

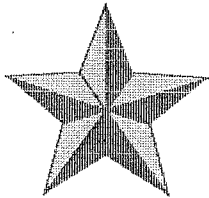
RAKIURA RAMBLES

A STEWART ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 4

\$1.00

October 1998



HELP REQUIRED

THE STEWART ISLAND R.S.A. IS SETTING UP A DISPLAY OF THE WAR MEDALS PRESENTED TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED ON S.I.

SO FAR, WE HAVE TWO SETS OF MEDALS FROM THE 1ST WORLD WAR AND THREE SETS FROM THE 2ND WORLD WAR, ONE OF WHICH IS UNNAMED. WHOEVER OWNED THE MEDALS MAY HAVE BEEN A WORLD WAR I VET WHO SERVED IN THE PACIFIC OR A WORLD WAR II VET WITH ONLY PACIFIC SERVICE.

THE PERSON WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN ARMY OR AIRFORCE.

WOULD ANYONE WHO CAN HELP US IDENTIFY THE MEDALS AND TO WHOM THEY BELONGED, PLEASE CONTACT BERNIE NOLAN AT 2191020.

STEWART ISLAND FOREST HEALTH

by Ros Cole

A major project looking at the forest health of Stewart Island begins in November. It is being run on the island by Ros Cole in conjunction with Conservancy staff, in particular, Cathy Allen. Four people will be spending 10 days at a time in the bush, undertaking a number of tasks. These tasks include remeasuring forest survey vegetation plots; pellet counts of deer and possum; rat and possum trapping, and a general wildlife survey. At the end of the survey it is hoped that DoC will have a better idea about the general health of the forest, and of which areas need control operations.

The vegetation survey will give DoC an indication of whether the composition of the forest is changing, and if so, how this is happening. For example, are there just as many rata and kamahi seedlings spread through a range of height classes as at the last measure? The trapping

will give them an idea of the density of rats and possums in the forest. The rat traps will be covered to prevent catching birds while the possum traps will be raised off the ground to protect kiwi. Similarly, the pellet counts will give them an indication of deer and possum numbers which can then be compared with the work that was done in the early 1980's. A new technique called the Foliar Browse Index will be used to gauge the impact possums are having on the canopy. This method allows DoC the opportunity to monitor changes over time, including response to any control operations. A general bird survey will also be undertaken while the DoC team is in the bush. There appears to have been little survey work done on the general bird population other than some of Rhys Buckingham's kokako searches. This survey will hopefully

(Continued on page 3)

Fighting against Invasion

by Mike Stuart

Since the discovery of the Asian seaweed, *Undaria*, in Big Glory Bay during March 1997, the Department of Conservation has conducted a programme to control the spread of *Undaria* and ultimately eradicate it from Big Glory Bay. Although DoC has provided logistic and technical support, the programme is funded by Vote Biosecurity and reports directly to the Minister of Biosecurity, John Luxton. Following 18 months of DoC involvement with the removal of plants from Big Glory Bay, dive operations were contracted to the Young Fishing Co. Ltd in September 1998. The effectiveness of the eradication programme therefore reflects the hard work and commitment of both groups. Furthermore, the co-operation of the marine farmers has been exemplary and has enabled several 'problem structures' to

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FIGHTING AN INVASION

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be relocated, sterilised or removed.

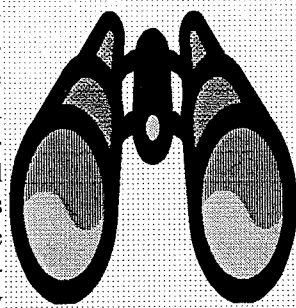
As of October 1998, nine farm sites have consistently remained clear since April 1998. Of the remaining infested farm sites, only three consistently return moderate to high numbers of plants, compared to seven sites for the same period during 1997. Ten sites continue to produce low numbers of plants, and several of these sites, have each produced only a single sporophyte since April 1998. The number of infested sites has remained consistent at 6 - 8 sites since April 1998. This compares to an increase from three known infested sites in April 1997 to 16 infested sites in October 1997. With allowances made for the discovery of two new sites in January-February 1998, this represents a 50% decrease in the number of infested sites in 12 months.

During the course of routine annual checks of Bluff Har-

bour, the DoC dive team discovered *Undaria* in Bluff Harbour on 1-2 September. The infestation is confined to a single site at Island Harbour and several at Ferry Wharf. The Bluff population seems to have been introduced from a source other than Stewart Island, and will have little effect on the present eradication programme within Big Glory Bay, other than to increase the chances of re-introduction to Big Glory Bay should *Undaria* be eradicated. However, the establishment of *Undaria* within Bluff Harbour greatly increases the chances of further spread to other areas such as Halfmoon Bay, Riverton, the Sub-Antarctic Islands and Fiordland. Consequently, the discovery of *Undaria* in Bluff emphasises the importance of a long-term strategy to manage the spread of *Undaria* in New Zealand. Direct action to limit the spread of *Undaria* in Bluff Harbour will consist

of a thorough check during November 1998, followed by a further check in January 1999. Options for the long-term management of *Undaria* are currently being developed.

