

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

MAY—JUNE 2009

\$2.50

Two big events on the horizon will generate publicity for the Island. **The Stewart Island Singles' Ball** date is set for 22nd August. Last year money raised from the event went to Stewart Island Walk for Life, the SI Players, Ronald McDonald House, the community swimming pool, the Alzheimer's Society, and the ball's new website. **Kakapo Encounter 2009** will run from 26th September to 26th October, and money raised will go to the upkeep of Ulva Island through the Ulva Island Charitable Trust (p 15).

Goodbye to our nurse **Val** and thanks for taking care of us over the years. Good luck on your adventures overseas—we'll miss your unique brand of humour!

Earthrace spent two days in Halfmoon Bay— this strange-looking vessel is the world record breaking powerboat for circumnavigation of the globe running on 100% bio-diesel. Speaking of biodiesel...a guy is experimenting with it and needs



PHOTO: Corinna Gittens Arnold

The Rugrats visit the *Earthrace* which spent two days at Halfmoon Bay Wharf. For RUGRAT NEWS see page 6.

your help. If you have a **lister diesel motor** or something like it please see page 14.

Foveaux Strait **white pointers** are thrashing about in the May issue of *New Zealand Geographic*—check it out. Recent encounters between surprised humans and large sharks have taken place in Evening

Cove, near Edward's Island, and just off Acker's Point.

Winter is here and we're struggling to keep warm! The Library's book flavour-of-the-month is **HEAT**, and be sure to read Power Pete's excellent and informative article below. —Jess



Read more about this kakapo chick in the *Oban Globetrotter* page 4.

The cost of staying warm

by Pete Wilson

With winter fast approaching I thought I would look at the cost of heating the house. The house I live in has two heat sources, a diesel fire and a small heat pump. As it happens my heat pump is on a separate power meter and I have kept records of the meter reading since it was installed in April 2008 so it is easy to calculate exactly how much

power it has used in the past 12 months.

The diesel fire is not quite so easy as I don't have written records so can only go from memory of how much was in the tank when

Inside:

Book Review	15
DoC	3
Garden Circle	16
Library	14
Promotions	13
Rakiura Riddle	14
Yellow-eyed penguins	11
<i>And much more!!</i>	

(Continued on page 8)

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So after all has been said and done, it looks like the Community Centre has made a net profit of approximately \$5,300.00 from the Barn Dance this past Easter!!

Again, we would like to thank everyone who helped us in achieving this goal. These funds have paid for over half of the new gym equipment! The Mussel Kebab sales were a hit and the straw bales went like hot cakes. In other news, visit to Community Board for information/contact info on playing social Netball—put your name down because it should be starting soon!

—Casey

Stewart Island
Stewart Island
Community Centre Trust
Community Centre Trust



Te Rohe Pōtae O Murihiku

Council approves land use consent for Youth Hostel

The Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand has been granted land use consent to build a new youth hostel on Stewart Island.

The Southland District Council's resource management committee granted the land use consent to build the two-storey 54-bed hostel and education centre on Excelsior Road with 21 conditions, which include

Council resource management manager Bruce Halligan said the committee heard submissions from both the applicant and a neighbour of the site, who is opposed to the development.

"The committee felt the potential adverse effects from the proposal could be suitably mitigated by the conditions imposed.

"The committee considered there will be positive effects for the Stewart Island community from this development and although it understood the concerns of the submitters, the committee believed the applicant has provided a comprehensive draft proposed management plan for the operation of the facility and has volunteered a number of noise attenuation measures," Mr Halligan said.

One of the conditions imposes a requirement that the noise management plan be amended to deal specifically with management of noise between 10pm and 7am, which was a particular concern of the submitters.

Presentation of findings: The Economic Impacts of Tourism on Rakiura/Stewart Island

Over the 2009 summer season, the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI) conducted research funded by the Ministry of Fisheries which looked at developing a better understanding of the economic impacts that marine tourism activities have on Rakiura/Stewart Island.

We wish to thank local residents and businesses for their contribution to this research. We would now like to invite the community of Rakiura/Stewart Island to learn more about the outcomes of this research. Professor Simon Milne and Tina Buch of NZTRI will make a presentation on the findings from the surveys focussing on building stakeholder awareness of marine tourism and its impacts.

The presentation will be of an hour's duration including time for questions. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to further mix and mingle. Refreshments provided.

**Thursday June 18, 1-2pm,
the RSA Pavilion, Stewart Island**

For more information, please contact:

Tina Buch

Ph: 09 921 9999 ext 6396

Email: tbuch@aut.ac.nz



DOC Spot

Kakapo chicks on show

The public will have two opportunities to see one of the world's rarest parrots this year. A public day to view some of this season's kakapo chicks is being held at the Invercargill Workingmen's Club on the 23rd of May, from 10am to 4pm. This event is being hosted by Kakapo Recovery - a partnership between the Department of Conservation, Rio Tinto Alcan New Zealand and Forest & Bird. Then in September Sirocco is returning to Stewart Island. The Ulva Island Trust will host this charismatic Kakapo on Ulva Island for public viewing from the 26th of September to the 26th of October. In 1995 there were just 51 kakapo alive. Today the small but increasing population sits at 124, with the majority of the birds living on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island, near Stewart Island. Very few people actually get to see this critically endangered species in their natural habitat, these viewing events offer a rare opportunity to see just how unique these birds are. Don't miss out!

Hunting Block Bookings

The high cost of continuing to offer a hunting block system on Stewart Island / Rakiura has been a concern to the Department for a number of years. Over 800 hours of staff time are spent each year administering the current system that allows hunters to book a block up to 12 months in advance. Over the years, this cost has seen most other areas around the country abandon the block system in favour of open permits. The overwhelming

feedback the Department received following the release of its first discussion document for the Rakiura planning process was that hunters wanted the block system on Stewart Island / Rakiura retained. In the current financial climate that is hard to justify without some cost recovery being put in place and it is for this reason that an administrative charge of \$30 will be applied to all new hunting block bookings made from the 1st of July 2009. This administrative charge will just apply to hunting block bookings – applications for permits to hunt the Open Zone will not attract any charges. There are no restrictions to the number of parties that can be issued permits to hunt the Open Zone and these permits can be issued for period of up to twelve months. The Department hopes that the introduction of the \$30 administrative charge will also help to maximise hunting opportunities on the island, making hunters who have booked a block 12 months in advance think twice before cancelling the block at the last minute, effectively too late for another party to take advantage of the opening. The Department is also looking at providing better information on the DOC website about hunting opportunities here on the island, including hunting block availability. If anyone has any concerns about how this charge will be applied and would like to discuss it further, they are welcome to tele-

phone Sharon on 2190004.

