

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May 2023

\$4.00

Winter is coming

Islanders mark the changing of the seasons in myriad ways.

There is a general sense that activity is waning and we are winding down for a rest.

The muttonbird/tītī season has just finished, those with bees are wrapping them up for the winter, and gardeners are preparing beds and planting what they can (garlic seems to be a favourite).

I'm sure lots of people appreciate the subtle changes in the forest coming into winter, and others may welcome the opportunity to spend more time indoors by the fire.

While some of our winter rituals are pleasurable, others are predominantly practical. For example, if you missed the NZ Fire and Emergency reminders to check your smoke alarms when daylight savings ended, winter is a good time to do this. Over winter, while electric and gas appliances are running more often, there is an increased risk of house fires.

It's also a good time to ensure your house is warm and comfortable for the season ahead. Check whether you have enough fire wood, blankets, insulation, etc... We are already feeling the fresh cool change. If we have a winter anything like last year, we may even see some snow (so prepare for that!).

Right: photo of last year's snowfall (early June)



- Freya

Have you noticed basket funghi popping up around the Bay? Also known as *Ileodictyon cibarium* (and several te reo Māori names). They are native to Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia.

A 'family' of them was seen on the track from Argyle St to Dundee St recently. These alien-looking funghi are saprotrophic (word of the week), meaning they digest natural matter (such as leaf litter).

- Freya



I recently spotted a basket fungus sculpture in Lyttleton harbour. Can you find it?



Basket fungus in Halfmoon Bay

STEWART ISLAND

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY UPDATE

* Not on the local phone list but would like to be?

* No longer have a landline but would like your mobile number listed?

Please email or text your name and number to philldismith@xtra.co.nz / 027 672 4405
One number per household. Thanks, Diane.

These lists are laminated and can be bought at the local Four Square store: \$3 each.

All proceeds from the sale of this Telephone Directory go to the Stewart Island Community Centre.

Penguin rehab success

Words and photos by Trudi Webster

At the start of May the final two yellow-eyed penguins were released following successful rehabilitation at Mamaku Point. Trudi Webster and Sandy King from the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust brought in 24 hoiho (11 females and 13 males) from colonies around Paterson Inlet over the past couple of months. Birds were at the rehab facility for a short period (normally 2-3 weeks) for some extra care and several feeds of fish because they were underweight for their annual moult.

As well as underweight moulters, the team also found an emaciated chick and an adult with serious leg injuries. Both needed to go to the Wildlife Hospital in Dunedin for specialist care. The female chick made fantastic progress and was soft-released at Penguin Place (Otago Peninsula) with a group of other chicks to maximise her chances of survival. Thanks to the skill and care of the vets and staff at the hospital the adult survived multiple surgeries and was successfully released back at Steep Head.

One of the birds (sighted regularly at Golden Bay) was nicknamed *Leo* by locals and had large patches of missing feathers all the way down his back. *Leo* had one of the longest stays in rehab (52 days) but finally he moulted and grew a full waterproof suit of replacement feathers.

The team had a 100% success rate with all birds successfully released to the wild and 23 going back to their colony (all except the chick). Tamariki from Halfmoon Bay School/ te Kura o Rakiura were amazing assistant rangers and helped us to transport and release the birds back to their island homes.

A big thank you to all of the locals and supporters, in particular the team at Mamaku Point Conservation Trust and Rakiura Charters and Water Taxis for supporting this programme from start to finish.

There is definitely a continued need for the rehab facility for hoiho on Rakiura. Due to limited capacity this year the focus was on breeding birds from nearby colonies to ensure that they survive. We hope to be back next year with increased capacity (another mosquito proof enclosure to house birds), and ideally to train and fund locals to run the facility. Watch this space.....



Leo 18 April 2023
mid moult



Leo 30 April 2023
(the week before release)



Aiden and Josh with Hoiho in foreground



Tom and Elise



Mahi Ngatahi Working Together

MAY 2023

HEDGEHOG INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY



They might seem cute, but hedgehogs can do a lot of damage to taonga species! That's why Predator Free Rakiura, with support from Manaaki Whenua, are looking for answers about how many of these predators are on Rakiura.

While they mostly eat insects, hedgehogs will eat almost anything interesting to them, including bird eggs, chicks, lizards, and other invertebrates. We want to make sure we can protect our precious species from these hungry predators.

We are fortunate that there have been lots of reports from residents about hedgehogs around Oban. There's also been some excellent hedgehog trapping work from Stewart Island Rakiura Community Environment Trust, which helps us to understand where hedgehogs are likely to be.

Earlier in May, up to 180 cameras were set up in a 13-square-kilometre area surrounding Oban. The pictures will be reviewed and the number of 'detections' will help us to begin to understand how many hedgehogs there may be in the area surveyed, as well as whether the population extends to, or perhaps beyond the camera boundaries.

This survey will help to check beyond the areas where sightings have been reported to date. We don't know how far beyond Oban and into the surrounding forest that hedgehogs may be established – the outcomes from this survey will help us design eradication plans for hedgehogs on Rakiura.

Predator Free Rakiura is employing local people to deliver the mahi, and we are collaborating with national and local organisations, too – our thanks goes out to landowners who have allowed us access, and to SIRCET, the Department of Conservation, and Manaaki Whenua for loaning us some of the equipment needed to deliver this work.