At this stage, progress towards the eradication of *Undaria* from Big Glory Bay is encouraging. However, the continuation of the programme beyond February 1999, will be subject to the results of an independent scientific review and cost/benefit analysis to be presented to Cabinet in the same month. The decision to continue the programme will depend on the programme's ability to ensure the eradication of *Undaria* from Big Glory Bay and the implementation of a management strategy to prevent the re-introduction of *Undaria* from the mainland.



Keeping a sharp lookout

OUTWARD BOUND

by Laura Cavanagh

Laura was fortunate enough to be sponsored by the S.I. Lions Club to attend an Outward Bound course recently. Let me share with you a few of my experiences at Cobham Outward Bound School, Anakiwa, with Rutherford 405.

First entry: Arrived 1.45 p.m. It's now 5:40 p.m and I want to go home!

Day Two: Things are looking up!

There were 13 in my group, Rutherford Watch, and for the next 15 days we did absolutely everything permissible together - from sailing to rock climbing to sharing a

bunkhouse and bathroom. It was interesting to note that of the 130-150 people at Anakiwa, approximately 8 were from the South Island. There were 3 schemes to the course, each lasting 3 days and 2 nights. Sailing came first. Apparently our cutter was the same model as the lifeboats of the 'Titanic'; only difference was that ours had sails.

The first day was as good as cruising Marlborough Sounds. Day 2 included 8 hours in Cook Strait with only 5 available sailors. The remaining 9 (including me) were lying on the bottom of

the cutter turning different shades of green.

Day 3 saw us heading back to Anakiwa. Rule 1 was: No wind - start rowing! So did we row? "Nah! It's all good, we wait." So we waited, and waited and waited, and for the fun of it, we just waited some more until, Eureka!, the wind got up and it was a case of 'Let's go home!'

We didn't actually go fast enough to keep up with the dolphins, but we were moving, and while there was movement, there was no need to row!

The Snow Scheme came

(Continued on page 5)

BERNIE'S BACKCHAT

After a burst of crime on the island, things seem to have settled down again. The only matter still outstanding is that of the six fishing rods and reels which went missing from the wharf overnight on 2 September.

I would love to know where these items

are - as would their owners!

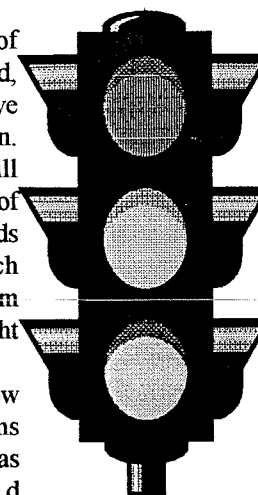
Just a point to think about:

When the fire engine is parked on the side of road, this means that the volunteers are training in techniques which could save your life, house or

car.

If you should see them engaged in this way, please give the staff a break. Slow down and carry out the passing manoeuvre safely.

I have had a couple of incidents brought to my notice where motorists have done some stupid things!



The New Zealand Police are undertaking a new Road Safety initiative, and this time it tyre safety.

Ever since I received the usual written material on the subject, I have had a look at some of the vehicles on the Island, and I must say that most of the tyres look okay. How-

ever, I understand that some of them are showing more wire than the fences connected up to the Wohlers Road cattle stops.

The fine for using a worn tyre is \$150, which is more than the cost of a new tyre - simple arithmetic should make you aware of the better choice.

Finally, remember that it is the responsibility of the seller to change the name on the registration papers when a vehicle is sold.

If a vehicle that is still registered in your name is involved in anything - even if you have sold it - you could still be held responsible.

Catch ya later
Bernie

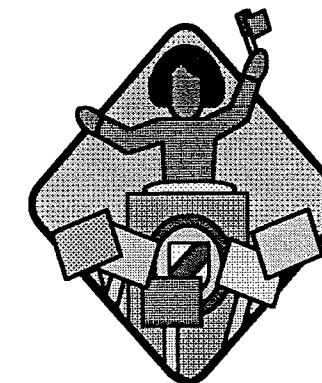
THAT'S LIFE

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees!

