

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

MAY—JUNE 2010

\$2.50

Last month, as I waxed on about whitetail, oysters and titi, I had a funny déjà vu feeling that I'd said it all before. So I looked up past April issues of *SIN* and it's true...this editor has been repeating herself for years!

Before this edition "goes to print" (an hour cursing my buggy computer and broken pirated pdf maker, emailing file to McDowell Print in town, waiting for Maurice to pick up box and drop it at SI Flight, and finally call from Karen saying *SIN*'s here!)...before all that, I peek at old *SIN*'s to make sure I'm not



Amber Leask has shared her photos of the All Blacks visit with the Halfmoon Bay School students.

just spinning out more same-old same-old. Leafing through the archives, one can't help but notice monthly themes (May's keywords seem to be *soup* and *fire*). Boring? Perhaps. But you could also say this is the particular beauty of living in a small community so close to nature. The local newsletter reflects the wild rhythms of the island, and becomes as much *almanac* as *yackity-yack*.

Anyway it's not *all* same-old same-old, it would take a Neptune-sized miracle to reproduce May 2009 which



Big surf at Butterfield Beach. Photo by Margaret Rooney

featured the doomed *Earthrace* on its front page. Strange to think just a year ago it was at HMB Wharf, Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" booming from its speakers, our rugrats scampering aboard. Now the rugrats are twice as big, ditto Lady Gaga's hats, and the *Earthrace* got its nose punched off by Japanese whalers and rests at the bottom of the Southern Ocean.

Anyway the point being...check out the archives. I finally updated them, they're complete 2005-2009 at [www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com)

**If you or anyone you know is using poison for rodents, please read page 4.**

### OBAN TIMES

Well, most of you know this story but here goes..... I'm Elaine Mc Hardy I come from Oban in Scotland, I had lived there all my life. That was up until August 2007 when myself and my partner Alan MacDonald (also an Oban local) left Scotland when Alan got a job at the Salmon Farm here.

Our local paper back home 'The Oban Times' publish photographs of locals reading the paper all over the world. We had always known we would send in a photograph of us reading the Oban Times here one day but kept waiting for a

(Continued on page 3)



PHOTOS: SECOND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

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### A word from our new Rugrats teacher Becky

It has been a few months since we moved to the Island, and I would like to thank everyone from Rakiura Rugrats for making us both feel so welcome. I feel extremely privileged to be working as part of the Rugrats team, and am thoroughly enjoying my time with such fantastic children.



Justin and I visited the Island last year, and enjoyed it so much that when the opportunity came up for me to work and live here, we grasped it. Both of us really enjoy the

lifestyle down here, with the fishing, tramping and general outdoors opportunities. Justin works for the Ministry of Fisheries, and so is away for a

month or two at a time on overseas fishing boats. Being on holiday when he is home is working very well for him, as the lifestyle here keeps him busy and happy.

Thank you so much to Steve and Janette for allowing us to rent your property. It is a beautiful house and we are very lucky to be here. It is so nice to wake up to the sound of birds rather than traffic and general city bustle!

Thank you for inviting us into your community and making us both feel very welcome. We are loving it here!

## Stewart Island Tourism Strategy Review

*by Margaret Hopkins*

Tourism Resource Consultants Ross Corbett and Debby van der Scheer, along with Lisa Buckingham from Venture Southland, recently met with a Steering Group of representatives appointed from various organizations on Stewart Island to discuss the review of the Stewart Island Tourism Strategy formulated back in 1996. A public workshop also took place at the Stewart Island Community Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to address the process, assess all that has been achieved since the last strategy came out and identify new issues Stewart Island now faces, plus opportunities that are now present.

The workshop was well attended by about 45 people from both the tourism industry on Stewart Island as well as other residents.

Debby van der Scheer outlined preliminary findings from a recent tourist survey carried out on the Island this summer by a student from Otago University. These will be analysed further and the information will form part of the Tourism Strategy document.

The group looked at some of the achievements since the first Tourism Strategy, which everyone agreed were not necessarily a direct result of any conscious implementation but which may have focussed the community and business effort over the past 14 years. These included the formation of Rakiura National Park and Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve, building of the Community Centre and a sewerage scheme, Ulva Island track upgrade, new motel, more food outlets, Rakiura Museum now more available to visitors, provision of hunter huts and improvement in business training standards.

