

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

November—December 2014

\$3.00

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Andy Riksem. Condolences and much love to Jo. A service for Andy will be held at 1 pm on Saturday 15th November at Oban Presbyterian Church. Tea at the Hall afterwards.

The deadline for submissions on the shark cage diving permit process is 21st November. See article below. I'm sure you don't want to read any more of my rambles on the subject, so skip page 12.

So, not quite as stupid as riding on a whale carcass surrounded by feeding sharks, but still, pretty stupid: tourists using a leopard seal as a bench on Horseshoe Beach. Stupid and cruel, as the animal doesn't seem healthy or happy and certainly doesn't need a bunch of trampers sitting on him.

Don't miss the Show Me Shorts Film Festival at Bunkhouse Theatre! Page 3.

The times they are a changin'...
Ship to Shore shop hours are now 7.30 am to 7 pm.



The Pub emptied as everyone went outside for the moonrise. Photo from Sarah Tranmer.

Gala Day was a huge success, garnering over three grand for Rugrats. Thanks to everyone who participated, supported, got cold water dumped on their head, or shredded their forearm muscles and palms at tug of war. Photos page 11.

Thanks to Lania and friends for Guy Fawkes at Butterfields. I don't know what made a bigger impression on wee Moby — the big noisy fireworks or the giant toasted marshmallows!

The 10th anniversary edition of the Stewart Island calendar is beautiful, makes a great gift, and is for sale for \$20. And while you're in a shopping frame of mind... a new book taking place on Stewart Island will be released next month, see page 3 for details.

Finally, Thank You to Vicki for all your help with SIN. —Jess



The Eastern perform at Bird on a Pear. See page 10.



Lavender crayfish. Photo: Carolyn Squires

Feedback on Permit Applications for Commercial Great White Shark Cage Diving

Thanks for those of you who have submitted feedback on permit application conditions for commercial great white shark cage diving in New Zealand.

The time for feedback closes 5pm on Friday the 21st November 2014. The link to the feedback page on the DOC website is
www.doc.govt.nz/shark-cage-permits-feedback

We are very keen to provide some feedback to everyone who has submitted and also talk to anyone who would rather give their submission or thoughts in person. Therefore, Brent Beaven (Conservation Services Manager) and Philip Melgren (Conservation Partnerships Manager) will be available to meet with you at the Rakiura National Park Visitors Centre on Thursday the 20th & Friday the 21st November.

To set up a time for a talk, contact Brent by email (bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz) or phone (027 8391252).

**STEWART ISLAND
COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Saturday 20th December 4pm

Stewart Island Community Centre



All welcome; locals and visitors alike!

BYO drinks, tea and coffee provided

Please bring a plate to share for dinner,
served 6pm-ish!

(please bring some nibbles if you want to eat something earlier!)

Fancy Dress Prize for the kids (or any adults!) too!

Any questions or suggestions please get in touch with Vicki

0275 211 895

stewartisland@xtra.co.nz

2191 448



Foxy lady Anna Brown at the Melbourne Cup celebration at the Pub. More page 8.

WISE UP TO WEEDS



CHILEAN FIRE BUSH (*Embothrium coccineum*)

Chilean fire bush is established in gardens throughout Oban and is quite capable of moving into shaded bushy areas. Remove it now before it becomes problematic like Darwin's barberry.

What is it?

Chilean fire bush is an evergreen tree that grows to 10 metres. It has stunning red flowers in the spring, and long slender leaves that are similar to that of a blue gum.

What is the problem?

This plant can live in low light conditions and can create dense patches, which can exclude other species. It grows quickly, suckers and produces seeds which are spread through wind and water.

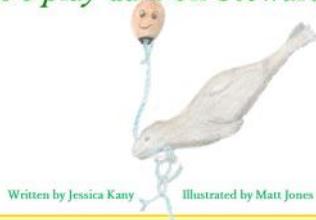
How to control it?

- Drill holes and fill with glyphosate.
- Paint the bark with a glyphosate and oil mix.
- Cut and paste each stem with a herbicide gel.

Please contact our Pest Plants Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland if you find this plant – email shawn.johnson@es.govt.nz or telephone 211 5115

SEABERRY STOMP

Charlie's play date on Stewart Island



Written by Jessica Kany

Illustrated by Matt Jones

Above: Jess Kany & Matt Jones have collaborated on a children's picture book! Proceeds from its sale will go to Rakiura Rugrats. Coming to a shop near you in time for Christmas shopping...stay tuned.

Below: Timu Moxham assists Sandy King with yellow-eyed penguin nest tagging. See page 9.



Glowing Sky Rakiura



Summer Dresses Now in Store.
Between The Pub and The Shop,
or www.glowingsky.co.nz

www.stewart-island-news.com

SHOW ME SHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL

6-23 NOVEMBER 2014
At cinemas nationwide
www.showmeshorts.co.nz



Highlights from the [Show Me Shorts Film Festival](#) will be showing on

Saturday 15th & Wednesday 19th November 2014
7.30pm

Highlights

Is a selection of the most crowd pleasing short films put together for one-off screenings. It's highly entertaining, and great fun!

Estimated total run time: 74 minutes
Rated R13 for audiences 13 years and older

Bookings Suggested and can be made at the theatre (10 Main Rd) or email us on bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com

TICKETS - \$15 Adults, \$13 Seniors, & \$10 Child

LETTERS✉✉✉✉✉

The following letter to the Minister of Conservation has been shared with SIN

Re Shark Cage Diving, Stewart Island Great Whites

Dear Minister,

I am extremely disappointed in the Minister's (the Honourable Dr. Nick Smith) & the Department's response to the concerns expressed by Stewart Island residents in regards to this issue. His reply to the letter written by a group of highly respected members of the Stewart Island community (Stuart Cave, Phillip Smith, Margaret & Colin Hopkins, Luke Simeon, Brett Hamilton) did not address the issues that were raised. This group of people have spent a lifetime fishing and diving in Foveaux Strait and Stewart Island waters and their views and the views of the Stewart Island community as a whole are being ignored.

As a crib owner and recreational boatie and diver at Stewart Island for 30 years, I agree entirely with the premise that the Great White Sharks' behaviour has changed since the arrival of the Shark Cage Divers' commercial operation. I have noted while out fishing, that the behaviour of the sharks has become far more aggressive around small boats and sightings of the Great White Sharks have now become a common occurrence when it was once quite rare to see these Great Whites.

The Minister's letter and the Department of Conservation's side stepping of the issues and the "sop" of a Permit & a Code of Practice will not change the fact that the methods used to attract the Great White Sharks to the viewing cages has changed their behaviour and puts other recreational & commercial users at risk.

Should a major accident occur, the Minister, the Department and the Cage Diving operators will be held responsible.

Yours faithfully,

Philip & Jocelyn Sanford.
Butterfields Beach, Stewart Island.

[Editor's note: if you wish to see either of the letters referenced in the Sanfords' letter—a formal complaint from Stewart Islanders, and the Minister's reply—drop me a line.]

From Predator Free Rakiura:

We apologise for our lack of content from the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group in last month's SIN. Unfortunately due to illness we missed the deadline. So these responses are a bit late.

