

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

October 2004 \$2

Celebrating Stewart Island

## Oban Librarian Retires After Thirty-five Years



After a celebratory lunch at the South Seas Hotel: from left – Kerry Squire, Margaret Rooney, Lynda Hodge (Winton), Jess Kany, Pat King, Sue Ford, Sharon Laing (Winton) and Jenny Gell.

After 35 years continuous service at the Stewart Island library, Pat King has decided it's time to retire. One of only three Oban librarians during the 20th century (the other two passed away before retiring), Pat wanted some time for herself and husband Merv.

However, she will still be on the roster and will help out when needed. Replacement Librarian, Jess Kany, has taken over the reins and is looking forward to meeting the Island's avid readers.

To mark Pat's retirement, two staff from the Southland District Support Library in Winton travelled to Oban last week. Library Manager Lynda Hodge and Support Service Librarian Sharon Laing braved Foveaux Strait, both admitted being poor sailors, to attend a lunch at the South Seas Hotel.

Surrounded by local library assistants, Pat enjoyed passing on anecdotes about the "old days" - some of which weren't so good.

For example, the new library building is only five years old and is attached to the Stewart Island Community Centre. During construction, the library camped in the playcentre but previously occupied a dark, damp and dusty corner of the old town hall.

The SDC now funds new book purchases but prior to this they could only buy one book at a time as the overdue fines were saved up. Donations of books were (and still are) much appreciated.

The book collection has now been catalogued onto computer. This makes finding books much easier than the old manual catalogue system. The computer work took many hundreds of hours of volunteer labour over last winter.

At the lunch Pat was presented with a gift from her assistants and spring flowers from Margaret Rooney's garden. Thank you Pat, the community hopes you enjoy your retirement.

## MUSEUM NOTES

**A.G.M.** – was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, and the following office bearers were appointed:

<b>Patron:</b>	Ted Rooney.
<b>Chair:</b>	Lorraine Hansen.
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lee Wadds.
<b>Curator:</b>	Elaine Hamilton.
<b>Trustees:</b>	Margaret Rooney, Kerry Squire, Furhana Ahmed, Jane Wilson, Peter Goomes, Alan Wadds, Phillip Smith & David Bolland.
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kirsten Hicks.
<b>Auditors:</b>	McIntyre Dick & Partners.

### **Boat of the Month:**

### **WATERLILY**

Part One.

A vessel with a long history in Southern waters, **WATERLILY** was built in Auckland in 1865 by Henderson & Spraggon. She originally measured 45'6" x 15'6" x 6'3", and was described as a "bluff bowed cutter". One story has it that during the Maori Wars she was trading about the Coromandel Peninsula and up to the Bay of Islands, but her early history is rather obscure. She is listed as a relief mail carrier from Stewart Island to Bluff and return in the period 1881-82, but was first registered at the Port of Invercargill on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1897.

From 1897 she carried fish to Bluff from the first freezer at Pegasus, and also worked the Fiordland area for several owners and skippers – among them were Ernst Jurss, John Eadie, Urwin & Roderique, George Cross and his wife, McCallum & Co, and Southland Sea Products Ltd (a company started by Harry Roderique in 1929).

She was known when under Harry Roderique's command for the variety of cargoes she carried and the trips she made. It was said of her:- "She's never stuck", and "There's nothing pretty about her except her sails". In 1913 Harry Roderique had her put ashore on Leask's slipway with instructions to "Take her off by the nose and shape her up a bit!" She was lengthened to 66' 3" x 16' beam and a 20HP engine installed.

