

RAKIURA RAMBLES

A STEWART ISLAND NEWSLETTER

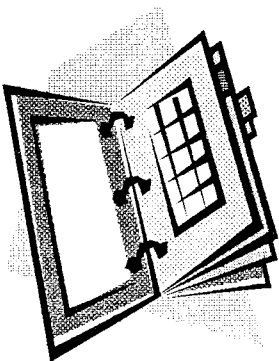
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May 1999

STEWART ISLAND PROMOTIONS

The Stewart Island Promotion Association members have just had another 100,000 copies of the Stewart Island brochure printed. This was made possible because of a \$10,000 grant from the Southland District Council and \$11,500 from the Community Trust of Southland. The difference was paid by the Advertisers. Tourism Southland do most of the distribution nationally. Internationally, work will begin soon on planning a brand new brochure to be ready for the 2000/2001 season when new operators will have the opportunity to be involved.



COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRESS

by Helen Cave

Those who have called in to check progress on the community centre lately will know that the black pine flooring milled by Alister and his team is at last being laid. The dance floor area in the social room is in place, and the first boards of the stadium floor were laid in the first week of May. Internal painting should be well underway by the time this paper goes to print.

Planning for the kitchen has been quite stressful, but we believe that the final plan will work well. We are very grateful to have received an additional grant from the Community Trust of Southland for \$200,000 towards finishing the project. The Trustees visited the building site in February, with Community Trust members from other areas of New Zealand, and they were very enthusiastic and supportive. The timber milling concept and the impressive volunteer content were really well received.

Last week we were delighted to get confirmation from the Lotteries Grants Board of a donation of \$120,000 towards finishing the stadium.

Before receiving these grants, we expected to get the front part of the building to a functional stage, and finish the rest as we raised more funds. We now expect to be able to complete almost all the centre, but may need further fundraising before lining the upper part of the stadium walls and completing the viewing gallery. We will leave these areas until last.

In addition, we have had many cash donations, and we intend putting the money from these donations towards the furnishings and sports fittings. More donations would be gratefully received!

Of course the volunteer contribution has enabled it all to work. As well as the volunteers down at the hall and, previously, at the mill, there has been enor-

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SCHOOL NEWS

by Lee Wadds

Halfmoon Bay School received the wonderful news that Mrs. Bonnie Leask's position is safe until at least 2001. As you may know the school has been on tenter hooks for some-time as to whether they would be able to remain a two teacher school. Both the Board and Principal have been working for sometime to encourage prospective employers to consider employing family men and woman, but without much luck.

However, this year has seen three unexpected arrivals at the school, bringing the school number closer to the required number.

While Dr Nick Smith, Minister for Education, was present on the island for a meeting regarding the possibility of Stewart Island becoming a National Park, he was approached by a School Board member pointing out their dilemma. Dr Smith promised to look into it. The Council Board also approached Frano Cardno

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BERNIE'S BACKCHAT

I have an extra thank you to my mother this year. Thank you for having me in February and not in May. By the time my driver's licence comes around for renewal the L.T.S.A should have their system up and running. It sounds like a real shambles at present.

The main point to remember at this stage is that everyone who has a licence will have to go to Invercargill or another major centre for the new photo licence to be issued. The photographs are taken at the centre - you don't have to take the photos in with you, but from the coverage in the news I would suggest that you take your lunch.

You will receive a letter from the L.T.S.A in the month of your birthday with all the information you will require. If you have any problems, ring the A.A in Invercargill.

I am still trying to get authority to take the over 80's for practical driver testing but you must still have the new licence first.

Search and Rescue have a training night coming up soon at the D.O.C centre.

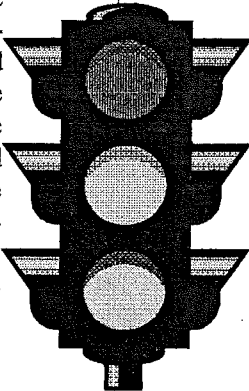
More of that to follow.

