

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

**NOVEMBER 2005**

**\$2**

When the local constable is gyrating in an Elvis suit and twanging his guitar...you know this community rocks.

The whole island has been rocking, experiencing two earthquakes since the last edition of SIN — one on 17th Oct and another on 7th Nov.

Oban has been busy, answering the question on Labour weekend *How much can fit into a single day?* Garden sale, auction, kebab sale, Stewart Island Players theatre, Oktoberfest, and finally karaoke until the wee hours of the morning. There wasn't an idle hand around the Bay.

Citizens haven't been the only ones singing and shaking their tail feathers — successful pest control has set the stage for 50 percent more birdlife evident around the Bay. It's not your imagine...there are more birds!

And either there are several kiwis living around the Bay or one extremely intrepid wingless traveller, as the wonderful native bird has been observed at Butterfields, Horseshoe, the Back Road, and right in front of the cop shop.

Other wildlife sightings this November include a Southern Right whale investigating the David Baker in Horseshoe Bay; white pointers at Deadman's; a leopard seal at Maori Beach; Fiordland crested penguins here and there;



PHOTO: LIZ CAVE

many rafts of little blues; and our pinnipedian comedian having a go at pedestrians, cars, and the big outdoor chess set's knight before retiring to Butterfields.

Local paua men are getting gear sorted for another season holding their breath in search of precious black gold. Local penguin people have different nest eggs on the mind, holding their breath and hoping for healthy chicks as the yellow-eyed penguins begin to hatch (see Sandy's report p.8).



Read about this home-grown hero p. 7

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The Guy Fawkes bonfire at Halfmoon Bay was exciting before it was lit: the wood-laden truck tipped over on the beach! The Horseshoe Beach bonfire raged until dawn. Fireworks and sparklers lit the darkness, and fishermen's flares streaked our skies with



glowing red and pink trails of fire.



The Os are easy ... Zoe writes her name with a sparkler on Guy Fawkes Day.

The Stewart Island Players' production of *Beastie and the Beaut* had us singing, laughing and applauding over Labour weekend with two terrific sold-out performances. Have a peek at the backstage drama on p 6.



Boat of the Month

**QUEEN of BEAUTY**

Readers of the Southland Times would have noticed an article in the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005 edition describing the continuing work to restore a vessel named **QUEEN of BEAUTY**. The article mentioned her long history, but there is much more to tell about her – some of which I have managed to gather in my “net”, so I hope you find it of interest.

She was built in Auckland somewhere about 1894-96 by a Peter McInlay, and was reportedly named by her first owner after a Cairns gold mine that made him rich. Unfortunately the owner’s name is not known to me at this stage, but she was listed as a Registered Ship in Auckland as a Motor Yacht, and was supposedly the first diesel-powered motor-sailer in New Zealand.

Her construction was “composite”, that is galvanised iron ribs covered with triple skin kauri planking of 2.75” total thickness, an overall length of 57’, and powered in later years by a 5L3 Gardner engine with a “coffee grinder” gear change – which was similar to driving a tramcar!

History prior to the 1920’s is vague, except that she was owned by a Dr Moody of Dunedin, and about 1925 she was purchased by Mr Arthur S. Russell of Invercargill, (who was in the motor trade) to be used by him as a pleasure boat around Stewart Island and the Southern waters. The photo showing her bedecked with flags would have been taken during the Sanders Cup yachting contest held on Paterson Inlet in 1928, when she was used as one of the “Official Patrol” boats.

She then disappears from my scene, to show up after 1933 as a fishing boat working from Port Chalmers. Her skippers were many, and some later names associated with her were Herman Lont & Jim Richmond of Pounaweia. In 1967 she was owned by National Mortgage & Agency Co, skippered by Charlie McFarlane and then Neil McGregor.



In her fishing days at Port Chalmers.

Photo: Alan Hughes.

Again she fades from my records, until shown being lifted from behind a hedge at Makarewa in a photo in the Southland Times of 31-7-00, to head for more restoration. Let’s hope she makes it this time!

That’s it for another month – hope you enjoyed reading it, and please -- let me know if you can add to the story!

Merv King.

**Stewart Island Museum News**

*by Loraine Hansen*

Although visitor numbers have dropped slightly, we still have lots of visitors to our Museum who are complimentary in their praise of our collection and taonga.