Local Body Elections

- M. Hopkins

The Community Board elections have resulted in a few changes in the make-up of the Board. Standing members Simon Marwick and Lindsay Lord failed to gain re-election. New faces, Elaine Hamilton and John Leask join stalwarts Ted Rooney, Lesley Gray, and Trevor McLellan, together with Margaret Hopkins who returns after a three year break.



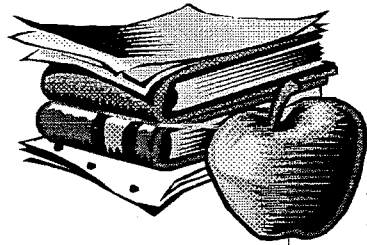
Gwen Neave gained the place

of Stewart Island Ward member for the Southland District Council, replacing long serving member, Keith Smith.

Now that gender balance has been restored, maybe we will see some changes? The first meeting of the Stewart Island Community Board will be held on 9th November when Board members will be sworn in.

Congratulations to all.

Library



BOOK REVIEWS

As Pat King is away, we have no library comment for this issue, but we look forward to resuming her column in our next issue.

EVERY SECRET THING

by Gillian Slovo
(In our Library)

A searching, honest and at times, sad autobiography of the life of a child growing up in South Africa during the time of the 1950-80 political upheaval, with parents who were white, communist and committed to the A.N.C. movement.

It tells of why her parents took this path and how it affected her, her sisters and family life. The constant need for secrecy, for moving from place to place, exile and being placed 'second' to the cause.

The violent and tragic death of her mother and the search to find the truth behind this event revealed more than perhaps Gillian had bargained for.

The story moves along quickly and gives another perspective on those troubled times. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book.

Reviewer: Margaret Rooney

OXFORD DICTIONARY OF N.Z. ENGLISH

This dictionary is far from being a dry reference book - in fact it goes a long way in explaining "Kiwi-speak" to newcomers to New Zealand, and probably could enlighten some New Zealanders as well! It is a comprehensive, often riveting, and at times raunchy document of the socio-linguistic history of N.Z. and is packed with quirky facts and quotes. No wonder this book earned the top literary prize at the Montana Book Awards.

The dictionary owes its existence to many decades of research by Professor Harry Orsman, former English professor at Victoria University, who began compiling the book in 1951 as part of a PhD topic. There are 6000 entries and

9300 sub-entries in the dictionary which Orsman says "records the history of words and particular senses of words which are in some way distinctively or predominantly, although not always exclusively 'New Zealand' in meaning or in use."

It was, for example, a revelation to me to discover that if someone said that he'd just "chundered his chateau cardboard" and was "heading back up to the bouai with a clobber" he actually meant that he had just vomited on cheap wine and that he was about to return to a remote abode with a friend!

The dictionary includes many Maori words, especially names for trees, birds, plants, fish, customs and places. Many entries also offer colourful quotations which date back to the 19th century and reveal the innovation of European settlers in coining terms to describe their new land. A fascinating book to browse.
Reviewer: M Howell

LIBRARY HOURS

Wed 2 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Fri 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Sat 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Rakiura Museum Records

by Margaret Hopkins

New Book

Bragg, Owen and Robert Families; Stewart Island Settlers,

Researched and written by June McDougall (nee Bragg) of Dunedin.

It is with increasing frequency that we get enquiries at the Rakiura Museum from people requesting information for their family histories; wanting copies of photos or documents and possible contacts.

Occasionally we are rewarded with copies of this research which is not only of great interest but an invaluable reference for others seeking information. One of the most exciting donations we have received in a long while is a copy of June McDougall's privately published family history of the Bragg, Owen and Robert families, along with some originals and copies of photos she has used in the book.

This 370 page book is the result of years of careful research and will be of interest to many Stewart Islanders.

Included are the Bragg family from 1848-1998, with most branches documented to the present.

Also recorded is the Owen family which includes first generation marriages into Clark, Wixon, Potiki and Bragg families. The Bragg family are descendants of Sarah Owen.

Also covered is the Robert family 1872-1998 which includes French origins and present day family in France. Dolly Robert married Bob Bragg.

Through the various links and marriages, many other names familiar to Stewart Island appear in the book including Tipa; Honour; Dawson; Hicks; Anglem; West; Tipene; Spencer; Goomes; Smith; Skerrett; Holmes; Newton; Joss; Waitiri and Davis, to name just a few.

The book contains 28 pages of photos and is fully indexed to provide a very valuable reference.

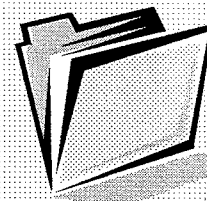
We have order forms for this book at the Museum if you wish to purchase one. (\$40) The library is also hoping to purchase a copy as soon as possible.