Petrol thefts are the in thing at the moment. The price has gone down and number of thefts up! I can't work that one out.

We had an incident where one of our locals was threatened by a member of a hunting party. This person did not have a firearm with him but, as he mentioned using a firearm, he could very well have had his licence revoked. Don't forget that firearms must be locked away at all times.

Don't just leave them lying around the house - trouble could follow.

Catch you later
Bernie



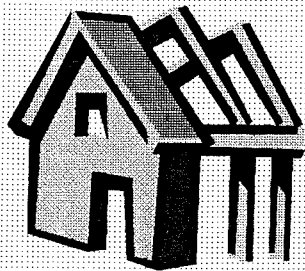
Centre Progress

(Continued from page 1)

mous generosity with freight, transport, discounted and donated products, food and other help and support. The builders and tradesmen have been great, and Skin Phillip's project co-ordination has worked really well.

Sorry we cannot give a date for the opening yet, but it should be a good weekend! As well as the official stuff, Joanne, Debbie and team are organising a weekend of entertainment focusing on the centre. We have lots of mainlanders wanting to come over.

See you there!



NEARLY DONE!

School News (Continued from page 1)

for support and a letter was sent in support of the school's plight. After all of this, as well as an article in an Educational Magazine and The Southland Times, it was with great joy that Principal Lee Wadds received confirmation late in March that the school was to retain its two-teacher status. The Ministry assured Mrs Wadds that, with the increased numbers, they were able to over-ride their previous decision. But, the school needs to see continued increase in roll numbers. They, along with everyone else in the community, are hoping that with the increased tourist interest, Stewart Island's economy might improve and so attract families to the island.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

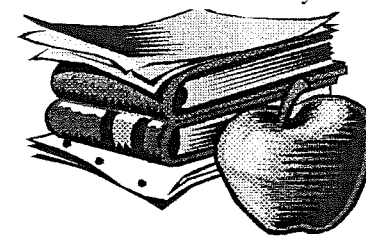
It's been a long time since Tyne Schofield (14) was in Peter Cox's swimming class at the Halfmoon Bay School. At that time the swimming programme was also enhanced by specialist coaches being brought to Stewart Island by the principal Laloma Slingsby. As a result, the HMB swimming sports were crowded, noisy events with honours keenly contested.

Over time, the school's thorough introduction to swimming has been paying dividends. At the recent New Zealand Age Group Swimming Championships, Tyne managed a gold medal in the 200m freestyle and two bronze medals, one in the 400m freestyle and the other in the 100m freestyle. Swimming requires dedication and last season Tyne trained in

the HMB pool in the school holidays. The water was so cold in December that he had to wear a wet suit to complete the required daily kilometres. However, Tyne normally trains in Dunedin in the slightly larger Moana Pool under Duncan Lang. At their peak, Tyne and the other squad members are expected to start at 5 o'clock in the

(Continued on page 4)

LIBRARY



NEWS

by Pat King

Hi there - progress is really being made in the new library. The gib stopping has been completed and the painters have started.

LIBRARY HOURS

Wed 2 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Fri 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Sat 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Thanks to Margaret, Loraine and Sue for their time spent helping to choose colour

schemes, carpet, etc. Hopefully the end is in sight and we can move soon. We have received some extra funding from SDC which will go a long way towards covering the cost of fittings, furnishings and painting.

I'd like to thank Liz and Ship to Shore for donating the proceeds of the Easter and Mother's Day raffles to the library to buy the little extras we will need. So far we have

purchased, or have on order, notice boards, a cutting mat, wire baskets for the children's books, stapler and posters. Watch out for the overdue books one! Thanks to everyone for buying the raffle tickets.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Non-fiction

Ship of Gold in the deep blue sea by Gary Kinder

The Enigma of Sister Mary Leo by Margaret Lovell-Smith

The Laughing policeman by Glen Wood

A Leaf in the bitter wind by Ting Xing Ye

Fiction

These is my words by Nancy Turner

Into the wilderness by Sara Donati

The Hanging garden by Ian Rankin



BOOK REVIEW

Books from the S.I. Community Library

Eating peacocks by Barbara Else

Total Control by David Baldacci

I wanted a change from E. George; P.D. James and Patricia Cornwall, but I wanted a good thriller.

