

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May 2017

\$3.00

Usually doing the SIN entails sitting on my kumu at my keyboard slurping coffee or wine. But this past month I've been "in the field", tagging along on Inspector Gadget's wharf beat, and getting poked by a barb-erous weed with the barberry team (p8). In the name of journalism I even let Sandy King put a dead mouse in my nice tote bag (p2).

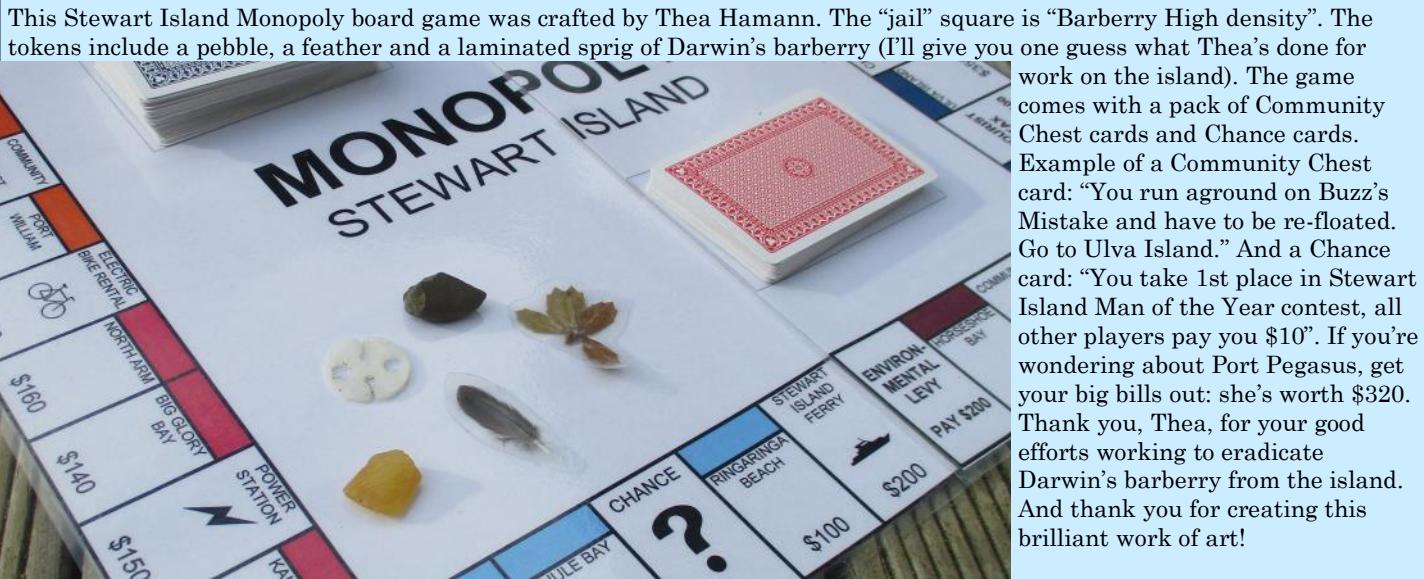
A red deer's been sighted around Horseshoe Bay. Have you seen it? Two cheeky "pet" baby whitetails get so exhausted eating my agapanthus they have to lie down for a nap on the grass. Yesterday I hollered out the window for them to scram and one ran but the other actually straightened up, stared at me and stamped his little hoof twice before he went back to eating! Fawns today... no respect.

Toi Rakiura treated us to a hilarious night with seasoned comedians Cori Gonzalez-Macuer (from *What We Do in the Shadows*) and Justine Smith (7 Days panelist). Cori quickly learned the awkward way that this island's too small for Tinder jokes. If you want to see a totally different serious side to Cori check out his TEDx talk *Out of the Shadows* on YouTube.

The island is featured in the May issue of Air NZ's inflight magazine *Kia Ora*, and in an episode of *Coast*.

There are plans afoot for a salmon farm at Pegasus. The community often finds itself in a balancing act between promoting industry and keeping the island wild and unspoilt. Some companies reckon the waters of Pegasus will lend themselves splendidly to a successful marine farm but others feel Pegasus is precious and pristine and should be left alone. The proposal is raising eyebrows and plenty of questions (p7). Share your thoughts and concerns with Shona Sangster (shona.zvezda@gmail.com) the community representative for this proposal.

After years of studies exploring renewable energy options for the island, the verdict is in: the status quo is the way to go. An undersea cable, hydro, wind, and solar power have all been



"What're you lookin at?"

Photo from Carolyn Squires



given the thumbs down, and until things improve financially/technologically for us, diesel power remains the best option for the island. For more information read the Stewart Island Future Power Supply report in the April Community Board Agenda which is available on-line or at the Library. There's a taster in this issue on page 10: a breakdown of the cost of the renewable energy studies which led to this conclusion.

You might be surprised to know that there are at least 27 people named "Myrtle Rust" in the world... I imagine they'd have a tough time getting through NZ immigration. In all seriousness, see page 16 to learn how to identify the invasive fungal disease.

Got bollards on the brain? You should! Make sure to have your say about the future of our wharves. See page 19 for details.

Finally, RIP Bill Hazlett. The island community extends our condolences to Alison and his family.

—Jess

## Rat Tales by Jess Kany & Sandy King

Detector Gadget was patrolling Golden Bay Wharf the other day when someone called out: "Look at the little rat dog!" *Little rat dog* sounds like a Shakespearean diss, but no disrespect was intended. Detector Gadget is a little rat dog and an excellent one at that. The fox terrier/Jack Russell has been trained to be a conservation pest detection dog and her service to Stewart Island is invaluable. Her trainer Sandy King brings Gadget to suspected (and non-suspecting!) areas where she excitedly sniffs out rats. She's found rats hiding in cars, sheds, bushes, and boats.

Some of her most important work is helping to keep Ulva Island rat-free. Surrounded by the waters of Pater-son Inlet, you'd think Ulva Island would be naturally protected from pest invasion. But rats are smart, persistent, opportunistic creatures and they are adept stowaways. That's why wharves, ferries and water taxis are part of Gadget's regular beat. Ulva Island's pristine beauty and popularity has created its own Achille's heel: visitors. To be more specific, human visitors unwittingly bringing unwelcome varmints.

Preventing a rat incursion is a huge task and Gadget is just a part of the effort. "It takes cooperation from everyone," said Sandy. "We all need to do our part." But not everyone even knows about the risks of stowaway rats – all visitors to Ulva Island, including kayakers and yachties, must be made aware of the necessity of checking bags and every corner of their vessel before embarking. To raise awareness and educate people about rats, Sandy has decided to become a more vocal and visible presence with Gadget. Rather than quietly going about their business, Sandy has been upping their public profile. Gadget has her own Facebook page now and a smart eye-catching work uniform.

Recently, Sandy enlisted the help of Halfmoon Bay School students to gain traction with this outreach. As Sandy stoically observed, "A cute dog and kids are going to be better to talk to than me." Hopefully an encounter with the adorable excitable Gadget and some of our bright local kids will remain a positive and interesting memory in visitors' minds. And ideally, they in turn will spread the word, preaching rat vigilance.

During the school holiday HMB students Iain, Travis and Nate spent several hours at Golden Bay Wharf, stopping visitors for a

chat and a friendly briefing on Gadget's work. (The boys are all participating in the William Pike Challenge Award and this counted as part of their community service.) While Gadget sniffed over ferry passengers' bags, the boys explained the importance of being rat-vigilant. If you think it's overkill to look through people's bags, consider that not long ago a rat jumped out of a local girl's back-pac here on the island. And if you follow this column you'll know there are all sorts of odd, unexpected places rats get into.

Another day saw Iain, Travis and Tommy go with Gadget, Jennifer Ross (DOC) and Sandy on Stewart Island Experience's Ulva Explorer inlet cruise where Gadget checked the ferry and people's bags before they went for their walk on Ulva. Gadget also did a great job of finding the odd crumb (pie crust or potato chip) under the seats and cleaning it up. While waiting on Ulva for the visitors to complete their walk they visited the Bonner family and checked around the houses and sheds.

Fortunately nothing was found on any of these checks, but as they say – prevention is better than cure, and

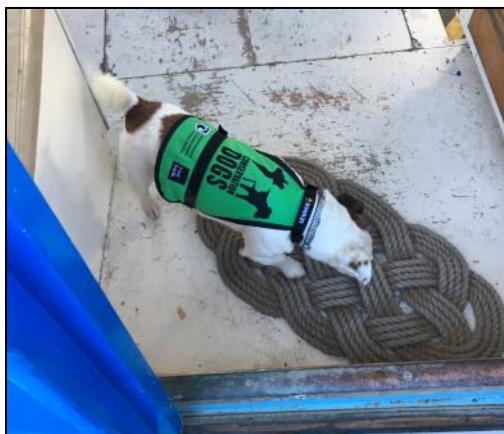
Sandy believes it is always worth taking a little time checking for unwanted critters before going to places like Ulva. This is true for weeds too – everyone should check for seeds before they go. (Don't you bet people in MPI are wishing right now that they had been able to check and stop myrtle rust before it got to New Zealand.)

