

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2006

\$2

Well seasoned fishermen, renowned for stoicism in the face of severe meteorological events, refer to high wind as "a bit of weather," or "a bit of a breeze." But recent October gales blew all that understatement away, and everyone has seemed duly impressed. Locals have described the winds as "crazy" and "screaming" and say the seas have been "smoking" when Nor'westers whipped spumes of water into the air and raced them wildly across the surface. This sight was beautiful when viewed from the calm of the Hotel, and alarming when viewed from the 10-seater plane en route to Oban. The plane turns back once in a blue moon, and this month saw it turn back for Invercargill, unable to land at the airstrip. For two days, ferry and plane passengers were buzzing with tales of particularly exciting rides.

Despite the sometime tumultuous weather, visitors have been strolling about; huge numbers of tuis and other native birds have been bouncing and singing amongst the foliage, and many a morning we've woken to



After Saturday night Pub talk (who bombed whose pots, who gave who the marks, who's gonna downtown who at the pool table, and so on and so on...) some local fishermen took to the seas on Sunday to sort out a couple of entangled craypots and drink a hair of the dog or two. If only our world leaders could settle their disputes with a Foveaux fishing trip....

bright sunshine and glassy seas. The wind can scream all it likes, wreak havoc with boat-sheds and moorings and wash-

ing, but it can't stop Spring.

Sirocco the kakapo has been strutting his stuff on Ulva Island and will do so until 23rd Oct. — if you haven't seen him yet, make enquiries at DOC.

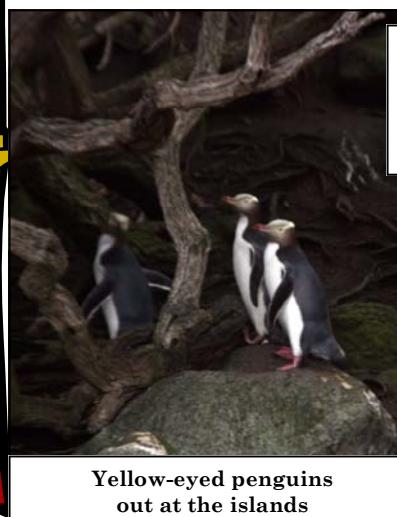
We look forward to seeing the Community Players strut their stuff in this year's production, "Snow White," on 20-21 Oct at the Community Centre.

the Stewart Island Players
Proudly Present...

**SNOW WHITE
the PURDIEST
GAL in the WEST**

Directed by Gwen Neave

Fri 20th Oct. 8 p.m.
Sat 21st Oct. 8 p.m.
\$15 Adults; \$5 Kids
at the Community Centre
Refreshments available
A Must-See! Hilarious! Don't Miss!



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Boat-of-the-Month:

CRUSADER



Photos: Evan Penniall

Launched from Morrison's Beach, Bluff, in 1952, she was built by Lew ("Boun") Dawson on a section belonging to "Granny" Neilson. In return for the use of her section - for which she would accept no payment - she was asked to choose the name, and decided on **CRUSADER**.

The boat initially fished at Pegasus with a three man crew of "Boun", Bill, & "Looty" Dawson. She had no freezer or winches, and they hung their corned meat in the rigging and pulled the anchor by hand! Later a freezer was fitted and the boat would be fished as far as Milford Sound, where she was unloaded and stored up for the trip back to Bluff. On one of these trips "Boun" Dawson came out in the truck and was injured in an accident on the way back in to Milford. He died from complications on 7th June 1955.

The boat's history is a bit hazy from here on. In 1959 she was driven ashore in Easy Harbour when skippered by Boyd Marshall, was refloated and taken to Horseshoe Bay where she sank alongside the wharf. She was pumped out and towed to Bluff by the **WESTWARD HO**.

In May 1960, with Alan Bates as skipper, she hit a rock at the west end of Ulva Island, was beached and her passengers rescued by Ernie Hopkins in the **SEA FURY**.

Alan Bates had charge of her based at Halfmoon Bay for the period 1960 - 65, and then Danny McQuarrie took over until she was sent to the Chathams.

While at the Chathams she was damaged when lying alongside the Waitangi wharf, and when under tow to Port Chalmers for repairs she was cast adrift during bad weather and lost on 4th May 1969.

CRUSADER was notable for the fact that her stem was off plumb, and she was dubbed "Old Shakes" in her later days!

Printed courtesy of the King family

MUSEUM NEWS

by Loraine Hansen

**Rakiura Heritage Trust
Annual General Meeting
Chairpersons Report**

When I first came to write this report I felt slightly disheartened as our accomplishments for the year did not seem to be many, but on reflection we have had a really busy year. Visitor numbers are on much of a par with last year and we are still getting a lot of school groups visiting the museum. A special mention here of Ronnie Waddell who takes responsibility for speaking to these groups and showing them around our museum. He does an excellent job.

