

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2008

\$2.50

Summer has brought several new business ventures to the Island including the Wharfside Café (p3), Annett's moveable feast (p9), Bunkers Backpackers (p5), and Zane's local helicopter service (p11). Gavin is flat-out revamping the pizza place so it should be up and running again soon.

Various creatures have been making news and crisscrossing the Strait. After a controversial eviction notice, the Ringaringa pigs were banished back to the mainland. In another incident, an Island cat was sent to town and then returned: an article explaining what happened is on page 11. Finally, six hunters came to grief off Edwards Island en route to Rakiura. Fortunately the Ferry rescued them, Seppy Smith salvaged their gear, and no one was hurt (p3).



Leopard Seal, Horseshoe Bay. Photo by Brent Beaven



The Stewart Island boat book was finally launched to much acclaim (see story below).

Gala Day highlights included the gumboot toss, Weet-bix eating contest, the Bean Around coffee truck, a bouncy castle, throw-a-sponge-at-the-DoC-worker booth, and the boat building contest followed by a race. Lucy Carrick (pictured above left) won. For more see page 10.

On a shameful note: dirty needles in the rubbish?! Please take care disposing of your broken glass, hot ashes, used syringes, vials of cobra venom and whatever other dangerous garbage you've got so we don't end up killing the nice guys at the Recycle Centre (p7).

Check out SIN's latest feature: Riddle-of-the-month (p7).

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And much more!!

Boat Book Launch

by Margaret Hopkins

A large crowd of about 90 people gathered at the Stewart Island Community Centre in Halfmoon Bay at Labour Weekend to mark the

launch of the newly published book *Stewart Island Boats* compiled by members of the Rakiura Heritage Trust. Chairperson of the Trust Loraine Hansen said 'this book has been a long time in the making

and has been a collaborative effort'. Early lists and information collected by museum volunteers about boats built at Stewart Island were expanded by the late Merv King to include boats that had been

based at or

worked around Stewart Island. When the Museum committee in 2002 decided to produce a book on the topic Merv

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

King using his knowledge of local boats and contacts from the fishing industry took on the task and produced what was to become the basis of the comprehensive book.



Boats as unique. ‘In one dimension it is a key reference to some of the known boats that have made the ports of Stewart Island their home. In another it is a community’s quiet salute to the local skippers and crews whose livelihoods have depended on the surrounding seas and to those who have lost their lives’.

quality isn’t cheap to produce and we have tried to keep the cost down by seeking grants and donations. Long term, once production costs have been covered, sales of the book will become a source of funds for the Rakiura Museum.’ Sales of the book at launch day were brisk with many Islanders buying several copies as presents for extended family no longer living on Stewart Island.

A copy of the 280-page hard cover book was presented to Merv King’s widow Pat. ‘We have dedicated *Stewart Island Boats* to Merv, as we are indebted to him for the huge amount of work and effort he put into our book’ said Mrs Hansen. On receiving the book an emotional Mrs King said ‘Merv would’ve been delighted to have seen the quality of the finished book’.

Museum Curator Elaine Hamilton said ‘we have missed some obvious boats but could not wait indefinitely for promised photos and information.’ She appealed to anyone with further information or photos to bring these in to the Museum so that they can be included in the museum’s huge database.

It is quite a special event to have a book of this calibre produced by members of our small community and the Rakiura Heritage Trust should be very proud of their efforts. A big thankyou must go to Chairperson Loraine Hansen for her part in writing and coordinating the production of the book.

Author and historian Jim Watt contributed a chapter for the book on the Stewart Island ferries that have serviced the Island since 1877. After being presented with a copy of the book Mr Watt acknowledged the efforts of the compilers Loraine Hansen, Jo Riksem, Elaine Hamilton and the late Merv King for the thousands of hours put into the project. He described the book *Stewart Island*

Over 300 boats have been featured in the book as well as an index of other known boats. A beautiful watercolour painting of Halfmoon Bay by local artist Margaret Fairhall illustrates the cover and she has donated the original painting to the Rakiura Museum. The book and cards of the painting are available for sale at the museum.

**Rakiura Heritage Trust –
Sponsorship Acknowledgement**

The Rakiura Heritage Trust would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their generous donations towards the publication of the book *Stewart Island Boats*.

Community Trust of Southland
Invercargill Licensing Trust
Fiordland Lobster Company Ltd
J Fraser & Sons Ltd
Evan & Lois Penniall
Sunderland Marine Mutual Insurance
Skeggs Group Ltd
Southport New Zealand Ltd
Southland Building Society
Fulton Hogan Ltd Southland

Mrs Hansen said ‘a big thankyou must go to sponsors who have helped with donations towards publication. A book of this

Stewart Island Promotions Association update

by Chairperson, Ulva Goodwillie

The Stewart Island Promotion Association is all about promoting our Island to the rest of the world. We are able to do this through our quality of service and hospitality to visitors (word of mouth is one of the highest forms of advertising), and various other means, one of which is the media. Outstanding promotion for Stewart Island recently has been through:

The Sunday Star Times ‘36 Hours’

weekly segment in which South Seas Hotel restaurant received an almost perfect score for their menu and cuisine. Well done indeed.