A Man of Foresight?

Mr Charles Robertson, a notable resident of Stewart Island was interviewed in 1937 and some of his recollections were published in the Southland newspaper. He had lived on the Island for 57 years at the time of the interview. It was interesting to read the following comment:

"What we want here most is a daily boat service to leave Halfmoon Bay at 7 a.m and to return every evening, and carry a few passengers, so that the Stewart Islanders can do their business in the city and return the same day; it makes such a costly trip when perhaps we have to stay a week or longer, and people used to the bracing climate of this Island are neither well nor happy on the mainland."

Museum



Files



N.Z. Memories

The library subscribes to a very good publication called *N.Z. Memories* which has historical articles and photos from various regions around New Zealand. This month's edition features Stewart Island in the Southland section and includes photos supplied by Rakiura Museum. The cover photo for the magazine is of the Stewart Island Saunders Cup team in 1922.

(Continued from page 2)

Brrrr! Sleeping in a Snow Dome shelter made with our own hands was a bizarre experience. Seven people crammed into a dome made for four was more than just interesting! Let me tell you that I also do not snowboard very well - I have BIG problems with the stopping thing. The last day of the snow scheme saw us climbing Mt McCrae

Stewart Island Robin (Toutouwai)

by Ros Cole

I am very interested in all sightings of the Stewart Island robin.

This little bird may becoming rarer. If any of you are heading into the bush for a walk or to hunt, please keep an open for the robin and record where you saw it and what it was doing.

I do have some robin sighting forms if you are interested. I

am building up a collection of sightings. The Freshwater and Rakeahua catchments seem to have a fairly good population, but I would still like records from this area. The robin is a dark slaty grey on the upper parts with an ivory white breast. Robins can be distinguished from the tomtits because there is no obvious white flash on the



wing and it is larger. It has long legs and a very upright stance. Robins feed on insects and worms and spend more time feeding on the ground than tomtits. Robins also do not make the darting flights that tomtits do.

Outward Bound

(1778m) in blizzard conditions of -3 degrees. Freezing. We finally made it to the top, but alas, no view. (Could it have had something to do with the weather?)

Rock climbing and ropes was next in line. Wow, terror was the only emotion I felt. A quarter way up the cliff face I froze. The only direction I was going was DOWN!

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Outward bound

(Continued from page 5)

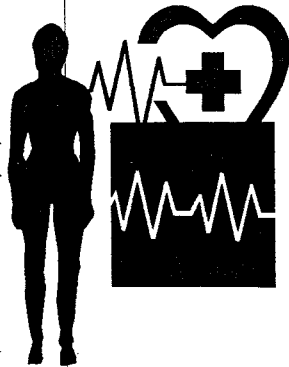
Twenty minutes later I decided to get up that hill and tell the instructor what I thought of him. So that's what I did! I climbed the cliff face with *attitude* and informed D2 how lucky he was to be harnessed to the cliff face. The urge to shove him off was quite overpowering.

Coping with ropes 20m above the ground did not fill me with enthusiasm. I did not fancy letting go of the tree to which the rope was attached to walk across a skinny little runt of wire to the next tree. After all, I am not a trapeze artist! However, when our instructor told me Sean Connery was waiting to greet us on the other side, I practically skipped across. (Yeah, dream on, Laura!)

Solo, our final scheme, was awesome. I really enjoyed relaxing, doing nothing except think for 36 hours. We were given a ground sheet and a bivy to make a shelter, food, and a whistle for emergency. Actually, I believe there was an emergency. Ben blew his whistle for 2 hours - to no avail. His dilemma? The possums had stolen his food and he was hungry! I was the only one of the group who didn't get food stolen by possums or goats, and I was one of two who managed to stay dry!

I had a lot of mixed emotions when it was time to say goodbye to all these people whom I had come to know so well in such a short time. Our motto had become: "Life is like a box of chocolates - it's all good!"

It was an absolutely wicked experience and I'll never forget it. I am extremely grateful to the S.I. Lions for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.



HEALTH NEWS

From Marty and Sharron

DOCTOR'S DAY

Dr Heather Calder is coming for a Clinic on Saturday 7 November. Please phone the Clinic for an appointment.

LOST

The Clinic has misplaced one of its heat lamps. If you know of its whereabouts, please could you let Marty or Sharron know. It is a Phillips cream coloured infrared lamp.

CLINIC ACTIVITIES

It has been an interesting month with some unusual call outs, including the 'fiaging' 39 Korean fishermen. Thanks to Simon and Deborah for providing relief over the last month in Marty's absence.

The Clinic looks really bright at the moment with the display of Asthma Awareness Day posters from the pupils of the HMB School. Many thanks to the anonymous deliverer of some delicious cake to the doorstep of the clinic. It was enjoyed and devoured!

