

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

September 2016

\$3.00

Happy 50th Birthday to our Fire Brigade!



The Rakiura Maori Land Trust is buzzing with new projects which will all be revealed in the coming months and their first **BIG** announcement is on page 3. Chairman Simon Gomez came down recently to touch base with islanders and has promised regular updates about RMLT activities from trustee and journalist Tina Nixon in future *SINs*.

Snap! Snap! Snappity-*SNAP!* Ahhh, the music of the night... No, we're not all dancing around with castanets. It's the sound of rat traps going off all over Halfmoon Bay. Our *rattus* status is at plague levels which brings me to exciting (and slightly crazy) *News* news. *SIN* is launching a new column (we're going to have more columns than the Parthenon someday!). With all the interest, goss, tall tales and fascination surrounding rats and rat trapping, we're going to have a section devoted to this important island subject. Written by YOU. Send your thoughts, comments, advice, and stories from your rat lines and home traps to *SIN*. And send photos! I have to warn you, Andrew King has set the bar pretty high and if that's not enough of a teaser here's a ratty riddle: How do you catch 7 rats in 4 traps in one night? Page 15.

Is gorse in the neighborhood a thorn in your side? Lose sleep over lack of parking? Footpaths, the visitor levy, drainage, dogs, rats, the library, the heritage centre, alternative energy ... What's the bee in your bonnet? What gets your goat? What's gonna get your *vote*? It's time to **VOTE** so make it count. The candidates for the Community Board and Council took up my offer to have a say in these pages (pages 8-10, printed in order received). If you don't know where they stand on an issue important to you, ask them! Unlike American politicians, they won't bite, sue, have you arrested, or inappropriately sext you! When I canvassed locals on their gripes, everyone vented about different passions and pet peeves. But one thing that everyone had in common was the desire for more communication and consultation between our board and the community.

North & South magazine ran an article about shark cage diving in their latest issue. The general consensus from readers is a lot of us need our mouths cleaned out with soap. The shark cage operators unloaded their grievances and if they are to be believed, it's a pretty diabolical state of affairs down here on Stewart Island. One guy is packing heat on board due to death threats, locals are killing and dumping protected species, tourists are harassed upon arrival, the community is under the thumb of the publican, and passengers practically have to make a running leap from the wharf to boat because it's too terrible to tie up here. If you're not already laughing, how about this juicy gem: "Whenever we see a Stewart Island boat coming close, everybody's on edge as to what's going to happen." (Um, it's the *freight boat*? It's going to go past you?) It's all so exciting and terrifying I'm proposing a new adventure tourism venture: put the punters in cages and wheel them around Halfmoon Bay. The adrenaline junkies can get ass-kicking GoPro

footage of the dangerous threatening residents sipping pints outside the Pub, heading to the post office, writing birthday greetings on the shop chalkboard, and chatting outside the library. We could use the recycle truck.

Speaking of recycling, Gala Day is coming up, 22nd Oct, and there is an upcycle-your-pallet contest on. Fun! Or set up your own stall on the day. And don't miss the band that night. All proceeds go to Rakiura Rugrats. See page 2 for details.

"It's 10 pm. Do you know where your children are?" This was a public service announcement from American TV decades ago. But it could be relevant on the island, slightly altered: *It's 10 pm. Do you know where your dog is?* Last month's issue featured Lucy Carrick's beautiful photo of a kiwi on our front page. This month's kiwi photo is unfortunately on the other end of the spectrum: ugly — a kiwi killed by a dog, bagged and tagged. Page 13.



The island turned yellow for Daffodil Day, everyone was decked out in yellow clothes and wigs, and put yellow decorations on local businesses and monuments making us the most cheerful place in the country! Kai Kart opened for the weekend and the Daffodil gals made the rounds. Nicolette Thompson, Jo Learmonth, Sue "Diddle" Graham and Jan Keen have been daffodilling for over a decade... Jan's been doing it for 19 years!! They collected a record \$1700 on the day. Thanks to Grant Grieve for all of the beautiful Daffodil Day photos in this issue.

And thanks to Sara Tranmer for her gorgeous photos from the Fire Brigade birthday jubilee. I loved looking through them, I couldn't share them all in these pages but they are definitely worth a gander so have a peek at Laura Cavanagh's album O.V.F.B. 50th Jubilee on Facebook. Makes you proud to live here.

Happy Spring!

—Jess

GALA DAY
 Saturday 22nd October - 10:30am
 Halfmoon Bay Waterfront
 If you'd like to hold a stall on the day
 please email - rakiurarugrats@gmail.com

Calling all **PALLET MASTERS!!**

There's some amazing stuff that can be built out of pallets, and this Gala Day, Saturday 22nd October, we're running the **RAKIURA RECYCLE CHALLENGE** to see who is the **PALLET MASTER!**

Pretty simple rules — just build something with pallets, bring it along on the day, and the judges will decide the winners.

