

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

October—November 2012

\$2.00

Gardening, chasing inanga, dodging hailstones... these past months have been extremely busy and residents have been keeping themselves **occupied** with a variety of activities and events. The Stewart Island **Try-a-Thon** was a big success and has inspired a spin-off mosaic group (p6). The weekend 12-13th was particularly hectic: **Pink Night** at the Pub; the Mosaic ladies met for a morning of brainstorming; **Gareth Morgan** and his wife Jo arrived and flew around the Island (more on their visit next issue); a stag do got silly with a fire extinguisher at the Pub; and emergency services were called to a vehicle mishap at Lonnekens (p12). A highlight of the weekend was a beautiful **wedding** at Church Hill: congratulations to Deanne and Chris!

Labour Weekend will be even BUSIER. Mark your calendar with these big events:

Friday 19th Oct
A Local's Tale opens at Bunkhouse Theatre!
page 12.

Saturday 20th Oct
Community Vision at the Community Centre
page 7.

Sunday 21st Oct
GALA DAY!!! page 3.

Diddle is keen to start Monday evening touch **rugby** games, see Community Centre News page 11.



PHOTO: HANNAH WATKINSON

Pictured is the beautiful clinker dinghy that Herbie Hansen has been restoring over the past year. It was originally built by Ronnie von Tunzleman who used to live on Main Road in the house where Beverley Osborne now lives. Herbie remembers admiring the dinghy as a 12 year old when he saw it in the boat shed at Watercress. "I always wondered what happened to that dinghy," said Herbie "and it wasn't until Roger Hicks died that I discovered it was in his shed." Herbie has painstakingly sanded, repaired, painted and made new fittings using authentic and local materials where possible. It will be a beautiful sight to see the dinghy sailing in the Bay when she is re-launched.—from Margaret Hopkins



Raymond's view of Doughboy.

Rakiura Riddle is back this month, page 11.

What goes on tour stays on tour... but maybe some photos and juicy tidbits for the *SIN* too please? Hopefully next month we can get some stories about the Island boys' trip to **Bathurst!**

Sadly, we bade a final farewell to **Ken Geeson** at the beginning of October. Our thoughts are with

Anita and family. He will be greatly missed. His obituary is on page 4.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of *SIN*. I am

grateful to be part of a dynamic, creative community where people occupy themselves supporting one another, cherishing Rakiura, and making this Island a fascinating and vibrant place to live.

Paua (Part 2) by Storm Stanley

In last month's *SIN* I briefly outlined some of the management measures Island-based dive crews follow to ensure that the paua fishery here rebuilds from its early over-exploitation and re-

mains healthy into the future. This month I look at why the biology of paua has made it such a difficult species to fish in a sustainable way.

Paua are a member of the *Haliotis* family; marine molluscs which occur around the world, mostly in temperate zones, though they do occur in smaller numbers in some sub-tropical waters. Paua is of course the Maori name for what is generally known as abalone elsewhere. *Haliotis iris* is our main species and this Latin name says it all. *Haliotis* is derived from the Greek word for "sea ear", referring to the animals shape. Iris is the name of the Greek rainbow goddess, so echoing the strikingly beautiful colours of paua shell.

Whatever you call them, abalone species have been around pretty much unmodified since of the demise of the dinosaurs, nearly 65million years ago (not 40 as mentioned in the last issue. ed.). Interestingly the oldest fossil abalone

(Continued on page 5)

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Shay gets a haircut at the Try-a-Thon.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

OPEN DAY: 2012

Saturday, 20 October

Sunday, 21 October

10am - 4pm



An informal invitation to the community and visitors to Stewart Island.

The second year of celebrating the completion of restoration to our heritage buildings including our 1900 Church, 1909 Church Hall, Bell Tower containing the "Bremen" & "Teoni Topi Patuki of Ruapuke" bells and the surrounding gardens

The Church Hall is seldom open to the public.

Transport yourself back to 1909 when the building was erected at "The Neck" and to 1933 when it was transported to Halfmoon Bay. In 1990, the Gov. General, Sir Paul Reeves re-consecrated this simple little building.

View relics that are historically significant to the Foveaux Community.

Self guide leaflets available in the hall and church.

Iris Tait may be gardening and will be happy to answer your questions.

Where: 10 Excelsior Rd.

An easy stroll up from the Post Office

or

take the walkway beside the Museum

Iris Tait

(Warden - contact phone 219 1151)



2008

Stewart Island's Young Scientists.

Sophie Conner (11) and Meg Kenny (12) both recently undertook science projects for the Southland Science Fair. The girls did the projects in their own time - not at school! Funnily enough they were both awarded the same prizes, although in different categories - Awards of Commendation and The Soroptimist's Award, Sophie in the Year 5&6 section and Meg in the Year 7&8 section. Sophie's project showed how a simple potato can provide enough electricity to power a digital clock while Meg experimented with different ways to clean copper coins. They also proved to their classmates that schoolwork really does PAY with each girl receiving \$35 in prize money!

—Kath Johnson



Rakiura Rugrats Gala Day

Sunday October 21st

Halfmoon Bay School - starts 9.30am

Make sure you are ready for:

Bikes 4 fun – crazy fun bikes to ride

Kids decorate a cookie competition entry for: Up to 5 yrs, 6 – 9 yrs, 10 -12 yrs,

Fruit cake competition – anyone can enter

Stewart Island southern man competition

Silly races, gumboot throwing and more

There are fantastic prizes so you have to be in to win!!!!!!!

