

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

May—June 2013

\$2.00

Restructure. A three-syllable, sort of boring, seemingly innocuous word... until your power company starts using it. SIESA is undergoing a *significant new restructure* according to an April missive to Island customers and that has gotten people seriously worried they are going to get restructured out of pocket and financial ability to remain living here (p8-10).

Yes, *restructure* has become a bit of a scary, poisonous word around the place. Many islanders have already felt twitchy since DoC's ominous references to a *restructuring* last year. This culminated in some DoC staff getting restructured right out of their jobs this month. Did the restructurers slowly, torturously rip that sticking plaster off, making people here squirm for weeks and then agonise for months about their job security and future? Or did they take a page from Donald Trump's book and abruptly bark YOU'RE FIRED. Well, they did both. After informing several staff members that their jobs were in jeopardy, at the last minute some were told they might still have jobs while another unsuspecting long-time employee was summarily dismissed,

and then a new flow chart arrived which didn't include roles for any management here. The ulcer-inducing process obviously hasn't been good for these local families...what does it mean overall for the community? See article below, page 2, and DoC Spot page 11 for more.

A big Easterly dropped by and restructured two boats in our water. A broken shackle sent the *Allegro* off its mooring in Braggs Bay, it ended up at Butterfield Beach where a digger pulled it ashore. A much more serious incident occurred at the Neck when the fishing vessel *Sureste*, seeking shelter, hit rocks and ruptured. We awoke in the morning to awful, stomach dropping headlines "Oil Spill near Ulva Island." (p6)

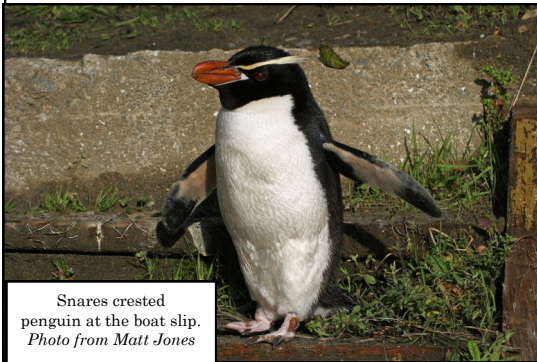
It's not all bad in these parts: this month the new crafting group put a beautiful spin on *restructure*, creating mosaics at their recent meeting. If you are interested in joining one of these sessions check the noticeboard or the FB Stewart Island Events page.

Just as we're facing increases in bills and decreases in jobs and autonomy, Gareth Morgan returned to discuss his controversial pest (*pest*, not pet) eradication scheme (p15). In these grim days, to some residents it seems like a glimmer of hope. Others remain sceptical. Toddlers Moby and

Charlie don't care a rat's bum either way, which is why they wouldn't sit through one minute of the power-point presentation and had to be escorted by mum (aka *SIN* reporter) home. So thank you to my mother-in-law for taking copious and legible notes. —Jess



Dawn service, ANZAC Day. Story below, and HMB student reports pages 4-5. Photo from Matt Jones.



Snare-crested penguin at the boat slip. Photo from Matt Jones



Noel Bulman with his sailing cup. See page 12.

You're restructured! Once a part of the Southern Island Conservancy, Stewart Island now belongs to a newly amalgamated Canterbury-Otago-Southland conservancy. (In other words, part of a big blob.) The DoC restructure has leached authority and decision-making from our local body, weakening or eliminating management positions here. Directives, budgeting and management will no longer be coming from Main Road; most decisions affecting Stewart Island will be coming from offices in Invercargill, Dunedin, and as far away as Wellington. (How is this all going to work? Telepathy? Skype?)

Many staff here have been spared. The plan is keeping the visitor centre; there is still a need for some rangers, admins, and a boat skipper. "Spared" but not unscathed—the remaining employees are facing a new work environment which will be missing some long-time colleagues, and they will be answering to new, off-island management.

It's been a year of growing alarm: ominous rumblings, tedious meetings, drafts,

(Continued on page 3)

Anzac Day 2013 by Gwen Neave

A steady drizzle added to the mood of sombre remembrance on Anzac morning. The skirl of the pipes leading the marching men, women and children sent an eerie echo across Halfmoon Bay. The Honour Guard in silent stance were a sobering reminder of young men in uniform who had left our shores to fight in the two World Wars.

Perhaps the clear young voice of Sophie Rose Connor telling the story of Private Hansen's sacrifice was the most touching part of a moving service. The inclusion of the school children in the service format brought home to everyone the increased awareness of all age sectors of our population in the significance of Anzac commemorations.

(Continued on page 3)

If you want to get hives and a tummy ache while your eyeballs fall out of your head, check out the DoC documents describing their new structure. The graphs and hundreds of pages of text were driving me crazy so I thought I'd click on the maps (closest thing to pictures) and get a simple overview of what they're up to. It's beyond confusing—I take my hat off to anyone who can look at these maps and nod and say *yeah, I see what they're doing here.*

The above chart is the Stewart Island section pulled from the tome snappily entitled *Delivery Project Decision Document, Stage Two Report: Confirmed Structure Design*. 85 pages of light reading... *not.*

For those who don't speak DoC Bureauc, *Group* refers to the fact that all of DoC is a three-pronged beast. One Group is the Conservation Services group, all about field work; the other group is Conservation Partnerships Group, all about developing conservation through partnerships. Then there is Kahauī Kaupapa Atawhāo (or KKA), the branch that works with Maori culture.

Location	Group	Tier	Role Name	Band	Total
Stewart Island	Services	5	Senior Ranger, Services (Recreation/Historic)	D	1.0
			Senior Ranger, Services (Biodiversity)	D	1.0
			Ranger, Services (Biodiversity)	C	2.0
			Ranger, Services	A or B	6.0
			Ranger, Boats	C	1.0
			Administration Officer	A or B	0.5
	Partnerships	5	Ranger, Visitor Centre	C	1.0
Ranger, Partnerships	C		0.5		
Stewart Island Total					14.5

To view the documents relating to DoC's restructure go to www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/issues/new-structure-for-doc/

positions available so if you are ambitious and want to climb the ladder toward management it's not going to happen here, the island is now all lower rungs.

In the last "Total" column, the numbers don't necessarily mean one person, (thank

god, because they have fractions there); the numbers relate to *equivalent* full time staff, so several people could work part-time to fulfil a position marked 1.0.

To sum up this chart: **There are no longer any management roles on Stewart Island.** Field workers will answer to a Director of Conservation Services based in Invercargill. The visitor centre staff will report to a Partnership boss in Dunedin.

With DoC trying to centralise decision making, community meetings about pest control and other big Island topics could be a thing of the past, with decisions about island pest control coming from Wellington. (Incidentally, while Stewart Island and DoC hubs across the country have lost positions, Wellington gained 24 staff.)

—Ed

Tier refers to Management Level, with Tier 1 being the CEO, Tier 2 executive leaders, Tier 3 directors of conservation services, Tier 4 area managers, and Tier 5 everybody else.

Tiers are split into *bands*. Each band has a different level of responsibility and pay rate. Bands are A-G, the scale starting at the lowest level with A. Generally, A being the people working in the field, B people in the field who are more senior or team leaders; C project managers; D technical advisers, and so on.

As you can see from the chart, levels higher than D are a moot point now on Stewart Island because the only band roles are A-D. Anyone with an E band or higher must look elsewhere for a comparable position. Also note there are only Tier 5



WISE UP TO WEEDS

with Amy



TRADESCANTIA

(*Tradescantia fluminensis*)

Tradescantia (Wandering Jew) is uncommon in Oban and we need it to stay that way. If you have some in your backyard, control it now before it's too late!

What is it?

Tradescantia is a ground cover plant with small pairs of oval leaves and delicate white three-petal flowers in summer. It is only found in frost free areas of Southland.

What is the problem?

It forms dense mats which exclude other plants from growing. It is only found in shaded areas and therefore a problem for the understory of forests. This plant spreads by fragments so be very careful with green waste.

How to control it?

Rake the area until all the stems and leaves have been removed, ensuring all the green waste is captured. When it starts to re-grow spray with 20ml/L of glyphosate (Roundup) and penetrant (Pulse). It will require a number of applications.

