

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

September 2015

\$3.00

Rest in Peace
Ernie Hopkins

Condolences to Bid, Colin, Margaret, Emma, Ben, Ellie and extended family.

A service will be held at 11 am on Wednesday 9th September at the St. Andrew's Anglican Church.



Spring is in the air. *Photo by Carolyn Squires.* (For a picture of this tui's sweet doppelganger see back page.)

I feel like I start a lot of sentences with "Easterlies have brought..." Such is the lot of the SIN writer. Easterlies have brought corpses of birds and seals in massive tangles of seaweed to our beaches. We've seen snow, hail, and sunshine too...typical Island weather.

Did you hear about the marram grass balls on Oreti Beach? A natural formation resulting from big tides and erosion. This phenomenon has been known to have occurred at Mason Bay as well.

We are lucky to be in this relatively safe corner of the world. Images and news of the refugee crisis in Europe and the seeming unending tide of human misery are appalling and can be overwhelming. There are ways to help. Donate to the Emergency Appeal for Syria at red-cross.org.nz or go to www.moas.eu and donate to the Migrant Offshore Aid Station. Also there is engage.rescue.org or

www.savethechildren.org which recently produced the harrowing SaveSyriasChildren video (on YouTube). If you are interested in helping with a bake stall to raise money for this cause in the next month get in touch with Jess.

Mayor Gary Tong held a meeting here and the important question was raised: *do we want to put the chicken before the cart?* See more page 16. See page 17 for Predator Free news, and pick up your copy of the report at the shop.

Much thanks to Denise Edgar for sharing the incredible and very moving story of her recent visit to Ypres — page 12-13.

Stewart Island groups have been cropping up on Facebook. You could spend HOURS scrolling through the historical photos posted on Stewart Island Home Land. Also, check out Stewart Island Winter Crafters; Stewart Island Buy Sell & Exchange; Stewart Island Bird & Nature Photography; Rakiura Runners; and Stewart Island / Rakiura Community Page (from SI Promotions).

Don't miss the FREE printmaking workshop Sept 12-13. Details p 21.

Shona Sangster will be taking the SIN reins next month so contact her with submissions and inquiries.

—Jess

The "Rakiura Rockers" rock at the RockShop BandQuest by Elaine Hamilton

Last week 16 schools met in Dunedin to compete in the Rockshop BandQuest. Our school really did themselves proud, not only with their performance but with their support of other groups. They had also travelled the longest distance. It was a long wait for rehearsals and the finals with our school being 13th on stage. The Rockers got great applause and half the other schools immediately got up

dancing, which hadn't happened to the previous 12 schools. Although they didn't win they would certainly have got an award for the public response if there had been one. A couple of men sitting behind us commented they were very good, really liked the song choices and at the end said 'They should win'. Other schools definitely have advantages with more hands on and weekly tuition. Well done to Mary for her tutoring from afar. The star of the night was Leeym who won the award for the Best Keyboard Player, which he was.

From the deck of the Titan. *Photo by Luke Squires*



SOUL KITCHEN *by Lania Davis*

You know those days or evenings when you just want a magical delicious dessert to appear in front of you.....and no matter how hard you try it never manifests itself and the feeling you must have deliciousness NOW only grows, yet you can't bring yourself to slave away for an hour to satisfy the monster..... So you eat whatever looks sweet you can find.... (in my house if I don't hide it, it was never there!!) apart from last Christmas's candy canes that have seen better days, you never know what you're risking if you eat one.....but yet you can't quite seem to throw them out!!

Yeah.....anyway, as you search but can't find.....look no further! Whip these wee bliss balls up, no cooking needed!! Plus no added refined sugar, just the natural sugars in the dried dates.

Bliss balls look like truffles, yum! But pack a much healthier punch and taste delish!

I like to add some nutrient rich foods to mine one being raw cacao powder. For those of you who don't know what cacao powder is, it's the cacao bean (chocolate bean) ground up, it has the beautiful bittersweet chocolate flavour but with no sugar added unlike cocoa. Hence added to sweet dates they offer all the natural sugar you need. Raw cacao powder or beans or nibs are classed as a super food, it's jam packed with antioxidants, magnesium, calcium, and iron. I also add chia seeds which are a great source of omega 3 and dietary fibre, most people will have heard of chia seeds as for a few years now they have appeared in a lot of breads to add fibre. Chia seeds were prized by the Aztecs and Mayans for their nu-

trient value. You can add a lot of different seeds and ground nuts it's totally up to what you like, experiment!!

BLISS BALLS

1 cup of dried dates
2 TBSP of chia seeds
100ml water
Zest and juice of 1 orange

Dice dates up into small pieces, add to a bowl, with water, chia seeds and zest and juice of the Orange, leave to soak for 15 minutes. The dates will soften and the chia seeds will swell. There will be no liquid left.

Blend till a smooth paste. Then put paste back into the bowl and add....

4 TBSP raw cacao powder
1 TBSP flaxseed meal (optional if you have it.)
140 grams of almond meal (or other ground nuts up to 140 grams)
2 TBSP coconut desiccated (again optional, if you like it.)
2 TBSP whole nuts (sunflower, pumpkin, again optional if you like them.)

Mix all together, once well mixed, use heaped tsp amount to roll into a ball, then either use raw cacao powder, ground almond or coconut and roll ball in it. Your bliss balls keep well for a few weeks in the fridge in an air tight container. I suggest chilling bliss balls before eating but that is up to you.

As you can see you can add or take away a lot of the ingredients, as long



as you have dates, water and almond meal you have bliss balls. I like the flavour of orange, or lemon so I often change. You can add dried cranberries, apricots, mango etc to take on a different flavour and even take out the cacao if you're not a chocolate fan.

These bliss balls still have sugar in them, fat and carbs but are rich and satisfying so 2-3 is usually all you need.

Obviously these are much better for you than today's generic chocolate (if you can call it that) as proper chocolate should only contain cacao butter, cacao powder and sugar. So check out your favourite chocolate ingredient list today. healthpost.co.nz stock Loving Earth raw cacao powder and also you can purchase chia seeds from them too.

Love chocolate mousse...try this healthy option for silky rich mousse. 2-3 ripe avocados, 4 TBSP cacao powder and either runny honey or agave syrup to sweeten to your taste. Blend and chill. Yum!!

Pleasure without the guilt, love it!



The Creative Fibres ladies came to the island on the 29th and 30th of August and demonstrated a range of interesting crafts, including spinning wool and weaving on a variety of looms. Well known Colac Bay weaver Isobel Bates very kindly gifted some table looms (pictured) to members of the Stewart Island winter crafting group. Thanks to Helen Bennett for organising and the South Sea hotel for the use of the dining room as a venue. —Shona

Ernie Hopkins

1929 – 2015

After a long illness Ernie Hopkins passed away at Calvary Hospital, Invercargill on 5th September. Ernie came from the Catlins to live at Stewart Island in 1949 as a 20 year old. Along with his brothers Bill and Robin he went possum hunting all around Stewart Island's north coast as well as Codfish Island. Eventually his sister Joy and other brother Ron moved to Stewart Island so the Hopkins name was fairly well represented on the Island for some years. He married Bid Armstrong in 1952, two years after Bill Hopkins had married her older sister Coe. Ernie soon started out on his seafaring career working as a crew member for Bid's uncle, Sass Pollock on his tourist vessel the *Komuri*.

Eventually Ernie began crayfishing on company boats including *Radium*, *Sea Fury* and the *Mary G*, and was part of the convoy of fishing boats that travelled to the Chatham Islands to fish during the crayfish boom of the 1960s. Ernie built his fine fishing boat the *Seven Seas* in 1966 and fished successfully at Sou' West Cape for many years. Ernie was a hard-working man and passed his work ethic on to his son Colin who crewed with him for several years until he got his own boat.

During the 1960s Ernie helped establish the Stewart Island Fishermen's Co-op which enabled many fishermen to purchase their own boats and flourish instead of being captive to the companies who leased out vessels and retained most of the profits. Ernie was chairman of the SIFC for a number years.

After retiring from fishing Ernie used the *Seven Seas* to harvest salmon for Stewart Island Marine Services, a company he was part owner of. SIMS later built the first catamaran ferry for Stewart Island.



Ernie was a JP for many years and also a member of the Stewart Island Lions Club holding different offices including President. Ernie and Bid attended several international Lions Conventions overseas during their time in Lions and also enjoyed other overseas travel.

Since his retirement Ernie has spent most of his time gardening and producing an amazing quantity and array of vegetables and tomatoes. Many hundreds of kilos of tomatoes have come out of his well-kept tunnel house over the years.

Ernie will be very much missed by, Bid his wife of 63 years, his son Colin, daughter-in-law Margaret and Grandchildren Ben & Emma as well as little great-grand daughter Ellie who gave him so much joy in recent years when he was ill.