Apart from her regular trips to convey muttonbirders and their gear south to the islands and their return at the end of the season, some of her other notable jobs were:

- In 1913 carried W. Macquarrie, his wife, and farming gear from Bluff to Mason's Bay when they took over the Kilbride Run.
- Ran passenger trips on Bluff Harbour on Regatta Days and other holidays.
- Took two heavy boilers to Ruapuke for the flax mill being set up there.
- Carried the polished granite headstone that marks the grave of King Topi Patuki on Ruapuke Island.
- Carried timber from Maori Beach to Bravo Island, and later to Prices' Inlet for the Norwegian whaling base. She also carried the last load of timber from the Maori Beach mill to Invercargill.
- In January 1923 she took Wm S Todd (grandfather of our present Bill Todd) and a party on a cruising holiday to the West Coast sounds.
- In 1925 she carried a circus to Halfmoon Bay
- In 1928 she carried large wooden casks (from Ocean Beach Freezing Works) to Paterson Inlet for the salvage of whale oil from the **C A LARSEN**.
- Towards the end of 1931 she was sold for 225 pounds to a group of young men ("old boys" of Christ's College, Christchurch), and embarked on the final stage of her long career, which must wait until next month!
- See you then with Part 2! Merv King.

## Book Review

Out of Tune (Classification – NZ Young Adult Fiction)

Joanna Orwin

Longacre Press, Dunedin ISBN1877135909

How many works of fiction are based here, on Stewart Island? There can't be many, but here's one to add to the list. Just published, this is a work of fiction involving Stewart Island's Shetland settlement at Port William.

It swings between a modern story of Jaz, a young woman in Christchurch, facing the usual late teenage challenges, and her great-great-great-grandmother, Maggie, who was one of the Shetlanders in the unsuccessful settlement in 1873. Maggie's story is told in a mix of diary readings and narrative – the style of writing in the diary takes a little getting used to, but it's a minor quibble, as the story flows very well, and of course the local element makes it even more riveting. Maggie and her family are fictional characters, but all the others mentioned in the book are real. Their story is based closely, says the author, on what actually happened and on private family stories. (Check out the locals in the acknowledgments at the rear of the book!) It's really interesting having a sense of local place in the book – we know that the barracks that were built for the settlers are now the site of the tramping hut at Port William, but there's a fascination in reading the details of what happened, and trying to place them on land that we've walked over.

What's more interesting is that the writer's skill means that there isn't the cringe factor that's sometimes found in New Zealand books – it's polished and well written. It deals with Jaz's problems too, in a way that reads well, and it ties the two narrative threads together without being forced. Despite my local interest in Maggie's story, there was just as much anticipation in the outcome of Jaz's story.

Thanks to the publishers and SIN, there is now a copy of this book at the local library – put your name down for it!

(NB. The reviewer wished to remain anonymous. Longacre Press of Dunedin kindly donated a copy of this book to the Oban Library. Ed.)

Out of Tune is available for purchase from The Fernery



**This month Bev and Les Cowie receive the chocolates in recognition of the great landscaping and tidy up work done after the construction of their motel.**

**The prize this month was kindly donated by Seaview Water Taxi.**

**You Have the Key to Road Safety on Stewart Island**  
**We Can Help You Fund It**

Many community groups have great road safety ideas but are often unsure where to go for help or funding to make their ideas a reality. This is where the Community Road Safety Programme (CRSP) can help. This scheme is administered by the Road Safety Southland Charitable Trust and offers assistance with funding for community based road safety initiatives.

Applicants are encouraged to be creative. To receive more information on the CRSP please contact Jane Ballantyne, Road Safety Southland, ph (03) 2149781 or email [jane.ballantyne@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:jane.ballantyne@southlanddc.govt.nz)

GARDEN CIRCLE

Jenny Gell

Floral Art Display

Garden Circle were delighted when Dorothy Finlay accepted their invitation to come to the island on the 30<sup>th</sup> September for a Floral Art Display. It was held at the Fire Station hall and attended by approximately 30 people. The greenery for the displays was mainly from island gardens or bush.

We were treated to four completely different arrangements, which were raffled off at the end of the session. Everyone enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

October Meeting

The meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jenny Gell, where we welcomed back Isobelle Broughton.