Some of our most interesting exhibits are paintings by well known artists. One is by Christopher Aubrey, a keen amateur artist who travelled the length and breadth of the country from the 1860s painting and sketching for people in return for their hospitality. Mr. A. W. Traill donated the painting to the museum which is of the Schoolhouse at the Neck, dated 1879.

A Samuel Moreton painting shows one of the earliest settlers at Horseshoe Bay, Bob Davison, a seaman who married Toria of the Maori Kaik at Port

Adventure. They are pictured with family on the beach outside their home salting fish and packing it into barrels — an insight into early life on Stewart Island around 1872. This painting was donated to the museum by Mrs. Olga Sansom.

We have in our cabinet of Maori artefacts a necklace made of dolphin teeth. It is a rarity to find a complete one, and there are only three known to exist (the other two are in the Canterbury Museum).

A visit to our Museum will give you an interesting and informative insight to early life on Stewart Island. So locals, if you have some time to spare, come along.

The Museum is open between 10am to 12noon Monday to Saturday and 12noon to 2pm on Sunday

With Christmas fast approaching. We have some prints of an early Stewart

Island map for sale, they would make a unique gift. Size A4 is \$15; size A1 is \$45, and they come complete with tube for easy posting. The outline of this map is an old survey of the island (date unknown) and the local place names were inserted by cartographer W. D. Baker in the early 1940s.



Until next month, when there will be more news and views from the Rakiura Museum!

***A great idea for a holiday present***  
**Give the gift that keeps on giving (for 12 months)...**  
**a subscription to the *Stewart Island News!***

**Your friend will receive this “beak-written” card along with their first issue:**

*Dear [your friend's name],*  
*You now have a 10-month subscription to the*  
*Stewart Island News, compliments of*  
*[your name, your family's name, or your company name],*  
*your South Seas Santa.*  
*Hope you enjoy these tidings*  
*from beautiful Rakiura.*

*Happy Holidays!*



Just fill out the following form and send it to Box 156, along with a cheque 30 for NZ mainland; \$24 for Stewart Island; contact editor for overseas rates).



YES, I wish to give my friend a great holiday gift.  
Please send a 12-month-subscription to:  
**Recipient's Name and Address:**

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Please sign the following name[s] to the holiday card that will be enclosed with the first issue:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*I have enclosed a cheque for appropriate amount*



## ban Globetrotter

## off-island adventures

*Helen Cave journeyed to Uganda at the start of October. Following is her story:*

Stewart Island, Invercargill. Christchurch, Sydney, Dubai, Nairobi, Entebbe - 10.30p.m. – I was unsure how I was going to get to Jinja, wishing I hadn't left the phone numbers behind, and relieved to see a driver with a piece of cardboard with my name on. It was probably good that my introduction to Ugandan driving was at night with relatively light traffic, and it was only 2 hours to Jinja, where I was staying in a flat with some kayaking friends of my son Grant. I was happy to be greeted by a friendly person, a mattress, mosquito net, flush toilet and shower.



Raucous birdcall woke me in the morning, and the *swish swish* of the gardener cutting the grass with a machete. With the average wage \$25 usd/month, it seems lawn mowers are an extravagance – I didn't see any, neither did I notice any tractors or other machinery – labour is plentiful and cheap. Locals' transport is on the heads of women and children, or on bicycles – we passed a cyclist riding on the road with a bed strapped on the back of his bike. "Boda boda"s are bicycles (or, in some areas, motor scooters) with an extra extended seat on the back for paying passengers – there are ¼ million of them in Uganda. Practical, but a bit weird first time.

The dark red dirt and lush green



growth is stunning. Although it is one of the world's most impoverished nations, Uganda is the only African country that sustains an excess of food production. The area I was in was dependant on subsistence cropping, with the warm weather (about 30 degrees) and regular heavy rain ensuring the maize was huge, and bananas, pineapples, mangoes, and other food crops were abundant. Cows and goats were tethered.

Primary school attendance rates are high, with the children wearing rather startlingly bright school uniforms in British style, supplied by aid. I didn't see any children playing with toys other than wheel rim and stick games. The people I met (especially the children) were charming, friendly and seemed content. I believe areas to the north of the country are quite different.

I was taken to a site overlooking the incredibly beautiful Bujagali Falls, to see the tree that was planted for Grant, which had, I was told, been flowering. I met the tree's caretaker – "Ah, so sorry, madam, my cow, she ate the tree." Oh well... by this time next year the controversial World Bank funded (\$520,000 usd) hydro dam will inundate the whole area. Ninety-five percent of Ugandans are not connected to reticulated electricity, and will not be able to afford to connect to or use the power generated by the new scheme.