—Margaret Hopkins

Dogs and kiwi by Sandy King

The recent death of another kiwi has stimulated quite a lot of discussion in the community. Opinion is that a dog was responsible, which seems quite likely given the mass of feathers, some stuck together with globs of blood and saliva, strewn along the roadside at the crime scene. I saw them when I went to Horseshoe beach to exercise my two dogs and my first thought was "I hope that was a duck". It wasn't a duck.

Yes, I'm someone who appreciates how special it is to have kiwi in our backyards. But I'm also a dog owner and my overwhelming feeling at discovering that the feathers on the side of the road didn't belong to a duck was disappointment. This doesn't mean I think it would be ok for a dog to kill a duck, there is no justification for a dog to kill anything with feathers here. I was disappointed at the fact that there is still at least one dog owner out there letting the side down. A few years ago, while out dog walking, I was confronted by an angry part-time resident who informed me that he had bought property here because of the bush and the birds, and didn't I know that there were kiwi around? He was quite adamant that we couldn't have both dogs and kiwi on the Island because dogs are kiwi killers; I was equally adamant that we can have both and I still believe that. Hence my disappointment that at least one dog owner is providing that person, and others who share his viewpoint, with justification for their argument. We **can** have both dogs and kiwi here, **if** dog owners take a bit of care and responsibility for their dogs. It isn't difficult. Spend time with your dog, teach it the basics of obedience, give it plenty of supervised exercise daily, and provide it with its own safe secure place to rest when you are unable to be watching it. A dog which is happy to be in its kennel or corner of the kitchen and sleep all day isn't bored, it's content.

If you are thinking of getting a dog consider; will I have the time to spend with it and to walk it every day? Do I have somewhere comfortable and secure to leave it when I'm out? If the answer is no, or not sure, to either question then think again. Think about a goldfish.

Good dog control and management is the key to having both dogs and kiwi on the Island. If you don't know where your dog is, you don't know what it is doing. It could be in trouble – stuck somewhere, eating something that doesn't agree with it (e.g. old corn cobs and chop bones in a rubbish bag are quite tasty apparently, but corn cobs are right up there in the list of causes of blocked bowel, and sharp cooked bones such as chop bones are likely to pierce the intestine. Both are agonising ways for a dog to die.), or it could be out killing kiwi.



Good dog control is the key, but there are other things that can help. SIRCET has been running kiwi avoidance training sessions for dogs on the Island since 2013, and now is a good time to remind ourselves of what can be expected from this training. So far 45 dogs have been to the training sessions, but at least 5 of these have either since left the Island or aren't here permanently. There are approximately 50 dogs registered on the Island, so there are still a few that would be welcome to attend.

Avoidance training is intended to teach the dogs to avoid kiwi. It uses dead kiwi as props and an electric collar to deliver a correction if the dog approaches and investigates the kiwi. At each training session the dog being trained, or tested if it has been trained before, is walked past two kiwi. First timers usually investigate the first kiwi and are corrected, then deliberately avoid the second kiwi. Most dogs returning to be tested avoid both kiwi. A more detailed explanation of the training and what it involves was published in the June 2014 edition of SIN – you will find it in the Archives section of the SIN website www.stewartislandnews.com

Although avoidance training has helped protect kiwi throughout the country it has its short-comings, and it is important to recognise this. Avoidance training is not a total solution on its own, and should not be considered a substitute for good dog control. Even if your dog has been through the training sessions and avoided the kiwi when tested, you are not absolved from your responsibility to keep your dog under control and you shouldn't allow your dog to free range.

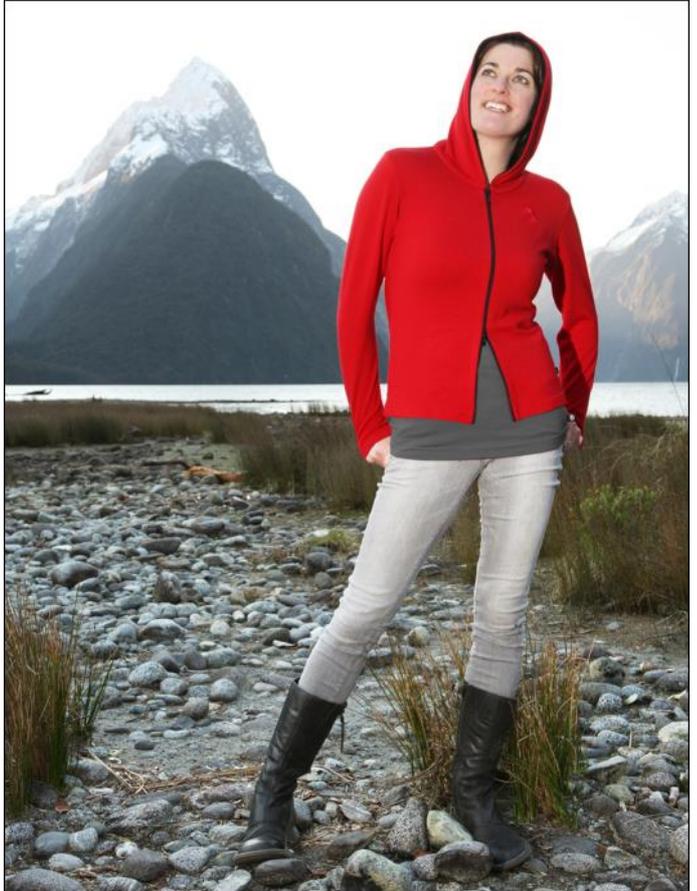
Avoidance training doesn't work every time for every dog; like people some dogs learn quickly and get it first time, others need to go through the training a second or third time. Also like people, dogs forget over time if the training isn't kept up. These are both good reasons to keep returning to the training sessions and keep your dog "current". The kiwi we use for the training are dead and have been in the freezer for quite some time. Although we use fresh kiwi poo to enhance the smell they probably don't smell exactly the same as a live bird, and they don't move. From the dogs' perspective kiwi must be fun to chase, and even for a dog that has been trained the sight of a kiwi running off must be sorely tempting. If the owner is right there to call it back the trained dog should respond, if the owner isn't there who knows....

The next kiwi avoidance training will be held over Labour Weekend. Details of dates and the venue will be published in the October SIN.



Tyler Dawson protects his wee bro's ears at the Auckland Grammar School Big Band Concert which was very good and as Ryan could tell you was also VERY LOUD! Photo by Karin Lewis

Village Centre, Oban : glowing-sky.co.nz



Glowing Sky Merino. All You Need.



This year we will be screening a number of NZ Independent films at the Bunkhouse Theatre (www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz). These films have been receiving great reviews.

Our season commences Labour Day weekend with **A LOCAL'S TAIL** screening daily and in November 2015 we have the **SHOW ME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL** back again.

Feature Films 2015/16 Summer Season

Don't miss out on seeing the latest NZ Independent films. Details about these films are on our website

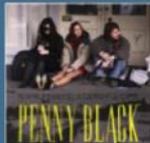
All feature films start @ 7.30pm



Sat 21, Wed 25, Sat 28 Nov
& Wed 2 Dec 2015
Wed 6 & Sat 9 Jan 2016



Sat 23 & Wed 27
Jan 2016



Sat 13 & Wed 17
Feb 2016



Wed 24 Feb 2016



Sat 12 & Wed 16
March 2016

Adults \$15
Seniors \$13
Child \$10

Bookings
Suggested!

Stewart Island Ball Labour Weekend

Saturday 24th October

Stewart Island Community Centre

7.30

the theme is B for Ball

Now is the time to start thinking of what you
could wear that starts
with the letter B

Butthead, Bob the builder, Beautiful Babe, Blackbeard

Bountious Supper and Cash Bar
The Band is Quantum from Invercargill and we
hear they are
bopping beauts

Courtesy Car will be available



Book Reviews *From Sue Ford*

Last SIN I mentioned re-release of two Nora Roberts' (though not with enthusiasm), and then came across **"From Doon with Death" by Ruth Rendell**, to celebrate 50 years of Chief Inspector Wexford, the first Wexford novel. And though it's Kingsmarkham in 1964, it still stands as a good read. Wexford and Inspector Burden have an old post-war romance to unravel in order to find out who killed the plain and mousey Mrs. Parsons! Shocking ending for its time... A far better re-release than the Nora Roberts novels anyway!

"One Mile Under" by Andrew Gross features Ty Hauck who must break his sabbatical to bail his god-daughter from jail. Dani 's friend has been killed in a white-water rafting "accident", but Dani knows differently. Her step-father is the local law, and tries to convince her that she's wrong in her suspicions. Ty and Dani take an age to make $2 + 2 = 4$. Annoying. And witter? Dani never stops: "I want to go with you; I ought to go with you; why can't I go with you; I will go with you"... on and on. And Ty takes so much "killing" that he could put Ironman out of business – totally unrealistic. The basic plot and surmise is, however, intriguing: it concerns oil and natural gas extraction – but there is a resource more precious than either, and without which no fracking can take place - water. Mmm, the "f" word – fracking. But read the author's Acknowledgements before you assume the worst about this practise. A decent story with food for thought if you can get past Dani's whining.