"Have you read any of David Baldacci's books?"

"David who?" I asked the librarian. So, guided to the 'Bs' I found three of his books and picked Total Control.

From the beginning to the end I was totally immersed in a fast moving story of intrigue in the world of high finance and new age computer technology.

Jason Archer, a young computer executive, happily married to Sidney, a lawyer, disappears. A plane falls from the sky and on board is a very powerful individual.

From Seattle to Washington D.C., from New Orleans to Maine, the story moves to find Jason and the cause of the crash. The police, FBI agent and Sidney all set out to follow their special interests.

(Continued on page 5)

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

M. Hopkins

On Friday 9th April 1999 Jan and Lance Le Quesne's beautiful baby daughter Poppy was born, weighing 6 pounds.

Poppy was named as a tribute to Jan's father, Bruce Skinner who had died on ANZAC day and Lance's older brother who also died in April some years ago.

S.I. SPORTS HERO

It's not often Stewart Island gets personally involved in national sporting events, but this year's Coca Cola cup final between Southern Sting and Otago Rebels had everyone buzzing.

Stewart Islanders have been eagerly following the progress of resident Julie Carter, one of Sting's outstanding players of the season.

Every game has been attended by someone from the Island and on final night in Dunedin several locals were spotted in the audience on camera as the game was televised.

The whole Coca Cola series has generated intense interest and pride in Southland. Julie's contribution to the Sting's wins has been brilliant and we're very proud of her.

Great stuff, Julie!

COMMUNITY CENTRE LEVY

Some of you may have been approached already asking for signatures on a petition of support for the Stewart Island Community Centre Levy. The Community Board recently voted to recommend to the Southland District Council that it create a Stewart Island Community Centre Levy area.

The Board must send an accompanying petition with support from 70% of residential property owners.

Many people have asked why we are creating a Community Centre Levy as opposed to funding contributions towards the Centre's running straight out of rates. According to Jeff Long, Director of Finance and Administration for Southland District Council, all communities are moving towards community centre levies which have a maximum limit of \$20 plus GST per residential property. This levy is implemented under the Local Government Act as opposed to the Rating Act.

To date we have had a positive response with the assurance that the Community Centre Trust will endeavour to lower the rate as soon as

possible with revenue from other projects.

Despite the whole complex having been built at no cost to ratepayers apart from the District Council's contribution to the library and public toilets, many ratepayers believe that in not supporting the levy they will avoid contributing towards the cost of running the complex.

The reality is that in the event there is not enough support for the levy then the Community Board will move to make a contribution from the general rate towards the Community Centre just as they funded the previous County hall.

It is just the awkward method of implementing the Community Centre levy that has necessitated the petition of support. Thank you to those who have listened patiently to the lengthy explanations and signed already.

If you have not been approached already by a Community Board member and you wish to sign in support there is a form at the Council office.

Only one owner per residence is required to sign.

KEA Agents

by Lesley Gray

On Wednesday 12 May, 15 KEA agents (Kiwi Expert Agents) from Australia arrived on Stewart Island for a night.

These travel agents have been chosen as the most successful agents selling travel to New Zealand.

A pot luck tea was held by the Stewart Island Promotion Association members as an opportunity for all operators to meet with these visitors and recommend our Island to them.

For sale by Owner:
Complete set of Encyclopaedias 45 volumes.



Excellent condition.
\$1,000.00 or the best offer.
No longer needed.
Got married last weekend.
Wife knows... everything!

WHAT IS A CAT?