CLINIC HOURS

ph 2191098
10:30 - 12:30
7 days a week!

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111

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(P.O. Box 86, Stewart Island)

With regard to Andy Robert's article in your last issue about kakas, I was not impressed. I believe the birds living around the Bay have been pushed out of the bush by other more dominant kakas. I don't know why DoC is so concerned about people feeding kakas. Let them worry about



Your letters

their platforms and bridges! Kakas and wood pigeons have always damaged garden shrubs and trees regardless of whether people are feeding them or not. Being a kaumatua my

kakas don't appear to be bored!
Shirley Whipp
27.10.98

DoC replies:

Kaka are intelligent birds and can easily seek out any new food sources on offer. The Kaka which come to food supplies in the Bay are

unlikely to have been forced out of the bush by other more dominant kakas. The kaka know when they are onto a good thing, and a free feed is always a good thing.

Good review, like good news is always welcome:

Keep up the good work - as a family we enjoy the newsletter and commend you on the presentation and quality of content. To date contributions have been well written and provide a balance of information and entertainment.

Anita Geeson
21.9.98
Thank you, Anita. We appreciate your commendation.

Congratulations to (the editor) and the Stewart Island Tourism Strategy Group on the commencement of the publication 'Rakiura Rambles'. I was delighted to receive the first two issues from a friend, who like myself, is also a past resident.

Although I have been residing elsewhere for almost twenty years now, I am still a Stewart Islander and in many ways still regard the Island as 'home'. I have always taken a keen interest in keeping up with the happenings down your way. A suggestion for future issues. I'm sure there are many other past residents scattered around the country who could be persuaded to contribute anecdotes from their time living on the Island, or maybe their present day impressions of Stewart Island revisited.

I wish 'Rakiura Rambles' every success
Margaret Fairhall
Nelson
14.9.98

An excellent suggestion, Margaret. We do hope that there are folk who will do just this and send us their accounts of life on the island. We accept all contributions gratefully.
Thanks to Shirley, Anita and Margaret for writing and the feedback. Much appreciated!

LAETICIA'S CORNER

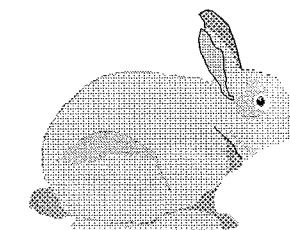
(P.O. Box 86, Stewart Island)

Dear Laetitia
My cut flowers don't last very long once inside.

Cut off a small piece of the stem each day. A little soda and salt added to the water will help make flowers last.

Dear Laetitia
I can't get grass stains out of the kids clothes

Sponge with methylated spirits, then wash.



Dear Laetitia
I have an antique lace chris-

tening gown to clean but I don't want to use detergents.

Sprinkle liberally with powdered magnesia, roll up and leave for several days in an old pillowcase. Shake well. The magnesia should have absorbed most of the dirt. This is a good recipe for cleaning delicate lace or white, fluffy, soft toys.

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OUR TRAVEL TROUBLES - PART 2

by Margaret Wright

THUS FAR: Doug and Margaret had travelled to Paris and then on to Marseilles. There they had experienced the strong winds of Marseilles and were about to discover the unexpected dangers of Marseilles streets ...

Once you leave the main routes, the streets are very narrow and winding, and everyone seems to own a dog. This means you have to look down rather than up at times and the dominating smell is that of Doggy Doo!

They seem to go in for very small breeds, and even take them into the shops and supermarkets. A lot of the dogs appear to have skin complaints - I wondered if they were a little paranoid about being stood on!

We travelled on to Venice, I thought overnight by Euro Rail, but at Nice we had a four hour stopover and had to change onto an Italian "God-knows-what". We couldn't believe the graffiti and dirt, and the compartments with a corridor reminded us of an Agatha Christie murder scene.

Monaco, seen in the evening, looked beautiful as we passed

through. I finally fell asleep at about 2 a.m., lying on top of my bag and covered by my coat. When I woke up at dawn as we were coming into yet another station, I thought I'd take a look at some of the birds, so took down the camera bag from the luggage rack to get out the binoculars. It felt strangely light, but I couldn't believe it when, on opening it, I discovered the bag was empty. Our camera and two pairs of binoculars were gone, but Doug's reading glasses which he had put on top of the camera in the bag the night before were neatly placed in the bag, and we had not heard a thing!

The ticket attendants had come into our compartment 5 or 6 times during the night without actually doing anything. Our tickets were only looked at once, and thinking back, we reckon they must have been waiting for us to go to sleep. We reported the theft - probably to the thief - and were told to report to the police post on the station platform in Venice.