Please contact Amy Lagerstedt at Environment Southland if you find this plant: email amy.lagerstedt@es.govt.nz telephone 211 5115

RAKIURA MUSEUM MATTERS – Jo Riksem



Left to right: Teacher: Roger Brodie, Back row: Aaron Hamilton, Yolande Eriksson, Steven King, Andrew Hamilton, ?, Margaret Mackay, Brendan Holt. Middle Row: ?, ?, Rebecca Smith, Angela Gray, Richard Osborn, Melanie Goomes. Front Row: ?, Rhonda Leask, Leslie Pullen, Tammy Whaitiri, ?, Daniel Leask.

We're always grateful to people who bring in photos of one generation or the other and it doesn't have to be "really old" to be a part of our collection.

Thanks to the folks who identified our unknown soldiers from last month. The soldier on the right was Quentin "Quin" Hamilton and the one on the left was Louis "Lou" Bragg. This month we're asking for help identifying some school children. This photo was bought into us and we're missing a few names. Can you help identify the "?" under the photo?

Some interesting **acquisitions** have come in lately including Halfmoon Bay School attendance records for 1887, 1889 and 1890 with many well known Stewart Island names. A variety of digital photographs covering Stewart Island boats, whaling, Ferndale Boarding House, Oban Presbyterian Church and Halfmoon Bay School were added to the collection. Items from the Roy Traill home came to find a new home and a painting of Lonnekers Beach from a artist who use to live here. Thanks to all who are showing an interest in preserving Stewart Island history for all to see.

Enquiries have been bountiful with subjects like Norwegian boats, boatbuilding, Stewart Island houses, and Halfmoon Bay Cemetery. Family enquires have included Scollay, Kavanagh, John Jacky Lee and Cedric Smith.

Preparation for our Norwegian Weekend is under way and already interest is being shown and people making plans to be here for this special event on the 4, 5 and 6 April 2014. We've provided a form in this issue to send into the museum to let us know of your interest in the weekend and so keep you up to date. If you want to let other friends and family know by email with a copy of this form just email us and we can send you the attachment to forward on.

For more in-depth information join Friends of Rakiura Museum with twice yearly newsletters. Just email us at stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz or 03 2191-221

TAUTUKU CUP SEARCH AND RESCUE COMPETITION

On the weekend of the 17th 18th 19th May Rakiura/Stewart Island Landsar (Search and Rescue) is hosting the Tautuku Cup.

The competition is between search and rescue teams from Otago and Southland. It is an opportunity for search and rescue groups to network and use their skills learned from training and operations.

On Friday night a Search management competition starts the weekend. On Saturday field search teams go bush and use their, leadership, Tracking, Navigation, Search method, observation, radio, first aid and clue gathering skills to find missing persons.

Skills used are assessed and marked to decide the winners. The competition concludes with a dinner and prize giving.

About 120 competitors, victim's organizers caterers and Islanders are involved in the weekend.

Rakiura/Stewart Island Landsar would like to thank the Stewart Island community and businesses for supporting this event.



(ANZAC Continued from page 1)

The late morning concert presented by the visiting Salvation Army Band was a musical bonanza of classical band music and popular numbers. The inclusion of duets from the pipers Colin McKinnon and Bradley Knight was inspired; they are a remarkable pair of musicians who have recently won national acclaim. The Stewart Island Players performed a short piece entitled "Keep Calm and Carry On", an item that was pulled together by a small group of the Players.

Toi Rakiura Arts Trust is again immensely grateful to Real Journeys for bringing the bandsmen, pipers, and pianist to the island for the day. The added atmosphere of the live bugler, band music and pipes at the parade greatly enhanced the ceremony. Thank you Jason Steele and staff.

(DOC Continued from page 1)

false alarms, false hopes, insomnia, panic, stress, trying to make light of it, putting on a brave face, fake laughter at insensitive comments, deepening fear and insecurity, anger, shock, sadness.

And after all that, as I write some DoC staff *still* don't know where they stand and won't know until the end of the month. The plan taking shape doesn't bode well: it's been a cruel game of musical chairs where chairs are removed willy nilly or kicked out from under you or replaced with tiny uncomfortable footstools.

DoC offices across the country have been hit hard; but in a small, remote place such as this, the implications of losing employment (or facing a significant demotion) are particularly severe. What to do? Where to go? Some long-time residents are looking at leaving the Island. As one DoC employee has commented: *this just sucks*. Another

said it feels like losing a family.

Graphs and flow-charts are impersonal. Here it's nothing *but* personal: people here have committed years of their life to conservation; their children go to Rugrats and HMB School; they spend their time at Search and Rescue, the Community Board, the Fire Brigade, volunteering for SIRCET and a myriad of other organisations; they are homeowners, ratepayers, they spend their money at the shop, their families are integral parts of the community. People who work in conservation don't do it for fame and fortune, they do it because it's a matter of the heart.

Yes, downsizing is a necessary downer of life, and people lose their jobs every day, and the money wasn't there and tough choices had to be made. On paper, it's just number-crunching. On the island, for some, it is heart wrenching.

—Ed



On the 23rd of January 1919 **Colin Maurice Topi** was born. He was the son of Maurice Topi Patuki and Olive Topi nee Hansen and brother of Peter Topi.

He was Ngai Tahu and had dark hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion.

Colin went to Halfmoon Bay School. He was a member of the Stewart Island

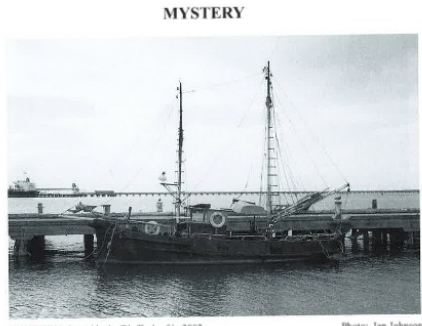
yacht club and Rakiura football club. His religion was Church of England and his occupation was a Fisherman.

Colin was a Private and he served in the 28th Maori Battalion.

His medals were:
1939-45 star,
Italy star war medal and the 1939-45 NZ war service medal.

On 19th March 1944 in Italy Colin Maurice Topi died at age 25. He was shot accidentally by friendly fire.

He is now buried at Casino War Cemetery in Italy. Colin was a honored soldier and its sad that he was killed by his own team.
by Jack Dobbins



MYSTERY alongside the Bluff wharf in 2002. Photo: Ian Johnson

The students thank Loraine Hansen, Elaine Hamilton and Jo Riksem for helping them with these ANZAC reports.

John Alfred Hansen, the son of Christian and Mrs Petrina Hansen and the brother of Olive Topi nee Hansen, was born in 1880 in Dunedin. John had his primary education at Albany Street School in Dunedin.

classified as killed in action.
John was a Private but after he died he was granted the rank of Corporal. He was at the age of 36 when he died. John is now buried at Caterpillar Valley New Zealand memorial in Somme, France.

In 1894 when John was 14 his family moved to Stewart Island. John played rugby in the early 1900's for Stewart Island. His dad, who was a Norwegian boat builder, bought the hotel and the shop.

They left their loved ones at home and the really sad thing is that many brave soldiers never came home. ANZAC day is a day to remember those brave men who sacrificed their lives in the wars.

John's job before the war was fishing. In 1911 he started working on the Christchurch railways. Later he was transferred to Invercargill.

by Sophie Conner

John was a part of Otago's Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion. John was reported missing on the 27th of September 1916 and was



On the 4th of December, 1910, **Louis Auguste Bernard Robert Bragg** was born.

fisherman until 1937. Two years after he married Miss Annie Heaton in 1935 he became an oysterman in Bluff. He followed this career until he volunteered to fight overseas.

He was the 5th son of Robert Frederick Bragg and Marie Auguste Bragg (nee Robert).

On 13th May 1937 Lillian Frances Bragg was born sadly Lillian would of only known her dad for four years!

As an Island boy growing up he was schooled at Halfmoon Bay School.

He went into the Burnham Military Camp to train up and become a Private in the 26th Battalion that we all remember today.

He liked his rugby and yachting and in fact was rather a natural at yachting.

Louis was well known around New Zealand for his yachting abilities. While he was young he sailed at Lyttleton in the Takapuna Class contests.

Sadly on 23rd November 1941 aged 31 in Libya, Louis Auguste Bernard Robert Bragg was reported missing and then classified as killed in action.

Later on in life becoming an expert spinnaker-hand he was a part of the Southland crew. They competed three times in the Sanders Cup contest which was held twice in Dunedin and once in Bluff.

His wife Annie later remarried to Mr James Smith.

Becoming a yachtsmen made Louis well-known and liked among the community.