Everyone present agreed that the Strategy needs to cover social and environmental issues, not just economic ones and also needs to consider the types of visitor Stewart Island wants to attract.

Some issues flagged in the original Tourism Strategy are still relevant such as the provision of booking services, different and improved dining facilities and an upmarket lodge.

New issues that arose from discussion included: the wharf and passenger unloading, mining and oil rig potential to tarnish our clean green image, internet and on-line focus for tourist businesses and clients, closure / winding-up of businesses, cruise ship visits and the lack of people with time, energy and expertise to drive projects and events.

Changes since the last strategy was developed include: greater visitor expectation for quality and service, the rise and fall of the I-Site, stronger focus on eco-tourism, renewable energy initiatives and recycling, and change in the focus from 'Home of the Kiwi' to general bird/nature paradise.

Challenges facing the tourism industry on the Island still include seasonality, staffing issues, small business owner/operator burnout, weather, lack of statistical information, and small businesses struggling to compete with the large marketing budget of bigger businesses.

Many opportunities for Stewart Island were identified such as conference venue / training retreat, winter art school or writers in residence, heritage trail, volunteer programmes for restoration and other projects, new Heritage and Information Centre, predator-free Stewart Island and the YHA project.

The most desired outcome for all those attending the workshop was that the quality of community life is balanced with viable tourism businesses.

Review of the Tourism Strategy is being paid for with funds secured by Venture Southland. Once a draft strategy has been formulated it will be put out to the community for further comment.



OBAN SIGN

Your queries, in the February issue of SIN, regarding the handsome Oban sign now standing on our Halfmoon Bay foreshore prompted me to ask Sandra Brand about its origin. Sandra was formerly married to Roger who was the Stewart Island County Council works foreman. *This was before the 1989 Local Government Act and Re-structuring when Stewart Island came under the newly formed Southland District Council.*

Roger had often said that the village deserved and should have a smart sign announcing its name to visitors and he set about acquiring timber to build one. Joe Cave actually donated the piece that Roger used and Roger did all the lettering himself.

If you look closely at the sign you may see where an inset has been made just below the letter 'O'. Sandra returned home one day for lunch when Roger was working on the design and mystified asked him why he'd carved a 'Q' into the board ahead of the other letters! Roger rectified his mistake by removing the tail of the 'Q' and making an inset in the timber to mask his mistake. Check it out some time. *Gwen Neave*

*(Continued from page 1)*

good opportunity, we wanted to do something a bit different and to find a really good place to take it from, what with us coming from Oban to Oban and all that. So it's all thanks to Doug Beck for restoring the gorgeous old 'Oban Township' sign because as soon as we clapped eyes on it we knew that it was the spot! I work at 'Halfmoon Bay School' as a teachers aide and cleaner, so we thought that the children on the Island would jump at the chance to become world famous and be in the picture with us...and boy were we right!

I asked Paula Brown to be our photographer, I told her what we were planning and she was in! Straight away full of ideas about props and costumes! So we all got together with our two and a half year collection of Oban Times (courtesy of Alan's Dad). We stopped traffic and generated quite a crowd wondering what we were up to, Paula snapping madly from the top of Alan's Ute! Cars tooting, passers by waving and shouting out to

us! The children were amazing models for the day rising to the challenge full of fun and eager to help: they did a fantastic job! The photographs speak for themselves! Well done Paula no easy task; not only managing twenty two kids but a couple of wind-swept and interesting Scots as well, you pulled it off in style!

So HUGE thank you's go to Kath Jonson for agreeing to let us do it, thanks also to Kirsty and Darren who allowed us to eat into Kiwi-can time! Massive thanks to Paula for doing such a fantastic job and last but certainly not least the biggest thank you of all goes to all the kids from HMB you guys are just awesome and you will all get your very own copy of the paper you star in to keep!

© Elaine and Alan ☺



PHOTOS: SECOND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY





## Rat Control around the Home

People may have noticed more rats around the home at this time of year. SIRCET can provide you with traps to get those little buggers! These are no cost to those within the restoration project area or available for cost price. \$6 for Victor rat traps for inside and \$20 for outside traps with cover to protect pets, children and wild birds.