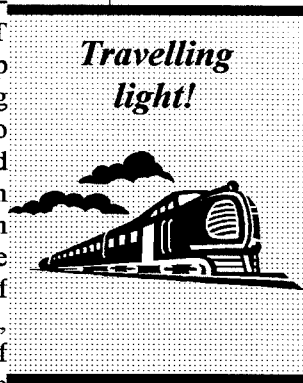
We arrived at the post at 7 a.m., only to be told that there would be no-one there

to take a statement for another hour. What a time to remember I hadn't changed any money into Lire, and of course none of the coffee shops were interested in French Francs.

When we finally presented ourselves to the police we had convinced ourselves that we had been easy targets because there had just been the two of us in the carriage. This was NOT the case. Queued up at the post was a long line of people who had also been robbed - either on our train or on the one in from Zurich. The police attitude was that if you weren't insured, you were stupid; if you were, then the insurance would cover you.

One man in a carriage with 5 other people had US\$12 000 stolen - this a week after leaving home. A Japanese man had a camera taken from the bag he had under his head as he slept.

I think next time we won't risk travelling overnight! Better to break the journey and have a better train!



RAKIURA FLEA MARKET

by Nikki Davis

The Rakiura Flea Market has been up and running since June, and is a fun opportunity for everyone - buyers and sellers on the island. Anyone with something to sell is welcome to take a table at the nominal cost of \$5 per space. If you're thinking of spring-cleaning that spare room or shed, why not make a little spending money from it? Or a fundraising group can boost

their coffers selling whatever they choose to. If you have one or two items you would like to donate to the charity stall, let Nikki know at 2191116 and she will collect it. Each month the charity stall donates its proceeds to a local organization or fundraising group. Stallholders are welcome to come once, or take a regular spot. At the moment, the

market day is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. If demand increases over the summer, the market may extend to weekly or fortnightly Saturdays. We would love to see more handicrafts on offer, especially with the tourist season coming up. Put this on your calendar: **Nov. 14th Market Day.** Come and "Buy Local"!

WICKED WHISPERS

* Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where my lawnmower is? But seriously folks, 'tis the season for lambs to frolic, bobby calves and sandflies (whoops, butterflies!) - in short, the mating season. And the fishermen are definitely wandering around with silly grins on their faces. Why? Watch for the one with the "engaging"

smile. Or the one with the "expectant" look. Ahh, it warms my heart.

* With all the 'comings and goings' due to spring, perhaps Big Glory should look to what form of protection they're using. I really don't

fancy salmon in aspic.

* They say weather affects the brain! Well!! A certain skipper seems to be a bit dithery lately and treated the patrons of the local to a welcome spot of entertainment when a large boat ran over a wee one (intentionally, of course) just to give the out-

board a good salt water cleansing. He followed a week later with an encore. With the assistance of his lovely Maid, he managed to make several large fishing tubs disappear. We've had a bit of luck finding cars at the airstrip and we have had an easterly, so try looking there perhaps?

* And speaking of things Magic. According to breathless reports from the long weekend, the pub hosted its own David Tua/George Foreman bout. It lasted exactly zero seconds with not a scratch or a bruise to either bloke. Like Jack's beanstalk, the story grew and grew (obviously very fertile ground here). But the only giant was the size of the rum and cokes served at the bar, and the blokes had to learn about it at the shop like everyone else.

* More entertainment from my favourite comedy duo. Diddle Dum has lost weight - actually two weights; both black and neither go. Never mind. Diddle Dumber just acquired weight - large metal and vibrating. Just plug it in and set to "spin". And what do they do for fun? Sit in a baby bath, wearing bells and

enjoying a miniature tippie.

* Finally the Tasmanian Devil has something long and hard - his leg in plaster! The only remaining question is ... will it slow him down? Hey - why not try the sympathy angle?

* Roll over Walt Disney's Mary Poppins ... she might fly, but cars don't. Almost perfect in every way is our young virile fisherman. Shanks pony from now on, Mate!

* Is it Tim the Toolman? Is it the Meccano Man? Or is it just a local He Man in his real tough overalls, bicycle helmet and necklace, playing with his Action Man helicopter? We are all a little mad anyway!

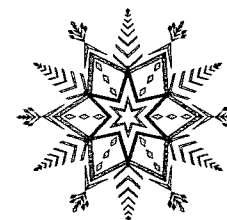
*What a relief - the island is free of snakes. Our resident expert (the one with the highly technical Reptile Rod) has just completed an inspection of suspicious sites. We can all breathe easy now. There are no more snakes in any North West circuit huts. Whew! Isn't it nice to know that Pest Control really works.