It would be nice to know how many of Louis relatives even know that they are related to a well-known yachtsman and a great Private that fought and died for the 26th Battalion in Libya

His first job was being a fisherman. He was a



by Marley Wright

Louis Auguste Bernard Robert Bragg (1909-1952) killed in action in Libya, North Africa.

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202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

James Hamilton Hunter nick-named Jim was born on 23rd November 1910. He was the youngest son of Roger Crosby Hunter and Mary Elizabeth Hunter.

Jim lived on Stewart Island and was a fisherman.

James had very good Stewart Island friend named Bert Johnson who also went to the war. Bert was devastated when he heard what happened to his best friend.



James later lived in Bluff and became a labourer. When World War Two broke out he left home and trained to be in the New Zealand army.

James was a Private in the 30th Battalion then later was part of the 23rd Battalion. He went overseas to Egypt to battle with his fellow war mates.

He made the supreme sacrifice and was sadly classified as killed in action on Thursday, 5th November, 1942 aged 34. He is buried in the EL Alamein war cemetery in Egypt.

This is why we are all here this morning to cherish the memories of what happened in these wars and to remember the sacrifices they made.

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.



by Timu Moxham

Review: Haggis Sandwich

by Gwen Neave

What better way to spend a cold autumn night than in a cosy hall listening to fantastic music with an appreciative audience of locals plus a couple of visitors who couldn't believe their good fortune?

Andrew London's lyrics had us all in hysterics from the opening number of the show. His patter specialises in very clever documentation of ordinary situations that we instantly recognise; situations we've all experienced; characters we've all met and flinched over. His caricatures were gentle and deftly drawn, his word pictures accompanied by skilful guitar work (superb fingering!) and often great backing from Steve MacDonald's multi-layered tracks and keyboards. "My daughter's got a Boyfriend" expressed every father's confusion and trepidation. (*...his trouser legs are frayed, (he) wears them halfway down his bum, We used to shout "Fire!" just to see if he could run ...!*). "Middle Class White Man's Blues" poked fun at the guy in mid-age crisis with nothing to really be Blue about –his wife and dog were still with him and he rode a Harley. "Appliances", the account of a wife and husband needing a shared interest (*they tried Philosophy but it made them argue more*) and finding pleasure in retail therapy shopping for appliances, took bargain-hunting to another level.

The wiry little Scotsman – Steve MacDonald – told stories of Scottish battles and heroes through old and sometimes familiar songs. His delivery however was fresh and haunting aided by his keyboard skills and layered backing tracks. "O Flower of Scotland" was an impassioned and raw anthem, the well-known "Loch Lomond" a melancholy ballad of condemned fighters facing execution. Steve's harmonies were sweet and poignant. When he combined with Andrew their voices were a perfect blend, strong and sure. Their encore piece was the most savage, brassy, flamboyant, rendition of "Scotland the Brave" I've ever heard. It had the audience on their feet cheering and applauding, well satisfied with the duo's performance and the night's entertainment.

Thank you Real Journeys for your sponsorship and travel endorsement. Thanks to Steve Thomas of Arts on Tour NZ for another great act and to the Toi Rakiura trustees who organise the local gigs.

LETTERS ☒☒☒☒☒

Driving up SH 1 after 10 days on The Island I said to my husband "I always feel sad leaving there."

We would like to congratulate & thank the team that organised the ball at Easter. We had great fun. Thank you for the hospitality & we look forward to supporting future events.

Till next time.

Sue & Richard Lovett



Following on from the opinion piece in last months SIN, those who are concerned about the SCDO industry situation at Stewart Island should perhaps have their say to Maritime New Zealand.

The various agencies you might like to think would have responsibility for either Great White Shark welfare or that of other folk out on the water last year decided to take a "whole of Government" approach.

This has meant that the shark cage industry, Maritime NZ and DOC have agreed that the two departments should produce complementary "guidelines" for the SCDO industry: MNZ around vessel operations and DOC around shark welfare. In December MNZ produced their draft and stuck it on their website asking for submissions from those affected.

The link is <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Commercial-operations/SSM/Shark-cage-Guidelines.pdf>

It is an interesting read and the puaa industry will be giving some pointed advice to MNZ on what should be included in the guidelines.

We encourage Stewart Island residents to do the same. DOC is still working on policy issues for their draft and we will ensure that any request for feedback from DOC is passed on to the Island community.

Yours sincerely,
Storm Stanley

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHATTER by Jo Riksem



Sunday School August 1954.

Can anyone help us with the names of the children?

It was lovely to have four local little boys in our church service a few Sundays ago, along with two new babies. Children are our future and it's lovely to see them growing up in all the different stages of their lives. Later on over a cup of tea the children came in to show everyone the things they'd made with our Sunday School teacher. The picture above had no names and if anyone can help identify these "wee" ones of 1954 it would be greatly appreciated.

Being a church on Stewart Island we get lots of lovely visitors coming during the week and also again on Sunday. Lately we've had visitors from America, England, Germany and other parts of Europe.

It's always nice to hear about their visit to our beautiful island and hear their experiences of their travels throughout New Zealand. It is also good for us to find out from our visitors about their churches back home.

June this month will be a mystery month of ministers with some local talent as well so be sure to come along and see what's happening.

Church remains open daily to come in and enjoy it's beauty and peace. Church services: every Sunday 11-12 followed by a cup of tea and goodies. Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

A serious incident occurred 26th April at the Neck when the fishing vessel *Sureste*, seeking shelter during an Easterly, hit rocks at night and ruptured a tank. We awoke in the morning to awful, stomach dropping headlines: "Oil Spill near Ulva Island."

Locals were horrified to think that Paterson Inlet, Foveaux Strait and Stewart Island were about to become a sticky black hell. Thankfully nobody was hurt, and the wild weather that caused the boat to seek shelter was ultimately a saving grace as the turbulent waves and wind dispersed the diesel out to sea.

And yes, thankfully it was diesel, not oil, that spilled. Obviously it's bad to have *any* fuel dump into the ocean, but diesel does disperse more easily and quickly; oil spills are the stuff of environmental nightmares.

There was an immediate response in the morning involving air reconnaissance and local fishing vessels, and nobody could detect any trace of diesel.

There was also an immediate response online (albeit unhelpful, way off-base, and creepily triumphant): in case you thought the people at Occupy NZ have become sane or smart since last year, *their* immediate reaction was to post an article to their webpage (clearly without bothering to read the content), along with an expletive-riddled comment directed at Stewart Islanders, calling families here *stupid*

*f*****ing a*****s*, followed up with claims that according to their "contacts on the Island" the media is lying and the "oil spill" occurred at Port Adventure. Some people bothered to chasten them for their filthy language, and to point out it was *diesel* from a *fishing vessel*, and to suggest they occupy themselves with an education.

I have a potty-mouth myself, and I'm not politically right wing. The reason this group is so offensive to me is because they trumpet causes that I (and most people) care about: a healthy environment, a better world, accountability and transparency in government. Unfortunately their movement has suffered the same problem as the political groups they hate: they have been poisoned by the paranoid, vicious, unintelligent loudmouths in their ranks who drown out their core message and make a mockery of serious issues.

Deep sea oil drilling and potential oil spills in our water are no laughing matter. But visit an Occupy site (I do, it's a sickness, I promise I'll stop) and they're insinuating that the death of Labour MP Horomia is suspiciously connected to the South Basin Block offers. Disrespectful? Check. Baseless and stupid? Check. But worse, they take an extremely dire subject and make it so ridiculous that it could be easily dismissed by the earnest young New Zealanders who read their posts seeking information and inspiration. It's a shame for the good-hearted intelligent people in their midst, who probably spend a lot of time cringing these days. They are their own worst enemy, and their trumpet so tarnished it's as good as a fart. —Jess

SIRCET Update

With the chilly weather the rat numbers are starting to increase. Using funding provided by the WWF Habitat Protection Fund we have employed Ang Steffens as a trapping assistant for Denise and this enables us to check all the traps weekly and catch up with trap maintenance. Ang is enjoying being out in the bush, even on the cold days!!

On the 23 April SIRCET held a public meeting to discuss the Project Area Deer Control Plan we have been developing. We had a good attendance and lots of positive discussion. Taking that in account, and with technical advice from our Advisory Board we will write a Draft Deer Control Operational Plan. If you would like to see our Deer Control Discussion Document please contact the author, Denise Hayes at denise@sircet.org.nz Denise will also be sending out a summary to all project area landowners

We have some great sponsors of the project and many have been with us for several years. A new sponsor is Pete and Sharon at the Garage. They were happy to agree to a business sponsorship towards maintaining our project truck. The truck is starting to show its age now and this help is much appreciated!!

