

# Stewart Island News

October 2003

\$2

Celebrating Stewart Island



## Daffodil Day brings a Touch of Spring

Sue, Jan, Nicolette and families enjoyed a sunny, springlike day while collecting for the annual Daffodil Day Appeal. Jan (Treasurer) was delighted with the community's response, collecting a total of \$655 in donations and selling another \$81 worth of merchandise. If this photograph is anything to go by, the future of the local collection is secure. From the community, thank you Ladies for your efforts.

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## George Henry Gordon Fife -Man of the Sea

**Obituary** by Phillip Smith

George was born at the Kaik at Portobello on the south side of Otago Harbour on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1911. When George was four years old, the Fife family moved to Bluff. They lived there until 1925 when they shifted to Stewart Island. At the age of 14, George began his fishing career with his brothers sailing on many of the early boats of that era.

George was said to have the first bicycle on Stewart Island. He was also involved with the tourist boats that were operating in the early 30's and 40's: Manurere, Comet, etc.

George fished until 1974 when he decided to, as they say, swallow the anchor and stay ashore. He was an excellent cod and crayfisherman. In the days of hand-lining for blue cod he was one of, if not, the best man in the business. His best personal tally being 2,500 pounds of cod caught on hand lines in one day – a record never beaten.

He was also an excellent crayfisherman on fishing boats such as Manurere, Awanui, Hananui, etc. His first trip craying on the Manuhuia was a twelve day voyage when he caught ten tons of cray tails. George maintained this ability right up to his retirement. He was one of the most likeable and respected persons in the community. He could laugh with you, laugh at you, and not least of all had the enviable ability to laugh at himself.

George was an accomplished musician playing banjo, ukulele and guitar. Due to health reasons George had to move to Invercargill last year and sadly passed away on 30th September 2003. He is survived by his wife Noeline, son Maui and Shona (Perth), daughter in law Faye (Christchurch), his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**This month's award goes to Aggie McGinity for her continuous and dedicated work with the school pupils of our community.**

**The chocolates this month were kindly donated by Boardwalk Café.**

## What a night! By the Editor

The glitter, the glamour, the clowns! Yes, It's fair to say that the Island was "done proud" by the Artful Wears evening at the end of September. As usual a tremendous effort was put in by many locals but the *coup de grace* surely must have been the distinguished panel of judges (apart from Dil that is). Sorry mate! The packed house was the real indicator that the recipe must have been right.

Several people have mentioned that the attendance of both the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Southland was a major feat of PR for such a small community. That certainly could not be argued with, but it seems to also be a good indicator of the level of interest in the Island at the moment.

Toi Rakiura Chairperson, Gwen Neave, must have pulled more than a few strings by assembling such a great team for the night. Master of Ceremonies, David Round, did a magnificent job of filling in the quieter periods while the deliberations were being done. His presentation and sense of humour were a reminder of the old English stage plays and theatre art.

The models were very competent and elegant, so much so that many could easily give up their day job without qualms. Far from being just coat-hangers for the garments, they all added their own touch of individuality to both the fashion show and the artful wears. From the nervousness at the start of rehearsals, it was clear many of them were having a lot of fun by the big night.

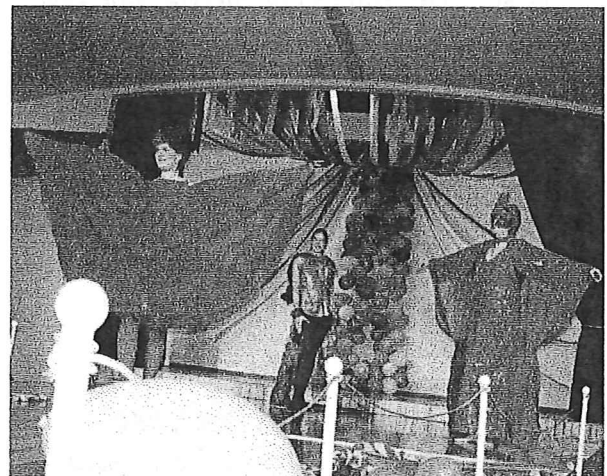
Stewart Island Players must have learned heaps at the clowning workshop a few weeks before the Artful Wears night. Young and not-so-young (wasn't that tactful!) added a whole extra dimension to the evening by complementing the fantastic circus theme of the set. Much of the action was not quite *ad-lib* but it came pretty close with minimal rehearsal time and a lot of innovation.

All the people working behind the scenes, the artistic director, the dressers, the station managers, set builders and the floor manager contributed to a very professional-quality evening. Even our erstwhile MP was impressed and was moved to praise the efforts of the team in the Southland Times.

Of course, the whole evening would not have been possible without the creativity and flair of the garment designers. Hopefully the success of the night will encourage even more interest next year. Some of the categories were a little on the low side with the number of entries but the quality made up for that. However, it would be great to see a few more entries next time.

Maybe the publicity surrounding this year's event will help with motivation. The prize money was not to be sniffed at either so that could signal an even bigger event next year. Here's hoping.

Well done to everyone involved! Take a well-deserved bow!



**Models (from left) Kari Farmer, Tracy Neave and Chris Visser parade in the Simply Red section of Artful Wears – Catwalk Creations.**

## SCHOOL GALA DAY

The gala will be held once again this Labour Weekend on Saturday, 25th October.

We will be having food stalls including a candy floss machine, sausage sizzle, cakes, clothing, bric-a-brac etc so if you have anything suitable you are throwing out we'd be glad to get it off your hands. A cake would be appreciated for the cake stall.

There will be fun activities for the kids including "lip syncing" and the good old chocolate wheel will be spinning.

Come along and make this a fun day for all.

A big thanks also to the community for buying the tickets for the lotto boards that are for sale at Ship to Shore.

## WINTER SPORTS CLUB FUNDRAISING CATALOGUE

Need personalised labels for clothing, envelopes or items around the home or workplace? How about pens with your business or children's names on them? Available at the school or early childhood centre, the Xmas Catalogue has all of these and more. It's full of goodies that are great value and can be personalised. There are even storybooks featuring your child or grandchild. Get organised for Xmas early and help the WSC out at the same time!

Please make all cheques out to "Stewart Island Winter Sports Club" and hand to Bonnie Leask or Eunice Breitenbach.

**Information Request**  
Does anyone know the history or ownership status of the old grader in the bush at the top of Peterson Hill Road?  
If so, please contact Stewart 2191-100

## MUSEUM NOTES

Merv King sends his apologies this month as he is not feeling too good. Hopefully he will be well enough next month to send us his usual history column.

Look after yourself, Merv!

### **Halfmoon Bay School**

**The school is still looking for an old 3-seater settee, in reasonable condition. If anyone can help, please contact Lee Wadds 2191 179**

### **Commission Opportunity**

**Wanted: someone to display stock and take orders on commission for Specialised Care Wear & Soft Sole Direct (Lambs wool bed slippers, etc)**

**Phone Vickie 216 7987 evenings**

### **2004 CALENDARS Halfmoon Bay School**

**Once again we have been busy creating artwork for 2004 calendars. Calendars will cost \$9.00 each, and make great Xmas presents for family and friends.**

**The original artwork is held in a clearfile in each classroom. Pop into the school and have a look at all our designs, or view them at the Gala Day on Labour Weekend!**

**Orders to the school, with cash or cheque made out to the school please.**



New Zealand  
**POLICE**  
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

007 '03



# Halfmoon Bay Beat

This month starts with a more favourable item than the usual grumpy crime related issues that I usually go on about.

First up I was away last month and missed the September issue of the SIN. On the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2003 a public meeting was held in relation to Search & Rescue on Stewart Island. This was the second meeting held to determine what needs there were locally for Search & Rescue and to set a firm base for the future.

Since I moved here I have been involved in 19 Land Search & Rescue operations and 12 Marine Search & Rescue operations. The majority of the land operations were to extract injured people from various parts of the Island and the Marine operations cover a wide array of different situations. In doing this I have been assisted by a small and dedicated team of people from different quarters of the local community all with some expertise in relation to the operation or incident at hand. To date with all locally run operations (not counting those run by the Invercargill Police Search & Rescue team) we have had a 100% success rate in finding, recovering or assisting those in need.

At the meeting a small committee was formed to assist with the forming of a Basic Search & Rescue Team that would adequately cover both the Land and Marine scenarios. We will also be examining equipment needs and fund raising for such items and training. In today's climate I feel it is essential we have some basic set-up to cater for any incident initially until additional assistance can arrive.

As previously mentioned I already have a small team, which in Search & Rescue circles is known as the 'Reconnaissance Team'. This team has been very effective and we are now going to build on that. I also have names down for those who can assist in other areas of search whether it is Land or Marine. There is also a further contact list for those who are not able to assist in the field but can assist here in the Bay at the Base Headquarters with many different areas of the operation from making the tea and coffee to transporting people and equipment around.

**If any one who did not attend the meeting but would like to offer their names forward to any of the contact lists for either field or base headquarters assistance please call myself or any of the other committee members.**

The Stewart Island Search & Rescue committee is as follows:

Chairman:	Lance LeQuesne
Secretary/Treasurer:	Jessyca Bernard
Training Officer:	Rob Fox
Committee:	Maureen Jones, Martin Pepers, and Mark Donald (a couple of more people to come)

I feel the committee fairly reflects both the Land and Marine sectors of this community along with Medical and Fire also having a role.

**Happenings:**

Over September there have still been a number of petty theft complaints coming through.

The thefts have been in Rankin St, View St and from the Wharf and include paint, automotive parts and tools. I cannot urge strongly enough for people to secure items of value and don't leave them in view of the passing public.

In relation to the automotive parts that were in a box taken from the wharf, it appears these items are still boxed and in someone's possession and this information has been passed on. This incident could well be a case of having picked up the wrong box and there is nothing malicious or dishonest in it. Someone has spoken to Jack Frew about it; however, the problem is Jack cannot remember (old age maybe?) who has the box. So if you know where this item is please contact Jack at Island Transport and he will come and get them, no questions asked.

Other happening over September of general interest were:

Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle	Resolved
Search & Rescue, Kelly's Block	Resolved
Theft, View St (toolbox)	Unresolved
Theft, Rankin St (paint & associated items)	Unresolved

Along with the usual smattering of minor complaints and assistance to the District Nurses.

**Rentacop:**

I will be away as of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October until about the 4<sup>th</sup> November. Over that period Constable Dave Blanks will be on the Island.

There is a possibility that he will be targeting warrants and registrations – be warned and get them up to speed if you need to.

That's all from me except to say thanks as usual to the Stewart Island community for all your ongoing support for the day to day issues surrounding Policing on Stewart Island.

Regards

Rob

**Book Review by Margaret Rooney**

Joanne Harris, author of "Chocolat" has set her latest book "Holy Fools" in seventeenth-century France, against a background of travelling entertainers and an abbey. It is a story of deceit, betrayal, witchcraft, religious fervour, power, love and loyalty.

Juliette, brought up in a travelling troupe of entertainers lead by Guy Le Merle, is forced to leave and find her own way when the group runs into trouble and disbands. Finding herself pregnant, she seeks refuge in an abbey situated on an island. She is allowed to keep her child and becomes Sister Auguste. Life goes on undisturbed from the outer world until the Abbess dies and a new one is appointed.

For the abbey & nuns, life changes for the worse when Guy Le Merle comes back into Juliette's life. Out of this catastrophe Juliette and her child leave and find a certain peace but at what cost to the nuns, the new Abbess and Guy Le Merle. The images and scenes are very powerful, taking us back to a very different way of life. A good read by a talented author.

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**STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE**

by Jenny Gell

October's Meeting was held at Lorraine Squires on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It was nice to see Carolyn Squires back amongst us. Most of the meeting was taken up with coming events, but we did manage to find time to pass on a memory of a specific flower. We ended the meeting with a tour of Lorraine and Lindsay's beautiful home and garden.

The Competition results were:

	First	Second	Third
Yellow Flower:	Lorraine Squires	Peggy Wilson	Raylene Waddell/Myra Leask
Flowering Bulb:	Lil Skipper	Anita Geeson	Peggy Wilson
New Foliage:	Anita Geeson	Peggy Wilson/ Myra Leask	Raylene Waddell/Lil Skipper

The Garden Circle was delighted when Kath Widdowson from Nugget Lodge in the Catlins accepted their invitation to come to the island and give a few talks. Our afternoon on the 11th October at the Anglican Church Hall was a delight for all those attending. We learnt a great deal about gardening, composting, cooking, etc, before gathering for afternoon tea.

It is intended to do an Island Garden Bus Tour towards the end of November, anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome. We are hoping to have a lunch at \$12.00 a head at Church Hill Cafe before the tour. Please contact Pat Bethune on 292 or Anita Geeson on 014 if you wish to join us.

Diacks Nurseries are unable to visit the island this year, however they are willing to send plants and shrubs to be sold at the Labour Weekend Spring Festival on 25th October at the Garden Circle Stall.

The next meeting will be held at 2pm on 13th November at Jenny Gell's

## Halfmoon Bay School News

The new term has started with a real roar. The week we received a visit from the Education Review Office (ERO) was apparently “Mental Health Week” – which made the staff laugh, anyway. And what better for our mental health than some laughter? We’ve had a great first week, with all the children arriving “raring to go”, and the sun beating back the rain most of the time.

Our ERO visitors (Chris and Adrienne) made every effort to put us at our ease and the Board were very satisfied with their verbal report. The written report should be completed in a few weeks, and will be available at the school and online. As previously, the Board will write an action plan covering all suggestions made, and that too will be available in the school. Chris and Adrienne were at pains to point out that there is no such thing as 100% with ERO, since they work on the basis that all schools should be looking to improve in some areas at all times. Overall the staff and Board felt that the review and comments received were very positive.

The Winter Sports Club Trip to Queenstown and Wanaka went down very well with children and adults alike. Apart from snowboarding, skating and tabloid sports with another school, there was a visit to Puzzling World, and to the now famous “bra fence”. Rumour has it, someone from the Club made a contribution to the collection... but no-one’s talking! Another highlight was ladies fashion on the slopes. Ag thought she’d take the prize with an up-to-the minute ski-suit, but Joanne’s pink marshmallow effect outfit got far more attention, and Bonnie went for a genuine Stewart Island look in her red boiler suit. The biggest prize should go to the children though. At the end of each day the adults were lucky to peel the children off the mountain, as they were eager to hang in there, even in blizzard conditions!

This term we look forward to a visit from Sports Southland to develop skills in various sports, Pauline Cartwright’s writers workshop, our Big Show with drama facilitator Fiona Forrest, and a community picnic at the close of the year. The Winter Sports Club is organising another great gala on Labour Day, too. Staff will have a teacher only day to firm up the plans for 2004 (and the students still think a student only day should be in there too, no planning required!).

The school has received its Staffing Entitlement Notice for 2004, which indicates that the Ministry will be funding 1.3 teachers, a drop from 2.5. Essentially this means that we will become a one-classroom, one-teacher school. The Teaching Principal will be released from the classroom 1.5 days each week by a Principal Release Teacher. The staffing is based on the school roll (22), which has stayed below the threshold of 25 children all year, and is projected to be 18 in 2004. **The school Board will hold a community meeting as soon as possible for any community members who are interested in the issue. (Date, time and venue to be advised through the school newsletter, and via the Community Noticeboard). In particular, the Board would like to encourage as many school and pre-school parents as possible to come along. (Babysitters may wish to keep this night free!)** At the meeting the Board will provide background information, discuss the issues, explain the actions taken by the staff and Board to date, and aim to establish the way forward.

### **RAKIURA SEA SCOUTS**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Rakiura Sea Scout Group will be held at 7.30pm Monday 3rd November at Trail Park Hall. All interested people are invited to attend.**

**David Squire - Group Leader**



**Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust**

If you have read our articles in Stewart Island News this year, you will be aware that we have been awarded some funding by the Ministry for the Environment to set up an Environment Centre on Stewart Island. This Centre will promote activities that enhance our community's environment through education and advocacy, and will be staffed from time to time.

This year it will have a focus on recycling and related activities, and try to smooth the process of change our community is about to undergo from dump to Resource Recovery. The Trust aims to work with local people and businesses to find practical solutions to the issues that are bound to arise as we alter the way we deal with our waste.

Glowing Sky have made a generous offer of space in their shop, and we plan to open the Environment Centre (EC) there before the dump closes. However, we would like to hear from any other organisation or business who would like to host the EC on a either a permanent or a temporary basis. While the displays will be movable, they will be professionally designed to occupy / work in with the space we have available at the moment, and we do want to have a permanent location on an ongoing basis. The overall look we aim to achieve will be smart and professional, with straightforward, plain English presentation. The Trust would like to reach as many locals and visitors as possible.

Perhaps our displays will tie in with a theme or event your organisation will be running, or simply be a positive way to fill a space in other community buildings. If your organisation / business is interested in hosting our displays, please get in touch with us. Similarly, if you have anything you would like the EC to display or add to their displays, or if you would like to donate some time or funds, just let us know.

*Jed Lewis (Chair) & Chris Visser 494; Sandy King 102; Fiona Hall 440; Jim Barrett 040; Rodney Hansen 512; Dil Belworthy 249.*

**GUNNER INGLORIOUS**

A "monumental classic dramatic production" featuring actor Michael Burton. Performed throughout New Zealand to rave reviews after opening in the Beehive, Wellington.

**SUNDAY 02 NOVEMBER 8.00pm COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**DOOR SALES \$10.00 BAR OPEN 7.30pm**

*Toi Rakiura Arts Trust in conjunction with Michael Burton and Lightweight Theatre*

**Subscription Request**

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**Ten issues to: Oban P O Box (\$20)\* or to NZ address (\$25)\* delete one**

**Please enclose cheque made out to "Stewart Island News" with this form.**

## SOUTH AFRICA by Ann Pullen

Did you know that Elephants have 70,000 muscles in their trunk or that they eat up to 250kg of dry grass a day? Or even that a Hartebeest can run 45km an hour soon after birth? No neither did I until I had this wonderful trip to South Africa. Yes, South Africa, land of sunshine and warmth, (well that is what I thought). But like everywhere, they get their bad weather too. We arrived in Cape Town on the 20<sup>th</sup> August to snow on the mountains and a temperature of 6degs C, so needless to say there were a few extra clothes unpacked fairly quickly. (I think that was colder than when I left Stewart Island, but never mind the welcome was warmth itself). There was a group of 14 of us, all Southlanders except two ring-ins from Otago, plus our very experienced South African bus driver, who never ceased to impress us with his knowledge of the country.

We started off with a few days in Cape Town itself going to the tourist spots of Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, and the wonderful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, which are on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. We explored the Cape Peninsula National Park, where we saw the first of a big variety of animals both large and small, the most fascinating were the Baboons, who were into everything, they would be a real nightmare to have around, but for us they were quite photogenic.

Heading off up the eastern coast along the Garden Route, where we could easily have been going up the Kaikoura Coast in some places, we stopped to do a bit of whale watching, but part of the interest was "people watching". All along the coast they have a big problem of Paua poaching, so not much changes wherever you are in the world, though I think their problems are a lot bigger than NZ.

We stayed at National Parks all the time, the big difference over there is that the Parks have to be self funding for the greater part. The economy of the country does not allow a lot of funding, so inside the Parks they have accommodation, where a lot of their funding comes from. There are Concessionaires who operate shop/s and restaurant/s in the park, with a percentage going to the parks. Another way they make money is to sell surplus animals to private game parks, plus everyone pays an entrance fee to get into the parks.

The most elegant animals in my opinion were the Giraffes, they are just so beautiful, with the next in line the Zebras. There is no doubt that the Elephant is the boss!!, as we found out after being held up on the road for 1 hour not being able to get past. He definitely ruled that day, and caused quite a traffic congestion in the park, until a Park Ranger came along and showed *him* who was boss. (I know there were a few fast beating hearts that afternoon as, if the Elephant had decided to, he could have made things a bit different). The animals with most attitude and character I think are the Wildebeest, Rhinos, and Water Buffalo. As for the Lions and Cheetah, they are just great big Pussycats!!! (but very much to be avoided)

We travelled the equivalent of seven times the length of New Zealand in total in four and a half weeks, covering a variety of country. I am sure there are more gum trees in South Africa than there are in Australia!! They grow hectares of them for harvesting, for wood chips and posts. **Continued...**

Things that NZ could learn from South Africa - firstly you have to buy plastic bags or shopping bags from supermarkets. They encourage you to re-use, to try and cut down on plastic blowing around (there is plenty of that in places). On roads coming up to a stop sign they have what they call “rumble bars” which are slightly uneven strips of tar seal. These rumble your wheels when you go over them to indicate there is a stop sign coming up, so you don't just keep going while having a wee dream. It certainly make you alert when the rumbling starts. They have tollgates on a lot of their heavily-used roads (Auckland would be a good starter here). The speed limit is 120km an hour on most roads (not sure that is such a good idea) but they also have a minimum speed on some roads, so traffic cannot be held up. It is an offence to go less than 100 on some roads.

I could write so much more, but the editor might “abridge” the article if I go on. All I can say is that it was the most wonderful holiday, and roll on next holidays. The exciting thing is looking forward to them nearly as much as actually going and then reflecting on them - three holidays in one!!

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### **STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD by Colleen Dawson (Area Officer)**

A special meeting of the Community Board on 23 September 2003 was held to consider the contract for Recycling and Refuse Collections and the Waste Recovery Centre operations. As a result of the meeting it was recommended to the Southland District Council that the contract be awarded to Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority for a four year period as from 1 December 2003.

The proposed museum extensions included an improved reception area as well as an attached but separate Area Office. Since the decision was made not to proceed with the building extensions the issues of providing a more functional area office are being looked at. Part of the consideration will include whether what is needed can be provided in the existing location or whether other sites are available or preferable. There will be on-going investigation and discussion.

Submissions have been received regarding the concepts for long term development at Golden Bay. It was agreed that Stage 1 be addressed with a timber wall being the least costly therefore the preferred option. A lot of people will be pleased to hear that an area will be signed for a turning bay.

A study of the effects of tourism at Stewart Island, Kaikoura, Queenstown Lakes and Rotorua carried out for the Ministry of Economic Development shows that Stewart Island is a special case facing problems of funding capital works to cater for tourism-related demand. An issue was identified for small communities with high tourism flows in expanding their water and sewerage infrastructure to meet the increasing tourism demands. The proposed Health Act Amendment Bill is likely to require mandatory compliance with the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (2000). This will have differing impacts.

Staff from Telecom and their consultants have advised that cell phone coverage is to be established on the island. Demand for mobile phone coverage is obvious and has been ongoing. If you are going to consider investing in a cell phone we have been advised that the site is only “027” compatible. The area best served will be the established township and outlying urban areas. ■

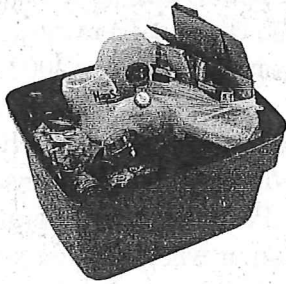
## From the Southland District Council

### Congratulation's Stewart Island! You're going Kerbside!

Stewart Island will be leading the way for all of Southland when Kerbside **Recycling**, Food-scrap and Refuse Bag Collections all start at the beginning of December. This follows consultation on the island over the last two years and is the implementation of the waste management strategy for the island.

The Braggs Bay Refuse site will be closed to refuse at the end of December so plan to have a good clean up before then. As you will be aware, the Southland District Council has built a Waste Recovery Centre at Horseshoe Point Road (formerly Johnstone Road). The Centre will be up and running by December, giving residents facilities for dropping off recyclables, greenwaste and refuse.

60 litre recycling bins, 20 litre food-scrap buckets and official pre-paid biodegradable refuse Bags will be available for distribution in late November.



So now instead of putting everything into the tip

- separate your recyclables into the green bin,
- use the food scrap bucket,
- put only what remains in the pre-paid refuse bag (you can buy more if you need them)

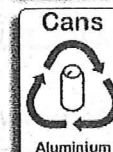
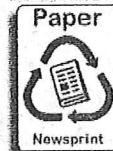
Put them at your gate and they'll be collected each week

Kerbside Recycling and food-scrap collections will take place the same day as your Refuse Collection – Tuesdays.

#### **Do the Right thing:**

#### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**

Look out for more information on what's happening about the township in your mailboxes or you can contact us on 218 7259 or visit our website: [www.southlanddcwaste.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddcwaste.govt.nz)



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Please forward your contributions (*preferably by email as an MSWord™ attachment*)

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