Competition results:

Flower Arrange:	1. Raylene Waddell	2. Anita Geeson	3. Lil Skipper
Yellow Flower:	1. Lil Skipper	2. Jenny Gell	3. Nancy Schofield
Blossom:	1. Jayne Wilson	2. Anita Geeson	3. Nancy Schofield

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (Labour Weekend), Garden Circle will have a stall with plants for sale outside the shop from 11.00.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, the Garden Circle are again bringing Diacks Nurseries over to the island and will have their plants for sale outside the Pavilion at 12.30 till 3.0.

Towards the end of November it is hoped to have a Dypapuea (plant pot) making day with everyone welcome. Please check Notice Board for details.

The November meeting will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> at Isobelle Broughton's.

Greetings all islanders and visitors, a generally busy month since I last wrote but I'm pleased to report that most islanders are behaving well! This edition I want to cover couple of well-worn topics on the island but nonetheless still relevant, especially with cribbies coming back for the summer.

It may sound like banging an old drum but clearly some still need reminders. **VEHICLE CONDITION.** Have a look at your car. Is it the worst on the island? Is it one of the worst? Does it have a warrant? Could it get a warrant? ... The law states it **NEEDS** a warrant. If does not have one or would not get one it should **NOT** be on the road.

A warrant is not a fashion accessory like a 'blow off valve' or a 'big bore' exhaust for those with certain insecurities, or even say a 'fluffy dice' if you hail from an earlier era where cars were bigger, slower and a lot cooler. It is the **LAW**. It is to make things safe. If you do not have one, please get one very soon. I know how many previous warnings have been given in this regard so I don't intend to go too far down that track. It is also unfair on those who are law abiding in these respects. They just get it done as they should - but they **do** avoid stupid fines. Spend the money fixing the problem, not paying a fine. If the car is in a category all of it's own, please see Dave at the Resource & Recovery centre.

A problem at the moment appears to be faulty exhausts. Again, if your vehicle is suffering from this ailment, please get it fixed. It is not legal as it is. Be warned. I will be looking more closely at vehicles. One area I'm hot on is trailers. Check the coupling to make sure it is safe and also the state of the safety chain. **ALWAYS** put the safety chain on. If a trailer (any type) is not safe, do not even think of using it. I have been to one very tragic fatal crash where a trailer has come off and killed a pedestrian. In that case charges of Manslaughter were laid. This is one area where the "she'll be right" attitude is totally unacceptable.

On a more positive note, I would like to put in a plug for the local **Victim Support** group. Victim Support is an independent voluntary community group run throughout NZ. It is supported by and has close links to NZ Police. The volunteers are trained to assist any time a victim of an emergency or a crime needs some support. In times of crisis, police rely on heavily on their help. The island has such a group and the local contact person is Gwen Neave.

Gwen is compiling a list of names of people currently involved and also any new interested people. The group comes under the umbrella of the Invercargill branch. Vetting of a volunteer's suitability and some training will be happening soon. If you want to know more, please contact Gwen on 2191385 or myself on 2190020.

**Search and Rescue.** Not a great deal has been done for a while here and a 'round table' will be organised soon. I will contact persons whose names I have and we'll look to how we can keep things running efficiently as we crank up for the busy season.

That's all from me for this month and of course all our thoughts go out to the Cave family at this difficult time of their tragic loss.

Regards  
Tod Hollebon  
Stewart Island Police

My sincere apologies to anyone who enjoys a good ballad!

***Brent and Kari, Three Weeks Away***

The soft, gold sand was calling  
in the quiet of the night.  
At five the dark was falling-  
It's a mere three hour flight.

So over to Australia  
where sun and sand are rife,  
To see the animalia  
And break from Island life.

The Queensland coast was gorgeous  
(well the bits that you could see).  
The hotels aren't the shortest,  
the name **Sunshine Coast** is a tease.

We climbed the Glass House Mountains,  
had a feast of Queensland fruit.  
Where the juice would run out fountains,  
down our shirts and in our boots.

We avoided Queensland wines,  
I'd suggest you do the same;  
The air's no good for vines,  
tastes like juice from sugar canes.