Grant was known to many of his Ugandan mates as Shrek or Swamp boy, as he spent several months living in a tent at Mabamba swamp on the shores of Lake Victoria. The drive to Mabamba was "interesting" with overtaking 3 or more abreast - any gap, either side is ok to overtake. I



believe the accident rate is the highest in Africa. The majority of vehicles make the Stewart Island fleet seem pretty flash. Wobbly wheels, shattered windscreens, dents and clouds of black exhaust. Many of the roads are potholed red "murrum" and have big drop-offs on the sides.

Courage and bravado are the reigning qualities with multi-dented vehicles not to be trusted. Reputedly drivers may be told to put the vehicle into neutral and coast down a hill to save fuel.



I was introduced to the village headman and what must have been the entire male village population. ("So sorry Grantee Mumma, Grantee was our friend"). I think I finally got the hand-shake technique right - and then was taken on the swamp to look at birds, in a sort of flat bottomed narrow double-ended boat – wooden, with pieces of tin cans nailed on to patch the leaks (there was still a bit work to be done), and carved-out paddles like huge wooden spoons, used mostly for punting and pushing

*(Continued on page 9)*



**HALF MOON BAY BEAT**

**NOVEMBER 2005**

Hi everyone,

questions asked' for safe disposal, please see me.

It's good to be back in the saddle after being off crook for a while.

Does anyone have any information regarding a 'Lowrance' depth sounder stolen recently from a tailored boat on Main Road. It is a timely reminder that it may not be safe to leave gear on boats. Do we have a thief in the bay?

Things are back up and running on the island and it looks as though we could be in for a busy summer season.

A couple of housekeeping matters. Most are up with the play with transport licences for commercial operations, but if you are unsure as to who needs a Passenger Service ('P') endorsement on their licence please ask me or for more detailed information, phone Greg Sims at Land Transport New Zealand in Dunedin on (03) 951-3008.

On the work front there have been a few things going on.

It appears an 'islander' has had four commercial size cray pots confiscated for breaching Ministry of Fisheries regulations. The pots had no marking on the floats and non complying escape gaps. I have been told those person/s involved are encouraged to contact MFISH first before MFISH contact them.

For various reasons, most beyond my control, a land SAR training weekend scheduled for late October was cancelled. We are going to re schedule the course (to be held on the island) sometime in the New Year. It will be either "Search Methods' or 'Track and Clue Awareness'. I need a minimum of 14 people to justify the instructors being sent down here.

We don't want to see things getting to the stage they have up north. MFISH visit the island regularly, some trained DOC staff work as warranted officers and police are also able to fill this role. Local fishermen will also be on the look out for dodgy folk abusing the system. 'Coast watch' is alive and well in the south.

Finally there is a 'Health Walkathon' on Saturday 26 November between 11 am and 1 pm. When driving please be on the look out for walkers on the roads.

I have had reports of 'Tuna Bombs' being let off recently in the bay. They tend to coincide with some festivities. Few people should have access to these. They are designated as an 'explosive' and therefore they are illegal for most people to possess or use, i.e. you must be licensed. They are dangerous. If you would like to hand any in 'no

Look after each other and I'll catch you next month.

Senior Constable Tod Hollebon  
Half Moon Bay Police.

**H2O Mojo**

If big water fascinates you but you feel safer surfing the net, check out the photographs of enormous seas on this website:

<http://tv-antenna.com/heavy-seas/>

**Congratulations**

Proud Parents Jaime & Druce <i>Welcome</i> Kiara	Proud Parents Carrie & Tom <i>Welcome</i> Dayton	Proud Parents Callum & Sam <i>Welcome</i> Angus	Newlyweds Sue & Len
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Another sure sign that the summer season is upon us...the **Kai Kart** is open for business. Stop by and say *Hi* to Hilly.



Open 11a.m—2p.m.  
& 5—9p.m.  
Closed Mon and Tues  
until December

Last month's issue mentioned the white wood pigeon of Horseshoe Bay Road. Margaret Rooney has observed that there are two — one with a gray head and one a pure white.

into the Underworld. He was recognized and changed back to his human form, but the present pigeon now bears the marks of clothing: the white breast the apron, the darker plumage a belt.