Tagging success

The white shark tagging programme carried out around Bench, Bunker and Edward's Islands between 23 March – 4 April 2009 was the most successful since tagging was first attempted at Stewart Island in March 2007. This year a total of 16 individual sharks ranging between 2.2m and 4.8m in length were photographically identified. Nine of which were tagged with pop-off archival transmitting (PAT) satellite tags. Eight of the tags were deployed for nine months duration and one for 11 months. Previously tagged sharks (a 4.5m female tagged at Bench Island in 2007 and a 3.5m male tagged at Ruapuke Island in 2008) have migrated to the South Swain Reefs, Great Barrier Reef, off Rockhampton. In contrast white sharks tagged at the Chathams have migrated to New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kermadec Islands and the Louisville Ridge, all north or northeast of New Zealand. As this is the first time so many sharks have been tagged at the same location in New Zealand we are interested to see if they migrate as a group or follow independent paths. We are also interested to see if any visit places that Chathams Island white sharks have migrated to. Two of the female sharks tagged at Bench Island this year were also positively identified as sharks seen

together at Edward's Island in February last year. Although both were seen at the same location this year they were tagged on different days and were not seen together. The smaller female was subsequently re-sighted eight days later at Edward's Island. As the PAT tags are very conspicuous



Shack, a large male white shark tagged at Edwards Island on March 25, 2009

(Continued on page 6)



ban



Globetrotter

off-Island Adventures.

Matt Jones recently returned from Codfish Island where he volunteered for the Kakapo Team.

Adventures of an avian kind ...

One Stewart Island resident has had the enviable fortune of working with two nationally endangered bird species in almost as many weeks.

Matt Jones helped a team on Ulva Island catch 40 South Island Tieke, or Saddleback, in mid-April for a translocation project. The birds were moved to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary near Dunedin, the first time in 100 years that South Island Tieke have lived on the South Island mainland.

Barely recovered from the thrill of being involved in such an historic event, Matt was then invited by Brent Beavan to get involved in the volunteer programme on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island with the National Kakapo Team.

Juggling work commitments at short notice and disinfecting all clothing and footwear were just some of the challenges but with the help of work colleagues and a bottle of Tri-gene, Matt was able to seize this opportunity.

Matt crossed the Foveaux Strait with disinfected belongings sealed in plastic bags and made his way to the quarantine site in Invercargill where he was asked to change out of his 'street' clothes and shoes, and into disinfected attire. His belongings were then searched to ensure no seeds or nasties were lurking in velcro fastenings, pockets or boot soles before he was ushered into a waiting van and taken to Invercargill Airport; all very exciting! There, he helped Raymond load the plane with supplies, before the twenty minute flight taking in the spectacular sight of the Ruggedy Mountains, to predator-free Codfish Island. Raymond made a low flying sweep of the beach before landing expertly and (Kakapo Rangers) Chris and Phil came to meet them on the beach and wave off a num-

ber of volunteers who were leaving that day.

All the supplies are transported in sealed boxes and these along with Matt's belongings were taken to the hut. Closing the doors behind them, everything was then unpacked in front of the Rangers (just in case any nasties had managed to sneak in) but all was well and the team eagerly opened their mail and other goodies contained in the supply boxes.

On his first night on Codfish Island, Matt was asked if he'd like to join Chris and Phil as they were going out to weigh kakapo chicks. Just 200 metres from the hut as he tried to dodge the slippery tree roots and glutinous mud, Matt had his first close-ish encounter with this fascinating nocturnal parrot. Expertly camouflaged, all the trio saw was the disappearing behind of a mossy green shape crashing through the bush.

With just the beam of three head torches they made their way to a nest site and Matt got his first (disinfected!) "hands on" experience of kakapo as the Rangers weighed a wee chick while Mum was out feeding. All adult kakapo have small radio transmitters (similar to the Weka harness backpacks that SIRCET use) and Rangers search for a signal before entering a nest site. If Mum is there then they don't enter.

Satisfied that the chick's weight was good and it had no ticks or fleas etc, it had reached a suitable age (around 60 days old) for a transmitter of its own and so the Rangers set about fitting the harness. You may think from the photograph that this delightful kakapo chick has taken up poker or some such other card game, but in fact the playing cards are placed between the chick and the harness as protection while it's being fitted!

In this instance, noise from the undergrowth signalled that Mum was on her way back. They had no choice but to continue and Mum returned to see her youngster with three strangers and two playing cards. She wandered around the group keeping a close eye on

proceedings and she settled quickly once the chick was returned to the nest.

Matt's day time duties as a feed-out volunteer could see him out in the bush all day navigating steep terrain to reach feeding stations to supplement the kakapo diet. At the start of the day he'd be given a route and on a wall



board would be the weight of food required for each feeding station along that route. He'd prepare the food – in the Nut Room (go on, make your own jokes!) which was a sterile area where all the food hoppers were cleaned and stored, and supplementary food such as macademia nuts, flax oil and protein pellets were kept. For example, the board might say "Richard Henry 100g", so Matt would weigh the appropriate food into a hopper with Richard Henry's name tag, and so on until he might have, say eight or ten food hoppers.

The food hoppers would then be packed into a backpack along with a scraper, mediwipes, water and clean plastic bags to be carried for up to 8 hours a day. The route would show where the feed stations were and at each one the existing food hopper was removed (with the kakapo name tag) and put into a plastic bag (so as not to contaminate the clean ones in the backpack). The feed station and surrounding area was scrupulously cleaned and any food scraps were removed and also put into a plastic bag in the backpack.

At the end of the route he'd have a backpack full of food hoppers with the relevant kakapo name tags and feed station, which would have to be weighed and recorded so that the team know how much or little supplementary food the kakapo is taking. Once that was done, the food was put into a bin, along with the detritus that was collected from around the feed

station, to later be removed from the island. However, the bin that held these scraps had to have a George-proof lid (a log on top) to prevent George the Kaka from getting into it!