I re-read **Samantha Shannon's "The Bone Season"** as a refresher – can't wait for sequel "The Mime Order", due out soon. And am re-reading **Steven Erikson's** Malazan series – by Book 3, I'd started to catch on to this complex "other world" and was really enjoying it. The trouble is, some of the minor characters in Book 1 ("Garden of the Moon") start to turn up as major players in subsequent books; I was – literally – beginning to lose the plot! It's easy to miss the importance of some of the small details that Erikson weaves into his epic storylines. Fantastic in original and contemporary meanings of the word.

Back to more regular reading and **Ali Knight's "The Silent Ones"** is an Odd Duck. Five girls are missing for 10 years, presumed dead. The brother of one, Darren Evans, is determined to get through to confessed murderer, Olivia Duvall, find out where the girls are buried and so bring closure to the bereaved families. Olivia is in a secure facility for the criminally insane, so how does a dreadlocked surfer boy with a fine arts degree get close to an insane murderer? As a planner, Darren is a dimwit, unlike his sister, who – ten years ago - was a 14-year old master intelligence with a dose of the totally thick! As I said, bit of an Odd Duck this one – good writing but fake plotting and lame ending, the opposite of my usual complaint in fact.

In **"Eleven Days" by Stav Sherez**, a fire in a convent inhabited by ten nuns causes eleven deaths – so who is the eleventh body? Why didn't the nuns try to escape the conflagration, and did they lock themselves in the room where they died – or did someone else? DI Carrington and DS Miller have a myriad of seemingly unrelated clues and suspects. But it's only eleven days to Christmas... Good suspense, old-fashioned thriller, mounting tension, etc. And the ending is brilliant. Definitely a mystery/thriller worth reading – and I forgive the author the one minor annoyance – not knowing the plural of 'exegesis'. I hope my next book – Robert Galbraith's "The Silkworm" is as good. I'll let you know.

LETTERS

It is with great sadness that I hear of another kiwi being mauled by a dog on Horseshoe Bay. There are various discussions going around the bay at the moment in regards to what more can be done to stop this happening, and I would like to throw my two cents in in regards to CATS.

I am a cat lover and owner. I have two cats, Biddy and Tibbles. Biddy in particular is pretty well known around the Bay as she was Margaret Fairhalls cat, a frequenter of Presbyterian Church services and moocher at the general store (Biddy that is). So I put these thoughts forward as a cat fancier and crazy cat lady, as a plea to other cat people to be responsible cat owners.

Cats are effective predators of birds. We might not see Kiwi mauled by cats, but are deluding ourselves if we think they aren't getting kiwi (particularly chicks).

Cats need to be locked in from dusk and overnight. Cats hate this, we have weathered many hours of cat wailing and cats hurling themselves at door - but eventually they work out that Out at Night is simply not an option. From experience you can train a kitten quite easily, changing behaviour of an adult cat is more of a challenge... but doable! I have had other cat owners tell me they let their cats out at night so they can kill rats, but in my mind that is just being lazy, if you care that much about rats set some traps.

Consider bird aversion training - from experience you can train a kitten to be absolutely terrified of chickens (put kitten in cage trap, surround with chook grain and release the hens!). This doesn't stop my cat eyeing up other birds though.

There is an existing council bylaw here I think that pet cats are neutered. In know of some pet cats not neutered, but there is no compliance checking by the council.

Perhaps pet cats on Stewart Island should be registered, as we do dogs. I see this as step towards acknowledging that we are different to the mainland, we do have special things to protect, and so our rules need to be different. Cats with registration tags, why not.

The issues with cats and dogs are very much the same, there are responsible pet owners, who do everything they can to minimise the effect their pet has on the natural environment, and then there are those who simply don't acknowledge or care what their animal is doing. Then there are those who argue we shouldn't have pets here at all. Unless pet owners take responsibility for their animals, and yes it IS inconvenient and costs money to do so (i.e. putting cats in cattery when you go away rather than leave them to have a free run of the place), then the 'no pet cats or dogs on Rakiura' idea gains more and more traction. My pets make me happy. Despite having worked almost 20 years for DOC, and now working in tourism as a nature guide/ tour guide (and thus seeing the logic of the argument we shouldn't have pets here at all), I totally get that having a pet is a huge part of people's lives.

But please, if you own a pet, please please please take responsibility for it, and especially keep it locked in at night.

Chris Visser, Biddy and Tibbles.

☒

In December SI News I sought help from local hunters to collect liver samples from Whitetail Deer for a research project being undertaken as a Doctorate degree by Kaylyn McBrearty at Lincoln University. The purpose of the research is to determine a number of issues in relation to Whitetail at Glenorchy but includes comparative analysis of DNA samples will be conducted to identify how the Wakatipu herd differs from the origin population in New Hampshire USA and the animals released on Stewart Island. Liver samples will be analysed for mineral content in order to identify deficiencies or differences in the available minerals between the Wakatipu herd and the Stewart Island herd. Differences in diet may explain physiological differences, impact reproductive success and disease susceptibility of the two herds.

We have now collected enough samples to get the Stewart Island aspect of the research underway. Big thanks to all the local hunters who collected samples and a big thanks to Tim Dawson who collected and stored samples. It will be some time before results are known. Once they are I will forward to SI News for publication,

John DeLury

Kiwi "tagged and bagged"

How did this kiwi end up dead in a bag? Because it's defenceless against a dog, and someone here let their dog roam and the dog attacked and killed it, that's why. The next big why: WHY did someone let their dog roam?



Who knows? 99.9 percent of dog owners here are conscientious and careful and don't let their dogs stray, especially at night. But there are one or two dog owners here who are *not* careful, and one or two dogs can do a world of horror and damage to our kiwi population.

It's a shameful fact that dogs kill kiwi

here and no one — dog nor negligent owner — has ever been held responsible. The attacks occur at night and no one sees and there is no proof. Perhaps this atmosphere of zero accountability has contributed to the laxness of certain dog owners. That's the bad news.

The good news is that DNA testing is

now being used — successfully up north — to help identify kiwi-killing dogs. Why not here? Why not implement a system where swabs are taken from stray dogs and a catalogue of DNA of these dogs is created, alongside a catalogue of swabs of saliva from the wounds of any kiwi killed by a dog? Ideally, the very real threat of being caught and prosecuted could spur the one or two careless owners here to become more vigilant with their pets.

SIN is collecting ideas from the community on how to make dog control and kiwi protection more effective in this community. Send your thoughts to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com, all suggestions will be compiled and shared with our Community Board.



COME ALONG

WATER AND LAND DROP-IN SESSIONS

Drop-in sessions are being held across the region. Head along to one of these to meet with staff and councillors and discuss your thoughts and ideas.



Check out *Towards a new plan – water and land.*

What do you think? Are we on the right track? Do you have a better idea?



Gore	Tuesday 1 September, 6pm-8.30pm, James Cumming Wing
Winton	Wednesday 9 September, 11am-1.30pm, Winton RSA (ANZAC Lounge)
Stewart Island	Thursday 10 September, 6pm-8.30pm, Community Centre
Mossburn	Tuesday 15 September, 11am-1.30pm, Mossburn Community Hall
Te Anau	Thursday 24 September, 11am-1.30pm, Fiordland Community Centre
Invercargill	Friday 9 October, 11am-1.30pm, Ascot Park Hotel
Lumsden	Thursday 15 October, 6pm-8.30pm, Lumsden Community Hall
Invercargill	Thursday 22 October, 6pm-8.30pm, Ascot Park Hotel

Can't make one of these sessions?

Join us online for live question and answer sessions on Thursday 17 September or Tuesday 27 October from 7pm to 8.30pm at www.facebook.com/enviromentsouthland.

RAKIURA RIDDLE

I'm not a miller
But I do mill
around
Loitering by a
creek, I can be
found

I am a fisher
But I don't use a
pot
If you're bettin'
I'm nettin'
The answer's:
I'm not

I've a powerful line
But not to catch
kai
It's more like my
throne
A throne? Yes,
here's why:

I am a royal
Can you guess who
I am?
Between two
bridges
Is my kingdom.

LOCATIONS

WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD

Stewart Island Real Estate

For all local listings

houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

See our website www.locations.co.nz

or contact our local representative

Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589

for current listings.

Date 21.8.15

V Coats
Quiz Mistress
Stewart Island

Hello there Vicki,

Thank you very much on behalf of our board, for your generosity, by way of the donation of \$2400 deposited in our account. At this time we don't have a special project for it, however this money will be well spent in keeping our current accounts paid.

Thank you again for thinking of us, as recipient of the funds.

My Regards,

WAYNE MUNTZ (Treasurer RIVERTON COASTGUARD INC)



OVER \$15,000 RAISED FOR YELLOW-EYED PENGUINS ON REAL JOURNEYS 'CRUISE-FOR-A-CAUSE'

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust will employ a researcher to find out why yellow-eyed penguin numbers are decreasing near Stewart Island, following a \$15,335 funding boost from Real Journeys 'Cruise-for-a-Cause' initiative.