* And after such a lengthy separation from civilization,

(Continued on page 10)

The best liar is he who makes the smallest amount of lying go the longest way.

Samuel Butler



Earlier this month I was at the Visitor Information Network Offices twice-yearly Regional Meeting held this year at Gore. It gave me the opportunity to stay with ex-Stewart Islanders, Noel and Sharon Pasco. Their children, Cheska and Tony are keen

ROUND AND ABOUT

By Lesley Gray

ice-skaters, and the annual Ice Show was on. If anyone gets the chance to be in Gore in early October, then this is an event not to be missed.

The theme was *Hitchin' a Ride Through the 60's and 70's*. The music was great and they had full houses for most of the six performances. Skaters ranged in age from tiny tots to adults. Lots of

hard work and practice made for a professional performance. They spun, twirled, smiled and sped around for over 2 hours.

The Gore Skating Club has about 350 members, and they were recently presented with a cheque for \$650 000 from the Community Trust of Southland to go towards a new \$1.3 million ice rink.

DISASTER AVERTED

The unlikely does occasionally occur. This was only too evident when the sequence of events unfolded on the fateful night of Tuesday 8 October 1998. The stranding of the Dong Won 529 off the Breaksea Island after it ran aground there, appears to have been caused by undetermined circumstances. Fishermen feared for their livelihood when oil began to seep out, conservationists were concerned for the marine, island and animal welfare, and politicians for the repercussions which might flow from this event.

The Southland Regional Council took control when the ship ran aground, but the Maritime Safety Authority took over when the oil began to spill out of the trawler. DoC assisted Massey University to set up a first response first aid station on Stewart Island. Massey University set up its own base at the Conon Street Baths in Invercargill. Fortunately, the oil slick was dispersed and the environmental impact appears to be minimal and localised.

Despite intensive searches, no birds were found covered in oil. One dead seal was brought back to DoC for the Veterinarian to inspect, but it was found to have died from natural causes. The dissection of this seal was watched by a number of curious spectators - definitely not something for the faint-hearted. In the midst of all this crisis, senses of humour still came to the fore. The following pertinent advert was circulated soon after the ship ran aground:

*Everyone has
a photographic
memory.
Some just
forget
to load
the film!*

For Sale ! (Urgent) Business Going Under!

**As Seen
On TV!**

Secondhand Fishing Trawler (Korean Import)



Slight Salt Water Damage, and Engine Prone to Flooding, Small Dent in Bow !
Needs diesel, Leaks a bit of oil. Autopilot System, Steering and Radar in need of a little TLC ! Ideal Fixer-upper, Handy-man s Dream. Fresh Fish Included in Sale !!!

**BONUS : White cane and Guide Dog Supplied with Captain.
Can Swap for Torch, Batteries, Map and Night Vision Binoculars.**

Suit Owner with Large Boat Trailer and Powerful Holden and Large Water Pump.
Currently located Off Breaksea Island (Stewart Island)

Excellent Reverse thrust - 14 knots to Zero in 3 seconds. Easy to angle park !

New owner required to remove ASAP if possible. (Supply Own Crane)
As is where is. Going Cheap \$\$\$. Make an Offer (All Offers Considered)
All deals to be in \$US, \$NZ, or Custard Squares!.

Call Korea 555-Whatthef ... wasthatcrunchingsound !!

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Wicked Whispers?

(Continued from page 9)

what did our dapper DoC do? Kiss his wife? Ruffle his boys' hair? Check his work messages? I could go on ... but no. Any Port in a storm, but only a fine drop of tawny to end a long walk.

* Recent Ferry passengers really must be wondering about our state of mental health on the island. Espe-

cially when the first sight to greet them is that of a young lady helping them to disembark while sporting a somewhat malicious grin and an evil sparkle in her eye. "I've got them them!" she says with gleeful relish. "Not really prime stock, but they'll fatten up in a day or two." Yes - there were two of our female population locked in

the office, madly jumping up and down waving arms in the air (clue!!). They were eventually released to safety. Damn.

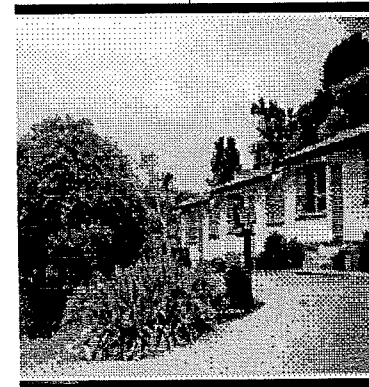
* And a poem by John West. Poor little salmon all with a squeeze-on Were discussing which side of the rock to be on "With a crunch and a dong It's suddenly gone wong

TIME OUT

After 27 years as a motelier, Island resident Elaine Hamilton has decided to take time out and has just announced that Rakiura Motel is to be leased for 2 years to another Stewart Island resident, Marilyn Taylor.