Chocolate wheel - Rugrats cake stall - toy stall - library stall - Ship to Shore sausage sizzle - funky hair

Garden circle stall - Museum stall - and heaps more stalls and tables

A big thanks to our supporters and sponsors, you make this a great day:

Ship to Shore -- South Sea Hotel -- Rakiura shipping -- Stewart Island Flights -- Glowing Sky -- The Fernery Gallery -- Living Space apartments -- South Sea Hotel Quiz & Vicki -- Stewart Island Experience -- Pak N Save -- Elles Rd New World -- ILT -- Mitre 10 mega -- National Bank -- E Hayes & sons -- Niccols Garden centre -- Harvey Norman

An estimated timetable: subject to change on day

10:15am judging kids cookie competition

10:30am judging fruit cake competition

11:00 am Start of Stewart Island man competition

12:30pm start of races and games

Gala Day Special – Museum fundraiser

Look out for the Rakiura Museum sales table at the Gala day.

Books, old Stewart Island postcards and paintings.

Included is a collection of books previously owned by Roy Traill and his uncle Walter Traill of Ulva Island. The books have been donated by Roy's daughter Sheila Natusch to help raise money for the new Heritage Centre. There is a wide variety of books including history, natural history, literature, biographies, maritime, war stories, geography, exploration etc.

KENNETH RUSSELL (KEN) GEESON

6 August 1944 – 1 October 2012

How do you measure a man's life? By the letters that spill after his name? By the capital they accumulate? By the company of their friends and the deference of strangers? Who knows? It's not a science.

Ken's was a life of very distinct chapters each one tackled with a stubborn confidence that this was the right choice to make. It may have been a confidence born of ignorance but each chapter did tend to conclude in a satisfactory manner.

This trait was reflected from the very beginning. As the sixth, and youngest, child of Syd and Margaret Geeson, it is said that his mother was not exactly thrilled about the prospect of another baby and didn't tell anyone about this expected 'happy event' – Ken arrived regardless, surprising all who knew her, and was to end up as her proverbial pride and joy. **Satisfactory outcome number one!**

The first chapter in Ken's working life involved office duties, in accounting, in the public service sector with adventures as a Marine Reserve cadet thrown in for interest. After a time there was a dawning awareness that a career in office work held little long term interest, so off to university went Ken. He launched into academia with enthusiasm, if not specific direction, dabbling in a range of unit studies with his typical stubborn persistence. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. He did eventually graduate B.A. in Geography, although by the time he did so, he had launched into a new career and acquired a wife and four children along the way.

Ken's teaching career was prompted by an advert. in the Southland Times. The fact that he hadn't completed his degree qualifications and had never set foot inside a Teachers College mattered little to him – he was sure he could do it and do it he did! He loved his students and they loved him. Beginning at Manapouri DHS and going on to Waiiau DHS, later to become Waiiau College, his was a career which spanned over 20 years. His abilities as a teacher were recognized by him being seconded to the inspectorate in Christchurch for a time where he passed on his skills to others. Perhaps his teaching career highlight was the year spent as an exchange teacher in W. Yorkshire. The British pub scene proved a revelation and many long lasting friendships were formed as a result.

Another satisfactory outcome!

Voluntary interests along the way included stints as a fire brigade member, ambulance driver, Scout leader, Lions Club activities, cook and mentor at both Lions Leadership courses and Camp Quality summer and family camps. He was a member of Lions International for over 40 years and always enjoyed his involvement with both service projects and social activities.

Life was enriched with a foray into the good life at Piko Piko. Ken decided to build his family a house. Lack of carpentry experience didn't daunt him. He was sure he could do it and do it he did! **Another satisfactory outcome!**

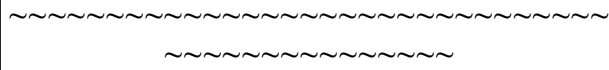
(although at the end of it his elder son was heard to remark that whatever he did in life it wouldn't be a carpenter.)

Ken also decided to keep sheep and pigs. The sheep took one look at him and ran in the opposite direction and who else would let pigs escape on the main street of Tuatapere while having a quick one in the bar of the Waiiau Hotel? It was possibly fortunate that his wife had a farming background and that same elder son had an aptitude for animal husbandry.

Through all of this, that early pleasure found in a life at sea still lingered, so when the opportunity to take early severance from teaching arose along with the promise of work on a fishing trawler, Ken seized the chance with his usual optimism. Marine skipper qualifications were gained in due course – another advert. in the Southland Times caught his eye and off to Stewart Island went Ken. He thought he could run his own business and skipper his own boat so do it he did!

And what a satisfactory outcome that proved to be!

Stewart Island was very good for Ken – it gave him a culminating satisfaction and, in a way, made sense of so much that had gone before. To all of you who helped, and supported, him over the years as he achieved his ambition of ‘going down to the sea in boats’ thank you so much.



We, as a family, greatly appreciate the support we have received this year. Your quiet friendship, prayers, practical assistance has been valued. We would like to acknowledge all those who sent messages, flowers, food – thank you. To our Stewart Island Lions Club friends – you truly lived up to your motto ‘We Serve.’ Well done. To Raylene for delivering such a fitting memorial service – thank you. To Debs and Marty for their compassionate care and consideration in helping Ken remain at home in his final weeks – our gratitude.

The very qualities that make Stewart Island a special community to work, and live, in have been exemplified in this experience. You have helped us in our time of need – we won’t forget.

Anita; Adin and Shirley, Ryan, Stephanie and Jarrod; Nikki; Dale and Michael and Jay; Vaughan Geeson.

(PAUA Continued from page 1)

found seems to have been that of a New Zealand paua, which points to our species being the closest to the original form and probably the least anatomically differentiated of modern abalone.

Despite their relatively unsophisticated body design they have been a hugely successful species...until now. The population characteristics and biology of paua have made them superbly designed for their particular ecological niche. They are tough animals protected by an amazingly strong shell which is shaped in a near perfect hydrodynamic half teardrop profile to withstand the massive force, suction and pressure exerted by the biggest of ocean waves.

They aggregate in large numbers where their preferred food species of kelp is most abundant, so they don't have to move far and waste energy chasing food. Their preferred food species happen to be amongst the fastest growing and most prolific algae in the world, such as bladder kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) which you can see in extensive beds around Stewart Island for much of the year. So, barring extraordinary environmental changes, food is seldom a problem.