A feed-out volunteer's day is hard work but also extraordinarily rewarding. Pristine forest of Rata, Rimu, Totara and Kamahi; approachable birds like the Rifleman, Mohua, Brown Creeper during the day and Short-tailed Bat and Morepork in the evening. It's a great seabird nesting island too, with Sooty Shearwater, Cook's Petrel and a surprising encounter with a Mottled Petrel crashing through the canopy to bounce on

Matt's shoulder before hitting the ground!

There were just 9 people in the hut when Matt was there but there had been up to 30 during the height of the kakapo breeding season with Rangers working one month on and two weeks off in rotation. Fellow volunteers hailed from as far as Canada, Taupo and Auckland, so Matt was probably the closest to home as he could see Stewart Island from the beach every day!

He says: "It's been a great breeding season and it's a credit to the Rangers and volunteers as they work so incredibly hard. I'm so fortunate to have been given this opportunity and I can't thank DOC and the National Kakapo Team enough for this fantastic experience with one of the world's rarest birds."

For more information about the Kakapo Recovery Programme visit www.kakaporecovery.org.nz.

For your very own Kakapo Encounter, the Ulva Island Trust is once again hosting Si-rocco on Ulva Island from 26th September to 26th October 2009.

Visit www.kakapoencounter.org or contact the Stewart Island i-SITE on 03 219 1400.

—story by Matt Jones and Jules Retberg
Photos by Matt Jones

(DoC Continued from page 3)

we hope anyone sighting a tagged shark will report it to us. The position of the tag and estimated size of the shark may allow us to identify the animal and allow us to compare the position of the sighting to the position estimated from the data transmitted by the tag.

Rakiura Planning update

The Draft Stewart Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan received 316 submissions. A summary of submissions document is currently being finalised and will be available on the DOC website by the end of May. A wide range of comments were received and many of these comments related to the strengths and weaknesses of the documents' objectives and policies. The amount of detailed information people have included in submissions is appreciated. That information is being recorded to allow for full consideration of submissions against the draft strategy and plan. Further information on this will be available in the summary of submissions. Submission hearings are in the final stages of planning, and it is anticipated that these will be held from late June to late August. Submission hearings will be held in Oban, Stewart Island (opening and closing), Invercargill, Dunedin, and Hamilton.

Building bridges ...

The thrill of rocking and rolling on the old forestry style swing bridges around the North West and Southern Circuits will soon be a thing of the past. The Visitor Asset team have begun a replacement programme that will see all the old bridges with tired cables which have simply come to the end of their life span, eventually being replaced with avalanche bridges constructed by TeAnau Engineering. This particular construction of bridge is quick and easy to erect compared to building a swing bridge and are very cost effective. The first of the replacement bridges have already been erected - at Little Bungaree (12 metre) and Rakeahua (14 metre). They were both flown onto site using a B3 helicopter from Southern Lakes Helicopters (they're hefty bridges – each weighing about 1100kg), with the team taking just three days to remove the old bridge and erect the new one.



The new bridge at Little Bungaree

Undaria Report

Southland Conservancy has recently published a report on the Southland control and eradication programmes for *Undaria pinnatifida*. The report documents the attempt to eradicate the introduced seaweed from coastal Southland between 1997 and 2004. The report is being published electronically - for those who are interested, the pdf can be downloaded from the DOC website at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/threats-and-impacts/biosecurity/southland-undaria-pinnatifida-control/>

—Sharon Pasco

Rakiura Rugrats and the Community

by Corinna Gittens Arnold

Hello everyone. Well, it has now been one year since Leron and I have been on Stewart Island and that I have been teaching at the Rakiura Rugrats.

It has been a wonderful year and there have been many changes at Rugrats, and a lot going on.

At the beginning of term 2, the Education Review Office visited Rugrats to assess how we are operating. This included all aspects of the centre, from the teaching practice, right through to the governing practice. I am pleased to tell you that we got an excellent review. When the review is printed and sent to us I will publish the community page for all to read. We are all very proud of all that we have accomplished this year, both from my perspective and the parents, with all parents fully involved in their children's learning. Thank you to all those who have supported us over the previous year.

This year one of our focuses will be on including more about our local community and especially the Rakiura Maori's, including local legends, customs, local landmarks of interest and significance to the local iwi and local happenings. I would love to hear from any person in our great community who has any knowledge regarding the Rakiura Maori, or who would be interested in participating in the Rugrats learning through activities offered to the children, eg, Maybe someone would like to make poi with the children and teach them a simple poi song, or do some flax weaving with the children. We are open to all ideas and people who wish to be part of our fantastic centre, even if it is reading to the children.

If anyone is interested in coming along to a session to see what we are all about then please feel free to contact me, or come along to Rugrats and check it out for yourself. We are open Tuesday to Friday from 9.00am – 12.30pm. You can contact me at 097 or via the Rugrats phone on 027-7568*659. I look forward to hearing from our great community.

Waiwera South School's Senior Room Comes to Stewart Island !! April 27 – May 01 2009



Our first impression of Stewart Island was that it was going to be tiny. But when we arrived on the Southern Express we found that Stewart Island is far from that!. We discovered that it is a beautiful place filled with native birds and

plants. Our BIG adventure had begun! First stop was a trip on the Molyhawk semi-sub. It was great seeing the clean water and all the schools of fish. We had a visit and talk at the Rakiura museum to learn a little bit of history about Stewart Island. We checked in at Stewart Island Backpackers; they were going to have to put up with all of us noisy kids for 5 whole days! We paid a visit to the Department of Conservation and learned about native birds and plants that live on Stewart Island. We also found out about D.O.C trying to breed and care for rare birds. After a sleep and a feed we boarded 'Elwing' with the Elwing Discoveries crew Arthur and Barbara White. We learned a lot about boat safety. Peoples' confidence grew during our time on board Elwing that day, as many of us had never spent time on boats. Arthur taught us a lot about nature and what we need to do to protect it for further generations to enjoy. Then it was back to Stewart Island Backpackers for a snooze and reflect on our day. Off to Rakiura Kayaks with Liz Cave for



a paddle round, and to explore the underwater creatures at Watercress. Liz was great at building our self esteem up, she even helped one of our kids to overcome their fear of kayaks! Awesome! We then hopped onto the Ulva Ferry water taxi and zoomed over to Ulva Island. We found out that Ulva Island is a pest free island. And how Doc has had to work very hard to make it pest free, and what they do to keep it that way. While exploring Ulva we saw some of the native birds that came over to us for a nosey. We found that some

birds and trees can't live with rats on the island. After our walk around Ulva we headed back over to Stewart Island on the water taxi. And then back to the backpacker for some kai and relaxation. On Thursday we went for a day tramp over to Ringaringa . We did some rock pool studies with the help of D.O.C's Rocky Shore packs. We found lots of crabs and interesting shellfish. We used the magnets to collect iron sand from on the beach too. We continued on our walk after lunch, over to Deep Bay where we had a sand sculpture competition. And then went on to Golden Bay. We came back to the backpackers through the Raroa and Fuschia walks and Traill Park.