As if Gadget didn't have a busy enough schedule as a predator detector, she now has the added responsibility of being an ambassador for the cause. She is the cute furry face of rat detection. Sandy keeps an even busier schedule as Gadget's owner. "If your main work tool is a chainsaw, you can use it, sharpen it and put it in the shed til the next time you need it," said Sandy. But a living creature like Gadget requires constant attention and care, and daily training sessions to maintain her skills and "keep her sharp." So, whether they are on assignment or not, Sandy and Gadget are always at work.

"I enjoy it," said Sandy, who walks Gadget every day on Horseshoe Beach. She hopes that all of the effort will pay off with more awareness about rats, heightened vigilance amongst more people, and ultimately fewer rat whoopsies on our precious predator-free island Ulva.

Sandy would like to say thanks to all who helped make this exercise work, especially Iain, Nate, Travis and Tommy; Jennifer Ross & Ros Cole (DOC) for taking photos; Ulva Ferry, Aihe Wildlife Tours and Water Taxi, Rakiura Charters, the team at Stewart Island Experience, the Bonner family, Jess Kany and Matt Jones (for letting her put dead a dead mouse in their bag so Gadget could find it), and all the visitors to Ulva Island for diligently checking their bags.

**Check out Nate's awesome video on  
Detector Gadget's Facebook page!**



Checking the welcome mat for unwelcome guests on the Ulva ferry



Rakiura Charters, the team at Stewart Island Experience, the Bonner family, Jess Kany and Matt Jones (for letting her put dead a dead mouse in their bag so Gadget could find it), and all the visitors to Ulva Island for diligently checking their bags.



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### Predator Free Rakiura update.

It has been a while since anything has been reported about the Predator Free Rakiura concept. Since the last meeting of the Governance Group in May 2016 there have been changes in some of the stakeholder groups, and there has been the announcement of the Predator Free 2050 initiative. Stakeholder groups effected by staff changes include DOC and Environment Southland; both have since appointed a new representative. Following the departure of Allan Munn from his role as DOC's Southern Operations Director, Bridget Carter will now represent DOC on the Governance Group. Ali Timms is no longer representing Environment Southland and Richard Bowman will take over her role on the Group. The revised Group will meet in early June to consider the next steps and we'll be able to provide more of an update after that meeting.

Sandy King, Jill Skerrett, Garry Neave.

Village Centre, Oban : [glowingsky.co.nz](http://glowingsky.co.nz)



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Photo from Carolyn Squires

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# ban G lobetrotter off-Island Adventures.

Dan Lee  
shares his adventure sailing  
from Wellington to Stewart  
Island on his new boat.

I tend to have many whimsical and romantic ideas that never come to fruition. ‘I should start a band’, ‘I am going to write a graphic novel’, ‘I am not going to drink too much port when we win quiz’.... etc... but last year I had one nagging idea that would not go away, so I bought a boat.

She is a 38ft steel sloop and when everyone found out she was in Wellington, they asked me the same question. ‘Do you know how to sail?’ ‘Of course,’ I replied, ‘I spent seven years in the Royal Navy Submarine Service, you know’, which, since the Navy stopped making new sailing vessels in the 1830’s, is like saying you know how to be an astronaut because you once look at the moon through a telescope. (The only other question I had been constantly asked before I left Wellington Marina, usually by other boaters is ‘She’s nice, what is she?’ ... apparently ‘A boat’ is not the answer they were looking for.)

Despite my seamanship being a little rusty, and only having one willing crew member whose sea-time amounted to a return trip on the Foveaux Express, I was surprisingly optimistic about getting her here without unintentionally testing her deep dive capability.

And so on the 17th April we motored out of Wellington Harbour into a light southerly accompanied by two dozen or so dolphins that I took as a good omen (as us sailors are awfully superstitious), and we made our way uneventfully across a calm Cook Straight to Cape Campbell, our first nights anchor stop. ‘That was easy’, I thought, ‘what is all the fuss about it being a rough bit of water...’, as Emily sat on deck in silence with her eyes rolling in the back of her head...

Day two saw us head for Kaikoura. It’s a long way at six and a half knots and as the 5-knot northerly barely filled the sails, we had no choice but to motor all the way to make any decent time. Even so, we rounded the peninsula on dusk and despite giving it a wide berth to avoid the fishing pot holding area, we still found ourselves dodging buoys by torchlight as we drove into Gooch Bay for some shelter. The calmer seas sheltered by the East coast perked Emily up a little and with more good weather forecast, I felt the trip had got off to a magnificent start.

Day three: Another calm day. The gods of the sea seemed to be smiling up at us. So calm it was, that after motoring for the morning and not having the right tool to dip the fuel tank, I became paranoid that we were going to run dry of diesel before Lyttleton and so we did some actual sailing until around lunchtime when the northerly wind, which was barely a cat’s fart in a barn to begin with, died completely and we were becalmed two miles off Manuka bay. We drifted and bobbed for a few hours, sails hanging limp under a cloudless sky on a glassy sea until from the south, a gentle breeze turned quickly into a twenty knot gust. It was all hands to the

pumps as we put a reef in the sail and shortened the jib and in a matter of minutes, we were sailing almost south at a good speed and enough of a lean to see which pots and pans had not been correctly stowed for sea.

There was nowhere to stop between Kaikoura and Lyttleton so we sailed through the night in two hour watches down Pegasus Bay and arrived at the harbour entrance at first light. We weaved between a few tankers awaiting pilots and started up the harbour. Unfortunately I did not pull in the jib sail quick enough and the funnelling wind caught it and managed to rip it against the mast stays, leaving parts of my sail flying like pennants from a castle turret. Bugger... but with the fierce wind against us I could just roll it up and hope it was going to be ok... I would not see how damaged it was until we were alongside and I could unravel the torn sail from itself.

We spent two days ashore, topping up with supplies, taking on some much needed diesel (turns out we had plenty!), talking to other yacht owners (‘She’s nice, what is she?’) and doing some minor maintenance. I had a spare jib but managed to cut away and repair the damage to my main jib and so after a bit of relaxing and a few morale boosting pub visits, we set off for an easy day rounding Banks Peninsula and into Akaroa Harbour.

Out of all the places we went on our trip, sailing up Akaroa harbour was by far the most stunning. A light sea mist gave the towering heads a spooky vibe ... as we passed between them I felt like the unfortunate knight between the sphinxes in the *Neverending Story*. The boat was dwarfed by them, and the waves were crashing at their base, but we motored on through the chop and anchored in French Bay in a flat, friendly piece of water surrounded by seabirds, friendly tourists and jagged, forested hills.

Our original plan from here was to stop in Timaru and Oamaru but again the weather was too fine to spend time in a harbour so from Akaroa we made a beeline straight to Dunedin. This actually put us quite a way offshore, enough so that we could no longer see land on the horizon but with a flat sea and very little wind it was worth it, especially to see more Maui’s dolphins, seals, and a pair of orcas.

I spotted them in the distance twice, and they were closing on us. Emily, who had now gotten over her initial seasickness, leant over the side of the boat searching the water. ‘Where are they, I can’t see them....’ was as far as she got when one breached no more than three feet from the boat. The burst from its blowhole made Emily yelp out in surprise which probably scared it off and certainly kept me warm laughing about it for the entire night shift and until we pulled into Careys Bay the following afternoon.

If Akaroa is majestically impressive, then the entrance to Otago Harbour is definitely a feat of human endeavour. We did not have to go all the way up but even the section we did, winding its way along dredged channels through the islands and mud flats past



*Emily driving*



*Good omen!*

small clusters of houses and wharves, is pretty impressive, although after a hard 36 hours sail I was more than keen to get alongside, fill up with diesel, eat fish and

*Into Lyttleton at sunrise*

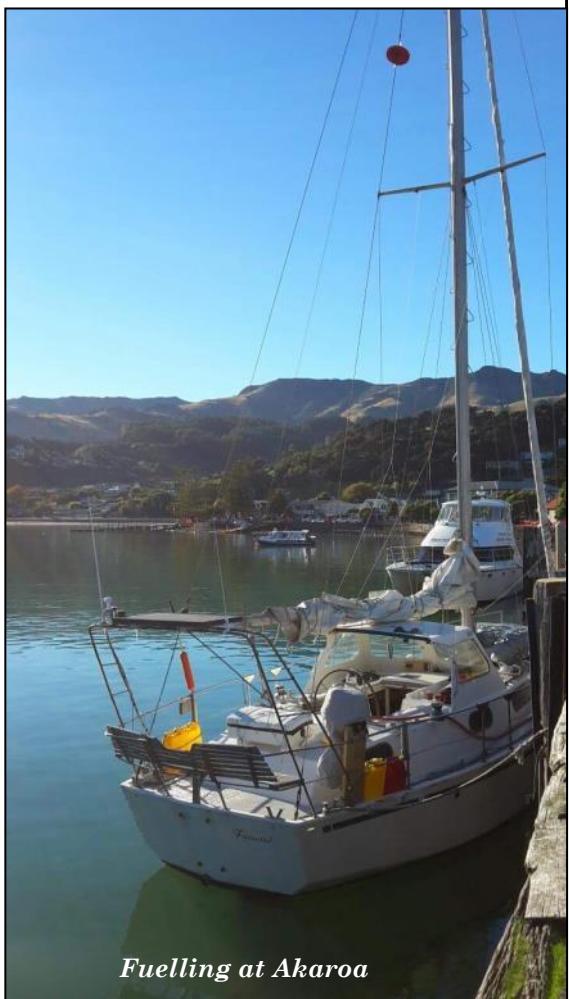
chips and get some sleep, which we managed to do after chatting to some friendly local boat owners ('She's nice, what is she?').