In the last twelve years, the number of penguin breeding pairs has almost halved on Codfish Island/Whenua Hou near Stewart Island/Rakiura and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (YEPT) needed external funding to try and work out why this was occurring on a predator-free island.

As a successful applicant for Real Journeys 'Cruise-for-a-Cause', the penguin trust was able to sell tickets to an entire Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise and keep 100% of all the money raised. Seventy-two guests enjoyed the pre-season cruise over the weekend, complete with dinner, breakfast and kayaking. It was also the final training preparation for the Real Journeys *Fiordland Navigator* staff. "What a team! Their enthusiasm for the wonders of the fiords, wildlife and weather was infectious!" says Sue Murray, General Manager, YEPT. "We had the best trip ever – I only heard praise from all on board!" (See the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's account of the trip attached.)

"The funds raised from the sale of tickets will support the monitoring of yellow-eyed penguins on Rakiura/Stewart Island over the next breeding season," says Sue. "Thank you Real Journeys for this wonderful opportunity both to raise funds and for us to appreciate this world class location."

Real Journeys Chief Executive, Richard Lauders says the fundraiser was "a great way to start our Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise season. It's good for our training and our teams love being part of it. The same community initiative will launch our Milford Sound Overnight Cruises later this month (18 Sept) and this time the Queenstown Lakes Family Centre is the charity involved. They're adding a unique twist by bringing an opera singer on board and there are still tickets available; so support them if you can – we'd like to help them raise heaps."

Last month, Real Journeys held a "Birds of a Feather Charity Ball" at Walter Peak, which raised over \$35,000 towards Kakapo Recovery and this week the company is holding a special Discovery Expedition to raise funds for the Department of Conservation's Dusky Sound Conservation and Restoration Programme.

Marae stay idea for Rakiura residents winter 2016 from Cherie Hemsley

The idea is to have the Bluff marae host Stewart Island residents and provide some historical information to engage us to learn more about the Island we all call home. To experience this learning at the marae to incorporate Maori culture into the history learning. Maybe staying overnight?

The idea would be to gauge interest in the community to see if this is something that the community are interested in. I have been approached by a few islanders that think it would be a good idea.

It also potentially could benefit the local aheka (Rakiura Maori) in strengthening the community relationship with them maybe?

Once interest is established I would like to contact the Bluff marae and put a proposal to them and then see what happens. I would assume that any further discussion on costing, travel and what we would all wish to learn would be considered after initial interest is gauged.

This investment in our community may include but is not limited to, and in no particular order, the learning of the following:

- Tikanga
- Maori Values
- Relationship building with the 'home people'
- Interacting with Maori
- Pronunciation of Te Reo
- Hearing from the Ngai Tahu people the Maori history of the island and all the culturally significant sites and the story's behind those.
- Practical application of Maori history to pass onto visitors to Rakiura.

The end result will include but is not limited to the following:

- Relationship with and understanding of the Whakapapa of Ngai Tahu
- Understanding the dynamic Maori culture and history.
- Generating more/wider pride of Rakiura's Maori history and its significance within the wider national history.
- Giving residents the opportunity to learn a different way of thinking
- Becoming better members of the community living in a culturally diverse New Zealand

If this sounds interesting to you please get in touch with Cherie at cherie.hemsley@hotmail.com

Stewart Island Health Clinic News

The Health Committee wishes to acknowledge the long and devoted service that Dr Anton De Croos has given to the Stewart Island community. His professional support has enabled our Rural Nurse Specialists to provide comprehensive medical care here on the island for many years. Truly, we don't know how lucky we have been!

With the retirement of Dr De Croos, there will be some changes to the way that our health services are provided. Many things, however, will remain the same. We shall still have wonderful nursing care 24/7. The Health Clinic will be open every day.

The main change is simple – **you must be registered with a General Practice** in order to access the full range of healthcare and the prescription of medication.

Registration Options

You will automatically be accepted as a patient of the Invercargill Medical Centre (IMC), if you were registered as a patient of Dr De Croos.

If you are registered with another GP, in another practice, that is fine. You will need to utilise that General Practice for your regular medication or primary medical care.

If you are not registered with a practice or, as a former patient of Dr De Croos, you do not wish to continue your registration with IMC, you must enrol with one of the other General Practices that are currently accepting new enrolments.

Invercargill Medical Centre

The Invercargill Medical Centre is a brand new purpose-built facility. Staffed by six male and three female doctors, the Centre will be setting up a monthly tele link clinic (think consultation via skype). Dr Marius Hill, one of the doctors at IMC, will visit the Island once every three months.

For further information you can pop into the Health Clinic and read the IMC brochure. It outlines the services provided and the fees for consultations etc. You can pick up an enrolment form for IMC at the same time.

Please Note: If you utilise the telemedicine clinic or are seen by Dr Hill, a normal consultation fee will apply if you are a registered patient at IMC. A casual rate of payment will apply if you are registered with another practice.

In all these changes, we can best support our nursing team by making sure we are registered with a General Practice. If we are not, there will be some limitations to the range of care the nurses can provide.

Raylene Waddell

Chairperson, Stewart Island Health Committee



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has been working around Stewart Island since 1999, carrying out surveys, monitoring breeding success at key sites, and trying to determine the cause of decline at some sites. Monitoring will continue in the 2015/2016 breeding season at key sites locally and on Whenua Hou / Codfish Island.

Earlier this year the Trust was fortunate to be awarded Real Journeys Cruise-for-a-Cause involving an overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound. Seventy berths were donated and sold through the Trust's networks, with 100% of the proceeds going to support the Trust's work on Stewart Island. It was also the final training preparation for the Real Journeys Fiordland Navigator staff. The cruise, complete with dinner, breakfast and kayaking, took place on August 29-30th and was thoroughly enjoyed by all aboard. We're hoping the coming breeding season is just as successful!

Sandy King

For the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

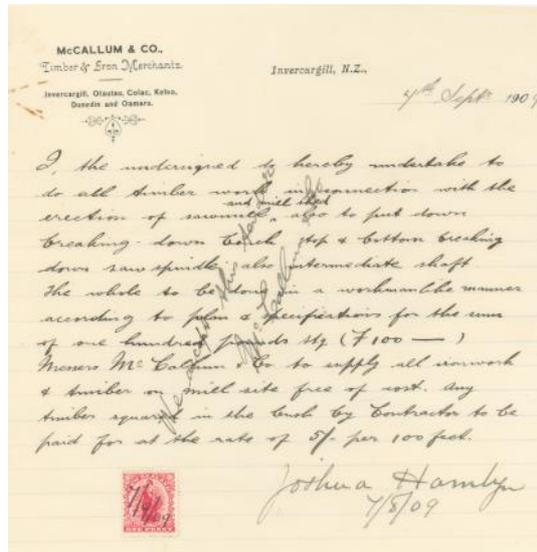
WISDOM CORNER

A gastric ulcer is something you get if you go mountain climbing over molehills.

Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

Let's go back in time and see what was happening:

106 Years Ago an application letter to construct the sawmill for McCallum at Kaipipi Bay.



Application letter to McCallum

94 Years Ago a Sawmiller's Grand Ball. Here's one of the tickets. Maybe we could do a sawmiller's theme ball again.



14 September 1921 Sawmiller's Ball

The lovely bridge at Kaipipi that was built for transporting the timber. A real work of art.



Bridge across at Kaipipi Bay

We've all heard about our need to have a new museum and things are well on their way in the planning and some of the funding. We are now at the stage where an exhibition designer is planning the interior of the building. People have mentioned the fact that they have items to donate to the museum when it's built but for planning purposes we need to know what those items are. You don't have to necessarily hand them over now but if you can let us know now so we can include them in the planning it would be most helpful. We can be contacted at 03 2191-221 in the mornings or email us at stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz

Museum Hours - Monday - Friday 10.00 - noon. Saturday 10.00 am - 1.30pm. Sunday Noon - 2.00pm

IN FLANDERS FIELD - IEPER (YPRES)

by Denise Edgar

During a month trip to Europe in June July this year we spend a wonderful two days in Ieper (Ypres) Belgium.

This journey commenced five years previously - in 2010 when I corresponded with Frederik Vandewiere, the Registrar at the In Flanders Field Museum, situated in Cloth Hall. This museum houses a WWI Knowledge Centre where visitors to Ieper can immerse themselves in that dramatic period in the history of the world there. You can individually research the big global background story, but also



very personal stories or local history.

Cloth Hall was a bombed ruin and was totally rebuilt to its magnificent stature we see today. Approximately 175,000 soldiers died here – only 75,000 have been recovered. The town of Ypres was a total ruin.

