

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

November 2019

\$4.00

Since the last issue of SIN, the island fleet has seen more drama than the Globe Theatre. In mid-September, a water taxi overturned in Paterson Inlet (all survived: see p6). During a howl of October Easterlies, a boat sank on its moorings, and three vessels had “Rakiura misadventures”, breaking their moorings and going ashore.

In happier boat news, Rugrats won *Little Toot* on Trademe, a wonderful new boat for the kids to play in (p5); *Koru* the SIN boat has settled in nicely at her Ship to Shore berth (lollipops perched on her wheelhouse, pineapples at her bow); *Kapala* has found a new home away in Oamaru; and Bill Watt contributed a great article about the *Kitty J* (p18).

Ang and Lairka (of Beaks & Feathers and Vitamin Sea Studio) have relocated from the garage to a spiffy Main Road locale. The place looks great! Stop by and say hi. Thea Hamann has an exhibition of her photography in the Community Centre foyer, check out her beautiful images and unique perspective of the island. (Talk to gym manager Carolin Löffler if you need to sort out keys as there’s a new security system in place.) There is a new snorkel tourism venture getting started... read about Stewart Island Adventures on page 16.

The Rakiura Challenge generated a great vibe for the island, with hundreds of runners and their supporters coming here, many for the first time, to experience perfect conditions on race day and a well-organised event. Many locals came to the start line, and a large crowd cheered the runners at the finish line, including a group of school kids. Sue Crowley was the first woman to finish at 3:09. Patrick Higgins won first place overall (2:32!!). Couples, friends and families ran together, including a family of seven who all finished. Several Stewart Island residents, former residents and crib-owners competed including Poppy LeQuesne (10<sup>th</sup> Open Women category), Paula Brown (finished with best smile on her dial), and Murray Hicks (third in in his category). See page 9 for more.



The Halfmoon Bay School children live the dream at bush school, where they learn outdoor skills, built forts, and have heaps of fun.

*Photo by Emily Joy*

Many concerned community members have rallied and written letters in support of the need for fixed-wing medical evacuations. This service will once again occur as needed.

We’ve had a taste of hot weather... is there anyplace more glorious than Stewart Island in the summer? The holidays are fast approaching: time to buy prezzies... Get a subscription to the *Stewart Island News* for your friends and loved ones. The gift that keeps on giving (for a year). Details on back page.

—Jess

### Legal status of shark cage diving remains unresolved

*guest editorial from Storm Stanley*

What will it take to get the Department of Conservation to do its job and look after fully protected species? The Stewart Island community is left wondering after a recent Supreme Court decision about the legality of shark cage diving. Great white sharks, like kiwi or Hector’s and Maui dolphin, are fully protected species under the Wildlife Act 1953 – but it seems that the Department is unwilling to step up and protect sharks from the risks associated with shark cage tourism.

This article provides a brief summary of the Supreme Court’s findings and examines how this issue might finally be resolved. But first, a bit of history...

#### Long history of legal proceedings

The court proceedings were initiated back in

2016 by the local pāua industry organisation PauaMAC5. Pāua divers – along with many in the Stewart Island community – were concerned that the use of berley and bait to attract sharks to the tourist boats was altering shark behaviour, leading sharks to associate vessels and divers with a free meal, making them more aggressive, and therefore endangering commercial divers and recreational water users. The Department of Conservation (DOC) had previously issued permits for shark cage diving, and PauaMAC5 argued that in doing so, DOC must (or at least may) take account of public safety concerns. DOC disagreed, claiming that public safety was not relevant under the Wildlife Act. Unhelpfully, the High Court didn’t address public safety, and instead questioned whether shark cage diving could lawfully be regulated at all under the Wildlife Act.

PauaMAC5 took the High Court’s decision to the Court of Appeal. In 2018 the Appeal Court ruled that shark cage diving consti-

tutes ‘hunting or killing’ great white sharks and is therefore an offence under the Wildlife Act. The Court found that DOC had no power to authorise the activity under the Wildlife Act, effectively putting shark cage diving operations out of business – in other words, “it’s not legal, and DOC can’t permit it”.

As a result, one of the two shark cage dive businesses folded, but the ruling didn’t deter the other operator. Shark Experience Ltd continued to operate dive cages (without a permit, since none could be issued under the Wildlife Act), but claimed that they were no longer using attractants to attract sharks to their boats. Shark Experience then appealed the Court of Appeal decision to New Zealand’s highest court.

In October this year, the Supreme Court set aside the Court of Appeal’s declaration.

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Large restoration planting project

Exciting news - Mamaku Point Conservation Trust has been granted funding from the Ministry of Primary Industries' Billion Trees Fund to undertake ecological restoration planting of 18 hectares of former grazing land along the north face of Mamaku Point. These are most of the last major areas of former farmland visible on the approach to Oban from air or sea, as shown in the photo below, so we're excited to be able to help them on their journey back to their former glory through this project.



#### Calling All Green fingers

**We would love your help with this project please.**

**If you have any self-seeded native plants, native seeds to germinate or are an expert propagator, we would much appreciate any contributions of native seedlings toward this large restoration project. Seedlings could be simply wrapped up and dropped into the Nursery on the corner of Lee Bay Road and Horseshoe Bay Road and we can pot them up from there or potted up at home.**

A variety of native species will be planted, but some examples of species include - Toetoe (*Austrodieria richardii*), Koromiko (*Hebe salicifolia*) Black mapou/kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), Glossy karamu (*Coprosma lucida*), Tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*), Wineberry (*Arisotelia serrata*), Broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*), Three finger (*Pseudopanax colensoi*), etc

directly along the coast with species suitable for coastal shrubland and habitat for burrowing birds such as: Lowland flax (*Phormium tenax*), Mountain/coastal flax (*Phormium cookianum*), Coastal hebe (*Hebe elliptica*), Mut-tonbird shrub (*Brachyglottis rotundifolia*), Olearia arborescens, Mingimingi (*Coprosma propinqua*), Cottonwood (*Ozothamnus vauvilliersii*), Toetoe (*Austrodieria richardii*), Punui (*Stilbocarpa lyallii*), Minature toetoe (*Chionochloa conspicua*), Poa cita (Silver tussock), Carex trifida, Carex appressa.

If you are willing and able to help in any way, please contact Rachel on 021 783 045 or at [rachel@mamakupoint.nz](mailto:rachel@mamakupoint.nz), and if you're keen to help with some planting around April next year – watch this space ☺ **THANK YOU**

**HELP WANTED:** Part time paid position - propagator, potter and planter of trees, shrubs and grasses for an ecological restoration project on Mamaku Point.  
  
Hours and start date to be agreed. If you're interested in finding out more please contact Rachel on 021783045 or at [rachel@mamakupoint.nz](mailto:rachel@mamakupoint.nz)

**RAKIURA JADE**  
*with Master Carver & Sculptor Dave Goodin*  
  
Open from 10.30am every day upstairs at 45 Elgin Terrace (next to the boat slip)  
  
Enjoy stunning views of Stewart Island harbour from the world's southernmost jade workshop. Make your own treasure from your selected piece of beautiful New Zealand greenstone (from \$180/day; conditions apply)  
Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects made by local artists  
  
[www.rakiurajade.co.nz](http://www.rakiurajade.co.nz) [rakiurajade@gmail.com](mailto:rakiurajade@gmail.com)  
021 025 93958

givealittle  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**Josephine Shepard Drops for Youth Southland**  
  
I signed up to Skydive to raise funds for the Graham Dingle Foundation which provides programs like Kiwi Can. Please support me by following the below link and donating! Check out the website for more information  
  
[www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/josephine-drops-for-youth](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/josephine-drops-for-youth)  
  
November 23rd 2019 - Queenstown  
  
[www.dinglefoundation.org.nz](http://www.dinglefoundation.org.nz)  
Made with PosterMyWall.com



**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News**

Another season of monitoring yellow-eyed penguin breeding success at selected sites on Stewart Island began in October. Sites on the Anglem Coast (Golden Beach and Rollers Beach) and the Bravo islands

were searched with 10 and 8 nests being found respectively. No nests were found at The Neck, but three adults have been caught on camera by staff working out there which is encouraging for the future.

Nest numbers on the Bravo Islands appear to have dropped from 15 in 2018 to 8 this season. Conditions were less than perfect during most of the searching and additional checks are planned to see if nests were missed, or started later, or if this is a real decline.

While I was busy locally, another team searched sites on Whenua Hou | Codfish Island and found 12 nests, down by 2 from last year. Thanks to long-standing volunteers

and DOC workers (from other parts of Aotearoa) Dave Houston and Dean Nelson, and YEPT's newest recruit, Ranger (Catlins) Sarah Irvine for undertaking this years' search.

I was accompanied this season by Cheryl Pullar who is a DOC staffer from the Owaka area. Cheryl carries out similar penguin monitoring in the Catlins, and came down for a few days for a change of scenery. Also helping out were volunteers Annichje Riemersma from Invercargill, Monty Williams and his visiting friend Sam. One of our local Sams came out for a day too – Sam Asher was the pupil chosen from Halfmoon Bay School and spent a day with Cheryl and me on one of the Bravo islands.

We would like to thank our volunteers, the Department of Conservation, Rakiura Charters, Sanford Ltd, Stewart Island Backpackers, and Stewart Island Experience for supporting this work.

*Sandy King* for the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

**Stewart Island/Rakiura Leadership Academy**

The Stewart Island Rakiura Leadership Academy has just completed week five of a seven-week programme designed at building leadership capability on Stewart Island/Rakiura.

The Southland Chamber of Commerce teamed up with the Future Opportunities Stewart Island Rakiura project and customised the highly acclaimed Leadership Academy.

With kind support from the Community Trust

South, Southland District Council and MBIE the Academy was able to be offered free of charge to 16 participants on the Island.

Each week an experienced Southland/Otago leader shares their personal and professional story of leadership, alongside this Stewart Island Community champions have been sharing their own journeys of leadership too. The group are also helping Community facilitator Sandra James design the next steps of the Future Opportunities Stewart Island Rakiura project so that this can be community owned and driven with support from a wide range of partnership organisations/agencies/groups in

Invercargill and further afield.

So far, the group have heard about the power of collaboration and good partnerships, future focused thinking, asset-based community development, the role of government national, regional and local and tried to get to the bottom of what leadership is. The group gets to interact with the speakers and each other to get the most out of this opportunity and trust and reciprocal relationships are built.

Watch this space for further updates!

—Sandra James

**(Shark cage Continued from page 1)**

Shark Experience (and some media outlets) have claimed that the Supreme Court ruled that “shark cage diving is not an offence” – in other words, that it’s perfectly legal. This is a total misrepresentation of what the Court actually said.

**What the Supreme Court said**

When the Supreme Court sets aside a declaration of a lower court, it simply means that the Supreme Court does not agree with the declaration made by the lower court. The Supreme Court then substitutes its own understanding of the legal issue. In this case, the Supreme Court said that while undertaking shark cage diving with the use of attractants is not ‘hunting’ or ‘pursuing’ sharks, it may be ‘disturbing’ or ‘molesting’ sharks. In the key paragraph of the judgment, the majority of judges observed that “whether shark cage diving using attractants amounts to disturbing sharks turns on whether there is a real risk that luring a shark to a particular location with bait or berley will physically or mentally agitate or stress the shark to a level creating a significant risk of harm.”

If shark cage diving does involve ‘disturbing’ great white sharks, as defined by the Supreme Court, then it would be an offence under the Wildlife Act. However, the Court was not prepared to rule on

whether cage diving does indeed amount to disturbing sharks, instead indicating that the appropriate place to determine this question is through a prosecution. The Court noted that its judgment “set out the principles against which the lawfulness of any future shark cage diving operation can be assessed”.

Essentially, the issue of whether shark cage diving is legal or not, remains unresolved. It can be resolved only by a prosecution being taken under the Wildlife Act, preferably by the Department of Conservation.

**What happens next?**

Shark Experience says on its website that when the shark cage diving season starts again in December 2019, the company intends to continue to operate as it has in the past. Presumably they will use bait and berley to attract great white sharks, putting sharks at risk of collision with cages and interfering with the sharks’ natural patterns of activity. If this creates a significant risk of harm to the sharks then, according to the principles laid down by the Supreme Court, Shark Experience will be operating illegally. The Crown’s lawyers have argued that the operational facts of shark cage diving are not in dispute and there is clear, uncontradicted evidence of physical harm to sharks. A prosecution therefore seems like an obvious step for DOC to take. Certainly prosecution is an action that the pāua indus-

try will be strongly encouraging if there is any evidence that bait or berley are being used by a shark cage tourism operator.

In the longer term, DOC needs to urgently review and amend the Wildlife Act (which is 66 years old) so that fully protected species like great white sharks get the protection they deserve and activities like shark cage diving can be effectively regulated. Any review of the Wildlife Act should also examine the wider implications of the Supreme Court judgement for other protected species such as kiwi.

But none of these actions will actually fix the original concerns of the pāua divers or the Stewart Island community – that is, the public safety concerns about shark cage diving. This is something that could be addressed through a review of the Wildlife Act or through new legislation – for example, Local MP Sarah Dowie’s Private Members’ Bill on shark cage diving.

With the summer shark cage dive season about to start up, all eyes will be on the Department of Conservation to see how seriously they take their statutory obligations for protected species and how responsive they are to the safety of local communities.

—Storm Stanley  
Chairman, Pāua Industry Council



## We want our community and nature to thrive together

Following our celebration of the commitment of thirteen agencies and groups to progress this project in July, we are applying for funding to secure the technical, project management and engagement expertise needed to make our vision a reality. We want to do this right and we know this will take time. We are also keen to ensure positive progress and momentum.

We have a new logo of a kākāpo under a glowing Stewart Island sky which describes our aspiration to restore our natural haven, so that we can protect our island, community, lifestyle and wildlife and bring home the kākāpo. Working together, we will restore the mauri of Rakiura.

We are grateful to the Provincial Growth Fund for project management and engagement support received between August 2018 and November 2019. Highlights have been:

- the commitment of thirteen parties to our Memorandum of Understanding to progress the Project, celebrated with the Rakiura community in July,
- hosting inspiring guest speakers on the island,
- writing applications for multi-year funding,
- appointing an island-based Project Manager,
- activities with the Halfmoon Bay School kids are underway and
- our new logo and our soon to be launched website.

An application to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was unsuccessful in August, which just made us more determined. We are pursuing funding avenues for a core team and to start a feasibility assessment. With this team and funding we will be able to understand the knowledge gaps, and explore how a Predator Free Rakiura might be implemented.

### CAN YOU HELP US WITH STUNNING PHOTOS AND FOOTAGE OF RAKIURA?

We are seeking aerial and ground footage of the mainland and islands of Rakiura (e.g. forests, wetlands, freshwater systems, alpine tops, dunes, Gog and Magog, the Ruggedy Range, our stunning inlets and ports), people out enjoying themselves on land and water and in the township, rodent dog checks on vessels and wildlife / flora (e.g. birds, bats, reptiles, invertebrates, plants). Please get in touch by 12<sup>th</sup> November on 027 212 7809.

Please check out this month's inspiring story from Ryan.

**Bridget**

It's the year 2050, my name is Ryan and I am 39 years old. I manage the Stewart Island mountain bike park. I am very busy organising the downhill mountain biking championships. I have to check the foam fence and turn on the drying fans. After that I have to call Moby at biosecurity. He will check all of the bikes and the gear for rats, mice, seeds and bad diseases. It is amazing when you look out from the lookout at the end of the track. You can hear hundreds of native animals calling happily. It is a beautiful day on Stewart Island.

*by Ryan McRitchie-King*

### **Rakiura Museum** *by Margaret Hopkins*

The new Rakiura Museum building is nearing completion and we are moving on to the exciting part of the project. Floor coverings are being put down over the next week, exhibition gallery lighting is being installed and a landscape plan has been drawn up. The building is looking stunning.

Final plans for the displays are currently being worked on by exhibition designer Sally Papps. It is quite a complex process with a lot of work ahead for all involved. The Rakiura Heritage Trust has been working on stories, sorting through photos and objects and liaising with Iwi in an effort to create the best snapshot of Stewart Island / Rakiura history to show the public.

As much as we would like to put a date on the possible opening we are unable to commit to that at present. We are hoping to be operational by spring in 2020. If it happens sooner then that will be a bonus.

The Rakiura Challenge organising committee would like to thank Stewart Island on supporting the race and cheering on the competitors. The winning time for 2019 was 2:32 minutes run by Patrick Higgins of Nelson. Complete results are available on the Rakiura Challenge website.

The feedback from competitors has been amazing and the date for 2020 is 3rd October.

A special thanks goes out to the awesome marshals, SIT students and sponsors without which this event would not have happened. Special thanks to Chris Cox, Adele Larson and Morgan Shepherd. *from Aaron Joy*



Fern faerie. Photo by Emily Joy



Shangri La at HMB Wharf. Photo by Rewi Bull



*Many future captains will cut their teeth at this helm...*  
*Little Toot made the journey (on the freighter!) across Foveaux Strait to the Rugrats play centre. The kids (and parents) adore their new boat. She even made an appearance on the NZ Commercial Fishing Boat page on Facebook. Photo by Liz Cave*

# LETTERS

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To the Stewart Island Community

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the following people for rescuing us on the 12th of September.

Firstly to Matt, for his unreserved commitment and bravery, risking his own life to ensure we all survived.

To the people who man the radios and picked up the Mayday call, thus co-ordinating help (even with Vodafone down), your speedy response made all the difference to our rescue.

Next the skill and bravery of the skippers and crew who came to pick us up in those challenging waters.

Then the ambulance staff and community that gently helped us up from the boats to the medical centre. Marty's fast calm professionalism in dealing with the seven of us at once in the clinic and treating us so well that helped get our recovery underway so quickly

To the community and emergency services that rallied at the centre with blankets, clothing, warm water bottles (we loved those) and soup.

To the staff of the rescue helicopters, a vital link to such an isolated community, who delivered us safely to Southland Hospital.

Also, in the days that followed, Stu and Karla dealing with our waterlogged backpack and contents so they could be sent on to us.

So an enormous THANK YOU to you all and anybody else we have forgotten to mention. You are a wonderful warm community.

*Jo Randell, Kathy Hindmarsh, Tracey Osborne, Lynne Johnston, Tommy Oksanen and Elaine Crombie*



Back row: Kathy Hindmarsh, Elaine Crombie.  
Front row: Jo Randall, Lynne Johnston, Tracey Osborne

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We would like to offer our most sincere gratitude to the Stewart Island community for the assistance extended to us during, and after, the boating accident that took place in Paterson Inlet in September.

From when the Mayday was heard the speed of the response was the critical factor that resulted in everyone being saved; our thanks go out to Maureen Jones and the Stewart Island Landsar incident management team, and Stewart Island Flights who took to the phones to get any available vessels underway.

Thank you to the skippers and crew of the *Kaian, Aurora Australis, Hananui, Aurora* and *San Braz* who located and rescued all seven of us from the water, and also recovered our vessel *Henerata*.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, friends and members of DOC and the Stewart Island fire brigade who assisted at the Golden Bay wharf and at the clinic. And also to Marty, Sharon and Dave who assessed and treated us at the Stewart Island Clinic. The help offered by so many who came to the clinic to support in anyway they could will also always be remembered.

Thank you to the Otago Rescue Helicopter crew and to Stuart Newton of the Stewart Island Police.

Lastly we would like to thank our Rakiura Water Taxi staff and their families for support and care on the day of and since the accident, Aroha nui whanau.

We hope we haven't forgotten anyone; as we piece together the events of the day, we are realising that there will be people who have helped in their own way that we may never know about.

With gratitude, *The Atkins Family*

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## THANK YOU

A very big thank you to all the people who helped me during the time of packing up my old house and shifting all my possessions into the container on my new section, both beforehand with the packing, as well as the actual shifting, support, cleaning and meals.

I certainly know why I still want to live on the island with such a wonderful extended family atmosphere that there is living here. Hopefully sometime next year there will be a house warming coming up, watch this space!!! Thank you all again,

*cheers Ann Pullen*

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**THANK YOU!** To all the Voters who participated in Council and Community Board voting. There was an impressive turnout of 85.1% of Stewart Island's eligible voters – probably the best in the country!

And thank you, too, for returning me as your District Councillor Stewart Island. I will continue to pursue the best interests of our community, and, of course, of Southland. It is important that the regions support each other.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or projects that you have in mind, and I will try to be of assistance.

Bruce Ford  
Ph: (03) 2191 282  
Email: [bruce@thefords.nz](mailto:bruce@thefords.nz)



## Stewart Island Kiwi research update

It's November already! Rakiura tokoeka have been full swing into breeding season (with some X-rated videos captured on burrow cams), and our first chick appeared on camera the 11<sup>th</sup> of September. With other kiwi species, the chick first emerges from the burrow at around 5 days old, and we assume that is also the case here. The laying of eggs and emergence of chicks is not synchronous, and we are still waiting for some of our nest burrows to generate their first chick, while some of the first birds to produce a chick appear to be started on their second round of incubation. Because we are

breaking new ground with this project, we are unsure of how sensitive Rakiura tokoeka are to disturbance around the nest burrow, and have been avoiding any unnecessary risks, like looking inside the burrow to confirm the presence of an egg. With some species of kiwi, e.g., North Island brown, the male is the sole incubator and leaves the nest for short periods every night, which means sneaky researchers can peep in the burrow. With our kiwi, there never seems to be a gap in the incubation roster, with mum, dad, and other adult/sub-adults & last year's chicks- now juveniles, always in and out of the nest. And so, we rely on our nest cams – and have been lucky to learn that the birds can tolerate our regular intrusion to change SD cards & batteries. We recently had a volunteer with us from the Paparoa Wildlife Trust who works with Roroa (Great spotted kiwi), and these birds have been known to desert a nest if someone walks by it, let alone puts a camera up.

