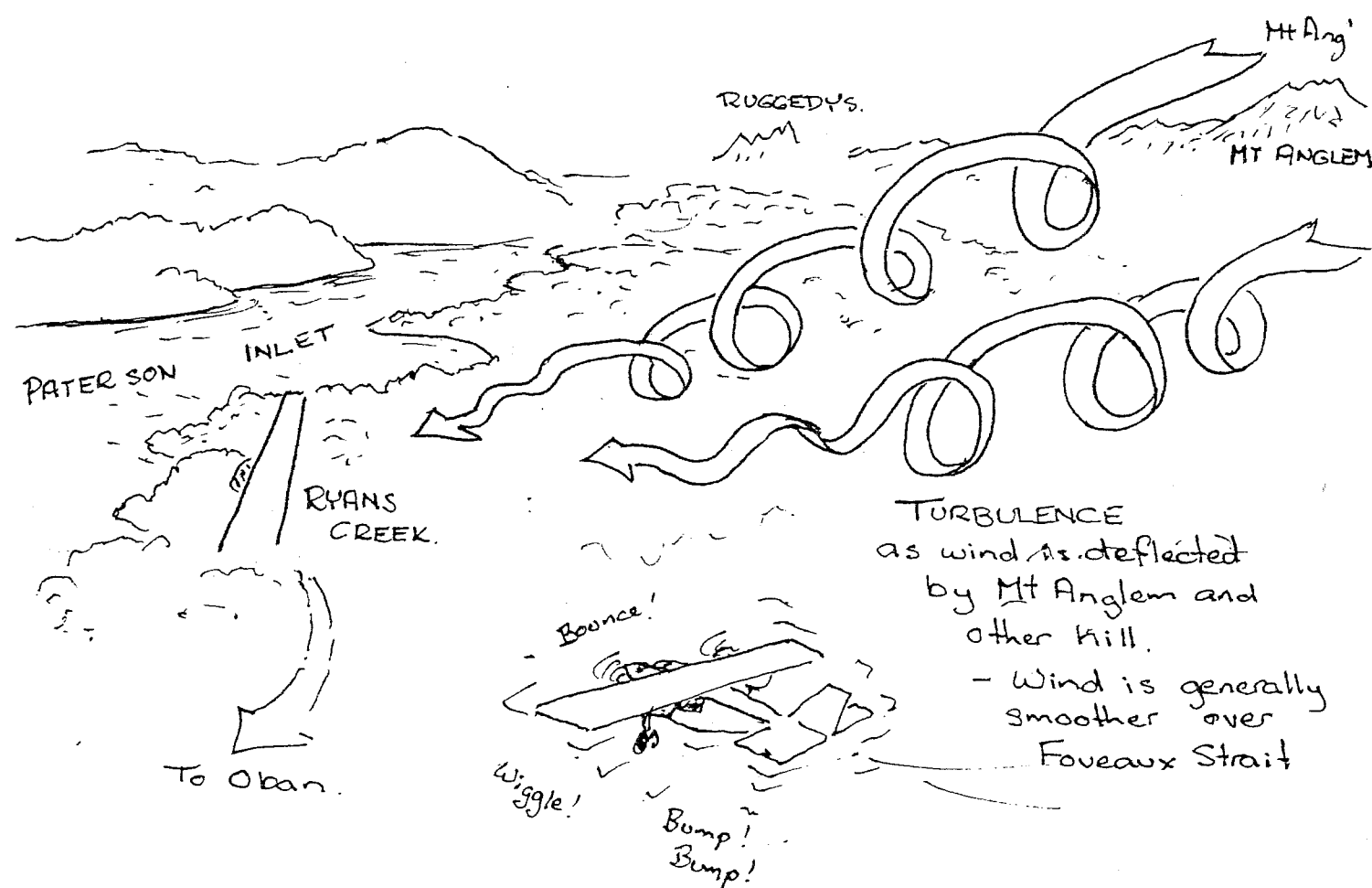
Open Doors

There has been one occasion when an aircraft door opened slightly in flight. If this happens there is no fear of falling out of the plane. First, you have your seat belt on, but also the outside airpressure will keep the door shut. With a 130 mph wind blowing against it, it would take the full strength of a very strong person to push the door wide enough open to fall out!