We hope to be able to report on some of the outcomes of this survey in late June/early July. Check out our website for more information about this project, and keep an eye out for future updates.



The camera deployment team getting ready to roll out. From left: Jack Dobbins, Sandi Van Leeuwen (front), James Ware, and Kevin Carter (front).



SAVE THE DATE!

The PFR team is excited to share our latest news and to answer your questions! Come along to join the conversation!

FUTURE RAKIURA COMMUNITY MEETING
Stewart Island Community Centre
Wednesday 31 May 2023 6.45pm - 9pm

MOUSE eDNA: What Next?

In late 2022, PFR Research & Operations Manager Kevin Carter waded into waterways to collect water samples, which were sent to Wellington to be tested for traces of eDNA.



PFR Operations & Research Manager Kevin Carter collects an eDNA sample in Oban

eDNA is short for environmental DNA, and it refers to small traces of genetic material left behind by living organisms in the environment. A sample of soil or water which is tested for traces of DNA can reveal the species that have lived in or travelled through the area.

We were looking for mouse eDNA - in an effort to understand whether these tiny predators have gained a stealthy foothold around Oban. This is important because if they are here, and we eradicate rats and feral cats, then we could see the mouse population explode - creating a new problem for our taonga species, and for residents - something we want to avoid!

Initial results were encouraging, with no mouse DNA detected. Even though mice weren't detected with this first survey round, more work is required to provide confidence in their presence or absence in various likely locations. A key principle in science is that "the absence of evidence does not necessarily provide evidence of absence".

However, we did learn that using eDNA sampling is straightforward and easily completed, and will be a handy tool, amongst others, for our kete in future. It was also very exciting to see the range of other species detected, including native fish and insects.

You can check out the results for yourself! Head to www.wilderlab.co.nz/explore - zoom in on Rakiura, and click on the sites to see what species were detected at each location!



KEEP IN TOUCH

Visit www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz
Email info@predatorfreerakiura.org.nz



Letter from the editors...

Stewart Island News or SIN, as it was named by Sam Sampson, the creator and editor of our small town newspaper, has been around for nearly 40 years and is still ticking along.

Past editions of SIN are available to read on the Stewart Island News website www.stewartislandnews.com Some of those early ones make for very interesting reading and were crammed full of articles and tidbits about Island life, administration, controversies, people and events. Sam being the quirky character that he was, drew on a wide range of topics for SIN and was very entertaining. Many editors have come and gone, each putting their special touch on Stewart Island news and issues and providing a great communication platform with the wider community.

We were so sorry to lose our amazingly talented Jess Kany, the longest running editor for over 17 years. Jess and her family moved

from the Island to Wanaka where she is hopefully pursuing her own literary career following the publishing of her successful first novel 'A Runners' Guide to Rakiura.'

Putting together the articles, photos, advertisements and public notices supplied, as well as seeing to printing, distribution and subscriptions takes up about 20 hours per issue and it has not always been easy to find someone with the time and energy to fit this in with their busy lives, family and other work commitments. We are grateful to Freya Clarke for taking over from Jess.

In order to make SIN interesting and lively we need more written contributions. We welcome articles, investigative pieces, travel stories or even suggestions on Stewart Island things you would like to know about or to have included in SIN.

Thank you to our regular subscribers and those who purchase SIN on a casual basis. We value your support.

COMMENT

I recently fell foul of Wilson Parking's operation at Bluff, and am sure I'm not their only victim.

On April 12th I parked at Bluff, in the rough piece of land opposite the ferry terminal. Parking on that site has often been free. There were no obvious signs indicating the site was controlled by Wilson Parking. There was a pay machine in the middle of the site. Several ferry clients were gathered around it, trying to work out how it worked. No one could. In the end we gave up, despite being willing to pay. We all had a ferry to catch.

The weather didn't help. It was a strong south-easterly driving heavy rain. A parking operation in Bluff needs to provide for the local weather. At previous parking sites, payment machines have been under cover.

When I returned to Bluff on the 16th I found a parking notice attached to my vehicle. It was from Parking Enforcement Services aka Wilson Parking, and advised me I had incurred a parking "charge" of \$85.00 for failing to pre-pay. Most of the adjacent

vehicles had similar documents attached. It must have been a good haul for Wilson Parking.

It probably suits Wilson Parking to continue with their dysfunctional Bluff operation, as it allows them to continue imposing punitive fines on clients who do not intend to avoid fair and reasonable parking charges.

After my experience I regard Wilson Parking's Bluff operation as incompetent, fraudulent or both. News reports indicate Wilson Parking constantly violates legal requirements that transactions must be fair and reasonable, as well as industry behaviour protocols they have signed up to.

Their operation should be a concern to Island residents who park their vehicles in Bluff, and to visitors travelling to the Island by ferry. Neither will be impressed by being informed they have gratuitously incurred punitive fines.