We departed at first light to catch the last of the outgoing tide and pointed her south once more. From here I planned to stop in Tautuku Peninsula, a small spit of land from where we could shelter waiting for a good window to cross the Foveaux Strait. The marine forecast was good, right up until we originally planned to cross to the island, and would remain rough for a few days. There was only one realistic option. We would sail through the night, crossing the strait in darkness, before it turned ugly.

As it happened, we did catch a little rough sea, some south east swell came at us on our Port quarter as we rounded the bottom of the South Island which pushed us around a fair bit and gave us the most excitement we had all trip. Having had to apply my sailing skills to squeezing as much power out of what little wind we had, I could now spend the next few hours feeling how the boat moved in some real weather, and she handled it wonderfully, although I am not sure Emily would have agreed wholeheartedly as she spent the entire time below decks, trying to sleep while wedged in the corner of the bunk so as not to fall out in the heavy roll.

As soon as we got into the Strait though, the sea calmed down again, and we used the northerly to motor-sail at nine knots, passing Ruapuke to the south, then Edwards to the north, getting into Port William around 5am. We had made it to the island and despite being fifty meters offshore, we could not see it which gave me the willies a bit but by morning the familiar surroundings proved my instruments were right all along and it was not long before we weighed anchor and chugged around the corner into her new home.

Ten days, 490 nautical miles give or take, lots of wildlife, lots of learning about the boat, lots of tea, loads of friendly people (she's a John Pugh, apparently), and plenty of good memories. A little more wind would have been nice but, would I have traded it for all those calm seas? Probably not. Plenty of time for that now she's here and part of the beautiful Stewart Island seascape.

*Sailing into Halfmoon Bay**Fixing the jib**Entering Akaroa**Fuelling at Akaroa*

## Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

### Shop Talk goes on a dog walk and litter-ary wander

If you've ever seen me out walking the dog you could be forgiven for thinking that I have some kind of obsessive compulsive disorder, making sudden changes of direction as I'm walking along. What I'm actually trying to do is teach the dog that if he pulls on the lead he doesn't get where he wants to go and that I'm in control of things. It's a long process!

What I'm surprised at while out walking (and waiting while the dog sniffs and explores every blade of grass) is the amount of rubbish that people drop. Pie wrappers, beer bottles, pizza boxes, lolly wrappers, soda cans and more, tossed on the roadside.

Sometimes I go home with a dog-poo bag filled with rubbish rather than its intended use. And don't get me started on the number of doggy number twos that haven't been picked up! Clean green New Zealand it isn't when you step in dog sh\*t.

And the beach. THE BEACH! Broken glass and serrated drink cans ... I shudder at the thought of kids' feet being sliced open as they run in the sand.

So what's all this got to do with Shop Talk? Not much except Shop Talk rhymes with dog walk and I serve people in the shop and walk the dog. People buy stuff, some chuck the packaging over their shoulder for others to pick up, and some people recycle or put their rubbish in the bin. It's a choice.

I grew up in the 1960s with the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign so I guess it's ingrained in me not to drop litter, and probably why I dislike it so much when I see it here in such a beautiful place.

But yay for the council signs suggesting people pick up their dog's poo - although I'd like to go a step further and include a roll of dog-poo bags tied around a few lamp posts!

OK that's my moaning over. Hopefully the dog finds my sense of humour while he's sniffing the grass during our next walk!

## Council to engage in Community Conversations

Southland District Council is launching a new round of Community Conversations with residents in May.

The eight meetings, to be held throughout the district, are an open, informal forum for Council to update residents on recent activities and decisions, and for residents to give feedback to Council about what they see as important issues.

The Community Conversations were first held last year, and proved to be a successful forum for Southland district Mayor Gary Tong, councillors and staff to have frank discussions with residents.

Council staff see the conversations as an opportunity to share views and assist in collective understanding about important issues that will help Southland communities to prepare for the future.

Discussions are likely to cover issues including population and demographic change, the impact of technology on industry, environmental factors, infrastructure requirements, tourism demands and affordable service delivery. Current hot topics such as the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, Te Anau wastewater, freedom camping and Council's representation review are also expected to feature.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

**The meeting for Stewart Island is:  
12 June: Stewart Island Pavilion, 12pm**

**For further information please contact:**

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## The Battery

by Elaine Hamilton

Last month I wrote about B for Blackberry, this month it is B for Battery.

Last year we had a lovely trip to Adelaide to enjoy a Murray River Cruise. It was a great trip and we also got to experience the 50 year weather system which left South Australia without power.

Back in Adelaide we planned to visit the Miners Den shop to buy a new battery for Bill's Metal Detector. We found the shop, and bought the battery and briefly discussed if there would be any issues getting through customs with it. No problems the staff knew of and Bill had done it before. Bill was then invited to a demonstration on metal detectors and a barbecue on the Saturday which he accepted and enjoyed very much.

On the Monday we checked in for our flight back to New Zealand. Bill put the battery in his checked in luggage which he had been told to do on a previous trip and off we went. All went well, but while waiting to board the plane I was called up to report to the 'desk' and had to identify the bag. This meant going to an area down stairs which I'm sure not many people get to see. After a considerable amount of time talking to three women and one man and loaning him my glasses, several phone calls were made 'upstairs'. Finally it was decided to call the Captain who said yes we could carry the

battery on as hand luggage and a sticker was attached to say it had passed inspection. So we boarded the plane to Auckland.

On leaving Auckland the next morning to fly south with the battery in our hand luggage we were pulled aside, the 'team leader' called and after several more discussions he took the battery away. Apparently we didn't have the relevant paper work, even though it was in a sealed unit and had a red sticker to say it had passed inspection. The team leader returned to say it was a no go. He assured us he was using 'the world wide security code'. The battery would be placed in their secure area at Auckland airport and for us to arrange someone to pick it up. We then caught the plane south.

Next morning I arranged for a friend to collect the battery. She was to have her passport details available and I had to advise the 'team leader' as to who would be collecting it. Our friend eventually phoned to say she had picked it up but it had been quite a process.

It was then placed in a courier bag and sent on its way, eventually arriving safely on the island by PLANE.

We found it interesting that it was safe enough for a 4 hour flight across the Tasman but not two, one hour flights in NZ.

No more batteries for Bill.

### Salmon Farm at Port Pegasus?

If you've been paying any attention you'd know that our present government has been expounding a particular theme: *aquaculture is good*. Good for job creation, good for the economy, good for the country, goody goody for all of us! This sentiment was reflected by our local governance's decision to allow oyster farming in Horseshoe Bay three years ago. At the time, opponents to the project feared that by greenlighting marine farming outside of Glory Bay, we would be "letting the horses out of the gate," setting a precedent for other businesses to set up aquaculture in other bays around our coast. The question lingered: where next?

Where, indeed. A company has cast its eye on the pristine waters of Pegasus. Surveys and studies are underway to explore the feasibility of setting up a salmon farm down there.

It is likely that a Pegasus salmon

farm operation would create jobs in Bluff and give a boost to the Southland economy. Supporters of this project believe that what is good for the Southland economy is ultimately good for us.

However, our Southern coast is a sacred place to those who cherish visits to the serene anchorages of Port Pegasus / Pikihatiti. Alarmed residents have been raising questions and concerns with each other at the Pub, with Community Board members, and of course many of these worries have landed in the SIN basket. I'm sharing some here as kai for thought:

*For Island residents, recreational divers, recreation fishers, boaters, hunters, and visitors, Pegasus is a special place. These words come to mind: tranquil; beautiful; quiet; remote; wild; unpolluted; untamed. So maybe we should consider the financial value of this place as an eco tourism development?*

*Dollar signs aside, shouldn't we be considering the inherent value of such a pristine, wild place existing?*

*What is the actual return to Stewart Island if this goes ahead? Is the company New Zealand-owned? How much financial gain remains on the island? In Southland? What will be the power source for this operation?*

*Worries about potential risks to the area:*

*Harm to adjacent sea lion colony, rare black coral and other marine organisms*

*Fuel spill*

*Light pollution; Noise pollution; Visual pollution*

*Pressure on oyster/scallop stocks from marine farmers*

*Build-up of waste on seafloor*

*Bad publicity to island and our other industries if something goes wrong*

## Vital Killing: notes from a day with the Barberry Team

by Jess Kany

*So this is a record of hate...*

These words are from the opening of Graham Greene's novel *The End of the Affair*. A love story which famously features the word HATE a whopping seven times on the first page, and I couldn't help but think of this as I reviewed my notes from a day with the DoC barberry team.