The last weekend of April saw the arrival of the winners of the Trademe auction for a 5 day Stewart Island trip. While the weather was against them, Deano, Natalie and Saskia really enjoyed their holiday here. A huge thank you to all our sponsors as this auction raised \$1220.

Our long overdue Annual Report from 2011-2012 has finally arrived, after long delays at the accountants. If you would like to read a copy please contact me at letitia@sircet.org.nz. It will also soon be on our website, www.sircet.org.nz

Letitia McRitchie,
Project Administrator, SIRCET

ATTENTION MUMS AND DADS SATURDAY SPECIAL AT THE LIBRARY



My name is Marley and every Saturday I volunteer to help out at the Library. I volunteer at the Library because the years 7s at Halfmoon Bay School are participating in the William Pike Challenge Awards.

One section of these is to do 20 hours of community service. I do the normal stuff at the Library but my favourite is reading to the little kids in the Library that pop up now and then.

So parents if you're sick of reading to the child/ren, for their entertainment bring them down to the Library on Saturday 11.00 – 12.00 and I would be more than delighted to read them a story.

Thank You *Marley*

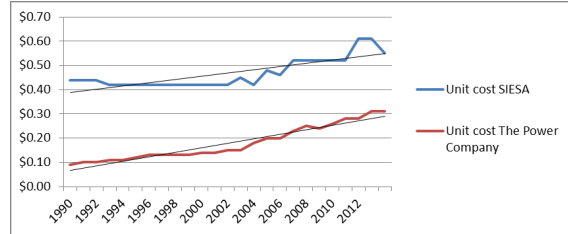


Photo: Matt Jones

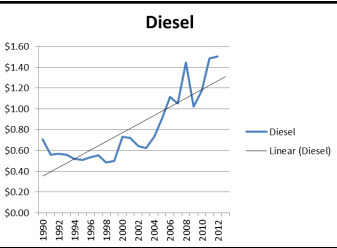
Significant new restructure...

Last month a letter from SIESA sent Islanders into a tizzy. A proposed new pricing structure means a significantly higher power bill for many residents. While the residential average price per unit is going down, from \$0.60 to \$0.55, the proposed uniform monthly charge is jumping \$44, from \$53 up to \$97.

increase, sharp or gradual, for the past six years? Our power cost plateaued around 2006,



despite the fact the cost of fuel has nearly tripled since 1998. We rely on DIESEL. Diesel freighted across the Strait. Wouldn't you think our power bills over the years would reflect the rising cost of fuel? The biggest variable cost with electricity has been going through the roof. But for some reason, circa 2006, we entered a universe where fuel prices don't seem to matter and we've stayed there. Until now. Why? (But we didn't ask why, we just paid our bills, and grumbled about the high cost of power on the island as is the Rakiura rote, and certainly didn't say "hey, shouldn't my bill be higher this month?" because who would say that?) It seems that there must have been some financial mismanagement



Hard-hit households would be the people who live frugally with their power: no matter what, their bills will increase by \$44 per month, and they will probably struggle to use enough power to warrant a happy, meaningful difference on their bill. The hardest hit will be cribbies who

only come over here and use power a handful of days a year, but are seeing an almost 75 percent increase in their supply charge.

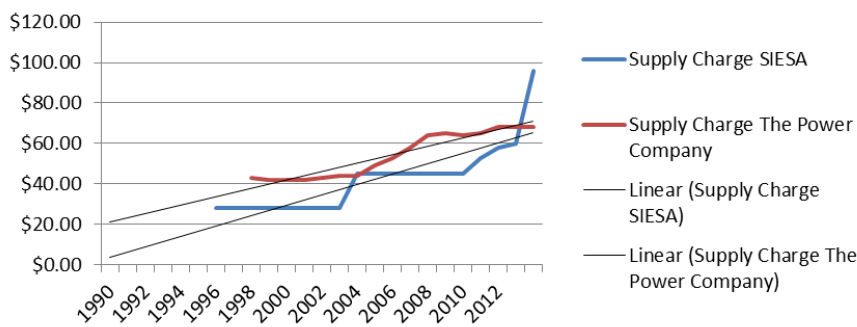
Busier households won't feel such a major impact, they might see this as the moment to invest in an electric oven and get a bit looser with their power use as their per-unit cost is now less.

Big business owners who use heaps of power could see savings on their bill. But the big picture isn't necessarily rosy for them. Less money in our pockets means less money we spend at the shop and the pub. When people feel a pinch the first things they stop buying are big margin items like coffee and muffins.

So this increase is a big deal for Islanders and the restructure is significant indeed. Why do we suddenly have to pay so much more? Every discussion I got into with power people on the subject, we ended up talking boats (typical Island conversation). An Island running on a diesel generator and 25-year old equipment? We're like an old fishing boat. And just around now, I can tell you with authority, owners of 25-year-old fishing boats are pouring piles of money into overhaul: replacing parts, trying to keep up with upkeep, investing in more efficient engines.

Why are we seeing such a sharp jump?

Another question answers the question: Why haven't we seen any



This chart tells an interesting story. If you follow the linear lines, Island (SIESA, blue) and town (The Power Company, red) charges follow a parallel path upwards. The difference is shape: See how the red line has a more gradual and even grade to it, like a boat ramp? And what does our blue line do? It reminds me of the stairs coming up from Acker's Point. See a pattern? Plateau, big step, plateau, and here it comes again... big step. This article looks at other Islands and places ... Let's go to the Micronesian Island of Yap for a moment. Yapese use giant stones as currency. Imagine: instead of a wallet you have a wheelbarrow full of heavy stones. Now look at the graph, which basically depicts a ramp versus steep stairs. Which would you rather go up toting your money?

JUNE/JULY 1988

MOMENTUM

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CORPORATION (NZ) LTD Vol. 1 No. 9

Stewart Island switches on

Groping in the dark for a torch, keeping limited amounts of food in fridges and freezers in case of power failures, and knowing how to fix a backyard generator will soon be in the past for Stewart Islanders.

The Islanders are entering a new era this month with the introduction of a reticulated power scheme.

Up until now residents have relied on individual generators with the associated problems of noise and unreliability.

The new \$1 million power station was designed by the Mechanical and Electrical Group of WORKS Technical Services. Dunedin Consultancy carried out the architectural and structural detailing and the construction phase of the project was managed by Invercargill Consultancy.

Tight timeframe
Designer Grant Campbell says the

Stewart Islander Ted Rooney takes great delight in being the first domestic consumer to switch to the new power scheme.

somewhere along the line to see us here, with zero money set aside for depreciation.

So it's not so much a case of getting shafted in the winter of 2013, it's more a case of *not* getting shafted for six years and now it's all catching up. And it doesn't feel that good, and folks aren't feeling particularly grateful. It's like the Pub charges you \$5 for a drink for six years, then one day suddenly charges you \$10 and explains it's for keg upkeep and the high cost of beer mats and such. Would you be happy, would you be

writing retroactive thank you notes for the past six years, or would you be like *watt the hell are you talking about?*

So the good news is we've actually had more money in our pockets than we should have for the past six years. The bad news is the buck (your bucks) stop here. The party's over. And we're so into complaining about the high cost of power here that we didn't even know we were having a party, and we didn't even know we had more money in our pockets, and we're caught, if we're going to stay with the pocket metaphor, with our pants down.

It makes you realize that there's something to be said for gradual increases in prices, it helps your brain and wallet and household to budget in a smooth, relatively painless fashion. A sudden, sharp increase out of the blue hurts. That letter from SIESA citing a *significant new restructure* raised some eyebrows, and totally freaked some people out. There are locals who are saying they can't live here anymore. It's been hard, they say, it's been a squeeze, and this power hike is the last straw.

The SIESA people counter with assurances that this is a necessary evil, citing depreciation and dilapidation. (Here comes the fishing boat metaphor...) we can only patch up this old boat for so long, at some point we're going to have to fix it properly or it will sink.

Q&A with Chris Dillon

(Chris as himself, not speaking on behalf of SIESA or Power Services).

Do you think an increase is justified?

There wasn't an increase for a long period—from 2004-2011 there was no supply charge increase and only a 2 percent unit tariff increase. During the same time diesel fuel more than doubled in price from 70 cents per litre to \$1.50 per litre and everything else by at least the level of inflation (24.8%).