Response to Vicki Coats letter in September SIN

In the September SIN, Vicki Coats asked what impact the proposals for a predator free area in Bluff and reducing the visitor fees on Kapiti Island might have on the projected outcome of the Predator Free Rakiura project. She also asked if the new self-resetting traps could be used for any eradication in the place of a fence and poison. She also asked if her survey results could be published on the website.

As well as posting her question to the September SIN, Vicki also posted her questions on the Predator Free Rakiura website at the same time. On August 25th the results of Vicki's survey were published on the Predator Free Rakiura website. We also answered Vicki's more detailed questions on the Q&A page, which are re-printed below:

Thanks for your questions. Your survey is up on the site.

If the Bluff project proceeds (it is early days), it will be one of a number of similar small fenced areas on the mainland - like Zealandia and Maungatautari. This is nothing on the scale of Rakiura/ Stewart Island - even the Halfmoon Bay project is many times larger than these mainland sanctuaries. It would

however provide a great safe haven for birds migrating between a predator free Rakiura and the mainland.

There are a number of factors which make Kapiti unique, which is why we didn't include it in our study of predator free tourism. With no wharf or airstrip on the island, travel there is difficult and sporadic. Overnight stays are expensive and capacity is small, so it is only really of interest to small groups going kiwi spotting. DOC dropping its fees is mostly of relevance to visiting school groups.

As to your question on Goodnature traps, DOC is undertaking work to test the concept of defence zones or buffers consisting of traps (including single action, and Goodnature resetting devices) and toxin in bait stations to prevent rat and possum reestablishment into predator free areas; however it is still very early days. Validation of this technique is not expected for a number of years. While the results to date are promising, the technique is not proven to be effective or ready to be rolled out at the scale required for the Stewart Island context.

Response to Ron Morrison letters in September & October SIN

In the September and October Stewart Island News, Ron Morrison reiterated his idea of delaying the eradication until the 'buffer' technology is perfected, as it might circumvent the need to use a predator fence. We have answered this question before, so will summarise our response first and give the detail below.

The concept of a 'buffer' is unproven and is but one of a number of new technologies being explored by DOC. The testing process will take many years, and even then there is no guarantee it would work. No funder would pay for an untested, experimental approach to eradicating predators on Rakiura. Therefore Ron's suggestion amounts to delaying the eradication for years to wait for an innovation that may or may not work out. By waiting 'in hope', the Governance Group is concerned that the momentum for the project will have disappeared and funders will have moved on to other projects.

In other words, waiting for new technology is a bit like waiting for the next computer or smart phone to come out. There is always a better model just around the corner, so you can end up never buying one at all.

Here is a bit more detail on the points Ron has raised:

Buffers/ zones are unproven technologies for an eradication.

We don't know if using a buffer or zones would work in a large-scale eradication, let alone their cost. The Governance Group doesn't think it makes sense to wait for a technology that we don't even know will work – a fence may still end up being needed. Sandy King's article in the September SIN reinforced the difficulties in using a buffer as opposed to a barrier given current technology.

We do have the technology to complete the Halfmoon Bay project, so why delay those benefits? The Governance Group has discussed the economic, social & ecological benefits of the Halfmoon Bay project extensively. We have conservatively estimated the benefits at \$10m in annual tourism revenue, an additional 88 jobs and an increase of 119 people to the population of Oban (including 9 extra children in the school). Waiting for an unproven technology would mean delaying these benefits and possibly putting them permanently at risk - as by then funders may have moved on to other projects.

There is a need for significant investment to make Predator

Free Rakiura a reality – why make that investment without the community on side? The reality is this necessary investment won't happen without strong evidence that the community is in support of the overall project, meaning the island, many native species and NZ in general would miss out. An eradication over the whole of Rakiura and surrounding islands could cost around \$50 million. Even before this can be done, a massive investment needs to be made in research and development to work out how such an eradication would be undertaken. Why would the government and other funders fund this work if it was unclear the Oban community was behind the project?

The marketing appeal of Predator Free Oban as opposed to Predator Free Rakiura. Again, a Predator Free Oban is a necessary first step to spur investors to fund the research needed to advance a Predator Free Rakiura. Without a Predator Free Oban, it is unlikely the investment needed for a Predator Free Rakiura would be made. Funders with an interest in predator free New Zealand are likely to focus on other projects, such as Great Barrier Island, the Chatham Islands, or peninsula based projects on the mainland (such as a possum-free Coromandel or Northland).

The Economic Appraisal and community engagement. Ron criticised the Economic Appraisal because it did not "encourage the community to develop a strategy that will capitalize on the opportunity being offered by Predator Free Rakiura." A strategy would certainly be a good idea if the Predator Free Rakiura proposal proceeds. As the report mentions, the benefits will only be realized by those willing to take the opportunities a project of this scale presents. Therefore, we will absolutely support and encourage the community doing all it can to maximize the benefits to be realized from this initiative. However, preparing such a strategy doesn't make sense until all partners are in agreement to move ahead with the Predator Free Rakiura proposal.



Do you recognise the people in this photo? This lovely wedding portrait was found tucked inside a donated book at Stewart Island Flights centre. On the back a blue stamp says "Photo by UNIVERSAL STUDIOS 16 OCTAGON, DUNEDIN". If you know anything about this photo call in at the Flight Centre.

Stewart Island Senior Citizens

Remember to keep Wednesday the 10th December free for your annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner Invitations will be in the post soon



Open to the Public Meeting

Meet the Forum and hear about the government process to increase marine protection from Waipapa Point to Timaru.

Refreshments will be served.

**3pm to 5pm
Wednesday 19 November**

Kindly hosted at:
Te Rau Aroha Marae
8 Bradshaw Street
Bluff



south-eastmarine.org.nz



The Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group met for the fifth time on 23rd October, in Invercargill. The key messages from the meeting are:

1. As previously mentioned, the Governance Group wishes to raise awareness about the possibility of a Predator Free Rakiura around the rest of the country. The obvious place to start is Invercargill, so from 10-14 November we will be running information sessions in schools, at Bluff Marae and a public talk at Southern Institute of Technology on Thursday 13 November, 7pm - all welcome.
2. The Governance Group has designed a flyer about the project and Southland District Council will be sending this out. The purpose of this is to ensure that as many ratepayers as possible know about the project – particularly non-resident ratepayers who might have missed the town meetings, discussions with Governance Group members, SIN updates and website.

TOXINS 101

Phil Bell (for the Predator-free Rakiura Governance Group)

Any predator control operation, using any technique, carries the risk of impacting on non-target species. This risk needs careful consideration and must be weighted up against the benefits such as increased native species breeding, improved environmental condition, etc. It is important to state that no predator control operation in New Zealand, including those using toxins, has inadvertently completely removed a native species from the area; while numerous examples exist of native species thriving in response to the removal of predator species.

The Governance Group has received a number of questions on toxins during this consultative phase. With the options for predator elimination for the Predator-free Halfmoon Bay Project yet to be decided, it is an opportune time to outline some of the basics on the possible toxins that *could* be used. There is more detailed information on the predator free Rakiura website too.

To be considered for use, a toxin must be registered. What does this mean? Toxins require Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) approval for the *toxin* itself, and registration under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act, by the Ministry for Primary Industries, for the *product* (i.e. cereal pellet). The registration details the conditions of use, including the way it can be applied (e.g. in bait stations) and the target species (e.g. rats, possums). Toxins can only be used as specified in the registration.