A few weeks ago, I tagged along with Thea, Scott, Rebecca and Letitia to experience a few hours of barberry eradication work. Over the years, I've been peripherally aware of "barberry people", glimpsing hi-vis jackets in the bush off the road somewhere, seeing new team members introduced in the pages of SIN, overhearing a muddy scratched-up somebody grumble into their beer down the Pub about the bloody horrible hateful barberry. So when DoC's Letitia McRitchie (aka Teesh ... aka the community "crazy weed lady") invited me to come along I hesitated, as it seemed to entail getting an ass-whooping from a dirty prickle bush. But, in the name of journalism, off I went.

First, team leader Rebecca armed me with the barberry kit: hi-vis vest and a bum-bag containing a silky (arborist's hand-saw), secateurs, GPS, gloves, and a tube of Vigilant poison. Before we set out, Letitia gave me a run-down on barberry's history on the island.

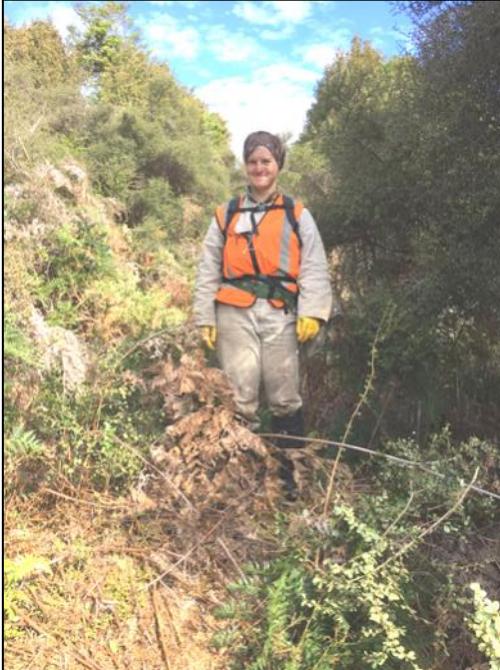
Darwin's barberry, formally known as *berberis darwinii* -- originates from the Andes. In the 1930s and 40s residents purposely introduced it here to establish in the township as a "lovely little hedge" and berries were used to make barberry jam. Quaint, right?

"One of the ground zeros of the plant is near the site of the old boarding house on the Back Road," said Letitia. So... you know when the term "ground zero" is used, things didn't turn out quaintly. The "lovely little hedge" proved itself to be a nasty invasive pest, growing into big barbed trees and killing other plants in its path. A monster had been unleashed on Stewart Island.

"By the late 1980s," said Letitia, "people were looking around and saying, *oooh, this stuff is kind of bad.*" Ironically, the plant originally intended for boundaries and control grows totally out of control and knows no boundaries. Barberry's best quality is the worst thing about it: it grows superbly in most conditions. Consider gorse, one of the most despised weeds on the island. Well, barberry is WORSE. Gorse doesn't do well in the shade, but barberry does fine both in darkness and light. "It grows happily under the canopy," said Letitia, "and it loves a coastal area too where it sticks its

head above the canopy."

By the year 2000, the pest plant had "painted the town yellow." The Halfmoon Bay township bristled with ugly prickly trees featuring mustard-yellow flowers. The Department of Conservation decided to act.



The trees were so large that a chainsaw was the main weapon during the first five years of the war on barberry. Felled trees were carted away by the trailer-load. DoC had a year-round team dedicated to eradication.

But over the years, due to changing priorities and budgets, the barberry team has been reduced to a 3-4 people contracted to tackle the problem for a few months each year. At the same time, barberry has become trickier to deal with because in many areas it has proliferated insidiously under the canopy, sending out thousands of smaller plants which fruit in 4-5 years. Yeah, that ingredient for barberry jam ain't quaint. "Birds love the big fat juicy berries," said Letitia. "Imagine how far wood pigeons fly. You can see seedling springing up from beneath trees where the birds sit and poo."

And that is why, as stewards of Rakiura National Park, DoC must curb the spread of barberry in the bush throughout the township. Because once it becomes established in the national park the results could be catastrophic. Barberry has the potential to spread like a mustard-yellow wildfire. "It doesn't allow other plants – natives – to regenerate," said Letitia. "Eventually the park could become just a barberry forest."

The clock is ticking and the pressure is on: a plant has been found at a few far-flung locales including Lucky Beach (west of Saddle Point). But due to time constraints on the present barberry team, they must prioritise how they approach the eradication efforts. Ideally, they would deal to every single sign of barberry, from large trunks to the smaller juvenile plants and the threads of seedlings.

To properly kill a plant, it must be cut as close to the root as possible and then both exposed areas of the cut daubed with the toxin Vigilante. As I learned first-hand, this is a fiddly, time-consuming process and there aren't enough hours in a day to be thorough. Therefore, the barberry killers must make constant judgement calls as they crawl through the bush, leaving the babies and juveniles for the next time and only killing the larger mature plants. It's all based on a complicated schedule of when they anticipate they will return to an area. If they successfully kill all the plants that are flowering or are due to flower in the next four years, then they can safely leave the juveniles in that area for a couple years before returning to kill the next wave before fruition.

As I followed the barberry team into the bush off the Back Road, I was admiring a wee fantail escorting us and noticing how pretty the sun looked coming through the branches when Letitia's voice interrupted my thoughts. "You can see it skulking at the edges here. It's nasty ... to know it is to loathe it." She directed my attention down to the edge of the track (an old tram line) where a miniature forest of juvenile barberry plants grew. They didn't seem particular-

ly loathsome to me but those were my last minutes of barberry innocence, because shortly after that chat I'd be getting amongst it with the barberry team and Letitia is right: to know barberry is to hate it.

Our small phalanx of five moved through the thick bush following an imaginary grid, each of us a couple metres apart in charge of our own line of attack. Sometimes the silky is required to cut through a larger trunk, and there is a feeling of immense satisfaction when it falls. "Timber!" I hollered a few times. But more often than not, the mature plants just need secateurs and a paint with the Vigilante. The cut branches are "hung" – draped over other branches to rot -- to keep their poison-treated bits away from the ground and other healthy natives.

We moved at a snail's pace, covering approximately 5 metres an hour as we made our way through mini-forests of barberry. It might be tempting to scrub-bar the lot but that would ultimately worsen the problem.... you can't just give Medusa a haircut. Each plant needs to be carefully cut at the root and applied with poison. One could easily spend 20 minutes in one spot, turning slowly on all fours following the stalks of dozens of plants within arms-reach, seeking the source root, reaching deep into prickly undergrowth, cutting and pasting and cutting and pasting seemingly ad infinitum.

Talking of grids and lines is all well and good in theory but in the bush on hilly terrain I easily lost my sense of direction, drifting onto Thea's line more than once. My hair got caught in a prickly branch, poky sticks narrowly missed my eyes, I kept losing stuff as soon as I put it down for a second – the cap to the Vigilante, the secateurs, a glove. Crunchy brown fronds tickled my neck and sweat dripped itchily down my chest. I discovered the hard way that when tangling with thorny plants those gloves are my best friends and *sh--, lost one again...* "Pardon?" asked Letitia.

"Oh, I wasn't talking to you," I said, realising my train of thought had been flowing out of my mouth in a muttered deluge of expletives, threats and weed-hating incantations. "I was talking to the, um, barberry."

Back at the DoC office, after I'd extricated a bird's nest worth of sticks and leaves from my hair, I sat at Letitia's desk and she showed me a series of pictures consisting of brightly coloured scribbled lines. At first glance they look like a Rugrat's drawings, but they are actually the product of a sophisticated GPS mapping system which shows the team the ground they've covered. The task seemed daunting on the ground, but scanning the maps you can see they are, slowly but surely, getting on top of the barberry. It's clear that they could use more resources – more people spending more time – but right now they're doing the best they can with what they've got.

While she appreciates that there are other conservation priorities – keeping Ulva rat-free, keeping the kakapo and dotterel alive – Letitia maintains that barberry eradication is also extremely important. "Some people don't grasp the threat or aren't aware of it. Out of sight out of mind, people get complacent. They lose the knowledge and excitement of killing it."

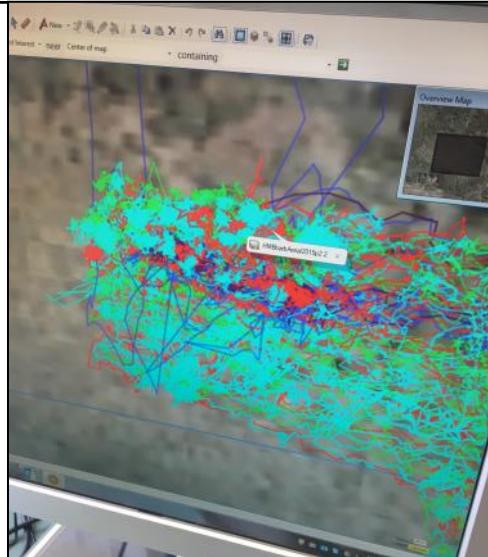
"We could definitely use the community's help," she added. "I don't expect people to start grid-searching their property, but it would be good if they killed it when they saw it, and killed it properly. If you spray, it will kill everything. By cutting and pasting it will help other native plants to grow which will block the regrowth of barberry. So it's the best method for the least amount of toxin."

