

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

September 2023

\$4.00

~ What's inside? ~

- Introducing Rose on Rakiura, a local artist
- School speeches competition
- What's in a name? The story behind local nicknames
- Future Rakiura, Community Board, and DOC updates
- Indoor plant inspiration
- Upcoming events
... and more!

Island Wellness *Pilot scheme update*

What?- The Stewart Island Health Committee and Future Rakiura joined together in 2021 to apply for funds to explore services that could be formed or brought to the island to increase the support available in mental health/wellbeing.

Why?- A St Johns Mental Health First Aid course was run by Powernet in 2020 and started the conversation about the visiting counsellor service that was previously, but no longer, available to islanders. Responses to a community survey conducted by the group that formed following this confirmed the need, but highlighted the complexity of all the different concerns raised and therefore not a one-fix-for-all approach.

How?-

- Connection with Southland Hospice to deliver workshops on island and offer one-to-one support for those facing loss- visit in 2021
- Informing community members of activities and opportunities on island which benefit mental health in a multitude of ways- the online community calendar supports this and an informative leaflet for all residents and new seasonal staff is being pursued
- Community events to increase the conversation around mental health and wellbeing- Rural Support Trust Time Out Tour with a talk by Matt Chisholm 2022
- Upskilling residents to create resilience within the community, with the vision of creating a group of volunteers who could be called upon for those in need of a listening ear (repeat of the St Johns Mental Health Training, plus training to come)
- Strengthening the referral system utilised by the Stewart Island Nurses Clinic for those needing extra professional services
- Research through Rural Support Trust, Loss & Grief Centre, Good Yarn, Blueprint and other services around the country, into what works well for other small communities
- Potential partnerships with community groups, organisations and businesses to incorporate mental health and wellbeing support into their own work and events

When?- This project is ongoing and, in the hopes of reaching everyone who is in need on the island, will explore services which could then go on to become permanent systems here with additional funds. The next training for community members wishing to upskill will be in NOVEMBER- Blueprint MH101: Giving people the confidence to recognise, relate and respond to people experiencing mental health challenges.

Who?- Representatives of Future Rakiura and the Health Committee have since been joined by Awarua Whānau Services, First Mate and interested volunteers to continue this working group. If you'd like to pursue some upskilling, join the group or contribute your ideas, please contact us at rakiura.future@gmail.com or shoulder tap Rose Bowman, Cherie Hemsley or Richard Langdon.

Funded by Sanfords 10c a Salmon Grant

A brush with fame..



Winning team "The Coffee Club" with the paper plane which decided the tie break. Also featured are runners up (Rhys and David) and Skyla.
Photo credit: Nicolette Thompson



Island-famous quiz host Skyla with David Hasselhoff and Rhys Darby
Photo credit: Nicolette Thompson



WEED
OF THE
MONTH

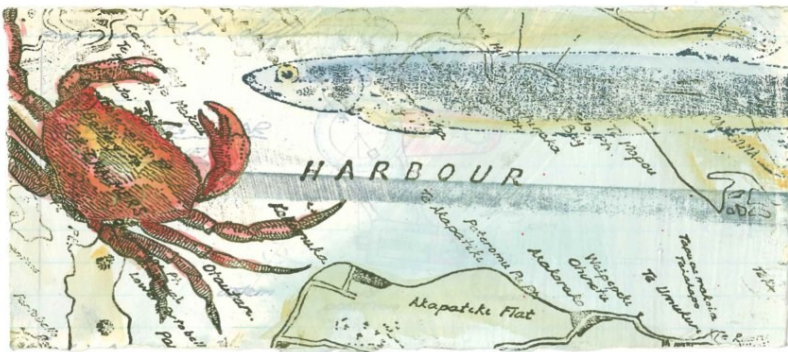
Selaginella - Selaginella kraussiana
aka African clubmoss

A lacy, fernlike, groundcover, that forms a dense carpet preventing native seedlings from establishing. It prefers damp areas. It can spread from stem fragments and airborne spores so it is easily spread on boots and equipment.

To identify - Small, green, 2-4mm scaled leaves on alternate sides of the stem. Rounded sporecones form at the end of stems.

To remove - Although it can be dug out and removed by hand, any small fragment left can regrow, so this may not be the best option. Spray well with extra strength bleach (undiluted) making sure to wear protective clothing. It is best to check for and treat regrowth every three months. An alternative is to cover with dark material like black polythene weighted down, and leave for 3-6 months

Plant instead - Nertera depressa, Gunnera hamiltonii, bidibidi (Acaena microphylla), or Panakenake (Pratia angulata)



Rakiura Coastal Heritage
PRINTMAKING workshops



enjoy the process of printmaking (socially!)
express your connection to coast
co-create a community image of heritage

16 Sept. Saturday 10 - 12:30 or 1 - 3:30
17 Sept. Sunday 10 - 12:30 or 1 - 3:30

Attend 1 or more to extend your printmaking!
Community Centre

FREE!

Individuals & families all welcome (little ones require active supervision)

Register interest at <https://forms.gle/G79czLYDKquysRLc6>
(or email/txt Jenny Rock jrockmail@gmail.com 0220236830)





Rose on Rakiura



I'm thankful for the opportunity to get stuck into some creativity since settling here on the island- from being confined to a watercolour journal while backpacking to now being set up for design and illustration in mixed media from the spare room studio. What I really enjoy is creating personalised one-offs with a recipient in mind, so I'm advertising here that I'm open for commission work.