The Australian ‘Getaway Holiday’ Stewart Island segment was shown in Australia this month, featuring their flight over, various locals, Ulva Island and rare footage of Liz Cave (Rakiura Kayaks) who usually likes to stay behind the camera. Of course, the weather stayed fine for the whole time the film crew were here. This television segment can be accessed via the internet [http://](http://www.getaway.ninemsn.com.au/videos/)

www.getaway.ninemsn.com.au/videos/

Rakiura Museum is still in the top 10 - 101 Best Places in NZ in the AA guides and Ulva Island is still #18. Exceptional promotion having two Stewart Island icons in the top 20.

The Stewart Island brochure and street map are now printed and available for your use. Congratulations to the Brochure committee for overseeing an excellent booklet promoting Stewart Island. It is obvious who the

(Continued on page 3)



Halfmoon Bay Beat

Hi, my name is Nick Wells and I am the relieving police officer for the next month. I am stationed at Dunedin central and have been in the job for eight years. But I was born and bred in Invercargill and have resided in Dunedin for 26 years.

This is my third time relieving down here on Stewart Island and it is great to be back. Stewart Island is still one of New Zealand's best kept secrets with its great walking tracks, fishing, hunting and diving.

Search and Rescue training has started and last Tuesday the training was on radio procedures. It was well attended. The next night of training will cover map and compass work.

I notice people riding bikes around the island and want to remind them that they have to wear a bike helmet. It's the law and you could incur a fine of \$55. I have spoken to some people already about this.

Parking at the wharf seems to be working well so there should be no reason to park on the footpath.

A big thank you to all the local people who helped with the rescue of six men whose boat was swamped in Foveaux Strait. It could have been a very different outcome, it was much appreciated by me and those who were rescued. Media interest was intense but Stewart Island was shown in a good light.

Please contact me if you have any problems as I am here to help.

Keep safe.

Constable Nick Wells

Wharfside Café & Bar

Phone: 2191 019

Worker's Lunch - \$11-00

- * Toasted Sandwich & Chips
 - chicken }
 - pastrami } cheese & tomato
 - ham }
- * Soup of the Day
 - served with bread or chips
- * ½ Pizza and chips
 - chicken, brie & cranberry
 - salami, ham, mushroom, capsicum
- * Chicken Salad
- * Guinness Pie & Chips

It takes some hardy feet to complete this extraordinary feat...

HIKING THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL

Only two dozen people a year attempt this 5,000km walk and Wally Hockly is one of them.

Wally will be giving a talk about this amazing experience at

7.30pm on Sunday 23rd November at the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre

Gold Coin Donation please

(Continued from page 2)

Brochure committee chairperson was by the gradient of colour palate throughout. Jon Spraggon has the brochures and street maps at the ferry terminal, and distribution to other visitor centres and travel outlets has been completed.

Kathryn McConnell from Venture Southland has let us know that we need to wait until about Easter next year before we can begin our review of the Stewart Island Tourism Strategy. We had originally hoped we could get

something started about November, but the funding issues have to be resolved and its getting too busy now. The original Strategy was completed 11yrs ago with the majority of aims and objectives (46 out of 60) had been achieved or were obsolete.

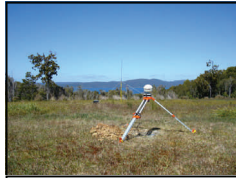
Our next General Meeting get together will be on the last Thursday of November: **Thursday 27th November at 7.30pm**. The promotion of our Island from your perspective is important for us and we would love to see you there.

Since the last issue we've cast our votes and the World stands to usher in new leaders. We'll see how National goes. I'm not confident my skype camera will go again... the night of the US elections I toasted mates in NYC and in the excitement the camera got doused with bubbly. Despite this technological hiccup I can't say enough about skype. It took me a long time to put down my wariness and no time to set up the program. I know other people round the Bay SKYPE regularly, but there are still folks who know nothing about it, or harbour suspicions. I'm a computer moron but I was able to suss it out, and I can talk to (and see!) family and friends overseas as long as I like and it's free! I know it sounds too good to be true...that's what I thought too...but so far the only glitch is my web camera isn't Aquila-proof. If you're interested in this marvellous means of communication visit www.skype.com or talk to a skyper.

Charting Paterson Inlet

by Kelly Taylor

Many of you may have heard vaguely about this... what is it? An exploration? Some mapping? What is being undertaken is a Hydrographic Survey and its purpose is to update the current nautical charts with better data.