According to Murdoch Riley's *Maori Bird Lore*, the kereru was originally pure white, but that changed when tricky Maui disguised himself as a pigeon to sneak

Maori chiefs traditionally ordered albino pigeons to be caught and carefully skinned. The skin was preserved and saved by the chief, and the body was burned, not eaten.



Get into wigs, lippy, and stockings

Touch up the eyeliner, brush up the lines

Stewart Island Stars

Get up the nerve, get into character  
Get on stage!

***“Butterflies are good. But not when they turn into elephants” — director Gwen Neave***

*Nobody said I don't want to wear these wings, I don't have the time, I don't want to make a fool of myself, I don't want to wear this furry face mask and get out in front of everyone and sing and dance and prance around..*

Instead, the cast of *Beastie and the Beaut* spent weeks rehearsing, donned their costumes, smiled big, and invited us to

♪ Come join our happy song! (*valdere* ... *valderaa* ... *valdere* ...*valdera-ha-ha-ha-ha*) ♪

Anita Geeson's timing and delivery were impeccable; she and Russell Salter were hilarious. Dawn McLellan, Todd Hollebon, Brent Beaven, and the faeries had us roaring with laughter.

The singing by Leeann and Jim Flack and Todd and the chorus was lovely, and enhanced by Ulva's beautiful piano playing. The production flowed smoothly through Lee Wadds' narration and behind-the-scenes folks including Di Morris, Sam Sampson, Jo Pringle, Bev Cowie, Kari Beavan, Kitty Kain, Tamra Austin, Stew Dovey, Alan Wadds, and Don Goodhue.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the cast and crew, who spent days of their lives rehearsing, and really put themselves out there for our entertainment. (Now, if we could just get the Happy Wandering Song out of our heads.) (*valdere*.. ♪)

*Take a bow, Gwen. Encore! Encore!*

**Bravery Award for Zane Smith**

*The bravery of a Stewart Island man who swam through rough seas to rescue an injured man in Fiordland was recalled on 9th November when Mayor Frana Cardno presented Zane Smith with the Royal Human Society's bronze medal for bravery.*

Mr Smith was a crewman on the fishing boat McLachlan, which was in George Sound in February 2004. He noticed that the boat Seaway was on the rocks with its engine still running and no sign of any crew.

He swam 30 metres though two-and-a-half metre swells to reach the Seaway, and found one

man on board, who was semi-conscious with chest injuries.

Mr Smith secured the boat, made the injured man comfortable and then radioed for assistance. He stayed with the boat and cleared the rigging to enable the rescue helicopter to airlift both the injured man and himself off the seaway.



Zane and proud dad Philip

According to the citation from the Royal Humane Society, Mr Smith "placed himself at considerable risk and undoubtedly saved the life of the injured man."



11th November marked the 87th anniversary of the end to World War I.

While weeding the reference section, Pat King unearthed a true library gem: the diary of a young soldier who survived the horror of Gallipoli only to succumb to the trenches of France. The journal of Trooper Theodore Christian Ernest Laugesen was donated to the library by a local family. (*Who? I'd like to put your name on our copy.*)

It is not a long read, and I highly recommend anyone to honour the war dead by reading this man's account. It is truly riveting, heart breaking, and un-put-downable.



Last month I travelled to Winton to visit the Southland District Libraries headquarters, located behind the Winton Library. I met

with the manager Lynda Hodge and her staff, including Sharon Lang. The library serves all libraries in Southland District, and is sort of a "mother ship" to our community library, supplying us with postage,



Librarian's "candy shop"

office products, and, most importantly, books. Library users may be aware that several times a year we have a big "book swap." While the Stewart Island Library owns a permanent collection of books (recognizable by the "SI" on the spine), several hundred of the books on shelf are part of a circulating collection. We exchange these books with the District Libraries throughout the year, and this system keeps our overall collection fresh and relevant.

Sharon usually picks out the books for our "swap" as it's not always easy for the Stewart Island librarian to make it to Winton for obvious logistical reasons. But during this visit I had an opportunity to choose the books myself. I felt like a kid in a candy shop, left alone in a room floor to ceiling with books, with instructions to pick whatever I wanted.

In addition to more than a hundred adult fiction and non-fiction, I grabbed some new Young Adult fiction, several new puzzles including a couple from the popular Wasjig (jigsaw spelled backward) series, and a few Westerns. One of the Winton librarians was in the process of weeding science fiction paperbacks and children's non-fiction, so I grabbed some of those too.