If you have decided to lay toxic bait we also have *very cheap* bait stations available. These are a safer option for using baits around the home.



- Helps to protect pets, children and wild birds
  - Sturdy
  - Lockable
  - Bait can be secured inside
- Some rat toxins legally require containment in a station.

### Normally \$26, Purchase for \$11

Check the label and follow instructions for all toxin use

Contact Jessi Nichols on 219 1 291 or [jessi@sircet.org.nz](mailto:jessi@sircet.org.nz)

## Nurses News

The flu season is here and we are encouraging fluvax shots for all residents. So far this year we have doubled our vaccination rate.

As health professionals we are concerned about the use of poisons in the urban setting.

Over the past at least five dogs and unknown numbers of cats have either been poisoned or just disappeared. This is very distressing to families and a slow death for these unfortunate animals. We appeal to residents and organizations using either cholecalciferol or talon (brodificoum) to please use appropriate approved bait stations for placing poison baits.

Trapping would be preferred by us as poisoned animals can travel some distance.

We also urge residents to report any indiscriminate use of poison baits and sprays that are not being correctly applied to the Public Health South, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) officer; PH 2110900 Invercargill.

Your sincerely,  
*Martin Pepers*  
*Deborah Dillon*

Some of you may know that our dog Bruiser died recently. He spent time at the vets and at the time the vet could not diagnose him, as he didn't fit into any box. Before he was put down the vet opened him up to see if it was a gastro blockage. She found that his organs were coated with a yellow "goo". Again in 7 years of practice she hadn't seen this before. We asked that the pylorus (the bit between the stomach and intestine) be sent away for testing. One of the possibilities is that Bruiser died from Cholecalciferol poisoning. How and where he ingested this is irrelevant, what's done is done. BUT, Bruiser died a long drawn out death that was both horrible for him, and horrible for myself who spent 4 days in town with Kyla waiting and hoping that her puppy would recover. People need to be aware that even the MOST PET FRIENDLY TOXINS ARE STILL TOXIC...otherwise they wouldn't be called toxins. I urge ANYONE using a toxin (of any description) to use it in a bait tunnel that only rats can get to. Bait stations can be purchased at cost price (see ad) from SIRCET, contact Jessi to purchase them. All toxins need to be treated like they are lethal to non-target animals and used accordingly. Also people need to read the packages and follow the directions on them. Also be aware that some toxins have legal obligations ie, signage etc. Please before you use a toxin do your research and be totally aware of what you are using and how you are using it. I would hate for anyone else to have to go through what we went through with Bruiser especially at the end of it all when all we have left is a vet bill worth \$100s of dollars and a lot more questions than answers. Bruiser is not the only animal around the Bay to die of toxins. Risks to pets can be minimised by following the best methods. Consider trapping as a first method for pest control.

—Paula Brown





**The Island Beat**

In the last SIN I noted the feedback from an article placed in the February edition of the SIN. There were a number of issues raised. My views on the issues are:

**Pedestrians**

On the island there are well designed and maintained footpaths around town. Out of the town area there are few footpaths. Pedestrian use of footpaths where provided is generally good. However where no footpath are available Pedestrians have no choice but to use the road. They should however keep to the verge of the road where possible. In the two years I have been on the island I have not attended or had reported to me any Vehicle V pedestrian crashes. I have however attended a quite a few vehicle/scooter crashes. Drivers/riders and pedestrians have to take extra care on our roads because of their design and the large number of tourists.

**Cyclists not wearing cycle helmets**

There are cyclist on occasion not wearing helmets around town. In general I believe the percentage of cyclists wearing helmets is high. I stop and speak to every cyclist I see not wearing their helmet. However the community has many eyes and I only have two so do not see everything.

**Passengers standing on the back of Vehicles in an unsafe manner and Seatbelts.**

The driver/rider of a vehicle is responsibility for the safety of passengers. A few things to remember. Anything unrestrained in or on your vehicle will continue at the same speed (velocity) of you vehicle at the time of a crash. That is until it hits something or things and stops. If it is a head on crash that velocity is the combination of both vehicle speeds. If you are the driver and have an unrestrained passenger in or on your vehicle in a crash, the odds are they may be seriously injured and it will be your fault. 'Wear your seatbelt'

**Vehicles parking in the turnaround area at the wharf.**

We have the wharf rules because of the bottleneck. Don't be selfish if everyone follows the rules the area is more user friendly for everyone.