Cyanide

Registered for what target species on Rakiura: possums

Registered for use: in bait stations; and bait bags; hand laying; and in paste form. Operators require a Controlled Substances License to use it in all formulations.

How does it work? Cyanide prevents the use of oxygen in the production of energy, leading to respiratory failure and death.

Track record: Cyanide has been used in New Zealand for killing possums since the 1940's.

Fate in the environment: Cyanide (in all formulations) is potentially hazardous until broken down, which can take 8 months.

Effects on non-target species: Native species found dead after pesticide operations using cyanide include kiwi, kea, tomtit, robin, silvereye, tui, weka and short-tailed bats. Most of the non-target deaths have been reported after handlaying of cyanide paste. Cyanide is not accumulated or stored in any mammal studied, and cyanide accumulation in food webs has not been reported.

Interesting fact: Cigarette smoke contains cyanide.

Brodifacoum

Registered for what target species on Rakiura: rats and possums

Registered for use: aerial application; and hand broadcast (for island or 'behind fence' eradication); in bait stations

How does it work? As a second generation anticoagulant, it interferes with the clotting factors in blood, and leads to death from haemorrhaging.

Track record: Brodifacoum has been used successfully in hundreds of predator eradication programmes around the world, including the majority of island (e.g. Taukihepa/Big South Cape) and 'behind a fence' projects (e.g. Maungatautiri) in New Zealand.

Fate in the environment: Brodifacoum is water insoluble (meaning it doesn't break down in water). As baits disintegrate, brodifacoum is absorbed into the soil where it is slowly degraded over weeks to months.

Effects on non-target species: Native non-target deaths, and residues, have been reported in a wide range of species after brodifacoum operations. Feral and domestic non-target deaths (cats, pigs, deer, and sheep) have been reported following brodifacoum use. Brodifacoum is stored in the liver of sub-lethally exposed animals, where it can remain for many months.

Interesting fact: Many private households throughout the country use brodifacoum to kill rodents – it is in most commonly used 'over the counter' rat poison.

Diphacinone

Registered for what target species on Rakiura: rats

Registered for use: in bait stations

How does it work? Diphacinone is a first generation anticoagulant (meaning it is less potent than Brodifacoum). Like other anticoagulants, diphacinone inhibits the clotting factors in the blood, leading to death from haemorrhaging.

ers as possible know about the project – particularly non-resident ratepayers who might have missed the town meetings, discussions with Governance Group members, SIN updates and website.

3. The Governance Group is making good progress on the three documents that make up the detailed feasibility study (covering biosecurity, the proposed fence and eradication methods). They are on track for completion in the early part of 2015. These papers will be summarised when presented.

As always people can stay connected with the project through the Stewart Island News, the website (www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz) and any of the Governance Group members.

Track record: Overseas use report successful rodent eradication on small islands up to 72 ha. More recent attempts to eradicate rats on small islands in Hawaii and Japan by aerial application of baits containing diphacinone have had mixed success (for multiple reasons).

Fate in the environment: Diphacinone is practically insoluble in water and slow to break down in the environment (taking weeks to months).

Effects on non-target species: Significant deaths in short tailed bats was recorded in one operation following the use of diphacinone paste in biodegradable plastic bags. Residues in non-target animals (and carcasses) can be expected during prolonged use.

Interesting fact: Diphacinone has been used to treat heart patients in the US since the 1950s.

Sodium fluoroacetate (1080)

Registered for what target species on Rakiura: rats, possums, and feral cats

Registered for use: aerial application; hand broadcast; in bait stations; in bait bags; in paste form. Operators require a Controlled Substances License to use it in all formulations.

How does it work? 1080 results in accumulation of citrate in the tissues and blood plasma, which means cells can't generate energy, leading to death.

Track record: 1080 is the most widely used poison for rat and possum control in New Zealand for situations where numbers need to be reduced rapidly over large areas.

Fate in the environment: 1080 is extremely water-soluble (rapidly dilutes in water) and breaks down quickly in the environment (days to weeks) into harmless substances. It does not accumulate in the food chain or in the soil.

Effects on non-target species: There are records of individual native birds found dead with residues of 1080 after aerial poisoning operations; however the populations have all survived and benefited. Feral deer population mortality from aerial poisoning operations targeting possums is highly variable, with most estimates of deer kill between 30 and 60%.

Interesting fact: 1080 occurs naturally in black tea leaves (grown in India and Sri Lanka).

4-aminopropiophenone (PAPP)

Registered for what target species on Ra-kiura: feral cats

Registered for use: in bait stations. Operators require a Controlled Substances License to use it.

How does it work? PAPP blocks the blood's ability to carry oxygen, resulting in unconsciousness and death due to heart failure. It is similar in effect to carbon monoxide poisoning, so is considered relatively humane.

Track record: PAPP is a newly registered toxin, and as such it does not yet have the track record to illustrate its effectiveness. Trials in Australia have used it in feral cat eradication on small islands.

Fate in the Environment: There is limited information on its fate in the environment. PAPP is soluble in water and will leach through soils.

Effects on Non-target Species: No non-target deaths were reported during field

trials to gain registration for PAPP. PAPP is rapidly excreted so most of a sub-lethal dose will be cleared within 24 hours. There is no available information on residue levels in carcasses of poisoned animals.

Interesting fact: PAPP is the first new vertebrate toxin to be registered anywhere in the world in the last 20 years.

See Table below for the pros and cons of each toxin described above.

Toxin	Pros	Cons
<i>Cyanide</i>	Considered a fast acting, humane toxin for possums Less risk to pet dogs Short caution/withholding period (for hunting and consuming deer) of only 2 months required Antidote available (amyl nitrite)	Requires prefeeding to gain acceptance of the toxic bait Fast acting toxin can result in bait shyness (which can last for 2 years in possums) Significant non-target risks to wildlife (especially weka) Risk of secondary poisoning to feral cats considered to be low Bait is relatively expensive
<i>Diphacinone</i>	Has successfully eradicated rats from some islands Readily metabolised so they have a shorter persistence time in living tissue (than second generation anticoagulants) Antidote available (Vitamin K)	Requires rodents to consume more bait over a longer time period to receive a lethal dose (at least 5 consecutive nights) Possums are relatively resistant to first generation anticoagulants Less effective as secondary poisoning for feral cats (than second generation anticoagulants) Significant non-target risks to wildlife and pets Caution/withholding period (for hunting and consuming deer) of 8 months usually required
<i>Brodifacoum</i>	Proven track record in successful eradication around the world Registered for use for rats and possums Slow acting so can enable secondary poisoning of feral cats Well known effects enable better mitigation planning to minimise non-target impacts Registered for aerial application in areas enclosed within predator-proof fence Antidote available (Vitamin K)	Policy restricts use of brodifacoum on DOC managed land – exemptions can be applied DOC policy prohibits the use of brodifacoum targeting possums – exemptions can be applied Significant non-target risks to wildlife and pets Can remain in the liver of sub lethally poisoned animals for months (including deer) Would require a 36 month caution period for deer hunting and consumption
<i>Sodium monofluoro-acetate (1080)</i>	Less risk to non-targets and people as it degrades quickly and is metabolised rapidly Registered for aerial application Registered for use on rats, possums, and feral cats Very well studied with a large knowledge base of impacts and effects developed Well known effects enable better mitigation planning to minimise non-target impacts Deer repellent available Likely to achieve secondary poisoning of feral cats Vet treatment using the antidote acetamide available for dogs up to four hours after ingestion of toxin	Fast acting toxin can result in bait shyness (which can last for 3 years in possums) Can be detected and avoided by some individual rats so it is not suitable for eradication (where no individuals can be left) Significant non-target risks to pets (dogs are highly susceptible) Deer repellent will not result in zero deer deaths Requires prefeeding to gain acceptance of the toxic bait Caution/withholding period (for hunting and consuming deer) of 9 months usually required
<i>Para aminopropiophenone (PAPP)</i>	Single feed toxin – only one bait needs to be eaten for a lethal dose Reduced non-target impacts compared with other toxins Highly toxic to mammals – carnivores are particularly susceptible, so ideal for feral cats Veterinary treatment for PAPP poisoning available (Methylene blue) Short caution/withholding period (for hunting and consuming deer) of only 1 month required Antidote available (methylene blue)	New toxin – never been used in eradication or long term control programmes Requires prefeeding to gain acceptance of the toxic bait Must be encased in raw minced meat Bait station used must exclude non-target animals Pets are at risk if they ingest the bait

