

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

November-December 2017

\$3.00

Pegasus salmon farming plans have been scrapped for the time-being: this news was met with jubilation by many residents who fiercely opposed the project (more on pages 13 & 18). A group of islanders have now been inspired to create a group modelled on the Fiordland Marine Guardians. To give you an idea of the concept, this is a statement about the Fiordland chapter: “The formation of the Guardians was in response to concerns about the escalating pressures on the Fiordland Marine Area and a desire that the local community be more involved in the management of Fiordland’s marine environment.” Residents across the whole spectrum of Stewart Island industries and interests are encouraged to get involved. See page 2 for more information.

Our summers are getting busier and there are several new ventures on the horizon to accommodate all of our visitors. Welcome to new residents Leigh and Uli who are starting a café — the Drunken Octopus — at the Pearler’s building, alongside an aquarium. Exciting! They will also be running Kai Kart. (FYI they are seeking staff so if you’re seeking employment give them a call at 0212687687.) Tony aka Spoon is going to be offering takeaway pizzas at the Lighthouse Café on Main Road (next to Bunkhouse Theatre). Also, the Kiwi French Creperie has been re-named Just Café. Bunkhouse Theatre is open again and has a great line-up of films (p7); Dave’s doing an awesome job as Quiz Master at the iconic Pub Quiz on Sundays; and the carving studio Rakiura Jade (upstairs at Pearler’s) continues to offer a stellar experience for visitors and locals ... chuffed customers leave their doors daily with pounamu they carved themselves.

When was the last time you played bowls? We have a primo bowling club and green here so take advantage of that! Challenge some mates and have some fun. Everyone’s welcome: join the club or if you’re a visitor it’s just \$5 a session and you’ll have bragging rights to bowling the country’s (and possibly the World’s?...!) southernmost green! No experience necessary. More information page 4. I’ve heard there’s some golfing in Antarctica (they use red balls) but we definitely boast the country’s southernmost golf course, see page 8 for upcoming events at Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club.

If you like Stewart Island books then check out *Wildboy To the Edge*



This is the stem of a massive 30-year old barberry plant recently removed from the north coast near Saddle Point. More pages 14 & 17.

and Back: the account of Brando Yelavich’s attempt to walk around Stewart Island’s coast. It’s a really good read; hats off to this amazing young man and his achievements. Also, there’s a rat recipe. (Excerpt in *Rat Tales* page 8).

Just a reminder: our email address is stewartislandnews@yahoo.com ... some people have been sending emails to the old address. Go into your contacts on your computer and change it please so we don’t miss your missives!

Yes, those lovely cloth bags at the shop entrance are FREE: just use and return the “boomerang bags” as needed, and help rid the Earth of plastic bags. The folks behind this project are a new community group known as Hummingbirds — read more about them below. —Jess

HUMMINGBIRDS

Have you heard the story of the flight of the hummingbird? In this parable, which originates from the Quechuan people of South America, a fire is burning down the forest. All of the animals stand at its edge, watching on helplessly. All the animals ... except for one hummingbird. The tiny bird zips back and forth between the forest and the river, dropping water on the fire one drop at a time from its tiny beak. The animals ask the hummingbird *why bother*, and the hummingbird replies: *I am doing the best that I can*. This story has been famously recounted by Wangari Maathi, the Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize recipient who started the Green Belt Movement which focuses on environmental conservation. Maathi hoped the maxim “I will be a hummingbird” would serve as inspiration to people who feel overwhelmed or helpless in the face of a massive crisis.



Three Island women, inspired by this story, have started a group aptly named Hummingbirds. Their aim is to lessen our harmful impact on the environment, one wee project at a time. As one of the trio commented: *We can’t just sit back and watch the world burn down*.

You’ve probably seen their first initiative: the stand of Boomerang Bags at the shop. These local ladies put a lot of time and heart into sewing the reusable cloth bags which are meant to be borrowed and returned as needed, thus reducing the use of plastic bags on the island. Right now, there are 50 bags in circulation! (They’ve used old curtains, paint drop-cloths, etc and would gratefully receive any donations of unwanted fabric.) Plastic waste is a massive environmental scourge, but this group has determined it is not insurmountable. Small gestures can have a wider impact: it’s possible our visitors will notice the Boomerang Bags and take that inspiration back to their communities.

(Continued on page 2)

St John First Response Team news

by Debs Dillon

Thank you for supporting the Stewart Island St John first response team with your donations and encouragement. The First Response Team consists of eight members who make themselves available 24 / seven to complement the PRIME nurse service.

This ensures your St John service is double crewed a standard St John endeavour to provide throughout New Zealand.

Double crewing enhances safety for patients and staff, especially as we often have relief PRIME nurses, night work is often required and when evacuation is necessary it is always by helicopter or plane.

First responders well trained by St John initially with 60 hours off island education, formal continuing education

on Island with St John trainers and fortnightly ambulance practice with the PRIME nurses.

Working and training with Fire Service, SAR, Police, Coast Guard, DOC and Civil Defence is also part of the First Responder role.

Community awareness of CPR and availability of defibrillator (AED) and double crewing of Ambulances has been proven to dramatically improve the outcome for patients.

If you have an emergency requiring medical help please dial 111 to activate the St John service.

Please be aware of where you are calling from as Ambulance Control will need this information, the best location information is the rapid number and road name.

Ambulance Control will call the PRIME nurse and First Responder via pager and text, then will continue monitor the situation until the job is complete ensuring safety of both patients

and staff.

Defibrillators (AED) are available at
Community Centre Office
South Sea Hotel Foyer
Ship to Shore
Fire Engine
Ambulance
Powernet work vehicle
Sanford's Salmon Farm
Real Journeys Ferry

Please let us know of any other defibrillators as they become available.

It would be very helpful and appreciated greatly by those responding to any emergency if clear access was maintained to properties.

Once again thank for supporting our St John First Response Team and also a big thank youth the team members themselves.

Any questions regarding the the First Responder Team please call Deborah Dillon (St John Station Manager) on mobile 027 4695069

(Hummingbirds Continued from page 1)

Hummingbirds has many more ideas for future projects including re-vamping the recycle centre shop, starting a toy library, creating a water fountain, organising beach clean-ups, and offering advice for ways our households can use less plastic. One of their children has contributed an idea, too: have signs around asking people not to drop their cigarette butts on the ground (Halfmoon Bay School does beach clean-ups and the kids collect all sorts of grubby garbage from our beaches, ciggy butts included).

Feeling inspired? Want to contribute? Keen to join? Hummingbirds is open to new ideas and anyone who wants to be a part of the group is most welcome. Join Hummingbirds on Facebook to keep informed, or check the noticeboard.

Hummingbirds would like to say thank you to Glowing Sky for donating the screen for printing their bags and also thanks to Ship to Shore,

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

Rakiura Marine Guardians

Issues relating to marine farming in Big Glory Bay have been on some people's minds for years now. Then along came the Southland Regional Development Strategy (SoRDS). They started investigating the establishment of salmon farms at various places along the east coast of this Island including in the North Arm of Port Pegasus. Then along came *Bonamia ostreae* (flat oyster parasite), and the threatened risk posed to the Bluff Oyster Fishery. In the past, we have become aware of issues such as *Undaria pinnatifida*, the pest seaweed. These and other issues, which have impacted our once pristine marine environment, resulted in a small core group discussing the concept of a Marine Guardians group for Rakiura/Stewart Island modelled on the Fiordland Guardians Group and a similar one at Kaikoura. The intention is to form a collective voice that is truly representative of the diversity of views and interests of the Rakiura community.