**Paua Shell**

Over the Christmas period there were two groups of entrepreneurial girls selling pāua shell on Golden Bay road and outside the shop. The three young girls and their mothers were unaware of the law and stopped selling Paua after being spoken to.

**“What about Mr plod are we running the show now”.**

Good Policing is not 'the strict enforcement of the laws of New Zealand' or the sole responsibility of the police. Policing is a community responsibility.

—Dale Jenkins



**SIRCET Habitat Restoration Project**  
Is after a few materials for possum trapping:

- White paint
- Wood for backing the possum traps (See pic) Any off-cuts or spare lengths that could be cut to size would be fantastic! Possum traps are 12 cm wide and they need to be about 40 cm long.
- Titi oil



If you have any spare or scrap materials that could be put to use, would be much appreciated!

Contact Jessi Nichols on 219 1 291 or [jessi@sircet.org.nz](mailto:jessi@sircet.org.nz)





**Absolution**

The anguish of the earth absolves our eyes  
 Till beauty shines in all that we can see.  
 War is our scourge; yet war has made us wise,  
 And, fighting for our freedom, we are free.  
 Horror of wounds and anger at the foe,  
 And loss of things desired; all those things must pass.  
 We are the happy legion, for we know  
 Time's but a golden wind that shakes the grass.  
 There was an hour when we were loath to part  
 From life we longed to share no less than others.  
 Now, having claimed his heritage of heart,  
 What need we more, my comrades and my brothers?

— Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)



PHOTOS: SECOND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Congratulations**  
 Happy parents  
 Jo and Kyle  
 and proud big  
 sister Zoe  
 Welcome  
 Guy Campbell!

Did you know the *Stewart Island News* archives from 2005 through 2009 are on-line? Just go to [www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com) and tap on Archives, then choose your year and issue. There is also a search function on the home page. (All SINs prior to 2005 are stored at the Library).

The Disney Channel is having a competition with 15 \$2,000 prizes to be won for community groups that benefit kids. Write to them about Rugrats or our school or Starfish and you could help them win two grand!! For details go to [www.disneychannel.com.au](http://www.disneychannel.com.au) and search for Handy Manny Community Comp

## **Community Centre News**

**Hours** 11-12pm & 2-3pm Wednesday, and Sat 9.30-11.30am, but I am available most mornings, just ring or text me.

Check out the black board and event timetable at the community centre it will keep you informed of daily activities

Tai Chi started on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm, this will continue for approx 8-10 weeks, so if you are keen come along and join us. Over this period you will learn 12 Sun style tai chi moves puts together by Dr Paul Lam.

Tai Chi is slow, continuous and circular, it has many health benefits, muscle strength, flexibility, helps reduce pain and stiffness. Any questions phone me 2191166.

**Does anyone have photos or information of work in progress and the building of the community centre I am putting together a timeline and photo board that will be at the centre permanently, so please come in and see me or give me a call and I could call in to see you, 2191166 or centre hours 2191477**

**Please come in and check to see if you have left a plate here from an event they are available on a table in the foyer** - during centre hours

Also please feel free to ask me about any other sports you are interested in having a go at. Come on it's all good fun.

Cheers

Diddle

Community Centre 2191477 or a/hr 2191166 or text 0272316305

### **A Big Thanks to Stewart Island from the SERN Group for a Great Weekend.**

From Friday 16th to Sunday, 18th April, the Southland Ecological Restoration Network (SERN) held it's first conference with a 'Bringing Back the Birds' focus. What a wonderful place for such an occasion. Attendees were mostly volunteers from throughout Southland, however there were also guest speakers from other parts of NZ, and we were all blown away with what we saw and heard. From the first night walking up to the backpackers, we were delighted to hear the kaka and weka calling out in the dusk, and then later the moorporks. And on Ulva Island everyone was impressed by the robin, saddleback, mohua, kakariki all browsing around on the forest floor - the wonders of a predator free environment, that so many of our projects aspire to. The

weekend was indeed inspiring for us all.