The large aggregations characteristic of the species mean they can use relatively little energy in reproduction; they simply spawn eggs and sperm into the immediate environment relying on chance for fertilization. This is known as broadcast spawning. Their young settle, live and grow in very shallow water where oxygenation of the sea water is at maximum levels and seaweeds are found broken into a blizzard of small pieces for easy feeding.

While paua are predated upon at all stages of their life cycle, the biggest population loss to predators or environmental effects such as storm events, occurs in larvae and juveniles. Once a paua is mature the strong shell and powerful foot-to-rock adhesion means few marine animals can successfully tackle them, and if they do it takes a lot of time and effort to disable the paua's defenses.

This in turn means that paua do not have to be particularly successful reproducers. Losses from the adult population in the natural environment are relatively light compared to many species and so maintaining population numbers is quite easy.

Because they adapted well early on, abalone retained a quite simple anatomy, which has changed little over millions of years. Nature tends not to mess with success. They have a very unsophisticated circulatory systems compared to higher animals. The circulatory system essentially consists of a series of open spaces (sinuses) flooded with a haemocyanin-based blood fluid. While heartbeat and respiration show some interesting and clever features they lack complex heart and gills. They are, of course, famously haemophilic, there having been little point in them developing a blood clotting mechanism. Their digestive system is also simple, and they are relatively poor converters of food, but given the massive supply normally available there has been little advantage to the species to make efficiency gains.

As said, paua have managed very well indeed for tens of millions of years just as they are. So why is it that almost every major abalone population in the world has collapsed within a human lifetime? Quite simply, we ate them all.

People all over the world just love abalone. In consequence the characteristics of abalone biology and population dynamics that made them such a success for tens of millions of years also meant that once wet-suits, aqualungs and longterm preservation through freezing and canning were invented, the game was up for these creatures. When an

(Continued on page 9)

STEWART ISLAND TRY-A-THON

by Sharon Pasco

A fun weekend of trying new things ...

Last month's Tryathon proved to be a fun weekend for all who attended, even despite the deer being so elusive that the home butchery lesson had to be deferred until another time! With sessions including Tai Chi, Mosaics, Tips on mastering your i-PHONE/i-PAD, Seasonal gardening, Singing, i-Movies, Self Defense, Palm-reading, Eco-friendly cleaners, A Winemakers guide to wine, Flax weaving, Essential legal issues, Plant propagation & fruit tree grafting and an introduction to cutting children's hair, there really was something for everyone and at times it was difficult to choose between the sessions running concurrently! Lydia Bradey was an inspiring pre-dinner speaker with her tales of expeditions to Everest and Antarctica and almost everywhere in between.



PHOTOS: JULES RETBERG, KARI BEAVEN & JESS KANY

On behalf of everyone who attended I would like to say a very public thank you to all the tutors/speakers, both off-island and our own talented locals, for sharing their time, knowledge and talents to make this weekend the success that it was. I would also like to thank the Stewart Island Community Centre Trust, the Pavilion Trust and Halfmoon Bay School for providing the venues for the various sessions; Real Journeys and Stewart Island Flights for providing discounted travel for the off-island tutors and most of all Alison Broad and the Southland Community Education Programme for organising this memorable weekend. Registrations for the weekend were slow to come in and less than a week out from the event it was suggested that it probably should be cancelled - however to the band of people who spread the word and helped pull it all together a very big thanks, also to the Rakiura Education Trust for agreeing to fund any shortfall if necessary. With a flood of last minute registrations the weekend very nearly paid for itself - with SCEP kindly picking up the shortfall.



Feedback from participants has been that this first community learning weekend in 10 years was a lot of fun and something that most would like to see repeated again next year. What do you think??? I would be interested in any feedback about this event, especially if there were reasons why you didn't attend. What worked well and what could be improved on? What things you would like included in the future and what time of the year would be best timing for the next one?

Feedback can be emailed to me at pascoclan@xtra.co.nz or put into PO Box 190, Stewart Island.

Thanks everyone - Sharon Pasco.



STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

by Kirsten Hicks

Spring has arrived with the usual strong winds and just enough sun to promise that better days lie ahead. Spring has also arrived at your local Library, with the help of 2 qualified Librarians from SDC Winton Library. We have scoured the shelves, removing books and revamping well loved favourites.

Books are "weeded" out from our collection for a variety of reasons – being outdated (especially when containing technological facts), being in poor condition or being book 2 in a trilogy when we don't have the rest of the set. Also weeded out were duplicate copies of books, books which actually had a better book on the subject already on the shelf, and books which no-one has borrowed for a very long time. Some books removed hadn't been issued this century!

All these hours of work have a two-fold result. Firstly, the Library looks great. Rows of attractive books are standing smartly to attention. The reduction in books also means that only a few books are now stored on the bottom shelves, so selecting your reading matter is now less of an aerobic exercise.

The other benefit is we now have more books for **The Labour Weekend Book Sale**. Stacks of books for sale are growing rapidly (and making entering the Library office a hazardous undertaking). We have books on all sorts of subjects. Quite a lot of sports books for all those armchair athletes. Also cookbooks galore – the oldest one dating back to 1942 is certainly vintage!

Hope to see you at the Sale – extremely reasonable prices!

Stewart Island Community Vision

World-renowned presenter, Peter Kenyon, who has an interest in small communities, gave a thought-provoking talk at the Community Centre earlier this year, and this has inspired a group of us to revisit the community's vision for itself. We are asking all residents, cribbies, workers and those somehow connected to the island to share your hopes and dreams, and the things in our community we can do better.

What do you value the most about the island? How do you imagine the future of Stewart Island? What sort of community, environment and economy would you like to see? Do you want to grow old here?