My story begins in WWI with my grandfather: Joseph Richard Jones served as an Australian soldier in this area, as an engine driver that carried ammunition to the front lines. During the war many items were taken for souvenirs, safekeeping or for whatever other reasons. Hence Joe took back to England with him

two brass candlesticks from the bombed Cloth Hall. His sister then bought them to him in Australia, some years after the war and they were kept in a sideboard in my grandparents lounge. Eventually my mother Isabelle passed them on to us, maybe twenty five years ago. In the back of our minds we had always planned for these items to be returned to their rightful home.

The story of Joseph Richard Jones

Born 30 March 1889

Died 31 March 1967

Joe Jones was born in Shrewsbury, England - he was an only son with five sisters. He wondered what Australia was like, and at a very young age worked his passage as a stoker in the engine room on an Orient ship to this new land. He decided to emigrate there and went back to England to see Gertrude Bliss, who was his next door neighbor and told her all about Australia. Again he worked his passage back to Australia and twelve months later Gertrude followed. They were married on 3 October 1915 in Perth.

War had broken out and Joe enlisted as a soldier in the Australian AIF – Light Railway Company. He was stationed in France in the Railway Company carrying ammunition to the troops. He escaped injury but was badly gassed. He returned to England to recover before sailing back to Australia. Apparently he took with him to England two candlesticks which were from the burning ruins of Cloth Hall. Many years later his sister brought them to Australia to return to Joe. Like many soldiers he did not talk of the war years. Upon his return to Australia he met his first born son who was three years old. His daughter Isabelle was born in 1920 coincidentally on Anzac Day.

After the war he resumed work on the railways and worked his way up to being an engine driver. During the World War 2 period he drove many ammunition loads to a depot in the outer Perth area. On one trip there was a fire. His military guards left him to put the fire out. This was a war time secret and years later he was awarded the British Empire Medal, which was a very proud day for a civilian who had deterred a major disaster.

He lived a good life with 3 children and his grandchildren.

After travelling across the world on 9 July 2015 the candlesticks have been returned to their origin at Cloth Hall by Joe & Gertrude Jones granddaughter Denise, daughter of Isabelle and husband, Ian Edgar who live in Western Australia. It was a very proud day for them, after being looked after by Joe's family for three generations the family knew that the candlesticks needed to be returned to their rightful home after a century of safekeeping.

This led to the correspondence with Frederik. It was suggested that we could mail them, but we wanted to be able to deliver them in person. We were fortunate in that five years later he was able to meet with us and give us an insight to the history and records that they have. Incredibly in the past few years they have been having 2 to 3 items per week returned to their Centre from Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand also played a large part in the war in the Flanders Field area. A small village a few kilometres from Ieper has a commemoration each year on our traditional Anzac Day, to commemorate the New Zealand soldiers who helped to protect their town



during the war and rebuild the damage that occurred.

It was very emotional handing back the candlesticks. With items that are returned, the Centre likes to have a story of the soldier, which is catalogued into a yearly book and also in the Museum they are displayed on a rotation.

The day we arrived in Ieper was to be a very special celebration at Menin Gate – since 1928 volunteers from the fire department have been playing a final salute every evening at the stroke of 8 as a tribute to the fallen soldiers - a subdued, moving ceremony. On July 9th the Last Post was played



there for the 30,000th time. At that moment people throughout the world gathered at fire de-

partment stations to watch the ceremony together – A Tribute to a Tribute.

We commenced the night with dinner at the Market Square of Ypres where there were performances from a Western Australian band and also the British band of the Royal Engineers.

The Menin Gate ceremony was attended by the Queen of Belgium, dignitaries from many of the Commonwealth countries. There were live cross-overs to Ben-Roberts Smith (4am Australian time) - the most recent recipient of the Victoria Cross medal, also to the New Zealand Prime Minister, Canada, South Africa and England. There were many speeches, laying of wreaths, also simultaneously in foreign countries. During the wreath laying there were thousands of small red heart shapes cut from crepe paper dropped from the top of the Menin Gate onto the ceremony – these resembled the poppy. There were thousands of spectators who bore witness to this most incredibly emotional tribute to the fallen soldiers. Each evening one of the lost soldiers has their story told. On this occasion there was a live cross-over to his descendants in Wales.

The poem of John McCrae ‘In Flanders Fields’ was read from Ottawa, Canada.

In Flanders Field

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from falling hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.*

John McCrae (1872-1918)

We were so fortunate that our planned trip to Ieper coincided with this very emotional, amazing ceremony, one that we were privileged to be part of.

So many memories

Ian & Denise Edgar



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Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter – Jo Riksem

Spring just brings a wealth of colour and this geranium always reminds me of Herbie Hansen Snr who grew an amazing array of colours near the bottom of his house. But quite often these blooms can get a bit tossed around by wind and rain and the odd tear and hole start to appear. Kind of like us when problems hit and a few cracks and tears start to appear but the good Lord always promises to see us through and bring out the beauty in each one of us. Let's do that with others. Just see the goodness.



and old cars so I'm looking forward to their time on the island. He sent an email about what his weeks with us are going to cover:

Next month of October brings a new speaker and a familiar face to our church.

4 Oct. Madeline Enright will be our first speaker for the month and well worth coming along to hear her.

11, 18 & 25 Oct. Scott Thomson – with his lovely wife Barbara (nee Gough) will be her for three weeks. Both Scott and I have a love of history

STORIES THAT STAY

“We don't know as much about Jesus of Nazareth as we would like. We do know he told stories that stay in people's minds. I will be taking a fresh look at these stories at Oban Presbyterian church in October, 11, 18 and 25.

During World War II a scout plane came down in the sea. During the 33 days the crew were drifting to shore the pilot got into the habit of telling one of Jesus sto-

ries each evening, remembered in a hazy way from Sunday School days. The effect was to snap the men out of depression and start a flood of discussion in which their dismal outlook was forgotten.

I was once told that these are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning, but that's obviously wrong. They are very much this world and make us look again at the way life in this world is. They

do have a strange double quality. In one way they are so simple – like a good cartoon. You don't need a university degree to understand Jesus. In another way they make me take another look at myself and the world around. The stories have a sort of mix: dead serious and party-time. I reckon Jesus had fun telling them and I hope we can get enjoy hearing some again.”

Prayer circle every Saturday 11:30. Phone Raylene 2191092 for venue. The church is open every day so come and enjoy it's history, it's beauty and it's peace. Sunday service: I I am followed by a cup of tea or coffee and goodies.

Stewart Island Wharf rules review.

Congestion and problems at the Wharf caused by bottle neck and the small work area.

History:

2008. As a result of ongoing problems causing disruption at the wharf. A meeting between Stewart Island experience, Council, South Port, Island Transport, Helen Cave and Police was held to discuss the key problems and responsibilities. The lack of rules for wharf users was discussed.

A set of **12 simple rules** for Wharf users was made up and has been in place and used since 2008. Some of the rules are enforceable others are to make the wharf area work better.

The rules are reviewed at the end of August each year to consider improvements. The rules are placed in the SIN inviting the community to offer practical suggestions to improve.

With the increase in both passenger and freight traffic on the wharf the rules have made the wharf more **user** friendly.

Note upcoming change to road marking.

Prior to this Christmas the council will be remarking Elgin Terrace. The vehicle parking area on Elgin terrace between the intersection of Horseshoe Bay Road and the wharf will be moved to the foot path side of Elgin terrace.

This change when it happens will result in rule 2 and 3 being deleted.

The Wharf Issues are:

i. **Parking Elgin Terrace (wharf road):**
Legal Authority for enforcement. Police and Council

Loading Zone (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) 30 minute parking limit.

Problems: Exceeding 30 minutes.
Ties up parking spaces at peak times unnecessarily.

Parking on no parking lines and footpath.

Problems: Narrows road for cars, impedes foot path diverting foot traffic onto road.

Parking in turn around area by Wharf.

Problems: Impedes traffic, passenger and freight flow on and off wharf.

Rules to improve: 1. 2. 3. and 4

ii. **Parking Wharf:**
Legal Authority is South Port. (Jon SPRAGGON)

(Police have authority of Southport to trespass persons from Wharf for 2 x weeks)

Parking On Wharf.

Problem: Impedes traffic, pedestrian and freight flow on and off the wharf.

Note: Fish factory has 1 x car park on wharf in front of factory. There is also one park for fisherman on the wharf.

Rule to improve: 5. and 6.

iii. **Passenger/Pedestrian flow on and off wharf:**

Legal authority is South port:

Problem: Passengers/pedestrians not following the clearly marked path from the foot path to behind the metal

rail barriers and to the Wharf office when moving on and off the wharf. Risk of pedestrians being hit by Forklift, vehicles, bins on the Work area of the wharf.

Rule to improve: 7.

iv. **Bulk Freight movement on and off Wharf.**

Legal authority: South Port.

Problems:

Bulk freight left on Wharf for long periods of time.

Bulk freight dropped off on wharf without pre booking or arrangement.

Bulk Freight being dropped off or picked up at Ferry/Freight boat loading and unloading times.