- P J Clarke

'Stewart Island Boats'

Written and published in 2008 by the Rakiura Heritage Trust, the 'Stewart Island Boats' book proved to be far more popular than anticipated. A print run of only 1000 books was done as we had anticipated limited local and southern interest. The book however proved to be so popular that it is now highly sought after with prices up to \$300 for a good second-hand copy. RHT has decided to undertake a revision and reprint of the '*Stewart Island Boats*' book and we invite people to submit:

information and photos of boats which have come into the Stewart Island fleet since 2008

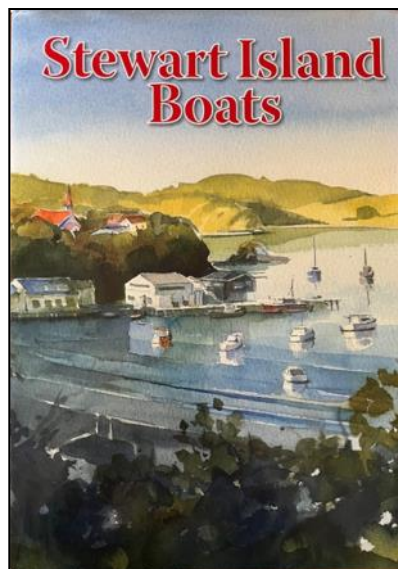
these boats need to have been built on, fished from or associated with Stewart Island/ Rakiura

we are also interested in photos of boats featured in the original book which may be of better quality and any additional information which may be of interest

Photos and information may be dropped off at the museum or sent to stewartislandmuseum@xtra.co.nz

The information will then be assessed and we will either need to borrow any images to scan to high resolution or we will help you arrange this so that you can send photos electronically.

Final selection of boats for inclusion will be at the discretion of the RHT.

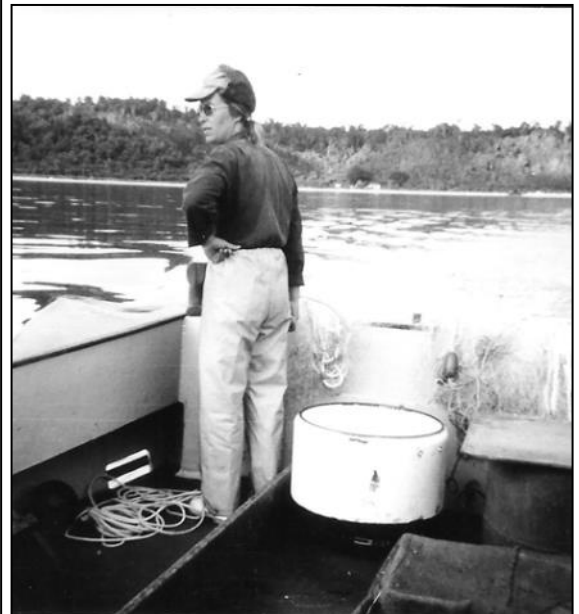


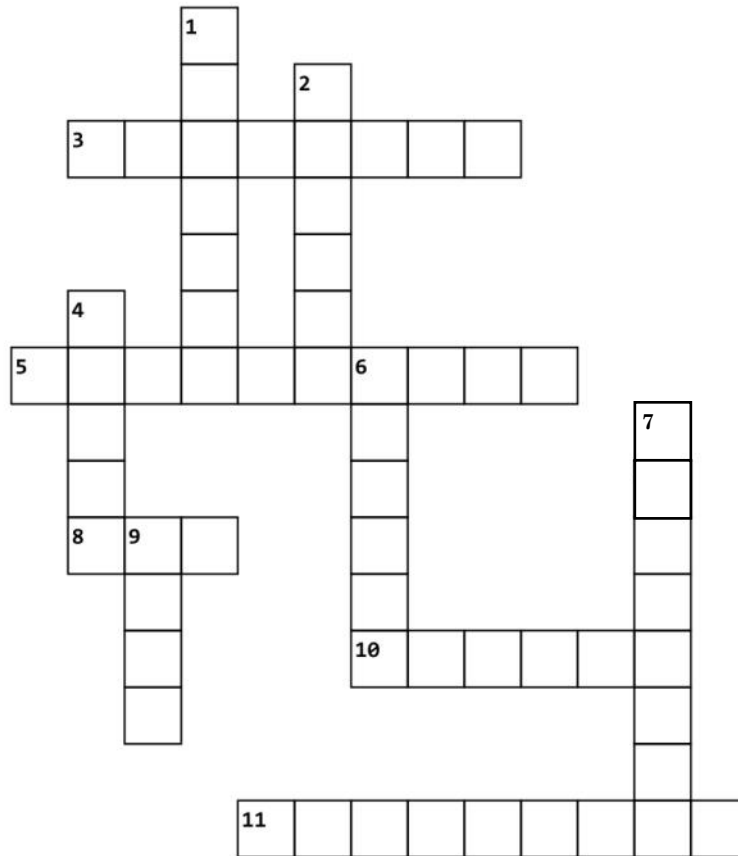
Pauleen Loretta Knowles

22 April 1937 – 5 April 2023

Pauleen Knowles, wife of the late Roger Knowles died in Christchurch on the 5th April. Pauleen and Roger lived at Horseshoe Bay, Stewart Island from the late 1960s until the early 1980s when they moved away to Wanaka. Pauleen fished with Roger on their boats *Cindy* and *Hilda J.* and was the County Clerk for Stewart Island County Council for several years. Pauleen will be remembered as a friendly, hard-working member of the Stewart Island community.