Still slow progress on the building of the new museum but we can take heart from the many positive comments about our present location and the clever use of the available space we have to show our collection to its best advantage.

In May I attended a course at the Southland Museum on the Care and Preservation of Collections. It was very interesting and informative, and I did so enjoy meeting people from the other small museums in the Southland District. I feel we are managing our collection very well and act responsibly in all aspects of its care.

Our new Rack Card is clearly at the printing stage, a positive move at advertising ourselves to the wider community, and hopefully we will see an

increase in door numbers both from tourists and the local population. Furhana has been solely responsible for this project and we sincerely thank her for all of her work.

We will soon have our new computer, printers, scanner and digital camera installed and operating — what a difference this equipment will make to the day to day running of the museum. It will make for easier record keeping and retrieval, answering geological enquiries, and printing of photos. A grant of \$5,000 from the Southern Trust and one of \$3,000 from the Southland Community Trust enabled us to purchase this equipment.

Our secretary Lee has received a grant from the Heritage Trust to fund video and audio equipment to enable her to document the stories of our older Stewart Island residents — we look forward to hearing them.

Kerry has undertaken to complete the work towards the publishing of Merv's book. This has turned out to be time-consuming, and we are greatly indebted to Kerry for this commitment. Also thanks to Tony Gomez who spent considerable time digitally upgrading the photos for the book.

We have had the outside of the museum building and roof painted, a job well done by Noel Pasco. Don Goodhue has repaired the leaking roof and the inside ceiling. A new heating unit has been installed, not without a few problems, but it is working well now and heating the museum to a required

standard.

There are many people who keep this museum running efficiently and with so many other demands on our time, grateful thanks to all who help in any way.

To Colleen Dawson who combined being the counter person for the museum each weekday with her busy job for the District Council, sincere thanks — constant interruption cannot be easy to deal with.

Thanks to Lee who has been extremely busy this year with other community roles, but still works hard in her position as secretary.

For all the volunteers on the roster, thank you — it is not always easy to remember or fit in our personal arrangements to meet the demand.

Special thanks to Margaret Rooney who tirelessly works behind the scenes, answering the 30 to 40 genealogical enquiries that come in as well as carrying out the many small tasks that keep the museum running smoothly.

Thanks to our curator Elaine without whose work so much important Stewart Island history would not be recorded and kept for future generations.

To all the Trustees: thanks for your input and I hope you will continue to enjoy your time with the Trust, and a big welcome to our newest Trustee Jo Riksem.

**RAKIURA HERITAGE TRUST
(RAKIURA MUSEUM)
POSITION OPENING:**

An opening for the part time paid position of Secretary / Treasurer to the above Trust has occurred. The position is for an initial period of one year; a review will be held after that time. The applicant would need to be familiar with secretarial and accounting procedure as well as computer literate re spreadsheets / banking.

They must be able to attend the monthly meetings of the Trust, held on the fourth

Thursday of each month from 1.30pm-4pm.

The hourly rate is \$15 per hour, hours flexible apart from monthly meeting and weekly banking. Hours approximately 10-15 per month.

Persons interested in applying for this position send C.V. to:

**The Secretary
Rakiura Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 114
Stewart Island
by 25th October 2006**



ban Globetrotter off-island adventures

Ann Pullen and Pat King recently journeyed across the ditch. Following is Ann's account of their adventures in Oz:

OUR AUSTRALIAN HOLIDAY

As September came close, Pat King and I were watching the weather very closely as we were due to leave the island in one of those real bad patches of weather, (we all know what it is like when the weather is not playing the game!!), after a bit of deliberation decided to leave a day early just in case!!, and it turned out the right thing to do.....

We had decided on a trip to Western Australia to see the wild flowers, it is something that was on the list for us both, and this seemed a good year to venture to the heat of Australia in September.... Well..... things weren't quite what we expected, we certainly got more cold windy (very windy and at times like the wind was coming from Antarctica) weather than what we had hoped for, but we did have some amazing experiences, and just a couple of hot days, with more than a few laughs along the way.

We started out on a coach tour on 3rd September The wild flowers were a bit disap-

pointing because of the unusual season, little rain, but cooler and windy, although what we did see were very special indeed, and we were lucky enough to be in one village that was having a wild flower display, and in one room we saw a wonderful variety of all kinds of native flowers which was an amazing site, and we considered ourselves lucky.