Why increase the line charge by so much? I don't believe the term "line charge" gives the right impression, more correctly it is

a supply charge as the cost is to provide supply to everyone's property and fairly that we all share in that equally. Then the unit charge can more fairly reflect the cost of generation.

Some people are considering purchasing generators, is this a practical option? I suggest they look at the numbers very carefully and investigate their obligations under the electricity act, the electricity safety regulations and any other appropriate legislation. And of course think of the implications on the community of withdrawing from the scheme as the system relies on numbers to remain viable.

What can we do to keep a reliable supply

at a reasonable price? Sensible investment in a generation plant and maintenance of the network. The network is 25 years old this year and there are some age related issues beginning to appear and these need addressed to avoid expensive failures and outages. Replacement of generation plant gives the benefit of better fuel economy and improved reliability.

Two important reminders:

Please keep access to your meter box clear and safe.

Please report any electricity supply faults to Powernet faults at 0800 808 587 — this ensures the best response.

We can't be the only place having power problems.

What are other places doing to get power to the people? Can we look to them for inspiration? How do we rate against other locales? Let's explore options and ideas.

Most places on the **Mainland** run on hydro. Their bills reflect two charges: the place making the power bills them for the cost of generation; and the retail company charges them to bring the power to their home (this is called a line charge). SIESA is different as it is a complete package and much more streamlined than town: they generate and distribute the power; there is just a management group, two linemen, and no middle men.

Great Barrier Island hasn't figured out anything startling: they are old-school, running on private generators. The **Chatham Islands** installed two big wind turbines a couple of years ago but they haven't eased their big bills as much as they'd hoped and they still rely heavily on their diesel generator: their bills are about \$1.02 per unit and now they are busy with upkeeping their generators and two big wind turbines. **Waiheke Island** is tapped into the mainland grid with an underwater cable. Much of the electric infrastructure in **North America** hasn't been upgraded since the 1920s and the nightmarish rolling blackouts, affecting millions of people for days on end, are often featured on the news. Horseshoe Bay had a 6-hour power outage in the beginning of May, it took the linesmen hours to locate the problem and while fixing it the power flickered in Halfmoon Bay, a mini-rolling blackout caused from power surges. The problem was due to an ailing 25-year old insulator, and if we don't get new equipment we can expect more power outages more often.

Now, **Lord Howe Island** is an interesting one. Like us, they have a small population – about 350 residents. Like us, the island is a tourist destination renowned for its wild natural beauty. Like us, customers rely on a diesel generator. (The island is powered by three 300 kW Detroit 60-series diesel generators, with one 425 kW Detroit series 70 diesel generator for back-up. The fuel is delivered fortnightly by a contracted Lord Howe Island Sea Freight shipping agent.)

But unlike us.... They pay an un-whopping \$0.14 a unit. Why? Because the Australian government is subsidizing the cost of power generation for them. They pay the same as mainland Australians.

Why doesn't the NZ government subsidize us?

There are a few big differences: Oz has a much bigger population and more money, and the NSW government obviously decided that Lord Howe was important enough as a tourist destination to step in and help them with running costs. Southlanders might not like digging deeper in their pockets to help pay for Stewart Island's power. They might say "Why on earth should I pay for your power? If you can't afford to live there, then move. I've got enough on my plate without having to subsidize Stewart Island!"

Subsidize is a cringy squirmy sort of word. How about we say *support*. How about we rephrase the scenario so instead of being the poor cousin sticking out a scruffy paw begging for change, how about we proudly demand our due? We're the jewel in the crown and all that, shouldn't the government and the country *want* to show us some love? We're a draw-card for overseas tourists and we're a great

fishing and hunting playground for New Zealanders. We're not nothing! Give us some sugar! Hook this crown jewel up with some joules!

Never mind, no matter how you spin it, there doesn't seem to be any plans for a government subsidy anytime soon. And however tantalizing the thought of such a windfall, we'd still be slave to the hungry monster: expensive, dirty old diesel.

What about a cable under the Strait?

Okay here's another sugar daddyish fantasy: a benevolent big rich energy company gets bored, wants to spend some cash, and decides to take Stewart Island on as its little pet. And instead of a rhinestone collar we finally get that much discussed, oft-poo-pooed cable under Foveaux Strait. And we tap into the mainland grid. Could this happen? Anything's possible. And what about that cable? Feasible? Absurd? Worth wondering about? According to the official SIESA website it's way too costly (9+million dollars plus \$300,000 annual maintenance) and ultimately wouldn't be worth it.

But...some people in the power business say that somehow someday we **MUST** get away from diesel, and tapping into the mainland grid is our best bet, and the cable is expensive but not impossible and not necessarily a total no-go, it depends which engineer you consult and how optimistic they're feeling at the time.

So let's say a benevolent bored rich sugar daddy company took us under its wing and paid for the cable and its annual upkeep... a couple of catches interrupt this dream. What if a rum-fuelled oyster expedition snags that precious cable and wrecks it? What if our sugar-daddy gets bought by a Chinese company or a rich country western singer and the new owner doesn't want a bar of us? *What if what if what if...*

Another major consideration in the sugar-daddy fantasies is that when you become someone else's rhinestone-collared poodle pet, you lose a little thing called autonomy. And if Stewart Island gives away control of its assets, and the owning company manages to generate a profit, they aren't going to be so benevolent that they'd hand that cash back to us. They're going to want to put that money in their pockets.

So if SIESA can figure out a way to produce cheap power and someday actually make a profit, that money could go back into the community... perhaps, as one community board member said, to subsidize local pensioners' bills.

So... **What about alternative energy?** Whatever happened with those solar panels on DoC and the Post Office, and the wind turbine at Ringaringa? Circa 2008, Right House was over here talking about wind and solar potentially generating a third of the island's power. Remember all that hoo-ha? (Whatever happened to Right House? Established in 2007, they were a subsidiary of Meridian Energy. In 2011 they were bought by The Mark Group of the UK.) There was a buzz that we were all going to get our homes kitted out ultra green for FREE and Stewart Island was going to be an example of totally self-sustaining green energy. What happened to that burst of alternative energy *energy*? The answer is that while it was a great idea, it just didn't work that well. The solar panels

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

were rusting roofs, and the single wind turbine couldn't give necessary data—we'd need to see an array of turbines at different positions to have a proper understanding of what they can generate here.

The downside is that, as it's been explained to me, the alternative energy won't do us any good unless it is so good it can entirely replace our diesel generators. If we try to use wind, solar, or wave energy to partially supplement our diesel, we will still be using the diesel enough that it will still need upkeep and, of course, diesel, and we've just put our

diesel problem through the complicator, sort of like the Chatham Islands.

The upside is that our Community Board recognizes this, and the alternative energy study presently underway aims to someday entirely replace our diesel system. The hope is to create a wind-hydro system with a dam and several carefully positioned turbines. The study is costing about \$200,000+, and the proposed project could cost 5-7 million dollars. We spend over a million dollars in diesel a year, so if this actually becomes operational it will pay for itself within a decade.

In the meantime, green measures (eg double

glazed windows, solar heating) can and are being made in Island homes and they work well and it's a taste of what could be possible someday on a larger scale. New green technologies are being developed and improved on as you read this rag, and think of the technological advances and leaps you've seen in your lifetime. Just because it's not working that well in 2013 doesn't mean that in 2020 there won't be amazing and uber-efficient and GREEN ways to generate power on Stewart Island. And we will be free from the bonds of the hungry monster, the diesel generator; we will turn on our lights without guilt, we will open our mail from SIESA without fear. So let's just hope the dam thing works. —Jess

I am a self-professed moron on an array of subjects including kilowatts, reality, and maths. But I did my SIN editorial duty, which entails asking lots of good people lots of annoying questions. Here's some stuff I've heard people saying around the place—gripes, misconceptions and questions—and responses.

The big businesses on the island are using too much power, they're jacking up the cost for everyone else. It works the opposite way. The power company is in the business of selling power; this is an economy of scale and the more power we use, the cheaper the power. The bigger businesses here are, for want of a better word, subsidizing the rest of us. If the big power-users here closed up shop we would all be in big trouble: the cost of power per resident would go through the roof and living here would not be financially sustainable for most people.