We encourage all people interested in the future of Stewart Island to come along at Labour weekend and participate. At the end of our discussion we aim to have a shared vision for the island - and we plan to revisit the discussion every 2 years to create a community that we are all proud of, and love being part of.

Date: 20th October **Venue:** Community Centre

Time:

1.30pm - Share a cuppa, look at the photos the children have taken, view the 'wish lists' and thought-starters
2pm - Welcome/Official Start (will run until just before the little kids bed time)

Format:

The day will consist of small group conversation, much like you would have at a café. 6-8 people sit at a table, and people move around to talk with different folk on new aspects, share their ideas - addressing the following 4 questions:

- How am I connected to the island?
- What's important to us now?
- What future do we want for our Island and community?
- How do we get there?

Following the end of the discussions, there will be a pot luck tea and a screening of the movie 'A Locals Tail'.

Refreshments will be provided throughout the day, but it would also be great if you are able to bring a plate for the shared pot luck tea.

We have a public discussion group online <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/gorakiura> which you can log onto any-time and post your feedback, start conversations, or ask questions. It is also the intention for it to be updated live through the meeting, so that people off the island can still take part

Everyone is encouraged to come along and join the discussion. If you want to know more, have a chat to Sharon Pasco, Di Morris, Jill Skerret, Anita Geeson, Kari & Brent Beavan, Gwen Neave or Wendy Bailey.

Why Tai Chi for me?

by Sue Ford

At 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings at the Hall, you'll usually see me and a group of stalwarts following Sue Connor in a range of tai chi movements. It's not just a series of exercises or routines, but a question of getting "in the zone". It's a mental as well as a physical workout. The trouble is that once I'm "zoned", my mind has a habit of going completely blank and I find myself facing the person behind me instead of being in line – this puts off the rest of the line as well as me. You need a sense of humour to be in Diddle's tai chi class as errors like this can reduce the whole room to stifled giggles. And so you need to "focus" – for me, that means keeping a surreptitious eye on what Dids is doing all the time. Cheat!

It is, theoretically, Tai Chi for Arthritis Sufferers. In practise, the routine we do is good for all fitness levels, from the limber to – like me – the committed couch potato. (I've spent decades perfecting the technique of couch potato-ism and am pretty near perfect now.) So, our routines don't just address joint mobility, they also attack issues such as muscle support for joints, balance, posture, left brain-right brain co-ordination, and breathing: all this in a series of graceful movements. And basically, that's "why tai chi".

Not because she's a sadist but because she knows what's good for us (Yeah, right!), our Fearless Leader is now devoting part of our weekly hour to a muscle-firming routine. This is great fun, though it does interfere with my near-perfect couch-potato routine – especially as we are encouraged to do this for "homework", several times a week.

So how do I feel by 11.00 a.m. on a Wednesday? It's hard to describe. Yes, vaguely tired – it is a work-out, no matter how gentle. Am I beginning to feel the physical benefits? Not sure. Am I more supple? Is my posture better? Is my breathing more regulated? Maybe, because the physical benefits are supposed to occur in small increments. However, I've found that the main benefit for me is a mental one. But how is it possible to feel more relaxed, serene, calm, on the one hand; energised, optimistic, enthusiastic and keen on the other? However it happens, it does. And that's "why tai chi" specifically "for me". There are so many levels on which tai chi works, I'd bet my gold coin donation that it would work on some level for you too. See you on Wednesday at 10.00 a.m. then?



Gareth Morgan and wife Jo ponder flotsam at Doughboy during an aerial tour of the Island.

An economist, philanthropist, and adventurer, Gareth is interested in the possibility of a predator-free Rakiura. He is on his *Our Far South* tour and has come to speak with the community about an endeavour to eradicate rats, cats and possums from the Island (*NOT* deer). He caught our attention last month with a blog entry provocatively entitled *Why I'm gunning for your cat* featuring a devil-horned kitty.

There will be comprehensive coverage of his ideas and the community's response in the next issue of *SIN*.

In the meantime check out www.garethsworld.com for more information.

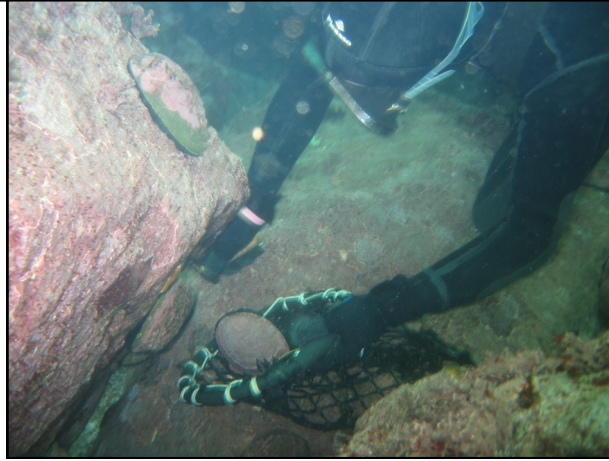
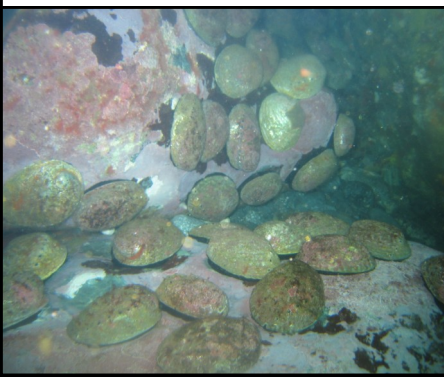
(PAUA Continued from page 5)

excellent protein source for humans, such as paua, occurs in large aggregations in very accessible places, then the inter-species relationship is only ever going to go in one direction! The old Maori saying that “when the tide is out, the table is laid...” refers very much to paua.