On the last night we went to the community centre for a roast dinner and to have our camp concert. After a great week at Stewart Island we steamed back over to Bluff. This time on the Fouveax Express. We would like to thank everybody that helped to make our camp possible.

We had such a fantastic time !!

*By Megan
Robson and
Matthew
Morrison*

– Waiwera
South School,
Clinton.



(Continued from page 1)

I started, how much I have put in since and how much is still in there today.

If I add 1 + 2 the deduct 3 it should tell me how much I

by gravity on 100 mili liters of beer, so a liter of beer exerts a downward force of 10 Newtons (unless it is DB of course which is probably much weaker).

Provided below is an energy conversion table to help us sort out *what's Watt*

Energy Conversions

	British Thermal Unit	Foot-pounds	Joules	calories	Kilo-calories	Kilowatt-hours
1 British Thermal Unit	1	777.9	1055	252.0	0.252	2.93x10 ⁻⁴
1 joule	9.481x10 ⁻⁴	0.7376	1	0.2388	2.388x10 ⁻⁴	2.778x10 ⁻⁷
1 calorie	0.003969	3.088	4.187	1	0.001	1.163x10 ⁻⁶
1 kilocalorie	3.969	3088	4187	1000	1	0.001163
1 kilowatt hour	3413	2.655x10 ⁶	3.6x10 ⁶	8.598x10 ⁵	859.8	1

used during the year.

Unfortunately this calculation does not tell me how much the diesel cost because I purchased some by tanker delivery and some by filling 20 litre containers at the garage. All of this was purchased at different times and the price of diesel has fluctuated wildly during the year. It was a cold wet miserable weekend so I decided to do a bit of research on the web to try to determine what was the most efficient method of heating the home.

This was an entertaining exercise and not quite as straight forward as I imagined but it did bring up some interesting facts *and fictions*.

The fuel options generally in use on the Island are: Diesel, Coal, Wood, Electricity, LPG.

To determine how much heat each type of fuel delivers I looked at a website from the *Edmonton, Alberta: Society, Environment & Energy Development Studies Foundation* rather than any supplier's information website so that the data would not be skewed for any commercial interests. Before we can use much of the information from North American Canadian or British sources the measurement units they use (British thermal units or BTUs) has to be converted to something we are familiar with. In New Zealand we use Watts or kilo Watts for energy measurement units.

A BTU is :
the energy required to raise the temperature of one pound liquid water by one degree Fahrenheit.

A Watt is:
the rate at which work is done when an object is moving at one meter per second against a force of one Newton. More commonly it is the downward force exerted

Conversion and Resource Tables

Table adapted from "ELEMENTS OF PHYSICS 5/E. by SHORTLEY/WILLIAMS, 1971.

To cut along story short 1 kilowatt hour is the equivalent of 3413 BTUs

From here we can look up what sort of fuel gives us most bang for our buck in kilowatts.

From the above table we can sort out the cheapest form of energy

wood cut by yourself	This cost can't really be worked out
wood bought	6.5 cents per kwh
diesel	12.6 cents per kwh
coal	27.6 cents per kwh
LPG and Electric heater	53 cents per kwh

Even bought wood at \$250 a cord is the cheapest on face value (not counting cutting your own wood) with electricity and LPG being the dearest by far. This picture does start to change a bit though when you look at the efficiency of heat delivery systems.

The above table shows us what each type of fuel costs per kilowatt of energy that it contains but it is not so simple. For a start you cannot get all that heat energy into your room. The methods you use for burning the fuel have varying losses (basically heat going up the chimney) but generally the more modern the appliance technology is, the more efficient it is.

Clearly though if you have your own supply of good dry wood which you have gathered yourself you are on a winner.

Burning wood for heat has huge variable in efficiency with open fires being so inefficient they are not worth

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

considering compared to modern wood burners which manufacturers claim to be around 78% efficient for the latest models. This however is the optimum efficiency and rarely achievable. To reach maximum efficiency the fire has got to have the right wood loading for the firebox, it must be cut to the right size (smaller is better) and very importantly it must be dry. The wood will still burn if it's a we bit damp but nowhere near its optimum efficiency. Of course the firebox must be in good condition too.

Next on the list is diesel. Manufacturers claim up to 81% efficiency for straight burner fires with up to 90% for the latest technology in diesel boilers. This is of course the optimum with everything clean and working well.

Coal is next on the list at 27.6 cents per kwh but again the same story applies as with wood fires, keep it dry and keep the fire clean and in good working order.

Electrical heaters come next, fuel cost is the same but electrical heaters are classed as 100% efficient because every kilowatt that goes in comes out as heat and none goes up the chimney.

LPG comes last at 53 cents per kwh because around 20% of the heat goes up the flew. Stand alone LPG heater don't have a flew but these are not recommended as you main heating source as they give off lots

of vapour and toxic or asphyxiating gas i.e. carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

There is one other drawback with fires that you don't get with external boilers or furnaces. Whatever fuel you use needs oxygen to burn and fires located inside the house drag in cold air from outside to feed the flame so this constitutes another efficiency loss.

When considering the use of electricity for heating nobody would want to consider an ordinary electrical heater as their main heat source but heat pumps are a completely different kettle of fish. They are very efficient.

Heat pumps don't actually make heat, they transfer it from outside to inside by a reverse refrigeration process (commonly known as black magic). Although it may only be 10 degrees outside there is still a lot of latent heat in the air and the heat pump gathers this and compresses it causing the temperature to rise and it then pumps the heat up to the delivery unit mounted on the wall of your lounge or wherever it's mounted.

The standard for heat pumps is that they are rated at an outside temperature of 7 degrees and must be able to deliver their full output under those conditions.

Obviously some are more efficient than others and the more modern top quality units can deliver their rated heating right down to an out-

side temperature of -13 degrees.

These too have their little foibles, they must be the right size for the house and installed in the optimum position to heat the room(s).