Apart from flowers we did have the opportunity to see a

variety of other things. Our trip took us north as far as Monkey Mia in Shark bay, there was a number of very interesting places to visit in

Shark Bay, the Sub-Tidal Stromatolites growing in a hypersaline environment, these Stromatolites are the most renowned living Stromatolites in the world, they started forming 3 billion years ago and are a very fragile sys-

tem, so a very effective walkway takes visitors right to them without damaging them.



Female grass tree



Stromatolites

Not far away was the beach, which had millions and millions of small shells of the bivalve "Fragum erugatum", which are up to 10 meters deep in places, and nature has cemented them together, some years ago these were cut into slabs and used for building.

After heading back to Perth we continued south down as far as Cape Leeuwin, there were some beautiful places in the Margaret River area. We continued along the South coast to Esperance where we were very interested in the wind power system for the town.

Kalgoorlie was very interesting with all the mining, and the "Super Pit" an open cast mine where they are mining 24 hours a day and employ 1000 people. The pit is 3.2km long, 1.3km wide and 300m deep, it is still being lengthened and widened and will reach a depth of 500m. The big trucks working in the pit looked like toy trucks, but

they were far from it, being 166 tonnes and had a fuel tank of 3,7900 litres and travel at a max speed of 55km an hour, each truck carries 225 tonnes of rock per load, and if lucky each truck will have 400 – 500 grms of gold per load.

Back in Perth we had a real eye-opener of an experience,

(Continued on page 5)

Ayr Street
P O Box 187
Stewart Island
Telephone & Fax (03) 2191 477
Email: stewart.island@xtra.co.nz

*Stewart Island
Community Centre Trust
Stewart Island
Community Centre Trust*

Whats Happening...

New Centre Manager: as you may be aware, the Centre Manager's position has been filled by Jodie

Gallichan. Jodie is teaching at Rugrats as well, therefore the new office hours for the Community Centre will be:

Tues, Wed & Thurs 2.00 – 4.00pm

If you haven't already met Jodie, please feel free to call into the Centre and introduce yourself!

Rakiura Recycling – we could do better

by Chris Visser

I recently wrote a submission to the select committee considering a new bill to encourage Waste Minimisation. In this submission – I pointed out that Stewart Is-

land currently diverts around 30% of its waste stream from landfill (which was pretty good I thought). In the latest newsletter from the Ministry for the Environment the winner of this years “Community Action for the Environment” award went to a group in Whaingaroa (a small community some-

where in the north island) who are diverting a massive **74%** of their rubbish from landfill. Which got me thinking – we could probably do a lot better. Of course – what is missing from our Stewart Island figures is a lot of paper and cardboard which most of us are burning ourselves so it

isn't going through the Resource Recovery Centre. But still – we need to maintain the effort our community has put into resource recovery and recycling the last few years. We are doing really well, but with a little bit of effort we could do even better. I know I could.

(*Globetrotter* continued from page 4)

we had gone to visit Maui and Shona Fife (ex Stewart Islanders) and on the way back by train to the city at about 10pm there were only young people travelling (thousands of them!!) all going into the city for the night, all in varying states of dress and condition, (booze/drugs whatever), we were not sure if we should laugh or be a bit scared at the experience, I know we both were secretly pleased to be back at our hotel safe and sound.

The last part of the holiday was a train trip from



Block from the shell beach.

Perth to Sydney, 3 full days, except for half an hour, it was a great trip and needless to say we travelled through an amazing diverse countryside, the trip ending before we knew it, the train was very comfortable.

We were able to get off on three occasions for a couple of hours, going on a bus trip around the area while the train took on water etc, it is a trip that we could recommend, and something we would like to do again in a different area, (we are getting the holiday brochures

Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre

On Saturday 7 October with help from many the move was made by carting all the brochures and resources used in an information centre from the DOC Visitor Centre to the new Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre at the Red Shed.

Lesley Gray has been appointed as the Manager and as at going to print a part time consultant is being appointed.

Opening day was Monday 9 October and the first week has gone very well with volunteer help and support allowing Lesley to have a lunch break and this is greatly appreciated by Lesley and the SIVICT trustees.

The Information Centre has been admired and praised by all who have visited, so do call in to check us out and let us help you with information and bookings on the island or the rest of New Zealand.

Phone 219 1400, Fax 219 1401, Email stewartislandinformation@xtra.co.nz

Opening hours at present are 9.30am – 6pm.