There are sprigs of various pest weeds on Teesh's desk, a note from someone about a suspected barberry plant, and while we chat she receives a call from a resident about weeds on their property. She doesn't just kill weeds at work, she stalks the township on her own time, wielding secateurs and a sharp eye, scanning beach vegetation and roadsides. Call her a keen recreational hunter of weeds, call her the crazy weed lady, she's not worried. She shrugs. "I hate them," she explains simply. Her most hated weed on the mainland is wilding pines. On the island? Barberry. She hopes more residents will join the cause and help destroy it.

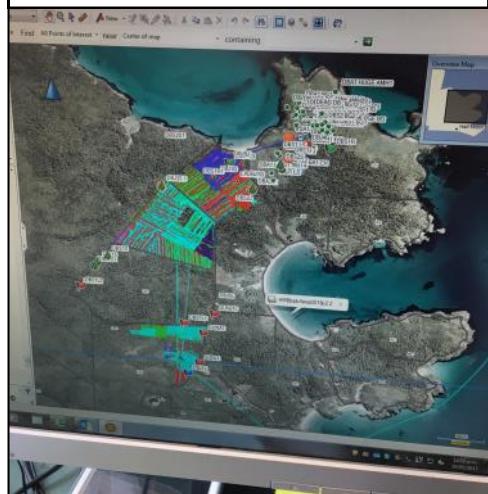
"If everyone did just a little bit that would be cool. At a minimum, it would be great just to have cooperation from the community... if you see an adult flowering barberry behind your house and you killed it that's quite vital really."

*Vital killing...* as oxymoronic as a love story being a record of hate. But it makes sense: To love our island's native bush is to hate barberry. And you can certainly love to hate barberry, ask anyone who's spent time on a barberry team.

*If you suspect you have a barberry problem on your property, please contact DoC.*



These scribbles are part of a GPS tracking system which show the barberry team where they've been... and where they need to go.



Darwin's barberry  
Photo credit: Weebusters

*After years of studies, it has been determined that renewable energy is NOT presently an option for us, and we will remain with the status quo — diesel power. Below is a breakdown of the costs for those studies from the April 2017 Community Board agenda. In the next issue of SIN, Steve Lawrence will provide commentary and context about this issue. In the meantime, the entire document is worth reading and is available at the Library or online.*

—Ed

Stewart Island Community Board has formally asked for a complete breakdown of how Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA) budget allocated for the study of Alternative Energy Sources for the island has been spent.

2 Following an Energy Futures Workshop held at Stewart Island on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Venture Southland submitted a proposal to undertake investigations into the 3 work packages identified in the workshop: System Analysis, Generation Options and Grid Management. Budgeted costs to complete this work was \$202,500.

3 Subsequent to this estimate Venture Southland has added \$30,600 in variations to original scope, and have deleted \$40,000 for Grid Management study work not undertaken; resulting in a current budget figure of \$193,100.

4 Review of SIESA financial reports for period 2012 till 2017 identified \$151,606 of costs associated with renewable energy studies/reports, and these costs are summarised in attached table, leaving balance of \$41,494 to fund any future works

5 Venture Southland's report, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 identified following costs to complete original scope: \$15K to remove Hydro Monitoring equipment, as well as \$25K to remove Wind Mast and monitoring equipment. This cost requirement of \$40K can be met by remaining budget figure as above.

6 It is recommended that SIESA confirms estimated costs to remove equipment as above, including looking at ways to reduce these costs, and then program these works as soon as practical.

SIESA Renewable Energy Study Costs 2012-2017			
Period			
	2010-2014	2015-2017	Total
Venture Southland	29,896	75,928	105,824
University Research	13,380	4,519	17,899
Power Business		27,883	27,883
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>43,276</b>	<b>108,330</b>	<b>151,606</b>
Assets	Qty	Unit Price	Cost
Anemometer	2	494	988
Anemometer	1	363	363
Wind Vanes	2	269	538
Cable	1	390	390
Height Sensor	1	409	409
Transducer	1	259	259
Meter	1	156	156
Pyranmeter	1	469	469
Mount	1	143	143
Modem	1	1,054	1,054
Cable	1	85	85
Aerial	1	225	225
Solar Frame	1	4,103	4,103
Solar Frame	1	4,455	4,455
Stainless Steel Fish Ladder	1	5,050	5,050
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>18,687</b>

## COMMUNITY BOARD NOTICE

The report by Power Business Ltd, "Stewart Island Future Power Supply", commissioned by Gary Tong, Bruce Ford and Jon Turnbull (representing Sarah Dowie MP) was presented to the Community Board by Southland District Council and is available to the community.

The full report is available in the Community Board Agenda for the meeting of the 10th April 2017.

The Agenda is available for download or viewing on the Southland District

Council website and the Board would like to encourage as many people as possible to access the document which also contains a breakdown on the renewable energy study costs 2012-17, Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust request for funding from rates, reserves or the Stewart Island Visitor Levy and a report defining how Stewart Island is likely to fare with the Government targets for fast broadband and mobile services in the future.

These are all important issues on which the Community Board is dependent on feedback from the community in order to effectively represent their views and wishes.

If anyone is unable to access the documentation online there are copies available in the Library or if you contact a Board member they will endeavor to get a copy to you.

The simplest way to access the Agenda online is to use the short links below;

View directly online  
<https://goo.gl/7O9Sm8>

Download as PDF  
<https://goo.gl/xe7hK0>

Steve Lawrence,  
Stewart Island Community Board

## **HOUSEKEEPER VACANCY – STEWART ISLAND LODGE – FROM AUGUST 2017**

Are you a people person? Do you love the idea of meeting people from all around the world?

On the remote but beautiful Stewart Island, our Stewart Island Lodge, a 4\* Plus Luxury Bed and Breakfast, is looking for a Part Time Housekeeper to join our small team in delivering a remarkable customer experience.

You will be working with our Lodge Host in servicing our 6 bedroom property. You will need to have excellent time keeping skills, have prior housekeeping experience and have an eye for detail. Duties will include room and bathroom cleaning as well as general accommodation cleaning and kitchen duties.

The position is a Fixed Term Part Time role, offering at least 20hrs per week for the period 1 August – 31 May. This role will commence 1 August 2017 so if you are interested in finding out more about this position and obtaining a copy of the Position Description, please contact our Lodge Host, Lisa Benson on 03 219 0085.

If you are excellent with people and have great time management skills this is the role for you!

For more information and to apply online, visit [www.employment.realjourneys.co.nz](http://www.employment.realjourneys.co.nz)

Applications close Friday 19 May 2017

All applicants must be eligible to work in NZ



### Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

#### **Starting a new life in Southland**

New Zealand and Southland is an attractive place to visit, work and live. More Kiwis are coming home, fewer are leaving, and more people from around the world want to come and share in our success. This increase in immigration should be celebrated; especially considering only five years ago we had a migration net outflow of around 4,100.

To continue Southland's positive economic growth, we need immigration. I worked very closely on SoRDS and one of our aim goals is to increase our population by 10,000 by 2025. The way we do that is to get more people down here, and immigration is key achieving to that.

Immigration gives our industries a diverse and growing workforce to fill workplace demand. Southland has comparably low unemployment rates and some of Southland's key industries, such as agriculture and tourism, rely upon a flexible and accessible workforce.

As a result, the number of lower-skilled temporary migrants in South-

land has steadily increased. While they have helped eased local workplace demand, they have also comfortably settled into our communities and started new lives in Southland. Unfortunately, under the old immigration system, many of these lower-skilled temporary migrants had no pathway to residence and had to renew their work visas every year. This system unfairly blocked these hard-working migrants from fully integrating into our communities.