A big ethos of the crafting is upcycling and repurposing- making use of invasive weeds, waste building materials, unloved bits from the recycling centre and old papers. The mixed media list is always growing, but includes:

Watercolour, pyrography (wood-burning), acrylic gelli-printmaking, carving, felting, good old pen & pencil, pottery painting, dried and pressed floral art, work with driftwood and shells, origami, or a mix of the lot!



From personalised gift cards to large signage, I'm taking on jobs big and small. I've been involved in logo design (for SIRCET and Hine Waiora massage) but note that I'm not qualified or with the tech of a graphic designer. I can also add designs to products you already own- reviving old timber chopping boards or plain white ceramics.

I'll be sharing examples and looking to sell what I come up with in the meantime on Facebook, and will be at the Christmas market, to fund more art supplies and help squirrel away for the bigger creative idea I have my eyes set on for the future (see side note). Thanks!

Online: <https://www.facebook.com/RoseonRakiura>

Enquiries: rosie.bowman.93@gmail.com or 0210 222 0146



**Some of
Rose's
work!**



Side bar: The love of creating gifts, and the want to give back what I've gained from being here and share the opportunity to get stuck into art, is turning into the pursuit of a space in which to run a creator's workshop. The need for inside activities for families on a rainy day and the number of wee artists coming through the school here leads me to believe that such a place would be a great fit here on the island. On my travels I've been to destinations for painting pottery or renting an easel, and have seen incredible upcycling shops at tips- all of which have been an inspiration and given me the appreciation of collecting souvenirs and making gifts with a bit more soul. I think there are also the funding streams available to purchase community-owned equipment for the makers and menders, to reduce what ends up in the landfill, if there were a place to host this. I've started the conversation with some of the creative thinkers in this community and I'd be real interested to hear from anyone else on the same wavelength or with a space in mind that would be available to rent/ buy/ build on, close to the town for accessibility. Sticking this note in the SIN could be a step closer to realising that dream that many small-business owners have managed on the island so far- so worth putting out there. Cheers!

Halfmoon Bay School Speech Competition

by Margaret Hopkins

As a supportive and interested grandparent I went along to listen to the semi-finals of the Halfmoon Bay speech competition for the second year in a row. Those of us in the audience and the judges I'm sure, were very impressed with the high standard of the speeches - both content and delivery, from the year 5 – 7 pupils. It was extremely difficult to rate the accomplished young speakers and their wide-ranging topics.

With a mixture of quirky humour and matter of fact details, Archie Ware spoke of the benefits of attending his small local school, including his encounter with a sealion on the road as an excuse for being late, as opposed to town kids getting stuck in a traffic jam.

Ava Simeon, dressed for the occasion in fishing overalls and gumboots, explained enthusiastically that the Halfmoon Bay School fundraisers weren't your average cake stall or sausage sizzle but a community effort to catch and process donated fish quota which her and Tessa had gone to sea to help catch.

Continuing on the fishing theme, Tessa Allen spoke of the new rules for landing wet fish in a measurable state and the unpleasant consequences of haphazard dumping of fish waste once ashore. She proudly told us how her school had established an enterprise that turned fish-waste into saleable liquid garden fertiliser for the benefit of the Halfmoon Bay School.

Meadow Hare's very knowledgeable speech was about the varroa mite which destroys honey bees throughout the country, except Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands where strict quarantine measures have helped prevent their

establishment in bee colonies.

Tom Allen gave a delightful speech about the pros and cons of being a twin. He pointed out that there are many up and down sides to sharing life with a constant close sibling but left us in no doubt that he wouldn't have it any other way.

Ellie Jenkinson extolled the virtues and benefits of outdoor education, explaining about 'Bush School' and other lessons taken outside which have far reaching health and wellbeing consequences.

Bella McRitchie-King spoke about the amazing effort that a team of Halfmoon Bay School pupils undertook when they got special permission to enter the adult Rakiura Challenge race last year. Her description of the highs and lows made us really appreciate what a challenge it was.

Sayla Ware with her delightful use of language described the rat trapping contest undertaken by her school last year. While helping to protect the environment it also lifted the profile of Halfmoon Bay School and attracted international media attention.

Every speech and topic were well researched, and delivered with confidence, making it a difficult job for the judges Anita Herbert, Paul Fitzsimmons and Olivia Bayne, to choose the pupils who would go on to the semi-finals and the finals in Invercargill. Well done to Sayla, Ellie, Ava, Bella and Archie for making the semifinals. Unfortunately sickness prevented Sayla from going but Ellie, Bella and Ava have made it through to the finals. All in all, a great effort by the children.

Note from the editor: keep an eye out in future SINs for the transcripts of the speeches that were selected for semifinals

Animal Flow Day was celebrated on August 28th with a Virtual Global Jam led by Mike Fitch. Around 200 groups around the world performed and video-recorded a pre-set flow led by Mike Fitch (founder of Animal Flow). These videos, some of which are amazing, are available in 'carousels' on the Animal Flow website.

ANIMAL FLOW



Ai, Bill and Simon
Oban, Stewart Island,
New Zealand

This was a charity event for World Central Kitchen, in support of their

efforts to provide meals to individuals in disaster and war zones around the world. Ai, Simon and I, on Rakiura, formed both the smallest, and the southernmost, group taking part. Pictured is the title page from our video.