Frosty Sunrises

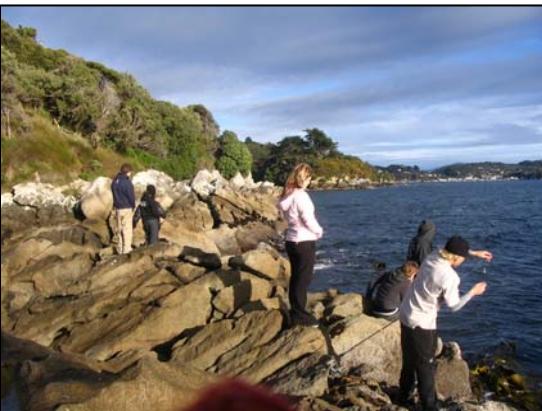
Kia ora Koutou. We are the Mirror Youth Day Programme, a service for young people between the ages of 13-17 years

who have alcohol and other drug issues. We work to assist young people in respecting and valuing themselves and others, and we have recently come back from our end of term camp/hui on Rakiura/Stewart Island.

We had an awesome time on the Island and really appreciate the opportunities we had to learn, work, explore and play in such an amazing place.

The sun was setting in a magnificent display as we sailed away from the mainland, with most of us wondering where this boat was taking us and what we were in for over the next four days.

Our motivation got us up at 7am on a crisp and clear morning to get into some work for The Department of Conservation and the natural envi-



UNLAWFUL ROCK LOBSTER POTS SEIZED

The recent seizure by Fishery Officers of four unlawfully set rock lobster pots at Stewart Island is a timely reminder for recreational fishers to ensure they observe and follow the amateur fishing rules. The four unmarked and baited rock lobster pots were seized off Horseshoe Point (3) and Barclay Rock (1) in a recent

sweep of the area by MFish Fishery Officers targeting rock lobster potting compliance.

In addition to being unmarked, two of the pots had deficient escape apertures, preventing the escape of undersize rock lobster. Sea patrols by Fishery Officers will continue over the summer and any non-compliant fishing gear will be removed from the

environment of the Island in Lee Bay. We were blessed with a beautiful day for our tree planting experience and the afternoon was a perfect opportunity for snorkelling and diving. We

went for a second dive later in the week at Harold's Bay in the amazingly clear underwater world which was indeed a fruitful experience. Paua and Kina for Dinner, Yum!

We were lucky enough to be taken on a bus journey where we learnt some interesting information about the Island, such as the electricity, airport and fishing industry. A visit to the aquarium showed us that there really are a range of wonderful and quite bizarre looking creatures lurking in the depths around the island. We thank Ron for this opportunity and for answering all our fishy questions.

Walks proved to be exciting with weka, kaka and seal sightings and some slippery skating down the hills on frosty mornings. The

water with the contents returned to the sea.

Amateur rock lobster pot limits were introduced from 1 October 2004, which limit the number of pots to **three per person or 6 per vessel**, (where that vessel has two or more fishers on board). Importantly, pot limits apply to any rock lobster pot used for both catching and holding rock lobsters. Within the *Te*

beauty of the land and sea were taken in while fishing off Fisherman's Point. This proved to be quite a relaxing activity after we had caught our breaths from our mountain biking adventure to get there!

There was fun to be had in the evenings as well. Night stalking games were far from boring, especially when you encounter unexpected sea lions around dark corners! Ron and Ulva shared their stories and wisdom about the islands history, environment and culture in an evening's discussions. We are grateful for their time as all of us learnt something new about the island and had a laugh as well. We would also like to thank Jo Leask for the bus ride and Ange Wilson for the wonderful, warm, comfortable accommodation at the Portside Lodge.

We all now hold wonderful memories of not only our experiences but of such a magnificent place and of all the friendly faces of those who live there. This includes those who smiled, waved, stopped to say hello and those who supported us in making such a splendid camp possible. A big thank you goes out to the Rakiura/Stewart Island community, you are lucky to live in such a great place and we thank you so much for sharing it with us.

Whaka a Te Werai Paterson Inlet Mataitai Reserve, the pot limit is only **two per person with a vessel limit of 4 pots**, if two or more fishers are on board. The **daily limit** in Southland remains at **six rock lobsters per person**.

The amateur regulations also require rock lobster pots to have **twin escape apertures** of a prescribed size to allow

(Continued on page 7)



Another month has gone by and things crime wise are still pretty quiet on the island. I'm not complaining.

I have been busy though with people applying for and renewing their firearms licences. I can remember when stationed at a place called Waipawa back in 1986 and handing out the little red Firearms Licensing books. The bold statement was that these were life time licences. I think since then most firearms licence holders have had to be re-licensed two more times.

How long is a life time.

Just a reminder if you are the holder of a licence and you get a nice letter reminding you to re-apply get on to it as it can save you some serious money. If you renew your licence before the expiry date it costs \$123.75. If you miss the expiry date another \$100 is added to the cost. Then if you have endorsements such as collectors it gets more expensive.

If you have any worries just give me a yell and I will try and sort out them out.