One staff member changed the status of the book on their computerized catalogue, so they can track them, and another staff member packed all the books for me in boxes.

I was impressed by what a terrific collection of books is available to us over there. It took hours of deliberation and walking up and down amongst the stacks to choose books for our swap: I take my hat off to Sharon who normally does this task for our library with great results.



Mike Bailey preps books for a journey across the Strait

Great thanks to Jennifer Skinner, who donated dozens of puzzles and reference books to the library, along with a lovely wooden shelf. This new unit has inspired me to attack our books and move things around, so if you notice changes in the library it's due to a fit of late spring cleaning. Don't hesitate to ask if you can't find something, as things have shifted a bit.

Thanks also to Bev, Leslie, Francis, Loraine, Cath, Maureen, and all of the other generous donors of books, puzzles, DVDs and videos this past month.

Our hours are: Wednesday 2-3:15pm; Friday and Saturday 11-12noon.

Visitors are welcome to check out books with a cost of just 50 cents per book! We also have a sale shelf.

*Happy reading, Jess*



**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.**

In last months edition of SIN I mentioned

that we were about to start searching for yellow-eyed penguin nests to monitor this season, and that last season we found 45 nests.

We have now completed the nest searching and unfortunately the number of nests is down – we found only 37 nests. This was in spite of careful



YEP on nest, Bravo Islands, Nov 2005

searching in all the same areas as last season.

However, it is not uncommon for some birds to have a “year off” from breeding (which emphasizes the importance of monitoring over several years to get the true picture) and the real indication of how well the birds do this season will be the number of chicks they raise.

All of the nests we found had two eggs, so that is 74 potential chicks. Hatching began here on November

6<sup>th</sup>, and we will be watching closely over the next few weeks to see whether the *Corynebacterium*, the possible cause of early chick deaths last season, strikes this season. The chicks are most at risk when they are less than three weeks old, so the crucial period is from now until about mid-December.

Keep watching this space for more news!

Sandy

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Trustees relaxing after a day on the penguin trail.

***YEP Trustees visit***

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trustees spent several days visiting Stewart Island this month. Based out of Dunedin, much of their efforts are concerned with re-foresting land back into prime penguin-nesting habitat. Our locally nesting yellow-eyed penguins must contend with possums, rats, disease, leopard seals, dogs and cats, but in some respects they have it pretty good. Their Otago cousins often must trudge up exposed hillsides amidst sheep and make their nests in paddocks with whatever scrub they can find. Sandy King showed the trustees the “yep” nesting sites down here, and the Otago team was duly impressed with Rakiura’s thriving bush and the lovely penguin habitat. It’s not perfect, pest-free or entirely pristine, but it sure beats a crusty paddock full of sheep poos.

**Speaking of poo...**

**On the penguin trail**  
 by Jess Kany

...I’m no expert, but I feel I can now confidently tell the difference between little blue and yellow-eyed penguin excrement. This is in thanks to Sandy, the YEP Projects Officer for the Southern Islands. Sandy has been kind enough to invite me to accompany her on some penguin excursions, and I have jumped at the



chance to tag along. (Please take heed that is all I remain, a tag-along, and I am not speaking for the YEP Trust or from any scientific camp, this is merely the perspective of a dingdong who likes penguins).

I spent a day on the trail of the penguin in the Bravo Islands with Sandy, Paul Johnson and Phred Dobbins in the beginning of the month. For the first few hours, Sandy’s movements seemed random to me as we canvassed a small island, crisscrossing through thick bush which often had us crawling on our bellies. By the afternoon, after Sandy had patiently

pointed out penguin sign, I began to understand what she was following: large splatters of guano, shiny surfaces of mud polished smooth by penguin feet; tiny claw marks on frequently-traversed logs; and tiny feathers marking the spots where Mister paused to preen before he returned to Missus. (YEPs mate for life, and take turns guarding the nest.)

As a non-scientist dingdong, I am guilty of a bit of posturing: at the beginning of my tag-along day I wanted to get my paws on one of the yellow weather-proof notebooks the penguin team carried because I felt it would lend me a measure of bush credibil-



Sandy, PJ, and Phred check their gear before looking for YEP nests in the Bravo Islands. They use tape and GPS to mark the locations of nests.

ity. But after a day climbing and crawling through beautiful native forest in the rain, observing yellow-eyed penguins on their nests, and hearing their weird screechy screams all around, such petty concerns were long gone. It was inexplicably humbling to see these birds. So as not to disturb them, I crouched low and hid myself far from their nesting sites, but a couple of times a penguin would gaze in my direction. It was thrilling to find myself in their strange gold field of vision.