Reviewing Predator Free Rakiura

by Ron Morrison

Because Predator Free Rakiura is currently not feasible, it remains just a concept. We actually know very little more now than when we first told Mr Morgan that we supported the concept (but wanted more information before approving any plan).

We are being encouraged to eradicate the township now because this can be accomplished without the new technology and new methods that need to be developed in order for Predator Free Rakiura to become feasible. The Halfmoon Bay Project has become a surrogate for Predator Free Rakiura in order to give the impression that work has begun, with community support.

Vicki conducted a survey to better understand the community's views about a Predator Free Rakiura project. This survey found (among other things) that the community supports the concept of a Predator Free Rakiura, does not support a predator-proof fence, and does not support aerial application of poison. Because the Halfmoon Bay Project requires a fence, the logical conclusion is that this project will not be supported by the community.

It was suggested that the estimated economic benefits (\$10 million new tourism revenue, 88 jobs, etc.) developed within the March 2014 Morgan/Simmons Economic Appraisal would be experienced upon completion of the Halfmoon Bay Project. This does not ring true. The Economic Appraisal projected these benefits for successful completion of the Predator Free Rakiura project, not for successful completion of Predator Free Oban. Predator Free Rakiura becomes a marketing tool that can be used to attract the new tourism required for the realization of the estimated benefits, once the project is completed. But, we need to understand that the mere act of eradication does not cause a flood of new tourism – new tourism requires new Stewart Island tourism opportunities.

It was suggested that funding for Predator Free Rakiura is not possible without community support of the Halfmoon Bay Project. Why would community support carry more weight with funders than their knowledge that Predator Free Rakiura is currently not feasible and may remain not feasible?

It was suggested that failure to support the Halfmoon Bay Project may cause funders to focus on other conservation projects – such as Great

Barrier Island, the Chatham Islands, or possum-free Coromandel or Northland. Why should the “not feasible” Predator Free Rakiura project have priority? It is not realistic to suggest that if the community decides to wait until Predator Free Rakiura becomes feasible, then there will be no future funding opportunities.

There may be another reason why a predator-proof fence is required at Maori Beach. By isolating the community (and preventing/delaying rodent reinvasion), the fence may enable the rest of the island to be classified as a mainland island, so that aerial brodifacoum can be used during its eradication. This idea is briefly discussed on page 12 (under toxins) of the May 2013 Bell & Bramley Scoping Report. This idea is also discussed within a document titled “Code of Practice: Aerial and Hand Broadcast Application of Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R for the Intended Eradication of Rodents from Specified Areas of New Zealand” – which was prepared by Bill Simmons, Animal Control Products LTD (June 2006), for the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. We need some discussion from DOC on this subject.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

It was a bit short notice as we didn't find out until Friday poor Deanne wasn't feeling up to hosting the race day at Church Hill, but Anna was up to the challenge!

Jack sold the sweepstakes wearing his natty hat, Anna had a rather lovely combination of a hat she couldn't get wet (it's a sun hat) and her pyjamas (they weren't) and geed up the punters and Helen brought Foxy out for his annual outing (not Lloyd)..

The race was ran, the money was given out (well done Laura!) and the kitchen staff brought out mouth watering whore's duvets. Sorry. Hors D'oeuvres of sushi, vol au vents, crostini and panko chicken kebabs.

My rather unusual creation (born of necessity and half an hour of my lunch break) culminated in the gorgeous titfer being stylishly modelled by Aussie Pete. The Southern Seafoods Simply Stylish Sombrero has led to a challenge; next year on Melbourne Cup Day the Inaugural Wearable Arts Melbourne Cup Day Hat Competition is on! Prize for best hat, and make sure you have your best heels and frock to complete your outfit. Unless you're a manly man and don't go in for that kind of thing. See you there!

—Vicki Coats





Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News by Sandy King

The Trust is monitoring yellow-eyed penguins at two sites around Stewart Island this season; The Neck and Codfish Island / Whenua Hou. Nest searches were carried out at both sites in October.

On The Neck

Sandy King, assisted by Halfmoon Bay School pupil Timu Moxham, located 3 nests - down from 5 in the same area last season. Timu is completing the William Pike Challenge and chose to work with the Trust for the community service part of his challenge. He proved to be an able field assistant and was the first to spot a penguin nest. Timu and Sandy will return to The Neck in December to see how many chicks hatch and survive their first few weeks. Thanks to the Rakiura Maori Land Trust for allowing access, and to Kyle Learmonth for transport to the search area which saved a lot of walking!



Nest searching on Codfish / Whenua Hou was done by a “double count” method utilising two teams of two people. Each team searched an area independently of the other and the number of nests found was compared afterwards. This enabled a detection rate to be calculated, which in turn enables an estimate of how many nests were likely to actually be there. One team found 30 nests, the other team found 27, and 25 nests were found by both teams. Both teams found nests that the other team missed so the total number of nests found was 32. The calculated detection rate was 90% meaning that there are probably 36 nests present. This is a further decline from previous seasons – the team that found 30 nests this year found 37 nests in a single count last year. 61 nests were found in 2001.

Although the trend is downwards, there is some evidence of long term survival and recruitment. Several birds were found with microchips which identify individuals and tell us something of their history. One such bird was first banded in February 1993 by one of our search team as a fledgling, in 2006 the band was removed and replaced with a microchip, and the bird is now 22 years old and still breeding. Another bird found on a nest was tagged as a chick on Codfish in 2008 so is 7 years old. The next visit to Codfish / Whenua Hou will be in February 2015 to assess this season’s breeding success and to capture, weigh and microchip the chicks before they head off to sea.



The halving in the number of breeding pairs of yellow-eyed penguins on Codfish since 2001 (61 pairs) to the current 32, reinforces the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust’s recently declared intention to refocus on the marine environment that the penguins inhabit, given that after more than 25 years of research, we understand the terrestrial threats to penguin survival. Penguins are indicators of marine conditions, making the yellow-eyed penguin a sentinel of change in New Zealand’s southern waters. The specific questions to be considered are: How is change in the marine environment affecting top predators such as penguins? It is hoped that such a research commitment will bring answers that can arrest the decline in the numbers of yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island and elsewhere.