And on top of that, the wonderful food that we were plied with - a very big thank you to Holger at the South Seas Hotel, the Ship to Shore for the Saturday packed lunches, The Stewart Island Lions Club for the Saturday night barbeque dinner and the Rug Rats for the wonderful Sunday lunch - five choices of soup - amazing!

A big thank you also to Real Journeys who assisted with a reduced cost for the ferry trip to and from (despite the rough weather, it was enjoyed by many!) Also to the Hopkins for the use of the Aurora for the trip to Ulva Island.

Also thanks to the Stewart Island Backpackers - it was great to have everyone staying at the same place, improving networking opportunities.

To the Stewart Island project speakers, thanks once again - for SIRCET: Margaret, Jessi and Claire; for Ulva Island Trust: Peter Goomes and Brent Beaven; for Dancing Star Foundation: Kari Beaven.

To Sharon Pasco, DOC, many thanks for all your support.

So many thanks to all those islanders who helped to make the weekend such a success, including the birds! How lucky you all are to live in such a special place. Thanks for sharing it with us.

From the SERN Group - Gay Munro, Chris Rance, Edith Jones and Sheryll Ashton.

*Check out photos from the SERN conference weekend at [www.sern.org.nz](http://www.sern.org.nz)*



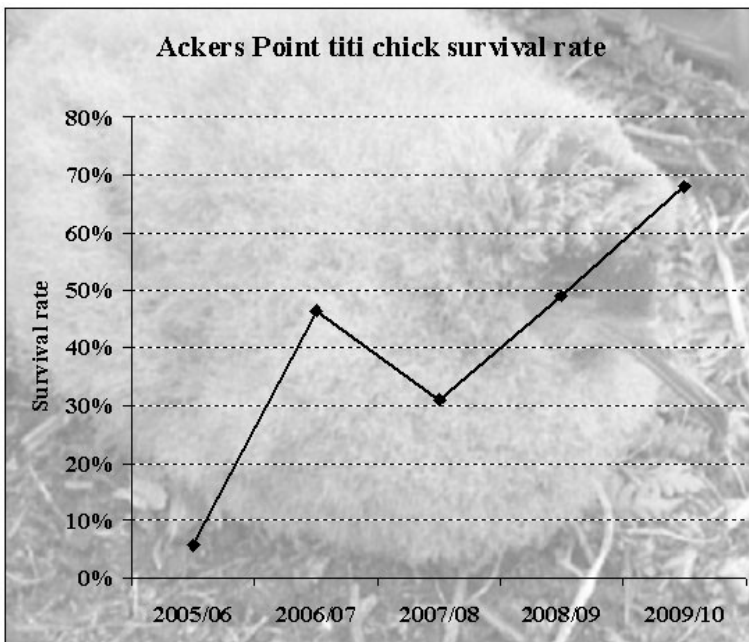
## Sooty Shearwater/Tītī Monitoring

We have recently finished our sooty shearwater/tītī monitoring at Ackers Point. With monitoring we aim to track tītī chick survival from egg to fledging. This year we are happy to report that there has been an increase in chick survival.

Tītī only lay one egg per season, and are vulnerable to mammalian predators therefore colonies are now generally restricted to offshore islands. Ackers Point is one of the last mainland colonies so we hope to see that our pest control is having a positive effect and that the population will increase again.

In 2005, the *Kia Mau Te Tītī Mo Ake Tōnu Atu* (Keep the Tītī Forever) research team from the University of Otago, helped SIRCET set up its monitoring programme. Out on Ackers Point we have four plots where we check burrows for eggs or chicks using an infrared camera on the end of a flexible pipe.

We make three visits during the breeding season to check chick survival. This year 68% of chicks survived to pre-fledging age, which is an increase from past years' results. Although food availability is also a significant factor in chick survival we think that the trapping work is paying off!