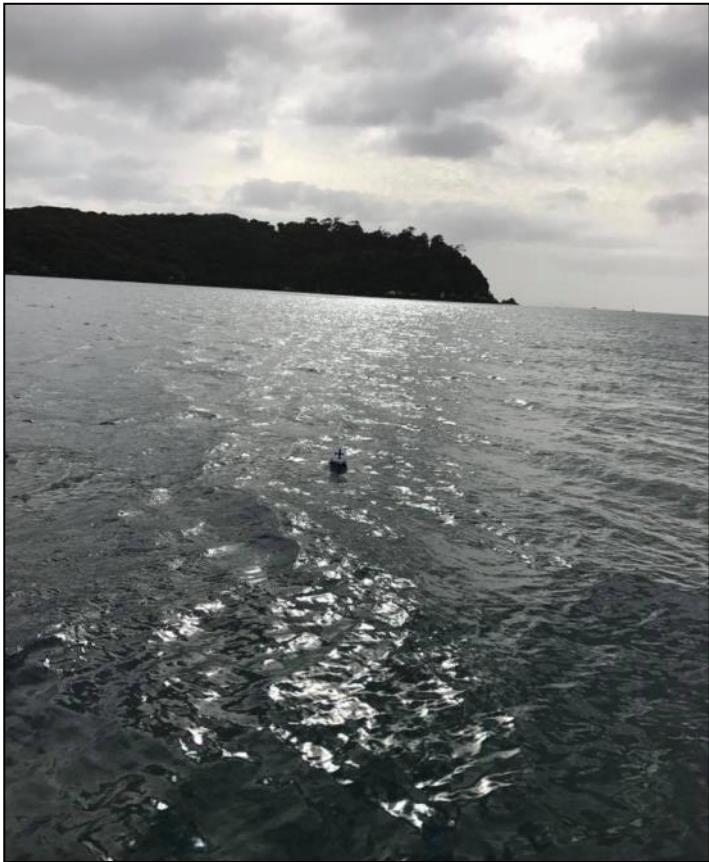
For the past couple of years, I have been strongly advocating for this system to change. That's why I am delighted that the Government has recently announced that as part of a sweeping change to our immigration system, there will be a one-off pathway to residence for around 4000 long-term temporary migrant workers and their families currently living in the South Island.

The new policy will allow eligible migrants to be granted an initial Work to Residence temporary visa, which would make them eligible for residence in two more years provided they stay in the same industry and region.

This policy is only one part of a host of other changes to make sure our immigration system attracts the right people, with the right skills, to help fill genuine skill shortages and contribute to our growing economy. These changes include introducing remuneration thresholds for both permanent and temporary skilled migrants. The first remuneration threshold will be set at \$48,859 a year and applicants who earn below that threshold will have no pathway to residence. The second threshold will be set at \$73,299 and applicants will automatically be considered as high-skilled.

This new immigration system is smart and adaptable to the demands of local businesses. Southland should use immigration to our advantage and jump upon its opportunities. I am delighted the Government has listened to Southland and has given a pathway to residence for hundreds of migrants supporting the backbone of our economy. I wish them all the best with their new lives in Southland.

*from the Office of Sarah Dowie, MP*



Farewell to Neil "Hambones" Hamilton.  
Thanks to his grandson Morgan for sharing this photo of Hambone's final voyage (the wee vessel was crafted by Lorry Edwards).

## SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

### Recipe all the way from Josh's Island

We might not live in a castle while birding but we sure do eat like kings.

Tonight's kai consists of freshly caught trumpeter as entree, and some beer battered oysters Shannon dropped off this morning while passing through. Followed by fresh blue cod with hand cut chips, slaw & lemon aioli.

Did I mention the kids sourced a kina and paua on the low tide for our first entree. Yip living the dream, working hard but enjoying our family time and the simple pleasures and stress free time our island retreat has to offer.

We awake every morning to the sound of the noisy saddleback calling us. I just love going for a bush walk and having them follow you through the trees singing and feasting on the fat bugs in all the rotten trees. The Stewart Island robin tend to accompany you while sit on the throne, thanks to them Ngakau can rest assured their aren't any spiders to crawl on him while he takes care of business.

Sure I might need a damn good wash and the snoring rattles the tin walls we share together, but it wouldn't be the same without all of these things....think of us on the 11th roasting fresh titi over an open fire during full moon and a few sneaky gin gins.

Cheers, Lania



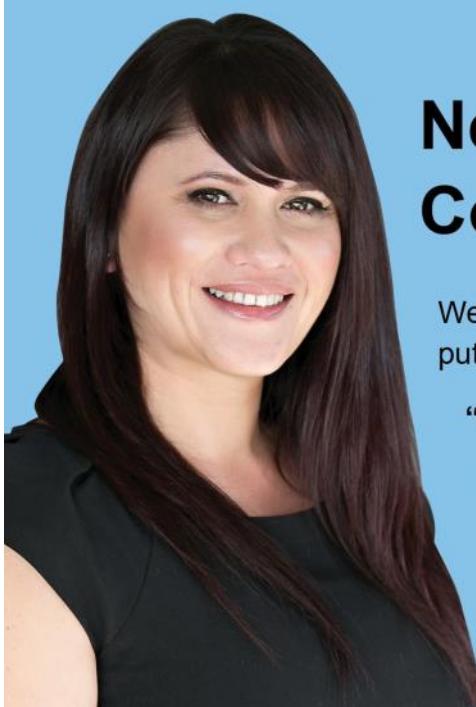
### Ceviche

4 fillets trumpet straight from the sea, skinned and sliced thinly.  
 4 Tbsp tamari  
 2 Tbsp olive oil  
 Juice 1-2 lemons (depending on taste)  
 Salt n cracked pepper  
 1/2-1 tsp crushed garlic  
 Pickled ginger

Mix sauce in cup and taste, add more lemon juice and garlic according to taste.

Place thinly sliced fish on a plate and spread out. Add sauce, spread pickled ginger on top, season with pepper n pinch salt (if you think needed).

Enjoy!!



## Need help with local issues? Come to New Zealand First

We can provide you with practical help and advice, putting you in touch with the right people when things go wrong.

**"It's common sense"**

Call me or email me.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST LIST MP

# RIA BOND

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Office hours  
 Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm



Authorised by Ria Bond,  
 Parliament Buildings, Wellington

*He kai hei aku ringa There is food at the end of my hands*



*Thanks to the Edwards family for sharing some photos of muttonbirding on Josh's Island.*

**Museum Matters by Jo Riksem****80 YEARS AGO****Halfmoon Bay foreshore 1937**

This photograph of the Halfmoon Bay foreshore shows a different angle of buildings and houses from last month which I hope will prove interesting to all. Can you pick out the original school building, the black house which was white and the old 'pool room' (no, not used for swimming).

The memorial looks quite forlorn without it's added construction around it.

Thank you to Raylene Waddell for the beautiful wreath she made up on behalf of the museum for the Anzac service. Also many thanks for all who donated items and time to the cake stall and sausage sizzle on Easter Saturday which we did with Stewart Island Promotions. Total raised was \$1230 which was shared between the two trusts showing how good it is to work together.

**Acquisitions for April:**

**Small clear medicine bottle** - These had a variety of uses and with its pressed lip, concave bottom and bubbles in the glass, make this a nice addition to the bottles we have on display.

**Copies of Stewart Island News.** We now have a complete set of the Stewart Island News from the first edition, 1 June 1987 to December of 2016. Great for research.

**Epson PX-8 computer** - Not that we're collecting computers, but this one has special significance as it was the one that the first Stewart Island News was written on by Sam Sampson.

**Booklets about Stewart Island** - One was put out by the Forest Service in 1977 about track and hut information. A good read considering how things have changed. The second one, a booklet put out by N.S. Seaward and Sheila Natusch on Stewart Island in 1973 with some of Sheila's lovely little sketches. Again a blast from the past at what used to be here, including people landing in the amphibian at Halfmoon Bay.

**Searches for April** were:

George M. Turner

Ulva Belsham nee Bradshaw

George Stevens

Fred Traill

Remember - ratepayers can visit free of charge.

Winter hours now are, as of May, Monday - Friday 10-12, Saturday 10-1:30, Sunday 12 - 2:00.

## Books Reviewed by Sue Ford

**“Gulliver’s Travels”** retold from the Jonathan Swift original by Martin Woodside is one the Classic Starts series. The idea is that classic literature should be retold without the archaic language or verbosity of the original. For an ‘old-school’ reader like me, I found there was something of lyricism missing, but there’s no doubt that “Gulliver’s Travels” was never this entertaining before and the original plot appears untouched. If this book is a sample of what is to come from other Classic Starts, I hope that some of our younger readers can be encouraged to have a go at some of my childhood favourites.

**“The Last Debutante” by Lesley Lokko:** a family saga with a difference. Spanning 1936-1963 and an ending in 2014, the central character is Kit, younger daughter of the family at impoverished Chalfont Hall. In 1936 she is 13-years old and sees her sister courted by a rich, older man – a Nazi German. Two years later, Kit completes her first mission as a spy, but sets in train tragedies, culminating in the ultimate family betrayal in 1963. Interesting plot and highly readable but if picky, I’d say the characters lacked personality, and peripheral but pivotal characters – like Uncle Faunce - disappear from the story in a ‘loose ends’ way.