The sequence of abalone population decline from overfishing is pretty easy to follow and understand. Paua in an unfished state live in large numbers, aggregated close together from shallow to medium water depths. When people fish paua populations they target the biggest aggregations of animals first, because that is the most efficient way to harvest large numbers for a given effort. Next smaller aggregations further offshore are targeted until large significant patches are gone and only scattered individuals or small groups occur.

The problem for paua is that spawning and fertilization success relies completely on clusters of adults living close enough together in sufficient numbers for their style of “broadcast” spawning to work. Once patch size and number reduces below a certain threshold, successful spawning events become rarer, until the local population collapses. The fact that the youngest part of the paua population is also the most accessible, because

their preferred habitat is intertidal and immediately sub-tidal, means they are the easiest for people to find and eat. This in turn means paua which are too young to breed are gone before they can help add to the local stock.



On Stewart Island, some of the damage to the fishery was done because our paua grow much faster, and so are sexually mature at a much larger size than in other parts of the country. So our harvest size was initially set too small, making it difficult for the population to replace itself. This has now been remedied.

The paua’s main defense mechanism can also be its undoing. They don’t move very far, because they don’t have to, so their powerful clamping mechanism is a good way to avoid being

eaten. This clamping mechanism can exert a force something like 115kPa, or around 330 times the paua’s own body weight, making it virtually impossible for a natural predator to tear it off the rock. Unfortunately it is but child’s play for a human, using the right shaped tool inserted between the foot and rock, to break the suction forces and remove the paua. If that tool is carelessly used and cuts the paua it will die of blood loss or infection even if returned to the water. This is because its blood will not clot and its circulatory system is virtually valve free.

Finally, because these animals are sedentary, they don’t move much over a lifetime, therefore any localised changes from pollution, sedimentation from land run-off and so on can devastate local populations.

As a consequence there are really only a handful of surviving and sustainable large scale abalone fisheries around the world. Australia and New Zealand are foremost in that group contributing something like 60% of the world’s wild harvest. The reason for that success is simple, these two countries manage their abalone fisheries in a way that recognises the particular difficulties presented by the nature of these ancient snails and set their fishing rules accordingly.

In the September issue I promised a discussion of why attracting great white sharks to humans in steel cages is a stupid idea. It is still a stupid idea, however, I hope for some new developments on the issue soon and thought that a discussion and update might be more interesting. So watch for this and some scary pictures in Novembers SIN.—Storm

Kia ora Islanders! Venture Southland, together with the Southland Community Law Centre, is putting on a **FREE-to-the-community workshop on Good Governance.**

The workshop, presented by Denise Lormans (Manager - Southland Community Law Centre), has been designed with community groups, committees, boards (eg BOTs) and the likes in mind. It is interactive (there is plenty of scope for questions and answers), user-friendly and presented in a down-to-earth way that anyone and everyone can relate to.

It’s all about getting to grips with governance, and governance is essentially about how an organisation is run. It covers all the plans, procedures, processes and checks put in place that enables a committee/board/community group to decide what it will do and to make sure it happens.

This workshop will help people to be better informed, more effective committee/board/group members.

Getting to Grips with Good Governance

**12 November
7pm – 9pm**

Stewart Island Community Centre

If you and/or your group/trust/committee/board are intending to attend, it would be great if you could give Venture Southland staff a ‘heads up’ so they can supply a few goodies alongside a cup of tea!

Email Suzanne at Venture Southland atsuzanne@venturesouthland.co.nz or give her a ring on (03) 2111 400.

DOC Spot by Sharon Pasco, Programme Manager Community Relations / Field Centre Supervisor

Area offices share one manager

Andy Roberts has been appointed Area Manager of both Murihiku and Southern Islands through until June 2013, following the appointment of Dave Taylor to the Pou Tairangahau position for Southland and Otago conservancies. This decision was made in light of the number of staff from conservators down to rangers being seconded into review teams as part of the Department's Delivery project. While this review is underway, the Department has decided that rather than deplete the ranks further, it would test out the effectiveness of a single manager having a wider span of control. To all intents and purposes both Murihiku and Southern Islands Areas will still be managed as two separate units, however staff have been urged wherever possible to focus on looking at opportunities to share expertise and particular skill sets, so that resources can be used more efficiently across both areas, if not across Southland and Otago conservancies and beyond. The Delivery Project is reviewing the Department's current operating structure to develop an effective and efficient, future focussed operating model for conservation delivery that:

- Supports the achievement of DOC's vision and outcomes
 - Helps DOC achieve more conservation through working with others
 - Ensures we have a consistent operating model based on best practice
- Delivers cost savings

Possum Control

Posssum control is continuing on a rotational basis around the island with about 30,000ha under sustained control. During the 2012/13 season contractors will undertake possum control in the F1 & R2 blocks, an area of approximately 4600 hectares in the centre of Stewart Island. This area also received possum control in 2002 & 2006. The control area includes part of the Mason Homestead hunting block, which will be closed for the duration of this operation. Control work in the North Mason Block (F1) will be undertaken between the 10th of December 2012 and the 28th of February 2013. Control work in the Trails Hill (R2) block will be undertaken for one month between the 1st of November 2012 and the 31st of May 2013.

Update on Ulva

It is now a year since the second bait drop to eradicate the rats on Ulva Island and staff have begun removing the poison warning signs from the island. While there is still no evidence of rats on Ulva Island, we have scheduled another dog check for November. The biosecurity plan for Ulva has also now received final signoff. Despite the delay in getting final approvals for this document, many of the actions have already been implemented, including a much more extensive trap network on the island. We expect the plan to be a living document and that it will be continuously updated as new information comes to light and new

techniques are developed. It will be audited within the next year as a check that it is achieving what is set out and that nothing has been overlooked. Students from the University of Otago returned to Ulva Island last week to continue monitoring of the robin population. This is the last season planned for this particular research project, which has been running for 11 years.