Contact Claire if you would like to know more:  
[claire@sircet.org.nz](mailto:claire@sircet.org.nz) or 418

Tītī online:

Otago tītī research team: [www.otago.ac.nz/titi/default.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/titi/default.html)  
[www.oikonos.org/projects/titi.htm](http://www.oikonos.org/projects/titi.htm)

### Beachcombing: Still life; drawing to painting

May 15 -16

Venue :

Cost : \$150

Participants: Minimum 10,  
maximum 15

Tutor : Megan Huffadine

This workshop will provide an opportunity to experiment with a range of media, developing skills in drawing still life, leading to working on canvas. It will include using ink, water soluble pencils, charcoal and acrylic paint. Participants will learn how to make painting tools and use these to create textured surfaces.

The workshop will also include sessions on the use of colour, composition and layering of media to create rich images. The workshop is suited to both beginners and those wishing to extend their skills.

Paper, ink, charcoal, water soluble pencils, a set range of acrylic paints and a canvas will be provided as part of the workshop fee.

### PLEASE BRING Essential :Bring a collection of 10 objects.

These may be found objects from the beach – shells, bones, driftwood, gleanings from the beach and or old objects from your home or garden that have some personal significance. These should be objects that you would enjoy drawing individually and placing with others in a composition.

This is a sample list. Don't go out and buy things, rummage around in the junk cupboard and bring what you can find. Bring tools that you are comfortable sharing. I will also be bringing materials to work with. Scissors, ruler, cutting knife Fibrous materials – eg twigs or

sticks, grasses, pine needles.

These will be used to make brushes.

Drawing and painting tools, if you have them, eg – brushes, toothbrush, sponge, comb, tissues, rags. Anything that can be used for markmaking. Ice cream containers and lids to cut up as well as for paint palettes

Plastic jars to hold water  
Lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Megan Huffadine is a Bannockburn based artist with many years experience teaching at the School of Visual Arts at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. She currently teaches at Otago Polytechnic's Cromwell Campus. Megan's approach is one of working alongside participants, assisting them to identify, develop their skills and personal directions.

You can view her work at:  
[www.milfordgalleries.co.nz](http://www.milfordgalleries.co.nz)





# Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade welcomes you to an

## Open Day Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June

### BBQ lunch 1pm at the Fire Station of course! All welcome

Plates of goodies welcome but not necessary  
Fire Engine Rides for kids (and the big kids)

### Come and see our NEW Fire Trucks!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have you thought about joining your local fire brigade?  
We need you

We currently have a few uniforms spare and if you are sized between an XS to a 4XL then it just may be for you!!!!  
Come and check it out, Mondays 7pm at the Station  
(it's not just for the blokes)

For more information contact Jed on 2191494

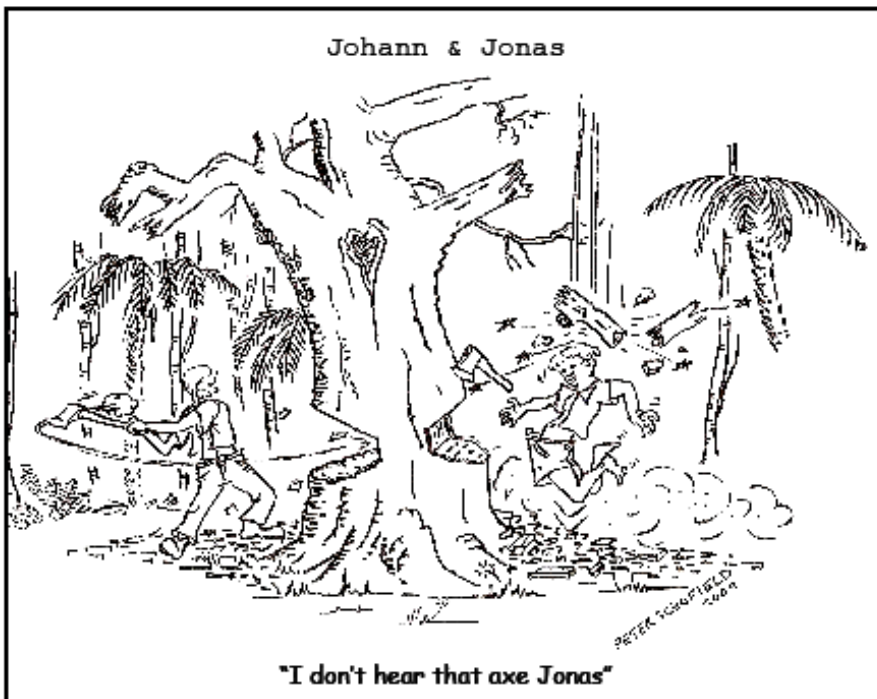
#### Those dam rodents....