1. Cats do what they want.
2. They rarely listen to you.
3. They're totally unpredictable.
4. They whine when they are not happy.



5. When you want to play,

(Continued on page 6)

HEALTH NEWS

From Sharron and Marty

On a lighter note, here is a letter of introduction from Sharron and Marty's boss.

Hello Islanders

My name is Julie Bridgman, Manager of District Nursing Services. I am based at Kew Hospital and I have met and in fact know some of you. I have, in the past, relieved for the Nurses and thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Island.

Martin and Sharron asked me to include an article, so here goes:

I was a registered Enrolled Nurse initially and registered as a General Nurse. I then bridged in Nelson to become psychiatric and comprehensively trained.

I have had many years of medical/surgical and psychiatric nursing experience. My speciality was coronary and intensive care nursing.

For the last 4-5 years I have been involved in District Nursing. I am responsible for District Nursing in town and cover all the country areas, some of which include Glenorchy, Queenstown, Lumsden, Winton, Riverton, Tokanui, Te Anau, Gore, Otautau, Nightcaps, Ohai

and Tuatapere.

I am very fortunate to have such experienced, competent staff, including the two Stewart Island nurses. Without such an experienced team my position would be very difficult. I am sure you are all well aware of the specialised training the two local nurses have had, and thank you for the support you provide to them.

Martin and Sharron have asked me to mention to you all that often when you call at the Clinic, they are occupied in examining folk or talking on the phone. They request that you ring the bell and take a seat in the waiting room and they will be with you as soon as possible. This avoids interrupting someone else's time with the nurses and keeps the clinics flowing.

I always enjoy receiving suggestions and thank all those folk who have contacted me lately.

I hope the winter months are not too severe and wish you all good health.

Julie Bridgman
Manager
District Nursing



Doctor's Day

Dr Heather Calder is visiting the Island on Saturday 29th May. Please phone the clinic for appointments.

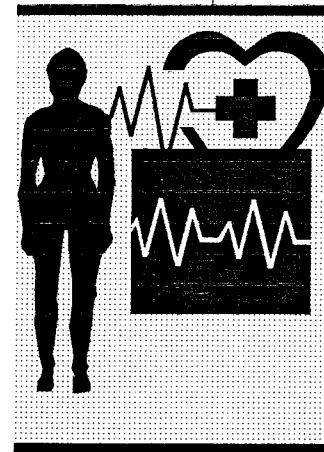
New Ambulance

The new ambulance has arrived, sparkling and new with no dents yet: watch this space!

Drinking & Driving

There seems to have been a dramatic increase in the number of road traffic accidents over the past few months. A number have resulted in moderate injuries, others have been lucky. All appear to have involved alcohol.

ACC statistics suggest that for every 300 near accidents there is one fatality. It is currently standard procedure for ambulance control to have police and fire service respond to road traffic accidents. Please take care on the roads and watch out for pedestrians.



Book

Review

TOTAL CONTROL

by David Baldacci

(Continued from page 3)

Violence is always round the corner as dead body after dead body appear on the scene and secret after secret is exposed until the thrilling climax. A jolly good read and I'm off to get the next title.

TRAVEL AGENTS VISIT

by Lesley Gray

Seven travel agents, including some from the United States of America and one from Taiwan, visited Stewart Island for two nights. They arrived on Friday 14 May and are currently on a pre Trenz Tour. (Trenz stands for Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand.)

After visiting Stewart Island and Invercargill, the group

go to Auckland with three hundred and seventy others from around the world.

Here they will meet and have fifteen minute appointments with representatives from regional tourism organisations and operators such as Tourism Southland who then have to convince them that it is worth sending visitors to this region.

NEW FERRY

A cold wintry day didn't daunt the crowds who turned out on the Half-moon Bay wharf on April 25th to welcome our new Island ferry Foveaux Express.

Built by Gough Bros. of Invercargill the new 23m catamaran ferry carries 100 passengers and will replace Stewart Island Marine's original Foveaux Express.