Rules to improve: 8. and 9.

v. **Passenger Luggage**

Responsibility: Stewart island Experience

Problems:

Congestion at bins when uplifting luggage or large amounts of personal gear.

Pedestrians walking on work area of Wharf to place luggage in Bins.

Vehicles driving onto work area of Wharf at peak times to unload/uplift luggage. (running late)

Rules to improve: 10. 11. and 12

The Wharf Rules: (To make the Wharf more user friendly)

1. Police **will enforce** loading zone time limit, No parking lines and parking on footpath.
2. Park Vehicles in 30 minute loading zone with vehicle facing away from wharf. (Stop bottle neck at turn around area)
3. Park inside broken parking lines where possible.
4. No parking in turn around area. **'Keep it clear'**.
5. South Port (Jon SPRAGGON) and Police to enforce parking on wharf.
6. No unattended parking on wharf (may load or unload but vehicles not to be unattended)
7. No pedestrian traffic on work area of wharf.
8. All Bulk Freight to be moved off Wharf within 24 hours of arrival.
9. All Bulk Freight to be pre booked before going onto wharf.
Non Perishable bulk freight/freight items to be uplifted/dropped off outside of Ferry/Freight boat arrival departure times.
10. Small amounts personal luggage to be taken to Wharf office via walkway and then placed in bins by office.
11. Drop off bulk amounts of Luggage early.
12. If you have large amounts of luggage personal items wait until the congestion is clear before loading/unloading.

Any new suggestions to improve the way things work at the Wharf give me a call 03 219 0020

Copies of the above wharf rules are on the Town Notice board and the Wharf notice board

—Dale Jenkins

Notes from Public Discussion with Mayor Gary Tong by Jess Kany

On Sunday 6th September Mayor Gary Tong held a meeting at the Community Centre to discuss the future of Stewart Island. He began with a talk about the desire to increase tourist numbers to Southland and the island. He spoke of the mantra "Roll out the Red Carpet; roll up the red tape." He expressed amazement at the number of New Zealanders who have never been down here. He mentioned that a plan to tar-seal the Catlins road could mean a much larger flow of tourists heading our way. The questions raised were: do we WANT more visitors to the island, and if so, how do we more effectively draw them down here? The mayor then opened the floor to discussion, and residents shares their views and concerns.

Do we put the chicken before the cart? (I know it's not chicken but now that it's been said aloud at the meeting it's my new favourite phrase). A recurring worry was the risk of destroying the peaceful bucolic lifestyle here. Yes it would be nice to make more money and have more visitors, but not at the expense of the island lifestyle.

At one point Church Hill restaurant owner Chris Sera surmised, "We're probably not hungry enough down here" to which Phil Dove responded: "If we were hungrier we'd be living in Queenstown."

Chris explained that it would be unthinkable to stand up at a meeting in Queenstown and suggest that more visitors might be a bad thing. Mayor Tong agreed: "If you did that in Queenstown you'd be run out of town."

The spectre of Queenstown – a tourist city that is perceived to be maxed-out, overcrowded, and under-structured -- haunted the room. *We don't want to turn into another Queenstown.* Many echoed the view that we shouldn't bite off more than we can chew, and some insinuated that we already have – no rooms to be found over the Christmas season, and too many people crowding the narrow trails of Ulva Island.

But not everyone agreed. Annette Eislet said she feels there is plenty of room to grow within our existing infrastructure. Debs pointed out that it's not the Christmas rush we should be focussing on but the rest of the year. Shona suggested that if we do try to extend the shoulder seasons we should offer more indoor activities. Chris said he likes to close up at Winter and have a holiday.

Several long-time locals recalled the good old days here when there were heaps more residents, lots of kids at the school, three hotels filled. They are alarmed by the dwindling numbers of people here and think we need to "share our toys" if we want to succeed and grow. Lindsay Squires alluded to small island communities in Scotland that simply died as businesses failed and everyone moved away. The idea that this little island could "become another Queenstown" strikes some as absurd and inconceivable – we are limited by how difficult it is to get down here, the fact it takes a whole day or travel out of a visitor's itinerary, and the fact there are only so many seats on the ferry and plane and only so many flights and sailings per day. We'd be lucky if we got a fraction of the tourist traffic that Queenstown sees.

Gwen Neave spoke of the days when the ferry would arrive and the Lions would prepare a seafood banquet for them – classic example of "rolling out the red carpet" island-styles. But Helen Cave quickly pointed out that with strict regulations these days one simply can't just hand out crayfish and oysters, it's not legal (classic example of "red tape.")

Sharon Pascoe said that we should still bring that sense of hospitality.

Alistair Faulkner brought the conversation back to the original question: do we really want heaps more visitors and can we cope with them before we say "yes-yes-yes" to all of this?

Lisa Benson observed that a majority of the guests at the Lodge arrive with a vague notion that they want to "experience nature" but beyond that no ideas of any specific activities available here. Some wondered if our brochures were getting to the right places and contained the best information.

Jo Learmonth of Promotions addressed those in the room who were not entirely on-board with bringing more tourists here. "If it's not tourism, what else is it going to be? If we don't want to go on Trademe every year to get more families for the school, what are we going to do?"

The issues of signage, power, and aquaculture were raised but the mayor had a plane to catch so that might be for another meeting. Or email your thoughts to gary.tong@southlanddc.govt.nz

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The Department of Corrections

So, size DOES matter. A recent memo has alerted me to the difference the size of an "o" can make. If you write DOC that means Department of Conservation. But if you use a wee "o" and write DoC, that actually refers to the Department of Corrections. So for years I've been writing DoC when I should have been writing DOC! I stand corrected.

Apologies to DOC.

Apologies to DoC.

And sorry to any confused reader out there who thought all this time that the Department of Corrections has an awful lot to do with Stewart Island and imagined our walking tracks and huts are maintained by chain gangs.

Not everyone has been alerted to this acronymal tidbit but once your eyes have been opened, reading the news is so much quirkier. Just yesterday I read an article about how trampers have disappointed the Department of Corrections. —Jess, SIN DoC



Predator Free Rakiura – Halfmoon Bay Project feasibility studies now available



By now some SIN readers will have seen the long awaited feasibility studies for the Predator Free Rakiura Halfmoon Bay Project. The studies have been published as a package of three technical reports and a summary paper. The three technical reports cover:

1. Options (methods) for predator removal
2. Details of the proposed predator fence
3. Biosecurity requirements to maintain a predator-free state

The summary paper provides a very concise overview of the three technical reports and touches on the likely key issues. It also provides indicative costs for the project. If it is detail you want, you will find it in the technical reports.

If you haven't already done so, you can obtain copies of the package in one of three ways:

1. Pick up hard copies from Ship to Shore next time you're in
2. Pick up a USB loaded with electronic copies from Ship to Shore
3. Go to the Predator Free Rakiura website (www.predatorfreestewartisland.org.nz or www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz) and download the package as pdf files

A detailed financial assessment has been carried out in order to provide indicative costs, but is not being published alongside the technical reports. This is because it is considered to be a "living" document and could change quite quickly, whereas the basis of the technical requirements will remain the same for the options presented. It will be available on request at the October workshops.

It is important to note that none of the options in the technical reports are set in stone. Instead, they represent an assessment of the most likely to succeed and realistic options for the removal of predators from the Halfmoon Bay Project area, and are designed to stimulate discussion amongst our communities.

To kick off that discussion on the Island the Governance Group are holding a series of drop-in sessions on October 5th and 6th at the Community Centre. Sessions will run from 2pm-5pm and 7pm-10pm on the 5th October, and 9am-12 noon on the 6th. Authors of the technical reports will be present to answer any technical questions still remaining, and members of the Governance Group will be there to listen to your thoughts. Members of the community are invited to come in at any time during any of the sessions, share a cuppa and their thoughts, and ask questions. Tell us what you like and why you like it, and what you're not comfortable with and why. If you can't make it to any of those sessions you can still ask questions and make comments on the Q&A page of the Predator Free Rakiura website, or have a chat to Jill Skerrett, Garry Neave or Sandy King.

At the same time as discussions are beginning on the Island, the Governance Group will be canvassing the views of other communities with an interest in Rakiura via their own newsletters, meetings, email network etc, and encouraging them to read the reports and summary and provide feedback.

Sandy King - for the Predator Free Rakiura Governance Group

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202 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Stewart Island

John Warren

Stewart Islanders were saddened to hear of the death last week of 'Johnny' Warren who was a key figure in the establishment of Stewart Island's electricity system in the late 1980s. John worked as an inspector during the construction stage then was appointed Supervising Technician for SIESA, a job he carried out with great diligence for around 10 years.

John was very concerned that Stewart Islanders have an affordable electricity system and that they would always be involved in future directions and decisions with regard to the supply of electricity on Stewart Island.

When he was invited to switch on the first experimental photovoltaic solar panel at the Stewart Island Post Office in 2008 as part of a renewable energy trial, he said it was wonderful to see the project finally gain momentum. No doubt he was as disappointed as the rest of us that nothing came out of those trials.