My power bill reflects how much power I'm using in my house. Yes, you are charged for the units of power you use in your household. But you are *also* charged a uniform charge. It costs money for SIESA to keep power running through the whole system of Stewart Island and to ensure that power is ready at everyone's gate, whether they are home or not, whether they live here fulltime or not. That cost is shared equally by all households on the Island, ditto the cost of SIESA wages, equipment, and upkeep.

**What is a unit?
What is a kilowatt (kW)?
What is a kilowatt-hour (kWh)?**
A kilowatt is 1,000 watts of power. A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is one kW of power expended in one hour of time. If you run 10 100-watt light-bulbs for one hour, you have used one kilowatt-hour. The maths equation is: the power used multiplied by the time used must equal 1,000 to make a kilowatt-hour (so you could use a one 1-watt bulb for 1,000 hours to get a kWh).
One unit = one kWh.
One litre of diesel generates about four units of power.
Or, one litre of diesel generates about four kWh.
Or, one litre of diesel will run four 1000-watt lightbulbs for about one hour.

OK. Um...what's a watt?
A watt is a unit of electrical power. This is an international unit (named for engineer James Watt) that describes one joule per second. It measures the rate of energy conversion. **What's a joule?** You're killing me.

These new charges will make us poor and Chris Dillon is getting rich from this, he is going to buy a solid gold ladder for his power line duties. Chris and Steve are linesmen employed by Power Services (contracted by SIESA) to maintain the power station and lines here. They have no say in policy or finances. If they did get suddenly rich they would not invest in ladders made from precious metals. The Stewart Island Board and Council agreed to these changes after much deliberation and working with unpleasant numbers and facts. This isn't making them rich either, they are in the same boat as the rest of us. Who is getting rich? Bill Gates and Sonny Bill Williams. But that has nothing to do with us.

We the people should grab our torches and baying hounds

Ted Rooney was the first domestic consumer to switch to the new power station in 1988.

Is there any way around this?
Finally, a short answer: Nope.

Ten percent of your power is from stuff on standby so keep your unused computer, DVD, TV etc off.

and descend on the power station and take it back! Take it back? You never owned it. The Power Station was originally built with a grant from the Rural Electricity Grant Scheme; it became an asset of the Stewart Island County Council under a local body amendment act in 1990. And why would anyone in their right mind want to own a 25-year old power station? That's run on diesel? If you actually achieved a successful mutiny of the power station, you'd still have to legally comply with operating a power station and that's a big pain in the neck. And you'd still have to buy diesel and transport it across the Strait and upgrade all of your aging equipment and then crunch the numbers so it's all feasible, legal, efficient, etc. What a total headache.

Nuts to this scene, I'm going off the grid and getting my own generator. There are many people here who remember the days of the household generator and they don't have fond recollections. A generator can be a dirty noisy nuisance. You will have to buy diesel for it and pay to maintain it and start the darn thing up. You get home from work and want to relax or go to the Pub or make tea but no, you have to go start up that generator. And after all the expense and work, if your machine isn't totally efficient you could be spending over a dollar a kilowatt and the thing could be costing you compliance-related fees, and your sanity and patience. And the more people who go off the grid, the more expensive power will be for the rest of us. So it's something to think hard about and do plenty of research on before you make that leap.

The average consumer here uses about 3,200 kw a year (a Chatham Island household uses about 2,800 kw and the average Invercargill household uses about 8,000).

Why do we all of a sudden have to pay all this money now? Can't we just wait until the equipment breaks down and then raise money locally to fix it?

SIESA has been running at a loss for years and we have not been paying for the true cost of power for years, and zero money has been going toward depreciation, and now we are in a pickle. Those bacon-wrapped mussels and Quiz nights are good, but they're not that good. Cost to replace and repair the power station is in the millions, cupcakes and a sausage sizzle are not going to cut it.

The Tiwai Point smelter accounts for 14% of all of New Zealand's annual electricity demand.

It's like we're being encouraged to use more power to justify a lower unit cost, green doesn't seem to be a concept that even enters into this conversation. While it's not easy to have a green conversation about a diesel generator, there is a green aspect to all of this, in fact, it's an underlying reason to the whole project. Now let's talk fishing boats: big dirty old diesel-hungry boats. Fisherman invest money in new gear for safety and for efficiency. New engines run much more efficiently, and the more efficient an engine, the less diesel it burns. The island power station is similar: they are trying to have less outages and they are also trying to run as efficiently as possible.

DOC Spot Submitted by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor

Department down-sizing on Rakiura

The Department of Conservation has announced the details on changes to its organisation structure. This includes final staffing numbers and locations. These changes are focused on streamlining conservation delivery operations and growing conservation by working with others. The impact for staff currently based on Rakiura is reasonably significant as the workforce is down-sized from 18 full-time-equivalents to just 15, with all management responsibilities shifted off island.

While no staff have officially received notification that they do, or do not, have a position here on the island, it is likely that some will be re-confirmed into positions within the next month or so, as their work will be largely unchanged. For others it will mean competing for positions with their colleagues and for some that may mean settling for a lower-banded position than the one they currently hold. But for a few, the only option we will have if we hope to retain a career with DOC will be to apply for a position elsewhere in the country. It's a pretty heart-wrenching situation for most of us - inevitably it feels that our family is breaking up.

We will endeavour to keep the community informed as appointments are made, as there will be different reporting lines in the future for things such as compliance and concessions. Full information on the new structure can be found on the DOC website: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/issues/new-structure-for-doc/>

Next phase for Air NZ partnership programme

The Air NZ project is about to enter the next phase of the programme with a pest control network being designed for around the Rakiura Great Walk track area. The objective will be to apply a level of protection for species to enhance biodiversity values and allow visitors to experience these. The network is likely to follow the coastal verge from Lee Bay to Port William, controlling rats and possums.

We also have the opportunity to learn more about the behaviours of feral cats, considered the main predator of kiwi chicks on Stewart Island. We intend to radio-collar some feral cats to determine their home range, territories, travel routes etc. This information will allow us to design the most effective method, location and frequency of control to remove feral cats in the future. We are also supporting SIRCET after the kiwi release by increasing the number of live cat cage traps in this project area.

A mapped update of the kiwi translocation to Ackers Point can be found down at the SIRCET Environment Centre. Not surprisingly, kiwi have naturally moved from the release site, but most are still within the same area. All are alive and seem to be active around their new territories. Some have dispersed out towards Ackers Point, while others have moved into the Leask Bay/Evening Cove area. 'Billy the runner', aptly named by the dog team on Ulva Island, has moved some 1.7km into the Peter-

son Hill area. This means that landowners in these areas may well have one of these kiwi residing in their back yard. Please take extra care when driving on roads in these areas and if you are a dog owner please be vigilant and keep your dog well under control at all times. We are aware that a number of dog owners have been actively working at changing bad habits that their dogs may have had and appreciate the effort that has gone into this.

The kiwi translocated to Ulva Island are also doing well, again not dispersing too far from their release site. Efforts were made to replace male with male into the various territories and it looks like the new males are well settled within these territories and have found new partners.

An update on Ulva Island.

Trapping - All of the traps have been checked once a week since the initial four rats were caught and no further rats have been caught. While this is a good sign, we will keep running the traps until the rodent detecting dog has returned and had a thorough search of the island. It is now more than a month since the last rat was caught.

Run through ink tunnels - The run through ink tunnels were collected in this week. These are tunnels that have an ink card put in them and are baited with peanut butter. A rat will be attracted to the peanut butter and when it runs through the tunnel, it will get ink on its feet and leave footprints on the card at each end of the tunnel. These are another device for detecting rats that, for whatever reason, may be avoiding traps. The tunnels were left for ten days and then checked - no rat prints were detected in any of the tunnels.

Rodent dog monitoring - Ranger Miriam Ritchie, who specialises in rodent monitoring and her two dogs (Oki and Moss) did find a den near West End three weeks ago. There wasn't a rat present in the den and Miriam wasn't sure how recent the den was, but felt it was possibly a few weeks old. As a precautionary approach, we put some poison baits out around the immediate area of this den (100m radius) and a grid of wax tags (rats chew these and leave bite marks in the wax). The wax tags have subsequently been collected and none of these had any rat bite marks on them. We have booked in another dog handler (Fin Buchanan) to come to the island for 6 days from the 27 May.