Prizes for: Overall winner; Most Inventive, Craftsmanship and Junior

Great prizes, including ITM and Mitre 10 vouchers
 If you need more information ask Liz, Mel or Leah.

If you're after pallets, ask Sam at the shop.

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RAKIURA MAORI LANDS TRUST & REAL JOURNEYS ANNOUNCE WILD KIWI ENCOUNTER ON RAKIURA/STEWART ISLAND

Rakiura Maori Lands Trust (RMLT) and Real Journeys announced today that their first joint tourism venture will be kiwi spotting on Stewart Island called Wild Kiwi Encounter.

These highly successful nocturnal trips were previously run by Bravo Adventures. Owner Phillip Smith, who began the original trips to see Stewart Island brown kiwi says he is delighted that he has been able to find a company with a solid conservation ethos to operate his Department of Conservation concession (authorisation to operate the trips).

"I've been running kiwi spotting trips for over a quarter of century now. I still love seeing the look on people's faces when they see a kiwi in the wild for the first time, but was ready to put my feet up and let someone else head out into the night!"

Real Journeys Chief Executive Richard Lauder says kiwi spotting is exactly the type of experience Real Journeys and its Rakiura Maori Lands Trust partners have been looking for because it is so unique.

"I've done the trip – you can't get much more authentic than this as an experience, and to have such a high chance of seeing a kiwi in the wild is an opportunity that visitors will cherish. This is largely thanks to the work Phillip has done keeping on top of the feral cats, possums and rats. Real Journeys will continue the essential pest eradication work required to look after this important kiwi habitat."

Once the Department of Conservation concession transfer is complete, Stewart Island Experience will start operating the tour from the 1st November, 2016. Phillip Smith will continue to be involved in an advisory role and his three staff will be offered positions in the operation.

The RMLT and Real Journeys formed a partnership to help grow world class visitor experiences on Rakiura/Stewart Island by developing joint commercial tourism opportunities on a profit sharing basis.

Simon Gomez, RMLT Chair says the partnership is off to a great start. "We can see so much potential and opportunity for the island through our partnership. I know Real Journeys will not only help bring more visitors to the island to see these special birds but we're satisfied they will play an active role in protecting them."

The Rakiura Maori Lands Trust and its beneficiaries have a long history in the area and it is the largest private landowner on New Zealand's third largest island. Real Journeys has over 60 years' tourism marketing experience, and operates the ferries to the island, Stewart Island Lodge and various tours.

About Rakiura Maori Lands Trust www.rmlt.co.nz

Rakiura Maori Lands Trust represents beneficiaries' interests for the majority of privately owned Maori freehold lands registered with the Maori Land Court on Stewart Island. These interests stem from the sale and purchase of Rakiura to the Crown in 1865.

About Real Journeys www.realjourneys.co.nz

Real Journeys is a privately owned tourism business that was founded in 1954 by tourism and conservation pioneers Les and Olive Hutchins. Today the company remains true to its founders and their guiding principles of conservation and hospitality.

Based in some of the most untouched areas of New Zealand, Real Journeys has operations from Stewart Island to Queenstown – including the Te Anau Glow-worm Caves, world renowned cruises through Milford and Doubtful Sounds and the heritage steamship TSS Earnslaw.

For further information please contact:

Tsehai Tiffin 021 523 899 ttiffin@realjourneys.co.nz

VOTE JON SPRAGGON

I have made myself available for the Stewart Island-Rakiura Ward of the Southland District Council for the October Elections. I have lived on the island for the last 23 years and during this time I have involved myself in a wide range of island activities not only as a participant and/or administrator but also as a team member resulting in an understanding of the needs of the island.



I have been a member of the local Community Board for 3 terms, the last 2 as Chairperson. I am a member of the Stewart Island Promotions Association, Chairperson for the last 6 years and now Treasurer, a member of the Stewart Island-Rakiura TAG Committee which reviews applications for visitor levy funding, a Trustee of the Stewart Island Pavilion Trust, Golf Club, Stewart Island Lions Club and secretary of the local LandSAR Group.

Your local Board some years ago initiated investigations into alternative energy sources. Members have increasingly expressed concern over the lack of information and up to date data being made available to them in relation to this project.

In recent times the Council, directly or through Venture Southland, has approved several projects without adequate planning and consultation resulting in delays and in worst cases, major budget blowouts. The island has not been isolated from these with incidents such as the Information Centre closure leaving local operators owed money, and the Port William Wharf where a loan had to be taken out by the Jetties Sub Committee to meet the final cost.

In the future several major projects are planned for the island community. These include the construction of a new Heritage Centre, a new wharf to replace the present Ulva Island structure, footpath upgrades, and Seniors Housing to name a few. We need to ensure that before construction work starts on any of these projects, that all aspects of planning, not only the design and build of the facility, but the maintenance and other operational costs of it in the future have been investigated and can be met.