Had an interesting callout the on the 8th October when the Rescue Co-ordination Centre phoned stating that an emergency locator beacon had been activated. Initially they believed it to be in the vicinity of Big Island. A check on all things and anyone that could've been in that area proved negative. A helicopter flew over the island and couldn't locate anything. That night a plane did another sweep over the Island. This plane happened to be the Child Flight Emergency Plane from Auckland. It had come south to pick up a sick child to take north. While the doctors were doing their bit at the hospital the plane did its bit over the Island. This flight indicated the activation was somewhere closer to Halfmoon Bay.

The next morning the helicopter came back and located a lost German trapper near Christmas Village Hut. He had become lost and activated his beacon. What was interesting was that he was colour blind and couldn't pick out the track markers. Apparently though the track is pretty well formed and if he had just followed the boot marks left in the mud he would've been okay.

He wasn't the most well equipped trapper I had ever seen also.

So to those members who are part of both the Land and Marine SAR. I will be contacting you in the next few weeks to update the records that are held at the station.

It is hoped soon to get the Southern Lake Helicopter down here for a bit of training to show the capabilities of its DF directional finding equipment as well as the night vision gear they have on board.

I have also noticed a few warrants and registrations have expired. Can those of you who think that they have expired have a look and get them sorted.

Also one of my big hates is people sitting on the back of trailers holding things so they don't fall off. Ropes were invented to do this. I have picked up too many bodies. Then had to do the knock on the door to too many relatives telling them the bad news. It happened again in Lumsden the other day when someone fell off the back of a ute and was killed holding a mattress down.

Just because it's the Island don't think it's the norm because I won't.

You will note also in SIN an article from the Ministry of Fisheries (pages 6-7). Makes for interesting reading.

Lastly all the best to all those involved in Players Production of Snow White.

—Shaun Palmer

(Continued from page 6)

undersize rock lobsters to escape. All rock lobster pots must have **marked surface buoys or floats** attached, which are clearly and permanently marked with the **fisher's surname and initials**. Additional voluntary information such as *vessel name and phone number* is permissible and recommended to identify gear ownership.

Enquiries in relation to "bogus" float markings on one of the seized pots (a

large ex commercial pot), confirm the registered number and vessel name on the float belong to a Kaikoura based commercial set net fisher, who hasn't visited or fished at Stewart Island. Incidentally, all commercial rock lobster pots must have marked surface buoys and floats, which are clearly and permanently marked with the vessel registration number.

Fishers caught using unlawful pots without legal escape gaps or with unmarked floats are liable for infringement fines of \$250 for each

breach. Any fishers caught operating more than the prescribed number of pots may face penalties of \$250 or \$500 and in more serious cases Court action, where the maximum fine is \$20,000.

MFish is understandably keen to hear from anyone who wishes to lay claim, or has information regarding ownership of the four unlawful pots. Local Fishery Officers can be contacted by telephoning MFish Invercargill (03) 211-0060 or A/H (03) 211-0061.

CONGRATULATIONS

**New
Parents
Tim and
Simone
Welcome
Tyler
Stewart
Dawson!**

Rakiura Rugrats News

Farewell to Josy

At the end of September we sadly farewelled Josy, our fantastic teacher for the last 2 years.

Josy is an awesome teacher and she often went beyond the call of duty, such as babysitting, attending children's birthday parties, helping with fundraising, etc all on top of providing an impressive learning program for our pre school children.

Don also contributed heaps to Rugrats, doing all sorts of handy man jobs for which we are extremely grateful.

We wish Josy and Don all the very best on their next venture at Kisbee Lodge in Preservation Inlet and look forward to their promised visit in 2007.

WELCOME Jodie

We were very happy to welcome our new teacher, Jodie Gallichan to Rugrats at the beginning of term 4.

Jodie had been working in Queenstown in a variety of Early Childhood services for the past 6 ½ years.

We are all thrilled Jodie is here ensuring our pre schoolers have access to a quality Early Childhood Centre.

THANK YOU Lions Club

A huge thankyou to the Lions Club for taking on the re concreting project outside Rugrats with the help of some of the Rugrats Dads'.

It will be great having the new area for the kids to play outside.

A reminder to all parents/visitors with children

Casual (unenrolled) visits to Rugrats by pre school children are WELCOME.

However, please remember to introduce yourself and child to Jodie, our teacher on arrival at the Centre and please don't forget there is a \$5 fee per session. Thanks.

Stewart Island – a Healthy Island

The WHO says a “Healthy Island” is a place where: children are nurtured in mind and body; environments invite learning and leisure; people work and age with dignity; and ecological balance is a source of pride.