Powered by two V12 MTUs the boat cruises comfortably at 22 knots with a top speed of 27 knots. Both these vessels and the South-

ern Express were designed by Mark Ellis of Fremantle.

The new ferry was officially launched by Bid Hopkins, wife of company owner/director Ernie Hopkins. Airdrey Dyson-Leask blessed the vessel and after inspecting the boat, locals joined in celebrations to toast its arrival.

The original Foveaux Express has gone to new owners where it will be in operation on Lake Te Anau following alterations being completed in Bluff.

Swimming

(Continued from page 2)

morning, swimming 15 to 16 kilometres per day, five days per week. Even so, back in our own patch it is hoped that the new community centre sports facilities will give future generations of Islanders that essential kick start needed for enjoyment in sports, just as the then "new" covered then heated school pool did so many years ago.

Useless but interesting facts...

Here are some truly interesting but useless facts:

- * The average chocolate bar has 8 insects' legs in it.
- * The average human eats 8 spiders in their lifetime at night.
- * Duelling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.
- * Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- * Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
- * Marilyn Monroe had six toes.
- * If you keep a Goldfish in the dark room, it will eventually turn white.
- * The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.
- * The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
- * TYPEWRITER, is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.
- * If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

- * The word racecar and kayak are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left.
- * A snail can sleep for 3 years.
- * An American airline saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
- * Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- * If Barbie were life-size her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall and have a neck twice the length of a normal human's neck.
- * No word in the English language rhymes with month.
- * Cat's urine glows under a black light.
- * The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
- * One of the reasons marijuana is illegal today is because cottongrowers in the 30s lobbied against hemp farmers - they saw it as competition.
- * If you fart consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

- * Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.
- * On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.
- * The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
- * It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- * You can't kill yourself by holding your breath.
- * A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- * The ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.
- * A cockroach will live nine days without its head, before it starves to death.
- * The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off.
- * Some lions mate over 50 times a day.
- * Butterflies taste with their feet.
- * Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- * An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Did you know?



OBITUARY - IVY MEIKLE

M. Hopkins

On Friday 30th April 1999 Ivy Meikle died at the Southland Hospice after a short battle against cancer. Many will remember Ivy's rosy smile and gruff greeting. She was a hard working woman who shifted to the Island with husband Ken in the late 1960s and fished with him on their boat *Meison*. Her antics at the annual Co-op dance and her unusual

method of collecting Ken home from the pub in her wheelbarrow caused many a laugh. Ivy and Ken shifted away from the Island several years ago and have been living in Invercargill. Our sympathy to Ken and the Meikle family.



CATS

(Continued from page 4)

- they want to be alone.
- 6. When you want to be alone, they want to play.
- 7. They expect you to cater to their every whim.
- 8. They're moody.
- 9. They leave hair everywhere.
- 10. They drive you nuts and cost an arm and a leg.

Conclusion:

They're tiny women in little fur coats.

(Watch this space to learn more about dogs!)

ON A BENCH, ON A GRASSY KNOLL...

by Eric, Oregon, USA, March 1999

On a bench, on a grassy knoll overlooking Oban and Halfmoon Bay

The sun is due up soon. Insert ten pages of eloquent prose for what I am sensing. Include the taste of berries, muesli and cream. The sound of a fishing boat heading out to sea, lapping waves and birds. The smell of the sea and the eucalyptus tree; the feel of a light, cool breeze with patches of warmth hinting of the day to come. And the sights ever changing as they come into light. Above, a waning half moon and Venus remain and from left to right is the tent where much time I have spent.



Then the manicured hedge and the marigold bed. The church steeple is high with a bell to reply.

And then Halfmoon Bay: so much to say. A wharf with people. And the engines of the ferry now says, "Do not tarry!" to those she'll carry. Three islands outside the mouth and three islands in, and three dozen boats, nestled within.

Looking closer at the boats - some people within. One tender rowing out, one tender rowing in. The far side of the bay looks inviting by day...