Vice-regal visit

The Governor-General, Lt Gen Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae and Her Excellency, Lady Janine Mateparae made a day trip to Stewart Island on Thursday 27 September 2012. The Department had been asked to prepare an itinerary that included meeting local DOC staff, a visit to the school, a tour of the village and an opportunity for their Excellencies to meet and mingle with 18 – 20 representatives of the island's service and community groups. Their Excellencies had also expressed an interest in viewing the marine farms and visiting Ulva Island, so the afternoon was concluded with a tour of the Sanford Salmon Farm and a brief walk on Ulva, before they flew back to Invercargill at 4.30pm. Feedback received following the trip, was that the vice-regal party thoroughly enjoyed their time on Rakiura and that many of the accompanying staff were keen to return on vacation, sometime soon.

Celebration planned

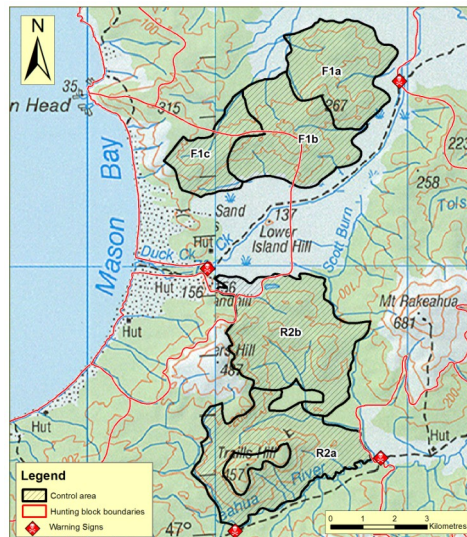
Plans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Rakiura Great Walk in conjunction with a belated celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Rakiura National Park, with an excursion to Port William, have been slowly coming together. It had been planned to hold this event on Saturday, October 13, however with the wharf at Port William still out of action, we have now

postponed this event to enable us to look at options that will include landing people by boat directly onto the beach. The event has now been moved to November 17, which is closer to the actual anniversary date - the Rakiura Great Walk was officially opened by Sir Denis Marshall on the 21st November 1992. Options will include walking to and from Port William, accompanied by DOC staff and volunteers, with a simple BBQ lunch provided for everyone who arrives at the hut between 12 and 2pm.

Subantarctic season underway

Last week saw the first research trip depart for the subantarctics, with a NIWA team heading to Campbell Island for a three-month trip for the fourth year of a five-year project studying Rock hopper penguins and Campbell and Grey headed mollymawks, as well as a new project on the movements of Royal albatross over the breeding season. In November a team of DOC staff and paying volunteers (who are covering a percentage of the charter costs for the boat) head to the Auckland Islands to trial surveying the Yellow eyed penguins on the archipelago. This will be the first attempt to count this important population and is being done in conjunction with the Yellow eyed Penguin Trust. This is the largest volunteer pro-

(Continued on page 11)



Community Centre News

Hi All

We have a new access system for the hall, I hope everyone has their new blue swipe tag, if not contact me and I will hook you up with yours.

We have a lot of classes at the hall:

Tai chi and light weight training

Wed 10am and Thurs 530pm

Swiss Ball

Tues & Thurs 4.30pm Sat 4pm

Circuit Class

Tues, Thurs 6.30pm, Sat 9am

Tae Bo or Walking

Tues & Thurs 9.15am

Music & Movement

Mon 9.30am

So there is lots available, if you are interested in anything else email me at stewart.island@xtra.co.nz

I am super keen to start touch rugby up on a Monday night about 6pm at Trail Park and if wet inside at the hall email or text 0272316305 me if you keen.

Cheers, *Dids*

Provisionally sorting out **Christmas Party** for this year, Sat 29th Dec, does anyone fancy doing an act similar to the Starfish in their eyes ones? You don't need to be able to sing, just lip sync and generally entertain people! Let me know... *Vicki*

Wise up to Weeds

Why do weeds wander?
Which weed is which?
What works on weeds?
Want answers?

Then register for this FREE workshop!!!

Environment Southland is offering a free workshop about pest plants on Rakiura. Learn how to identify weeds, how they're spread and how to control them.

Saturday 8 December
Venue and time TBC

Numbers are limited so register now education@es.govt.nz or 0800 76 88 45 (ask for Amy)

RAKIURA RIDDLE

DO AS THE ROMAN WHEN YOU'RE IN ROME
AND WHEN YOU'RE A-ROAMIN' TAKE ME, A HOME
THERE ARE FOUR LETTERS IN MY NAME
THE FIRST AND LAST ONES ARE THE SAME
WITHOUT MY VOWEL I COULD EXPLODE
AND HAWKEYE WOULD LOSE HIS ABODE
SANDBLIES BUGGING YOU? NEVER FEAR
THE FLY ON ME WILL KEEP THEM CLEAR
BEDOUINS HAVE THEIR BEDS IN ME
I'VE OCCUPIED TRAIL PARK AND WALL STREET

GUESSED WHO I AM? NEED ONE MORE CLUE?
MY NAME STARTS WITH X . . .

*NOW
DO
AS
ROMANS
DO!*

(Continued from page 10)

ject undertaken on the islands to date, and along with paying volunteers helping to cover the costs of two other projects this year (species monitoring and structures maintenance on Campbell) it will hopefully be the start of increased opportunities for the public to help the Department with its work in this special part of the world. Unfortunately the high transport costs for getting to the islands have to be reflected in the volunteer charges, but the level of interest has been pleasing with all berths quickly filled.

Other items in brief:

- Two volunteers from the Winton Vintage Machinery Club spent some time with Andrew King at Mason Bay recently, tinkering with the old tractor, and bringing it back into service. While visiting the island they also went up to the haulers above Maori Beach and checked out the various mill sites around the RakiuraTrack with a view to club members taking on a project to assist DOC with the maintenance of these historic assets.
- Annual Hut Clean project - Two teams, each made up of four volunteers and 1 – 2 DOC staff members spent the past week giving the huts around the North West and Southern Circuits a good spring clean.