GPS navigation station at airstrip

The survey is funded by the government agency Land Information New Zealand who are responsible for nautical charting in New Zealand. It is being undertaken by Discovery Marine Ltd and Southern Hydrographic Ltd, and Dave Mundy of Southern Hydrographic Ltd is the Surveyor in Charge. The area of the survey includes most of the inlet and a large area extending around to Horseshoe Bay. Land

Information New Zealand saw a need to update the current nautical charts for these areas with better data. Some of you may remember other areas (Port Pegasus and West Coast of Stewart Island) last surveyed in the late 1990's (Dave was involved in these surveys as an officer in the Royal New Zealand Navy) – this survey expands on these and will result in a com-



Tide pole at Golden Bay

pletely new chart incorporating greater detail of Paterson Inlet, Halfmoon and Horseshoe Bays.

The first stage of the survey kicked off at the beginning of November and will run for a month. The second, major stage will commence in late January and is expected to be completed in mid-April.

The survey is undertaken using two 7m alloy boats fitted with specialized survey equipment.

The second phase of the survey will utilise a “Multibeam” echosounder – this involves “pinging” across a wide “swathe” of water enabling a 3D-type picture of the seafloor to be gradually built up through parallel transits across the Inlet (a bit like mowing the lawn). Ashore, a navigation station has been set up at the airstrip to enhance the GPS signals used to accurately position of the survey boats and tidal data is being recorded at two gauges at the wharves at Golden Bay and Halfmoon Bay (incidentally Dave’s wife Kelly, who you may have seen wandering around town in November with little 6-week old Brooke, is running the tide side of things for the survey – they met while she was working for the Navy as a Tidal Analyst).



Dave unloading tide gauge at HMB Wharf

You may have noticed the tidal stations set up on the main wharf and at Golden Bay, these include electronic data collection equipment and also tide poles (these look like big rulers attached to the wharf). The tide pole readings are not expected to be the same as the height of tide, they should in fact be slightly higher and



Survey boat arriving on freight boat

are simply used to calibrate the electronic tide gauges. Tidal data is used to reduce the survey data and to establish “chart datum” which is determined by calculating what is called the “lowest astronomical tide.”

So that is what it is all about, essentially making the water safer for navigation and you can expect updated charts to be available 12-18 months after the survey is complete.

Sorry, no *Oban Globetrotter* this month, though if we're lucky Jason will share his adventures in Thailand with us when he gets back. He and his mate have gone there to “sample the cuisine and culture.” If you've had an off-island adventure please share your story and photos with us.



Gala Day boat-building and Weet-Bix eating contests.

ANOTHER “BLAST FROM THE PAST”

by William (Bill) Watt.

Invercargill hosted a welcome but unusual visitor on 1-2 November. ZK-AMY. (“AMY”) is a DC3 operated by the Southern DC3 Trust. Her visit was part of a “heartland” tour aiming to pay off some of the remaining debt on this historic aircraft. In June, a deed was signed gifting her in perpetuity to the Ashburton Aviation museum where it is hoped to keep her as in flying condition.

What is the link with Stewart Island, you may ask. Just that, if you flew north to “new Zealand” between 1955 and 1962 you would have flown to Invercargill in the “amphib” (see my previous article on the Grumman Widgeon) and there boarded a DC3 for your flight north. On a more sombre note, young men connected with Stewart Island will have flown into battle (or have been flown, injured, out of battle) in WWII.

Friday Nov 1 was a nice, calm

Invercargill evening but the weather on Saturday morning was anything but clement. Howling south westerlies and driving rain. Not a good look for pleasure flying. But after watching an intrepid Islander take off and head nonchalantly into the murk the crew decided that the DC3 flights could be run. For \$100 up to 28 passengers got a half-hour flight that offered a chance to experience flight from a bygone era, low-level views of Invercargill, and a chance to visit the flight deck. “AMY” is comfortable to fly in, cruising at much the same speed as the Islander but because of her vastly greater bulk, feeling as though she ‘floats’.

(Perhaps that’s why American pilots called aircraft of this era “ships”).

The Southern DC3 Trust crew were wonderfully positive, friendly and en-



thusiastic people who made the whole experience a delight.

There was talk at one stage in the 1960’s of a “DC3 Service to Stewart Island”. The airstrip was not yet built so it was just a dream and the DC3 would not have been a suitable machine for Stewart Island. But from that dream came the present airstrip and the safe and reliable service we enjoy today.

(There was, incidentally, a very short, rough grass emergency airfield at Ringaringa where the Golf Club is now. As a boy I did see an Auster do a “medivac” from that strip probably about January 1957.)