*I hope to have more tales from the penguin trail next month*



(Continued from page 4)

along. Fortunately I didn't have to do much of that – it was hot work.

I was much more impressed with the beautiful papyrus, water hyacinth and lilies than with the birds – until I saw a shoe billed stork. We passed other villagers in their similar boats and dugouts, off to set nets. Not much English spoken, but friendly banter. The swamp goes as far as you can see. The locals chop out waterways from the vegetation, but the “islands” drift around and block them – you can push them away with the paddles – slowly. I doubt many of the locals have been far beyond the village.

Grant's campsite (with NZ flag) had been on top of the only hill in the area – a grassy area with anthills overlooking the swamp, it seemed the previous occupant of the area had been a one-legged, one-armed witch doctor who had considerable mana with the locals.



Bizarrely, Entebbe airport was in sight.

The Hairy Lemon Camp, where I spent a couple of days, is a tourist and ex-pat haven on a beautiful tranquil island in the Nile.

When you get to the opposite bank of the river, you bang on a tire rim, and a boat & paddler appear to take you to the island hidden behind a stand of huge papyrus with a swimming area and immaculate gardens, an open air bar, bandas (tents set up under thatched roofs) and bunk houses.. It is run by an Aussie couple with a young son who was keen to show off his swimming in the river. (I was promised there was no bilharzia or crocodiles, but did have nervous toes). It is tranquil and beautiful.

My hosts were organising a weeklong white-water kayaking competition – a modern up-market sponsored sport – a “way out” of poverty for the Ugandans – the week's focus for the Jinja kayaking community. The competitors included the world's top white water



kayakers, and local Ugandans in various events. The route to the “big air” competition was along very bumpy red dirt roads and supposedly well-signposted (The signs had been on my bedroom floor the day before – they were substantial.) Too substantial it seems, they had all gone within minutes of having been erected. Spent most of the

morning being lost – no signposts, just lots of mud huts, bananas and maize, with friendly locals who point in any random direction if they are asked where the *muzungus*' boats are.

A great sightseeing morning – also enjoyed the kayaking when we finally arrived, and especially the local kids who had come to watch. One day of the week's events had the local kids paddling, and the kayakers helping at the local school. The relationships seemed happy.

An eclipse of the sun was a bonus – I was with a group of kayakers at the time, and there were various solutions to our “need” to see. We took quick (nervous) glances with our inadequate sunnies on, looked through welding goggles, and digital camera screens and tried to remember what it is you do with a piece of cardboard with a hole in it. The locals had a better solution – they watched the reflection in water – it was beautiful.

My last-ing memories are of the red-ness of dirt, the greenness of the lush vegetation, the

gentleness of the local people, the wildness of the driving. The women and children walking along the roadsides with yellow jerry cans of water on their heads. The bicycles. The swamp, the Nile, Bujagali falls, the love the ex-pats I met have of the country and the people. The timelessness. The mellowness. I want to go back.



The Equator passes through **Uganda**. The country is a slightly smaller area than New Zealand. Located in Central Africa, with no coastline, Uganda is bounded by Kenya, DRC, and Rwanda. Pop est 26 million 1800 ugx/usd. Official language English; Literacy 70%; Average wage \$300 usd per year.

**Jinja**, a couple of hours from Kampala, depending on traffic, is built at the source of the river Nile on the edge of lake Victoria – water takes 3 months from here to reach the Mediterranean on the Egyptian coast. The ex-pat population (about 500 in a city of 600,000) is

very diverse – 2/3rds missionaries, with most of the rest supporting the small tourist industry – birdwatchers, safari guides, and kayakers. I felt quite safe in daylight wandering around by myself. The architectural feature of “Main Street” is rusted corrugated iron, with a

few buildings of previous grandeur dating, I assume, from the pre Idi Amin days. Rubbish lies thickly on the roadsides, the huge ugly Maribou Storks scavenge. With very few tourists, there are no beggars or street hawkers. You wouldn't go there for the shopping.

**On the Health day (25<sup>th</sup>)**

We are also having a Tug-o-War. Starts 6pm at the Centre. Teams of 5 people (mens/womens/mixed). Entry \$5. All proceeds going to Health Centre

**On the 26<sup>th</sup>....Walk-a-thon**

Start 11am. Gold coin entry fee to Health Center. From Community Centre up Golden Bay rd along Golden Bay track, Deep Bay track and down Petersens hill back to the Comm. Centre. Spot prizes etc such as most inappropriate walking attire etc. The Comm. Centre will be selling water and will have food from 12pm onwards.