I hope this helps allay one or two fears some people have about flying.

"Over and out"

- Flying Phil



Charter Chatter

Hi there everyone.

Well, since the beginning of 1988 we have seen the vessels *Acheron* and *Endeavour* endlessly plying the more often than not, rugged waters of Foveaux Strait. With the school holidays, the *Acheron* sailed every day during January and most of February, while the *Endeavour* has taken endless tonnes of Salmon to Bluff for processing.

February 6 - A day that dawned to become an excellent "sunny Southland" day (the one we get occasionally). The *Endeavour* was chartered by 48 Divers, coming from as far a field as Nelson, Canterbury, Otago, South Otago and Gore to join the Southland Club for the annual South Island Tiley Trophy Dive Competition. A competition definitely not for the faint hearted, with rules that would daunt the average person.

Once in the water, the divers had to spend the next four hours snorkelling round the shore with spears and cameras, all looking for the "one" that would lead to the winning of the trophy. When the final hooter sounded if they were not already back on board the "Big E", or at least touching the side of the boat, all of that hard effort would have been wasted. Disqualification! The word no one wanted to hear.

With everybody back on board and accounted for, it was hot soup and hot showers for one and all, while ambling back to Bluff where the official "weigh-in" on computerized scales was held. Points were tallied up in the various sections to establish the winners. With great trophies and some great prizes at stake, all had tried their best.

To top off an excellent day, an excellent night of music, dancing and socialising had been arranged by the local Southland Underwater Club.

As a result of the successful Trophy Dive Charter, the South Otago Underwater Club members again chartered the *Endeavour* for a weekend of diving and fishing, which saw the "Big E" anchored in Lords River one Saturday night. Once there it was all action in the hold, where at one end the camp beds and sleeping bags were arranged, while at the other the barbecues were in full swing to cope with the huge demand. It may have been blowing and raining outside, but inside the hold and out on the aft deck, conversation was warm with friendship and tales of the proverbial "one that got away" during the fishing and diving. Sunday afternoon, back to Bluff after a classic weekend.

The *Endeavour* has just had another first, with a group of 23 Deerstalkers from Auckland getting together and using her for their trip into their hunting blocks on Stewart Island. With the hold full of the usual supplies, we set off to deliver them to their "homes" for the next ten days or so - Little Kuri, Big Kuri and Lord's River. It was most probably the first time that the "Big E" has ever been into some of these areas.

Also, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Bill Ayto to the staff, as one of the Company's skippers.

- Lyn Voigt



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Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade

Readers may recall the scream of portable pumps and cheers of spectators when the 1987 Wajax Competitions were held at Traill Park in March 1987. In these events, competitors run with a pump, hoses and other equipment to a water supply dam, connect all the gear together, fire up the pumps, then run out hoses and fire a jet of water to knock down a target.

Teams from rural fire brigades throughout the southern parts of the country compete for a series of trophies. This year the Competitions were held at Glenorchy, and Stewart Island entered both a mens and ladies team.

Men - Jason Eriksson, Dave Valli, Peter Newton, Terry Morecraft, Charlie Davis.

Ladies - Shirley Newton, Beryl Wilcox, Jane Wilson, Joanne Scammel, Leslie McGrath.

The 1988 Wajax Contest

After weeks of determined practice, with many nights in the rain and wind, it was an excited crowd of 21 Stewart Island Wajax team members and supporters that set off in convoy for Glenorchy. It was a lengthy but fun trip up, due to several "pit-stops" to raffle oysters and fish, and for some to "wet their whistle", and different too, to experience the long windy gravel road into Glenorchy from Queenstown. However, by 9.30pm, everyone had rendezvoused at Glenorchy Hotel, where Team Captains Shirley Newton and Jason Eriksson represented Stewart Island at the meeting to brief teams on varying aspects of the competition.

The Stewart Island entourage were staying in three holiday cottages, and it wasn't too long before we were curled up with coffee and biscuits, planning last minute strategies.

Saturday 12 March dawned bright and clear, so with nerves and adrenalin flowing we wandered down to the Wajax Competition site by 8.30am. The site was a large paddock alongside the river, and the uneven, dry ground seemed quite different to the slippery grass of Traill Park where we practiced. Unfortunately the cows had not long been shifted, so a few of their mementoes were in evidence also.