Built in 1971 as a three unit motel for Elaine Hamilton and her mother, the late Maude Johnson, the Rakiura Motel remains the only motel on Stewart Island.

At the time the project was being investigated Elaine recalls visiting her accountant and announcing that they would like to



build a motel on the Island and he replied, "You and 4 others!" None of the others ever materialised.

Elaine has enjoyed her time as a motelier and has met some interesting people over the years, many of whom have become good friends. The motel overlooking Braggs Bay was extended to 5 units in 1976 and can accommodate up to 26 people. Marilyn Taylor is very excited about the prospect of taking over the motel "although it's a little bit scary at the moment" she said.

Elaine Hamilton is looking forward to having more time to continue with her family research and assisting Rakiura Museum with the conservation of their exhibits and cataloguing of information.

GUN CLUB OPEN DAY

ALL WELCOME

On Sunday
1 November
at
1.30 p.m.
the

Stewart Island Gun Club
is having
an
OPEN DAY.

Please feel free to come
along

CONTACT: Bernie
2191020

SAD SIGHT OF STRANDED WHALES

by Margaret Hopkins

The stranding of 300 pilot whales on Doughboy Bay beach on the western coast of Stewart Island has captured the attention of local and international media for the third time in 3 months. Following on from the Southern Air crash and the Dong Won stranding at Breaksea Islands we now have a marine mammal disaster that is a natural occurrence, although thankfully, not a too common one. Ranked as the second biggest whale stranding on record in New Zealand waters, the pilot whales or black fish as they are locally known, came ashore on remote Doughboy Bay on Wednesday night. Hunters in the area discovered the plight of the helpless whales at

about 9 p.m and when DoC staff flew in at first light on Thursday morning they were faced with the distressing sight of more than 200 dead whales. During the morning many more died and the remaining ones were put down to save further distress to the animals as it was too difficult for any kind of rescue attempt.

Reasons for the stranding are difficult to determine but it is known that pilot whales which are widespread in the Pacific Ocean travel in large herds and have a tendency to strand *en masse* in shallow sandy bays.

Local residents Bid Hopkins and Shirley Whipp can recall a similar stranding on Ringaringa Beach in the late

1930s with dozens of whales involved. "Many of the children were very upset and crying at the sight of the whales," said Mrs Hopkins.

The pilot whales stranded on Doughboy Beach ranged from babies of 1.2m to 5.8m adults. Their still, silent bodies lay heaped along the beach, fins and tails starkly pointing to the sky.

Not many of us get a close up view of such a large number of these beautiful creatures, and it must have been particularly distressing for the DoC staff, including Wally Hockley, Andy Cox, Kay Stark & Pete McLellan, who were there throughout the morning watching the animals struggle for life.



Managing a Small Business Seminar

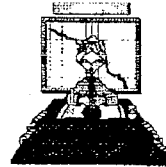
Are you thinking of starting up your own business?

Are you already in business but would like some help?



Yes? then this **Free** seminar

may just set you in the right direction

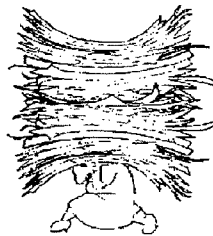
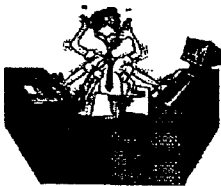


19 & 20 November 1998

**RSA Pavilion
Stewart Island**

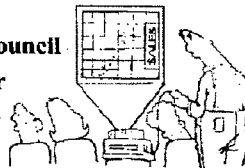
Topics:

- Starting a new business
- Creating a business plan
- Pricing and costing
- Creating a Marketing Plan
- Accounting Requirements
- Financing and Insurance
- Sources of help



Presenters include:

- Andy Crighton – Southland District Council
Enterprise Development Officer
- Warwick Cambridge – Preston Russell
- Murray Acker – Ward Wilson
- Jan Ross – YMCA Tutor



Enrol now!

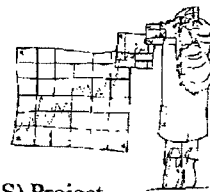
Call the Southland District Council on

03-218 7259 today.



Southland District Council

This is a Community Employment Information Service (CEMIS) Project.



RAKIURA RAMBLES

IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
STEWART ISLAND TOURISM STRATEGY GROUP
COMPILED AND EDITED BY
M. HOWELL
P.O. BOX 86, STEWART ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND