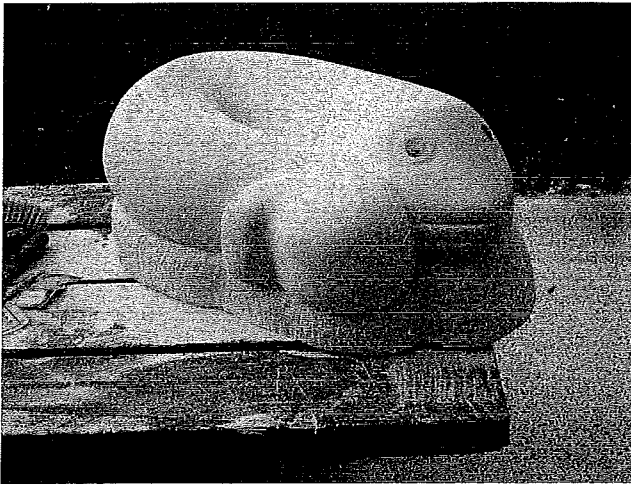


# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

November 2004 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

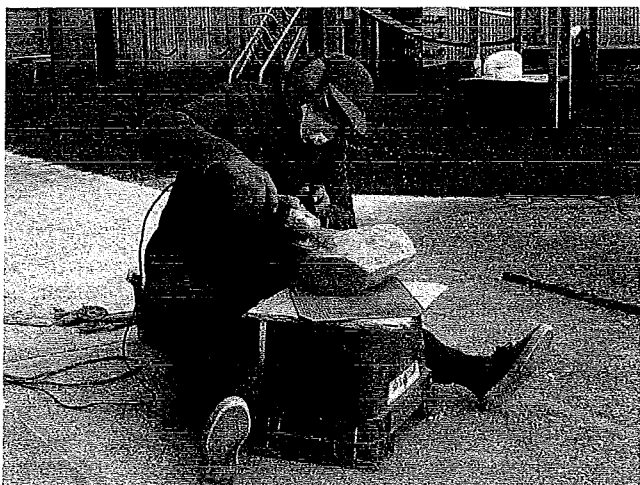
## Successful Stone Symposium and Workshop



Greg Northe's "Taniwha"



John Timpany starts his bust of Sam Sampson



Theo Janssen's noisy but creative workbench

Labour weekend saw some amazing artists hard at work under the veranda at the Halfmoon Bay School. Toi Rakiura Arts Trust arranged for five professional sculptors, who invited local carver Greg Northe to join them, to visit the island for a four-day stone symposium and workshop.

Ten budding local sculptors took part in the two-day workshop and had a great time. Some have plans to arrange for another shipment of Oamaru stone to travel here for extra projects.

Toi Rakiura Chairperson, Gwen Neave, when contacted wished to pass on "heartiest congratulations to the local participants on the standard of their work".

Workshop tutor, Russell Beck, was very pleased, saying "This is the best standard of work from beginners that I have ever seen". From Invercargill, Russell is well known for his workshops so this was high praise indeed.

The finished work of the visitors was offered for sale and was snapped up quickly. Interest from spectators was high with the school grounds receiving a steady flow of people. Some of the local sculptors also had offers to purchase their work but many chose to keep the art for themselves.

Toi Rakiura trustees worked hard to make the weekend a success. A typical Stewart Island potluck dinner was held at Portside Lodge to welcome the sculptors, who were impressed with the local fare. Valuable help from Merv and Rosemary Taiaroa kept the venue ticking over for the four days, earning thanks from trustees.

The Trust has many more exciting events planned for 2005 and is grateful for the support of locals. There is nothing more encouraging than people voting with their feet and turning up at events.

# MUSEUM NOTES.

**GENERAL:** The new committee has had its second meeting and is getting to grips with things.

A recent visitor was a gentleman from England who was a nephew of George Turner. He was interested to see where his uncle lived – "RAROA" –and also learn about the many donations and work for the Island's benefit while he was a resident here. Some of our older folk will no doubt remember G.M.T. and his launch **PEARL**.