There were nine men's and six ladies' teams in the 1988 Wajax Competitions, and after the draw for the order in which teams were to run was completed, competition began in earnest. It was apparent that most teams had put in long hours of practice, so rivalry was fierce.

The wind increased steadily during the day and when the last few runs were made at 4pm the rain was bucketting down, so it was literally all hands running for cover.

The Stewart Island teams, despite having good practice runs and excellent team spirit did not win. Runs were just not good enough on the day where only seconds differentiate between winners and losers.

However, as everyone knows, Stewart Island optimism is seldom dampened for too long, and if we didn't win the Wajax competition, we certainly scored first prize in the entertainment field, for with Michael Goomes and Lloyd Wilcox on the guitars, the music continued virtually non-stop.

A meal at the Glenorchy Restaurant was most welcome as everyone was ravenous. After this the prize-giving and dance at the hall kept most people dancing, singing and enjoying themselves late into the night.

Sunday dawned with not near so many people up bright and early, but after breakfast and packing, the convoy headed on the road again, stopping for a couple of hours sightseeing in Queenstown, then on to the Clyde dam site. Their were many stops at orchards' fruit and veg stalls, then southward to Invercargill to catch the last flight home.

Already next year's teams are being organised, practices arranged and a definite determination exists to succeed next year at the Wajax competitions at Wanaka. It promises to be a weekend to look forward to.

- Beryl Wilcox

Rawle's House Fire

The Brigade had their worst fire to contend with in years at Frank and Neta Rawle's house in January. It started behind the range, which had been lit for their return from town.

When the call was received, fire had spread up the wall into the roof and heavy smoke filled the house. Breathing apparatus was needed to enter the building. The fire had such a good hold that extra water had to be taken from Ferndale and nearby houses using portable pumps.

Although damage to the roof of the house was extensive, loss of possessions was minimal. This was largely due to the tremendous support brigade members received from spectators at the fire, who helped carry pumps, got extra hose and air tanks from the fire station, and formed chain gangs to remove furniture and possessions from the house once it was cleared of smoke.

Our deepest sympathies to the Rawles and our thanks to those of the community who helped - as Neta said, "It shows the spirit of Stewart Island is still alive!"

REAP Report

There seems to be a lot in the educational pipeline for the Island. Firstly, there are a number of programmes scheduled for the next few months:

PROGRAMMES COMING UP

House Concert - an evening of piano duets is being offered on Tue 17 May, as Colleen Rae-Gerrard returns to the Island, this time with Rachel Valler. The concert is being held at Gwen and Garry Neave's home, starting at 8 pm. All are most welcome to come along!

Women's Self Defence Course - this will be held on Wed 18 & Thur 19 May - ie in the second week of the May Holidays. This class teaches verbal and physical self-defence, is suitable for all women and girls over 12, and is well worth attending! For details please contact Denise Schofield.

Screenprinting - a two day seminar is planned for June, with Dawn Barry as the tutor. Please add your name to the list at the Post Office if you'd like to be kept in touch with this.

Machine knitting - a two day seminar will be held in June. Please contact Colleen Dawson for further information.

Calligraphy - John Dale will be taking a weekend seminar on June 18-19. Enrolment forms will be available at the post office closer to the time.

Floral Art/Dried Flowers - seminar is in the pipeline for July. More on this later.

We are also looking at the possibility of running a series of workshops offering such things as assertiveness training, communication skills, listening skills etc. We'll keep you informed of progress!

Please remember to keep adding to the lists in the Post Office if there are other things you would like to see.

Open Tech Pilot Study

Enrolments are now open for this 9-week programme to be offered in the winter term (mid-June to mid-Aug) and quite a number of enrolments have already been received from Stewart Island. Gail Learmonth is the local contact person for this, and she can give you more information, but I shall try here to describe the programme in brief.

This pilot programme is being offered by the Wellington-based Open Tech/Open Learning Working Party, which was set up to investigate the appropriateness of using new technology to deliver learning opportunities. The general idea behind this is that it may be feasible and cost effective to offer a wide range of academic, vocational and non-vocational programmes to every home in New Zealand by using such technology as TV/video, radio/cassette, teleconferencing, computer, satellite transmission etc, rather than continuing to base most programmes in institutions.