John was involved in Stewart Island's largest construction project in recent decades - the Community Centre. His expertise and practical advice was a great help and we all enjoyed working with him. The beautiful carved wooden armchairs, table and lectern were John's gift to the community when the building was opened.

The thing that made John such a well-liked person was his sense of humour and the lovely twinkle in his eye. We were all very sorry to learn that his final days were marred by illness and we pass on our condolences to his wife Dorothy and family.

from Margaret Hopkins

Tribute from Sue Ford next page.

*It's time for some
skin and tonic!*

You bring the skin, we've got the tonic.

Where: Laniias House, 2 Thule Road SI
 When: Saturday 19 September
 Time: 2pm
 RSVP to: shelley.bunce@airnz.co.nz
 Phone/Email: 0272066613

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John (Johnny) Warren 1927-2015 Lighting up Lives

If you were on the Island from the late '80's and through the '90's, you would have met John. He lived at Winton with his wife, Dorothy, but was often in residence at the South Sea Hotel in those days. John was our SIESA Technical Supervisor throughout the change-over from smelly, noisy backyard generators to our present central scheme.

With the Einstein-like mop of white hair and the wicked twinkle in the eye, we would accuse him of sticking his fingers in the electrical sockets in order to achieve both. He was such a favourite with the staff at his "second home" that he was usually called "Uncle Johnny".

He loved his real family dearly, and delighted in recounting the adventures of his children to us. They are all achievers and a constant source of pride to Johnny. I think he was fond of his Island "family" too: they were certainly fond of him! It wasn't unusual for Johnny to miss Winton family occasions because of his work commitment to Stewart Island, and one of these occasions was his 65th birthday. That would have been in 1992.

He went out as usual that morning to get into the SIESA truck – to find it decorated from stem to stern. Balloons and streamers, and – probably rendering the vehicle illegal – large signs fore and aft declaiming: "John Warren – 65 today. Still sparking." (The decorators remain anonymous, don't they Chris Dillon?) Naturally, there was "a bit of a do" that night in the pub, including a special birthday cake featuring transmission poles with wires of liquorice strung from pole to pole.

He wasn't always a good role model though: witness the time the Christmas fairy lights in the Dining Room at the Hotel needed atten-

tion. When the waitress cleared the last lunch table, John demanded that she bring back his screwdriver immediately. The waitress was bewildered as the only thing she had removed was – a dinner knife! Or the time that karma operated, for John tested all the Hotel's electric blankets except the one on his own bed. That night, reading in bed, he could smell scorching, and sure enough, a large hole was burnt through his own electric blanket. The stories are legion and invariably hilarious.



Amongst the accolades that John was given was the Green Ribbon Award from the Ministry for the Environment for "Outstanding Leadership & Commitment", at Parliament in Wellington in 2004– and it was that rare occasion when Dorothy was by his side in reality, not just in spirit. The Award was for John's foresight in establishing our Recycling Centre as a division of SIESA in an attempt to reduce the cost of our rubbish exports to the Mainland. I hope Dorothy knew it was representative of the awards Islanders would have liked to

bestow. If anyone deserved the title of "Honorary Islander", it was John.

John and Dorothy remained friends of ours and many other Islanders, and the passage of time didn't reduce John's interest in Island affairs – especially if it involved electricity. He and Bruce have had many an electrically-charged phone conversation over the last 15 or 20 years, and Dorothy welcomed us at their home when we visited them. Meanwhile, with John's passing, another chapter in the Island Story comes to a close, another friend lost to us, but of one thing you can be sure, by the time we reach Heaven it will all have been satisfactorily re-wired. I do hope St. Peter has a supply of screwdrivers. Or a knife or two...

—from Sue Ford



SIRCET Update by Shona Sangster

Hooray! SIRCET is proud to announce that our trustees won TSB Pride of NZ awards for the South Island region, in the Environment Category. Our trustees are now through to the big national awards on the 16th of September! There is also a People's Choice award, so please support us by voting, one vote per email address, go to www.prideofnzawards.co.nz

As Sandy says in her article in this issue, we will have a Kiwi Avoidance training session for dogs coming up during Labour weekend, day and location to be advised in the October SIN, noticeboards, by email etc. If you'd like to take part and aren't on our database please call either Sandy King or Shona Sangster or email info@sircet.org.nz.

Also coming up on the 12th and 13th of September is a really cool conservation/art workshop! Community Centre 10--5pm Sat & Sun - Try Solar Print or Gelatine printmaking, or Wood Block carving for print. Everyone welcome (wee ones bring adult supervision). Make some prints showing your view of island conservation: maybe a map of traplines or a personal rat tally; maybe a cherished plant or animal; maybe the most feral dangers the island faces ... what story might you tell: celebration or concern? Show people what you think is important about conservation on Stewart Island: be part of an island---made exhibition. We'll create a group exhibition from your extra workshop prints for a local show (19-20 Sept. Community Centre 10-4 pm).

--- you don't have to be an artist: we'll have premade material if you want to construct your own composite images.
 --- you can print directly off flat things like leaves, feathers, stencils... and onto different types of paper & even fabric.
 --- it's addictive fun (!) --- there is always a lot of visual surprise & unexpected discovery in printmaking.

Bring: clothes for getting messy, flat materials you'd like to try printing from (feathers, leaves/seaweed (flat & dry), fishing line, mesh, discs, black & white text, maps, drawing). Contact for more info TheSandpitCollective@gmail.com

As a regular feature in SIN and in our newsletters we are featuring some of the interesting plants available at the nursery. This month's feature is...

Tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) Kotukutuku

The largest growing fuchsia in the world is certainly the most popular tree with birds at this time of year, due to the flowers which emerge before the leaves and are a great food source for birds. The flowers are mostly borne among the leaves but are also on larger branches and even on the trunk. They are green and purple when young changing to red, late winter to early Spring and are followed by dark purple edible berries which are known by the Maori as konini. Kotukutuku is a semi-deciduous fast growing small tree with distinctive orange-brown bark, which is papery and peeling.



Halfmoon Bay School students Winiata, Angus, George, Harry, and Leeym rowed 2.7 km to Ulva Island last month.

Congratulations to Leeym Thompson who had the fastest time of 32 minutes.

Photo from proud parents Nic & George

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP: WITH AN ISLAND CONSERVATION TWIST

FREE !! 12-13 Sept. Community Centre 10-5pm Sat & Sun

* Try **Solar Print** or **Gelatine printmaking**, or **Wood Block** carving for print. We'll supply materials, equipment & helpers on hand to assist. *Lynn Taylor* heads the workshop; she's a professional printmaker who has exhibited/sold at The Fernery for years.

* Drop-in it's **informal**: take a look, have a quick try, or settle in for an afternoon or a day! Everyone welcome (wee ones bring adult supervision).

* Make some prints showing **your view** of island conservation: maybe a map of traplines or a personal rat tally; maybe a cherished plant or animal; maybe the most feral dangers the island faces ... what story will you tell: celebration or concern ?

* Show people what you think is important about conservation on Stewart Island: be part of an **island-made exhibition**. We'll create a group exhibition from your extra workshop prints for a local show (**19-20 Sept. Community Centre 10-4 pm**).

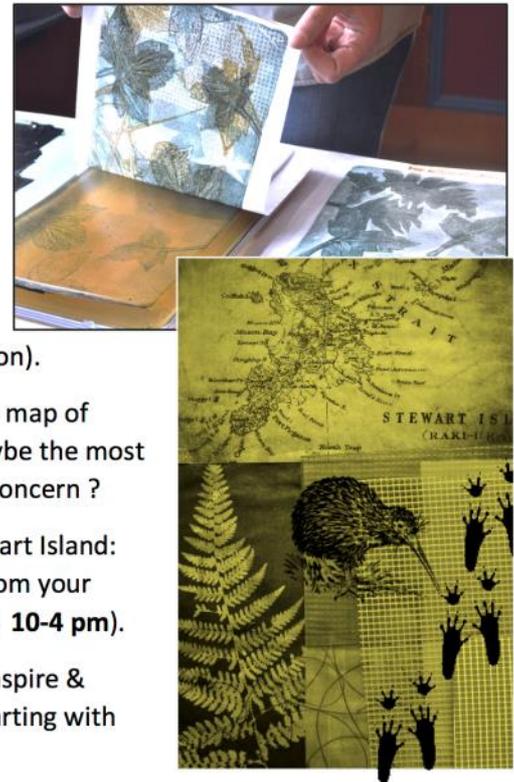
* Be a **talking point**: then we'd like to take your exhibition on tour to inspire & challenge other communities starting locally-run conservation work (starting with the Otago Peninsula, & NE Otago communities 'Beyond Orokonui').

3 more reasons to come to this event (supported by SIRCET, as well as Toi Rakiura and The Stewart Island Gift Shop) ...

- you don't have to be an artist: we'll have premade material if you want to construct your own composite images.
- you can print directly off flat things like leaves, feathers, stencils, chew cards... and onto different papers & fabric.
- it's addictive fun (!) - there is always a lot of visual surprise & unexpected discovery in printmaking.