**ACQUISITIONS:** We have obtained (by a circuitous route) a 1928 Sanders Cup Programme and three photos associated with this once prestigious yachting contest. The 1928 event was held at Paterson Inlet, and the programme advertisements are well worth reading. The exhibits came from the Neta Rawle estate via her Trustee Owen Randell, who passed them on to Les Rogerson, who passed them on to Garth Barnsdale, who passed them on to - - - - -.

**Boat of the Month:**

**WATERLILY**

Part Two.

In March 1932, **WATERLILY** sailed from Lyttleton in charge of her new owners. There were seven of them, and they pooled their resources to buy, overhaul and store her in preparation for a voyage to the Pacific.

Their first port of call was Wellington, and here bureaucracy reared its head when the Marine Dept insisted they needed a bigger lifeboat before proceeding further. As funds were scarce, they were luckily donated a 16' boat named "THE BANKER", (after a racehorse owned by the donor), and another person donated a short-wave transmitter radio.

After a call at Auckland, they sailed from Russell, Bay of Islands on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1932 heading for Tonga, but their first landfall was Fulanga in the Fijian Archipelago – their first coral island!

They again ran foul of the bureaucrats when they reached Suva, because they hadn't checked in there first to get a health clearance. Two members of the party left the ship at Suva, and the others cruised their way through the islands to the Ellice group where two more left the ship.

It was now February 1933, and the three remaining crewmembers and an aging Ellice Islander set off for Vaitupu, planning to return in about three weeks. Unfortunately they lost a mast when the rigging failed during a storm, and the resulting damage left the good ship **WATERLILY** in a sinking condition. She was abandoned and the four men watched from their dinghy as she took her final plunge, before they set course and rowed to the small island of Vaitupu. Here the natives looked after them until a ship returned two of them to civilisation – the third man stayed on to experience more of the "native life".

In March 2003 I was visited by Mr Jon Parson of Wanganui. He is a son of Mr F. St J. Parson – one of the original voyagers! Quite a coincidence to wrap up the story of one of the historic vessels of our local waters.

The original crewmembers were: J.K.Atkinson, P.A.Williams, W.J.Harris, S.Gerard, F.St J. Parson, T. Reeves, and L.W.P.Reeves.

Hope you enjoyed the **WATERLILY** saga. See you next month. Merv King.



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### Titi/ sooty shearwater

The titi or sooty shearwater are one of the birds which first highlighted to us that the Ackers Point area needs protection. While everyone is aware that many Stewart Island species are struggling to survive under the pressure of introduced pests (for example, Stewart Island Robin) it was during an attempt to showcase the titi coming in to feed their chicks at Ackers Point one January that the message was really brought home. There were no longer any titi visiting burrows that season; predators had taken all the chicks and eggs. That evening planted the seed of an idea.

The titi are starting to arrive on the point for the new season. Pairs are meeting up again and displaying their courtship behaviour. Burrows are being sought for nests and all over are the alluring sounds of pairs calling. During this stage, the titi spend a lot of time on the ground. Whilst in flight they are very aerobatic, they are clumsy on land and take a bit of revving up to get off it. They also have a strong smell, which attracts feral cats. Our work at the point is especially important during this period, as any resident feral cats will have an easy meal night after night by visiting the point.

We have already removed 6 feral cats from the point and while we have seen the sign of 2 more, we are confident we can also remove them. The impacts of cats has been dramatically reduced thanks to the dedication of volunteers over the last year. Thank you to everyone who has been out to check traps or look for new potential trap locations.

### Rakiura Environment Centre: carpet

SIRCET have been busy preparing the interior of the **Rakiura Environment Centre** for its imminent opening (date still to be set.) A new wall was built to tidy up the back wall (special thanks to Brett Twaddle Builders for their generous support) and painted to match the others, with thanks to Glowing Sky for the donation of paint and materials and Clampett Industries for their volunteered hours.

Unfortunately, our carpet has suffered from dampness and a large section is no longer usable. If you have an off-cut or an old spare piece of carpet that is still in good nick (or you know of anyone who has) we would be very grateful for your donations.

### Library Story from last month – Clarification.

Pat King has asked that it is made clear that even though she **has** been working at the Oban Library for 35 years, **only** the last 19 have been spent in the role of Librarian. We think that in itself is worthy of note.

## STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD COMMUNICATION

The new Community Board consisting of Mrs Elaine Hamilton, Ms Chris Visser, Messrs Dil Belworthy, Bruce Ford, Ian Munro and Barry Rhodes took part in the Inaugural meeting on Monday, 8 November in the Pavilion on Stewart Island. The new Ward representative for Stewart Island, Mr Peter Goomes was present for this meeting

The members made their declarations and were congratulated by Mr Culling and the other members present. Mr Rhodes made Attesting of declaration for Chairperson and Mr Ford made Attesting of Declaration for Deputy Chairperson.

### Rankin Street.

It is proposed to swap some land with D.O.C. at the end of Rankin Street near Watercress to allow for the formation of parking for vehicles and boat trailers. Negotiations are taking place.

Community Rock Quarry. The establishment of the quarry is well underway . Written authorisation for use of land had been obtained. More money would be required before completion. It is hoped to have the quarry up and running by November 2005

### Street Lighting.

The Community Board Members are to do a drive round at night to prioritise where lights should be erected and report back to next general meeting.

### Restricted Parking

It was necessary to identify some areas where this was required. Areas of concern were at the Halfmoon Bay wharf, Lee Bay and Golden Bay.

### Proposed sewerage scheme extension

Estimates and costing were talked about. The stage of progress was discussed. Braggs Bay and Thule had been deleted from the extension plan. Deep Bay may be a casualty depending on the price.

### Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre:

Mrs Sue Peterson from S.D.C. would be taking some control over the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre in a bid to provide relief for Mr Warren.

### Road Markings

Some markings had been carried out using reflectorised paint. It was planned to carry out a total reseal in 2006 when road marking would be carried out again. Green marker pegs would be used in some areas. Concern was voiced about rental vehicles on the Island and some of the areas they are being taken.

### Cost of Power

Concern was expressed relating to a 36% increase in diesel costs and that there is a possibility the cost of power would need to be increased. There would be more of a commercial line taken with the power supply. Bad debts would no longer be allowed, with disconnection taking place in the case of non-payment.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain about the water temperature, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs of thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. That posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how four-poster beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added

things to the pot. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas pudding hot, peas pudding cold, peas pudding in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that History was boring!!!!

Hello again,

The busy season is coming up for all of us. For police it is generally a hectic time and runs through until New Year, after which time we breath a sigh of relief. We as police along with the community face the same issues every year. The problems generally arise from 'excesses' and usually of alcohol.

Can I be quite clear about one thing. Drink driving. It is socially unacceptable in today's society. A few on the island may disagree.

My response is to those people: get your heads out of the sand and into the real world. You may watch the ads on t.v and think, "that doesn't apply to me". The question is put "are you prepared to kill". Fact: drink drivers kill people, others and themselves. The roads here are narrow, dangerous, poorly lit and contain wandering pedestrians. One valued member of the community has already been lost on our roads and much as it is difficult to drag up the past some lessons must be learned.

If attitudes do not change, there WILL be another accident at some stage. There are more people, rental cars, scooters etc on the island now. When there is, there will be a full police investigation, serious charges laid (possibly manslaughter if a death has resulted) and there will be some sort of punishment. Nothing like the punishment of living with your conscience of having killed or injured an innocent person.

What I want to see is the community as a whole take some responsibility. The few letting the team down need some pressure put on them. You will have my full support. There are no excuses here, as the hotel will put on a courtesy coach when required. Remember the Police Traffic and Breath Alcohol Group also has the island on their list of areas to carry out their work. They may also appear when you least expect them. Be warned.

Seatbelt compliance. Appalling. Excuses: "I always wear one on the mainland", "I only drive at max. 50 km/h". Work it out.  $50 \times 50 = 100$  into a concrete wall. If you don't have the sense to put one on, at least ensure your children wear one. This is an absolute MUST.

Riding on the back of utilities. There will be a serious injury or fatality with this common island practise. A death occurred up north last week. The driver is responsible for any carriage of people in an unsafe position. An island tradition, maybe. Very dangerous, certainly it is.

Vehicle condition, WOF's etc. Some improvement, well done. For others still dragging the chain, I am still looking.