Obviously the traditional institution-based method has meant that many people miss out to some extent - those who live at a distance from the institution, those who are tied to home by other responsibilities or by disability, etc.

So, to test whether this new concept is appropriate to NZ, the Working Party decided to run a pilot programme, with rural women of Southland chosen as the target group. (Target groups necessarily mean that some people are excluded - in this case it is men and all non-Southlanders. But the good news is that if the pilot is a success the benefits will apply to everyone!)

The pilot programme being offered is "From Slates to Satellites - keeping up with change" and it will be delivered to students via a mixture of video, audio-cassettes, print and teleconferencing. A teleconference centre will be set up on the Island for the period of the pilot study.

Apart from the teleconference sessions, the programme will be able to be studied at home in your own time. Therefore the amount of time that students spend will vary considerably, but the time commitment won't be heavy.

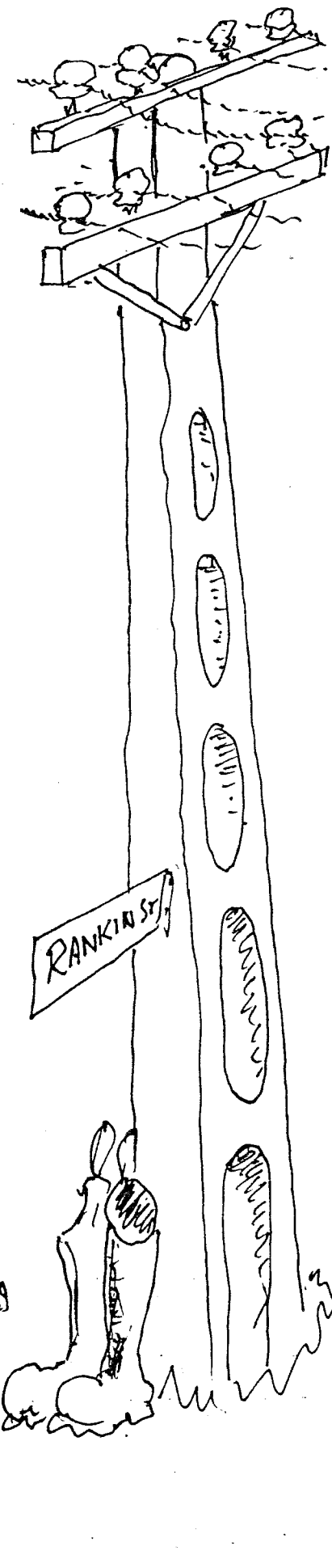
It is also worth noting that enrolment is free, as it is a pilot programme. Enrolments should be in by May 6 - but we will accept enrolments that arrive slightly late! If you don't already have an enrolment form, you can get one from Gail Learmonth.

- Alison Broad

County Clerk Harry Slingsby was seen leaving the Lions Club Auction with a candlestick under his arm. Does this mean he is privy to some Power Scheme information that is unknown to the rest of us?

[Basin Award Nomination from the Lions Ladies]

PS Does he hang his thigh waders from a power-pole before tackling Rankin St and its underground cable? - Sam



Stewart Island Gun Club

Well Shot Ron!

Congratulations must go to Ron Dennis, just returned from the Clay Target Assn's Nationals held in Christchurch from 11 to 18 March. From a total of 445 shooters the 30 top scorers in the single barrel, single rise and point score disciplines were selected for the McIntosh Trophy team. Ron came 7th in the N.Z. shooters and was thereby selected as one of the representatives of the N.Z. McIntosh Team.

The N.Z. team competed in an international postal shoot, which includes many of the Commonwealth countries on Sat 19 March, with each representative shooting at 100 targets each on a point score system. The highest total score of each competing team is the current year's world winners of the McIntosh Trophy.

Certainly a most impressive achievement for Ron and a mark on the wall as the President of the Stewart Island Gun Club.

- Beryl Wilcox

Another person with Island links who gained a place in the McIntosh Trophy team was Ewan Benny, who formerly worked here with NZFS, and although not making the team, local shooter Russel Squires shot steadily throughout the Championships.