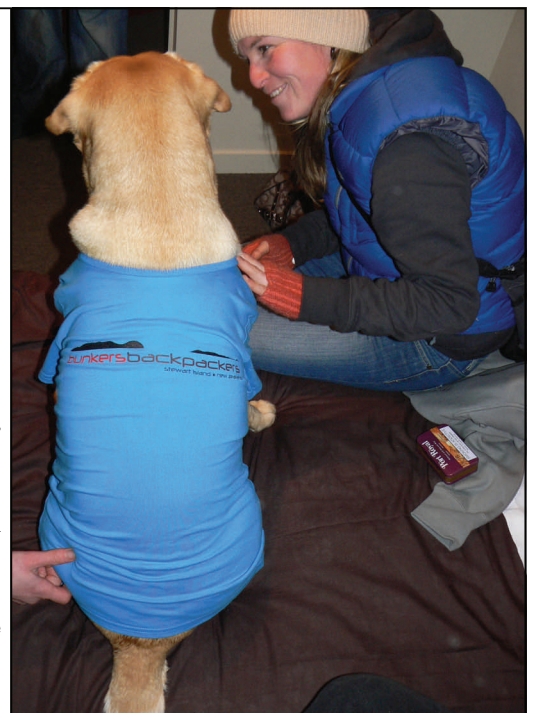


There are some great websites to explore if you Google “DC3”.

If you get a chance to fly in AMY – go for it. Its fun. The Southern DC3 Trust is run by a great group of people. And the DC3 is part of our history.



Pip hosted a BBQ celebrating the grand opening of **Bunkers Backpackers** and the engagement of owners Liz and Heath. The party featured a great seafood banquet and some impressively grovelly behaviour (including the guy who gave new meaning to stovetop hat by wearing a potbelly over his head, and the guy who wouldn’t keep his pants on, and the guy who used a salad bowl as a pillow) (all Lumpy’s mates). Thanks to Friday and Steve for manning the kai and to Pip for modelling the T.





DOC Spot

It has been an emotional month for the local DOC staff – the incredible community support for one member of staff currently undergoing aggressive chemotherapy treatment in Christchurch has been absolutely overwhelming. Matt, Claire and their two little boys, Leo & Luke, are truly grateful to all the groups and individuals who have been so generous. The DOC stall at the Rug-Rats

pot shot with the soapy sponges while they had the chance, given the recent letter in *The Southland Times*.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we have an open-door policy at DOC. If you have an issue, please come in and talk to us.

An issue that have been the topic of numerous meetings and discussions over the past 18 months or more has been the drafting of the Stewart

Island / Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and the Rakiura National Park Management Plan. The release of

and discuss how you can have your say in the public submissions process.

The dates for these meetings are:

Tuesday 25 November at the Stewart Island Community Centre 2.00pm to 5pm

Informal 'drop-in' opportunity to come in and chat with representatives from the Department of Conservation **7.30pm**

Public meeting / presentation of plans

Tuesday 2 December at the Invercargill Workingmen's Club 2:00 pm to 4pm

Informal 'drop-in' opportunity to come in and chat with representatives from the Department of Conservation **7.30pm**

Public meeting / presentation of plans

We would like to encourage your attendance at either of these meetings and look forward to seeing you on the day.

Sharon Pasco
Field Centre Supervisor / PM
Community Relations
Phone: 2190004
Email: spasco@doc.govt.nz



Getting doused for a good cause: Southland Conservator Barry Hanson

Gala raised a further \$967 for them. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket in our salmon and hamper raffles, purchased items from the stall or paid to DOUSE A DOC WORKER – we were surprised more people didn't take the opportunity to take a

these two draft plans takes place later this month and two meetings, the first to be held on Stewart Island / Rakiura and the second a week later in Invercargill, have been scheduled to run through the content of the draft planning documents

STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

This year the Christmas Luncheon will be held at Church Hill Restaurant at 12.00 on Friday 11th December. Small Christmas table decoration \$5.00 Lucky Dip.



Fluff and Leeym race their boat at Gala Day.



The Library Book Sale at the School Gala was a great success, thanks in particular to Megan and Ulva for running



million budget to clean up after an infestation of silver-

wee motif long *before* the Third Reich came to power and started using the same symbol as their own.

I've been rearranging things: all the sci-fi and fantasy books are now in the corner shelves, they can be identified by the yellow dot on the spine. KJ Parker's *Devices and Desires* was a hit with fantasy fans, and the rest of the Engineering trilogy are on order. We now have the complete fantasy *First Law* trilogy by Abercrombie.

I just read Rex Haig's *Rough Justice* and it was a real page turner, and also it's stuffed with familiar names and places as Stewart Island is a backdrop.

We have a new volunteer: Sharon Pasco will be generously devoting some of her time to the library.

Thanks to Jenny W., Pat, Loraine, Megan, and all the other generous donors of books.