Council have started to change the way they carry out business, but there is still a way to go. I am prepared to use my experience to help make these changes and to encourage all involved to be more open and accountable for the decisions and actions they take.

Paid advertisement



Above: Jack & Fox. Self-explanatory scene from the Fire Brigade birthday.
 Below: Jan Keen has been a Daffy Lady for 19 years!



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A pukeko! On Stewart Island! Allegedly blown over here during some weather. *Photo by Carolyn Squires.*



Lovely to see our friends Kerry and Dave at the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade Jubilee!



**Stewart Island
Community Library**
will be undergoing a
refurbishment process over
the next few months. This will
be done without closing the
library, so please bear with us.
All enhancements will be
finished by early December.

Our apologies for any
inconvenience.

The Stewart Island community extends our sympathy to the Watt family – to big sister Margaret (Ackley) to Jim and Colleen and to Bill and Pam who regularly live among us in their holiday times. Their brother, Robert Watt, passed away suddenly in August.

Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade 50th anniversary
by Shona Sangster

A flaming good time was had by all at the celebration of 50 years of the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade on the 20th of August at the Community Centre.

A number of Fire Service people and those who have had an association with the brigade travelled to the Island to mark the big occasion. These included: Paul Duffy, Deputy Mayor of Southland District Council; Te Aroha Cook, NZ Fire Service Board member (who presented a plaque honouring 50 years with the NZ Fire Service); Dave Guard, Regional Manager for Region 5; Bruce Stubbs, Area Commander; Roger Smith, Assistant Area Commander; Russell Anderson, United Fire Brigades Association President; Gordon McLennan, Otago Southland Provincial Fire Brigades Assoc. President. Plenty of great yarns were told about the history of the Brigade on Stewart Island, in a fittingly decorated venue.



Rex Dunlop receiving his two year bar.

Many honours were handed out to members of the Oban Brigade:

Barry Bryant 3 year certificate, Tim Dawson 5 year medal, Serena Dawson 5 year medal, Eamonn Ganley 5 year medal, Rex Dunlop 2 year bar (19 years' service) and 14 year Good Conduct medal, Jarrod Baird 2 year bar (15 years' service) and 14 year Good Conduct medal, Dale Chittenden 2 year bar (11 years' service), Chris Dawson 2 year bar (9 years' service), Holger Lachmann 2 year bar (7 years' service), Neville Bennett 40 year certificate and 2 year bar (for an amazing 41 years of service). Holger had to dash from the kitchen in chef's jacket and fire brigade hat to receive his award!

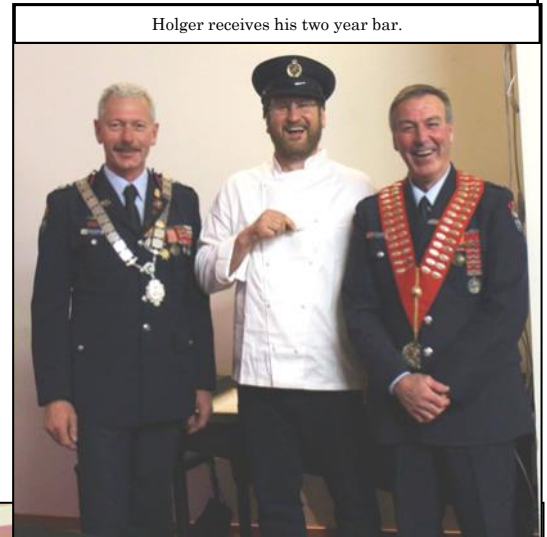


Jarrod and Laura Baird

With the formal part of the evening out of the way it was time for dessert and dancing, and everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. Some of the visitors were especially commended for their vocal stylings and on the dance floor community co-ordination was tested with both line dancing and a conga line. Thanks to all the sponsors: South Sea Hotel, Pete Ross Automotive, Stewart Island Flights, Ship to Shore, Real Journeys, H & N Bennett, Sanfords, and Rakiura Shipping.



Debs Dillon leads the conga line



Holger receives his two year bar.



Hall decorations provided by Becky Cavanagh and assistant Mitch McGrannachan.

Greetings from Simon Gomez

I was brought up on Stewart Island, attended primary school in Halfmoon Bay, and I have considered Rakiura to be "Home" ever since. I now live in Cromwell in semi retirement with interests in media, music and The Rakiura Maori Lands Trust, where I was elected Chairman in 2015.

As chair of The Rakiura Maori Lands Trust I have made a pledge to keep the Stewart Island Community informed, as much as possible about the Trust activities. We are your neighbours and part of your community.

We know in the past we haven't been that great at communicating with the Island community but we aim to change that.

You are our neighbours, often owners, sometimes employees and benefit or are impacted by the Trusts operations.