We will ask drivers etc to be aware of walkers from 11 to est. 1pm on the day. We will have marshalls, First Aide etc.



Not everyone appreciated the fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day...

**HOOKED ON HEALTH**

Information Expo

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Stewart Island Community Hall  
12.00pm - 8.00pm



**SPECIAL GUEST JASON SCHMIDT**

First public appearance of DaRCy weka

FREE Cholesterol testing, diabetes testing, blood pressure checks, body mass index, peak flow

WIN the latest I Pod nano, competitions, raffles, activities  
PRIZES DRAWN 7PM

FOOD available

18 Agencies from Invercargill PLUS Stewart Island garden circle with herbs, school 2006 calenders, preschool cards, bottled water, tea and coffee, mussels AND MORE

Come and join us, have FUN, be informed

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
**WALK FOR HEALTH**

Leaves from the community centre 11am (2 hrs)  
Gold coin entry

Alzheimers Society Arthritis New Zealand Cancer Society Civil Defence Disabilities Resource Centre Epilepsy Society Guardian Healthcare Mental Health Services NZ Foundation for the Blind Parenting Issues Breastscreen Cervical Screening NSF Southland Southland Community House Sport Southland St Johns Ambulance Stroke Foundation Student Nurses Time-Out Carers WINZ Wotonga Community Learning Centre



Complete the weka word find  
Drawn at Hooked on Health expo at 7pm

**Stewart Island robin report**

The squawking cries of the kaka, the constant chatter of parakeets and the harmonious tune of tuis and bellbirds; all such familiar sounds in the Halfmoon Bay area. Wouldn't it be great to hear the Stewart Island Robin (*Petroica australis rakiuri*) chirping away once again? With the help of The Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust that is one of the goals of the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, to establish a new population of the nationally endangered Stewart Island robin and to have long-term control of possums, rats and wild cats on 250 hectares of privately owned land around Halfmoon Bay.



Earlier this year eleven juvenile robins were transferred to Ackers Point and Iona Island from Freshwater Flats. My task is to survey these areas to ascertain whether or not the robins have become established. This involves walking trap lines set up in the project area (I'm sure you must of seen those "Do not touch signs"), playing robin calls and listening for a call back.

Unfortunately, after a week out at Ackers point, I have not seen or heard any robins. The good news is that I have only found four rats in all the traps, which is an encouraging result as further robins are due to be released in the very near future. So keep your eyes and ears peeled for any robins in these areas and be sure to let the girl wandering along playing robin calls know if you happen to hear any!.

Many thanks to Kari Beaven (Project Manager), Brent Beaven (DOC), Aurora Charters and Stewart Island flights who have all assisted with project costs, cheers guys!.

by Brooke McIntyre  
Otago University Wildlife Management Student



**A call for more communication**

Residents of Stewart Island have requested more information from Southland District Council about progress in reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill. This was just one of the many points that came out of the public meetings about the Island Waste Management operation.

Southland District Council and FullCircle-Carter Holt Harvey hosted public meetings in October about the progress of the Island's Resource Recovery Centre. The purpose of the meetings was

to find local solutions for a local problem – how to efficiently use the resources at the recovery centre.

Other ideas that were put forward include: promotion of the 'ship on-ship off' policy, annual bulky item collections, information given to visitors when they arrive, local litter enforcement officers and a shredder.

The Council has taken these ideas and is working on a series of projects to put the local solutions in place. If you would like further information on the Resource Recovery Centre or waste in general please contact Donna Peterson, Resources Officer, Southland District Council on 03-218-7259 or email [waste@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:waste@southlanddc.govt.nz).

**NURSES' NEWS**

*by Deborah Kennett*

Trudy Sharpe has completed her orientation and ten weeks work on the Island, thanks Trudy, and Val Coleman continues with some relief work.

Martin Pepers resumes work on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and has completed a very successful year of study and family life. Well done Marty!!

The Health Committee has been busy organizing and co-ordinating the "Hooked on Health" day on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> November and we are looking forward to a great day, and a fun "walk-a-thon" on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>.

We have been using our new heart monitor and finding it very "user friendly".

A big thank you to the Single's Ball Committee and the Lions for their donation of \$7000. A tremendous effort!!