Bikies Invade Island

A group of 28 geriatric bikies invaded Stewart Island over the weekend 9-10 April. The riders themselves weren't all that old, but some of their machines certainly are, with the oldest, a Douglas, dating from 1911! The line-up of bikes outside the South Sea Hotel was typical of "High Street - NZ" in the 1950's, with names such as Indian, Triumph, BSA, Norton and BMW predominating - not a Japanese make in the whole collection!

When the idea of visiting the Island with elderly motorcycles was proposed earlier in the year at a meeting of the Southland Vintage Car Club, the response was overwhelming, with more bikes being registered on the night than the Endeavour could carry. On the day, hardly an inch of space was left in the hold by the time the bikes were firmly secured to withstand the heavy seas that were running.

A commemorative T-shirt produced by one of the Club members proved all too prophetic, proclaiming the 1988 rally as the "Chunder Run". All bar a few of the team succumbed to the terrors of the deep, providing a good topdressing

to the Foveaux Strait oyster beds.

Motorcycles and riders arrive just after mid-day on Saturday and once stomachs had settled set off for a Rally round the Island roads. Heavy rain, wind and cold made this an event for the handy. As one motorcyclist put it, the crossing and the weather made the mid-winter "Brass Monkey Run" in Central seem like something for gissies. Biking ended for the day with a Hill-climb event on the airstrip road, then it was a dash to the pub for hot showers and a feed to warm up again.

Sunday morning was spent fishing in Paterson Inlet, then bikes were loaded and back off to the mainland - fortunately with greatly improved sea conditions over Saturday's.

Unfortunately weather kept many locals indoors, and the rally didn't enjoy the turnout it deserved, but most folks saw the collection of bikes at some stage during the weekend. It was a "Bikie invasion" of the nicest sort, with a nostalgic touch that many Islanders will remember in years to come, and one which will hopefully be repeated in the future.

Regular Events

Daily Mon-Fri
Jazzaerobic Class - 9.30am [RSA]

Monday
Aerobic Class - 6-7pm [RSA]
OVFB Practice - 7pm
2nd & 4th ITC Meeting - 7.45pm [School]

Tuesday
Playcentre - 9.15-Noon
Bible Study - 10am [Ph:391-199]
Last St Lions Club - 6pm [RSA]

Wednesday
Playgroup - 9.30-Noon [Playcentre]
Library - 2-3pm
Keas - 3.15pm [Traill Park Hall]
Brownies - 3.15pm [St Andrews S/S]
Guides - 3.15pm [Dianne Smith's]
Darts - 8pm [Pub]
3rd SICC Meeting - 7.30pm

Thursday
Playcentre - 9.15-Noon
Cubs - 3.15pm [Traill Hall]
Aerobic Class - 6-7pm [RSA]
1st CWI - 2pm [RSA]
SI Promotion Assn - 8pm [OVFB]
2nd Garden Circle [Ph: 391-020]
4th APW - 2pm [Ph: 391-230]

Friday
Library - 11am-noon
RSA Raffle - 6pm [Pub]

Saturday
Prayer Circle - 1pm [Ph: 391-199]
Netball - 2pm [School]

Sunday
Oban Presbyterian Church - 10.30am
4th St Andrew's Anglican Church - 5pm

Back Numbers of SIN

Back copies will be reprinted as soon as we have our system in operation so all those who have requested and paid for back copies we are working on it.

Events for May 1988

Wed 4 May RSA Potluck Tea
Life membership - Bert Johnson
Hosting Tasmanian RSL men & wives

Fri 6 May End Term 1 - Holidays begin

Sat 7 May Stewart Island Players - 8pm [RSA]
Owen Gerrard on Island for casting for new Show. New members welcome!

Sat 7/Sun 8 May Hairdresser - Sharyn Robertson
Contact - Elaine Bailey [Ph: 391-011]

Sun 15 May OVFB Honours Night
Dinner & Presentation at SSH - honours presented by Area Commander Dryberg

Tue 17 May Colleen Rae-Gerrard & Rachel Valler - 8pm
Piano Duets at Gwen & Garry Neave's.
Adult \$10 Child \$5, bring a cushion!