There are seven trustees, myself as chair, Eliza Segar who is secretary, Leon Fife, Dick Ryan, Richard Manning, Tina Nixon and Jill Skerrett. Each trustee holds or shares a portfolio.

We meet 4 times a year and endeavour to hold one of those meetings on the island. The last one



was in June this year.

Financially the Trust is in very good shape but there are some legacy issues we are working through, such as the sale of the Matariki and some surplus equipment. If you want to know more about our projects please feel free to email ssg@rmlt.co.nz. (Please be aware some information is commercially

sensitive and is not available for the public arena).

We also have some exciting projects in development and soon we will be in a position to share some details with you.

We look forward to fostering an improved relationship with the island community.

Nga Mihi
Simon Gomez
 Chair of Rakiura Maori Land Trust

Stewart Island Seniors Housing Project

BREAKING NEWS!

After our successful meeting on Saturday 20 August with interested parties and Paul Searancke of Habitat for Humanity, Invercargill, I wrote to a couple of charitable institutions who had previously expressed some interest in our project. I have now received not one, but TWO enthusiastic replies, both looking forward to our next move (which will be via Jeff Walker to set up a panel of objective Trustees). In fact, one of the organisations wants to come over to see what we are up to! Now, that's not firm commitment regarding accessing funds, but it is an encouraging and positive response to our needs. Watch this space!

Bruce Ford

Wanted: Hawkes Bay house swap in the beautiful Tuki Tuki valley for the last week in Jan or 1st week Feb 2017.

Lovely 3brm 2 bathroom cottage.
 2 doubles plus 1 room with dble bunk.
 2 outdoor decks, views to the Kaweka Ranges as well as ducks on the pond. Situated on lifestyle block 1/2 way between Napier and Hastings.

Looking for accom for 5 adults (2 couples, 1 single)

Contact John & Alison Vandermeer
 416 Tuki Tuki Rd RD 10 Hastings.

027 2309 863 vandermeer@xtra.co.nz

SHOW ME SHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL

The Bunkhouse Theatre will be screening the Show Me Shorts film festival again this year (November 2016 - January 2017). Stay Tuned!

Jon Spraggon

I have been a member of the local Community Board for 3 terms, the last 2 as Chairperson.

Alternative energy sources has been a priority of the Board with members increasingly expressing concern over the lack of information and up to date data being made available to them in relation to this project.



Several major projects are planned in the future and before construction work starts on any of these, all aspects of planning, not only the design and build of the facility but consultation with the community and the maintenance and other operational costs of it in the future must be investigated to ensure the facility will remain viable into the future.

Tourism and Aquaculture are both areas that can be grown and as a community we need to work together to encourage this growth while retaining the basis of our island life style.

Bruce Ford J.P. – standing for Stewart Island Ward Rep to Southland District Council and for Stewart Island Community Board (tick required in both boxes): Involved in local politics for 40+ years, I understand how Council works and have a country-wide network of acquaintance to call on for expert opinion, funding advice, etc. I have been your local Councillor for three terms, and the Community Board and I have achieved a great deal in that time (Visitor Levy for example), but some issues are on-going - I need to see them through for the benefit of all of us. One of these is the upkeep of the jetties; new health and safety legislation make this high priority where transport by water is a major part of our tourism industry. And I am keen to promote several local projects such as the Heritage Centre. But we are *all* concerned about power prices. Our future growth as a community, expansion of opportunities for employment, the well-being of residents – all hinge on electricity, and must be a major priority for SDC, an ongoing battle worth waging if we are to prosper. I have time, patience and experience to persevere with these difficult projects. I'm keen to hear from you about your priorities, phone 2191282, and would value your support in the election.

Steve Lawrence — I have lived and worked on Stewart Island for the past 16 years. I am currently employed as a Station Operator at our local Power Station.

I believe the Island is a very special, safe and stimulating environment to live in for young and old alike. If elected, for the Community Board I feel my role should be to:

Represent and advocate for the community as a whole, utilizing its accumulated pool of knowledge and experience to help make the best possible decisions for our future.

Ensure that there is adequate consultation with the community.

Insist on accurate and timely responses to concerns and queries from individuals and businesses affected by decisions being made.

Provide adequate feedback and straightforward access to Community Board Minutes.

Prevent unnecessary financial overheads, red tape and bureaucracy.

Get the maximum levels of service possible and the best value for money from our rates.

Changes to our lifestyle should have positive outcomes for as many people as possible.

Lets keep this Island a special place for current and future generations.

Graham Okey — Independent voice for the community

Many of you know who I am - the guy doing maintenance in Oban and surrounds. Through my work I have the privilege to meet and talk to residents and visitors, allowing me to become aware of a variety of issues facing the community.



I believe that the community board needs to represent the whole community and that many issues are currently not being addressed. I do not have a personal agenda or project to push, other than seeing a happier, healthier community that is thriving.

Many locals say they are not aware of what the community board discusses and how they reach decisions or how they prioritise agenda items. I would like to see this change.

Some of the concerns I hear about include: the rising cost of living, parking issues, issues with traffic flow on our roads, lack of permanent worker accommodation, wharf issues, lack of independent visitor information, conflicts between growing tourism and the lifestyle of residents, as examples.

If elected, I would be approachable to any resident, to allow their concerns and ideas to be tabled for discussion at community board meetings. I also believe that some issues need to be open to community wide discussion. As a community board member I would listen to and represent the community as a whole.

Anita Geeson

As SDC moves towards a more inclusive approach to the way it does business across the region it is important to ensure that the specific needs of our community are included in the bigger picture. Things that are important to residents, and community groups, can be overshadowed by the necessity to provide for the requirements of our growing visitor numbers as well as the wider area. It is the responsibility of local representatives to recognise the value of local ideas as they participate in the planning process.

I believe that a Community Board should aim to add value to the community it represents. Local initiatives which have the potential for long term gain deserve support when negotiating the hurdles of resource consent and Council compliancy. The Rakiura Heritage Centre development and the Senior Housing Concept are both projects which as a Board Member I am prepared to support.

Ideally the membership of a representative group should reflect each demographic sector of that community. A quarter of Stewart Island residents are aged 60 plus – opinion, and input, from this group should be recognised when planning for the future direction a community should take. As a member of this group I am able to advocate on their behalf. I offer myself for re election on this basis.

Graham Cowley

I have lived full-time on Stewart Island for nearly 15 years but have had a strong association with the Island going back to January 1968 with almost all school holidays spent on the Island from 1970. I have a strong interest in helping to protect and develop the Stewart Island community.

I have worked on the ferries since early 2002. Prior to that I spent 12 years teaching and consulting with business at University of Otago, specialising in Business Strategy and Services Marketing.

I have served one term on the Community Board. I wish to continue serving our community. I believe that my prior service with the Community Board together with my knowledge and experience at Otago University equips me well as the community board moves 'from focusing on day-to-day infrastructure and amenity issues, to looking at the bigger picture'.

Greg Everest

I love Stewart Island. I love our village. As part of the community board I hope we help make decisions that are for the benefit of our residents and tourists alike.

I'd like to see a lot more information about issues arising in our community so we can help make better decisions that benefit our residents. I hope that I help make a difference to the way we live our lives here.

There are a lot of big projects happening that need community support like the Rakiura Museum and Renewable Energy. I'd like to see them both happen sooner than later.

Yours sincerely, Greg Everest

Dale Chittenden

For those of you who don't know me I am a father of four young boys who go to our HMB School and Rugrats. Together with my wife, Mary we have a passion for the outdoors and this community. I am involved in the community groups Search & Rescue, Fire Brigade and Marine Radio and I work for the Department of Conservation managing the huts and the tracks on Rakiura.

So many things about Stewart Island / Rakiura are special.....the community, the environment and even after 17 years I still feel very privileged to live here. I am keen to help guide our Island to retain its special values during a time when we are faced with many issues and pressures such as power affordability, tourism changes, aquaculture and an aging population. I am realistic about what can be achieved, am open to new ideas and will provide a balanced viewpoint.

Aaron Conner

Hi, I am Aaron Conner, I have lived on Stewart Island for 40 years, and I am married with three children.

I am a fitter welder trained in Invercargill. I have worked for Southern Seafoods for 20 + years.

I have been a community board member for 3 terms (9 years), in this time I have tried to keep the Southland District Council accountable for the SIESA projects.

My current concerns are the future of SIESA, and council re-zoning lots of land on the Island which the community board have had no knowledge of, and how this could impact on the land values, and use of land for the landowners.

Stewart Island hosting Southern Region SAREX

by Sandy King

Between 7th-9th October the Rakiura/Stewart Island LandSAR group will be hosting the 2016 Southern Region SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise). LandSAR volunteers, AREC (Amateur Radio Emergency Communications) volunteers, and police from eleven Southern Region LandSAR groups will arrive on the Island to train and improve their skills.

The SAREX will be based on the unresolved case of missing hunter Joseph Freiman. Mr Freiman went hunting with three companions at Mid Glory hunting block on the 27th of May 1991. In the early afternoon of Thursday 30th May Mr Freiman went hunting alone behind the Mid Glory camp site. His intentions were to be back at camp before dark but he never returned. An extended search involving police, and LandSAR volunteers from Stewart Island and Southland commenced the next day but failed to find any trace of Mr Freiman. Over 30 locals were involved in this search and many will remember the atrocious winter weather at the time, and the huge effort that was put into trying to locate Mr Freiman.

In the 25 years since Mr Freiman went missing the theory and management of Search and Rescue has



evolved; for example, thanks to international research on lost person behaviour search areas are now more targeted and less random than in the past, resulting in improved success. The 2016 SAREX will use the information available to searchers in 1991 and apply modern search management techniques to deploy and direct field teams. Up to 10 four-person field teams will be deployed and managed by three Incident Management Teams, with support from police and AREC. Prior to deployment "finds" – a limited number items foreign to the natural environment which search teams should notice, will be placed in the search area to test how well search teams are looking. These will be biodegradable in case they aren't found, e.g. a piece of toilet paper or a paper bag. However, there is always a chance that one of the "finds" will be the remains of Mr Freiman; a scenario which would bring long awaited closure to his family.



Weather hampers search for hunter

A group of seven hunters were out on a hunt on the 27th of May 1991. One of the hunters, who has been missing since, went hunting alone behind the Mid Glory camp site on the 30th of May. His intentions were to be back at camp before dark but he never returned. An extended search involving police, and LandSAR volunteers from Stewart Island and Southland commenced the next day but failed to find any trace of Mr Freiman. Over 30 locals were involved in this search and many will remember the atrocious winter weather at the time, and the huge effort that was put into trying to locate Mr Freiman.

Following the search for Mr Freiman a lot of locals expressed interest in learning more about search skills and techniques, resulting in training days being held on the Island. This was the beginning of an organised local Search and Rescue group which continued to grow and develop into the Rakiura/Stewart Island LandSAR Group we have today.

If you would like to know more, or be involved in the SAREX, please contact Dale Jenkins.

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

Taking the pee out of receipts

Have you ever glanced at a shop receipt and scratched your head in the vague hope that dragging a fingernail across your scalp will somehow stimulate the brain's hippocampus into remembering what it was you bought?

Generally items appear on a receipt with the brand name first, followed by the item description and then size or weight. For example:

- BEEHIVE BACON 250g
- PAMS MILK CALCI 2L

But some item descriptions are amusingly cut short for reasons beyond anything I can make up!

At the Four Square my favourite is 'NZ WOMENS WEE'!

Perhaps that's why there is always a queue at public conveniences as scores of women make a deposit which is bottled and sold ...

NZ WOMENS WEE is actually the New Zealand Women's Weekly magazine but it makes me want to scan the Australian Women's Weekly and

the UK Women's Weekly magazines to check for worldwide waste water sales!

On the subject of waste water, the other day my receipt told me I'd imported some toilets in a rather glamorous shade of orange ... and I was under the impression that I'd bought some fresh ginger!

Moving on from receipts, the posters for our weekly specials can also be quite amusing and I wish I'd taken a photo of this one:

"HELLERS NEW ZEALAND FLAVOURED SAUSAGES"

The burning question is what does New Zealand taste like?!

I think what they meant was pork & apple and lamb madras sausages made in New Zealand!



Elspeth Jean Tindal

Following closely after the death of her husband Ron, Elspeth Tindal passed away suddenly at her Dunedin home on the 8th August 2016. Their names were often spoken in the same breath and it's difficult to imagine one without the other.

Having spent many of her childhood holidays here on Stewart Island staying at her Aunt's cottage overlooking Pater-son Inlet, Elspeth developed a love for the Island very early in her life. In 1975 Elspeth came to Stewart Island with her Scottish husband Ronald to live first in her Aunt's cottage then in the delightful little summerhouse on the property. In later years the little house was demolished and a new home built in a similar style where the Tindals could admire the beautiful view and enjoy their native garden.

Elspeth was a trained librarian and one of her great interests was books, particularly children's books. In the early 1980s Elspeth became a pioneer in the tourism retail business on Stewart Island opening her unique gift shop called

The Fernery in Halfmoon Bay, in what is now the Glowing Sky shop. Her creative style set her shop apart from the normal tourist venture as each piece of art was handpicked to represent the nature of Stewart Island. For many years she cultivated hen and chicken ferns which she sold in small mini terrarium 'eggs' which then flourished in homes all over New Zealand. This was a real piece of Stewart Island that people could take home and treasure. Her shop also enabled her to develop her passion for children's books, Stewart Island natural history books and art. Many people will remember Elspeth as being the most unlikely retailer; she was so possessive of the beautiful pieces that graced her gallery that often it was difficult to convince her to sell it. Many of us received phone calls after a purchase asking if we were sure we liked what we had bought and extending an offer to buy it back! After many years operating in downtown Halfmoon Bay Elspeth and Ron built a new Fernery below their house on Golden Bay Road. Despite its relocation from the foot traffic area of town the Fernery thrived and became a destination for discerning shoppers who crunched their way up

the shell path leading to the shop.

Throughout her time on the Island Elspeth was a 'political activist' – not in the placard waving style but in the way she saw environmental problems in the community and convinced others to write or lobby local politicians for better outcomes. One of her pet concerns was the use of weed killer on the fern and native flower covered roadside banks for she saw beauty and treasures in those banks and despaired when visitors and locals alike had to stroll alongside bare brown banks. The Island was always at the heart of her concerns but she was persistent, determined and dogged, as many who served on the Stewart Island County Council or Community Board will attest.