**Deborah Challinor’s “The Cloud Leopard’s Daughter”** is a ‘stand-alone’ but the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series. The story takes place in the mid-1800’s and whips about from New Zealand to Australia to Hong Kong in a fast-paced manner. Bao, heiress of her tong, is the first to be kidnapped. Rian and Kitty sail off to rescue Bao, but their adopted daughter, Annabel, is then kidnapped not once but thrice! It sounds odd put like that, but reads fine. I go on about the ‘believability of characters’, but these characters strike me as being ‘real’. I did enjoy this swashbuckling, romantic adventure. Thanks for the recommendation Pat. Also thank you for pointing me at **“The Olive Tree”** to assuage my new-found enthusiasm for **Lucinda Riley**. An epic family saga told mostly in a third-person voice with chapters taken from 13-year old Alex’s diary. He is short and chubby, has a high IQ and an empathy with small children – but no other skills to speak of. He also falls in love for the first time! Some of the diary is amusing – shades of ‘Adrian Mole’ – which expertly lightens the dramas and tragedies set in motion by his beautiful and beloved mother Helena. She inherits an old house called Pandora on Cyprus where she once spent idyllic holidays – and we know what happened when Pandora’s Box was opened! No matter the outcome of each dramatic revelation, there is always hope. And the ending reflects that. Awww! Nice.

**“The Violinist of Venice – A Story of Vivaldi” by Alyssa Palombo** – to use up my store of musical terminology: it was often told *adagio* when I wanted it *allegro* or *vivace* in *tempo*. It was a nice *harmony* and proceeded *legato*, occasionally *rondo*! Vivaldi, in his later years, travelled about with a young woman, Anna Giro. Rumour had it that Anna was the priest-musician’s mistress - which Vivaldi passionately denied till the untimely end of his life. Palombo came up with another theory, purely fictitious but fitting, and wove a story which is romantic, tragic and – ultimately – as happy an ending as the facts of Vivaldi’s life would allow. A little slow and repetitive in parts but entertaining and thought-provoking.

Other excellent reads: **“Summary Justice” by John Fairfax** – contemporary who-dunnit with a difference and a twist; **“Recipes for Love & Murder” by Sally Andrew** – very unusual murder-mystery with lots of laughs and delicious recipes. Both very enjoyable.

Leo Lipp-Neighbours spent the first part of his childhood on Stewart Island. In 2010 he disappeared at the age of 19 while living in Nelson, starting a years-long anguishing mystery for his parents. Last month his remains were found in his car which was recovered from a Nelson harbour. The island extends our condolences to his parents.

### Letter ☐

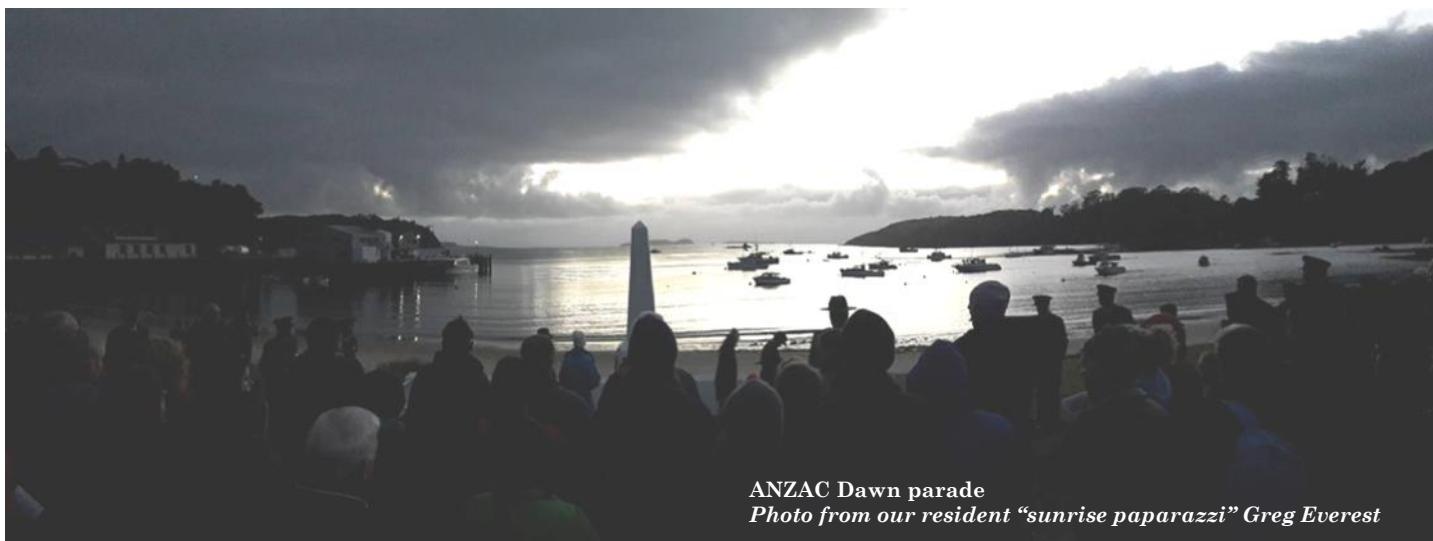
“Did you see the little robin?” A card with a bush robin on it evoked one of my dearest memories of my brother Alex.

We were on our way to the old SW Arm hut (p 120 in Roy Traill of Stewart Island) and we kids would walk along the riverbank, under the tall manuka trees. My cousin Nancy Schofield will remember how the old hut used

to shake in a gale, and how the big kiwis screeched weirdly at night.

One job in the morning was getting down to Porridge Pot Creek and using nature’s potscrubs, as our dads had done before us. I think the old hut’s gone now. Sometimes my eyes get crusty or gummed up but they’ll water readily enough when I see a card with the robin on it.

*Sheila (Traill) Natusch*



## What's Up, DOC?

From Letitia McRitchie & Jennifer Ross

### **DOC's Conservation Dogs Programme**

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Kiwibank and DOC entered a new three-year partnership in support of DOC's Conservation Dogs Programme. Working together with Kiwibank allows DOC to unleash the potential of incredible conservation dogs like rodent detector dog Gadget. Pest detection dogs are used to detect the presence of target pests (rodents: rats and mice in our case) by indicating scats, urine, ground scent, and live and dead animals without indicating any non-target animal scent. The Department is currently increasing the amount of Conservation Dog work nationally. We are incredibly lucky to have trainer Sandy King and Gadget living on Stewart Island/Rakiura and working to protect several of our special places including predator-free gem Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara!

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April I joined Sandy, Gadget, and three Halfmoon Bay School students on the Real Journeys Patterson Inlet cruise. During the cruise Gadget searched the boat and Halfmoon Bay School students delivered a talk to visitors about the importance of biosecurity when heading to predator free Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. The students also requested that Gadget check the visitor's bags before reaching the Ulva Island wharf and disembarking. All visitors agreed and seemed delighted to be involved in the process. When we reached Ulva Island Gadget put on her muzzle and checked all Hunter family (private property) buildings and the DOC Biodiversity Hut. What an incredible day for the Conservation Dogs Programme, promoting biosecurity and highlighting how effective, efficient, and painless it could be to have regular checks of local vessels and visitor's bags before heading to Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara!

### **Myrtle Rust ALERT!**

Myrtle Rust is an exotic disease causing plant pathogen (a rust fungus) from South America. It can cause the decline and death of plants from the *Myrtaceae* plant family (pohutukawa, rata, manuka, feijoa – more on this below). Its spores can be spread by wind, animals, people, insects, dirty equipment. It has invaded parts of east coast Australia and spread extensively within five years.

This rust was found as part of routine monitoring by DOC technical advisor, David Havell on Monday 27 March 2017. The disease was detected on a tall Raoul Island Pohutukawa near Denham Bay, a site where private boats (some from Australia) moor.

This location is remote from the DOC base on Raoul. David took samples under tight hygiene protocol. Proper delimitation is yet to be carried out to determine how widespread the infestation is, but we think it's in the early stages of spread.

Myrtle rust has a few stages: the early stage is purple blotching, spotting and deformation / curl of leaves; the mature stage is bright yellow to orange (egg yolk coloured) pustule spore.

### **What's at risk, where do I look?**

Myrtle rust only effects plants from the *Myrtaceae* plant family. This includes some of New Zealand's most iconic indigenous



Halfmoon Bay School students Tommy Dobbins, Travis Chittenden and Iain McCallum delivering biosecurity talk to Real Journeys passengers during Patterson Inlet Cruise.  
Photo Credit: Jennifer Ross DOC

plants - rata, pohutukawa, manuka, kanuka and ramarama - as well as exotic myrtles like feijoa, guava and eucalypts.

It attacks new leaves on many plants and mature leaves on others. It can suppress flowering and seed development on some host plants. Repeated infections can kill the plant.

If it becomes widespread it will impact all of NZ's *Myrtaceae* to some degree and we are likely to lose some *Myrtaceae* in their natural state. Ecological integrity will be compromised in places where myrtles are a dominant species. It is also likely to affect commercial activities (e.g. manuka honey industry), tourism, recreation, and landscape values.



**Myrtle Rust symptoms look like this**



### **What do I do if I think I've seen it?**

#### **DON'T TOUCH! DO CLEAN, DO REPORT**

If you think you've spotted myrtle rust, **don't touch the infection** – this will spread the disease. Rust spores are wind-blown like talcum powder and if you're in the vicinity you'll be the biggest spread risk.

Take a photo if you can, without touching any plant material.

Mark the site with a ribbon or similar, ensure you can describe your whereabouts.