The burrow cams show an incredible insight into the secret breeding lives of Rakiura tokoeka. The interaction between individuals outside the burrow entrance is special to this species; they call loudly, mumble a lot, groom one another, kick, dig, throw leaves around (nesting), chase, fall over, mate (!), jump around and nap with their bill tucked under their vestigial wings. We can also see who else is visiting the nesting birds. On Ulva we see all sorts of mischief makers on the cameras; yellow & red crowned kakariki, kaka, saddleback, robins, little blue penguins... and lots and lots of weka visits. At Kaipipi we see rats and possums on every nest cam, with relentless possum visitors entering or trying to enter the burrows many times a day/night. The kiwi spend a lot of time chasing weka & possums away! We've also seen the slow stalk of a feral cat following an adult kiwi to its burrow, and then its routine checks, is it waiting for a chick just like we are?



A male & female duet outside a nest burrow at Kaipipi

Still, we have watched seven chicks emerge so far, attached transmitters to them, and they were all alive when last checked! No evidence of fowl play thus far. Our first chick on Ulva is almost 8 weeks old, and at Kaipipi 5 weeks. They have weighed 280-355g on first catch, with a bill of 4.5cm on average. To monitor the survival of a chick represents a lot of work! From keeping track of the adults & monitoring the incubation, to keeping trail cameras running and watching thousands of hours of footage, to the night stake outs to catch and attach transmitters, to the frequent tracking & checking on survival (so we can obtain cause of death as quickly as possible in the unfortunate occurrence), to the monthly transmitter attachment changes... but have you seen those fluffy wee things!? Wobbly on their feet but so quick! I don't enjoy the invasive work, but it is an honour to work with these birds, and if we can say something about how they are faring in the big, wide world – then it's all worth it!



Mum & chick outside a nest burrow on Ulva

We are currently seeking sponsors for chicks to help cover the cost of batteries and transmitters – please get in touch if you're interested, or have any questions [emmafeenstra@gmail.com](mailto:emmafeenstra@gmail.com)

Keep up to date and watch some of our incredible burrow cam footage at <https://www.facebook.com/Rakiuratokoeka/>

*Emma & the Stewart Island kiwi Research Team*

~ This project wouldn't be possible without the support of Stewart Island Backpackers, Ulva Island Ferry, Department of Conservation, Stewart Island 4-square, the Kaipipi crew, my awesome local volunteers & all the other special people that make this community the best place to live & work – thank-you!

**MUSEUM MATTERS by Jo Riksem****TALES FROM THE ATTIC**

Wohler's Harmonium

We have recently had a conservator, Nyssa Mildwaters from Dunedin visiting to look over several items for conservation purposes, one of which was this organ. In 1840 Alexandre Debain (1809-1877) patented the 'harmonium' improving on earlier reed instruments. They were popular for church music and in 1842 Theodore-Achille Muller made a model that could be folded up into a box making them portable. This Harmonium (free-reed organ) was used by the Reverend Wohlers, a Lutheran missionary from Germany who dedicated his life to the conversion to Christianity of southern Maori from 1844 when he established a mission station on Ruapuke Island. From this mission base Wohlers served the mainland coast and Stewart Island travelling long distances, usually in an open whaleboat, to reach isolated communities and it is believed that this organ travelled with him.

**Acquisitions for September & October 2019**

1. Box of old advertising material for businesses on Stewart Island many of which no longer exist.
2. Photograph of Mr & Mrs Doak who was our constable from July 1914 - November 1925
3. Further Lockerbie notes, letters, and maps.
4. Various photographs and information on South Sea Hotel history.
5. Raleigh Sports 3 speed bicycle ridden by George Crack from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island to raise funds for Halfmoon Bay School pool in 1971.
6. Photographs relating to Ted Carrington and Port Pegasus
7. Old postcard of Butterfield Beach
8. Photocopied letters from Sheila Natusch to Captain Margaret Hay (nee Majors) in 1969, while she was a missionary in Zambia, requesting permission to use some of Margaret's thesis in Sheila's book on Rev Wohlers. The letter finding its way to Zambia from Sheila in Wellington was quite a feat.
9. Painting of Muttonbirds
10. Booklet photocopied "Stewart Island 1959" Members of Beaumont and Ewart Smith families visit to Stewart Island

**Searches for September & October 2019:**

1. Ola Taylor who married Rolf Pedersen
2. Carstensen family. Agnes and Loren in particular.
3. Paddy Gilroy and the "Chance" & McQuarrie family of Mason Bay
4. Stewart Island Sheep from The Neck - Marina Steinke
5. Louisa Phillips - Linda Nilsen Augland

**Groups for September & October 2019**

Walking Access Group, Strath Taieri School, Winton School, Tahuna School, Balfour School, Balclutha School

**Snippet: from old newspaper not dated:**

"Muttonbirds"

"I didn't like look or smell of them so I gave them to the dog," said a witness speaking of some muttonbirds in a case in the Supreme Court in Hamilton. The Crown Prosecutor: "What happened then." Witness: "He wouldn't touch them so I boiled them for the fowls." Crown Prosecutor: "I hope the fowls are all right." Witness: "They haven't laid an egg since."

**Please, if you have items you want to donate to the museum let us know as soon as possible as our exhibition planner needs to be aware of items available.**

Summer hours: Monday through Saturday 10 - 1:30 and Sundays 12 - 2 pm.

All finish-line photos from Jake Osborne. Bush pix from the Rakiura Challenge FB page. Poppy & Jan snap from Dids.



**Higher Love: Notes from a quagmire**

I ran the Rakiura Challenge and found it pretty challenging. (Oh, right. Thus the name.) I got bogged down/psyched out by the miles of mud, expended too much energy trying to navigate around the quagmire, and by the time I reached North Arm I was feeling wobbly so I made the deadly mistake of popping a third orange-flavored GU chew into my mouth. Heading toward Kaipipi, nausea crept in. Even though I'd fully charged my headphones, 10km from the finish the voice in my head was saying "Battery Low" repeatedly and that pretty much summed it up. (And in retrospect, podcast chapters from Moby Dick, read aloud by Benedict Cumberpatch, weren't as energizing as I'd hoped.)

Vurping orange goo and digging deep into my soul, I dug deep into my vest pocket and extracted my backup headphones loaded with music. The Kygo-Whitney Houston remix of

*Higher Love* exploded into my head and I sang along in spurts, scaring kereru, mumbling and trying not to stumble, on the last leg now -- what a perfect expression -- heading out of the park and the mud and there was Elaine Hamilton at the Fern Gully parking area who I'd seen five hours prior at Lee Bay parking lot, and I hollered out Hallelujah and kept going, just 2 more km to go, my running stance more a continuous collapse forward than the elegant bound I'd wished for, the usual joyful endorphin high elusive, my time forty minutes beyond what I'd wanted, the need to vomit overpowering and it's been a thousand miles since I saw Elaine and I'm only just passing the chopper hangar halfway down the road and I make a promise to myself and to any god listening the way desperate folks do in the movies, I promise that if I just keep on keeping on, if I just keep running, if I get across that finish line, I'll be rewarded.