I have a big crush on the band The Eastern. If I wasn't married with kids I could be a creepy groupie who follows them around the country. But I am married with kids so I have to settle for waiting for their tour to take them to Stewart Island. Their last show in 2013 at the Community Centre was a great night, but I think the venue this time around did them better justice. Bird on a Pear is a lovely location even if you're just sitting having some chocolate cake in the afternoon. But as a backdrop for this particular band, the little café upstairs at the wharf was spectacular. It's an intimate setting and that's how The Eastern likes to roll when they're rocking: stepping into the crowd to play, storytelling, dancing with the fans. They were framed by Halfmoon Bay and its boats and gulls, dramatic evening light, sheets of rain lashing the windows as they opened perfectly with Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay. *I left my home in Lyttleton...heading for the Halfmoon Bay...* Frontman Adam McGrath encourages audience participation so we all whistled in unison (wet our whistles together too), sang refrains together, Friday was invited up to the mic to throw his baritone into the mix, Roddy was teased for being the only guy dancing in a sea of estrogen ("It's not a problem" Roddy replied), Adam danced with Hilli and Kath Kain. The \$20 ticket was worth it just to watch Alice Ryan Williams playing fiddle silhouetted against Foveaux Strait in the falling light. Jess Shanks has the place hopping with her banjo but she can stop the room just as easily with her captivating vocals. Adam's stories had everyone laughing, especially his intro to *Come Dance With Me*. He described meeting a woman at a wedding who cried on his shoulder about how her husband won't dance with her. So he wrote the song for her and reminded the room it's a cautionary tale: "If you don't dance with your long term partner they might tell a folk singer and he might go and write about it and tell your story all over New Zealand." An evening with The Eastern is curvy, so a minute after laughing at this tale, Adam launches into the song itself which brought a tear to my eye. Adam eyed a few non-dancing couples later: "I feel a new folk song coming on."

Their new album is The Territory and you can follow them at www.footeastern.com or on Facebook. Next time they come down here don't miss their show!

—Jess Kany



"A big thank you to Vicki & the quiz night for the lovely red wheel barrow with the nice big wheel for the Moturau Gardens. Very unexpected but much appreciated." —Elaine





The Rakiura Rockers performed on the Hotel balcony, below Islanders and visitors enjoyed tug of war, water dunking, Tae Kwon Do demos, slow bike race, and more. Photos from Jules, Jess, & Dion (the guy with the ponytailed beard)



Editorial: Earlier this year I attended a meeting with concerned local divers and fishermen as they confronted DoC's Ian Angus about the shark cage dive operations in Foveaux Strait. The questions repeatedly, loudly asked: How can DoC possibly permit this to continue? Why are they allowing this AT ALL? Why are they quibbling about the texture of berley when they should be saying NO to the whole operation? Activity which puts sharks and humans at risk all for shark tourism profit and tourist adrenaline rushes. What is stopping DoC from enforcing the Wildlife Act and removing this circus of berley and steel cages from a protected species' environment? Do they truly believe that shark cage diving is genuine eco-tourism and healthy for the species? Is somebody upstairs telling them not to interfere, the money's too good? Are they scared of a lawsuit if they tamper with a lucrative business?

Here's what many local parents find scary: raising our children a few kilometres from great white shark tourism. Scary are great white sharks which have been observed by scores of people here to be unusually aggressive toward boaties.

Now, after years of many locals voicing concern about this activity, Islanders have been invited to comment by on-line form about the permits for shark cage operators. The shark cage companies have been given a big green lollipop sign and we are invited to ... what? Help design the lollipop stick? Lick it? Sorry if I'm not super grateful and excited for the opportunity to comment on the permit process. It's disappointing and frankly, confusing. As PauaMac 5 points out in their submission: *The DOC website invites submissions on "permit conditions for commercial great white shark cage diving in New Zealand" but proposed permit conditions have not been made available for comment. The only document provided for comment is the Code of Practice (CoP), on which PauaMAC5 and KIC have already commented in August 2013.*

Deja vu all over again. Despite the defeated feeling, I WILL make a submission and I hope everyone connected to Stewart Island makes their voice heard on the subject too, just for the sake of documenting this. Just in case someone, someday, in DoC or Parliament has an epiphany and realises that baiting and feeding great white sharks—a protected species—to draw them to boats with humans wriggling in the water and the sharks knocking against the cage all within a few km of Halfmoon Bay is not a good idea, even if it is creating revenue.

I am tired of the counter-arguments from those who defend shark cage diving here. Smashed snouts, altered behaviour... "We don't have evidence that it's a long-term effect." What does this mean? DoC isn't worried about short term damage and interference of protected species? Can I beat a yellow-eyed penguin with a sock full of soap? Their line is inconsistent as well. Phil Smith wouldn't be allowed to touch a feather on a kiwi's head without DoC breathing down his neck, but shark tourism operators can spend all day every day for months using bait to draw sharks to steel cages?

And with all due respect, can I just say that I am sick of Johnson & Kock? Not the scientists... the paper. If you've read any documents about shark cage diving, you will have seen references to this paper written in 2006 [Ryan Johnson and Alison Kock, "Johnson R and A Kock. South Africa's White Shark cage-diving industry - is there cause for concern?] Every time a Stewart Islander suggests that shark cage diving practices are

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changing shark behaviour and endangering humans, DoC pulls out their old *Johnson & Kock*. Even from the office of former Conservation Minister Nick Smith, in response to a formal complaint about shark cage diving from Stewart Islanders.

I am aware, too, of concerns that cage diving will habituate the sharks to humans. This concern was expressed to me during my visit to Stewart Island earlier this year. Some evidence exists that sharks can become positively conditioned to cage diving vessels (e.g., Johnson & Kock, 2006¹). The same study also concludes, however, that it appears highly improbable that other water users, such as swimmers, surfers, kayakers, scuba divers and spear fishermen, would stimulate a 'conditioned reflex' in great white sharks, resulting in an attack, due to visual and olfactory dissimilarity from a cage diving vessel.

This scientific paper was written 9 years ago in South Africa and pertains to specific South African environment and concerns. It is a very interesting read, but it isn't entirely relevant to the Stewart Island situation. And anyone *opposing* shark cage diving can cite different parts of the same paper too. I'd like to read the study that hasn't yet been written: There is a wealth of scientific data on great white shark behavioural changes right under our noses, right here. Wouldn't it be great to read a comprehensive study on great white shark behavioural changes, supported by the numerous anecdotal accounts of Stewart Islanders? That would be more relevant.

"Fishermen have been cleaning cod here for decades and dumping their scraps in the ocean." There is a huge difference between cod boats and cage boats. Fishermen are not tossing scraps overboard repeatedly in the same place while a human is wiggling around in a wetsuit beside the boat.

While I'm wound up I might mention I am tired of the utter non-sequitur response of cage dive guys stating that "There were always sharks around here, cage dive practices have nothing to do with their presence" —when not a single person is sug-

(Continued on page 13)

BOOK REVIEW from Sue Ford
The Good, the Bad & The Ugly
from the Library this month:

I've done the unthinkable and given up on *two* books this month! "**Pure**" by Andrew Miller tells the story of a young, engineer in the Paris of 1796, charged with 'removing' a cemetery befouling the atmosphere of the city. Ingenuous Jean-Baptiste has no idea of what he's getting caught up in. Neither did I and the author hadn't enlightened me by the middle of the book. I gave up. And I only got half-way through "**The Enchanted**" by Rene Denfield – as I told you I might in the last review. Nothing about the book appealed to this simple soul.