Rat genetics - The rat genetics results are now back for all four of the rats that were caught. Results from the first three rats sent off for analysis and to be compared for relatedness revealed that Rat1 definitely does not share the same parent with either Rat2 or Rat3. However, it is possible that Rat 2 and Rat3 could share a parent. In those cases you can only say it is 'consistent' with sharing the same parent based on the data. Results just back from the fourth rat show it is also highly related to Rat2 and Rat3. This suggests that there were at least two rats that have got to Ulva Island (as opposed to one female that then gave birth ... although this may have occurred as well and accounts for the relatedness of Rat2, Rat3 and Rat4). DNA suggests that the likely point of origin is 'The Neck'.

CLOSING SOON
 SUBMISSIONS ON THE SOUTHLAND PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN
 Council has put together a summary of submissions and the decisions requested that you can support or oppose. The document is available from all area offices and libraries, including the Gore District Library.
 A copy can also be downloaded from www.southlandcouncil.govt.nz
 LAND USE - SUBDIVISION - DEVELOPMENT

FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY 5PM 14 JUNE 2013

We're looking to update the photo wall at the pub, so if you have any good shots you want to share with the drinking population of Stewart Island, you can drop the hard copy into the pub, or if it is digital, email it to me and I'll get them printed off!
stewartisland@xtra.co.nz — Vicki

A word our new Rugrats teacher

Karin Lewis

In the beginning of February I attended a 10 day course in Auckland. Many thanks to Rakiura Education Trust for helping to fund this course! It was great to have support from the community for me to further develop my passion for and understanding of working with infants and toddlers. I have enjoyed bringing my knowledge and experiences from this course into Rugrats, as well as sharing this information with families in the community.

While at this course, I met and worked with a group of 14 passionate and like-minded teachers. It was great to be surrounded by such energy. I was studying the RIE approach (pronounced rye). RIE stands for Resources for Infant Educators and discusses the importance of respecting infants and toddlers and involving the child in daily routine activities (diapering, feeding, etc). RIE encourages (and challenges) us to realise that our actions-how we hold, pick up, put down, respond to crying, talk to, feed, and talk to others in children's presence- create how children understand the world, their place in it, and their value.

While at this course (and since) I have had many "ah-ha" moments and have found that a lot of the principles of this approach have seeped into my overall teaching, not just when working with children under 2. This philosophy also overlaps greatly with the early childhood curriculum, Te Whāriki, by focusing on dispositional learning rather than implementing formal teaching for young children.

The main goal, as stated on their official website (<http://www.rie.org/educaring>), is to raise authentic infants who are competent, confident, curious, attentive, explorative, cooperative, secure, peaceful, focused, self-initiating, resourceful, involved, inner-directed, aware, and interested. Quite a feat by all means! This approach helps to foster these qualities by recognising that all children are born capable and competent, with preferences, ideas, and theories of how the world works, not blank canvasses.

There are some basic principles that make up the RIE approach but the main underlying idea is to demonstrate respect towards children in all interactions. The idea behind this is basic...if we expect children to grow up to be respectful, we need to treat children with respect. What this looks can be as simple as telling a child that you are going to pick her up, pausing, and then following through with the action. This



Noel Bulman received a surprising phone call a couple of months ago. After 100 years, the Invercargill Boating Club had finally disbanded, and trophies and cups were being given back to their original owners. So Noel was presented (again) with the Most Improved Junior Yachtsman Cup which he had won in 1950. His name is the first of a list of names inscribed on it, as Noel was the inaugural winner. The photo at the left depicts Noel sailing at the site of the Stead Street Bridge (near the INV airport), the building in the background, the Jellicoe shed, is still standing. The marks on the sail indicate I for Idle-Along class and 1 as it's the first built (for Bert Walker, a former island resident). The Invercargill Estuary has silted up over the years and is too shallow for yachting.

Thank you Noel for sharing this piece of Southland boating history with us, and ... congratulations (again!)

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

from Jenny Gell

The Garden Party on 1st May at Diana Bryant's was so successful It was decided we would have a repeat in January when Diana returns to the island.

Our next gathering will be at Sue Munro's at 2 o'clock on Thursday 13th June.

Afternoon tea provided.



helps her become an active participant, not a passive recipient. RIE encourages parents and caregivers to do things with the child, not to the child. It is also important to slow down so children can anticipate. When a baby can anticipate what will happen, he can make connections and be an active participant. This creates opportunities for interaction, cooperation, intimacy and mutual enjoyment, all the while creating self-awareness.

One of the principles, focuses on creating environments that are physically safe, cognitively challenging, and emotionally nurturing. When safe spaces are created then there is more freedom for children to initiate their play and allows adults to relax, slow down, and take time to observe. Creating appropriate environments allows children to explore and interact with others and demonstrates the trust we have for the child to be an initiator, explorer, and a self-learner. Having trust in children coupled with taking the backseat, allows children to enjoy mastery of their own actions.

Observation is also an important part of the RIE approach. The more we observe, the more we understand and appreciate the enormous amount, and the speed of learning that happens during the first two or three years of life. We become more humble, we teach less, and we provide an environment for

learning. During observation adults can focus on and appreciate what the child is currently doing, instead of trying to speed up to the next milestone.

So, this little blurb skims the surface of RIE. It is about trusting babies' natural instincts and finding a way to work with them by interpreting cries as a form of communication, creating safe environments with simple toys (encouraging infants and toddlers to be active and engage their imagination), and for adults to take a step back, instead of steering children to a specific goal. RIE believes that children accomplish milestones at their own pace and in their own way...this encourages us to appreciate children for who they are.

I'll leave you with a quote from the founder of RIE, Magda Gerber, "when you hold an infant, hold him not just with your body, but with your mind and heart."

Feel free to contact me (lewis.karin@gmail.com) or pop in to see me in the afternoon after our Rugrats session is over, if you would like to have any discussions about this philosophy. I have a few books, articles, and websites to pass on to those who are interested.

—Karin Lewis



BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford

“The Girl who Played with Fire” & “The Girl who Kicked the Hornets’ Nest” by Stieg Larsson

You’ll have read “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” now so know who I’m talking about. I felt the characters were wooden in that first book, their back-stories flat, but in the “Fire” book we find out why! There’s no wonder all the missing pieces weren’t included in Book 1 – it would have spoiled the trilogy! ‘The girl’, Lisbeth, is better explained, her horrific life including years in a lunatic asylum. And during that latter period, Lisbeth became even more damaged thanks mainly to a very strange psycho-therapist....

So, two years have passed since Lisbeth took her wounded heart out of Blomkvist’s orbit, and the way she spent those two years is fascinating but is coming to an end as Book 2 opens. Meanwhile, Blomkvist has been approached by a young couple – a journo and a thesis-writer, investigating the importation of foreign slave-prostitutes into Sweden, and the dizzy political heights to which the cruel trade reaches. When the writers are found murdered, the obvious suspicion that Blomkvist comes to is that their deaths protect some in high places. The trouble is, the murder weapon – a gun, is by the bodies, and the fingerprints on it are Lisbeth’s....

Zalachenko is a key player in the racket, but who is he and what is his connection to the ‘secret police’ - Sapo? Lisbeth is portrayed to the media as a mentally-incapacitated prostitute of sub-normal intelligence, but as we already know, the truth is somewhat different. Lisbeth has to ‘disappear’ so using a passport that she has ‘acquired’ assumes a new identity – which doesn’t help Blomkvist as he works to clear Lisbeth’s name. Lisbeth makes full use of her on-line identity, ‘Wasp’,

and her equally supra-intelligensia computer-geeky friends to maintain an ephemeral contact with Blomkvist and help him solve the puzzle. He does so, but not before murder and mayhem have occurred and Lisbeth is even further traumatised.

Only a few minutes pass between the end of Book 2 and start of Book 3. Because of the physical injuries that Lisbeth received at the hands of Zalachenko, she’s in hospital, awaiting trial for murder – but which one: the two journalists from the beginning of this storyline; her pervert guardian; or Zalachenko? Who within Sapo is concerned with seeing that Lisbeth is committed forever to a mental institution? And why? These are questions which exercise Blomkvist who is convinced that Lisbeth is innocent of any wrong-doing. But is he assuming correctly? After all, *we do* know about Lisbeth’s guardian, her hidden identity, and how she came by the billions of kronar that support the other identity’s life-style. Is Lisbeth as innocent as Blomkvist believes? I’m not giving any more clues – read the books and follow the red-herrings and the path to truth for yourself.

What I will say is that “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” - which was merely ‘good’ – was actually a scene-setter. The next two books make complete sense of the first and an explosively good trilogy.