According to recent media reports, the world's largest beaver dam has been identified by an ecologist using Google Earth. The 850-meter struc-

ture is located in Canada. Jean Thie, the ecologist who "virtually" stumbled over it, believes that generations of beavers have been building it since the 1970s. "It might be hard to believe, but there are a few things that

are visible from space, and beaver dams are among the few animal-made structures that are," said Thie. This comment begs the question:

What *OTHER* animal-made structures are visible from space???



Some people work tirelessly on projects that benefit the community. No wonder this poor man is looking worn out after working so hard to install the new heating ducts in the Community Centre. (THANKS ALI!)  
Photo from Margaret Hopkins





We finally had our library volunteer Christmas party. Lynda Hodge and Helen Devlin came over from Winton and had an opportunity after lunch to look around the space and discuss the usual library problems:

heating, shelving, and computer updating. 2010 may see ALL of those issues addressed!

NOTE: This Library will NOT BE OPEN ON MONDAY EVENINGS until Megan returns in mid-June.

Thanks to Mary Chittenden for covering our Saturdays!



And farewell to Helen Devlin who is moving to Oz. Morag (formerly of Invercargill Library) will be our new SD Libraries "point person" in Winton.



### DOC Spot

#### Projects boosted by volunteers

Volunteers have contributed over 3,000 hours to various projects around the Southern Islands area this year, giving visitor and historic assets projects a big boost. The work is varied and has been undertaken by individuals and groups. We would especially like to express our gratitude to Anita Geeson who has kept the toilets on Ulva spick and span throughout our busy summer. Wally Hockly led a successful volunteer trip to Pegasus to preserve historic tin mining sites in late March. Braving the wind and weather, six volunteers and four DOC staff put in a week of tedious (but very important) work preserving a sluicing area.

#### Track upgrades progressing well

Poor weather has been hampering our contractors working on various track upgrade projects, but despite the mud and delays they have been doing some fabulous work. John Henderson's crew will carry on with the Rakiura track upgrade over winter. The Ryans Creek project has been put on hold over the winter months and the Works Infrastructure crew will return to it in spring. Watch this space to see if Ryans Creek will remain closed or be reopened over winter.

#### Lucky escape for kiwi



Wally sharing a bit of history on the Pegasus tramline.

Last month DOC staff were called out to a local property where a kiwi had fallen between a watertank and a wall and was trapped. The bird was saved by an obliging neighbour and the kiwi (a large adult female) was released unharmed. Had she not been noticed it is likely she would have remained trapped and died. We would like to urge people to check their properties for any

holes or areas that might be hazardous to a kiwi, weka or penguin and make safe any that are found.

#### Pest Liaison Group meeting

The annual pest liaison group meeting is to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. At this meeting as well as our usual update on the possum project we will be releasing a recently completed report into forest health on Stewart Island/Rakiura. The report has been compiled by Landcare Research and looks at a remeasure of vegetation plots on the island and changes that have occurred since the plots were last measured 10 years ago. Landcare will present the findings of the report at the meeting, so if you would like to learn how the island's forest is faring feel please free to come along. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and will be held at the community centre.



Sarah on an expedition to the Auckland Islands.

#### Acting Southern Islands Area Manager

For the next five weeks Sarah Murray will be the acting Southern Islands Area Manager while Andy returns to the acting Southland Conservator role. Sarah is DOC's Technical Support Supervisor for recreation in Southland and has spent a fair bit of time working on Stewart Island projects including the Rakiura Track and Visitor Centre upgrades. Sarah is based in Invercargill but will be on the island for the Pest Liaison Group meeting, then again for one or two days in early June. Andy will be back in the Area Manager seat from the 14<sup>th</sup> of June.

#### Weeds team going bush

The weeds team is starting its winter work on eradicating barberry around the town and over the next few months will be working on Horseshoe Point, around the sewage ponds and in the bush between Kaipipi Road, Back Road and Hicks Road. If you are going into these areas please ensure you have the appropriate landowner's permission and be aware that there may be other people in the bush as well.