Jo Spurrier's "Winter Be My Shield" is from the fantasy shelves, the first in a trilogy. This is the most confusing book I've read since ... well, since a certain Booker Prize recipient! But I couldn't wait to start Book 2 and found Book 3 to be excellent. Go figure. In this fantasy, there are three main countries and various 'sub-tribes'. You come to know characters from all quarters, and even the villains only seem to be following the accepted beliefs of the tribe. The fantasy part – which will put off readers who prefer realism – is that one of

our most sympathetic characters is a 'mage' – a sorcerer, and she's not the only one. The geography is confusing, the historical detail is bewildering, and the political back-story left me glass-eyed. I didn't give up on the book but *did* give up trying to follow the detail and read the series as an adventure story – then I began to thoroughly enjoy it. Give it a whirl if you fancy "Game of Thrones" with less graphic detail, more left to the imagination.

"The Bone Season" – a fantasy from the library's 'new' shelf is completely different, featuring a London in 2059 and an Oxford around 1859! Clairvoyants are the enemy of ordered society. A supernatural race, the Rephaim, is kindly 'containing' these aberrant people who have formed a criminal underworld. The heroine, nineteen-year old clairvoyant Paige, is captured and duly imprisoned by the Rephaim. Freeing the prisoners and returning to her criminal gang become her joint ambitions – but it's not that easy of course! The writing is excellent, the characters very well rounded, the plot tense and exciting – all from a very youthful author fresh out of 'uni'. What a gift young Shannon has! There's a satisfactory and well-crafted ending, but sequel, "**The Mime Order**", is due

out next year and I'm hoping a few loose ends are tied off then. I'm looking forward to it.

Meanwhile, I'm still laughing at "**Breakup**", No.7 in Stabenow's 'Kate Shugak' series. It's less political than No.6 "Blood Will Tell" and not quite so sad (but I'll never forget Kate being forced to go shopping for 'party clothes' in No.6). Instead, No.7 is hilarious, and the murder(s) are almost incidental, though the spirit of Emaa haunts the story, not too sorrowfully - more like the feisty tribal leader we've come to know and respect. No.8, "Killing Grounds", also features the humour that I really appreciate from Stabenow, and is full of the characters you can't help but take to. "Breakup" is still my 'one-of-a-kind' pick though. "**To the Grave**" by Carlene Thompson is formulaic romantic-mystery, sort of early Mills & Boon with a murder in it. Not my cup of tea, but whiled away a couple of evenings. **James Patterson's "Invisible"** is formulaic too – for him! The story is clever and brilliantly plotted and told, but the amount of blood is also not for me. Both are a matter of taste and worth a read if either fit your reading list.

(**EDITORIAL** Continued from page 12)

gesting that to be the case. Yes, the sharks have always been here. The concern is not their presence, nor their numbers. The concern is their behaviour. Time after time over the last few years, and with alarming frequency, people who use these waters have shared accounts of aggressive shark behaviour. And how often have you heard from visiting scientists and filmmakers that the shark behaviour here is remarkable and unusual?

Déjà vu déjà vu... blah blah blah. I've written this all before. You're sick and tired of reading it. I'll shut up now and share an excerpt from PauaMac5's submission whose position on the conditions of the permit is basically to take a step back and state that the permits shouldn't exist:

PauaMAC 5 is aware that DOC has received two applications for commercial shark cage diving operations in the waters around Stewart Island. PauaMAC 5 recommends that the applications should be declined and that no permits for shark cage diving should be granted under the Wildlife Act at this time. Our reasons for making this recommendation are:

Shark cage diving modifies shark behaviour in a manner that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated through the imposition of conditions on a permit; Authorisation of shark cage diving is therefore inconsistent with the status of great white sharks as a fully protected species; Insufficient information has been provided to submitters and decision makers on the nature of the activity and its impacts; and In light of the uncertainty about long term impacts on sharks and the inability to impose conditions to avoid, remedy or mitigate known short-term adverse effects, the legislative framework requires DOC to take a precautionary approach and decline the applications.

Have your say at www.doc.govt.nz/shark-cage-permits-feedback and while you're at it, why not make a copy of your submission and send it to our new Conservation Minister.

Hon Maggie Barry
Parliament Buildings
Private Bag 18 888
Wellington 6160

—Jess

Health Clinic News

Megan Collie

Hi, here's a little about me. My name is Megan Collie and I'm a born and bred Southlander. I trained at Otago Polytechnic and after a short stint working in the North Island I ventured overseas for several years of work and travel. My return to NZ came via a couple of years traipsing around rural and remote spots of Australia. These experiences led to a passion for remote work and the autonomy that coincides with this type of practice. The variety and calibre of patient presentation was also a draw card with the appeal of not knowing what or who would walk through the door next being quite exciting. So from the rural and remote of outback Australia I managed to secure a job on the wild West Coast of the mainland. Franz Josef has been home for the past 5 years ensuring my nursing and life experiences have continued to flourish with all that a remote and rural town provides. So while I have a few months break away from the Coast I am helping out here on Stewart Island, on a casual locum basis.

New to Stewart Island Community Library - One Helping

"There are more people in slavery now than at any other time in human history."

This recipe book has been produced by **Tear Fund** to help those enslaved by human trafficking. The title is a clever play on words. Each recipe is presented with the cost of one helping of it. With every purchase, someone is helping and someone else is being helped.

"The average age of victims trafficked into prostitution is 12 and is getting younger."

Contributed by a team of over 20 NZ chefs, these recipes cost 75c or less per helping. There's nothing boring or bland about them! I've tried the Spiced Vegetable Fritters, the Pumpkin and Silverbeet Frittata and the Chocolate and Peanut Butter Mug Cake. Yum!

"An estimated 30,000 victims of trafficking die yearly from abuse or neglect."

Recipes, statistics and stories of people freed from slavery are interspersed throughout the book. A sobering and inspiring read, **One Helping** would make a great Christmas gift – a gift guaranteed to go on giving.

"Human trafficking is second only to drugs in international organised crime."

A great way to arm teenagers with a practical cookbook that will both stretch student budgets and raise personal safety consciousness, **One Helping** is available from Tear Fund for just \$29.99 plus postage. Contact www.tearfund.org.nz.

Raylene Waddell



Over October SIWI have been quite busy! We've made up another 20 packs for the A&E department at Kew, we're so glad people are finding them useful! If you happen to have any new travel size toiletries at home, especially toothbrush/paste packs and razors we'd love to have them!

We also ran the white elephant stall at the Rugrat's Gala day making a whopping \$394.90! The rest of the donated goods have gone to the Hospice Shop in town. The scone day attracted 19 entries with Letitia McRitchie carrying off the booby prize of a bag of scone mix! Anne Sutherland won the best plain scone category, going home with a stunning trophy and a hardback copy of Simon Gault's new cookbook.