I start down the Main Road hill and I can hear a

clanging sound and cheers: the Halfmoon Bay School kids have gathered at the roadside and they have pot lids and spoons from the Pub kitchen and they're banging them and cheering on all of the runners and as I pass by they fall into step around me and run with me, my mud-caked sneakers amidst gumboots and bare feet and it's so incredibly sweet and I'm trying not to cry -- feeling *Higher* now; feeling the *Love* -- and I'm willing myself not to vomit and together we turn the corner past the Pub where the locals are out in force cheering everyone on and we turn the final corner and I approach the finish line surrounded by an entourage of children like a muddy Pied Piper of Rakiura and finally I pass the finish line and I run into the weeds between the parked boats across from the library and now my reward: a spew in the grass and it might sound terrible

but if you're a runner you know what I mean when I say...

it was epic. —Jess Kany/ FB Rakiura Runners

**thankyou.**

thankyou are a social enterprise. Social enterprise is a little bit different to traditional charity or NFP (Not for profit) models. As a social enterprise thankyou has a sustainable business model that competes in the fast-moving consumable goods market to make awesome products and gives **100% of the profits to help end global poverty**. You can find out more about thankyou's business structure here <https://thankyou.co/stucture>.

Thankyou's vision is to empower everyday Australians and New Zealanders to change the world through a simple choice in their everyday life. Thankyou believe that we can help end global poverty, together. In New Zealand/Aotearoa thankyou is supported by 4 Square, New World, Pak'n'Save and Countdown.

Our **4 FOUR SQUARE** local are supporting this by stocking some of the thankyou body care range. Thanks Sam and Charlotte for making this choice available to us here on Rakiura.

*'You have the power to change stuff'*  
– Chapter one, Daniel Flynn

**How the project works** Thankyou fund individual projects that are put forward by impact partners which meet the list of their criteria. Once all the criteria has been met, thankyou fund the chosen organisation. Then their staff, together with their community, start implementing these solutions 'on the ground'. There are detailed information on these projects available which enables thankyou to prove the impact to their customers.

**We can prove it** All we need to do as the customer is buy their product and enter the unique tracker code on the label of the product on the 'track your impact' system online to receive information on the exact project that product is assigned to fund! Pretty cool huh? <http://thankyou.co/impact>

The issue that we will be tracking together by purchasing the body range from our local 4square will be safe drinking water and sanitation to people that need it.

You can find out more about the thankyou project here <https://thankyou.co.nz/about> or come and korero with me, Cherie Hemsley your very own Rakiura Ambassador for thankyou, or even become an Ambassador yourself!

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**[am-bas-uh-der]** "passionate, committed, influential, cause driven, innovative, keen to be involved. Just like you!"

*"Mauria te pono"* – Believe in yourself



Photos by Emily Joy



Stewart Island/Rakiura Leadership Academy. See article on page 3 for more information.

Support the *Stewart Island News* by subscribing. Details on back page.



Moturau Moana, 'Islands of bush above the sea', is Stewart Island's public park, an elegant, usually peaceful garden, largely hidden from the road. Last week, however, it rang to the whine of chainsaws, the whack of axes, the thuds of spades and the crisp clicks of secateurs.



Daffodils on the western lawn

Maintaining Moturau is the combined responsibility of the Stewart Island Community Board and the Department of Conservation, public entities carrying out their assigned duties, and good on them. However, the care and flair which enable this garden to flourish come from the passion and loyalty of private individuals. Every October since 2000 a hardy band of DOC volunteers spend a strenuous week, often in all weathers, grooming and landscaping large chunks of this 13 hectare property. For some time now the Stewart Island Lions Club has paid the ferry fares of the volunteers, just one of the many public services the Lions quietly provide. And for all of those 19 years the volunteers, sometimes 8 in number, have been accommodated, fed and cheered on by Elaine and Bill Hamilton in their home next door.

Moturau Moana was the inspiration of Miss Isobel Noeline Baker (1878-1958), who purchased the land and built a beautiful, Dutch Colonial-style house which was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1967. She designed the gardens with the intention of showcasing New Zealand flora. Her plant knowledge had been gained on trips to remote places with her father who was Surveyor General of New Zealand. Miss Baker eventually bequeathed the property to the people of Rakiura.

Moturau is in Elaine Hamilton's blood. Her parents met there, she Miss Baker's maid and he the out-of-fishing-season handyman/gardener. From a young age Elaine knew the property well and absorbed an appreciation for the well-planned, well-maintained garden of wide lawns, meandering paths and unusual plantings which are the charm of Moturau. Elaine it is who liaises with the Community Board and DOC, plans the pruning, the landscaping, the new plantings, draws up meal plans and rosters, sources plants and co-ordinates contractors, DOC workers and the volunteers.

This year the volunteers were Sandra Dalziel from St Leonards, Dunedin, Jim Scott from Port Chalmers, Chris Thomson from just north of Oamaru and Trevor Woodrow of Gore. They worked from Monday to midday Friday, putting in 8 hour days weeding, pruning, mulching, chain-sawing nasties like Cotoneaster robusta, grooming paths. 45 new plants were bedded in and a 29 metre punga fence constructed. Hurrah and hats off to these volunteers!

Among the many delights of this garden are the native plants sourced from all over New Zealand, including the Chathams. The present strategy is to continue Miss Baker's intention of collecting outstanding examples of endemic plants. Where else can we Southerners easily see Kawakawa, Golden Tainui, Karaka, Rewarewa, a flourishing Puka, the unusual Makamaka, a variegated Kermadec Pohutakawa? The list goes on. And then there are the reminders of that other world of plants which make up our gardening heritage – there beneath the bare branches of European trees – are they elms or ashes or something else? - classic, pale yellow primroses and simply-styled daffodils, not mucked about by plant breeders striving for the latest novelty of colour or shape.

Moturau is a feast for the eyes and balm for the soul, welcoming even on a windy, rainy day. A place where you can lose yourself in quiet contemplation or find yourself uplifted by a happily thriving plant. A place for a picnic, a party, a wedding, a wake! A place just to sit and rest - and be thankful for the many hands which keep this treasure safe for us.

Happy gardening! *Raylene*



Jim Scott and Sandra Dalziel taking a break from their horticultural labours to show off some of this year's plantings.



Golden Tainui and Kawakawa flourishing behind a punga fence neatly capped with half rounds of the same material. This was Elaine's father's way of protecting the hollow open tops of the punga posts, a practice which is continued to this day.

# What's up, DOC?

## Responsible whitebaiting by Dale Chittenden

Whitebait season is now in full swing. While at Mill Creek please remember to follow the rules, which are helpfully listed on the sign there or available from the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre. **The key rule is that your net must not take up more than 1/3 of the creek width.**

Disappointingly, two DOC signs have been damaged and/or removed from Mill Creek recently. Please respect these signs. They are there for your information and to help sustain the fishery.

## Introducing our summer weeds rangers!

by Dan Lee

Simon Lemmens has worked as part of DOC's Tier 1 team, undertaking vegetation and pest monitoring surveys in some of the most remote parts of the South Island. Simon has also spent time volunteering at wildlife sanctuaries and trapping pests on Tiritiri Matangi and the Waitakere ranges. He has a background in IT, spent a year and a half in England, and worked in London at a news broadcasting office.

Most of you will know Logan Davis as a local. Logan has spent a number of years working on the farms as a qualified commercial diver in Big Glory Bay and has been hunting and trapping Rakiura for years. He will spend most of his time at Mason Bay this summer season where he has historic family ties. Logan's familiarity with the bush and community here is a great asset to the team!



Biodiversity Rangers Simon Lemmens (left) and Logan Davis (right). Photo by Bec Baxter

## Mason Bay dune restoration programme

by Kev Carter

Preparations are underway to implement an additional estimated 80 hectares of marram control at Mason Bay using helicopter boom spraying. The

project was awarded an increase in funding from the Biodiversity 2018 funding round which has allowed the project to take another big step forward toward restoration of the entire dune ecosystem. Previous to this funding the project was largely in a holding pattern with teams focussing on maintaining existing progress and only able to make small increases to the total restoration area.