Nurse's News

Spring is here and its time to get those gardens dug over and potatoes planted! The Murphy Club and the Garden Circle are great sources of gardening tips for Island gardeners, and it is great to have fresh veges and a saving on the grocery bill! So if you have never gardened before get together with one of the local gardeners and give it a go!!

Hopefully the worst of the cough and cold season is over. Thank you to Rug Rats for taking a week off to try and break the infection cycle, and the School holidays has helped this too. Hand washing before handling food and after blowing your nose, coughing into your elbow area instead of the hand and staying home in the early stages of a cough or cold helps stop the spread of cases.

Congratulations to the sixteen locals who completed the week long Pre Hospital Emergency Care course for St John! It was a challenge to train so intensively and we are looking forward to having their help with emergencies in the future.

The Health Committee work closely with us nurses to support your health service and tackle some big issues; present issues include extending the clinic building and transport assistance to the hospital for Specialist Services. Please support your Health Committee.

Our student nurse Julian, from Brisbane, enjoyed his placement and learned heaps about community nursing.

We now have a dry ice product for treating skin bumps and warts. This is available daily and no appointment is needed for treatments, just come in at clinic time.

Services

In EMERGENCY dial 111

Contact Nurse outside clinic hours; Ph 0800 100 776

General Primary Health Care Clinic.

Daily from 10am-12.30pm- no appointment necessary.

Well Women Clinic on a Thursday afternoon.

This is to enable women to see Debs other than clinic time to encourage uptake of Cervical Smear Screening and discuss women's health issues. Please phone the clinic to make an appointment if possible but I will always see you if you can only "drop in" at short notice.

Well Child/ Family time type Clinic on a Wednesday afternoon.

We will try to arrange to give immunizations at this time also. Please phone the clinic for an appointment for this clinic if possible but we will always see you if you can only "drop in" at short notice.

Well Child care has always been "fitted in" during clinic time and this does not always give parents enough time to discuss issues and easily organize immunizations.

Well child checks are an opportunity to check growth and development which are not usually checked for when a child presents at clinic with an illness. It is also an opportunity to discuss parenting and family issues, and the child's nutrition, sleeping patterns, safety, dental care, immunization status, hearing and eyesight.

Parents are encouraged to get their child's milestones

checked weekly for the first 6 weeks then at 3, 5, 9 and 15 months.

Thereafter checks are encouraged annually, and especially a through exam before they start school. These are checks are outlined in your child's Well Child book. Any other age is fine too so doing hesitate to come in.

Please note that if there is an "emergency" it may mean rescheduling of a particular clinic, and thank you for coping so patiently when this happens.

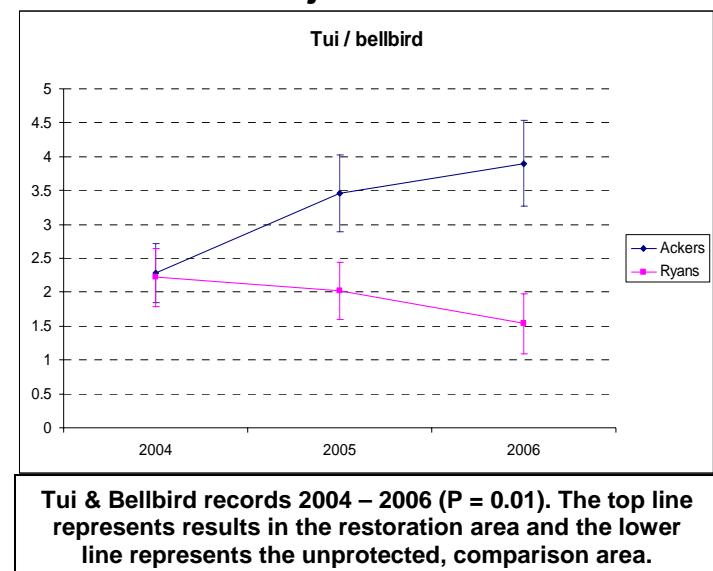
Debs and Marty.

***Coming up
on 6 November:
a visit from the Community Dietitian,
Smoking Cession Consultant, and the
Green Prescription Sport and Recre-
ation Consultant — in other words,
Rachel, Vanessa and Jane will spend
the day on the Island and run an Expo
on what they can offer you. They will
be available for individual sessions on
the day, and will be coming over once
a month so you can continue seeing
them to support your personal healthy
eating, exercise and stop smoking pro-
grammes. Watch the Notice board or
ask Marty or Debs about the venue.***

Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project

Collating data into an annual report really shouldn't be this much fun! With the September AGM sealing off the second full year of the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project, and the annual report signed and ready for release, there seemed so much that Stewart Islanders have achieved towards protecting our backyards this year that it begged being shared. For example....

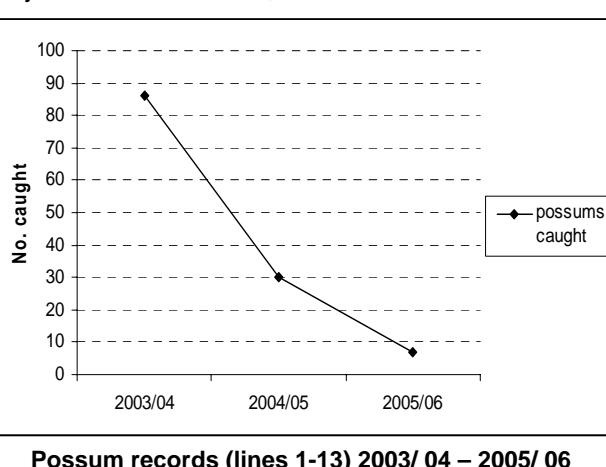
Bellbirds and tui continue to respond dramatically to pest control in their habitat, with bird counts showing a 71% increase in numbers recorded since 2004 (see graph). Fantails and tomtits are also showing significantly better records within the trapping area than in the nearby, unprotected area measured as a comparison.



The entire peninsula from Ackers Point to the Golden Bay rd has been set up with a grid network of possum and rat traps. Two full cycles of trapping have been completed and a system of "rotational trapping" is now in place, which will ensure we maintain very low pest numbers long term, whilst also making the most of your valuable time.

In just twelve months, volunteers have cleared up over 108 possums (with all that food now available it's no

wonder tui numbers are on the increase!) and over 760 rats!! Possum numbers have dropped right off in areas such as Ackers Point (which has been trapped for the longest time). The graph at left maps these fabulous results.



Volunteers have given over 1090 hours of their time towards protecting Halfmoon Bay in just the last twelve months! That's an outstanding 2 ½ hours per person on the Island (although many people have given much more than this). Just imagine what could be achieved if every New Zealander gave 2 ½ hrs towards protecting our wildlife (that would be an equivalent of 1170.4 years of continuous work, 24 hours a day!!) A Very Big Thanks to everyone who gets involved!

Stewart Island Weka have not only re-established and begun breeding, they have continued breeding right throughout winter! Results from monitoring both the adult weka and the juveniles has shown that more chicks are surviving and being recruited to the population than there are birds dying. Hence, the weka population is increasing and making its presence felt once again, right in the heart of Halfmoon Bay.

With limited space I'll leave it there. Suffice to say it was not hard to assemble an annual report with the list of achievements our extended community has made together! Thank you everyone who has been involved.

If you would like to read further, the SIRCET Annual Report 2005/06 is available to read at the Rakiura Environment Centre (in Halfmoon Bay) or by contacting habitat@glowingsky.co.nz or phoning (03) 2191 223.



Due to our ever-circulating collection, we have dozens of new books so drop by and check them out! New fiction includes the latest John Le Carre, Lesley Pearse, Kathy Reichs, and

Elizabeth George. Non-fiction include new craft books (felting, machine embroidery, Amish quilting and more). If you found this month's *Globetrotter* article interesting you might want to browse through *The World's Great Railway Journeys*. This

month's Book Flavour is *Weather*. Thanks to Loraine, Pat, Barbara W., Margaret F., Peter T., Dawn, Merle and Burke, and all the other generous donors of books and movies. And thanks to Team Library for keeping

things running smoothly while I was overseas. The Public Library in my native New York has 3,500 staff, 14 million books, and 85 branches. I am glad to be back at our cosy and manageable wee library here!

Happy Reading, Jess

Stewart Island Holiday

by Richie Afford

It was that time of life when many of us were graduating from short pants into long pants.

The future looked grim and foreboding with war clouds gathering, but the country seemed determined to have one last fling of gaiety with its Centennial Exhibition. My uncle, John Atwood who was a keen amateur botanist held what turned out to be a rather forlorn hope that I could make a career in that profession and he arranged to spend the New Year on Stewart Island in botanical pursuit.

The expedition was fortified in the knowledge that the Auckland museum botanist Lucy Cranwell and her confederate Lucy Moore were travelling to the island to study the ancient pollens of the bogs.

An expedition of that nature on those days was an adventure of which young folks of today could have little comprehension. It involved an overnight train to Wellington with of course stop over visit to the Exhibition followed by ship to Littleton and train to Dunedin.

After a day or two exploring Dunedin and climbing Flagstaff there was a train to Invercargill with complaints from my uncle that as he could not see the view

on account of the engine smoke, train exhausts should be at the rear of a train.

Another night was spent in Invercargill followed next day by train to Bluff and boat Tamatea to Oban. War had been declared and I remember a recruiting poster pinned to the door of the women's toilet on the wharf proclaiming "Men Wanted."