Finally, please note that
Inter-library loan requests are now \$5 each. That's \$5 per title or subject request.

the show, and to Jo Riksem for helping them set up. Book sales force us to rummage through hundreds of donated and weeded library books and it doesn't always hold true that someone's trash is another's treasure, sometimes trash is just plain trash... Despite considerable persuasive peddling charms, Ulva was unable to sell a tattered copy of *Yeast Syndrome Explored* to Joe Cave, or the *1973 Road Code* to Russel Squires, and Lindsey Lord bought a lot of books but he didn't go for the terribly outdated *1983 NZ Bed & Breakfast Guide*. There are some books that simply won't sell.

There are also books that we shouldn't sell or keep anywhere—books with bad cases of mildew are dangerous and can actually infect other books, and it's no good if you get your nose into a book full of mould spores. I recently read about a library in the US that had a \$1.4

fish a.k.a. fishmoths. Silverfish is a nasty wee bug who snacks on book bindings, glue and paper.

On the brighter side, there's gold in them thar piles of paperbacks. The beauty of used book sales is the possibility you'll uncover a gem. At the Gala sale a customer pointed out that we were selling a first edition Zane Grey for \$1, a fraction of its value! A visitor wanted a book to read on an overseas flight home and ended up with a dimestore 1962 edition of *Stewardesses* featuring some racy looking chicks on the cover and it looked like an absolute classic. I flipped open an old Rudyard Kipling book and was startled to see a swastika beneath his signature...was the author of the beloved *Jungle Book* a Nazi?! Turns out it's an unfortunate coincidence... Kipling was using the symbol as his

Syringes being dumped

Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre staff are wary about dealing with rubbish bags on Stewart Island at the moment.

Centre supervisor David Squire said he was very lucky not to be stabbed with a used hypodermic syringe last week. "I was loading the compactor, picked up a bag of rubbish to throw it in and a syringe fell on the floor," Mr Squire said. "It was not wrapped and was on top of the bag – I could have easily stuck my hand on it."

The incident followed another in May and as far as Mr Squire can ascertain, the two incidents are the first two recorded in the centre's five years of operation. "We're a bit nervous about it. We don't believe they are being used for medical purposes because those are

usually disposed of correctly. "Who knows what we could catch if one of us is stabbed with a syringe?"

It was also concerning to think how many near misses there might have been, he said.

Syringe users should be aware of how to dispose of syringes. The medical centre on the island is willing to take them or there are needle exchange outlets in Invercargill at Baillie and Lewis Pharmacy, Martin St; Glengarry Pharmacy, Glengarry Shopping Centre; and Stewart's Pharmacy, 150 Dee St.

Mr Squire urged people getting rid of syringes not to throw them in the rubbish. "Please consider others and be safe."



RIDDLE-of-the-month

**Jonah and I have been through the same test
 If you want to find me I suggest you go West**

**I'm dark, or white, and gooey in the middle
 No, Cadbury Cream Egg won't answer
 this riddle**

**I might have a beak but never a feather
 You'll find me in the stormiest weather**

**I lie in the Gutter and reek like an old nappy
 Then I travel to Paris and make ladies
 très happy**

**I won't burn when you light me on fire
 Some people say I inspire desire**

**You'll want me when I'm really old
 That's when I'm more valuable than gold**

**Have you guessed what I am?
 Here's one final clue:
 Melville's great tome, chapter ninety-two**

Bluff/ Motupohue Restoration Trust launches lofty project.

by Kari Beaven

Bluff Hill is a waypoint for most islanders. Whether its bulk, steady and unwavering, above the waterline keeps a swaying boat (and rising 'discomfort') at bay, or you watch it glide beneath the wings on an early morning flight, or just simply note the clarity of the air by how crisp is each feature and detail, most of us will see Bluff Hill on most days.

Bluff Hill was once again the centre of attention on Saturday 9th November as the sun shone on a great, new and tantalisingly ambitious project.

Inspired by the work of communities across New Zealand, and in particular the years of great results from the Halfmoon Bay community, Bluff residents are stepping forward to preserve their special place. After months of planning, fundraising, friend-raising and bit-chomping, the BMRT launched their project with

speeches, a kapa haka from the Bluff School, a blessing and prayer from local iwi and the laying out of the last 18 stoat traps along the gravel walkway tracks. 58 people showed up to soak up the sunshine and the enthusiasm beaming out from everyone who had worked so hard to make this happen.

Bluff hill has managed to hold on to a few beautiful patches of diverse native bush, and several vulnerable species of birds, including tūi and bellbird, riflemen/ titipounamu, brown creeper/ pipipi, tomtits and fantails. Kākā occasionally fly over from Stewart Island and the Bluff community hope in the years to come, some might choose to stay.

Like the Halfmoon Bay project, BMRT were driven to action, being sick of finding previously healthy adult tītī, now carcasses stripped to the bone. One of the key drivers, Chris Andrews a former Stewart Island resident and long-term inspiring community volunteer with her son Hudson, was determined to put a stop to this

reckless death before the adults started nesting this year. With four stoats caught in the first four days, and another by volunteers on the morning of the launch, they're off to a great start.