Positives: The Stewart Island SAR group is very much up and running. The committee had a meeting recently and worked through some issues. Doc Marty's initiative for a new rescue stretcher for SAR and community use has been very well received. A very big thank you to all the numerous individuals and companies who have generously donated to this cause. It is a much-needed piece of equipment for the island. A special thanks to Steve and Fiona Hall for their fundraising efforts.

We had explosive technician Sergeant Steve Renton of Burnham over here recently. He was kind enough to speak with the older class at the school about his work and the dangers of explosives. It was interesting listening to him and then to watch him work destroying old unstable munitions. If you heard a rather large bang the other day.....

There will be no Stewart Island Beat in December as Heather and I will be on holiday.

The 'renta cop' will be Duncan, my brother from Invercargill. Introduce yourself to him when you see him about. He is a keen 'island man'.

Regards and keep safe. Tod Hollebon, Stewart Island Police.

## STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

23<sup>rd</sup> October. The plant stall outside Ship to Shore on the Saturday of Labour Weekend was a great success. The good weather, other stalls and activities brought people out to enjoy themselves

November 5<sup>th</sup> Garden Circle again invited Diacks Plant Expo. to the island, as usual they seemed to know what gardeners here liked bringing with them plants and shrubs for sale, as well as orders.

November 10<sup>th</sup> The monthly meeting was held in the home of Isobelle Broughton where everyone enjoyed looking at her garden in the sun.

The 6 month trial of Vermicast (worm poo) is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> month with good results being reported with both indoor and outdoor plants. Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre hope to have the Stewart Island brew ready for sale in the new year.

### Competition results were:

Rhodo/Azalea: (1) Peggy Wilson (2) Lil Skipper/Pat Bethune (3) Nancy Schofield/Jenny Gell  
Ground Cover: (1) Jenny Gell (2) Lil Skipper (3) Isobelle Broughton  
Bunch of Herbs: (1) Anita Geeson (2) Lil Skipper (3) Peggy Wilson

It is hoped to have a Hypertufa Pot Making Day on 21<sup>st</sup> November, please check Notice Board for details.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December, Garden Circle members are invited to have lunch at Pearl's at 12.30.

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**This month the deserving recipient is Merv King for all his work in the Museum and for writing a monthly column in SIN, even when his health hasn't been the best. Thank you, Merv.**

**The prize this month was kindly donated by "Anon"**

### A note from the new Southland District Council Representative.

Thank you to all who voted in the recent elections, and thanks for giving me the chance to represent you on the 'other side', around the Council table.

Stewart Island had the highest turnout of voters in Southland, around 70%, so that shows there was a big interest, and there was not much between votes for S.D.C. councillor and also for Community Board members. I have suggested there should be a prize given for such dedication from ratepayers, but no luck.

Congratulations to Barry for being the new Chairperson, and with a good cross-section of members I hope we can all serve the community well, and satisfy the majority of those who call Stewart Island home, and also those who come here for relaxation, tramping, hunting, fishing and nothing in particular.

The first few weeks as a Councillor have been meetings, workshops, meetings and learning sessions, and one thing that quickly becomes obvious is that there is a huge range of matters to be dealt with and a lot with no easy solutions.

And some of the problems are common to other districts and others are very much local issues, the former can sometimes be solved by following what has been found to work elsewhere and some need to be tailored to suit the Island's own distinctive lifestyle.

The extension to the sewer catchment area is one thing that is getting a lot of debate, both from locals and the S.D.C. staff who are trying to get a scheme that is affordable and covers as many properties as possible.

By chasing subsidies and working to get costs down, it is hoped the extension will be done over the coming summer and in time will be looked on as one of the 'Glad we did it then' projects.

That's enough for now, more next time. Peter Goomes.

#### Basin Award

This month's choice must be the easiest one ever.

The basin goes fairly and squarely to Fluff Leask for failing to put money in the parking meter on Big Rock.

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. If you wish to send a contribution, please email to [sdovey@es.co.nz](mailto:sdovey@es.co.nz) preferably as an MSWord™ attachment.

Short articles can be posted to the editor: Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

Deadline for December edition is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

If you wish to have this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island. For ten issues posted to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, the cost is \$25

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