We were accommodated at Mr. Fred Traill's Woodslea House boarding establishment on the hill behind the township and memories include black and red currants and gooseberries, delicacies not found in Auckland; fishing for blue cod in early morn; coming ashore on a most lovely beach and boiling our breakfast in a kerosene tin over a camp fire.

Another devotee of Lucy Cranwell was Mr. Gore-Adams who with his friend turned up complete with cinematographic equipment all ready to show his ability to blaze the trail so to speak by catching us on camera as we explored the walks in the vicinity.

On one walk we were confronted by a bull, but in retrospect most likely a steer, on the trail which advanced upon us resulting in us all tumbling down a bank into a bush and I have the vision of camera and tripod entangled with arms and legs in confusion whilst awaiting the beast to pass

on its way.

Indeed this film was shown occasionally at botanical meetings at the Auckland Museum and eventually on Mr. Gore-Adams' demise the whole box and dice was bequeathed to the museum.

No doubt old man time has delated with the demise of his labours and apparatus.

A day or two later we travelled in Mr. Traill's launch right up Paterson Inlet and Freshwater to Freshwater landing and tramped across to Mason Bay where of course exploring for ambergris and botanizing were our prime objectives whilst battling sandflies and blowflies which later took fancy to our blankets.

On our return to Woodslea House the large sitting room became a veritable arboretum with foliage scattered in careless confusion ready for identification and specimens for preservation.

Our return to Auckland in similar fashion fades from the memory in contract to the outward journey, but as a holiday it shines like a beacon, preceding the gloom of the years that were to follow.

Since that time I have been back twice with family and friends on nostalgic journeys but those sagas will have to constitute further musings.

THE GALLEY

a very nice salad

One red capsicum, sliced into thin strips

One kumera, sliced into thin strips

Six cloves garlic, cut in thirds

Toss above ingredients in a tablespoon of olive oil and season with pepper and

ground rocksalt, roast in oven until garlic soft and capsicum skins turning black.

In small skillet, heat drained can of cannelloni beans with handful of pine nuts in a bit of olive oil until pine nuts are slightly browned.

Place all in bowl with washed lettuce and add sliced boiled

egg, sliced avocado, sliced red onion, crumbled feta, and whatever else floats your boat.

a very nice dressing is:

one TB lite mayo,
one TB mustard,
splash of Balsamic vinegar,
2 TB olive oil,
whisk until smooth and dress as desired.



Noeline Fife receives a prize upon winning the guessing game "How many cotton balls in the jar?" at a recent marae event.



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

What an entertaining afternoon we all had on 12th October at the Fire Station when Shaun Palmer – our local cop – gave us his time. We soon discovered a new slant on the term “Weed Busting” and enjoyed an amusing time listening to a Policeman’s life up north. We are so pleased to have Shaun here on the Island and hope life will be as amusing

and exciting here as it was in Maunganui.

Garden Circle will have a stall with plants for sale at the Children’s Flower Show at St. Andrews Church on 4th November.

Our next meeting will be on 9th November at the home of Lorraine Squires. Competition: Blue flower, Interesting Leaf, Flax flower, leaf or something made from a flax leaf.



Chocolate Award goes to Iris Tait for enabling John Allen, of Invercargill Veterinary Services, to do a yearly visit to the Island – much appreciated by locals and their furry friends.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH SHOW will be at 2 pm, 4th NOVEMBER at the ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL

On 10.45 on Friday, 3rd November the children will do their “**Sandsaucer entries**” at the school. Do you possibly have any flowers you could share with the Children for this purpose? They would be most grateful if you would. PLEASE could you deliver to the school on the morning of the 3rd around 10:00. THANK YOU

DEADLINE for entries is 12:00 at the Hall on SATURDAY then it is closed so the Judges can do their work.

Seniors can make their craft challenge at home and the rest of the entries (children’s own work) can be made on the Saturday morning at 10 am in the foyer of the Church.

RAFFLES IN THE SHOP AS WELL.
EVERYONE WELCOME!!!



Gumboots, claws and paws: the deck is a whirlwind of activity on a Sunday afternoon fishing excursion.

**Stewart Island Senior Citizens (SISC) Christmas Luncheon
will be held at the South Seas Hotel on Tuesday 5th December**



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Contributions relative to Stewart Island are welcomed and can be sent by email (preferably as MS Word attachment).

**Please send articles and enquiries to Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com.
The deadline for the next issue is 12th November.**

If you wish to have Stewart Island News 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 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:

12 issues to an Oban address \$24
12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30

Yes, we can arrange for international subscriptions — contact editor for rates

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