The new funding allocation helps us break that pattern and include new areas of marram control in the area managed. Ground teams will head into Mason Bay in November to start this season's control work with a particular focus on lupin and marram control between Martin's Creek and Duck Creek. Next year will mark 20 years of successful dune restoration work at Mason Bay and we aim to celebrate the achievement in a range of ways. A public information meeting on the island is being planned to update locals on the past few years, recent developments and where we hope to go.

## Conservation Week 2019 by Jennifer Ross



"Meet the Rangers" lunch (left) and Gadget and Sandy King accepting a certificate of recognition from Lou Sanson (right). Photos by Al Burns & Jennifer Ross DOC

We celebrated Conservation Week 2019 with a 'meet the Rangers' bbq lunch on Monday 16 September at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre and Southern South Island Conservation "Game Changer" event at Transport World, Invercargill on 18 September. Both events were extremely successful and thank you for coming!

## Pest-free Ulva Island by Kev Carter

As we all know from current experience, rodent numbers have spiked considerably on the main island of Rakiura in response to the podocarp masting event which produced higher than average fruit and seed. Rodent populations are primarily controlled by the availability of food



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

which can make the difference between surviving the winter or not.

We anticipated that we would see an increase in the incursion rate onto Ulva Island given the high numbers of rats around, but so far routine biosecurity surveillance hasn't detected any presence. We're still holding our collective breath as the season progresses while preparing ourselves for a very likely incursion response.

The on-going presence of resident deer has been noted during routine surveillance work. Planning is underway to remove these deer using a combination of ground-based and boat-based hunters and dog handlers. We'll soon be reaching out to landowners, concessionaires, stakeholders and partners to determine how to best deliver this operation given the need to close the island during operations.

### Southern New Zealand dotterel recovery programme

by Kev Carter

Predator control and nest monitoring have been underway since August 2019. A total of six active nests have been found so far with two on Rocky Mountain and four on Table Hill. These nests are still being incubated and we aim to find out how many are successful through revisits and the use of trail cameras. Camera monitoring also helps us understand why some nests fail, for example, predation or disturbance events.



Biodiversity Rangers David Smith (left) and Monty Williams (right) traversing Table Hill. Photo by Rebekah Richards DCC

Two feral cats have been caught using live-capture traps which has the team very excited. Feral cats are believed to be the main predator threat to incubating birds and so having two less cats in the breeding habitat will increase the likelihood of adult bird survival, hatching success and chick survival.

We haven't been able to confirm nesting on Hill 511 so far this season and an apparent increase in the numbers of the nearby black-backed gull

colony has been noted with concern.

Breeding is projected to continue until mid to late January during which time the on-going predator control efforts will be crucially important.

### Protecting our wildlife

by Kev Carter

A very big thank you to everyone who has reported sick, injured or dead native wildlife. Rangers have been able to respond in several cases of unwell kākā over the last month. One of these birds has been sent away for a post-mortem assessment at Wildbase and we hope to have the results soon.

Reporting and bringing in sick, injured or dead native wildlife helps us identify trends and patterns that could be of concern and indicate an unknown issue. Carcasses may be used for cultural, educational or research purposes.

An easy way to help protect our wildlife in Halfmoon Bay is by not feeding them, especially kākā. Birds aren't well adapted to the foods humans eat and can suffer severe physiological effects such as metabolic bone disease which can result in deformed body parts. Adult kaka feed their chicks by regurgitating food they've eaten and so chicks can suffer these effects too.

When kākā begin to rely on hand-outs from people they become less adept at finding their own natural foods which reduces their ability to survive when the going gets tough. The best option is to refrain from feeding kākā - as tempting as it can be.

You can help kākā in the township by undertaking predator control and planting native food producing plants.

### Observation Rock Viewing Platform

by Dale Chittenden

Final plans are now drafted for the Observation Rock viewing platform. The plans are currently away with contractors for pricing and to get an exact idea of timeframe of construction.

Meetings have taken place with stakeholders and key parties around onsite interpretation. Themes for the interpretation include orientation, information on dark skies and cultural heritage.

There is no track upgrade or proposed toilet infrastructure included in this project, however we will keep an eye on these potential issues. Any comments or concerns please contact Dale at [dchittenden@doc.govt.nz](mailto:dchittenden@doc.govt.nz) or 027 542 8583.



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**400 Words** by *Beverley Osborn*

I've recently had to apply to renew my driver's licence. The process meant a trip to town, a double-length doctor's appointment so that the medical requirements could be assessed, a visit to the AA for a new photo and the completion of the paperwork and then a wait till the new licence arrived through the post. All in all, that seemed a lot of detailed organisation to obtain a small card that is valid for only two years.

But, of course, it's worth any amount of hassle. It triggers so many memories – learning to drive, the cousin who didn't yell at me when I made his precious little first car climb a steep kerb. (That was after an Island Summer holiday with lots of happiness on Pop Leask's Olga, whose tiller one moved to the right when the boat needed to veer left)!

My driver's licence reminds me of my own first car, of all the exploring I've been able to do in so many parts of the country, of the thousands of kilometres I've driven over the years, the countless experiences of natural beauty that have enriched me and the friendship of so many dear travelling companions.

It is important for my present and future in that, without it, my ability to live here, where my heart is, would be problematic.

That little card is a gift of trust, of independence, of possibilities and everyday usefulness, but its price is responsibility. And that's like another licence that we all have – licence to live. That, too, is a gift, a door to independence, possibilities and all sorts of wonderful and beautiful experiences and, like the driver's licence, it requires responsibility.

Just as the rules behind a driver's licence are based on the fact that we share the roads with others, I think my living licence should be based on respect for both familiar travellers and those whose journeys are quite different from mine.

In sheer gratitude for the joys living gives me, I want to live in ways that neither injure others nor encroach on their rights of way. I need to remain patient when others crash and injure what is dear to me, to avoid driving my pet projects into ditches or up kerbs. I want to be a good Samaritan driver, not a hit and run type.

Mmm! Licence renewal led me to ponder.

**SENIORS CHANGE OF DAY**

Seniors please note the day for our Xmas dinner has been changed from Wednesday to the Tuesday 17th December, this is a one off and will revert to the Wednesday for the Winter Dinner.

**Stewart Island Real Estate**

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houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

See our website [TODDCO.NZ](http://TODDCO.NZ)  
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**Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589**  
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to discuss your individual requirements

**Art in the Boat Shed is  
POSTPONED** for now...

we are still planning  
another amazing  
exhibition, so, dear artists,  
please keep working on  
your fabulous pieces.  
Stay tuned for updates and  
invitations.