Wed 18/Thur 19 May Women's Self Defence Class
Traill Park - contact Denise Schofield [Ph:391-312]

Mon 23 May School Term 2 begins

Mon 23 May Coal Town Blues Concert [see noticeboard]

Tue 24 May Playcentre time changes to afternoon - 12.15-2.45pm. Bring your lunch.

Thu 26 May Hepatitis B Immunisation Day for preschoolers - 9.30-noon

Fri 27 May Annual Co-op Function

Sun 29 May Confirmation & Ordination Service of Airdry Dyson-Leask at St Andrews Anglican Church - 5pm

Gun Club Trophy Shoot

Results of shoot held on 15-16 April

Saturday

Ball Trap A grade - 1st J.Cave
B grade - 1st D.Langdon

20 pair of doubles A grade - 1st G.Jukes
B grade - 1st C.Sinclair
C grade - 1st Mrs J.Langdon

25 sparrows A grade - 1st R.Dennis
B grade - 1st S.A.Diack
C grade - 1st A.Leathley

Sunday

Single rise A grade - 1st = R.Dennis/
G.Jukes
B grade - 1st A.Sinclair
C grade - 1st B.Barber

25 point score A grade - 1st = G.McKenzie/
G.Jukes
B grade - 1st R.McLean
C grade - 1st B.Diack

25 single barrel A grade - 1st = L.Helm/
L.Nuttall

B grade - 1st C.Sinclair
C grade - 1st B.Diack

High guns over events were:

A grade - G.
B grade - R.McLean
C grade - B.Diack

Ladies trophy - Mrs J.Manson

Herbie Hansen Memorial Trophy

This year in honour of our patron, the late Herbie Hansen (snr) we also had a magnificent new trophy to shoot for. This being scored over the double rise and point score events with G.Jukes 104-115 being the winner.

The shoot concluded with a dinner and presentation at the South Sea Hotel. Thanks to Dominion Breweries Ltd for their sponsorship.

- Russell Squires
Secretary Gun Club



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WINTER TIMETABLE - Mon-Fri

In'gll	Stewart Is	In'gll
Dep	Arr	Dep
9.00 - 9.20	9.30 - 9.50 am	
1.00 - 1.20	1.30 - 1.50 pm	
4.00 - 4.20	4.30 - 4.50 pm	

Sat-Sun

10.00 - 10.20	10.30 - 10.50 am
1.00 - 1.20	1.30 - 1.50 pm
4.00 - 4.20	4.30 - 4.50 pm

Reporting Time

Invercargill - 30min before flight

Stewart Is Travel - 40min before flight

BUSINESS HOUSE HOURS

Anchor Merchants	9.00am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri
	10.00am-Noon	Sat/Sun
Co-op Chandlery	10.00am-11.45am	Mon-Sat
	1.30pm-5.00pm	Mon/Wed/Fri
Stewart Is. Travel	8.30am-5.00pm	Mon-Fri
	9.30am-5.00pm	Sat/Sun
Post Office	9.00am-1.00pm	Mon-Fri
	2.00pm-5.00pm	"
South Sea Hotel	11.00am-10.00pm	Mon-Thu
	11.00am-11.00pm	Fri/Sat
Lunch	Noon-1.00pm	Mon-Sun
Dinner	6.00pm-7.00pm	"
[Casuals	book before 4.30pm]	
The Fernery	- Closed until August Hols	
Museum	- closed for display work	
County Office	9.00am-Noon	Mon-Fri
DISTRICT NURSE	10.30am-Noon	Mon-Fri

Stewart Island Charter Service



Box 24 Halfmoon Bay STEWART ISLAND
Ph [021] 37-8376 PLUFF

WINTER TIMETABLE - Mon, Wed, Fri.

Bluff	Stewart Is	Bluff
Dep	Arr	Dep
9.00 - 11.15am	2.00 - 4.15pm	

Ticketing: From 1hr before sailing

Boarding: From 15min before sailing

STEWART ISLAND NEWS [REGISTERED PERIODICAL]

TO:

Chris Dillon
117 Metzger St
Invercargill.

STEWART ISLAND NEWS - PO BOX 65 [HMB] - STEWART ISLAND - N.Z.