Insert four hours and ten more pages of eloquent prose. Include blue penguins (the world's smallest) and shearwaters, just babies now learning to fly. One day in May they will fly north with me, and in June on the Northern Sea they will show me how well they have learned. I am hungry. It is lunch time.

On a bench on a grassy knoll overlooking Oban and Halfmoon Bay. Insert four more hours and ten more pages of eloquent prose. Include an old sloop sailboat

washed up on the beach, dying and returning to the sea gracefully.

And that quaint little patch of mushrooms. I know these. On the one hand they make you small. On the other quite TALL. The third hand you see, but don't feel at all. I leave them be, not meant for me. I was so much bolder then - I'm older than that now.

And the colours of the sea. How many? Twenty three? And twenty two local kids at Lonnekers beach. Happily.

I am hungry. It is dinner time.

On a bench, on a grassy knoll overlooking Oban and Halfmoon Bay.

A walk down the pier, to watch the fish and have a beer. Another blood red sky receives the day's last sigh, but I don't ask it to stay because tomorrow is Tuesday...

On a bench, on a grassy knoll overlooking Oban and Halfmoon Bay.

Today's foray to the western bays and as I play, time slips away. So on a hunch, looking for brunch, I take the stream to Crystal's Cafe: have cake and cream for lunch today. On the way back, by a different track, I veer to the pier, as my bench draws near. I hope, wish and buy, coke, fish and fries.

On a bench on a grassy knoll overlooking Oban and Halfmoon Bay.

It occurs to me to say that I have had a day every bit as good as yesterday.

Third day, I have become a hardened fool - I went and borrowed a garden tool.

Now pretending I'm in Eden I'm tending and a-weedin'

Around a bench, on a grassy knoll overlooking Oban and Halfmoon Bay.

THE WHISPERER

Tsk, tsk, tsk! How difficult can it be to park a car? Ask the smiling builder. He managed to, ever so carefully, drive into a non-existent parking space. No point in applying the handbrake I suppose... Or is it that we expect too much from our vehicles? An inexpensive collection of car parts has suddenly become the family car - at least the dog has more room to move about now. Of course Murphy's Law

says that not even the statuesque Co-op chick will be able to crash this one - well 2 out of 3 ain't bad! And also from the Oban School of alternative driving skills: before starting a water taxi to Ulva, get into the boat! I don't think that truck will pass survey. Or were you just dipping your lights?

Could I try some of what she had? There seems to be a very dangerous drink around at the

moment. Apparently if you drink enough you wake up on a different island. Unless of course she is magnetically attracted to boats? (motorised or otherwise). Take a good stiff coffee in future. How much do you need to drink before you drown your internal compass? I know the island is quite relaxed, but taking a rocky wee nap between the wharf and the pub is a little silly. Good thing for the salmon farmer the tide was out!

NO LABELS PLEASE 1999

A masquerade of wearable art

Just a reminder that entry forms for this year's wearable art competition are available at the Museum.

Categories this year are:

Recycled - Imagination goes wild

Shades of Blue - As long as it's blue it'll do.

Mainly Metal - It's immaterial.

Once Upon a Time - For Primary and Intermediate School ages.

Beheaded - Masks or headwear

Into the Millennium

Natural Fibres

Magnificent Male

Prizes

Each category \$500

Runner Up \$200

Supreme Award \$1000

5 June 1999 - entry form and fee to reach *No Labels Please*

5 July 1999 - garment to be received

19 July 1999 - Prejudging and garment selection

7 August 1999 - Final judging and show

BOSKY FOR SALE

We have had a new diesel heating unit installed and have the *old Bosky unit for sale.*

If interested,
please contact

Bernie
at 219 1020

Invercargill Caravan Park & Camping Ground

20 Victoria Avenue
Phone 03 218 8787

Cabins sleep 2 - 6
Dormitory sleeps 8
Caravans sleep 2.
Power point sites
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