I'm likely to be taking a short break from Animal Flow over September, while I recover from cataract surgery, but look forward to resuming flow sessions in October. Or earlier if I can!

Movement is the latest trend in the fitness world. HIIT, Circuit, Aerobics, Spin and other types of classes have all at various times been 'The latest' and all have their place. *Animal Flow* is a 'movement' exercise system with roots in yoga, Pilates and break dance.

There are several levels. At the 'regressed' level we can adapt moves to suit people just starting out on a fitness journey. At Level 1 it is quite vigorous but achievable by active people. Level 2 and Level 3 are highly athletic. Kids enjoy Animal Flow.

Animal Flow is something I bring to the Rakiura community for fun and as a contribution to community wellbeing. There is quite a strong community in Auckland and Hamilton, once certificated teacher in Wellington, and Sol Pineda and I are the only two south of Cook Strait. Contact: Bill Watt 027 495 9288.



What is a 3 Steps for Life awareness session?

A 3 Steps for Life awareness session is for members of the community to introduce them to life saving skills for people in cardiac arrest. The awareness session will cover basic CPR and AED skills.

Who can participate and is there a cost?

Anyone can attend a 3 Steps for Life awareness session. 3 Steps for Life awareness sessions are free to attend. These sessions are delivered in a voluntary capacity by your local St John staff.

About 3 Steps for Life

3 Steps for Life is designed to give all New Zealanders the confidence and awareness to take action when somebody suffers a cardiac arrest by:

1. Calling 111

2. Starting CPR

3. Using an AED



Applying CPR and rapid defibrillation can increase a patient's chances of survival by up to 40%. But for every minute without CPR or defibrillation, a patient's chance of survival falls by 10-15%.



Notice of Upcoming FREE training in CPR and use of an AED

St John and the Stewart Island Health Committee are planning a training day with two x one hour new (or refresher) training courses on how to practise CPR and the use of an AED in a medical event. These sessions are free and use special training mannequins.

When: Sunday, October 1st - 10.30am OR 1.00pm

Duration: One Hour

Numbers: Up to 20 pax per session - on a first in basis

Where: TBC - will post online and the noticeboard when confirmed

To Sign Up: Contact Kirsten Hicks at the Library or call 0273251721



Future Rakiura is an Incorporated Society in operation since 2020 here on the island. Our objective is to be a collaborative organisation to connect people and organisations together for effective communication as an advocate for Rakiura Stewart Island, its community, and its natural environment. We have been building partnerships to plan and take action to progress the goals and aspirations of the community, based on survey responses and simply listening to what islanders raise concerns about.

In this time we have worked in conjunction with well over 20 different groups and organisations. Such partnership work has delivered:

- Annual Community Meetings- reconnecting after lockdown and after busy seasons, to showcase the island groups' aims, achievements and projects
- Waitangi Hāngī events
- Growers garden tour
- Workshops – on small business ideas, communication styles, budgeting, grief support, mental health advocacy
- Surveys – health service requirements, internet connectivity, lockdown, power supply
- The launch of the online Rakiura community calendar
- Installation of storm water litter traps

As an Incorporated Society we have supported the construction of the Emergency Helipad, helping to source funding for its construction and management of the land it's on. Also in the healthcare sphere, we have teamed with the SI Health Committee to trial a funded pilot scheme that increases the mental wellbeing services available to islanders and promotes resilience in the community.

For those new to the island, visitors and of course long-term residents, an online community calendar has been created for all to see what is happening here; events, training dates, sports, workshops, games- the list is growing. This not only helps connect the community to partake in these events, it helps you schedule future events to avoid double bookings and forecast busy times and venue allocation.

You can do your bit by going to the following link to have a look, see what's on, and submit your own events for publishing:

<https://www.rakiuracalendar.com/>

Our vision is ensuring a bright, sustainable future with the purpose to connect and support the Rakiura community to navigate towards this. We meet monthly and if you feel you can contribute for the benefit of the community, have ideas around our vision, or are interested in learning more, pencil into your diary the 6th November Future Rakiura AGM with more details to come.

If you're interested to hear more, to help out at an event or join Future Rakiura, please contact rakiura.future@gmail.com or message us on Facebook Messenger and one of the team will get back to you.

2023 Committee: Rakiura Herzhoff, Cherie Hemsley, Stuart Newton, Simon Moir, Rosie Bowman, Bridget Carter and Emma Simpson-Boyce.

Stewart Island News
archives and contact
information can be found at
www.stewartislandnews.com
Keep up with island news on
our Facebook page
Find subscription
information for SIN
on the back page

COMMENT

Dear Editor

OBSERVATION ROCK

I note Bev Osborn’s comments on Observation Rock in her column “400 words” in the August edition of SIN and wish to present a different opinion. My own early memories of Observation Rock go back to the early 1950’s, when my parents purchased the land (and ‘crib’ built of Austin car cases) where I currently live at 10 Leonard St. Observation Rock features in my earliest memories and is a ‘special place’ for me, too.

I do not believe there were ever ‘unmodified’ views from Observation Rock. Probably there was no view at all until the area was milled, in the latter half of the century before last. The height of the original canopy can be estimated from the remnant rimu in the vicinity.