—Sharon Pasco



## WANTED\*WANTED\*WANTED\*WANTED\*WANTED

The Rakiura/Stewart Island Search & Rescue Group are looking at printing a "Stewart Island" Poster as a fundraiser. Many readers may've glimpsed the 1987 version, usually a rather greening copy often hung on the back of a bathroom door. It shows, amongst the boats, trees & sunsets such gems as a pre-teen Zane Smith hugging a baby possum, Old Mrs C and her ever present bike, Ollie & Bruce in action at the Neck, and a very young Peter Cox teaching an even younger Casey Karaitiana. It always catches attention, as people play Who's Who and try to name every figure in our not too ancient past. But 23 years has come & gone, so it is time for a new one.

We would love to see your photos, and piece together something that will be of interest for the next 23 years.

We particularly want the character & characters of our Island well represented, so please dig through your albums. Photos of all sorts would be appreciated, but where possible we would like them on disc. If you wish to have your photo returned, please include a named envelope, otherwise send us a copy.

Thanks for helping to make this community fundraiser something for the whole community to enjoy!

*Send photos to Kirsten Hicks at PO Box 72 Stewart Island 9846 or drop by the by Island Transport.*

## Department of Conservation Cleaning Contract

The Department will shortly be advertising locally for tenders to clean the Stewart Island/Rakiura Field Centre. This will be a two year contract, commencing 01 July 2010 and covering six days a week from October to April, and five days a week from May to September.

If you are interested, look out for the advertisement on the local noticeboard, and the Southland Times, or for further information contact Kerry Squire at the Field Centre on weekday mornings, 03-219 0002.

**Earwig Corner** Margaret Hopkins writes: I was giving a talk at the museum to a group of visiting children and one little boy said to me "my great-great ancestor was on the ship *Endeavour* and he met the man who Stewart Island was named after." I told him I thought that was very interesting and it was certainly a long time ago. One of the boy's helpful friends then asked if we had any photos of the great-great ancestor! I know we have an amazing collection at the Rakiura Museum but I had to disappoint him by telling him that the earliest photos taken were about 70 years after the *Endeavour's* visit and that William Stewart was only just born around the time that Captain Cook sailed past here. Some stories seem to change in the telling.



PHOTO: SECOND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

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### CHOCOLATE AWARD

*Ulva Goodwillie and DoC both chose*

#### Anita Geeson

*for this month's award. Ulva wrote: I would like to nominate a small unseen heroine, Anita Geeson for the Chocolate Award please. Anita has been quietly going over to Ulva Island and cleaning the toilets for our sanctuary visitors over the past busy seasons - making extra trips to clean up when she knew there were very large groups going to the Island. Every now and then we would see a tiny person with oversized gumboots, rubber gloves and bucket slipping through the bush tracks ensuring that travellers would have a clean and less smelly place to sit. I just want her to be recognised and acknowledged for her actions.*

### Second Nature Photography



By Paula Brown



Kids, families, couples or whatever you require.



We are only here until the end of July so don't wait



Portfolio building special, \$20 sitting fee and prints at cost. Make the most of this and call!

Phone Paula on 2191519



## Ship to Shore

SHOP WINTER HOURS HAVE STARTED NOW CLOSING AT 6.30PM (don't get caught out)

SHOP ALTERATIONS You will note that we have a builder on site at the moment doing some enhancing around the shop, new wallboard etc On Monday the 17th for three days the shop will close at 4pm as the Foodstuffs work team and the lino layer will be installing flooring and new shelves right through the shop

LOOK FOR OUR IN-STORE SPECIALS ON FRIDAY 21ST MAY. We will have a range of products at very very low prices Come in and enjoy our celebration with our new look.

Carol in the kitchen has started soup and toasties for the winter months.

Keep safe and keep warm this winter.

*Cheers from Jill and Richard and the A Team at the shop*

[www.stewart-island-news.com](http://www.stewart-island-news.com)

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](mailto:editor@stewart-island-news.com) The next deadline will be 15th June**

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

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Zane transporting gear to Table Hill. Photo from Margaret Hopkins.