At the Rakiura Museum just inside the entry door is a beautiful model of the *F. V. Hilda J.*, donated by Pauleen.





Across

- 3. Acceptance of money (8)
- 5. Unremarkable passerby (10)
- 8. Knock over bin (3)
- 10. Flings blankets (6)
- 11. Tea with virtue never lasts (9)

Down

- 1. Definitely sounds coastal (3,4)
- 2. Pause on the radio has significance(6)
- 4. Tyrant drops head of state off at the Warehouse (5)
- 6. Lament a redhead bird (6)
- 7. Nice farmhand about fifty (8)
- 9. Heard hero was lazy (4)

A big THANKYOU to those who have already generously donated to the Emergency Helipad project. We are nearly there!

Any amounts to help us get over the line would be greatly appreciated. A reminder that our bank account is 031355-0609768-00. Please put Helipad in the reference field.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact either Kirsten Hicks, Julie Asher or Mary Chittenden.

Stewart Island News archives and contact information can be found at www.stewartislandnews.com

Keep up with island news on our Facebook page

Find subscription information for SIN on the back page

Watercress and Other Watery Woes

By Raylene Waddell

One of the latest victims of local coastal erosion is the set of concrete steps at Watercress. For those of us less agile than we used to be, slippery jetties block easy access at mid to high tide to the sheltered bathing spot just out from there. The steps made the beach easy to reach and on a sunny day they provided a comfortable seat from which to enjoy the lovely view and supervise the frolicking canine.

Alas, the steps and adjoining banks have been battered by the recent gales with considerable loss of earth and rocks. As the photos show, the steps are now separated from the bank and a number of rocks have fallen away under the wooden platform, which supports a cute old dinghy, made, I believe, by the late Ron Tindal.

The steps were built a good while ago, probably in the 1950's, when an amphibian plane, a Grumman Widgeon, provided air services to and from the Island. Unless the wind was easterly, the amphib. descended into Halfmoon Bay and chugged up on to the beach in front of the South Seas Hotel. If the gnarly easterly was blowing, the amphibian came down off Watercress, which must have necessitated some co-ordination with the tides.

Bill Hamilton was employed to meet the plane and he tells me the steps were built because the bank there got very greasy with the traffic of passengers' feet. This must have been before the slipway was built, surely.

Still chuckling at the memory, Bill reminded me of one passenger, larger than life in more ways than one, who made headline news because of the manner of his and the amphibian's less than conventional watery contact with Halfmoon Bay. On October 24, 1968, Selwyn Toogood was being flown in to comper his famous quiz show *It's In The Bag!* Selwyn was of imposing stature with a

personality and volubility to match. These attributes served him well in conducting his very popular quizzes but in this instance, the quizmaster's steady stream of patter proved a near fatal distraction to the pilot, John Hassett.

According to John, Selwyn kept up such a flow of interesting anecdotes that John forgot to retract the wheels of the plane, with horrible consequences for pilot, passengers and plane on contact with the waters of Halfmoon Bay. Thankfully, all survived and the show went on that evening, with Selwyn draped in a large blanket – suitable clothes could not be found at short notice.

What a trouper!





May 6 was a happening day. At Westminster Abbey our new King, Charles The Third, and his Queen Consort, Camilla, were crowned amid pomp and splendour. With little pomp but some splendour, here on Stewart Island/Rakiura two young trees were planted at Moturau Moana to mark the occasion; a totara for Charles and a miro for Camilla. Elaine Hamilton and Melinda Barnsdale, respectively past and present custodians/factotums of Moturau, had put their heads together and come up with this way of commemorating the event.

The splendour of these plantings lies particularly in the thoughtful choice of the trees. Totara are kings of the forest and miro provide a gentler, graceful presence. They are native trees, embedded in the culture of Aotearoa/New Zealand. But here's the thing; they are, albeit distantly, related to the European yew, so rich in myth and history. A golden yew, gifted to us when Ronnie and I moved here, was planted on the edge of the driveway. Behind it, the serendipitous offering of a passing bird perhaps, a totara is matching the yew's slow upward growth. The similarity of foliage is so striking it led me to check their lineage. Off to Google I went. Sure enough, they are distant cousins, as is the miro. Here's how—and my apologies in advance if the scientific names of plants aren't your thing. Plants are grouped in 7-8 descending categories, of which class, order, family, genus and species are the last five. Totara (*Podocarpus*) and miro (formerly known as *Podocarpus ferrugineus*, now *Prumnopitys ferruginea*, don't ask me why!) are members of the Podocarpaceae family, the order Araucariales and the class **Pinopsida**; yew (*Taxus*) is from the family Taxaceae, order Cupressales and – wait for it – class **Pinopsida**. Thanks, Google!

Coincidentally I have been reading a fascinating account of how Aotearoa/New Zealand came to be. *The Lonely Islands—The*

Evolutionary Phenomenon that is New Zealand by Terry Thomsen is a rollicking good read which describes - in detail but not impenetrably so - the comings and goings and the ups and downs of New Zealand from its place on the supercontinent of Gondwana onward. A good dictionary made some passages easier to understand. If you don't know – I didn't – what vicariance means at the beginning of your read, you soon will.

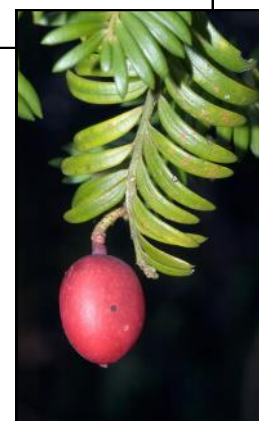
The point being that organisms once widespread across much of Gondwana got cut off from their kind by continental drift and evolved into different forms, while retaining some of the basic qualities of the original. So yew and totara and miro share an extended and noble lineage. Good choices, Elaine and Melinda!

Happy gardening!
Raylene



Melinda and Elaine planting a young totara at Moturau on Coronation Day.

Photos below of miro from NZPCN online. Another podocarp, fruiting prolifically on the island currently. Credits - Left: John Sawyer, right: Jeremy R. Rolfe





Holly - Ilex aquifolium
(also known as English Holly)

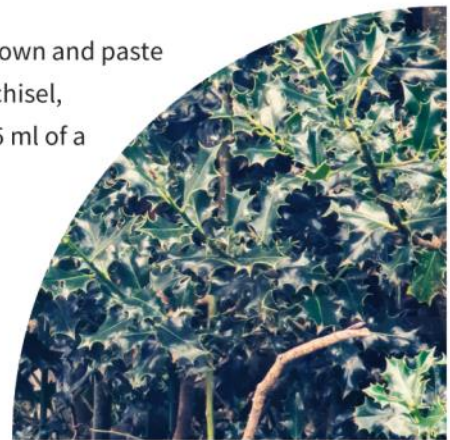
Holly is a hardy, long lived, evergreen shrub or tree. It crowds out native plants and competes for light, nutrients and water. It was introduced as an ornamental plant and most parts of the plant are toxic. Seed can be spread by birds, but it can also grow roots from branches touching the ground (layering), or sprouting new plants from roots (suckering)

To identify -Shiny, wavy, dark green leaves with sharp spines. Look for bright red berries over winter. White flower appear in spring. It can grow up to 12m tall

To remove - To remove - Pull small plants out by hand (wear gloves). Cut down and paste stumps with glyphosate, or picloram and triclopyr. Frilling using an axe or chisel, cutting with 5cm between (avoid ringbarking), then saturating cuts with 1.5 ml of a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (undiluted) or glyphosate (200ml/L).

Dispose of waste by burning or taking to the refuse station.
 Be careful not to spread berries when you do this.

Plant instead - Orihou (*Pseudopanax colensoi*), Mountain Holly (*Olearia ilicifolia*), Mahoe (*Melicytus lanceolatus*)



Fabulous Fungi
Community Exhibition
JUNE 15TH - JULY 15TH

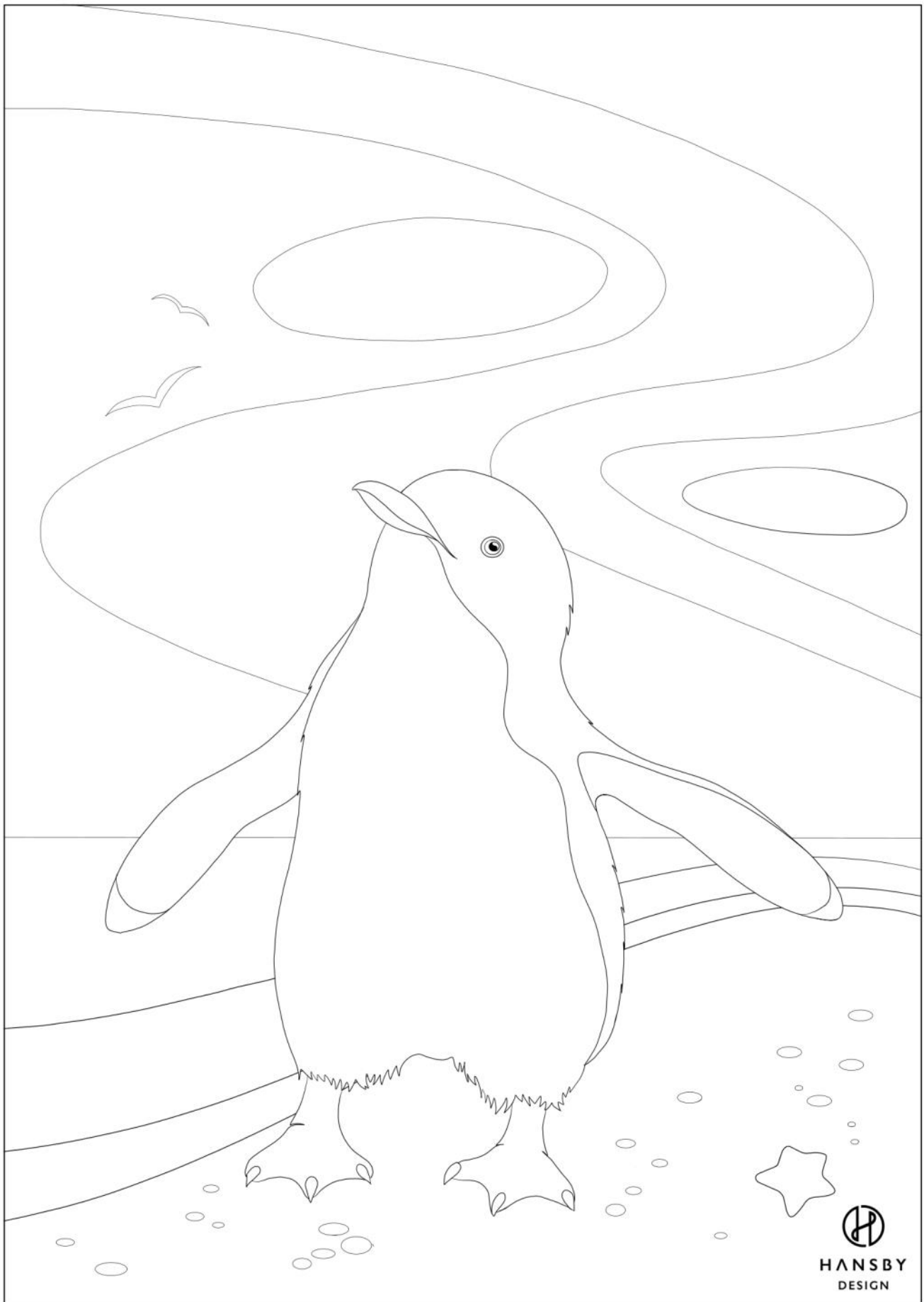
We are calling for submissions from residents and whanau with a connection to Rakiura of small format (<A5) original artworks featuring fungi
All ages, skills, and media welcome
To be displayed at the SIRCET Environment Centre
Submissions by 10th of June (3 max.)
Queries to:

<p>Emma Simpson-Boyce 020 4167 4160 community@sircet.org.nz</p>	<p>Bridget Carter 021 760 064 bridgetcarter@gmail.com</p>
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Community Nursery

We will be running weekly sessions at the Traill Park nursery on Wednesdays 1-3pm, and the last Sunday of the month (same time). Please come along and give us a hand to propagate native plants. Name suggestions for this are welcome, current suggestions are "Nursery & Natter", "Plantsquad", and "plant & Plot"

Email
community@sircet.org.nz for more info.



Colour in a Little Blue Penguin/kororā. If you want to share your completed colouring in, send it to stewartislandnews@gmail.com, with (or without) a story of your own penguin experience

WHAT'S ON?

COMMUNITY Meeting

Wednesday May 31, 6.50pm

Stewart Island Community Centre

Join us for an update on various projects, including:

- Golden Bay wharf development
- Health Committee
- RMLT
- Toi Rakiura
- Future Rakiura
- Predator Free Rakiura
- SIRCET
- Seniors' Cottage Trust
- DOC
- Stewart Island Promotions
- First Mate
- LandSAR

Everyone welcome. The evening will conclude with refreshments and networking opportunities.



William Hodges Fellowship Exhibition artists draw on Southland for inspiration ahead of show

This year's William Hodges Fellows have drawn inspiration from Southland to create works of art for this year's exhibition. The Artist in Residence and Fellowship programme has been running for 29 years. This year will showcase the two Fellows – Daegan Wells with his show *Finest Fuchsias* and Kyla Cresswell's *Tracing the Land*. This year's exhibition is a partnership between He Waka Tuia, Invercargill Central Ltd, Southland Museum and Art Gallery, and the Southland Art Foundation and will be held upstairs in a retail space at Invercargill Central, which has previously been closed off to the public while it was finished...The William Hodges Fellowship Exhibition will run from 27 May to 25 June on level one of Invercargill Central. Access to the exhibition space is via the ground floor elevator opposite Amazon or near the entrance to Farmers by the level one carpark area.



Excerpt from 24/5 Media Release by Invercargill City Council



Health Committee AGM Wednesday 21 June 7.00pm at the Library.

The Health Committee is a non-incorporated group of community members who work together to support and advocate for health care (for residents and visitors) as provided through the clinic.

All welcome.
Apologies to Kirsten – 027 325 1721

ANIMAL FLOW

This system is designed to improve strength, power, flexibility, mobility, and coordination for all levels of fitness enthusiasts. A group of us trains regularly here on Rakiura, normally on Wednesday early evenings. We can start very simply if this is where you are on your fitness journey. Please contact me if you are interested.

While on holiday during May I have had the chance to meet and train with 'flowists' from around the country, in particular having a 'jam' in Auckland with a group led by Auckland Regional Leader Sarah.

W J (Bill) Watt, Certified Level 1 Animal Flow Instructor,
027 495 9288.



Winter sports at the Gym

You may have heard a ruckus emanating from the Gym some evenings lately. That's because organised sports have resumed for Winter. Badminton is Thursday 7pm

Netball is usually Saturday 2pm and Wednesday 6pm. Keep an eye on Buy, Sell & Exchange FB page for updates. Cost is \$2 coin per session for non-gym members. It's a good way to stay fit (and more importantly, warm)



Kia ora koutou katoa,

I hope this message finds you all well. I am Sergeant Holly Mauheni from Invercargill, and am the Police reliever until 29th May 2023.

I want to thank you for the warm welcome back! I visit Rakiura regularly off-duty but also previously relieved in 2018, and am very happy to be back amongst your thriving community, seeing many familiar faces and going about my work with such a lush backdrop!

When considering what to write about, I wanted to touch on what strikes me each time I return; the unique roads, which can make driving challenging at the best of times, let alone as winter conditions approach. The combination of winding, narrow wet roads, poor visibility and pedestrians, white tail deer and kiwis can make driving hazardous. Therefore it is important to be mindful of the risks and to take necessary precautions to ensure everyone stays safe.

Some key tips are: be visible, take extra care when the driving conditions are poor, ensure your vehicle tyres are road worthy and wear your seatbelt.

Pedestrians - if there's no footpath, walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic. If possible, keep off the road, or as close as possible to the edge of the road. On corners, it's best to walk on the outside edge of the curve.

The focus of my patrolling will be on impaired driving. If you have a few drinks, please use the local taxi, a sober driver or the waewae express to get home. The convenience of having your car in the morning is not worth the risk to yourself or others in your community.

I look forward to catching up with you all.

Ngā mihi,
Holly



Thank you to all involved in supporting the Tautuku Cup, hosted on Rakiura, May 13th 2023.

It was a great Stewart Island Day, where those who visited from across the South Island were put to the test in different events, held around Oban. This involved first aid, stretcher carrying, observation skills, and more.

Thanks, from The Rakiura LandSAR volunteers.

Photos by Kev Carter & Dale Chittenden



Church Chatter - by Jo Riksem

A reminder that our Sunday Services until the end of October are the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10:30 a.m. with all welcome, followed by a hot drink and chat at the end of the service.

Our faith is not just something that happens every Sunday, but a walk and a talk with our Lord that happens moment by moment every day. He is there for everyone anytime, anywhere and I know from personal experience for that to be true. Sunday is a way of getting together, fellowship with each other, a sharing and caring time. It can be something spoken to you, a piece of music, a song, laughter or many other things that resonates with each person that makes this time special and worthwhile.

I saw in a chocolate shop the other day a box that said "Hug in a Mug, Hot Chocolate Care Package."



Shouldn't this be our daily goal, hugs and caring.

Speakers for June 2023

June 11 – Darren Christie from First Church, Invercargill

June 25 – Rev Richard Aitken from All Saints Anglican Church, Invercargill. Communion will be served.

400 Words – by Beverley Osborn

Just before the 2023 Budget was announced, there was a media focus on the income gap between various sectors of the New Zealand public and the difference in tax rates between wealthy and average citizens. Both are "gaps" but they are of different natures, because it isn't just income that defines wealth. For instance a person whose sole income is superannuation might be living on inherited property worth millions. The richest 10% of income earners have 27% of New Zealanders' wealth after tax but the wealthiest 10% have 59%. An "income gap" is therefore not the most accurate way of defining the difference between wealth and poverty.

A recent article by Carol Barron, the national co-ordinator for the social service provider, Methodist Alliance, suggested other criteria for defining those extremes. People who eat well, worry little

and have a good balance between work and leisure might be described as health wealthy. People ostracised by others, because of the manner in which they have acquired their considerable assets, suffer social poverty, as do all of those who are affected by discrimination because of the various societal prejudices. People with excellent workmates, loving family and satisfying jobs that unfortunately don't pay well may be described as having financial poverty but life wealth. And, of course, the reverse is obvious – a well-paid job with long hours that take a huge toll on social and family time would result in financial wealth and life poverty.

A country's economy structure is based on understandings common to the governing body. For some years there was a "trickle down" philosophy – worker earnings and hours would improve if those at the top were doing well. There was also the argument that

increasing taxes for the wealthy would be "punishing" successful people.

Shortly after the April release of the IRD research documenting the disparity between the tax rates paid by most NZ citizens and those paid by the super wealthy, came an announcement that a significant number of those super wealthy would like to pay more tax, a recognition by successful people that societies which are more equal are more productive, cohesive and healthy. Questions to ask ourselves.

What sort of personal poverty is it, if our wants are achievable only through the losses and hardships of others? Are we wealthy in friendships, health, contentment and surrounding beauty? What election choices will foster our values?

What's up, DOC?

Ulva Island eradication presentation

When: 21 June 2023

Where: Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre

Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara eradication

The National Eradication Team and DOC Rakiura staff are continuing to prepare for the eradication of rats from Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Work is also progressing on developing monitoring plans and upgrading the biosecurity.

The eradication will involve two aerial applications of brodifacoum, each taking a single day. These are weather dependent but planned to be undertaken after the school holidays in July and into August 2023.

Once the consultation on effects has been completed, DOC are providing the public an opportunity to come along and hear what the confirmed plans for the eradication operation are. This will also be a chance to hear about the monitoring plans and what is happening with the biosecurity upgrade.

Kiwi deaths

In early April a member of the public informed DOC they had found a dead kiwi on the side of the Kaipipi track. This bird was collected by DOC staff was sent away for autopsy.

In mid-April a large female kiwi (photo below) was hit by a car on Lee Bay Road. Please remember to take care on the roads. Kiwi are not able to move quickly enough to avoid a fast moving car.



Observation Rock

Now that funding has been approved, the Observation Rock platform contractor has ordered materials with an aim to start construction in mid-June or July. The area will be closed during construction and more information will be sent out to the community via a mailbox drop once we know the exact dates and timeline.

Northwest circuit reroute

A small reroute has been carried out between Port William and Bungaree around the Sawyers Beach area. This was to get around a particularly nasty section of track. The new section of track has opened up some spectacular views and is a much easier alignment for trampers. It's well worth a look if you get the chance!

Joint agency compliance trip

A joint agency compliance trip occurred between 16-20th March 2023 involving Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), Rakiura Māori Lands Trust and NZ Police. The aim of the trip is to visit hunting blocks and board boats to ensure firearm safety, correct hunting licences and permitting, compliance with fisheries rules and the environmental care code. 23 huts were visited, 14 boats boarded and approximately 130 people spoken to. It was great to see that in most cases people were doing the right thing. Sponsorship by Rainbow Confectionary and Hunting & Fishing provided small rewards for those showing exemplary practices while others were given constructive feedback on the rules and regulations of the respective agencies.



MPI checking catch during the 2022 compliance trip
Photo by Stuart Newton NZ Police

Southern New Zealand Dotterel population takes another hit



Jasmine the dotterel (GMGY) before and after a feral cat attack.
Photos by Daniel Cocker DOC

The Southern New Zealand dotterel (SNZD) is classified as ‘nationally critical’ by the Department of Conservation. Each year, flock counts are conducted to estimate the number of birds that remain. In April 2023, flock counts were undertaken over three days at Awarua Bay, Freshwater mudflats in Paterson Inlet, Mason Bay/Te One Roa, The Neck, and Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti. Based on the counts, we estimate that there are **126 SNZDs remaining**. This is a 13% population decline since April 2022, where 144 birds were recorded.

What we believe caused this decline

In 2022, Rakiura experienced higher-than-average rat numbers as a result of a mast event. This event created a greater food source that fuelled rat populations which in turn led to a larger number of feral cats. Once the feral cats ran out of rats to eat, they likely searched for alternative food sources. This is perhaps why the SNZD population was hit so hard

this breeding season. It is estimated that 40-50 birds died during the most-recent breeding season. Fortunately, though, some birds were able to successfully breed and fledge their chicks—thereby softening the decline.

Our response

Although the ongoing decline of SNZDs is concerning, the recovery efforts have been bolstered by the recent formation of a permanent SNZD Recovery Team. Four dedicated field staff are working on increasing feral cat control in dotterel breeding areas in preparation for the upcoming breeding season with the hope of increasing the population in the coming years.

Introducing new Biodiversity Ranger Kristen!

Kristen Clements has just joined the biodiversity



team in a 6-month role. She has moved from DOC Hokitika, where she worked on the Tier 1 team doing vegetation monitoring and tracking tunnels. Prior to this Kristen worked for a private company

doing pest plant control and vegetation surveys, as well as working in a bird hospital assisting vets with a range of avian wildlife.

Kristen has always had a passion for the outdoors, and realised she wanted to focus her career around conservation during her Master's. Having previously completed a Bachelor's in Geology, Kristen then focused her postgraduate studies on Environmental Science, specialising in Conservation Ecology and Biosecurity.

In her spare time you'll find Kristen skiing, trail running, fishing, playing football or piano, and tramping. She is really excited to be on the island and to get involved with the community and general island life. Please say hi, as she's always keen to meet new people!



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

**Congratulations
to Bec and Ty on the
birth of their son, Finn**



SEA KAYAKING WITH BILL



'Local' Paddle

The bays, islets and inlets between Golden Bay and Ryans Creek or

Te Wharawhara (Native Is). 2 – 2/12 hr on the water. 1 – 2 people. \$90.00 each

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Water taxi one way. Explore the northern shore of Te Waka a Te Wera (Paterson Inlet) between Millars Beach and Golden Bay. A day trip involving 3 – 3 ½ hr paddling. Min/max 2 people. \$200 each.

Settled weather only. Prior booking essential.

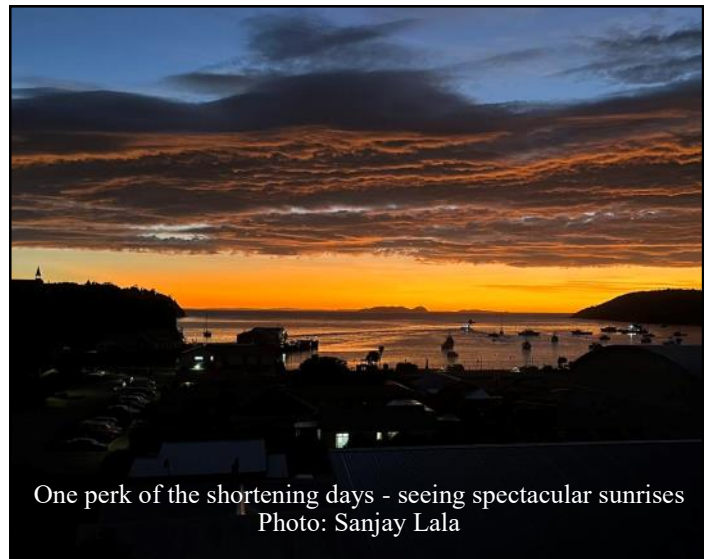
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One perk of the shortening days - seeing spectacular sunrises
Photo: Sanjay Lala

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