My own early memories of the view, in the 1950’s, are of an extensive 180 degree panorama from Hananui through south to “The Old Neck”. ‘Observation Rock’ in the 1950’s 60’s

and early 1970’s was a collection of large, round boulders. As children we used to enjoy climbing up, around and between them. The Lands and Survey Dept levelled the site in the 1970’s to accommodate bigger groups. The roads had recently been improved to enable practical vehicle access. Until then, Leonard St/Excelsior Road was a heavily rutted track negotiable only by Land Rover or T Bragg & Co’s green truck. Improved access led to more tourists. Previously, they had climbed to “the Rock” over a rough gravel cart track, which deterred the less able. Now they were walking on sealed roads, or visiting the area by Eddie Kirtland’s minibus and later Sam Sampson’s “Billy the Bus”.

Over the years there have been several proposals, first for an enclosed structure, later for a larger platform. I have opposed some of these as I considered them ‘overkill’ and unnecessarily intrusive. However, the current works are a carefully considered, in my opinion good, design compromise.

Meantime, the post-milling secondary growth has obscured some of the panoramic view available from the top of the boulders in the 1950’s.

The current works will result in the restoration of the panoramic view that was available to us in the 1950’s in a way that is accessible and safe for the increasing numbers of less mobile people who now visit the site. The Rock” (as it used to be known) has become a recognised night sky viewing spot. The work will make the area safer at all times including in the dark or poor light.

I’m looking forward to being able to resume my normal pre-breakfast leg-stretch up the hill to Observation Rock, to enjoying the restored vista, and maybe even doing my morning yoga ‘sun salutations’ on the small area of decking. Sandflies permitting....

Yours sincerely

W J (Bill) Watt

Firearms Registry – Registering your firearms

New Zealand has a new firearms registry. If you’re a firearms licence holder, you’re required to provide information about your arms items from **24 June 2023**.

The Registry will help us make New Zealand safer.

It will give licence holders more confidence when buying or selling firearms, as the Registry will let you know if you’re dealing with a current licence holder and if the firearm has been reported stolen.

You have until 24 June 2028 to register your firearms.

However, there are activating circumstances where you’re required to provide information to the Registry within a shorter time frame. It’s up to you to keep your information up to date. Go to firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz for more information.

You are required to tell us about any firearms in your possession within **5 years**

There will be no charge for registering your arms items.

Examples of activating circumstances

Applying for, or renewing a licence or endorsement	Notifying us of a change of circumstance, such as a change of address
Importing, exporting or manufacturing a firearm	Selling, hiring, purchasing or receiving a firearm
Theft, loss or destruction of a firearm	You are subject to any compliance or enforcement action under the Arms Act.



House Plants – love ‘em or hate ‘em. My mother did not like them at all and in that devastatingly direct fashion, which she passed on to her children, told me in no uncertain terms that I was not to gift her with another one. Right, Mum!

But I am beguiled by the longevity of those house plants I have not managed to drown to death. My second Mum, a delightfully eccentric lady with whom I boarded in Dunedin, gifted me with a Hoya about 40 years ago. After some years it came over here and survived months of non-watering, as Ronnie and I beavered away in our teaching jobs on the mainland. It survives still and is now some yards long. Every summer it produces corymbs of velvety flowers, the scent of which is delicious. The leaves are plain green and the flowers white with pink centres.

Another Hoya has joined the family. This one is a variegated version, green and cream. It has flowered only once but what a flower! Pale pink velvet with red centres. Both versions are easily propagated so please let me know if you would like one.



Aloe species

Another plant has accompanied me for many years, the gift of a highly esteemed Hungarian colleague. It is, I think, an aloe. I know it suffers neither neglect nor over-attention, as every year I have to remove large chunks of it from its pot and every winter it flowers, despite the cold spot it ‘enjoys’ inside. On holiday this July, I spotted another aloe – I know it was an aloe because it was described as such - in a section of the Darwin Botanical Gardens dedicated to plants from Madagascar. It is very similar to a plant given to me by Mavis Tait. It grew and flowered luxuriantly outside her lounge window and still endures in a less favoured spot for me. Amazing how plants from such different climates prosper here!

The Flight Centre is a joy to visit at any time but especially when the well-tended pot plants are doing their thing. One plant, Christmas Cactus, *Schlumbergera x buckleyi* grows and flowers



Christmas Cactus at Stewart Island Flight Centre

prodigiously. The species originated in the Brazilian rainforests and come in many colours, from almost white to bright purple. Iona, who tends these plants has surely inherited the skills of her mother, Ollie Nilsen.

Iona has given me a piece of another cactus, which



Starfish Cactus at Flight Centre

Ollie bought as a tiny plant many years ago. This is the Starfish Cactus, *Ceropegia mixta*, a species of lantern flower native to South Africa. It likes a climate of 15 -35 degrees

C. and Iona must be meeting its needs because the plant she brought in for me to photograph was blooming its socks off!

House plants are a bit like geraniums in that they are often gifted and passed down the years, cherished reminders of the generous giver.

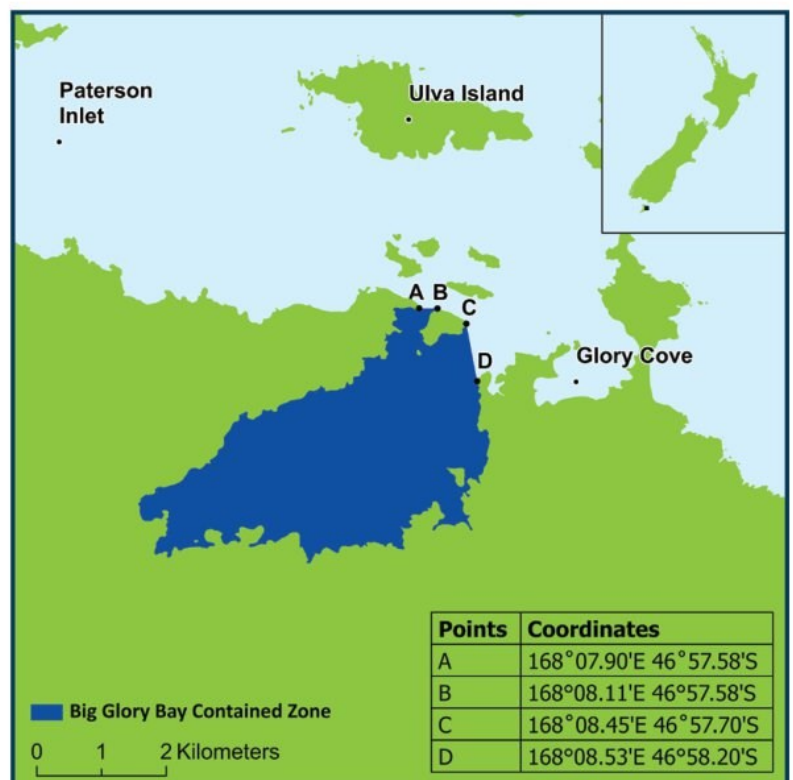
Happy Gardening!
Raylene

Collecting shellfish?

New restrictions are in force for Big Glory Bay, Rakiura Stewart Island to help stop the spread of the flat oyster parasite *Bonamia ostreae*

If you are in this zone, you must know and follow these rules:

- Flat oysters must not be moved into or out of the zone.
- Shellfish or shellfish waste (including shells) collected in the zone cannot be put in the sea outside the zone.
- Vessels must not be moved into or out of the zone unless:
 - the vessel is visibly clear of fouling, or
 - if fouling is visible, an MPI permit is obtained prior to being moved.
- Gear must not be moved into or out of the zone unless it is visibly free of fouling.



Check all the rules at www.mpi.govt.nz/bonamia

This parasite does not affect food safety.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Learning the Stories Behind Iconic Island Nicknames: What's in a Name? By Freya and Ian

Rakiura has a wealth of quirky and endearing nicknames. For many on the island, a nickname is more than just a label; as Three Persons puts it "it's a mark of honour". A list curated by Jo Riksem reveals at least 250 nicknames belonging to past and present islanders.

This collection is a treasure trove brimming with history, humour, and island culture. To dig a little deeper, Ian Fulguirinas interviewed some local characters with nicknames to find out their stories. One question we had was why this phenomenon has developed on the island. I am sure we can relate to Friday's comment about how important island nicknames can be:

Sometimes, it's handy in a conversation, if you're talking amongst island fellas, because if you all of sudden come out with Ivan, or Ian, or Paul or whatever, they go... 'Who the hell are you talking about?'

'So and so'

'Ah shit, yeah, yeah, why didn't you say that in the first place?'

Didds echoes this: *I think the big thing about nicknames here, is that everybody does use them, all the time, it's not like it's just a pet name or something.*

Didds and Friday are two examples of people where this holds true. Friday sometimes doesn't even respond to his real name, and Didds says there are only a few people that call her Susan, including her children if they get annoyed with her.

Often, we may know someone's nickname, yet rarely do we consider its origin. This article invites you to join us as we delve into the stories behind the nicknames of some local legends.

Didds

It was when I was living in Whakatane, before I moved here, about twenty-eight years ago. I used to often say 'Oh, don't be such a diddle. Why are you doing that for, you're a diddle.' And then my friends said, 'You're the diddle'. That's how it stuck. I used to say 'goofy' and 'loolah' as well, a lot, but my friends all picked Diddle.

Friday

Got it off my late father, who got it in the second world war. The way I understand it is that during that part of the war he was in the tanks. Two different divisions of tanks came together, and the highest ranked officer, he stood in the turret of the tank, he was a Pommy fella, and he said 'I haven't got time to get to know you chaps. I'm Monday.' And then went on til Friday. So, that's pretty much it, but when people ask me to tell them the whole story, I say 'Look, I really wanted Thursday, but it was already taken'.

Three Persons (Ken McAnergney)

Many people have a problem pronouncing my surname, and I was given my nickname by Badger Squires when I returned to The Island in 1990. I had purchased a wee crib from a chap called 'Bobajob' Markham and during a succession of visits doing it up, I spent many evenings down at 'The Pub' meeting old friends and one evening, a sadly now deceased school friend called Peter Baxter came over and jovially addressed me as 3 Persons to which I responded and asked him what had prompted him to address me this way and he gestured towards the gang of chaps down at the back of the bar some of whom I knew and said that's what they are calling you now. 'They got it from Badger

(the late Russell Squires) because no one could say your blimmin name'. And so, I have been Mr 3 Persons ever since. Editor's note: "Ken, Mac and Ernie" = 3 Persons. Funny that even Three Person's story contains reference to other islanders with nicknames – they're everywhere!

Hippy

It was way back when I was working at Regal salmon... that's going back a few years, around 1994 or 1995. I ended up being a bloody day shift supervisor up there, and I was one of the bus drivers as well...so it happened to be this bloke from town come across, and he'd just started work there, and of course, he had to meet the whole bloody staff, so, I guess he'd just forgotten my name. Because he'd just met a whole load of people in one day, and he referred to me as "Mr Hippy". And all the boys in the wheelhouse thought it was hilarious, and then they were all having a good laugh about it. I guess he just picked up on the having the long hair, he must've thought I looked like a hippy, but because I was a supervisor, he thought he'd call me 'Mr Hippy'.

One of the themes I noticed is that there was an element of humour in most of the nickname origin stories. It seems that if something comes out of nowhere and is surprising, and funny it can "stick". These nicknames occasionally bring new levity for some of their holders and those around them. Three Persons shared one such story: *I appeared before a Parliamentary Committee whose members were having difficulty with my name I told them that on Rakiura I was known as Mr 3 Persons usually with a rolling of the rrrrr's in the word Perrrrsons. I also generally add that 'they roll their rrrs down there'. They found this very amusing.*

Didds has also had some funny moments off the island where diddle has a distinctly different meaning. *When we're away on holiday with my friends, and we go shopping and they want to get my attention, they go 'DIDDLE! Come over here' then they realise that we're out and about in public, and they go 'Hmm, I probably shouldn't have said that out loud'.*

While most of the people we interviewed hadn't met someone with the same nickname as them there were some instances of the nickname spreading to their family members. In Three Persons case he says: *my wife is sometimes addressed as Mrs 3 Persons, and my daughter as Miss 3 Persons although from now on she is entitled to be called Dr 3 Persons. Friday's nickname is also one that has spread through his family, from his father to him and now he has passed it on to one of his grandsons.*

To come back to the question of why these names emerge on the island. The responses we received shared some similarities. Friday thought it might stem back perhaps to the days when fishing/sailing were the main industry here. Most people mentioned it being a product of being in a small community where everyone knows everyone, I liked Hippy's description of our island community: *Oh, it must be because it's such a small community. Because it is bloody tiny, really, in the grand scheme of things, isn't it? I mean, it's, it's smaller than a small town, haha.*

Thanks to those who agreed to be interviewed for this. If you have a nickname and would be willing to share its story, we'd love to hear from you. Email stewartislandnews@gmail.com. You may see another instalment in a future SIN.

Church Chatter *by Jo Riksem*

Spring is in the air. Bulbs are starting to bloom, time to spruce things up for the season. But no matter what we show on the outside, it is what's on the inside that counts. A house can be messy on the outside but warm, friendly and cosy on the inside making one feel good over a nice cup of tea. As visitors start arriving to our beautiful island, let our welcome bring joy and warmth that they will take away with them.

Our speakers for September are:

10th - Helen Rook – if you missed her last month come and enjoy her this time.

Her warm sense of humour is infectious.

24th – Rev Richard Aitken from Invercargill.

Communion will be served.

All are welcome.

We have been working on restoring our beautiful church floor and hope to have it done by our first service in September but will keep you posted by notices and Facebook if things change. Thank you to all who have been involved.



400 Words *by Bev Osborn*

It is almost time for the next general election and, this time round, more than ever before, I keep hearing people say that they simply don't know who to vote for.

In a magazine article, I recently came across some findings which may be helpful for those of us struggling to make a choice.

Professor Pai, in a graduation address at Montreal's McGill University, reminded students that, when we are faced with the unfamiliar, our instinctive response is rooted in caution or fear. That is because, as a species, humans have survived by being suspicious of the unknown. To be kind and compassionate we have to shut down that primal instinct and train our brains to move us on to a higher stage of evolution.

Sadly, on a world-wide basis, society has come to value weaponised power far more than empathy and kindness. Professor Pai believes that people who use the vulnerable as steps to achieving their own goals are people who have failed the first test of an advanced society. Because they haven't forged pathways to overcome their instinctive insecurities, their thinking and problem-solving will lack the creativity that the kindest people have in spades. During his lifetime he has found that the kindest people are consistently also the smartest.

New Zealanders have concerns about a number of issues affecting our population at present, so we'll want our next government to be smart enough to come up with creative and viable solutions.

With Professor Pai's advice in mind, I'll be looking for policies that build community, rather than those which foster discontent as a means of vote gaining. Crying "injustice" if all parts of society aren't treated equally will alarm me if there is no acknowledgement of the greater needs of the more vulnerable and "harsher penalties" should invite reflection on the non-effectiveness of longer prison sentences. Use of language can be indicators of underlying intention. Words like "hand-outs", "favouritism", "racism", "pandering" urge us to vote through emotional backlash rather than reasoned consideration.

Māori wisdom tells us what is most important – "he tangata, he tangata, he tangata" -- the people. That means ALL the people, not just the ones with whom we have most in common.

Will we believe Professor Pai's conclusion? If we do, we will be electing those whose policies are based on compassionate concern, because they are likely to be our smartest choice.



Kia ora
We were recently graced with the presence of a visitor to our fair island who drew a fair bit of attention to themselves by their somewhat unusual appearance with behaviour that was at times erratic.

Some of you in the community interacted with this individual who was challenging to deal with at times, I commend you on showing great restraint and respect to this individual.

Now this should draw your attention to what severe brain trauma can do to a previously fully coherent, actively mobile young person because of vehicle collision and not wearing a seatbelt. This could happen to anyone at any time the same as falling of a cycle/motorcycle or the back of a ute.

As you will see on p7 of this SIN issue, there is new information to direct you to the registering of your firearms.

Changed residential or postal address recently? Make sure you have met your obligations as a Firearms Licence holder of notifying Police of the change of address within 30 days of moving, this is so a security inspection can be undertaken irrespective of whether you possess firearms or not.

Recommend if your feeling uncertain about the rules and regulations around firearms, licencing etc recommend you go to the following link.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/>

Thankyou to SIRCET, Halfmoon Bay School and volunteers in the planting some new vegetation around the emergency helipad at Traill Park to aid the stabilising of the ground and lessen the maintenance requirements, it was a pleasure to work alongside you with many hands making light work.

Kia pai tō rā

Senior Constable Stuart NEWTON

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board Update

Following the recent increase in power prices SIESA is no longer eating into reserves at an alarming rate. While the increase was substantial it was necessary as the power scheme was rapidly running out of funds to allow it to continue to operate. Regular small increases should have occurred over the years to at least cover the annual cost of living adjustments but this had not happened.

The Board is fully aware that the current diesel-powered generators are not viable by themselves and government Zero Carbon commitments dictate that we must find an alternative energy supply. To work towards achieving this a Stewart Island Rakiura Energy Solutions Steering Group has been formed, utilising funds made available by the government. Chaired by Squirt Conner, it has reviewed the various options and reports presented over the years and is now preparing to invite expressions of interest prior to developing a costed business case to present to the Government for funding.

ROADING

Over the next few months repair work will be undertaken on our sealed roads in preparation for resealing within the next couple of years. It is hoped that this will include repairs to the areas that have slumped over the years etc.

A new concrete footpath 1500mm wide is to be laid on Dundee Street from Main Road to Ayr Street. Funded from the visitor levy this will complete the footpath programme in the township area. Using funds allocated by the government a further section of gravel track will be established from Mill Creek towards Butterfield's Beach. These projects are not funded from your annual rates and are funded from external sources.

COUNCIL VISIT

The full Council recently had a 2 day visit to the island as part of the Mayor's intention to hold meetings throughout the district. It was an opportunity to show the councillors the unique problems we have on the island and in particular to bring them up to date with matters such as Electricity Supply, Wharves, Roading and Waste Disposal.

PARKING

We regularly hear comments about parking in the main Bay Area and at Golden Bay. The main concern seems to be people leaving their vehicles in these areas when they leave the island for longer periods of time. The bylaw that covers parking is due to be opened for consultation and changes, later this year. The Board would love to hear your thoughts on any parking restrictions that you may think are needed, and if so, where and for how long?

ONE WAY STREET

Following many years of frustration this proposal is also to be reviewed as part of the Bylaw review. Outline of the proposal is on the noticeboard.

WHARVES

It had been hoped to have a replacement structure built and in operation on Ulva Island by now but each time we think it's all go, further hurdles are placed in front of us thus delaying the completion of the project. These delays result in the costs rising and it is hoped that an agreement can be reached with the various groups involved in the very near future, to ensure continued access is available to the island. - August 28, 2023

RAKIURA MARINE GUARDIANS INC



Rakiura Marine Guardians (RMGI) was regarded as an 'affected party' in relation to proposals by the Rakiura Maori Lands Trust to establish pontoon wharf facilities at Lowrys Bay (The Neck). We had no issue with that proposal and gave 'written approval'.

I have been approached with concerns about pressure on the fisheries, particularly Paterson Inlet. The concern is that imposition of restrictions around Ruapuke will lead to other areas being targeted by large trailer boats from Bluff and other vessels owned and operated by people who are not residents on Rakiura.

At time of writing, it is not clear how Hananui Aquaculture will respond to the decision by Environment Southland not to allow the proposed sea cage salmon farming off the northeast coast of Rakiura. If the is referred to the Environment Court, RMGI would have the status to appear as an 'affected party'.

In a more general sense, we all need to get our heads around the implications of the repeal of the Resource Management Act. The Ministry for the Environment website notes:

"Two key pieces of legislation for resource management reform are now in place. The Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act will be phased in over the coming years. A small number of changes apply from August 24, 2023. Many parts of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) are still in force for now."

Our Annual General Meeting will be coming up in October.

Background:

Rakiura Marine Guardians Inc (RMGI) is a group that was formed as a local response to the proposal in 2018 for large scale salmon farming at Port Pegasus. RMGI was incorporated in September 2018 with the purposes of

- Advocating for the protection, enhancement and sustainable use of Stewart Island's marine environment
- Working towards establishing Rakiura Marine Guardians as a statutory body with oversight over the Stewart Island Coastal Marine Area on matters such as policy, biosecurity, consents and compliance; and on any other matters that the Society considers relevant.

Membership of RMGI is open to all who live on, or have an association with, Rakiura (Stewart Island) and who may wish to share information about and have a say on issues relating to the marine environment around Rakiura.

If you would like to be involved with RMGI, please feel free to contact me as Chairman, or any of the Committee members. You can email me or phone 027 495 9288.

Bill Watt (Chairman)

Rakiura Challenge - 7 October 2023

We have a number of runners and supporters still looking for accommodation for the weekend of the Rakiura Challenge (Friday 6 - Sunday 8 October). If your property, or any other property you know of may be free and able to be rented please ensure these are available online for people to book.

Register your mooring

Easy process of registering your mooring, at no cost. Once you've done this, it's yours for life.

- GPS location of mooring block
- Estimated tonnage of vessel
- History (installation etc)
- Owner's name and contact details

Send an email (entitled **permitted activity registration of mooring Stewart Island**) to esconsents@es.govt.nz



Off to the Competition - Margaret Hopkins

Listening to the Halfmoon Bay School children at their speech competition recently, Archie Ware mentioned how lucky town kids have it when they just have to drive to town to take part in competitions, whereas Island children have to go on the Vomit Express! While sorting through old photos at the museum I found this one showing members of the Stewart Island badminton club travelling to Bluff to take part in the Invercargill competitions. They travelled on the fishing boat Te Moana, which was fished by Ernie Hopkins at that time. Ernie and Bid were both in the badminton teams. As you can see in the photo it looked like standing room only and it probably took them 3 hours!

Seated left to right - Neta Rawle, Hughie Dawson, Tane Dawson.
Standing - Charlotte Duthie, Sister Johnson (District Nurse)

What's up, DOC?

Observation Rock platform



Photo credit Dale Chittenden

Work on the Observation Rock viewing platform is well underway despite challenging weather conditions over the past month. The Contractor team have also had challenges drilling for the rock anchors. Once foundation works are completed, we expect the timber construction to move swiftly. The project is running slightly behind schedule. DOC will be extending the site closure until mid-October, but we will do our best to complete the work earlier. We continue to ask that people stay clear of the site until work is completed.

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Rodent Eradication

The first aerial application of bait to eradicate rats from Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara went ahead successfully on Saturday 5 August 2023. The operation took around 5 hours, using 3,000kg of bait, calculated to give the right amount of coverage for an area this size.

The second aerial application took place on Wednesday 16 August 2023. The operation took around 4 hours to complete and a total of approximately 1850kg of bait was dispersed.



Photo credit Fin Cox

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Biosecurity

DOC staff are currently in the process of opening the trap network and setting the cameras. Once the system is operational, checks will be undertaken monthly. The biosecurity system has been considerably upgraded with

new tracks established, cameras in many locations and extra traps, especially around the coast.

DOC is also in the process of hiring a new fixed term employee (for two years) who will be dedicated to managing the biosecurity of Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. We see this role as key to bed in the new biosecurity system and progress other ideas to keep rats off in the future.

Conservation Week – Take Action for Nature

Conservation Week took place between 14 – 20 August 2023 and with the help of the Rakiura/Stewart Island community it was a great success. Beach clean-ups took place down at Deep Bay and Halfmoon Bay. A big thank you to SIRCET, Halfmoon Bay School and all the members of the community that helped out. Bronwyn from the Litter Intelligence programme also came over to help out and the litter that was collected was all audited. Results from the day can be found on their website litterintelligence.org/data.



Photo credit Bronwyn Graham

A group of adventurers from Halfmoon Bay school also came to visit the team at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre. They successfully completed a scavenger hunt and each took away a fun little learning pack.

SIRCET and the community also planted natives around the helipad, hosted a talk on marine mammals and with the help of Predator Free Rakiura held a trap building workshop!

The tamariki from Rugrats went to Mill Creek with Rangers Phred and Kristen to explore the waters and learn how to keep our waterways clean. They all earned a special Fisheries Officer badge!



Photo credit Karin Lewis

Rahui

A reminder that a rahui is in place around Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Please do not eat shellfish or fish from within 1km of the island until the rahui is lifted (warning signs will be removed and notification undertaken).



Introducing Julian Carson

G'day I am Jules and I have made the move from Australia down to Rakiura to take up the Biodiversity Supervisor role at DOC. Previously I have worked throughout Australia as an ecologist and as a supervisor for an environmental restoration company. I'm looking forward to ripping in and making a difference.



Photo credit DOC

Southern New Zealand Dotterel Tūturiwhatu Recovery Project

New Zealand Nature Fund has set up a page to receive donations to help save the SNZD. Check out their page at nznaturefund.org

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Infrastructure

The long-awaited toilet has now been installed at West End Beach track junction. This toilet will be maintained by the Ulva Island Charitable Trust and was donated by Southland District Council. Also underway are new handrails for two staircases on the track linking Sydney Cove to the four-way junction.

SEA KAYAKING WITH BILL



The bays, islets, and inlets between Golden Bay and Ryans Creek or Te Wharawhara (Native Is). 2 – 2/12 hr on the water. 1 – 4 people. \$90.00 each. We can get lovely settled, calm, ideal paddling weather over winter.

Bill Watt 027 495 9288
Or (if I'm paddling) Jo (027 455 2191)

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. **Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at stewartislandnews@gmail.com**

If you wish to have *Stewart Island News* sent to you or a friend, please email us the recipient's name and address. Then pay to: Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 Please use recipient's name as reference.

The costs are as follows:
12 issues to an Oban address: \$48
12 issues to other NZ address: \$66
12 issues to international address: \$96
12 issues emailed: \$36

How to contact the editor

I (Freya) welcome questions/comments/chats about the SIN, however I am working full time elsewhere. If you want to talk about anything SIN-related with me, please contact me by email stewartislandnews@gmail.com in the first instance, or text 02041796127. I will respond to you out of hours when I am available. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

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RAKIURA JADE

*with Carver & Sculptor
Dave Goodin*

Open from 10.30am every day upstairs at 45 Elgin Terrace (next to the boat slip)

Enjoy stunning views of Stewart Island harbour from the world's southernmost jade workshop.

Make your own treasure from your selected piece of beautiful New Zealand greenstone (from \$180/day; conditions apply)

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