Colin Davidson (left) and David Michaels of the Winton Vintage Machinery Club recently spent time in at Island Hill Homestead, Mason Bay, with DOC staff member Andrew King. Colin's association with Island Hill goes back many years, as it was he who flew this Massey Ferguson 65 tractor into Mason Bay, piece-by-piece, for Tim Te Aika, who farmed the leasehold property from 1966. When Tim left Mason Bay in 1986 he left behind this tractor, which for the last few years has been sitting idle in the workshop. Colin, on his return to Island Hill last month was keen to get it moving again and soon had it back in action – mowing the lawns surrounding the homestead before he left.



A LOCAL'S TAIL, with love and laughter, introduces local characters, community colour, and the struggles and triumphs of the island pioneers, both past and present.

Independent filmmakers, Stewart Island Bunkhouse Productions, launch this charming invitation to browse through the island's history, guided by a local dog. It opens to the public on Friday 19 October 2012.

All locals are invited to see the movie at the Bunkhouse Theatre, on Friday for free. Session times will commence on the hour starting from 1 pm. Last session at 6pm.

Hope to see you there.

Aussie Pete and Penny



The Island Beat

Traffic:

Over the last three weekends there have been 2 motor vehicle crashes on the island.

Alcohol was definitely a contributing factor in one of the crashes and possibly the other.

The consequences of drink driving at worst can be fatal to the driver their passengers or an innocent pedestrian or motorist. That innocent pedestrian or motorist may be you.

In a small community like ours the effects of a drink driving fatality or serious injury are felt widely through-

out the community.

In our community drink driving is unacceptable. Most people live within walking distance from town. The Hotel has a courtesy vehicle for it patrons or the few that reside further away. Most large community or private events where alcohol is provided also provide a courtesy vehicle.

Police are one of the government agencies responsible for enforcing the law in relation to Drink/Drug driving. However because the consumption of alcohol in our community is generally enjoyed, with associates, friends or family: that responsibility also rests with the intoxicated driver, their associates, friends and family to prevent that intoxicated person getting behind

the wheel and creating or becoming a statistic.

If the intoxicated driver is not responding to your advice not to drive: Give Police a call, prevention is better than the consequence.

With Pre Christmas, Christmas and New year celebrations just around the corner, host responsibility should also be considered when planning events. If everyone in the community takes their responsibility seriously, the Kai Kart will not have to put 'Ghost chips' on the menu.

Safer Communities together.

Constable D.C. JENKINS

Ringa Ringa Heights Golf Club Inc

wish to advise Stewart Island residents that on
Friday 15th and Saturday 16th February 2013

We will be celebrating 25 years of golf on Stewart Island. A meet and greet followed by a buffet dinner will be held on the Friday night and the following day Saturday 16th the annual Electrix golf tournament will be played as part of these celebrations so we would like you all to be part of this, keep this date free and start thinking about who your team members may be.

The game will take the same format as other years and as usual be followed by a BBQ and prize giving for all. We are hoping for a good turn out to make the 25th year of golfing on Stewart Island an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all.

If you aren't a RRH Golf Club member and you would like to know more about this event you can contact either **Sue 2191327** or **Jon 2191449**

Please register by the end of October.

...and the Winner
of the SIESA Questionnaire \$100-
electricity account credit is...

Anita Geeson

(drawn under Police Supervision).

Thanks for all those returned
questionnaires. If you haven't yet
replied, please do so.

FIRST AID TRAINING

NEW ZEALAND REDCROSS

Stewart Island

Course Dates

Essential 1st Aid - Tues 23rd Oct

Comprehensive 1st Aid - Tues 23rd & Wed 24th Oct

1st Aid Revalidation - Wed 24th Oct

Call 0800 733 276 or 218 4339

USE THE RED CROSS ADVANTAGE - COMPREHENSIVE FIRST AID, PRACTICAL FIRST AID, REVALIDATION OR TAILORED TRAINING TO SUIT YOU AT YOUR PLACE OR OURS.

A fortnight ago I rescued one of the many ducklings now waddling around the bay from where it was stuck at the bottom of a hole, returning it to a distressed mummy-duck.

It was a timely reminder that little blue penguins, ducklings, weka chicks, oyster catchers and a whole raft of other animals will be coming ashore or popping out of their eggs over the next few months.

Can people please have a look around for any holes they might have dug or left open over the last year and cover them up in preparation for the coming breeding season?

If that's not possible, you can provide a make-shift ramp for trapped birds to climb their own way out by using branches, bricks or planks of wood.

Thanks, Kari Beaven

Richard Squires has shared a folder filled with old news paper clippings with SIN and they are historical gems.

I hope to include more of them in future issues.

If you are interested but find these too illegible to happily read please ask me or Squizzy for a hard copy!

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PEOPLE SAID TO BE LEAVING

Stewart Island's Drawbacks

HIGH FREIGHTS AND FARES

The permanent population of Stewart Island is declining as the result of migration to the mainland, according to a statement made by Mr A. W. Jones, president, at the meeting of the executive of the Southland Progress League last night. Mr Jones said that six families, numbering 20 persons, had recently left the island, and another seven families, numbering 40 persons, were planning to leave as soon as they could arrange for suitable homes on the mainland.

The inadequacy of the steamer service and the high fares and freights charged on the service were the chief reasons why people were deserting the island, Mr Jones said. At one time it was possible for the islanders to come over to the mainland, visit Invercargill and return the same day. Now such a visit occupied several days. It had also been possible at one time for a person to get through to the island in one day from as far north as Dunedin. That had helped the tourist traffic to the island. The return fare between Bluff and the island, a distance of 22 miles was 17/6. The return rail fare for the same distance was 5/2. The return rail fare between Invercargill and Bluff, which was on a suburban basis was 1/11. If the fare between Bluff and Stewart Island was on the same basis the fare would be 2/5.