I’ve also read “Great Expectations” and “Bleak House” (Charles Dickens) back to back. The first was brilliant – just as I remember, but I had great expectations of Bleak House which were unmet. I found it a pretty story that could have been told in half the space. I don’t remember it being quite that complex. Still, a nice change of pace, though as many murders and as much mystery in Dickens as Larsson could cope with!



At some point, the island fungi are going to serve Carolyn with a restraining order. But until then, I’m happy to announce we have a new feature for *SIN*.

Welcome to The Mushroom Corner*, a monthly glimpse into the photo albums of toadstool stalker Carolyn Squires.

*Mushroom-of-the-Month doesn’t roll off the tongue, but I’ll bet you can think of a catchier name than “the mushroom corner”
...please send ideas.



Shop Talk

by Jules Retberg

Hold the front page!

A humble blue plastic tray on the Ship to Shore counter holds such promise and excitement when it's piled high with the latest issue of Stewart Island News. Hot off the presses and rushed straight from the Stewart Island Flights depot into the shop, it is eagerly welcomed and oohed and aaaahed over by its adoring public, namely us! It's a fantastic read and I love watching people light up when they see a new issue.

I was in the Library a while ago and found a whole treasure trove of archived SInS. Instantly absorbed, I wish I could have spent the whole week camped at the Library reading them, instead of an all-too-brief lunch hour. I will be back!

This got me thinking about archives and news print. Many of you know that I'm a computer geek and generally turn to a computer to do many things. But I love reading real books, writing and receiving hand written letters and postcards - and old newspapers are gold-dust, in my mind. For a significant birthday a while ago I asked my Mum if she could get a newspaper from the day I was born, which she managed to do, and it's among my most treasured possessions. From the 1960s it's not exactly antique (yet!) but it makes a sensational read. And smells gorgeous.

****Weirdo Alert**** Yes I love the smell of old books and printed materials. Try it, seriously.

But I digress. I intended to write this article about the changes in reading behaviour.

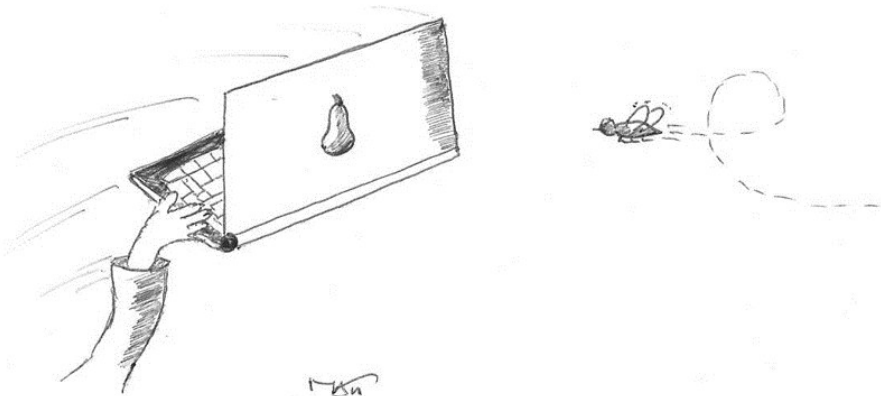
Will youngsters get their news from computers, smartphones, e-readers, tablets (don't get me started on "tablets", didn't they used to be things we took for a headache?). Are printed newspapers soon to be a thing of the past? I hope not. A newspaper doesn't interrupt you to tell you that you have email.

You can relax with a newspaper, flick through the headlines or inhale every paragraph, letter, and full stop.

I love the feel of a newspaper; the way you can leave it rolled or folded with your scribbles beside the crossword or sudoku; the way it can double as a plate to catch your biscuit crumbs while you enjoy a cuppa. You can tear a corner off to squish your chewing gum into. Swat a fly with it. Wrap fish and chips in it. Wrap a broken glass or plate in it. Throw it at your partner to remove the ridiculously small spider that you have leapt onto the sofa to avoid. Or occasionally at the shop, throw a bundle of old newspapers on the floor to soak up a spilt bottle of wine .. oops!

Try doing that with your computer, smartphone, e-reader or tablet!

Jules



At a community meeting this month, Gareth Morgan unveiled the first technical feasibility study on the pest eradication project for the Island. He addressed major bones in the community crawl, reiterating that he's gunning for *feral* cats (not domestic), that he's *not* targeting deer, and that he is looking at *non-aerial* poisoning for the township. The new study concludes that the Island must be done in two segments (Civilization and The Rest) with a 12km fence from Maori Beach to North Arm (crossing the track twice) separating the two. The report also reckons that science can't yet answer the puzzle of how to effectively poison the big section, so the focus would initially be on the small section aka *US*.

While recognizing that the jury is still way out on whether this project is a goer, Mr Morgan proposed that the next step would be to form a governance board to put decision-making reins into our hands. Suggested Board representatives would include Ngai Tahu, Rakiura Maori Land Trust, residents, businesses, DoC, the council, funders, and hunters.

Gareth commented that the study raised numerous questions. Likewise, this recent meeting has piqued fresh discussion, hopes and concerns around the Bay. I know of one person who was alarmed that hedgehogs were brought into the mix (I ♥ hedgehogs, OK?). A local man flagged me down the other day and said he hopes people from fishing and aquaculture would be a part of this process because if the poisoning goes pear-shaped their industries could stand to

suffer. A community board member told me he was excited at the prospect of new jobs created here: potentially 20 short term jobs if this thing gets off the ground, and 5-6 long term jobs.

Let's just imagine that this thing is a goer, and that it goes well. It could attract thousands of bird and other eco-tourists to our island. It could fill a pest control role that might be lost under the DoC restructure. It could create economic growth, and bring a good buzz to the Island, drawing more people to come work and live here. And the more people that live in this community... the cheaper our power! It all ties together so neatly.

Too good to be true? What are the downsides? Catches? Fine print?

The community meeting was extremely polite and civil, because we're all extremely polite and civilised. Ahem. But also because despite the "big reveal" of the new plan, the project is still in such an embryonic stage it's difficult to argue with it or find faults.

It's clear that Mr. Morgan, his team, and a growing number of Islanders are quite serious about this project. Stayed tuned to the pages of *SIN* for updates. In the meantime have a read of the scoping report *Eliminating Predators from Stewart Island* (available at the Library and on-line) and make an effort to attend the next meeting (rambunctious toddlers and their weary caregivers exempted).

—Ed

Are you a *SIN* subscriber?
 When it's time to renew, please consider signing up for *two* more years...it will save a bit of paperwork. Thank you to those who have already done so.

CLOSING SOON
SUBMISSIONS ON THE SOUTHLAND PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN
 Council has put together a summary of submissions and the decisions requested that you can support or oppose. The document is available from all area offices and libraries. A copy can also be downloaded from www.southlanddc.govt.nz
FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY 5PM 14 JUNE 2013
LAND USE - SUBDIVISION - DEVELOPMENT

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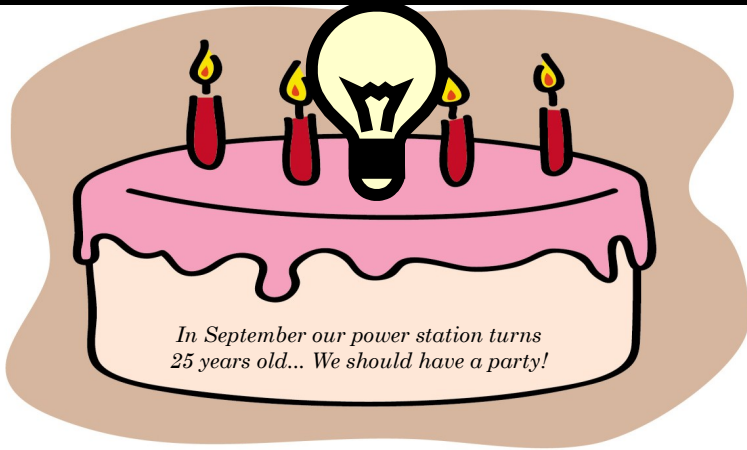
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This term our focus at HMB School is **Matariki** - Maori New Year. On June 10th we plan to host our own Matariki Festival. This will be a combined Rururats school event and will be open to the community. We are looking for any whanau/ community members who have skills in Maori traditions such as poi, tiahā, hangi preparation, flax weaving, carving, kite making, kapahaka, waiata, haka, etc to help the students organise and run the festival. Please see Kath, Bonnie or Emily if you can help out.

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