Over the coming years the community hopes to expand their trapping and poison operations to include possums, rats and wild cats. Unfortunately there is no available toxin or trap-type to adequately deal to mice, so these are an unwelcome intruder the community will have to 'sit on' while technology catches up with them. While nothing has been planned as yet, many of the Bluff residents I spoke to were quick to point out Bluff's narrow isthmus, and the ease with which invading pests could be controlled or minimised at that point and at the major wharves.

Congratulations guys, I think no-one will ever really know how much work you went through to get to this launch, but Saturday's celebration made it all worth it. More information is available at www.bluffenvirotrust.org.

Community Board Update

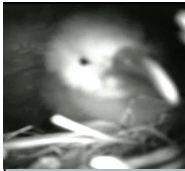
The last meeting of the Community Board was on 13th October. David Black of Works Infrastructure briefed the board on the upcoming reseal of the islands roads. The team are currently putting a preparatory seal on the repairs that they completed earlier in the year and the full reseal is planned for the 12-26 January. While this timing may be looked at as less than ideal for tourism operators, there are good reasons why these dates were chosen. As this period co-incides with a large period of "down time" on the mainland, the works team are able to bring two sets and larger sealing gear. This means that the whole job will be completed faster,

with less overall disruption. To ensure that the disruption is further minimised, the team will only seal the centre of town very early in the mornings. We look forward to this job being completed and our roads being brought up to standard. Continuing on the roading theme, the resource consents have been approved for the foreshore protection works at Lonnekers, Halfmoon Bay and Horseshoe Bay. Work is expected to start on these areas this coming summer, probably starting with a fix up of the existing Halfmoon Bay rock wall. Repairs to the boat ramp have also been included in the resource consent. Sue Morrison-Bailey briefed the board on the Southland

Settlement Support Project. This project aims to help new residents to Southland, be they from overseas or elsewhere in New Zealand, to get settled into the province. If you have any new staff who are from outside of the region, it would be well worth checking out their website www.moveto.southlandnz.com. You have probably noticed that work has started on slip stabilisation work behind the red shed and also at Leask Bay. The slips are having holes drilled into them which are then filled with rods that stabilise them. The red shed slip will then have a matting laid over it and be planted with a ground cover. In this case, for something different and at-

tractive, we are going to trial planting a native flowering iceplant that should spread across the area of matting. Finally, the board will be having a workshop in the next few months to discuss the council's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). If you have any ideas of what you would like to see incorporated into the LTCCP, then please talk to one of your board members. The next community board meeting is scheduled for 8 December. You are welcome to attend. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about SDC issues, please contact any of your elected members.

—Brent Beaven



WANTED!

DO YOU ENJOY WATCHING TV?

Want to help in the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, but prefer to do this from your lounge room?

SIRCET needs people who would like to watch our nest camera videos and 'stitch together' the best clips and tell us about important developments.

We will show you the simple instructions, using a common computer programme.

All you need is:

1. A half hour to spare here and there at home / down-time at the office
2. A computer (preferably Windows 2000 or newer)
3. To enjoy watching the tītī chicks grow

Please ph Kari (533), e-mail kari@sircet.org.nz, or just stop me in the street. *Cheers, Kari*

the GALLEY

Blackened salmon



You don't want to start out with wet steaks or they won't cook properly, so if they're frozen thaw them on paper towels to soak up as much moisture as possible.

Put steaks in dish with olive oil and make sure they're coated both sides.

In a pie pan combine a bunch of spices: Cajun spice from the shop, oregano, pepper, etc. Then press each steak into mixture so only one side is coated. You'll need two skillets: one on high heat with no oil in it, and the other on low heat with a bit of oil in it. Once the oil-

free skillet is smoking hot, put the salmon spice-side down into it. It will make a bit of noise and spit and hurt your eyes and nose, so open the windows and doors and if you're feeling precious wear goggles.

After a few minutes you will see halfway up steak has gone from pink to pale pink, and if you lift and peek at underside you want it to be truly black.

Now flip them one by one blackened spice side up into other pan and finish cooking.

This sauce helps to cool them down: mix a wee tub of lite sour cream with two TBs of scorched butter, and chopped fresh coriander. A pinch of cumin and a tsp of lime juice works well in sauce too. Serve with potatoes.



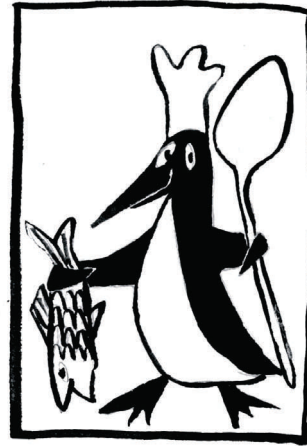
Sam enjoys Gala Day

"Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known."