*with love, Janet and Brian*

**Across**

1. Dangerous rock off Ackers Point (7)
4. A mathematical relationship or rule expressed in symbols (7)
9. Prayer to the Virgin Mary, \_\_\_\_\_ Maria (3)
10. Appropriate (3)
11. A structure containing a light beacon to warn or guide ships at sea (10)
13. In a natural or raw state (5)
16. The act of calling a shore station by phone or VHF to advise of destination and numbers aboard (4,6)
19. Give vitality and enthusiasm to (8)
22. Surface of the ground, turf (3)
23. The number of strokes a 1<sup>st</sup> class golfer should normally require for a particular hole or course (3)
24. Sub-Antarctic island recently the recipient of the Million Dollar Mouse pest eradication project (9)
26. Fibbing (5)
27. Bangers or snags (8)
31. A woody perennial plant (4)
33. Finish (3)
34. Lair (3)
36. Amiss (4)
38. Large waterbird (5)
40. Reiterate (7)
41. Ajar (4)
42. Pronoun of the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural

- (2)
43. Past (2)
44. Biennial men's golf competition between teams from Europe and the US (5,3)
47. Japanese conglomerate producing musical instruments, electronics, outboards and motorcycles (6)
50. An item or set of items for sale at an auction (3)
52. Opponent (5)
53. The liquid remaining after milk has been curdled and strained (4)
54. Three (*pref*) (3)
56. 1986 horror novel by Stephen King (2)
59. Expression used to draw attention to an interesting or amazing event (2)
60. Snake-like fish (3)
61. Rotate the blades of a propeller about their own axes to lessen air or water resistance (7)
64. Reek (5)
65. Exhaustive (8)
67. Employ (3)
68. The beginning of something, especially something unpleasant (5)
69. Troubles or afflicts (4)
72. Set on fire again (8)
74. Related or similar to something (7)
75. Let fall (4)

1. A filter-feeding system inside the mouths of some whales (6)
2. Range on Stewart Island's NW coast (7)
3. A person involved in a lawsuit (8)
4. Submerged rock between Ackers Point and Bunker Islets (4)
5. An excessive and dangerous amount of a drug (8)
6. Preposition meaning 'again' (2)
7. To move something back from an entwined position (7)
8. A dramatic work in one or more acts, set to music for singers and instrumentalists (5)
10. Took on or assumed (an attitude or position) (7)
12. Drive out or expel (4)
14. Colour opposite violet on the spectrum (3)
15. Finished (contract) (2)
17. Fictitious name (9)
18. 5 point goal in rugby (3)
20. Make obvious efforts to gain someone's favour (10)
21. Northern hemisphere sea duck (5)
25. Peril (6)
28. Reply (6)
29. Relating to or involving gratification of the senses (7)
30. Bay on the southern side of Paterson Inlet (5,4)
32. Female sheep (3)

35. Wayward (5)
37. Move up and down or fluctuate (2,2)
39. Strange (5)
43. Talk incoherently (7)
45. Résumé (1,1)
46. A short-billed gregarious wading bird (6)
48. Used to represent the noise made when clearing the throat (4)
49. A confused fight or scuffle (5)
51. Level (4)
55. Rodents (4)
57. An elongated region of low barometric pressure (6)
58. Acquire again (6)
61. Storey (5)
62. Code word representing the letter 'H' in radio communication (5)
63. Large passenger-carrying road vehicle (3)
66. Strike (3)
70. Coerced in a particular direction (3)
71. The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter (2)
73. Advance (2)

**Find the circled letters to spell a Halfmoon Bay School outdoor initiative.**

**Last month's solution:** Across: 1 Whero, 4 Resuscitated, 9 Yester-year, 12 Nellie, 13 Urn, 14 Load, 16 Ideas, 18 Soliloquy, 20 Ad, 22

Lisp, 23 Site, 25 Lo, 26 Up, 27 Orb, 28 If, 30 New, 31 Dozen, 34 In, 35 Impress, 37 Levelled, 40 Meteorologist, 41 Rule, 42 Ana, 43 Oval Office, 48 Satire, 49 RSA, 51 Al, 52 Balaclava, 55 Insured, 60 Cavalier, 61 Sidewalk, 62 EPA, 63 Re, 64 Embed, 66 Eh, 67 Segregated, 68 Ley.

Down: 1 Waybill, 2 Ensues, 3 Owens, 4 Roy, 5 Stallion, 6 Condo, 7 Alley, 8 Elevates, 10 Trapeze, 11 ROI, 15 Alibi, 17 Diode, 18 Sap, 19 Quip, 21 Dew, 24 Insists, 26 Unleavened, 29 Frog, 32 Ovulates, 33 Elm, 34 Ideally, 36 Multi, 37 Lords River, 38 Etna, 39 Prof, 43 Or, 44 Flack, 45 Crave, 46 Escape, 47 Flare, 50 Allah, 51 Averse, 53 La, 54 AI, 56 Uses, 57 Ride, 58 Deer, 59 Bang, 65 Be.

Highlighted words:  
Harrold Bay  
—created by  
**Ben Hopkins**

**Down**

## Stewart Island Adventures: the world's southernmost snorkel tour *by Ollie Peckham*

As some of you may have heard, Johnny Sharplin and I (Ollie) have been working towards starting up a guided snorkeling business down on the Island. We have both been living here for a couple of years now and decided that a snorkeling tour would be a great addition to the island tourism scene. There has been a lot of working towards getting our tour up and running and we are coming pretty close to launching Stewart Island Adventures. The idea is to take tourists out on a half day adventure, get them into the water and show them some of the beautiful marine reserves and environments that we are lucky to have access to down here. We will only be showing people the marine life and trying to have as little impact as possible on our surroundings by having a 'no touch, no take' policy. We hope to educate people on sustainability and conservation and give some of the younger travelers something exciting to do. Believe it or not, once we get going Stewart Island will be sporting the Southernmost snorkeling tour in the entire world! We are both really stoked with the support that we have had from the community so far and are really looking forward to getting underway. If anyone living and working on the Island would like to come out for a snorkel in Sydney Cove, or one of our other sites, we would be more than happy to take you along, all you have to do is pay for the water taxi! All the gear is provided and no experience necessary (just the ability to swim).

*Find us on Facebook or*  
*text 022 105 8740 or 027 258 5441*  
[www.stewartislandadventures.co.nz](http://www.stewartislandadventures.co.nz)



### Church Chatter by Jo Riksem

There's nothing like old photos to stir up memories of the past. It would be great to know the names of these children if anyone would like to email me and let me know. We also have a concert coming up in December that we hope you will all join us as we celebrate Christmas and our Community with Music and Memories on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. You might like to bring along old photos of past Christmas times to share with others. After all, that is what Christmas is all about, caring and sharing, which makes each year all that more special.

#### Speakers for December 2019

**1, 8 and 15 Dec.** - To be confirmed. Watch the notice board.

**13 Dec. "A Celebration of Christmas Music & Memories on Stewart Island by the Stewart Island Community" - 7:00 pm**

**22-29 Dec.** - **Alan & Averil Bennett** - Rev Alan Bennett, with Averil, has part-time ministries in Gore and Edendale, after 42 years in Thailand with OMF International. Alan enjoys amateur radio, both operating and fixing; and pastoral visiting.

**Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.**



1924-1925 Sunday School Concert



SIRCET Update by *Emily Anne Barnett*

**Kia ora Rakiura readers, October was Kiwi Month so we shook our tail feathers and did a bit for the Stewart Island Tokoeka. Our Great Kiwi Morning Tea Bake sale** was deliciously catered and gratefully devoured by many wonderful locals and few pleasantly surprised visitors. Thank you so much to everyone who played a part: Ti ora for the tea and Kiwis for Kiwis for the motivation and organisation, the bakers and stall attenders, the crumb trail leavers and the jug boilers, the donators and cakeonaters, tea sippers and well all of you. Thanks.



If anyone took the Kiwi Quiz away here are the answers: 1. 5 species (brown kiwi, great spotted kiwi, little spotted kiwi, tokoeka, rowi), 2. Stoats, 3. The female, 4. True (Kiwi are the only birds with nostrils at the very end of their beak), 5. 130, 6. All of the above.