Good quality heat pumps can deliver 5 or more kwh of heat for every kwh used.

If we use the energy cost figure of 53 cents per kwh input for a heat pump then the heat output cost drops dramatically down to around 10 cents per unit and all that heat comes into the room, there are no losses.

Another advantage is that they also act as air conditioners providing cool air in the summer and the also act as de humidifiers.

The whole equation now changes to heat pumps diesel boilers and wood fires being pretty much on par when it comes to cost of heat delivered into the room. Wood may be slightly cheaper than an heat pump providing you can achieve the optimum efficiency and diesel boilers slightly dearer again than wood or heat pumps, there is not a lot in it though its more a convenience issue.

Wood burning is classed as carbon neutral whereas diesel is a fossil fuel and a limited resource. Wood smoke certainly smells a lot more polluting though especially if the wood you are burning is damp.

—Pete Wilson

Fuel type	Amount	Cost	Energy content	Cost per kwh
Diesel	1 liter	\$1.35 (delivered)	10.73 kwh	12.6 cents
Wood (air dried)	1 kilogram	Minimal if you don't count all the gear and time to cut split cart and stack. Or 26 cents a kg at \$250 per cord	4.1 kwh (approx)	Minimal if you don't count all the gear and time to cut split cart and stack. Or 6.5 cents per kwh
Coal (sub-bituminous Ohai coal)	1 kilogram	\$1.60 per kg	5.8 kwh	27.6 cents
Electricity				53 cents
LPG	1 liter	\$3.92 per liter	7.39 kwh	53 cents

Stewart Island Camera Club

by Sue Munro

On Wednesday the 15th April 2009 a meeting was held of like minded people interested in forming a Camera Club on Stewart Island. An enthusiastic group turned out with several apologies. The object of the Club is to learn more about our cameras, how to get your camera off auto and using manual and other settings and the art of taking better photos.

We will also have an assignment to complete each month and hopefully have some field trips, guest speakers etc. It was agreed to meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm, the next meeting was at DOC on Wed 13th May. Everyone brought along their cameras and manuals and we had a interesting and humorous hour learning about reformatting your CF cards, Stitching photos and ISO settings.

The assignment for next month is to take your camera off

auto and go out and take photos of ferns with rain drops or dew drops on, not too difficult to find in this weather, be creative and use some of your other settings, not auto. Bring your camera and connection for the computer or your CF card along to the June meeting as we intend having a look at our photos on screen, also if you can write down the settings you took your photo on, some programmes display all that when you down load them.

There is a 16 week course in Digital Photography at SIT for \$45 starting June 16th and another intake starting July 27th. Some of us have enrolled to do this if you want more info on this contact Sue on 2191327 or ismunro@xtra.co.nz and I will send you this to you. you do need access to a computer for this course. Come along we would love to have your ideas and expertise. Good luck and most of all have fun.

The next meeting is on June 10th 7.30pm at DOC

Secretary Sue Munro

Chairperson Eamonn Ganley

Halfmoon Bay

School had some special visitors on Monday 18th May. Bad Jelly the Witch brought her friends Winton Librarian Willie Solomon, special guest speaker Marcus Akuhata-Brown, and Mayor Frana Cardno, who entertained the children with a puppet show and songs. Inspired (and slightly traumatized) by an inebriated Quiz Master the previous evening, Willie and Frana taught the kids *"What Shall we do with the Drunken Sailor."*

Marcus was a great speaker and the children were temporarily transfixed by his tales. He talked about growing up in a tiny rural community on the North Island's East Coast. Nobody in his family had ever finished school and Marcus expected that he wouldn't either. But thanks to some inspirational teachers in his life and the encouragement of his mum, he became a prefect at his boys' school, and went on to university, became a principal of a school and then a diplomat who has travelled around the world speaking to at-risk youth and meeting world leaders.

He asked the students what characterized a leader. "Nice," offered Meg. "Yes," said, Marcus, "That's why Mayor Frana is a good leader, because she keeps her Bad Jelly side suppressed."

Marcus recalls seeing Prince Charles at a conference in a Scottish Castle. He explained that if you want to meet someone you need to make eye contact. So he eyeballed Prince Charles as he approached him, and got closer, and then passed right by him. "So I plucked my courage from the inside, because that's where courage lives," he said, "And I said to the shiny spot on the back of his head, 'Pleased to meet you!' and he turned around and said 'Pleased to meet you' and that's how I met Prince Charles."

He recalls another party: "I saw a poor African fella standing all by himself in the corner. I thought *He must be shy, I'll be his mate* so I went up and said 'Pleased to meet you! Where are you from?' 'I am from Swaziland,' said the man. "What do you get up to in Swaziland?" I asked. 'I am the King,' he said. *Whoops!* So that's how I met the King of Swaziland. He has seven wives and 99 half brothers and sisters. You can ask your teacher about that later."

Dozens of countries were represented at the conference, and they were to vote for someone to be their leader. "There was a man

from Botswana, and if said 'It's cold' everyone went 'Brrr' and I thought, *I'll vote for him,*" said Marcus. "Then there was a man from Asia who had written five books... and I thought *I'll vote for him.* Then a woman from Barbados walked by and I thought *Wait...I'm voting for HER!*" But in the end, they all chose Marcus!

He has met Nelson Mandela and Tony Blair, and he's been to the United Nations. "I was invited to go to the White House to meet Obama," said Marcus, "But I had an appointment on Stewart Island."

Marcus ended his talk with a motto comprised of ten two-letter words:
IF IT IS TO BE
IT IS UP TO ME

—Jess



Willie, Frana and Marcus went a bit off-script with their version of *Three Billy Goats Gruff* in which the big billy goat apparently relished the prospect of being eaten. The adults ended up in hysterics and the kids were amused but confused. Mayor Frana said "I'd be surprised if you found this version in print" when Sophie wondered which book they used. "The troll has some issues now," said Marcus. "He's going to need some counselling."



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.

As usual, the onset of another winter is a quiet time for penguin workers, and hopefully for the penguins as well. Most of our yellow-eyed

friends should have finished their annual moult and be settling in to a feeding, preening, sleeping routine until their interest in breeding is rekindled around August. The little blue penguins should be doing much the same, while Fiordland penguins have disappeared completely to who knows where. These are the crested ones that breed in small colonies amongst rock jumbles and in caves usually quite close to the coast, and are sometimes referred to as rockhoppers (although rockhoppers are a completely different type of penguin not often seen around here). They are also sometimes mistaken for yellow-eyed penguins, but are smaller and stocky with a stout heavy looking bill, and are a dark blue black colour on their backs, where as yellow-eyed penguins are a slate blue-grey and have a relatively slender bill. Where these Fiordland penguins go each year after they have finished breeding and moulting is yet another penguin mystery – they disappear from their inshore feeding and breeding haunts in March and reappear in July. Speculation is that they spend the intervening months feeding somewhere out in the Southern Ocean, not coming ashore at all. It would be interesting to know where they go, but we still have yellow-eyed penguin mysteries to ponder over at present.

Five years of monitoring followed by a repeat population census has shown us that the population of yellow-eyed penguins is declining on the Anglem coast, and that this decline is apparently not occurring else where around the coast. We know that chicks on the Anglem coast die from disease and starvation each year, but not exactly why these chicks are starving and succumbing to disease when other chicks are not. To find answers we will need to embark on another, more detailed and specific study which will no doubt be costly to carry out. The first task is to design and cost out

this further study so that we have something to present to funding providers. It starts with a review of the information we already have, not just from the Trust's study but also from the numerous other research projects which have been completed recently, so that we can identify gaps in our knowledge and work out how to fill them. There's a lot of both – information and knowledge gaps – and piecing it all together is quite a challenge for someone with no tertiary education! It's a bit like those "put the shape into the right hole" pre-school



Yellow-eyed penguins preening

games, but on a higher level. I'm learning a lot of new terminology, like "plasticity" which means the ability to adapt or change. For example, our yellow-eyed penguins are creatures of habit and have low plasticity – they generally go to the same place to feed and gather food for their chicks. Then, when something happens to the food supply they don't know where else to go, and keep going back to the same place they've always gone to even though the food isn't there any more. Not particularly sensible behav-

our for survival, but it is apparently indicative of species that have become used to living in a very stable environment and have become very specialized. As we all know, when times are tough and changeable the generalists survive and the specialists struggle. There are lots of little pieces of information like that to be considered, and given the current weather it seems like a pretty good way to spend the days!

Sandy

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Getting on top of a weedy moss (*Selaginella kraussiana*)

by Brent Beaven

For the last six years, the Department of Conservation (DOC) has been trying to eradicate a very small weed from Stewart Island. Why, you might ask, is this newsworthy? The answer to that is that although tiny, this weed has the potential to have a huge impact and after years of trials and effort, DOC has only recently found a successful method of eradication.

The weed is *Selaginella kraussiana* or African Club Moss. It is a primitive type of plant that evolutionally fits between mosses and ferns. *Selaginella* likes living in cool damp areas, and particularly appears in areas of disturbed soil.

Selaginella was able to be purchased from nurseries up until about eight years ago. Unfortunately, *Se-*

laginella is a far more effective groundcover than desirable. In the places where *Selaginella* has grown uncontrolled in New Zealand, it has spread under the forest canopy and replaced our unique native groundcover, such as the native orchids. In private gardens where *Selaginella* has been undiscovered it has spread over other desirable plants, and replaced grass in lawns. DOC is very keen to ensure that *Selaginella* does not get into the Rakiura National Park.

Selaginella is a difficult plant to control. This is both because it is a relatively new invasive weed (therefore there is little research to base our control programme on) and because of the nature of its reproduction. *Selaginella* spreads by spores and plant fragments. These spores or fragments can be carried by footwear, cloth-



ing, animals, and also by lawn mowers and lawn clippings. Therefore physical methods of removing *Selaginella*, such as digging up plants, may actually spread

spores further. For this reason spraying *Selaginella* is the most effective form of treatment. On top of this, it grows very, very quickly; able to completely re-grow within six months of control.

Finally, after five years of trials and effort, DOC staff on Stewart Island have worked out how to control this creepy little moss. The key

to this is an organic herbicide (BioWeed Herbicide) and regular treatments (4-6 weekly). BioWeed Herbicide is a certified organic spray made from the resin of pine trees, that biodegrades within three days and leaves no residue in the soil. BioWeed Herbicide is non-systemic; it simply works by desiccating vegetation, it does not travel to the roots of plants. It is also safe for all animals, including birds, bees and reptiles.



Revisits every 4-6 weeks has proven to be the key to successful eradication. *Selaginella* spores are very resilient to control. Our aim is to visit sites regularly and kill the spores as they germinate, which will eventually eradicate *Selaginella* from Stewart Island. One benefit of this new method is that less chemical is being used as plants are treated at a smaller size. However, because spores in the soil are still germinating, it does rely on regular and consistent visits to sites.

Contact details:

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Programme Manager
Biodiversity, Stewart Island.
Ph 03 2190007 or 0273819628

Stewart Island Promotions Association update

by Chairperson, *Ulva Goodwillie*

I always start off this update by stating what was said at one of the earliest meetings of the Stewart Island Promotion Association; our Association is all about promoting our Island to the rest of the world and that ethic has not changed to this day.

The cooler weather has arrived with some welcome rain after we had a few homes with very low water in their tanks; however I think we have probably had enough now. Its peculiar how this weather accompanies Queenstown School when they arrive for their annual camp on Stewart Island.

I trust that everyone has had a successful season - there still seem to be a few visitors arriving but this is definitely the time for a winding down for the winter and an opportunity to catch up for most businesses. I went to a Tourism Advisory Group meeting held by Venture Southland and Fiordland Tourism last month which was attended by a wide range of operators and businesses in the wider Southland area. Despite the media doom and gloom reports, most anecdotal evidence was focused on how busy everybody had been, the quality of tourists we attract to this part of the world, and discussions around changing travel patterns and the need to be competitive in our changing environment.

It was really about working on our businesses, improving our product and processes, giving packages and added value and striving for the highest level of customer service throughout our businesses (internal and external) and to put systems into place to achieve this. Much emphasis was put on keeping up our marketing efforts so that visitors know that you are here. Stewart Island Visitor Centre plays a key role in selling our activities and accommodation to every visitor that enters the red shed building.

Remember that the Stewart Island website is still work in progress. If you wish to alter your listing remember to send your application in to our secretary, Colleen. We always meet on the first Thursday of each month to action these requests.

We completed the Annual Plan for 2009/10 at our recent Executive meeting earlier this month in preparation for the Annual General Meeting on the 28th - the last Thursday of this month. It was with much regret that we accepted the resignation of Matt Sillars from our Promotions Executive. His contributions to our Association were valued and we wish him well for the future.

The results of the findings of the online survey on tourism on Stewart Island will be presented to Islanders on **June 18th, 1-2pm, RSA Pavilion**. Representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries and NZ Tourism research through AUT University will attend. The presentation will be of approximately one hour's duration including time for questions.

Publicity for southerners to see kakapo chicks in Invercargill was promoted in the paper this week. It is going to be held later this month – it is hoped that this showing will help promote our high profile Sirocco on Ulva Island from 26 September to 26 October this year. Just keep telling everyone that this is an opportunity of a lifetime to see the world's rarest, most amazing nocturnal flightless parrot in the world - a chance not to be missed. It is probable that Sirocco will not be coming back to Ulva Island in the future so we need to take huge advantage of his presence here later this year.

Remember:

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
STEWART ISLAND
PROMOTIONS ASSOCIATION
FIRE STATION BUILDING
THURSDAY 28 MAY 2009, 7.30pm**
Cup of tea afterwards

See you there.

Keep warm, Ulva

Girl Guide Biscuits

3 varieties: Plain, great for fudge cake and truffles and Chocolate & Mini Chocolate.

\$3 a packet

All proceeds to

Girl Guides Association
Available till stock lasts
at Stewart Island i-SITE
Visitor Centre

Website-of-the-Month from Vicki

<http://www.naturallyorganic.co.nz/>

Naturally Organic started by offering Organic Fruit & Veg baskets from a Warehouse in Albany in 1998 to a retail store, now bursting at the seams, in Rosedale Plaza Albany. They do online deliveries of gluten-free, organic, dairy free, oils and baby food. I got some hemp twine from them and it was easy as to order and receive the goods! They even do organic veggies although I'm sure they won't be as good as ours grown here on the Island!

Tip: ask them about shipping, if they deliver your parcel to Invercargill or Bluff, it shouldn't cost you a rural fee.



Thanks to Margaret Rooney, Lesley Gray and Jenny Gell for donations and to DoC and Megan for donating desks for our computers.

We now have the latest from Jodi Picoult, Wilbur Smith, Jonathan Kellerman, Alexander McCall Smith, Harlan Coben and Annie Proulx. Warning: some of the stories in Proulx's latest collection *Fine Just the Way it Is* are severely depressing. A few people have asked how to pronounce the name of the author of the *Shipping News*: it's *proo*, rhymes with *loo*.

New Kiwi titles include *First Catch Your Weka*, a delightful history of New Zealand cuisine. And older Kiwi titles but new to our shelves are *The Colour* by Rose Tremain and *Classical Music* by Joy Cowley.

Contemporary literature includes *Netherland* by Irishman Joseph O'Neill, a beautifully written story spanning 1999-2005, the backdrops the Netherlands, London, Trinidad, and New York City; the narrative revolves around the post 9/11 cricket scene in New York City. At once a love letter to the game, and an examination of marriage, memory, and modern life. Another good read is Paul Auster's *The Music of Chance*: the haunt-

ing tale of a man on a roadtrip who gets involved in a private, high-stakes poker game and ends up in way over his head. I recently finished *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Diaz which is an extremely original book, about half of it in footnotes which manage to impart a history lesson on the Dominican Republic, a place I've known nothing about. The writing is also richly spiced with Dominican Spanish slang, and it's a testament to the writer's talent that a second language and heavy footnotes just seem to flow off the page into your brain, so you come away with a headful of history and Spanish language while reading a compelling story of love, sex, fate and family spanning three generations.

New DVDs include three Agatha Christie goodies.

Myanmar, African civil war, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan have all been in the news, if you'd like to read more about these places check out some of these books: *A Long Way Gone* (966.404), and Egger's *What is the What* report on African civil war from the ground. *Anil's Ghost* by Michael Ondaatje (don't ask me how to pronounce that one) author of the *English Patient* reveals some of the horrors of Sri Lanka's civil war. *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini) and *The Places in Between* (915.81) both have insight into

the workings of the Taliban in Afghanistan. And Larkin's *Secret Histories* (915.9104) and Mason's haunting *The Piano Tuner* explore the history and culture of Myanmar aka Burma.

We have two recent batches of new books from the Southland District collection so come have a look. Our Book Flavour of the Month is HEAT.

—Jess

One of our readers has grizzled about the unwieldiness of certain books—how they're too heavy or too fat to comfortably prop up and read in bed. I dropped by his house recently and over a gin he explained to me his solution. A uniquely Stewart Island fisherman's approach to a problem...he filleted his book! I am not making this up, see below for photographic evidence. It was one of those awkward social moments where someone is looking at you beaming with pride waiting for you to say something like "How clever!" and you're standing there jaw-dropped in horror, utterly speechless. In the language of books, I'd have to say *we were not on the same page*. Fortunately, this was not part of the Library's collection.



A boat turned U boat?... This boat ended up having a submarine adventure due to a bung-related whoopsy.

Fortunately the freighter successfully resurrected it and the intrepid vessel is under repair and can tell about the time it got to see Paterson Inlet's bottom.

—Photo by Bev Cowie.

RIDDLE-OF-THE-MONTH

A RIMU TREE IS MY HOME HERE
(TREES HAVE RINGS THAT TELL THEIR YEARS)

LOTS OF PEOPLE VISIT ME
(FOLKS WEAR RINGS AS JEWELLERY)

TOURING BUSES BRING THEM TO MY CURB
(RING'S IN THE ITALICISED WORDS)

PEOPLE TALK AND TUIS SING
BUT
DESPITE MY LOOKS
YOU
WONT
HEAR
ME
RRR...

Book Review: “The Boy in the Striped Pajamas” A Fable by John Boyne

by Gwen Neave

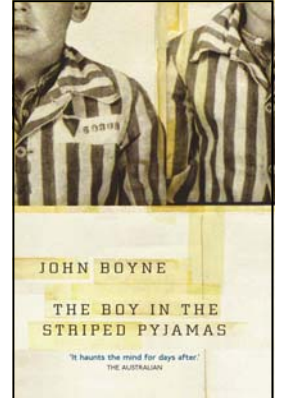
Fable n.1. a short story with animals as characters that illustrates a moral. 2. an unlikely story that is usually untrue. 3. a story about mythical characters or events. Collins English Dictionary.

John Boyne is an Irish writer who has created an unsettling and disturbing book which has as its central character, a young German boy named Bruno. Set in the days towards the end of the Second World War the story evolves through Bruno's eyes and voice as he records his family's move from Berlin to a place called 'Out-with'. The move follows a visit to the family home of a man Bruno calls the Fury who seems very powerful and influential and whom his father and mother wish to impress.

Bruno's observations written with a child's limited understanding make this a compelling read. We, the readers, are aware of Bruno's childish mispronunciation of the Fury's name and of the place to which his father is sent as Commandant. His innocence and gullibility are all the more chilling because of his naïveté and our insight. His pa-

tronizing manner is forgivable because he is a child and ignorant of the horrors of what lies beyond the wire fences he and his sister observe from his bedroom. His relationship with Schmel, the boy in the striped pajamas, is doomed because we know there is no possible fairy tale ending to this story. Bruno's blindness to the cruelty around him is staggering – he is oblivious to the horror of his friend's life, to the degradation suffered by the family's servants, and to the huge injustices inflicted by his father's officers. The reader is forced to consider whether their own blindness to the horrors occurring in today's world is any different to Bruno's.

The story's ending is inevitable because again we *know* with the benefit of hindsight, survivors accounts, and historical fact the full horror of the Nazi camps. Boyne cleverly reinforces the reality of the story's dreadfulness and its relevance as a fable to our world today in the closing sentences of the book: “Of course all this happened a long time ago and nothing like that could ever happen again. Not in this day and age.”



Kakapo Encounter 2009



Kakapo Encounter 2009 is going ahead!

Perhaps your business would like to set up a package to make use of this opportunity? Guests need to eat dinner, travel and stay at least one night, so there are plenty of chances to make sure it is with your business.

September 26—October 26

www.kakapoencounter.org

kakapoencounter@xtra.co.nz

REQUEST FOR LISTER DIESEL MOTOR

To the *Stewart Island News* readers:

I am at this time doing some simple experiments with alternative diesel fuels. These experiments are around common already available fuel types such as waste cooking oil and fuel improvers but are not (the more difficult) Biodiesel processes of caustic soda and methanol.

They are in fact blended fuels (literally in a bucket) and designed for simple diesel engines such as found in tractors, pumps, older cars and (in particular) Lister diesel motors or similar plant. They would best be described as alternative fuel and not true "Biodiesel" as people now understand the term to mean.

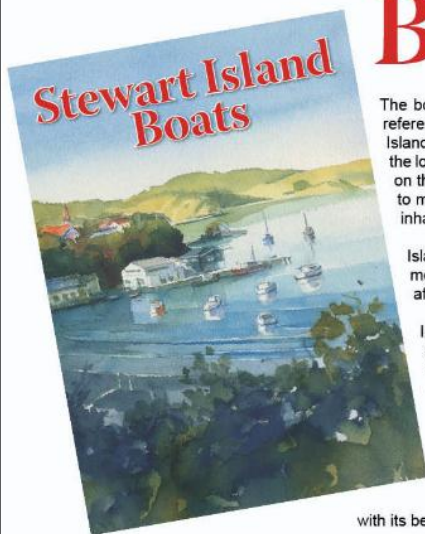
So, to get to the point. I'm after a Lister or similar diesel motor and since many of the islands' homes once had these and similar small engines running generators I was wondering if any were left that might be for sale or loan.

Regards,
Les Collins
Contracts Manager, water and waste,
Southland District Council

Email Les.collins@southlanddc.govt.nz
Tel 0274359652

Buy your copy now! Only a few left in stock!

Stewart Island Boats



The book *Stewart Island Boats* is unique. In one dimension it is a key reference to most of the known boats that have made the ports of Stewart Island their home. In another dimension, it is a community's quiet salute to the local skippers and crews whose livelihoods, and lives, have depended on the surrounding seas. This 'warp' and 'weft' of its fabric will endear it to many, and not just those interested in New Zealand's southern-most inhabited island.

Island communities depend on their boats, and individual boats become members of a particular family in an intimate way that far exceeds affection for a home, car or other possession.

In *Stewart Island Boats* we voyage through eras of whaling, timber milling, boat building, fishing, and tourism. Island history is implicitly there. Some of the boats loom large in national prestige while others have spent time in Stewart Island waters and are well known elsewhere in New Zealand.

This is not a book to be read from cover to cover, but rather it is a book for 'dipping into', and using as a reference. Boat users, boat lovers, regional historians, marine enthusiasts and all those with Stewart Island connections will find this book a treasure trove with its beautiful photos and wealth of information.

With more than 300 pages this book is a major achievement for the volunteers of the Rakiura Heritage Trust who have painstakingly collected and researched photos and boats that feature in the book. Run entirely by volunteers and funded by donations only, the Rakiura Museum will benefit from long-term sales of the book.

Published by the Rakiura Heritage Trust • Compiled by the Rakiura Museum Book Committee
Printed by Craig Printing Co. Ltd, Invercargill
Size: A4 (297x210mm) • Printed in black and white with a colour cover • Over 300 photographs

TO ORDER:

Send to:
Stewart Island Boats
Rakiura Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 114
Stewart Island 9846

Payment information:

Cheque
Cash
Direct debit Rakiura Heritage Trust
SBS 03 1355 0512149 01
Ref.: SI Boats

Delivery date: approx. 28th October 2008

Please send me:

_____ copies of *Stewart Island Boats* @ \$74.95 ea.
(gst included). Less 10% disc. for 2 or more copies.
plus \$7.50 postage & packing

Customer information:

Name: _____
Address for delivery: _____

Email: _____
Phone: _____

www.stewart-island-news.com

CONGRATULATIONS
New parents Robyn and Emily
Welcome Laila!

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany at Box 156,
or to editor@stewart-island-news.com
The next deadline is Monday, 11th June.

If you wish to have *Stewart Island News* posted to you or a friend, please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:

- 12 issues to an Oban address or Internet address \$24
- 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30
- 12 issues to international address \$54

Name of Recipient: _____
Address _____



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

The next meeting will be at the home of Wendy Hallett on Thursday 11th June at 2pm

Competition:
Moss/Lichen
Attractive Leaf
Edible



Thanks to Gwen Neave for organizing a visit from Mayor Frana Cardno and special guest speaker Marcus Akuhata-Brown and Winton Librarian Willie Solomon (not pictured). They entertained the Halfmoon Bay School with a puppets, stories and songs. Page 10.