When we'd had our sunshine quota  
and we'd seen our friends be wed,  
And we'd made our bellies bloated  
from the things which they'd been fed,

We hopped aboard a plane  
for the place where grapes grow best  
to see old friends again,  
and give Gran's cookie-buns a test

We had one great big bash  
and used it to excuse  
If we didn't get to dash  
round more houses than we'd choose.

Then across to Melbourne city  
(How well we know the way)  
And it seemed an awful pity  
that again we couldn't stay.

Course before we left we offered  
David's shop our best opinions  
From the glasses that we quaffered  
Of their quality sauvignons!

On to Taranaki next  
With scarce a pause for thought,  
With our bodies crying "REST!"  
Yet our schedule reading naught.

Ah the soft, sweet smell of silage  
greeted us that first day's morn  
(I like to give it mileage-  
just coz that's where Brent was born!)

How amazing is the landscape  
looking out to those great peaks;  
Yet how much of it the farms take,  
when we're used to seeing trees.

And it's nice to see his folks  
and Brent's sisters and their crew;  
All the laughter it provokes  
when I call them sisters too.

But we had to say a farewell,  
yet again we're glad we came,  
Now the boys can cope with travel  
they will have to do the same.

Lo the voyage, back down through it,  
funny how my heart felt lifted  
For it's south towards our Stewart  
That my thoughts of late had drifted;

Seems there always comes a time  
quite despite the ones we love,  
That we're nearly out our minds  
from the city's push and shove.

Memories as we fly along,  
silent, save the engine's drone.  
Then that first-heard kaka's song,  
And I know that we are home.

## Penguin Nesting Boxes

Little Blue Penguins are gearing up for the nests they will be making this season. Many will have already found their perfect site, however some are still prospecting for their ideal location. Little Blues nest in hollows in the ground, such as a rock crevice or rotten log, some even just under a bit of driftwood. They lay 1-2 small, white eggs and sit on them for about 7 weeks. After as little as 1-3 weeks, chicks are left unguarded in the daytime, and after a further 3-4 weeks, they only see their parents to be fed (typical teenagers?)

Little Blues have been suffering over the last decade, as feral cats, possums and rats will all try to eat them, their chicks or their eggs. The Trust has been trapping these introduced pests on Ackers Point for the past year, and sign of them has dropped dramatically. As a result, we are expecting numbers of birds like little blues to increase with every breeding season. Monitoring nests is a key method for learning about our (and penguin) success rates.

Alan Booth has kindly donated 10 nesting boxes to the Trust for use around Ackers Point. The boxes are natural, raw timber and to a penguin, seem just like any other hollow. A portion of the lid allows quick and low-impact access to the nest to let us know if eggs hatch, chicks grow and fledge or if there are any signs of chicks being taken by pests. Over the years we are expecting to learn some very valuable information about this population of penguins.

Our sincere thanks to Alan for the generous donation.

## Ackers Point in Flower and Fruit

We were astounded by the change that's taken place over the last two months, during a recent Trust walk to the point. Fresh green shoots and flowers cover the fuchsia (a welcome sight compared to the old possum-munched tips); berries and nuts adorn several of the red matipou and putaputaweta (marble leaf) and everywhere are the sounds of tui fighting over the rights to a particular tree. Here are two photos we took while we were there.



## Tally so far

Finally, we've reached the century - 100 possums removed from the Ackers Point section of the Habitat Restoration area! We've also removed 119 rats (although to begin with we kept missing rats as feral cats would eat them out of the traps first) and 6 feral cats.

Expansion of the area has begun, with the first new traps put in place last week.

For more information about the Trust or the project, visit [www.glowingsky.co.nz](http://www.glowingsky.co.nz) and click on the Habitat Restoration Project Icon. You can also write to the Project Manager, Kari Beaven c/o the Post Office, Stewart Island or phone 2191 533.

## A Contribution from Margaret Hopkins

(If you have to explain to your children what a Proctologist does – contact Margaret, not the editor please!)

*"A room without books, is like a body without a soul."- Cicero*

The Washington Post has recently published its annual contest in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for various words. And the winners this year are:-

1. Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), Impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absent-mindedly answer the door in your night-gown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Testicle (n.), a humorous question in an exam.

12. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified demeanour assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you.

13. Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddish expressions

14. Pokemon (n), a Jamaican proctologist.

15. Frisbeetaritarianism (n), The belief that, when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck there.

16. Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.

### Ship to Shore New Hours for Summer

Please note these new opening hours will apply after Labour Weekend:-

Monday to Thursday – 7.30am to 7.00pm  
Friday – 7.30am to 7.30pm  
Saturday

### Toi Rakiura Arts Trust Stone Symposium Weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October

This labour weekend will see Stewart Island hosting a symposium and workshop in sculpting Oamaru stone.

Five professional sculptors will be resident on the island for the weekend. They will be assisting the ten locals who have enrolled for the workshop.

To be held at the school, locals and visitors are welcome to call in and watch both the artists and workshop participants working in this fascinating medium.

The finished works will be available for sale by negotiation with the sculptors.



## Wandering dogs kill penguins on Stewart Island

Four little blue penguins have been killed by wandering dogs on Stewart Island since they started to come ashore to nest this month. Despite Department of Conservation Rangers advising dog owners of the risks their dogs could pose to little blue penguins and the consequences of allowing their dogs to wander unsupervised, after two dead penguins were found by Ranger Phred Dobbins, yet another two were found dead at Horseshoe Bay late last week.

"The most worrying thought is that the four birds found are likely to be only the tip of the iceberg. Dogs are likely to have killed many more that have not been found", said Brent Beaven, Stewart Island's Biodiversity Manager.

Little blue penguins have just started their nesting season and have been coming up on beaches in large numbers. The little blue penguins are just that - little and blue. They are the smallest penguin in the world, stand about 35 centimetres in height and weigh around one kilogram.

"It is disappointing that a few out of control dogs are making a meal of these birds", said Brent Beaven. "Dog owners need to be responsible for their pets and not let them wander around the island unsupervised otherwise this problem will just continue and more penguins will be mauled and die as a consequence".

Little blue penguins are protected by the Wildlife Act, which is administered by the Department of Conservation.

### Box of Memories by Jo Riksem

It's never a waste of time to be with members of your family. These are precious moments that often we don't get a second chance at. I took a big box of photos that had been sitting around gathering dust and decided to sort them out as to who and what they were. Then putting them into marked envelopes with the name of the person or place on it. This took me to my Mom's home and we started to wade through the box. We even had an envelope for ones we couldn't identify in case someone else came along who could.

Many of the photos brought back memories to my Mom and, in turn, brought back stories of the people and places. I quickly made notes of things as she related them to me. There were lots of laughs and a few tears shed, but all in all a wonderful time. No, the box of photos isn't finished with yet but then it allows for more times together, which I look forward to.

Don't let the memories slip away until there is no-one to tell you about them. They're all so precious - as well as the quality time spent together.

## Basin Award

**After a very noticeable absence, the Basin is back!**

This month, Friday Cavanagh and Wayne Bowman are the well-deserving recipients of this prestigious award.

After parking the ferry for the night, they (allegedly) jumped into the dinghy and started the outboard.

After a few seconds the motor started to splutter. Why, one might ask? Because, apparently they had left the fuel tank behind on the ferry and after the petrol in the fuel line was used up – well, what else would you expect?

“Never mind, me hearties, we will row ashore”.

Oops! Only one oar aboard.

Must have been an expensive night in the bar, Guys!

**The Kai Kart is open again for the summer season.**

Hours are approx 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm at the moment.

Telephone orders 2191225.

More news to come!!

Stewart Island News is usually published monthly as material permits. If you wish to send a contribution, please email to [sdovey@es.co.nz](mailto:sdovey@es.co.nz) preferably as an MsWord™ attachment.

Short articles can be posted to the editor: Stewart Dovey, P O Box 87, Stewart Island.

Deadline for November edition is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

If you wish to have this newsletter posted to you or a friend please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P O Box 87, Stewart Island. For ten issues posted to an Oban address, the cost is \$20. For a New Zealand address, the cost is \$25

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