To date, three minuted meetings have been held at the instigation of Ken McAnergney, with help from Margaret Hopkins and Gwen Neave. At the last meeting, it was resolved to form a group to be known as Rakiura Marine Guardians Incorporated. As we move forwards, the concept needs much more input from locals/local groups representing Cod, Cray, Pua, tourist and recreational fishers, marine tourism operators, marine farming operators, marine scientists, and others.

The pressure to quickly form the Rakiura Marine Guardians to respond to the Port Pegasus salmon farm feasibility investigations has evaporated. However, all who attended this meeting, one day after the project was canned, agreed that the need to protect the pristine nature and sustainability of the marine environment for future generations still exists. Further meetings will be held soon with help from an appropriately qualified facilitator to enable the group to discuss and agree on things such as a vision for the future of the Rakiura marine environment, future risks and sustainable development opportunities. There is hope to encourage a wide range of Island folk, especially more young ones to take over from us oldies so they can continue to work towards keeping our island the unique sanctuary it is, well into the future.

If you would like to see the minutes from the initial meetings or for more information please send your name, email, address, and phone number to: gwenneavenz@gmail.com and ken.mcanergney@outlook.com



Stewart Island future in community’s hands

Stewart Islanders are being encouraged to get involved in the development of a community leadership plan to safeguard and enhance their community’s future in the face of some challenging statistics.

Stewart Island is facing challenges, like many regional areas in New Zealand, including declining population, declining youth population, declining employment opportunities, an ageing population and infrastructure.

Community facilitator Sandra James said the community leadership planning process has proven successful in assisting communities to work together to determine their own futures, in partnership with government, local government and other agencies.

In March, Southland District Council completed the first phase of the community leadership planning process on Stewart Island and within the wider Southland District. This first phase included workshops with the Stewart Island Rakiura Community Board around the future opportunities for the island over three, 10 and 30 years, and identifying what was important to its community now and into the future. Now it’s the turn of the community to have its say.

In addition, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has joined forces with Council following the discovery of the bonamia parasite in some farmed oysters, as MBIE acknowledges the significant impact this has had on the Stewart Island community. Funds have been set aside to develop investment proposals for ideas generated from the community leadership planning process which will be sent to central government for consideration.

Ideas for the cultural, economic, environmental and social future of the island would be sought in November – through a residents’ survey and a community fete and a community workshop to be held on 29 November at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, with another planned in February to consider the information gathered and decide priorities.

A visitor survey would also be done during summer. You can also drop your ideas into suggestion boxes on the Island. Keep your eye out for posters and further updates in SIN about next opportunities to be involved.

The plan will then be developed and presented to Council in February. This plan will belong to the community of Stewart Island; it will be a living document and will continue to be adapted and refined to suit community purposes, passions, aspirations, and learnings.

Orphans Aid Opshop

Come & join us at the Community Center in December on Monday 4th from 10 am to 5pm and Tuesday 5th 10 am to 4pm

We are bring our Fabulous stock back to the Island – coffee-chocolate-tea-goods from Nepal, India and Uganda plus pre-loved goodies and more

Halfmoon Bay School Thanks you!

Halfmoon Bay School would like to say a very big thank you to Real Journeys and Stewart Island Experience staff for giving the school children and their families the opportunity to experience your “Wild Kiwi Encounter”. Everybody had a wonderful time and it was such a big adventure for the children to be out at night under the amazing stars. Seeing the kiwi and dolphins was a bonus! We must also thank you for your inclusion of the school in your recent Skylab visit. What a truly remarkable and educational experience for the children.

We would also like to thank the whole Rakiura community for your amazing support of our school. There are so many ways in which people help out. Please know that we are very appreciative to you all.

RAKIURA RIDDLE

I live in the forest and I’m many metres high
 Some muttonbirds rest in me after they have died
 I’m bloated with gas and my bladder is full
 But I don’t need a loo, I’m a strong healthy bull
 If you solved last month’s riddle then you will know
 my enemy who likes to prey upon my toes
 Guessed who I am? Need a little help?
 If I don’t run out of room I’ll reveal my name is



Help support our little club!

Help support our little Bowling Club by becoming a member. It doesn't matter if you don't play often or simply want to try something different! Come along to our Wednesday afternoon social bowls events and give it a go!

We are lucky to have a great all-weather lawn bowls facility available in our community, which was made possible by years of fundraising and countless volunteer hours in its construction and upkeep. To maintain the green and meet our rates obligations, we must grow our membership and encourage as many as possible to join us in having some fun!

The more members we have, the more we can organise competitions and events, including hosting clubs from the mainland.

To join, either as an individual or as a couple (see rates on the right), you can pay by direct credit (03-1750-0373951-00 with name as reference) or cash/cheque to the Stewart Island Bowling Club Inc.

Send us an e-mail (stewartislandbowls@gmail.com) or pop a form (below) in to PO Box 34 with your phone number and/or e-mail address, so that we can keep you updated with planned events.

Name

Phone

E-mail

Subscription paid by: Direct Credit/Cheque/Cash (circle one)

03-1750-0373951-00 (name as ref)

P.O. Box 34, Halfmoon Bay



Join the Stewart Island Bowling Club today!

Free use of the bowling green & bowls for club members

Social bowls on Wednesdays at 5pm

Tournaments and social events

Beginners and experienced players welcome

STEWART ISLAND BOWLING CLUB INC
stewartislandbowls@gmail.com
P.O. BOX 34

Annual subscription rates

\$50 individuals

\$85 per couple

or

\$5 per session for non-members

Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

20 YEARS AGO



Watercolour of Butterfield Beach by Margaret Fairhall

20 years ago Dot and Walter Harrison celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and were presented the above watercolour of Butterfield Beach painted by Margaret Fairhall. It was a loss to the island when Margaret passed away several years ago, but she lives on in many a home and heart through her many paintings, photos, prints and cards.

It was a busy month getting ready for the Labour Weekend Muttonbird Exhibition and we thank all that made it a success.

Acquisitions for October:

Muttonbird photographs

Slides from a visit to Stewart Island in 1979

Books on Stewart Island

Various articles including bottles, adzes, model ship, dishes, bone handled knives, glass rolling pin, old tool, photographs.

Hats belonging to Herbie Hansen Snr, Christian Hansen and Robert Scollay

Searches for October were:

Pioneering women memorials

West family - related to Paddy Gilroy

William Thomas and Mary Tukuwaha

We still have packets of 10 x Margaret Fairhall cards (5 varieties 2 of each kind) normally \$35 now only \$25.

Also a good selection of historical books.

Summer hours now are: Monday - Saturday 10- 1:30, Sunday 12 - 2:00.

Muttonbird exhibiton held over Labour weekend.

by Shona Sangster

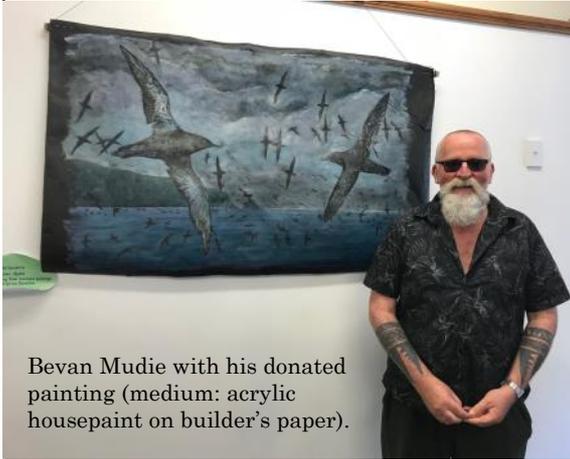
The long weekend saw a special exhibition focused on mutton birds put on by the Stewart Island Museum at the Community Centre. It looked at these iconic birds from a number of perspectives and featured historic photos from the museum's collection (some of which were for sale), photos from muttonbirding families, and information from various sources. The opening night was very well attended, and people commented on how much there was to take in. Raylene Waddell and the museum trustees did a fantastic job putting together such an interesting show and allowing us to learn more about this taonga.

Thanks to **Lania and Laurence Edwards and Ray and Karen Smith** for sharing their photos of muttonbirding; Morry Trow and the Kia Mau Te Titi Mo Ake Tonu Atu Committee for their information and pictures; Jo Leask for her calligraphy on the time line; SIRCET for the loan of their burrowscope, DOC for the use of the projector, **Kahu Moxham and Tyler Dawson** for their school project, **Dave Goodin, Kylie Baker and Bevan Mudie** for the amazing artworks they created; Glowing Sky for the loan of the t-shirt and model; South-

land District Council Amenities Fund for funding the hire of hall; Venture Southland for printing the information panels; Ulva Goodwillie for her opening karakia and the loan of her painting; Rosemary and Merv Taiaroa, Sharon Pasco, John Foley and Shona Sangster for their help in getting things ready, helping over the weekend, dismantling the exhibition and generally keeping the museum trustees from stressing big time!



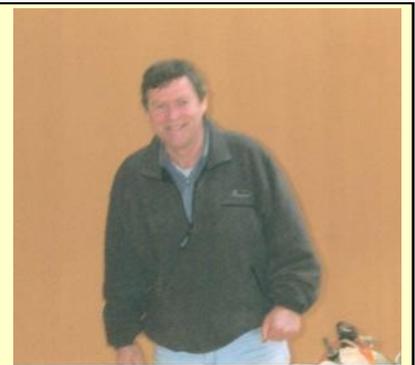
Bev Cowie helps set up



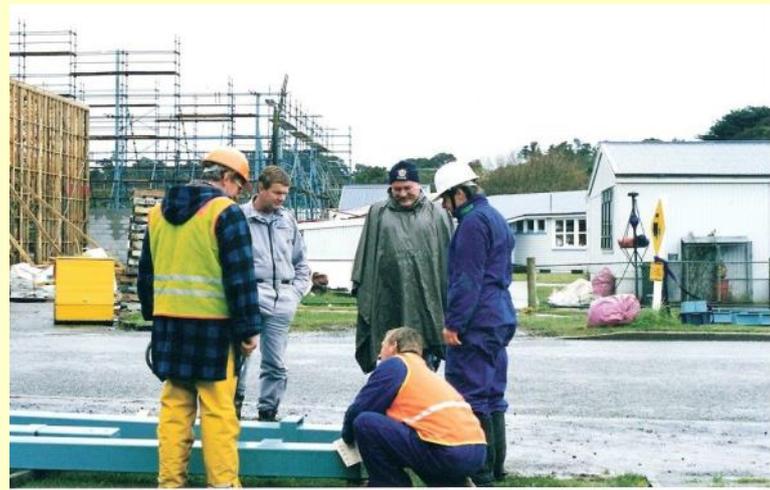
Bevan Mudie with his donated painting (medium: acrylic housepaint on builder's paper).

Howard Robert Phillips, known as **Skin Phillips** to his friends, tragically died this month during a yacht race in Te Anau. He left his mark on Halfmoon Bay with the construction of our beloved community centre, for which he was the project manager. The island will remember him with gratitude and we offer our condolences to his family.

Below: Skin (in white hard-hat) with the builders as they put stops on the steel girders ready to be lifted into place by helicopter.



Photos from Margaret Hopkins





Driftwood throne at Deadman Beach

Bunkhouse THEATRE Daily screenings of A Local's Tail have commenced - 11am, 2pm & 4pm.

Other flicks screening this season.

We start with Show Me Shorts, NZ premiere short film festival. Screening 3rd -24th January 2018. Don't miss it! Link to the programme on our website.

Followed by some great NZ Independent documentaries (dates to be confirmed)

If you want to know more check out www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz/other-flicks

Apologies for cancelling shnit CINEMAS. Films had not been classified and could not achieve this in time for their screening.

Dogs can kill kiwi and penguins.
Please do not let your dog wander.
 Report wandering dogs to
0800 732 732



Happy Eightieth Birthday to Pat King!
Photo from Pip Fraser-Wilson

St Andrew's Anglican Church, Stewart Island.

Christmas Appeal for disadvantaged Southland children

We would be grateful for contributions of either books or toys.

Cash contributions are also acceptable but please place in St Andrew's postbox,
Receipt issued upon request.

Notice on Public Notice board , Please deposit gifts wrapped or unwrapped in hamper at Flights.

Collection closes mid December for distribution by South Centre Anglican Care. Invercargill.

With thanks,

Season's greetings to all residents and visitors.

Vicar Richard Johnson , parishioners and friends of St Andrew's.
Contact Iris Tait, Warden phone 03 2191151



Ring Ringa Heights Golf Club Inc
from Jon Spraggon

The golf course has come through the winter in good condition and has recently had the greens grooved and sanded in preparation for the summer season. The fairways, tees and greens are regularly mowed by volunteers so as to keep this locally owned facility in prime playing condition for locals and visitors alike.

The clubs annual tournament is confirmed for Saturday January 06, 2018, so golfers are asked to keep this date free and to join in for a round on the challenging Ringa Ringa Heights Course. Registered golfers and non golfers sections. Stewart Island Electric Bikes and the Stewart Island Backpackers are sponsoring the #6 [12 & 18] holes at this Tournament and have a \$1000 prize pool available to be shared among any scorers of a hole in one on these holes during the competition.

The Ambrose teams event, one of the highlights on the islands calendar will be played in February. More information on this event will be available in December.

Rat Tales

Everyone has their own style when it comes to rat trapping. Some prefer to check their traps on a weekly basis, others do it a couple times a month. How do you get rid of rat carcasses? An underhand toss or a hard sideways frisbee flick sending it helicoptering into the bush... or full Valerie Adams making it go a big airbourne bye-bye? Some people are fussy about keeping their traps as clean as possible, while others think a bit of rotten rat goo could draw more rats. Last month I toted along a container of muttonbird grease and added a little daub atop each bait, sort of like masterchef applying that final bit of flavourful flair to a plate. This inspiration ended badly...the container opened in the bag and coated all of my rat gear with muttonbird grease and I needed to replace the whole kit.

Not everyone uses the Victor rat traps. Norm assembled his own trap using a barrel with a magnetic weight-sensitive bridge across the top. Rats that fall into the barrel are dispatched quickly with a fire extinguisher. And not everyone uses bait: Phillip Smith said he caught 17 rats just by placing a baitless trap along a piece of timber that led to Diane's chook food. Seventeen rats caught in a trap with NO BAIT! That's remarkable.

On a culinary note, I've been reading Brando Yelavich's new book *Wildboy To the Edge and Back* which recounts his walk around Stewart Island. What this guy did

was amazing, a staggeringly difficult feat and would be impossible for many of us. His diet during his adventure included damper, paua, instant noodles, and... RATS. There is a lengthy description of how he prepares and eats a rat and it's well worth the read. He marinates it in salt and pepper and roasts it until it is "crispy and it looked a bit like roast duck." Here's a morsel:

"I started off small with one of the hind legs and – holy! – it was really good. In fact, I'm not sure why you can't buy them in supermarkets. In a matter of minutes, there was just a little pile of bones on my plate. It tasted soft and buttery. Rats eat both plants and animals but out there it's probably mostly seeds and plants, so it didn't taste too gamey, and I knew it hadn't been eating garbage. The meat was really lean." —excerpt from Wildboy To the Edge and Back by Brando Yelavich

If any of you readers has a rat recipe to share or an original rat-trapping method, send it in.

If you're interested in volunteering for SIRCET and having your own community rat line so you can help get rid of these bird-killing bush-destroying pests, get in touch with Willy Gamble (willy@sircet.org.nz). When I started I was a novice, I'd never handled dead rats or had much to do with traps and now I've loved having a rat line so much that recently I acquired another one!
by Jess Kany

Books Reviewed by Sue Ford



"The Invisible Guardian" by Dolores Redondo: deep in Basque country, a murderer targets young girls, seemingly in an attempt to keep them pure. Inspector Amaia Salazar

spent her childhood here, but going back to the village of Elizondo to investigate has an odd negative effect on her. A wonderful atmosphere of disquiet and unease amongst the ancient forests, the mists and rain of winter in Baztan district. Nicely crafted story; one occasion when the private angst of the detective has a place on the page. Full marks to the translator, Isabelle Kaufelor, for a seamless job. **Andrew Pyper's "The Only Child":** Dr. Lily Dominick is an orphan, a forensic psychiatrist, and about to have her life turned upside down by one of her patients. Is he just an ordinary patient or like something from horror fiction? Oh yes, and he could be Lily's father. Good enough to keep me reading to the clever end. **"Watching You" by Arne Dahl** is a dark Swedish who-dunnit that takes a long time to tell, but it's worth hanging in there through the twists and turns. Sam works for the police, Molly for a closet sister-organisation. Together they must find out what has happened to a string of 15-year old missing girls. And talk about a twisted plot. Takes patience to keep track of it all and again the angst of the characters belongs in the story.

"The Vegetarian" by Han Kang will mean different things to different people. To me, it was 'the anatomy of suicide'. Depressing Korean story about the place of women in Korean society, and what can happen to a repressed woman. I read to the end because the writing is lyrical, almost poetry, so did I love it or hate it? Er... yes.

"Right Behind You" by Lisa Gardner. 9-year old Telly battles his brutal father to death. Dad has stabbed Mom and tried to kill Telly and little sister Sharlah in a drug-fuelled rage. Then protective brother and bereft little girl are separated into the foster system. Telly spends his childhood taking the blame for everything that goes wrong. Sharlah finally learns to love: her new parents and retired police dog Luka. Then Telly comes home to find his foster parents killed. Who is going to take the blame? Telly of course... An excellent story, well-written, but for ultimate tension read **"Playing with Death" by Simon Scarrow & Lee Francis.** FBI Special Agent Rose Blake has been tracking serial killer Shane Koenig, and failed. Her husband Jeff and son Robbie are feeling the effects of Rose's emotional distance as she comes to terms with this, and both turn to technology. Jeff buys a 'Skin', a product that takes virtual reality to the next level, transporting the wearer visually and with tactile reality too. But in the 'theme park' is a more adult section which Jeff decides to sample. Robbie, feeling neglected, makes contact on Facebook with a pretty girl. And in Rose's world, three men die in weird circumstances. I thought AI was 'artificial insemination'..... !!! It has to be my Book of the Month, closely followed by - **Louisa Young's "Devotion"**: two closely-knit groups and families provide drama against the backdrop of the years between the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Peter is mentally scarred from the Great War in which Riley lost his jaw bone. Riley's wife is of Jewish descent with cousins in Italy who are both Jewish and Fascists. Peter falls in love with an old flame – an American Negro jazz singer, only to find out that he has an 18-year old daughter. His son, Tom, is in love with the daughter of the Italian "cousins". Racial and political tensions mount and 1939 draws closer. An excellent drama, but I wish some of the bigoted attitudes were historical rather than contemporary.

Learning Differences

1 in 10 New Zealanders are thought to be dyslexic. Dyslexia is a different way our brain processes information and so dyslexics often find it hard to learn to read and write via traditional teaching methods. It is in no way a reflection on intelligence as sometimes thought in the past and basically means they learn differently (hence the term "learning differences"). Dyslexics often think in pictures and are well renowned for their ability to think outside the box.

"Dyslexia is an alternative way of thinking which can bring both challenges and rewards. The challenges often come in mastering skills like reading and writing, and overcoming feelings of difference and disenfranchisement. On the flipside, dyslexia offers the ability to perceive the world from many different perspectives, allowing visual –spatial thinking and special talents and skills to flourish in fields such as the arts, design, leadership, entrepreneurship, engineering, sciences, business and technology." (DFNZ website)

Here on Stewart Island we are likely to have a relatively high rate of dyslexia amongst our community as those with dyslexia gravitate to professions that are more hands on or creative rather than requiring more academic skills. Dyslexia, as with many of the learning differences, is often genetically linked.

We are trying to raise awareness on dyslexia particularly for those within the community that find reading and writing hard work and also for families with children at school that may be experiencing some sign of learning difficulties. There will be an information night held on the Island (Tuesday 14th November 7:30pm at the school library) and while focussing predominantly on children it will give an overview on what learning differences are, what they mean and what support is available.

Dyslexia Support Southland is facilitating an information evening on the Island to highlight some of these learning differences and what they may mean to you as a family. We would like to invite all parents plus anyone in your wider family or community to come along to hear about some of these learning differences.

**Learning Differences Information Evening
7:30pm-9pm Tuesday 14th November, School Library**

Some of the areas covered include: Dyslexia (reading, writing, spelling learning differences), Dyscalculia (maths learning differences), Auditory processing disorder, Irlen's syndrome (visual processing), dyspraxia (movement learning differences).

There will also be an avenue to discuss one on one your child with the Dyslexia Support Southland staff on the night. A representative from Southland Adult Literacy will also be present for any discussions regarding dyslexia support for adults.

*For further information please contact Belinda Dobbins 2191050
or Mary Chittenden 2191223*

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

I am extremely humbled to be elected to represent Invercargill again, a place I consider my home. I am privileged to be able to continue working hard for our community over the next three years.

It was a great outcome for National bringing in nearly 45% of the votes, an outstanding accomplishment after a solid nine years of strong economic growth. After a hard fought campaign National is the largest Party in Parliament by a considerable margin. So it is of course disappointing for us that we are not in government.

I am incredibly grateful for the continued support that I have received from our communities before, during and after the election. It was great to meet and talk to so many of you along the campaign trail.

Our job now is to fight hard for the values that really matter and ensure that the government does not fritter away the great gains made by New Zealanders over the last nine years.

I hope that this new government will continue to fund National's initiatives such as Battle of Birds, Pest Free NZ and maintain investments that push developments such as the Rakiura Heritage Centre over the line.

New Zealand has an unemployment rate at 4.6 per cent which is now the lowest since the beginning of the global financial crisis.

The number of New Zealanders employed has risen to a record high of nearly 2.6 million and the average wage has increased to \$59,840 – up more than 28 per cent over National's time in office.

This reflects the hard work of all our businesses and the confidence they've had in our economic plan over the last nine years.

The new government has inherited a strong labour market and it is National's intention to ensure they don't squander the opportunities New Zealanders have worked so hard to create. We are not prepared to let a Labour-Greens-NZ First coalition risk everyone's future and take us backwards. There is far too much at stake.

National's 56 talented and dedicated MPs will work tirelessly to ensure that New Zealanders continue to get ahead, while holding the Government to account for any decisions that risk the progress New Zealanders have made in recent years.

We remain ambitious for New Zealand and we remain committed to building a stronger, more confident and more prosperous nation.

from the office of Sarah Dowie MP

One stop Plumbing & Electrical



Plumbers & Building Services Ltd

ELECTRICIAN

We are available to come to Stewart Island for your electrical needs.

Please phone or email to discuss your requirements (due to travel costs we would be happy to combine jobs for different residents into a single trip to save costs)

Grayson Dolan
Plumbers & Building Services
grayson@pbsnz.com - www.pbsnz.com
03 215 7077



This new cenotaph out near Ringa Ringa Point is a tribute to Mohi Hamero Maraetai and his son-in-law Abraham Wast. Mohi was born in 1832 and died at Ringaringa in 1910; Abraham was born in Finland in 1845 and died at Ringaringa in 1923.

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Why not subscribe?

Fascinating! If you're interested in the stats from other voting booths around the country, go to www.fogonwater.carto.com and click on the map called "Voting Places 2017."

Halfmoon Bay School, 6 Ayr Street

202 people voted here in 2017 (up from 175 in 2014)
 National received 39.6% of party votes (down from 52.0%)
 Labour received 39.1% of party votes (up from 11.4%)

Party	2017 party vote	2014
National	80	91
Labour	79	20
NZFirst	15	14
Green	18	36
Māori	0	0
ACT	0	0
TOP	5	0

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Stewart Island Community Leadership Plan

This is an opportunity for everyone to come together and develop a long-term plan for Stewart Island/Rakiura

Share ideas for the cultural, economic, environmental & social future of the Island and together we'll explore and prioritise one or two big ideas for the future

Get involved

COME TO THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
ON WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER
AT THE PAVILION 7.30PM

Uniting the community for a shared vision

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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Church Chatter by Jo Riskem



Can you spot the church
Photo courtesy Rakiura Museum

This is what you call a long shot, the subject matter being quite a distance away but still a lovely photograph. It is a bit like life, the things we might do for others might be a bit of a "long shot." We might never know if they have had any effect. I read not long ago that "do your best and let God do the rest." I like the thought that He can take the smallest of kindnesses and make something special out of them. We might never see the result or get a thank-you, but you can be assured the Lord, that can turn a small seed into a very large tree can do something beautiful with small kindnesses. Take that long shot this holiday season and throughout the year. You never know what might grow.

Speakers for December

Watch the notice board for time and place for our Community Carol Service and other events in December.

3 December - Rev Keith Hooker – Keith is the minister at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Gore

10 & 17 December - Local Talent

24 & 25 December - Mary Somerville – lives with her husband John in Dunedin. She is the Child, Family and Youth Coordinator at the Coastal Unity Parish. She has a Bachelor of Theology and her interests are many including Animal Welfare and Human Rights

31 December - Rev Bob & Morven Sidal – Bob is the minister at the Timaru/Tamuka Methodist Church. Born on the island of Taveuni to Hindu parents, Bob attended a Methodist mission school and became a Christian at the age of 12. After working for Shell Petroleum and the government of Fiji, he entered the ministry, serving in the Fiji Methodist Church's Indian division. Bob and his Kiwi wife, Morven, were posted to three different Indian circuits: in Suva and Nausori in eastern Viti Levu and Ba in western Viti Levu. Like Bob, Morven holds a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Pacific Theological College in Suva, and she has been a strong partner in his ministry. They now minister at the Timaru-Temuka Methodist Parish.

Services every Sunday 11 am. Prayer Circle Saturday 11:30 in the vestry at the back of the church.

Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.

Some advice for Facebook users

VERY IMPORTANT: DO NOT EVER accept a friendship request from someone you don't know. Even if they claim to live in Oban. Even if you see they are already mutual friends with your friends. Even if they have an attractive profile. Nine out of ten times these are predatory social media creeps. And when you accept them as a friend they are now privy to all of your photos and posts and many of the photos and posts of your friends. By accepting them you have now exposed all of your friends to this creep. And you've helped to bolster their on-line appearance as trustworthy by becoming a mutual friend, so when this creep sends out friend requests to all of your other friends, some of your mates might shrug and say, well they're friends with so-and-so, maybe I met them at a party, and then they accept the request, and the problem worsens.

If you receive a friend request from an actual friend, don't accept it right away. Take a minute to check if you are already Facebook friends with them. If you are, 9 out of 10 times this is a duplicate, illegal account created by a creep. It's easy to do: creeps copy the profile photo of your friend and all of the information and create a new account and then send out requests to everyone on the friends list.

If you see a duplicate account, warn your friend and report it immediately or tell your friend to report it immediately to Facebook so it will be removed. Click on the three dots in the upper right corner of dodgy profile and choose "report."

Control your privacy settings. You can make everything "friends only" private, including your friends list and profile photos. This will make it difficult for someone to hijack your information and create a duplicate profile and send it to your friends.

Spring clean. Your privacy settings are worthless if you already have accepted a creep into your friends list. It's a good idea to scan through your friends list and unfriend anyone you don't truly know, and check if you have any duplicates – if you are friends with two Marty Browns with identical profile photos, chances are one of them is a fake and actually a creep who is privy to all of your stuff.

If you use Facebook messenger, be vigilant about your messages. If you receive anything like an attachment (and this goes for all messaging systems) **DON'T OPEN IT!** First, message the sender and ask if they've sent you an attachment. If the answer is no, let your friend know their account is possibly sending out virus-infected SPAM and delete the message from your account without opening it. You could also screenshot it and post an image on your news feed warning everyone not to open it.

SIRCET Update by Shona Sangster



**Stewart Island / Rakiura
Community & Environment Trust**
for people for environment

October was a busy month for us, as it was Save Kiwi month, and we had our Annual General Meeting. So we had our Kiwi Avoidance training for dogs, thanks to Di and Sandy and all who brought their dogs along to keep kiwi safe. We also hosted a Great Kiwi bake sale and the Lions club helped out with a sausage sizzle. The combination of sausages and delicious home baking was impossible to resist! The Bake sale raised over \$700 for kiwi and thanks to the generosity of the Stewart Island Lions Club we have been able to get new first aid kits for use in the bush.

Congratulations to Joice McDougall, winner of the lovely Phil Waddington Kea picture, she was thrilled with her win. Thanks to the South Sea Hotel Pub Quiz for their donation to cover the cost of replacement gas canisters and lures for our self resetting Goodnature traps. We really appreciate the continued support the Quiz provides to good causes in our community. Thanks to Sanford for their recent generous donation and to the Community Trust of Southland for their funding support.



Study determines Port Pegasus feasible but presents challenges for salmon farming

An extensive study into a proposal to establish salmon farming at Port Pegasus in Stewart Island has determined the location for aquaculture presents significant challenges for aquaculture.

The Southland Regional Development Strategy (SoRDS) facilitated a study to explore the environmental, cultural and commercial feasibility of salmon farming in the north arm of Port Pegasus at Stewart Island. Following a detailed analysis of the scientific data, the Southland Aquaculture Reference Group (SARG) has concluded that aquaculture at Port Pegasus would be difficult at this present time.

According to the feasibility study, a benthic habitat assessment deemed that the area is suitable for aquaculture. However, an analysis of measured and modelled water currents within internal parts of North Arm shows that it offers moderate current flows, which would require lower production limits and a staged development of production to manage the sea floor and water quality carefully.

Mark O'Connor, New Industries Team Leader for SoRDS, said the study showed the development of aquaculture would deliver a net benefit to the Southland regional economy. "However, constraints placed on the current configuration of the salmon farm for environmental reasons limit the size of that net benefit to a lower level, and as a consequence, there is a level of economic uncertainty."

The study also showed Port Pegasus supports a small but growing population of sea lions. "Following best-practise, fish farm operators would need to demonstrate that management systems can be developed to effectively manage all potential direct and indirect interactions with NZ sea lions."

The establishment of salmon farming would also adversely affect the landscape and natural qualities of the North Arm of Port Pegasus and of Big Ship Passage, according to the report. "Aquaculture is a key focus of the SORDS Action Plan, which aims to diversify Southland's economy, grow the population and strengthen local business," said Mr O'Connor. "SoRDS is obviously disappointed that this wasn't the economic opportunity that was hoped for, but this is the reason why the feasibility study was undertaken. It provides the Southland community with clarity in relation to the Port Pegasus location. It was necessary to help us make an informed decision and move forward with confidence.

Mr O'Connor said it is too early to comment on the next steps: "The feasibility study has only just been completed and our priority is to share the results with the community. "We would like to take this opportunity to thank SARG members for their valuable contribution and the Stewart Island community for its patience. "We would also like to recognise the support of Ngai Tahu, the Department of Conservation (DoC), the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)."

From the Southland Regional Development Strategy sords.co.nz

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What's up, DOC?



Office Update

October has been a busy month with some fine weather, lots of new staff and projects kicking off their field seasons.

Ren Leppens has arrived to take on the role of Operations Manager for the next year. Ren comes to us from Murihiku. Over his 15 year career with DOC, Ren has been slowly making his way down the South Island, saving the best location -Rakiura- to last. Ren has a background in all things huts and tracks and loves chainsaws, fires, tramping, hunting, fishing and shiny motorbikes. He is looking forward to learning about the biodiversity and community side of working on Rakiura.

DOC welcome Bridget and Kevin's wee girl Quinn Faith Carter to our extended family. They popped into the office when they arrived home and we were all excited to see them, Quinn is gorgeous!



Ren on the Milford track

Fire Permits

Stewart Island has now entered a restricted fire season from the 4th Nov. Which means that a fire permit is required for land clearing and bonfires. Permits are easily obtained from Fire & Emergency NZ, Ph 0800 658 628

North Coast Barberrry

In September Letitia and James did a helicopter survey along the North Coast for barberberry. In total four adult plants were seen including a giant that was just north of Saddle Point. The team went in a couple of weeks later to remove it and after counting the rings of the large plant, found it was nearly 30 years old. Searching in the area found no other plants, but we will be keeping an eye on the area for the next few years.

Ulva Island Marine Reserve Report Card

How healthy is our Marine Reserve? A pamphlet has been produced by DOC using data gathered by the University of Otago and DOC scientists that looks at different measures to assess the health of the reserve. Copies are available at DOC or online at

www.doc.govt.nz/report-card



Annual Hut Clean

Six volunteers led by Ty did an amazing job spring cleaning the Fred's Camp, Bungaree, Christmas Village and Yankee River huts. They also undertook lots of maintenance including painting rooves and walls and clearing vegetation. The volunteers were rewarded with calm sunny weather for the time they were here and were raving over their experi-



ences of seeing kiwi, penguins and other Stewart Island wildlife and scenery while snacking on local delicacies of paua, crayfish, cod and venison.

Selaginella

Selaginella is a highly invasive moss that has the ability to cover the forest floor, replacing native ground covers and preventing seedlings from establishing. Due to this threat, DOC has been controlling it around the township in an effort to prevent it spreading to the National Park. Over the years control has proved difficult: being a moss it produces spores and these microscopic “seeds” are easily spread on lawnmowers, boots, etc. While many chemicals kill adult plants, the spores will continue to pop up and re-establish.

While no selaginella has been found in the National Park, controlling it around the township has proved difficult. For this season we are focussing on those sites identified as having the highest risk of spread to the National Park. For all other sites we are asking landowners to undertake their own control. We will be in touch with all owners of sites where we have worked in the past, to let you know what will be happening in the future.



Control can be achieved by spraying with pure bleach (Janola brand is the most concentrated), on a monthly basis. Its very important to use freshly opened bleach as it degrades quickly once opened. If the plant disappears, keep checking the site every couple of months as spores are likely to pop up again. With more emphasis on landowners controlling weeds on their own property, it would be great to try and prevent this weed from going further!

Toyota Kiwi Guardians

Toyota Kiwi Guardians is a nationwide activity programme for kids to learn about nature, earn cool rewards and go on epic family adventures. There are sites all across New Zealand and now Rakiura is launching its own sites. We are planning an opening day event on Friday 15th December 2017 for the Ackers Point site, at 2.30 and Saturday 16th December for the Ulva Island / Te Wharawhara site. More details to come.

Southern New Zealand Dotterel

With the warm weather in October the dotterels have settled into their summer home on top of the hills and have been busy laying eggs and hatching chicks. This season we are once again carrying out predator control to protect the breeding dotterels, alongside monitoring and research to find the best ways to save this Critically Endangered species.

Tabi Kime is here for the summer as Ranger (Biodiversity) to help coordinate the Dotterel and Possum projects and has ten years of conservation experience, with a focus on bird conservation, as well as a background in organising practical conservation projects. The field team consists of: George, one of our permanent Rangers who has had many previous trips up the hill. Kristy is here for her second season, switch-



Newly hatched dotterel chick showing off its camouflage

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

ing from a general biodiversity ranger last summer to the dotterel project this year. Adam, from Waiheke Island, arrived on Rakiura after studying ways to control predators in the alpine zone at Otago University and working with Rock Wren in South Westland. Monty, is a keen hunter and was here last summer carrying out track work.

Moturau Gardens

DOC assisted Elaine Hamilton and her volunteers with the annual Moturau Gardens maintenance. Once again a huge amount of work was achieved and the place looks better every year. Huge thanks to Elaine and the team for a job well done!



Dotterel team

Mason Bay Marram Control

October saw the first trip of the season to Mason Bay. The first five days were absolutely stunning weather, perfect for grid searching and spraying marram grass. Less ideal weather then saw the team shift their focus to lupin, clearing a 40ha area.

This summer an area of heavily weed infested foredune will be sprayed by helicopter and will eventually form a continuous stretch of uninterrupted dune running from the sea to the Big Sand Hill behind Island Hill Homestead. Removing the 14m high wall of marram that has formed a blockade at the head of the beach will allow sand and nutrients to flow inland once again. This will replenish the dune fields and native plant communities like the rare *Gunnera hamiltonii*, native Sand Spurge *Euphorbia glauca*, native Geranium *G. sessiliflorum*, Stewart Island Forget-me-not *Myosotis rakiura* and sweet scented Native Sand Daphne *Pimelea lyallii*, and provide the habitat for rare animals and insects that associate with these herb fields and plant communities.

Four more trips to Mason Bay are planned this season along with a trip to Doughboy and East & West Ruggedy. We'll keep you posted on our progress to restore our coastal areas to their former glory and keep the weeds at bay.



Attention DoC concessionaires that access Ackers Stone Cottage and Harrolds Bay for their walks and also any other interested persons would be most welcome and greatly appreciated.

There is a working bee planned for December 7th starting at 9.00am to clear and beautify the surrounding area of the cottage.

Please bring gloves, saws, chainsaws and any other cutting equipment you think will assist.

For any further details please contact Ian or Philippa

Christmas Market Day

When: Saturday November 25th
open from 11-2 (set up and take down a bit before and after)

Come down to the Community Centre for some Christmas Shopping and local good!

Stalls cost \$30 or 10% of takings (whichever is the lesser)

If you would like a stall, please let us know by November 21st.

Contact Karin Dawson 505 or 027 774 0415 or Carolin Loeffler 027 848 9545



Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust
for people for environment

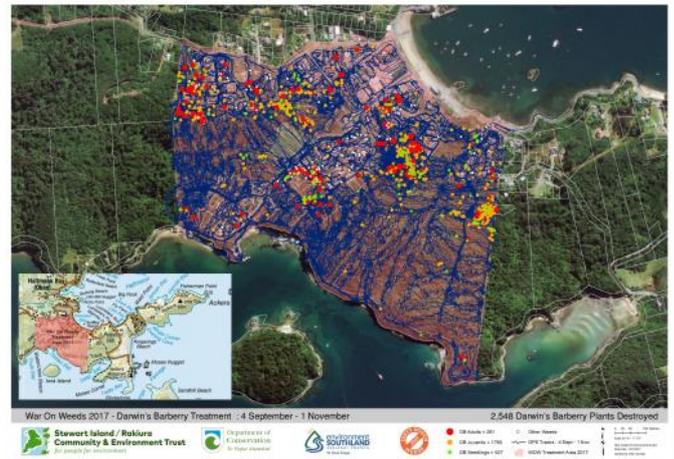
SIRCET has recently completed our War on Weeds project. Over winter we were successful in gaining funding

from a DOC War on Weeds Fund. Environment Southland administered the funding and we planned a project to remove Darwins Barberrry from an area around the township. We needed to get permission from 146 different landowners and the response was fantastic. I heard back from 138 people and 97% of them said we could search their land for barberrry, an awesome start to the work!

To undertake the two months of field work we had a fantastic team. Pauline and Lairka were our mainstays, there every day, come rain, cold or (sometimes) sun. We had a few different team leaders who all brought different strengths, Rebecca led a barberrry team last summer, Kristy also worked on the DOC barberrry team last year and Serra worked here back when the barberrry control project began! They were a fantastic team and even managed to make barberrry control fun!!

Willy Gamble managed the team and the data, producing awesome maps like the one below. The local DOC office provided equipment and support, enabling us to undertake the work with the right gear.

And the result of two months of hard work? The team covered exactly what we planned to do (87ha) and removed 2548 barberrry, awesome! We ask that landowners now take up where we have left off, removing any barberrry that reappears in coming years. It is unlikely that we would receive further funding to revisit this area, so please follow up this hard work and lets keep our environment free of this weed.



Pauline & Lairka



Stewart Island Real Estate
For all local listings - houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.
See our website TODDCO.NZ
or contact our local representative **Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589** for all Island real estate enquiries.

LETTERS



Aquaculture Port Pegasus

It was encouraging to see such a good turn out of Stewart Islanders at the recent SoRDS meeting to hear results of the feasibility study about salmon farming in North Arm of Port Pegasus.

An announcement by Mark O'Connor from SoRDS at the beginning of the meeting that their analysis showed salmon farming is not viable in Port Pegasus did much to alleviate tension before the meeting proceeded. The majority of people in the room were very vocal in their opposition to salmon farming in Port Pegasus and also very angry at the way the whole process had been run. The waste of taxpayer's money to reach a conclusion which was obvious from the outset has upset many people. Why would two of the most remote, wild and beautiful places in New Zealand - Port Preservation and Port Pegasus, even be considered for an industrial activity like salmon farming? Surrounded by National Park, which is a sure sign that they are areas of such outstanding natural value that they must be protected at all costs, it seems farcical that money was wasted investigating the proposal. Not only were the landscape values extremely high as shown in a report not much different from an earlier landscape assessment carried out in 1994 but the economic viability was also not positive.

The 1994 Stewart Island Coastline Natural Character Study undertaken by Alan Petrie for the Southland Regional Council showed that the Naturalness rating for Pegasus was 5 (the highest assessment value) and potential activities that could adversely affect the natural character were listed as

- further land-based activities such as fishing gear storage sites and recreational hunter campsites
- introduction of high impact water-based activities e.g. **salmon farming**
- petroleum exploration infrastructure
- loss of forest health through indiscriminate vegetation clearing
- placement of installations on prominent domes

So what changed in Stewart Island's landscape (excluding eastern bays like Halfmoon and Horseshoe) between 1994 and 2017? Nothing! except that higher protection has been gained with National Park status. There was absolutely no need to repeat the whole exercise except for perhaps the eastern bays. A great big waste of money.

Second point about the economic viability. Who in their right mind would even begin to think that the practical and financial restraints of operating in such a remote, inhospitable and weather constrained environment would stack up?

It's great that some investigative employment opportunities came out of the studies into salmon farming at Pegasus, although I am doubtful that many of those benefitted Southlanders. I guess the one good thing is that we now have some extra very good scientific data about the Port Pegasus marine environment which can be added

to the likes of Joyce Richardson's studies of the 1970s which pinpointed and documented the internationally significant brachiopod populations and important black coral colonies.

Many Stewart Islanders were perplexed by the SoRDS process of investigation and the fact that the local community were not consulted until a visit in March 2017 at which a select few were told of the studies that had been undertaken to date and the ongoing work on the environmental and commercial feasibility of salmon farming at Pegasus. It would have been great to have had some input right at the beginning. It was only at this late stage that a Stewart Island representative was asked to join the Southland Aquaculture Reference Group (SARG). Shona Sangster, a Stewart Island resident was one of the people whose names were put forward as being someone who could take the community's opinions to these meetings. The reference group by this stage were receiving completed reports on all aspects of the investigation already undertaken so it was unlikely that any local opinion was going to change things. Comments and insinuations were made at the public meeting on October 30th that our local representative had chosen to stay away from the meeting when in fact the meeting had already been postponed twice and Shona had prior bookings for a family event in Auckland. She did take part in the SARG teleconference that morning as mentioned by Mayor Gary Tong and her early return for the public meeting would have made no difference to the outcome. Shona has made herself available to locals and answered questions throughout her time of involvement as well as providing updates in Stewart Island News.

It is a pity that so much energy, resources and money were put into pursuing salmon farming at Pegasus. The SoRDS aspiration for 10,000 more people living in Southland is a great one and we all realise that without this increase we won't be able to retain economically viable communities. Perhaps if areas closer to service ports could have been investigated a bit more thoroughly for different types of aquaculture there may have been a chance that it would work. Our country is not as wealthy as Norway and the restraints here are far greater both fiscally and environmentally. We are very grateful that Port Pegasus is to be spared and can remain the beautiful, wild, unspoilt place that it is.

Margaret Hopkins



Farewell to Stewart Island

It is a sad moment for me: to reflect on the absolute fantastic and beautiful times when coming to the island and slowly becoming part of the community.

The first thing I learnt was what having children on the island meant: they became everybody's children as everyone was looking out for them and preventing them from harm.

The friends we made, the parties we had, the boat-trips into the Inlet and around the island are the best memories

of my life. Stewart Island was a community where everybody acknowledged each other, where there was a hierarchy and structure of old, established families, newcomers, fishermen, paua-divers, aqua-farmers and a special way of doing things: 'the island way'...

But most of the Stewart Island people we met and lived together with then: they have either left or died.

The self-sufficiency and prosperity in the sense that everybody seemed to be content and enjoying their own chosen life and doing it the Stewart Island way: this has gone too.

Nearly everybody has left either because of the children's education or because there was not much of a living to be made when paying for the travel-expenses, extra transport costs and ever increasing cost for housing and power. The island has become less for the resident islanders but more of a place for holiday makers who own more than 50% of the island's available houses and/or well enough retirees who commute between their place somewhere else in New Zealand and the island - weather depending...

Our sons have left the island not only for the education, but also, because the living they would make as employees on the island would hardly enable them ever to become a house-owner without extra help; nor would they be able to follow a career-path of their choice as a great number of academic and other skills has no job on the island.

The island gets systematically depopulated of its long-time residents and their children and becomes further drained of skills as the living costs are too high in comparison to the earned wages.

I sometimes wonder... that all those people who have fallen in love with the island and the island's beauty are sacrificing so much material income for a long time, only to have to give up finally for a better material living standard by returning to the mainland...

My own passion has become oral health, and I love to work with children and teenagers, but I can't do this on the island; commuting to the mainland would be cost-prohibitive, and therefore I have to say my farewell to this beautiful Stewart Island for the foreseeable future.

As my oldest son Rakiura has discovered, the island is his deepest passion and Manfred still lives there, I might come back in my own retirement days.

But I wonder, what Island and more what community I come back to and if this is still the place to look forward to...

On a different note: my experience away from the island has opened my eyes for new and different approaches. In Northland where I work now there are so many subsidies for remote and isolated communities even smaller than the island: in respect to travel-costs and availability of social services or other.

The usual fare on ferries for locals is about one third of what everybody else pays – see this in comparison to the Real Journey discount for locals here on Stewart Island!

In Northland there is an emphasis to sustain local skills and extend it if possible, but on Stewart Island we even have lost our local electrician!

On the Chatham Islands with just over 600 inhabitants, the Government has given them, i.e. the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust, a multimillion dollar cash injection and fishing quota which gets proportionally increased with every other quota-increase. Compare this to Stewart Island where with additional quota our local fishing industry could become supported and considerably kick-started.

On Stewart Island business seems to be run under the motto: everybody for themselves (with the exception of a few families – we all know who they are), but on the Chatham Islands their charitable community trust furthers a cooperative approach instead of just the individual one...

This could be a blue-print for a tourism cooperative on Stewart Island from which all residents could profit.

But besides developing a sound income for the residents of Stewart Island the other most important factor is to get self-reliable energy solutions for the island and not just a cable to the mainland or a hydro-scheme in the middle of the National Park owned by non-Stewart Islanders.

Most islands in the Pacific have between 300 and 3500 inhabitants. They are all in need of electricity which can be sustained without fossil fuel and outside technical support. The big question is: how can we preserve our paradise island with its special community and develop at the same time sustainable sources of income if by fishing, by tourism or aquaculture? Cheap electricity is the solution for this growth without polluting and destroying its beauty and nature.

A growth based on sustainable generation of electricity will turn increasing tourism into a viable and far less destructive development than any other...

But the most important step is the acknowledgement of the current community that neither the island nor the community can be 'saved' without a cooperative and joint approach.

Otherwise the development of the island will be left to the outside corporations: draining the resources of the island and taking the profits away from the island.

Invercargill and the Southland District Council are worlds away from the island and have no real understanding of its special needs and managing its affairs.

Stewart Island has still a chance if the islanders themselves take charge and responsibility instead of resigning themselves to their current political masters on the mainland and the big businesses like Real Journeys and Sanford which seem have taken over already.

Ulrike Herzhoff

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congratulations

Bridget and Kevin

welcome baby girl

Quinn Faith Carter

Ringaringa Road (past the Golf Course) is closed to all traffic unless you reside in a property past the warning signs.

The deterioration of this fragile road is accelerated by the vibration from vehicles.

It is understood that taxi/shuttle services may need to use the road to meet the needs of residents, but they are not to use the road for village tours.

There is ample room to park and walk if it is desired.

Thank you for your consideration.



Painting created and donated by Bevan Mudie which featured in the recent **muttonbird** exhibition (page 6)

Stewart Island Handyman Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Lawn mowing | General fencing |
| Line trimming | General carpentry |
| Section maintenance | Gutter cleaning |
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Contact **Geoff**

Phone 973 0959 (Local Number)
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 Email handyman@acadia.co.nz



Help support the island pre-school Rakiura Rugrats and buy a copy of the children's book *Seaberry Stomp!* All proceeds go to Ruggies. Book available at Stewart Island Gift Shop, Ship to Shore, and the Bluff ferry terminal.

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