But, much to the surprise of all her children (and staff, if we're honest), the best flavoured scone, and best overall, went to Helen Cave for her Cointreau and date entry! Apart from the booze content, and she wasn't the only one to try and nobble the judges, it was judged light

and airy with a good colour and consistency. Helen also got a trophy and a hardback copy of Annabel Langbein's new book. Well done Helen, and please let us know when it's your shift in the kitchen! And a special mention must go to the boys frequenting the bar on the Saturday night before the competition, they took the challenge on and turned up in the morning with a dark beer, chilli and chocolate entry! His wife still doesn't believe him!

Big thanks to Anna and Carol for judging!

The scone entry money and half of our proceeds were given to Rugrats (\$241.50), the rest is earmarked for a project in the near future...!

—Vicki Coats



A big thank you from Toi Rakiura to everyone involved with the Film Shows over Labour Weekend. Jane Paul from Nga Taonga put together an excellent collection of Stewart Island films, including some that had not been seen before! The music she picked suited the

films perfectly and made for an enjoyable audio and visual sensation! The Aunt Daisy and the Dancing Cossacks film showed New Zealand adverts through the ages and there was even a wee few backing vocals from the back of the room in some ads!

We wouldn't have been able to put on the show without help from Real Journeys bringing Jane across and the Community Trust of

Southland for the promise of a grant. Also big thanks to Merv and Rosemary for taking Jane under your wing and showing her the island. And of course, all of you who came to watch!

—Vicki Coats



DNA tests complete Kakabeak jigsaw

By Peter Heath

DNA tests on newly-discovered, nearly extinct plants have given researchers the most complete picture yet of how the critically-endangered kakabeak (*Clanthus maximus*, or *ngutukākā* in *te reo*) is clinging to survival on the inaccessible cliffs, bluffs and ledges of New Zealand's wild back-country.

The tests, conducted by Dr Gary Houliston, a plant geneticist at Landcare Research, found distinct groups of plants in clearly defined areas. The [Forest Lifeforce Restoration \(FLR\) Trust](#), a conservation trust working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to prevent the extinction of the kakabeak, will use this information to re-stock conservation land with genetically diverse plants it is rearing from wild seed.

Imported pests such as rabbits and deer have impacted wild populations of Kakabeak severely and the species now holds New Zealand's highest possible threatened plant ranking: 'Nationally Critical'. Although grown widely in gardens, domestic kakabeak have limited genetic variation and therefore little genetic value.

Until recently only about 110 naturally-seeded kakabeak were known to exist in the wild but earlier this year a DOC-led field trip to Ruakituri, a part of inland Hawke's Bay where only six wild plants had previously been known to exist, yielded 18 more.

DOC ranger Helen Jonas said: "The Department had four people searching for kakabeak during the flowering period last season. The plan is to follow this up in the new year with aerial searching, using a helicopter to continue to look for this rare and important species."

Tests on these most recent discoveries have resulted in the most com-

plete genetic picture of the nearly extinct New Zealand native that anyone has ever had.

"We now have DNA data from pretty much every accessible wild kakabeak known to us," Dr Houliston said. "This allows us to make sensible, science-based decisions about what mix of plants from FLRT's seed stock should be used in restoration plantings."

FLRT forest manager Pete Shaw said the trick would be to strengthen the genetic pool of each distinct group by introducing young plants with different genetic composition.

"The genetic diversity of any plant population is a good indicator of that population's strength," Shaw said. "The fact that these plants were out there highlights the value of continued field searching."

FLRT and DOC have recently called for hunters, anglers, trampers and rafters to keep their eyes out for kakabeak while in the bush. Any sightings of the flamboyant plant, which is typically found clinging to cliffs and inaccessible bluff systems and which carries heavy bunches of large, curved bright red flowers in spring, should be reported to the nearest DOC office. Seeds from any new plants are particularly valuable as they widen the pool of wild-grown seed that can be used in propagation efforts.

About the Forest Lifeforce Restoration Trust

The Forest Lifeforce Restoration Trust was established in 2006 to provide direction and funding for the restoration of threatened species of fauna and flora, and to restore the *ngahere mauri* (forest lifeforce) in native forests within the Central North Island.

It runs eight main regeneration and restoration projects, involving native New Zealand flora and fauna, on three properties in the central North Island. It also owns a property in the South Island's Fiordland National Park.



Simon Hall, Chairman of the Forest Lifeforce Restoration Trust, with a kakabeak plant propagated in one of the Trust's Maungataniwha Native Forest seed orchards.

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- Water Deliveries
- Treefellas. Trees trimmed and demolished.

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Kevin Adamson was one of ten cyclists who participated in the **Ride Out of the Blue** campaign in October. This group biked the length of New Zealand to raise awareness about suicide and depression. Most of the group started in Bluff, but good on Kevin for ferrying down to the Island in a blustery day and heading down to Ringaringa to make it official. It took the group 22 days.

If you would like to read more about their adventures and their cause, or you would like to donate to this cause, go to www.rideoutoftheblue.org



Church Chat by Raylene Waddell



Faith, Hope and Charity Islands, from Ryan's Creek Track.

After finding this photo in my computer archives, I had to check a map carefully to be sure these islands *were* Faith, Hope and Charity. Behind the first two on the left is Iona and in the distance lies the Neck. Perspective is all!

Whoever named these islands chose to borrow from St Paul:

Now abideth these three, faith, hope and charity; and the greatest of these is charity. 1 Corinthians 13:13

The essence and original meaning of charity is that generosity of spirit, that compassion, that love for others that is, or should be, the Christian way. As a community, Stewart Islanders, believers or otherwise, live out Paul's perspective. Look around you! Where there is need, where there is illness, where there is sorrow, compassion and love abound. Let's be honest, we don't always *like* one another. But, when the chips are down, Stewart Islanders respond generously and compassionately. Amen!

Rev. Peter Carter, who has been a regular visitor over many years, is returning to preach on 16, 23 and 30 November, followed by Jenny Dawson (7 December) David Murphy (14 December) and Alan Richardson (21, 25 and 28 December).

May all the blessings of Christmas be yours.

From all of us at Oban Presbyterian Church.

Church remains open daily so come in and enjoy its beauty and peace.

Church services: every Sunday and Christmas day, starting at 11 a.m.

Prayer Circle: every Saturday 11:30 – 12 noon at the home of Coral Hotchkiss.

Museum Matters by Bev Cowie

Once again another quiet month but not because of computer glitches this time! We have a brand new updated model and we are slowly getting used to the new format. The data we had on our old computer takes up a very small slice of possible data space on the new one, so it should hopefully see us out. Our thanks to Alistair Turnbull for coming over and installing it for us - the cords alone were enough to frighten anyone off installing their own!

We had a visit from Lorraine Hambly and Bill Carter from the Chatham Islands, accompanied by Jo Massey and Russell Beck during October. The Chathams are also in the process of building a new museum and were keen to query us as to the progress that we were making. It made for an interesting meeting during which we all learnt various things.

We have made a little progress on the Tapestry we have been asking for information about, and now have something to base the Anzac display on. It seems there may have been a spelling mistake in the name of the donor which made the whole search rather difficult.

Because DOC have gone digital with their collections they have gifted the museum a file of large maps and a large collection of slides. These will take some time to sort through, and those which are not in our collection already we will ac-

quisition, and those we already have may become available for purchase. Watch this space.