#### **Phone the MPI Hotline 0800 80 99 66 immediately**

If you become contaminated you'll need to decontaminate yourself as best you can. Ideally:

Spray the garment with alcohol/methylated spirits or Sterigene Place the garment in a plastic bag, surface sterilise the bag and

place it in another bag. Leave it on the spot

Spray and clean footwear

Spray the site where you changed from the garment with alcohol/methylated spirits or Sterigene

GPS the spot

Notify MPI and your DOC office immediately of the location

If you cannot move from the site without spreading contamination stay put (but put your safety first) and radio for someone to bring you the required equipment to decontaminate.

If it's a false alarm it doesn't matter! Please be vigilant and err on the side of caution.



The weeds team navigating part of West Ruggedy Beach. Photo Credit: Cherie Hemsley DOC

benefits of sustained control are really shining through! The trip was originally scheduled for eight days (based on the work done



Above: East Ruggedy Beach GPS tracks, showing where the weed team had travelled.

Below: West Ruggedy tracks



and then checked every five years. The ongoing monitoring of Mason Bay kiwi has shown a decline in the population (approximately 2% per year), however it was believed that this may have only reflected changes in the number of kiwi around the Mason Bay monitoring site.

To better understand the wider kiwi population, a second site at Port Adventure was established in 2011. Stewart Island kiwi/tokoeka monitoring recently took place at Port Adventure in February. DOC staff returned to the Port Adventure site for the first visit since birds were initially caught and banded five years ago. Hugh Robertson, one of the kiwi team made the following comments:

*"In the 16 days, we caught 29 birds, of which 10 were recaptures of adults caught in 2011. Of the 19 new birds caught, at least 10 appeared to be subadults (5 chicks of the year) and the others were 2-3 years old"*

### ***East and West Ruggedy Weed Control***

In March a team of four DOC staff and one long-term volunteer travelled to East and West Ruggedy beaches to control weeds and concentrate on spraying marram grass, gorse and lupin. This is an annual trip and the

previous year) but with hard work and some breaks in the weather the team got the job done in five days! Each person in the group carries a GPS that tracks their steps while standing in a line approximately one meter apart and scanning for target weeds. The maps showing GPS tracks in the pictures clearly show how well the ground is covered, ensuring that all weeds are spotted and sprayed. An extra day was spent giving East Ruggedy Hut a good clean before returning to base to clean up gear and get data sorted.

### ***Port Adventure Kiwi Monitoring***

Kiwi monitoring on Stewart Island/Rakiura has been ongoing for over 25 years. This monitoring has mainly taken place at Mason Bay with the local kiwi population being banded

This is great news for the kiwi population as it seems to show that chicks are surviving well and indicates that the population may be more stable than previously thought. This is especially exciting given the cat population at Port Adventure. Their habit of staying in family groups with parents and juvenile family members may help to protect them from cat predation.

### ***Adze Discovered by Hunter at Mid Glory Hunting Block, Big Glory Bay***

An adze has been found by a hunter at the Mid Glory Hunting Block, Big Glory Bay and was handed in to the DOC office on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. It was subsequently reported to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage by Rachael Egerton, DOC Technical Advisor, Historical and Cultural Heritage.



Kev Carter helping with health check, ID band & transmitter checks for kiwi at Port Adventure during monitoring.

Specialist Russell Beck (who is very knowledgeable about geology and archaeology) provided the following information about the adze:

It is made of what is referred to by archaeologists as Green Hills Argillite. This stone is distinguished from a similar Nelson stone by small spots of feldspar crystals through it – you can see tiny white specks on it.

It is of a typical early Southland style and having an irregular cross section. Early means the first 100-200 years of Māori occupation of NZ (c. 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Century).

Only around 1-2% of recorded archaeological sites in NZ date to this early period of occupation, meaning they are very rare and consequently very important. They give insight into a period of time that is not as well known, but also one of the most important times as Polynesians adapted to their new environment, identified and started utilising its resources, adopted a distinct material culture, and became "Māori".

The source of the stone is probably Colyers Island, Bluff Harbour, or nearby.

The manufacture site likely to have been Tiwai Point, which was an enormous adze factory in pre-historic times where most of this Green Hills stone was processed.

The portion of the adze found is probably a little more than one third the original length, with both the butt and blade ends being broken off. It was once a very large tool, and the breakage of it would have been much regretted.

What an exciting find!



Photograph of adze found at Mid Glory hunting block, Big Glory Bay. Photo Credit: Rachael Egerton DOC

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(DoC Continued from page 17)

### **Halfmoon Bay Weeds**

#### **Honeysuckles**

Honeysuckles have the potential to smother native vegetation and grow well in a wide range of conditions. DOC has been on the lookout for Japanese honeysuckle which can grow as a smothering vine but is also happy to grow as a shrub. Its flowers are initially white, changing to yellow. So far there are only two identified Japanese honeysuckle sites around Halfmoon Bay.



Himalayan Honeysuckle



Japanese honeysuckle

English honeysuckle is more common, turning up in many sites. It looks very similar to Japanese honeysuckle but the flower is a pink/red. It was traditionally planted near long drops, as its beautiful scent was much appreciated! Like Japanese honeysuckle its pretty flowers turn into juicy berries that can be spread far and wide by birds.

Himalayan honeysuckle looks quite different and grows as a shrub. Its long pendulous flower heads produce tasty bird-friendly berries. This plant only appears to be in a handful of sites.

If you have a honeysuckle and you don't want it, cutting and pasting its stem will get rid of it. While it might be pretty in your garden, the seeds being moved around by birds means it might be a big problem somewhere else.



## OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER

by Jo Riksem

It was a lovely Sunday on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April when 20 people gathered for the baptism by Rev. Beverley Osborn of Portia Alexandra Kershaw, beautiful daughter of Mark Kershaw and Corrina Horrell. Many thanks to the family for the delicious morning tea they provided. Thanks also to Raylene Waddell who provided our wreath for Anzac day to remember those men who served in the wars. We live in a very special community where others combine their gifts to help out in so many ways and that is what the Lord, then and now is all about, caring.

### Speakers for June

**4 & 11 June** – watch the bulletin board for these two Sundays.

**18 June – Linda Beebe** – a welcome return to our island with her links to the Leask family and surgical nurse at Southland Hospital.

**25 June – Combined service at St Andrews Anglican Church**

**10:30 am – Wynston Cooper** – A keen and excellent photographer, Wynston's photos have appeared in many places including Stewart Island Flights at the Invercargill Airport.

Services every Sunday 11 am except when combined with St Andrews which is 10:30 am.



Portia Alexandra Kershaw baptised by Rev. Beverley Osborn

## Stewart Islanders urged to have say about wharves

Stewart Islanders and wharf users will have the opportunity to speak to an independent consultant about the future of wharves on Stewart Island (excluding Halfmoon Bay) this month.

Council's community partnership leader Michelle Stevenson said Council owns five of the seven wharves on the island, with the possibility of owning a sixth. Two of those wharves are needing urgent maintenance while others will need work in the next few years.

"Council wants to know what residents, ratepayers and stakeholders believe are the best options for these wharves before going any further with planning and funding, as at present we do not rate for wharf maintenance," she said.

**Consultant Sandra James is going to spend time on the island this month to talk to anyone who wants to have a chat, either by going to a drop-in session at the Pavilion, or to the Conversation Café at the Stewart Island Community Centre on Thursday 25 May from 7pm to 9pm.**

**Times for drop-ins are:**

**24 May, 10am to 12pm  
25 May, 2pm to 4pm.  
26 May 2pm to 4pm**

"We'd also encourage people to go online at southlanddc.govt.nz to fill out a survey, or you can contact Sandra directly on 027 290 7550," Ms Stevenson said.

Following this and engagement with other stakeholders and recreational users, Ms James will consolidate all the information she has gathered, and then come back to the community to give feedback and check-in that she has captured all the thoughts of the community.

Then she will prepare a report including recommendations that will be presented to Council in July/August.

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## Stewart Island Community Library Hours

Monday 8.30am-12pm

Tuesday 8.30am-12pm

Wednesday 8.30am-12pm; 2-4pm

Thursday 8.30am-12pm

Friday 8.30am-12pm

Saturday 11am-12pm

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**Stewart Island  
Handyman Services**

Phone 973 0959 (Local Number)

Email [handyman@acadia.co.nz](mailto:handyman@acadia.co.nz)



## Stewart Island Experience WINTER FERRY TIMETABLE

As from 1 May, and as you are all probably well aware, our ferry moves to the Winter Timetable and some timings do change so please check your departures times and days of travel to avoid disappoint in missing departures.

### MAY

Ex Stewart Island

- Daily at 8am and 3pm

Ex Bluff

- Daily at 9.30 and 4.30pm

### JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

Ex Stewart Island

- Mon to Sat at 8am

- Tues, Wed, Sat and Sun at

3pm

Ex Bluff

- Tues, Wed, Sat at 9.30am

- Daily 4.30pm



**SIRCET website has had a makeover, check it out at [www.sircet.org.nz](http://www.sircet.org.nz)**

*"Eating your garden is exhausting!"*



*Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.*

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