Thank you for supporting the Wednesday's "Well Child" clinic. This seems to be working well as a concept and we welcome any sug-

gestions to improve our service to children and young people.

Teenagers are invited to come to a pizza tea at the clinic on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at 6pm and get their first MenzB imunisations, so if you are under 20years please ring the clinic so we have numbers for this. Support each other on this, and even if you don't think you want the immunisation you are welcome to come along anyway and talk over any issues.

Also we would like to thank Stewarts Pharmacy for their ongoing support to Islander's health. The staff there go all out to get scripts to folks, send supplies to our clinic and give advice about medications. They also support other Rural areas and nurses.

**Clinic Hours**

**Daily Morning Clinic  
10-12.30 am**

**Well Women Clinic  
Thursdays 2.30-5 pm**

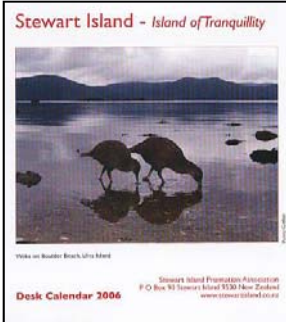
**Well Child/Family Clinic  
Wednesdays 2.30-5 pm**

**STEWART ISLAND  
DESK CALENDARS 2006**

Created by Stewart Island Promotion Association.

Do you have some ready for giving to your family and friends?

Calendars are available for sale at Stewart Island retailers.



They include:

- Calendar presented in a CD size case that unfolds to create a desk top easel.
- 14 Stewart Island images - Cover page, 12 months, plus January 2007.
- Space on back page to write your own message.
- Cardboard envelope for posting.

Calendar Comments:

"Great idea for Christmas gifts for the rellies."

"Neat photos!"

"Really cheap to post overseas!"  
(Maximum of \$3 to post anywhere.)

**STEWART ISLAND  
GARDEN CIRCLE**



Garden Circle members are invited to a Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Empress Pearl Restaurant at 1:00 o'clock Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Lucky Dip and Christmas Adornment.

The next meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> February at Jenny Gell's.

**STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE  
WILL HOST A TABLE OF  
HERBAL DELIGHTS**

INCLUDING HERBS FOR SALE

At the "Hooked on Health" Expo  
Community Hall, Nov. 25.



The editor would like to thank the good people at **McDowall Printing** in Invercargill for doing such an outstanding job with the *Stewart Island News* each month.

Thanks to Stewart Island Flights and Spitfire Shuttle, who see it safely to and from the printer.

Thanks to Helen for providing a scanner and other office products in a pinch.

Thanks to Margaret for figuring out the financial end of things.

Thanks to Liz for showing me how to use various computer programs, and for copy editing the paper each month.

Thanks to the lovely ladies and gentleman at Ship to Shore who make sure that people are paying for their SINs.

Thanks to those in the community who contribute articles, photographs, ideas, and constructive criticism.

And thank you to everyone who supports this project with your subscriptions and purchases of SIN — every \$2 counts, and keeps this community paper moving forward.



The children, teachers and parents of Tukurau School would like to thank all the Stewart Islanders who made our school camp such a fantastically memorable occasion. The learning experiences the children had will remain with them forever. Here are some photos of Tukurau and Halfmoon Bay school children enjoying each others company.

Tukurau School



### Ship to Shore



Our **Xmas stock** is coming in regularly. We have a great selection of stocking fillers, chocolates, biscuits and xmas cakes.

**XMAS ORDERS FOR MILK, CREAM, BREADS, FRUIT AND VEGE, WILL NEED TO BE ORDERED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. PLEASE REMEMBER TO DO SO ASAP.**

We have had a number of enquiries for **Gluten Free** products and have sourced a good supplier so if there are any special requirements please come in and see Jill. We will have in store later this week **Gluten Free Xmas cakes.**

**ORDER MEAT/HAM AND TURKEYS BY THE END OF NOVEMBER, PLEASE.**

**YES** we will be open for a couple of hours on Xmas Day.

*WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A VERY MERRY XMAS AND HOLIDAYS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.*



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email or snail mail.

**Please send articles and queries to** [jess@stewart-island-news.com](mailto:jess@stewart-island-news.com), or post to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island. The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, 14th December.

If you wish to have Stewart Island News 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 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:

12 issues to an Oban address \$24

12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30

Yes, we can arrange for international subscriptions — contact editor for rates

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