The minimum charge for sending a parcel to the island was 3/4, made up of 7d wharfage at Bluff, 6d wharfage at Stewart Island and 2/3 freight, Mr Jones said.

"That is what it would cost you to send a loaf of bread or a packet of tacks to the island," Mr Jones added.

Dr J. A. Pottinger What about posting small articles?

Mr Jones: You would not post a loaf of bread.

Weather Also To Blame

Mr I. V. Wilson said that all the people were not leaving Stewart Island for the reasons mentioned by Mr Jones. He knew some who were leaving because of the weather. They were going north to get some sun.

"Stewart Island is a fine place for holiday-makers but it offers few facilities for permanent residents," said Mr D. Harris. "There are few inducements for families to remain on the island. There are no industries except fishing, and people with children cannot put all of them into that industry. I do not know how the difficulties can be overcome, but it might help if the steamer service between Bluff and the island were treated as part of the national railway system and fares and freights charged accordingly.

"The present charges are outrageous. They have a district nurse on the island but in a case of serious illness the patient has often to be brought over to the mainland in a fishing launch. An air service would be a great help to the islanders."

Mr Jones: That is the solution of the problem.

It was decided to write to the...

BOOK REVIEW from *Sue Ford*
 “Blood Harvest” by S.J. Bolton &
 “Not Dead Yet” by Peter James

There’s good and bad news this month, though both are contemporary who-dunnits. “Blood Harvest” is the ‘good news’ - it delivers on suspense without the gore which the title suggests. A family move to a Penine village (U.K.) and build a flashy house on church land, next door to an ancient ruin and the current church – newer than the ruin, but still very old. The property borders a graveyard. The 10 and six-year old sons of the family are haunted by a monstrous girl – who doesn’t seem to scare the two-year old baby of the family - she calls it “Ebba”. The boys don’t – obviously - tell anyone about this, for who would believe them? If the boys had told the newly appointed parish priest, they might have been believed, because Harry is soon aware that he often has company in the church – even when he knows there’s no-one there. Then there are the co-incidences of the little girls. Over more than a decade, two have died and one has disappeared. It’s a suspenseful story as to how it all ties in. The end came as a surprise, and as happy endings go, this one doesn’t rate highly, but is more realistic than “And they all lived happily ever after”. Definitely worth a read if you prefer psychological thrills to the

more graphic sort.

And that can’t be said of “Not Dead Yet”. The plot is still not bad, involving as it does a woman who is a famous rock star and a wannabe film star. Her life is threatened – on not one, but on several fronts. Brighton’s senior police officer is charged with guarding Gaia whilst she is filming in the U.K. But Roy Grace is himself embattled on several fronts, including his complicated personal life, an information leak in the police department, a limbless and headless corpse found on a chicken farm There are a great many threads to collect, some of which tie together, others of which are incidental to any of Grace’s problems. But you’d better have a good head for names as James has so many characters in this convoluted plot that I soon wished I’d had pencil and paper beside me to record each character! The bizarre plot would be more enjoyable if you weren’t wondering if every named and described police constable was an integral part of the story. Again, the twists at the end of the story are worth ploughing through the rest of it – just and barely.

Adults out there who haven’t read Suzanne Collins “Hunger Games” trilogy (I’ve heard great things of the movie too), but who like a bit of pure adventure

spiced with a touch of the futuristic, get hold of all three now: “The Hunger Games”, “Catching Fire” and “Mockingjay”. (And if you think this isn’t your cup of tea at all, I challenge you read the first book anyway!) Though not written as literary masterpieces, they are still easy, suspenseful and oddly believable, given the circumstances of life on Earth in the Collins future. There were times when I wanted to give the sometimes sulky and self-absorbed teenage heroine, Katniss Everdeen, a good telling-off (or even a non-p.c. slap on the bottom!), but that’s as it should be – or exactly the reaction that the character is supposed to engender. Good characters, thrills with excellent plotting, some touching moments – and a tad scary too, not least as a vision of the future. And speaking of fantasy worlds, I read three-quarters of the way through “Game of Thrones” on a borrowed Kindle whilst on holiday, so am not watching the TV adaptation until I can read the last 25% of the book and find out how it ends – gripping stuff on paper (or in e-ink anyway). And there’s a brand new Jack Reacher on the Library shelves too. Formulaic as Lee Child’s is, I still find his odd-ball “hero” so likeable and the suspense-factor in this one still rates very high – fans should look out for “A Wanted Man”.

Halfmoon Bay School News

by *Sophie Conner*

What an AWESOME MONTH at Halfmoon Bay School.

The year 3 to 6 students went on an fantastic trip Blackmount. We went to lots of farms around Blackmount . We got spray paint sheep, put up an electric fence, go and tag lambs in the snow and that was just at one farm. As a Bonus it SNOWED and we had a snowball fight with James Hargest year 10s and we won. Yahoo!

And a MASSIVE Congratulations to BILLY CHECK who came second at the SOUTHLAND Speech competition. Billy competed in the year five and six.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Newlyweds

Alina and Matt

Newlyweds

Deanne and Chris



Ladies
learn the art
of flax
weaving at
the Stewart
Island

Try-a-Thon.
More on
page 6.

Sat 8th December at
The Pavilion:

Sam's memorial scattering.

All welcome, more details
coming soon.

www.stewart-island-news.com

Pink night at the Pub raised \$275 for breast cancer
research and got a pink beehive on Hippy.



STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

On Thursday 11th October we met at Kate Hamilton's and
potted up native cuttings and grafted apples.

Jill (Matt Jones's Mum from U.K.) will be at the Fire Station
at **2 o'clock on Thursday 8th November** to give a talk on
'Life as a Florist' and do some floral arrangements.

Gold coin donation would be appreciated.

13th December – Christmas Lunch.



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.

**Please send articles and enquiries to Jess at
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or to editor@stewart-island-news.com**

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