—Winnie-the-Pooh

The Perfect Dinner

Stewart Island Moveable Feast



Enjoy a unique dining experience - a special treat in the privacy of your holiday home, boat or location of your choice. I will come and stage it for you. Any place - any time.

Forget about shopping, preparing, decorating, presenting and cleaning - just sit back and relax with Annett's feast.

Menu options (3 courses)

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Drinks: BYO

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Much more than a meal - a dinner to remember.

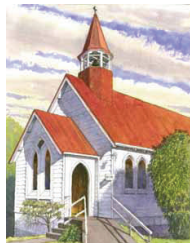
The Perfect Dinner - Stewart Island

Moveable Feast

Starting 1st of December.

OBAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECIPE BOOK

Thank you to all who contributed to the luncheon relaunch of our Recipe Book. The gold coin collection netted \$107 for the medical centre. Thank you too to all who have bought books! A frequent comment is that they will make great Christmas presents. They are now on sale at Ship to Shore, The Fernery, and the Post Centre, or you can order them as per below.



I WISH TO ORDER _____ COPY/COPIES OF THE NEW EDITION OF THE O.P.C. RECIPE BOOK @ \$12.00 PER COPY (collected in Oban) OR \$15.00 PER COPY (\$3.00 for postage and packaging).
TOTAL COST: _____

NAME: _____

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PHONE NO. _____

EMAIL: _____

Please make cheques out to *Oban Presbyterian Church* and send with order form to:
*Recipe Book Co-ordinator, Oban Presbyterian Church
Box 185, Post Centre, Stewart Island, 9846*

SIESA RRR

Fluorescent Tubes and Eco Bulbs

We are now able to recycle the above light bulbs and divert them from Landfill.

Please bring them to the Recycling Centre.

We are also able to recycle the following items:

Yoghurt Pottles, Ice Cream Containers, Margarine Pottles, Plastic shopping Bags

These may put out in your Recycling Bins

BATTERIES

AAA'S through to 9v Torch Batteries plus Button Batteries.

We are now able to recycle both alkaline and Nickel Cadium Batteries.

These may be put out in your recycling bin in an envelope or bag and identified as such.

David Squire

Supervisor, Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre

CONGRATULATIONS to our friends

Diddles and Squirt, who quietly got married this winter.

*Some Halfmoon Bay students share their **Gala Day adventures:***

SPLASH! I smacked Jamie in the face with a bubble soaked sponge. I was the next victim. Jamie biffed a few drenched sponges at me

SPLAT! One of the sponges stuck my to face and foamy water dripped down my neck.

Manoj Amanono aged 8

BOUNCE! Gala Day was cool on the bouncy castle. Zoe, Stella, Summer and I slid and boinged all around the squishy bright castle. I tumbled down the slippery slide. The bouncy, boingy castle was the best!!
Sophie Conner aged 7

On Sunday 26th October we had a Gala Day. When I got there I looked at a jewellery stall. It was full of jewellery by a lady named Susan.

On a little hanger were two pairs of feather earrings for \$5.00. A pink

pair and a blue pair. Straight away I bought the pink pair, Susan put them in a little box. Away I went looking at other stalls. When I came back Susan asked me if I wanted a bracelet with my name on it for \$2. Cool! I thought. I helped her sort the letters for my name. "Thank you." I said. There were even necklaces for \$60, so expensive. Also there were smelly socks for \$20. I loved the tuti fruity ones. Away I went again.

When I came back, Susan was packing up. I was there just in time to buy the blue pair of feather earrings.
Poppy LeQuesne aged 9

At Gala Day I threw the soaking wet sponge at least 11 times. Every time I improved. At the end of it I had scored 4 direct hits. I can't say how excellent it felt to smack my sister three times straight in the face. The satisfaction of that one dripping wet sponge that smashed Sharon's face with cold water was great. I looked

at Sharon and grinned, she was drenched. *Henry Bayne aged 9*

Weeow! Weeow! I went on the fire truck. It was scary and bumpy.

Some of the time it felt as if we were flying. Sophie, Timu and I started screaming. "**WOW...!**" It was wicked! We went all the way to Lee Bay **bumpity, bumpity, bump, bump!** "Hold on" said the experienced driver. It was my first fire truck ride... but not my last! *Meg Kenny aged 8*

Wow! I won the dried weetbix eating competition. I scoffed one and a half weetbix. Kyla came second and she chewed one. Storm came third he devoured a half. I crunched the weetbix, they were dry and messy. I had a glass of scrumptious coke to drain it down. I felt very proud. My amazing prize was yummy! A box of scorched almonds - Nan's **favourite!** *Marley Wright aged 7*

Letter to the Editor

I would like to clarify the story of a local pet picked up, during SIRCET's weka monitoring work, as well as SIRCET's cat control policy.