Bring: clothes for getting messy, dry pressed materials you'd like to try printing from (feathers, dry leaves/seaweed etc)

Contact for more info: TheSandpitCollective@gmail.com



Stewart Island / Rakiura
Community & Environment Trust



for people for environment

Medicinal and Edible Garden by *Letitia McRitchie*

The medicinal and edible garden survived the winter well and there appears to be only one total casualty, a snowberry. There was one severe frost that affected a couple of species. The Horokaka/Iceplant in the 'traffic island garden' was totally frozen but the two plants in the medicinal/edible garden still have a few live shoots on them, so they just survived. The Beach Spinach had the top of it frosted but the underneath looks healthy and ready to grow again.

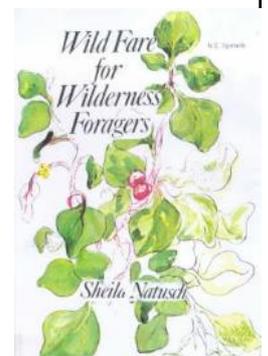
There are still some gaps in the garden and I have Mingimingi and a Horopita to be planted. One plant that I'm not going to plant is the Poroporo (*Solanum laciniatum*). This plant grows around town and is quite distinctive with its purple flowers and yellow fruit. It's part of the potato/tomato/nightshade family. The yellow fruit (they have to be really yellow, not just greenish yellow) is supposedly quite tasty but toxic at the green phase. The rest of the plant is also very toxic but has been known to be used to make a skin salve. The plant is a native to NZ and Australia and is often considered a weed, it's certainly an unusual looking native!

After the last article I wrote Sheila Natusch sent a copy of her book *Wildfare for Wilderness Foragers* and lovely note. She commented that NZ spinach is very good eating and mako (wineberry) makes lovely juice. The book has some very useful information about edible and medicinal plants and lots of Stewart Island anecdotes.



I'm looking forward to seeing how the garden grows over its second summer. It was initially planted as part of SIRCET's Lotteries Community Fund project. This helped fund the nursery for two years and provided the plants for the garden. With that funding now finished, I will continue to maintain the gardens (SIRCET receives funding from the council and contracts me to undertake the work) but this is the last article. I hope you enjoy the gardens and sample them every now and then!

Poroporo flower and green (TOXIC) fruit

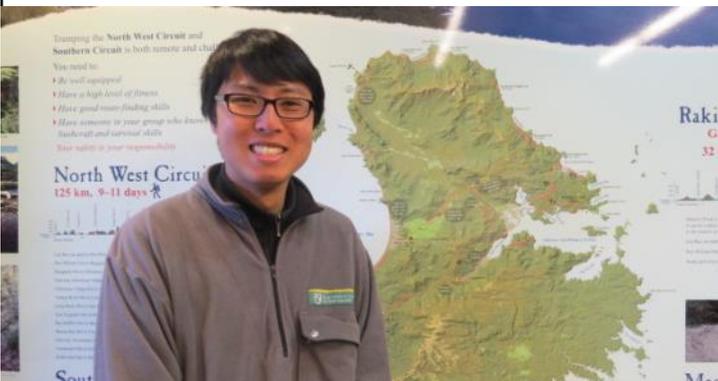




Department of Conservation *What's Up, DOC?*

Te Papa Atawhai From Jennifer Ross

Staff Spotlight: Introducing Trainee Ranger Aristya Marzuki



Aristya on his first day. *Photo Credit: J Ross DOC*

Kia Ora Rakiura! My name is Aristya (or Ari if you prefer). I've just joined the Stewart Island/Rakiura DOC team as the newest Trainee Ranger.

My family and I have been living in Auckland since 1999, having come to New Zealand from Australia and Indonesia before that. I undertook the DOC-run Trainee Ranger Course in Nelson and was fortunate enough to be invited to work with the Rangers of Rakiura.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know the wonderful people of this amazing island over the next two years and to learn all that I can. Thank you for welcoming this fish-out-of-water, hapless big city boy to your piece of paradise!

Responsible Pet Ownership on Rakiura

In light of the recent dog attack that took place beside Horseshoe Bay Road near Horseshoe Bay on Monday 17th August on an adult kiwi it is important to remind people in the community about responsible pet ownership on Stewart Island/Rakiura. We share this Island



Kiwi found beside Horseshoe Bay Road *Photo Credit: C Hemsley DOC*

with a number of native birds and it is important to protect them. Through a combination of responsible pet ownership, kiwi avoidance training, and on-going predator control we will be able to protect kiwi and see them thrive around the Halfmoon Bay township. Vehicles also pose a great risk to kiwi so please keep this in mind and slow down when you are driving at night.

Dogs and cats can be very dangerous for kiwi. The lack of a sternum makes kiwi especially vulnerable to dogs and almost all dog-kiwi encounters are fatal. Even dogs that don't usually try to hunt can easily kill a kiwi by picking it up gently or giving it a playful nudge. Dogs have the biggest impact on adult birds, which they can kill in just seconds, while cats are a big threat to young kiwi chicks.

Other regions such as Northland insist that keeping dogs out of kiwi habitat is the only sure-fire way to keep kiwi safe. Since we on Stewart Island/Rakiura don't have that option – kiwi are literally in all of our backyards sharing our living space it is important to keep the following in mind:

- When out and about, keep your dog on a lead at all times—a kiwi can be caught and killed in seconds.
- Never let your dog roam at night.
- Promote and undertake kiwi avoidance training.
- Keep your cat inside at night.

The kiwi was sent to EcoGene®, an arm of Landcare Research in Auckland immediately following its initial assessment. Technology analysing DNA samples is now available and can be used as a tool in identification. This provides

the Department with the ability to analyse samples (such as saliva from a puncture wound) and potentially match them to a suspect animal.

Lumsden School Visit

Lumsden Primary School Year 5 & 6 visited Stewart Island/Rakiura from the 31st August – 3rd September. The Department of Conservation activities they participated in included an hour long Introduction to Stewart Island/Rakiura talk on Monday evening and a trip to Ulva Island/



Evening Talk at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre
 Photo Credit: O Brandt DOC

Common Stag Beetle found at Sydney Cove, Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara
 Photo Credit: J Ross DOC

Te Wharawhara on Wednesday. Jennifer Ross, Partnership Ranger hosted the evening talk and showed the groups around Ulva Island.

Although the weather was a bit drizzly on Ulva the kids had a fantastic time. The first group saw bellbirds, two kakariki, a cheeky weka on Sydney Cove and a few robin. They were also lucky to be able to see a small weta up close, found in a rotting log. The second group saw multiple robin, kakariki, weka, two mating Kaka, a pod of dolphins from Flagstaff Hill and even got to smell the fresh Kiwi poo Jennifer found on the track! Overall the group was engaged and interested in the Island. Hopefully this trip has influenced students in a positive way that will inspire them to take conservation-minded action in their own community.

Making the Most out of a Helicopter

Multiple helicopter flights took place on Monday 31st August morning to make effective use of helicopter time. The helicopter dropped a team of three off at Scott Burn to do track maintenance including re-netting and repairing boardwalk in the area and track clearing for the week. Next bait, gear, and supplies were dropped off on Table Hill and 511 for the upcoming dotterel monitoring season. The helicopter then dropped two people at Mason Bay Homestead to detach and fly out the argo tyres to be repaired in preparation for upcoming sand dune restoration and flew to Port William Head to drop off a spray tank and multiple litres of water for future gorse spray operations.



Jennifer Ross with argo tyres to be flown out and repaired
 Photo Credit: P Dobbins DOC



Helicopter taking off from Mason Bay Homestead
 Photo credit: J Ross DOC



Lumsden Primary school students enjoying morning tea time at Sydney Cove, Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara
 Photo Credit: J Ross DOC



View of Mason Bay Homestead and Big Sand Hill from the helicopter
 Photo Credit: J Ross DOC

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**Stewart Island
Community Library**

Monday 12.30 – 1.30

Wednesday 2.30 – 3.30

Friday 12.30 – 1.30

Saturday 11 – 12

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& books!**

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Wooden fence and deck construction	
Wooden fence and deck repair	And more - just ask

Office Services
can also be provided

Bookkeeping	Brochure, flyer & business card design & printing
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If you want something done, and don't see it in the lists above, just give me ring. You may be surprised just what I can do.



Contact
Geoff

**Stewart Island
Handyman Services**



Phone 973 0959 (Local Number) Mobile 027 253 3106
 Email handyman@acadia.co.nz



Tui cake for Betty's fifth birthday. From Cherie Hemsley.

CHOCOLATE AWARD

Peter Ross has been nominated for a chocolate award by Kirsten Hicks. Much thanks for all the hours spent fixing the heating at the Library!

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
**Please send articles and enquiries to Shona Sangster
 at PO Box 86 Stewart Island
 or email to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com**

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