The University group who are here at the moment came and checked out our wet collection with a view to helping us upgrade. We will get together with them at a later date to perhaps with a student to help us we will begin the upgrade.

A change to our opening hours again. Because of the busy Cruise Ship schedule over the Christmas/ New Year period we have decided to close on Boxing Day and New Years Day to give our volunteers a festive break.

Museum hours for the remainder of November are Monday thru Saturday 10 am-12:00 noon, Saturday 10am-1:30 and Sunday Noon-2 pm.

December hours will be
Monday - Saturday; 10.00am - 1.30pm;
Sunday; noon - 2.00pm.

Cruise ship days will be extended. Check the outside board for details.

We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 or
stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

No one can resist a cupcake, can they? Well I can't... but a lot of people have to if it's made with wheat flour. These people are either gluten intolerant, or have coeliac disease.

This recipe is my favourite go to quick gluten free fix. You can easily swap the butter for dairy free spread if you're dairy free as well. Swap out the orange zest and juice for gluten free cocoa to make chocolate cupcakes and just add 1Tbsp water. It's a great base cupcake mix made to be tampered with.

Gluten is a type of protein found in wheat, barley and rye. Gluten makes up about 80% of the proteins found in wheat. Coeliac disease is a chronic inflammatory disease of the lining of the small intestine/bowel. It is an autoimmune disease that causes the intolerance to gluten. So when gluten is eaten it causes the body's immune system to attack the lining of the gut. Coeliac disease affects 1 in 100 people, but tends to run in families, the risk in families with a history of it is increased to 1 in 10 people! Symptoms range in severity from one person to another. Bowel problems, bloating, wind and nausea. Itchy skin rash, weight loss, anaemia, tiredness,

mouth ulcers, hair loss and depression.

There is no cure for coeliac disease or gluten intolerance, the only effective treatment is to avoid eating gluten! So next time you meet someone who has this disease or intolerance please know it is real and it's not them "being difficult" just for the sake of it, and it's becoming more common, as is with food intolerances as the "food" we are buying and eating is not recognised by the body as food, because it's so over processed! If you want to revamp your fridge and pantry try label reading next time you shop....do you know the 50 odd ingredients in the packet of "food" you are eating?

Spending the time today picking foods that our body recognises and that nourish us, will make all the difference later on in life.

ORANGE CUPCAKES (Gluten free)

Makes 10

150g Bakels gluten free flour mix
(available at Ship to Shore)



2tbsp Edmonds baking powder (gluten free)
125g softened butter
125g caster sugar
2 large eggs
Grated rind and juice of one orange

METHOD:

Heat oven to 200 degrees, place paper cases in muffin tin. Place all ingredients in food processor and whiz till smooth. Or you can beat in

a bowl.
Divide mixture into paper cases 3/4 full and smooth out tops so they bake nice and rounded. Cook for 12-15 minutes until golden and spring back out when gently pressed with finger. Cool on wire rack and ice when completely cool.

BUTTER CREAM ICING

50-75g softened butter
1-2cups icing sugar
Juice from half an orange and zest I also dice mine so I can pipe on icing and rind doesn't get stuck).
Optional 1/2 tsp orange blossom water....can be brought at Bella Kai
Beat until smooth and creamy, pipe on, enjoy!



SIRCET Update by Shona Sangster

SIRCET have been celebrating Conservation Week by assisting the Department of Conservation with a talk on our Kiwis, giving an overview of the project and an update on what has been happening. This was well attended by a mixture of visitors and locals.

A big thank you to all the dogs and their owners who attended our Labour Weekend Kiwi Avoidance workshop with Sandy King. The new smaller collar was a great asset, as you can see from this photo of Toby modelling it. A good number of dogs attended, both new and those who needed refresher training. It would be great to see every dog on the island up to date on their training.

With the tourist season starting we have had a number of school groups volunteering and spending time learning about our work with Nic, our Pest Manager. It's really great that they are able to make a contribution while they are here and hopefully take away a good understanding of the Stewart Island native flora and fauna.

Help needed! We desperately need volunteers to assist with checking cat cages. It is starting to be breeding season for our native bird life and there has been evidence of cat predation at Ackers recently. With ground nesting birds like penguins and sooty shearwater coming ashore at this time of year it is really a vital time to provide protection. Our cat cages need to be checked every day, but if we have a few volunteers then we could spread the load and each person would only need to check twice a week. Each



check takes about 2 hours. If you are able to help out, please contact Nic on 0223686717

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

Lyall's carrot (*Anisome lyallii*)

Anisome lyallii is native to the southwestern coast of the South Island of New Zealand as well as Stewart Island, and the Solander Islands. Named after David Lyall (1817-1895), 19th century Scottish naturalist and surgeon with the Royal Navy, who explored Antarctica, New Zealand, the Arctic and North America and was a lifelong friend of Sir Joseph Hooker (as in Hooker's sea

lion). Its rosette of finely pinnate leaves gives rise to a pretty inflorescence (which can reach 0.9 metres) with white flowers during November to January. This coastal plant grows on steep, south facing, sparsely vegetated cliffs, and in coastal turf, herbfield and on damp peaty ledges. Sometimes in coastal grassland, on boulder falls and even on sand dunes and beaches. In all its habitats it always

found
near the
sea often
within
the
spray
zone,
making
it a good
plant for
island
gardens.



Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

A day in the life of a logophile

No that's not toilet humour, it means lover of words! Some things I read I just can't help but think it's made up and *mageirocophobia* sent me on my most recent quest for truth. It's pronounced ma - jeer - roe - co - fo - bee - uh.

It means fear of cooking - which initially I dismissed as some silly internet myth, but it turns out it's true. Of course like any phobia there are levels of intensity. Some people fear cooking for large groups which I'd say is fairly common, although a true phobia interferes with your daily life. If you had a fear of cooking for large groups then you'd omit "chef" from your list of possible careers

and only have *dinner a deux* at home! Other elements of this phobia are fear of recipes, causing illness or cooking techniques.

With *mageirocophobia* bouncing around in my head I was strolling the aisles at work and "Maggi" soups caught my eye along with stock cubes, sauces, noodles.

Hmm, phonetically they sound similar. Maybe the "Maggi" brand derived from *mageirocophobia*. Maybe they developed these products to help people get over a fear of following recipes?! Maybe the great Kiwi onion dip was born out of a fear of cooking and Maggi stepped in with Onion Soup mix??

Excited by a possible historic revelation I went in search of the history of Maggi and learned that the inventor of pre-cooked soups was

a certain Julius Michael Johannes Maggi, a Swiss entrepreneur! He founded the Maggi company in Germany in 1897.

Slightly let down (although thrilled for Mr Maggi) I got on with writing this column. It was then that my *indecisivophobia** kicked in. Was this article really going to be entertaining enough for the SIN?!

Jules

* *indecisivophobia* isn't a real word, I made it up.

Weirdly, *decidophobia* is a real word (fear of making decisions!) and now I fear I'll be lost to the interesting world of phobias.



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CARRIE VINES

Last month, Jeff and I got married near Joshua Tree National Park (in the US of A). We had an amazing day filled with friends, family and burgers! Thank you for all the warm wishes and we look forward to celebrating with our family and friends on the Island in January! *Karin Dawson*
Photographer: Carrie Vines website: <http://www.carrievines.com>

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