SIRCET runs a cat control programme, which has drastically reduced cat kills at Ackers Point over the last five years. This means a heck of a lot more tītī/sooty shearwater and Little Blue Penguins have survived coming in to land to breed each year, where they are extremely vulnerable. Recently, there has been upset at the number of little blues killed at Harrold Bay over the past few months, along with kererū, tūi and other native species, all confirmed cat kills. Volunteers, supporters and passers-by wanted the culprit removed immediately, especially in such a highly visible area, where visitors go to watch little blues each year. Justifiably, wild cat trapping has been focussed on that area.

For the first time ever, SIRCET caught a pet cat a few weeks ago – not while trapping for cats, but rather as a part of the weka monitoring work. Pets look and act very differently to wild cats and this cat was immediately recognised as having been someone's pet, although the physical structure of the cat indicated some wild stock. The cat had no identification and it was impossible to tell how long it had or had not been away from the comforts of a home.

The cat was taken to Kari Beaven's house and fed, given water and blankets to sleep on. A note was put on the board and word passed around to see if anyone was missing their pet. This was all despite considerable pressure to dispose of the cat - not from within SIRCET, whose policy on pets is clear.

An added complexity, and I am not talking about this cat's owner now that we have the luxury of hindsight, is that some residents or part-time residents still believe it is okay to go away for months at a time, leaving their cat to 'feed themselves', supposedly on rats. Perhaps this cat had been on its own for

some time now, or never returned home after its owners' last 'holiday'. If that was the case, releasing it would have been simply returning it to a life of self-sufficiency and killing the native birds locals have been working so hard to protect. Without knowing who the cat's owners were, these were all questions at the time.

Finally, arrangements were made to send the cat to the SPCA in town, not for disposal, but because there is no cat pound in the Southland District Council and because it could not live at Kari's house indefinitely. Our intention was to give the cat owner longer to notice their cat missing and to phone around. The cat was reunited with its owner in a coincidence so unlikely that it makes a funny story. We have spoken with the owner and there are no hard feelings, although we do realise now many people will not think to look at the notice board if their cat goes missing.

If you want to raise any concerns with SIRCET policies or staff, please do so in person, via e-mail or telephone. We are happy to talk our reasoning through and are open to your input, as this is a community-project. Policies have been well thought out to make this project as inclusive as possible for all people living or regularly visiting Stewart Island/ Rakiura, no matter who they are or who they work for. Feedback is invaluable, and we have changed the way we do things over the years, thanks to people's willingness to give us their thoughts.

SIRCET's stance is to promote that all pet owners are responsible with their pets, but beyond that to not get involved in arguments for or against domestic pets on Stewart Island/ Rakiura whatsoever. We realise there is strong feeling in both directions, and instead our policy steps away from that, and focuses on minimising the damage done by introduced wild cats, rats and possums. This is a stance which we think includes everyone who wants to take part.

Kari Beaven

Last month Zane Smith took me and three mates on a **helicopter tour**. This was a thrilling experience and I highly recommend seeing beautiful Rakiura this way. Rally three keen friends and give the whirlybird a whirl!

Up to four passengers. **Contact Zane** at 027 221 9217 or rakiheli@xtra.co.nz

- Rates:** Full island scenic 2240
 North scenic 880
 South scenic 1600
 East scenic 800
 Paterson scenic 560
 Ulva scenic 320
 Marine farms 320
 S muttombird islands 1360
Tramper drop-off
 Masons bay, duck ck 560
 Masons bay, the gutter 800
 Doughboy 960
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 Smokey 720
 East ruggedy 800
 West ruggedy 800
 Hellfire 800



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St Andrews Anglican Church
Excelsior Rd
10.30 Saturday 13th December
All Welcome
 (Queries please contact Carolyn Squires 353)
Tea & Coffee available for a gold coin donation



PHOTO BRENT BRAVEN

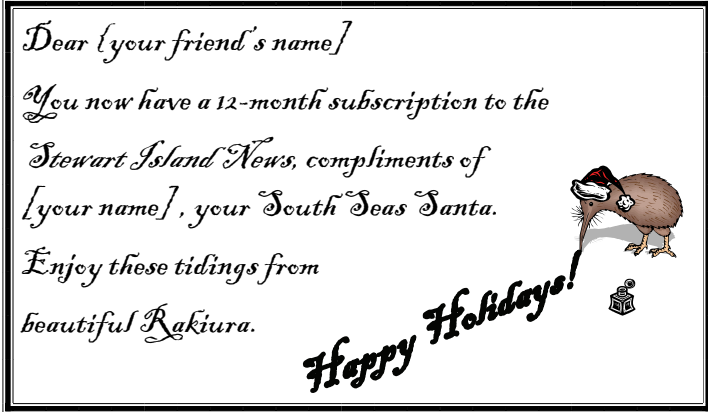
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Dawn has a go at a DoC worker at the Gala Day sponge-throwing booth.