*Left: Bear investigates our robotic kiwi but keeps his distance.*

**Kiwi Avoidance Training** was held at Triall park on Labour Weekend and 31 canines attended. Good job to their owners for remembering to bring them and hooray to the pups for remembering the lessons they learnt last time.

**Lonnekers Volunteer Planting Day on the 19<sup>th</sup> October** was a beautiful one. Around 100 plants were dug into the ground further stabilizing the cliff and filling gaps where some of the previous plantings had left casualties. Weeds were located and destroyed some requiring a little more effort than plucking out and our expert Barberry hunter was let loose on them.



**Our September rat monitoring results** for the whole Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project Area came in at 45% showing an increase in positive rat tracking: previously 15%. The control site at Ryan's Creek showed an increase also, of 35% previously 15%. The next monitoring cycle is due mid November.



If you would like to have a look at what we have in the trap library, run a few questions past our very knowledgeable Pest Manager Willy or even try your hand at putting a trap together then pop along to Triall Park any Thursday as of mid October between 10:30am and 12noon.



**A few of our trustees attended the Southland Conservation Week Awards in September.** Here we are accepting an award for our contribution to conservation in the region.

Thank you Rakiura for a great couple of months and we look forward to spending the warmer months ahead with you all.

Lets get Busy!  
Noho ora mai

## KITTY J

Some of you will have noticed a rather unusual and heavy looking 13'6" ft (about 4 m) fibreglass runabout outside Pete's workshop over the winter months. Your attention may have been caught by the name – Kitty J.

That boat is another piece of local maritime history! It was the first fibreglass boat on Rakiura and one of the first produced by Christchurch firm Francecraft.

But first, what is 'fibreglass'?

*"GRP was developed in the UK during the Second World War as a replacement for the moulded plywood used in aircraft radomes (GRP being transparent to microwaves)...The fibreglass boat revolution actually began when polyester resin, which had been invented in 1935, was used to build the first known fibreglass boat, a dinghy built in the USA in 1942.....In New Zealand, the first to use fibreglass in a commercial boat building application was probably Christchurch boat builder Arnold France in 1955"* (from: History of GRP boats in New Zealand – Boatmags.com – available on the internet.

In the mid 1950's my father was looking for a 'family' boat for use on Paterson Inlet and had been advised against traditional clinker because of maintenance (a pity – Seacraft were making some beauties at the time!). Hence the choice of fibreglass. Power was a 10 horsepower Evinrude – which was quite a 'grunty' ouboard for the day when most dinghy outboards were Seagulls.

When Kitty J arrived at our home in Dunedin I remember Dad being terribly disappointed at the standard of finish. Francecraft later gained the reputation of being strong but rough. However after a winter's work in our basement the boat emerged resplendent in red and cream, ready to be freighted to Stewart Island. Here is a picture of her 'launching' at Golden Bay in the summer of 1956-7.



That photo of Golden Bay is interesting, showing the bank behind the car park recovering from the excavation onslaught before last. Also pictured are the launch Korari and the little Onesimus – currently in Arkwright's shed.

Kitty J performed surprising well with the (by today's standards) small motor, given half a chance and not overloaded. The hull form (flaring out to the chine at the bow, flattening to a very shallow V bottom at the transom) meant that the boat was a classic slammer and belly flopper going into a Paterson Inlet chop, but ran before it very nicely, surfing predictably and controllably. So we learned early on to always head up wind when off for a day's picnic.

The sides of the boat are an interesting shape. Arnold France obviously recognised the need to avoid 'flat' surfaces when building with glassfibre. Construction seems to have been mainly chopped glass strands in resin, blown out of a gun into the 'female' mould. The two-cockpit arrangement with a bulkhead between held the two sides of the boat together and was, in terms of structural integrity, a good idea.

Our family picnics were in the area between Price Point and Native Island, with an occasional foray to Ulva. As teenagers my cousin Rod and I ventured further afield around Paterson Inlet, including several trips up the Freshwater and Rakeahua rivers. One of several 'adventures' included dragging the boat from pool to pool across the Freshwater flats in a hailstorm. We had missed the tide.

We sold Kitty J to the Eriksons in the mid 1970's. Kitty J was a heavy brute to get in and out of our boatshed and the Evinrude was not a trivial thing to lift and getting a bit unreliable. A little 'Aries' sailing dinghy (KJ III) in which our nieces and nephews could learn to sail seemed like a better idea.

The Eriksons had a lot of fun with the boat with a bigger motor, and later sold it to Jack Frew who tells me that his family also had had a lot of adventures and fun, in Paterson Inlet and also at Port Pegasus. Jack's family want him to 'restore' it. The fact that at 65 years old the boat is restorable is a tribute to the strength of the original manufacture by Francecraft. Plenty of fibreglass boats built subsequently are filling landfills.

Jack has kindly agreed to my writing this story.

I have seen only one other photo of a Francecraft in southern waters. The lighthouse keepers at Puyseguyr Point had one in the 1950's, powered by the then universal Seagull.

But why "Kitty J". That was a name steeped in Watt family tradition. My great grandfather, William Hogg Watt, owned a small trading cutter named Katherine Johnstone, built in Sydney in 1841 and sailed by William and Thomas Ballardie Taylor to New Zealand in 1842 where she traded mainly between Wanganui and Wellington. Wanganui folk would see a sail on the horizon and legend has it they would say, "*Here comes the "Kitty J"*".

My brother Robert spend a large part of his life designing and building a 14 m motor sailor in Dunedin. She was named Katherine Johnstone after the original. Her story is written up in my book The Yacht Designs of Robert Watt. There is a copy in the Oban Library.

—William J (Bill) Watt

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**BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS**  
Stewart Island Lions Club are holding a **BOOK FAIR** on November 16 & 17; 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Pavilion.

Stock up on summer reading - \$5.00 a bag or \$1-2 per book. Children's books at bargain prices.

Bring your own bag please. Further donations of books can be brought along on the day. Proceeds to community projects.

Moby Cave was one of several HMB school students who were invited to help Neville Bennett restore Sonja May, a century-old boat. "We used our school values of PART. We used Perseverance by being super careful when hammering in the nails, we used Adventure by doing something different outside of the classroom, we used Respect by listening to Neville and following his instructions and we used Teamwork by co-operating in our groups of three." *Photo by Mary Chittenden*



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# CONGRATULATIONS

to parents Zane and Becky  
 Welcome to their baby boy  
 VEAUX SMITH

**CHOCOLATE AWARD**  
**THANK YOU to JO RIKSEM**  
 for all of your work helping at the  
 Recycle Centre second-hand shop.



To the Stewart Island Community:  
**Halfmoon Bay School is seeking your feedback.** The school's strategic plan is under review. Your comments and suggestions can help us update and improve our charter. All students' parents are being consulted, and we welcome input from the wider community. This is a time to reflect on the core goals and values of the school, and to ask ourselves what we ultimately wish to achieve for our students. If you'd like to weigh in, please email [mary@halfmoonbay.school.nz](mailto:mary@halfmoonbay.school.nz) and we will keep you in the loop. Thank you!  
*Board of Trustees, HMB School*

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**Election results.** Councillor: Bruce Ford  
 Community Board: Jon Spraggon, Steve Lawrence, Aaron Conner (Squirt), Anita Geeson, Gordon Leask (Fluff), Rakiura Herzhoff

**The Boomerang Bags at the shop are made by local volunteers using materials diverted from landfill. Please use these instead of plastic bags and remember to return them at your convenience for others to use.**



*Stewart Island News* is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
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