As with many people in the later years of their life, living on an Island posed its difficulties with more frequent trips away for health appointments and the general day to day problems of living remotely so the Tindals moved to Dunedin where they had been living in recent years.

—Margaret Hopkins

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

Government backs regional tourism growth

The Government is continuing to ensure regional New Zealand benefits from tourism growth with more funding for infrastructure and to help businesses get up and running. Changes to the Tourism Growth Partnership (TGP) will see half of the \$8 million annual fund made available exclusively for projects in the regions which is great news for Southland tourism operators.

We know how difficult it is for regional businesses to attract investment to get started and smaller regional businesses - like those on Rakiura, have been affected. This change now gives those innovative New Zealanders in regions more opportunity to turn a great idea into a business reality and help to establish business growth in the sector with co-funding support from the Government.

The TGP was established in 2013. To date the fund has awarded \$20.7 million to 28 projects and attracted co-funding of \$60.5 million. The remaining \$4 million of TGP funding will continue to support innovative projects that increase productivity in the tourism sector.

The Government have also recently announced the \$3 million annual Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund is now open for applications. The fund is part of a wider suite of initiatives that form the Government's tourism strategy.

This fund is an important step towards helping communities maximise their tourism growth potential by providing new or enhanced smaller infrastructure for visitors, such

as rubbish bins, carparks, and restrooms. Although these sorts of projects are not the most exciting, smaller communities still need support to fully benefit from growing numbers of tourists and provide the level of service New Zealanders want to offer.

The tourism sector is experiencing exceptional growth, with visitor arrivals to Rakiura this year forecast to hit 35,000. Southland tourism operators have seen an 11% increase in activity in the last year alone.

Part of the Government's tourism strategy is to ensure all regions continue to benefit from this growth and by providing funding in these key areas, we can ensure tourism numbers continue to grow.

More detailed information about the enhanced TGP fund will be available in early September when applications for the next funding round open.

Applications for the Regional Mid-sized Facilities Grant close on 15 September, with funding decisions expected to be made in mid-October.

For more detailed information about applying for the Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund, visit:

<http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/tourism/regional-mid-sized-tourism-facilities-grant-fund>

From the office of Sarah Dowie MP



Kiwi Avoidance Training
by Sandy King

After another unfortunate dog vs kiwi incident recently, it is time for a reminder about kiwi avoidance training, what we can reasonably expect it to achieve, and its limitations.

What does it do?

In a nutshell, kiwi avoidance training teaches a dog to avoid kiwi by delivering an electric shock, either from a collar or an electronic “e-kiwi”, when the dog deliberately moves in to investigate kiwi scent.

Will avoidance training protect our kiwi from dog attacks?

On its own, no. Avoidance training is only part of the solution, not the complete solution. The best way to protect kiwi is to ensure that dogs are under control at all times and are not allowed to free-range, *especially* not at night when kiwi are more active. This is not just a moral responsibility; under the Dog Control Act 1996 dog owners are legally responsible for keeping their dog/s under control at all times.

My dog has done avoidance training, will it always avoid kiwi?

Not necessarily. Dogs are individuals, and some dogs learn more quickly than others. Avoidance training doesn't always work every time for every dog, while for others it works very well. We can see this at our local training sessions – one dog always runs and hides under the car at the first whiff of kiwi scent, some don't seem too bothered but deliberately avoid the kiwi, and some get a shock almost every time.

Also, dogs can forget over time so it is important to keep repeating the training. Doing it just once may not be enough for your dog.

Finally, the kiwi props used for the training resemble kiwi, but aren't real, live, moving kiwi. Some dogs – especially, but not exclusively hunting breeds, have a strong prey drive i.e. the instinct to hunt and chase. For some the thrill of the chase will override the threat of a relatively mild electric shock every time, and if the dog has previously experienced a successful chase it is highly likely to try again whenever the opportunity arises, regardless of the consequences.

Avoidance training can help prevent kiwi being killed, but is not the panacea.

Why are kiwi still being killed?

The last two (known) kiwi kills occurred because the owners did not have control over their dogs.

When is the next kiwi avoidance training session?

The next training session will be held over Labour Week-end; keep an eye on the notice board and the October issue of SIN for details, or talk to Di Morris (027 759 9773) or Sandy King (027 867 9011) for more details.



Following another unfortunate incident involving a dog and a kiwi evening of 15 August, we are asking dog owners to keep their dogs under control. A Rakiura resident saw a dog harassing a tokoeka / Stewart Island kiwi, on a road in the township of Oban. The Department of Conservation and the Southland District Council Dog Control Officer were contacted and the dog was captured. Unfortunately the kiwi did not survive. Kiwi are particularly vulnerable to any harassment by dogs – they seldom survive encounters.

The Department of Conservation is very disappointed that this has occurred. Dogs have been responsible for the deaths of several kiwi in and around Oban over the last few years, although the responsibility lies with the dog owners, not the dogs. These deaths are entirely preventable, if dog owners practice responsible dog ownership. It's simple: Keep your dog inside or kennelled at night and keep your dog under control at all times.

It is a real privilege to live in amongst kiwi in Oban and we all have our part to play to keep it that way.

Bridget Baynes, Operations Manager - Rakiura, Department of Conservation

**Dogs can kill
kiwi and penguins.
Please do not let
your dog wander.
Please report
wandering dogs to
0800 732 732**





SIRCET presents:

Talk by Jason Hosking

NZ Geographic 2015 photographer of the year

Jason is going to talk about his experiences with photographing wildlife and nature and will be showing his photos. Check out his work at www.jasonhosking.com

When: 7 pm Wednesday 19th October

Where: DOC Rakiura National Park Visitor Information Centre

Thanks to the Department of Conservation and Real Journeys

A few weeks ago I saw Dale Chittenden walking along Elgin Terrace toward the Flight Centre, carrying a polystyrene box. Usually, a poly-box on the plane means a happy someone on the other side will be receiving a gift from the sea. But the sight of Dale holding the wee white container made me feel sick and sad, because I guessed rightly what was inside. When a dog kills a kiwi on the island, DoC staff become janitors, tasked with cleaning up a mess of bloody feathers and the savaged remains of one of our treasured birds. The carcass is sent to the Bluff marae so the feathers can be used to make traditional feather cloaks. (Korowai are beautiful, but you know what? I wish this island wasn't an annual supply of the feathers. What a shame.)

Frustrating, disappointing, and tragically avoidable: another kiwi mauled by a dog here. (Coincidentally, almost exactly one year to the date of the last known mauling at Horseshoe Bay.) This recent incident unfolded mid-August in the middle of the township. The dog was caught (a first for Stewart Island in the history of dog-kiwi attacks) and taken off-island.

Sad-face emoticons popped up on social media. Everyone involved was upset. An unhappy outcome for everyone all around, no winners. I'd love to now talk about a bright side or silver lining, and declare that we've all learnt a hard valuable lesson and it won't happen again. But I'm not going to. The only good coming out of this is a pretty cloak.

After the last known kiwi death-by-dog last year, there was hand wringing, fist shaking, letter writing, articles, meetings, calls to action. But there was also: eye rolling and sighing, people saying the hand wringers were over-reacting, saying it used to be much worse and a few dead kiwi are better than a lot of dead kiwi.

There's also silence. Some people worry if they have a conversation about dog control they will be labelled a pet-hater. And hey, maybe there's nothing left to say.

So I'll just push *repeat*, and reemphasize that *the onus is on dog owners to ensure their dog is under control*. The onus. *ON US*. Get it? Nothing and nobody stands between kiwi and dogs but us. It is *on us* to protect the kiwi.

So much work goes into monitoring and protecting our precious kiwi population here. Should we really be shrugging and saying *dogs will be dogs* and the occasional mauled kiwi is an acceptable by-kill of that fact? All it takes is one window of time, one roaming dog crossing paths with a kiwi, and that is very likely the end of the kiwi. (If the kiwi ever wins that battle, well, that would be the *most viral video ever* on YouTube, and while we're dreaming wouldn't you love to watch a little blue penguin kick the crap out of a feral cat?)

Status: *It's complicated*. The truth is we love our pet dogs. And we also love having our "pet" kiwi living amongst us, and our visitors are over the moon when they encounter kiwi on our roads and footpaths and beaches. Doesn't matter how much of a dog lover you are, I am betting we can ALL agree we'd rather be awakened by the sound of a kiwi calling than a dog barking. Kiwi living here is a massive drawcard to visitors, but there can be a stark, dark flipside. Imagine if a resident hadn't encountered the attack, and first on the scene was a school group from the nearby backpackers? Or a bunch of visitors on their way to catch a water taxi? Free WiFi wafting along from the Library... everyone's fingers trigger-happy over their smartphones... photos of dog chomping kiwi posted to social media... What an expedient way for our enchanting island to become deplorable in the eyes of our visitors and everyone they know.



Unlike other places up North where communities overlap with kiwi habitat, Stewart Island doesn't have thousands of dogs, many unregistered, some running wild. (And we don't have mustelids!) It's not unmanageable down here: we only have about 50 dogs, all registered, we all know each other and where every dog

lives. Every resident is well aware of the danger that dogs pose to kiwi and the importance of controlling their pet, especially at night. We all have all the information we need.

Any ideas on how to prevent a next-time-around? It could be something as simple as helping a neighbor build a gate. Or kindly educating new residents about the importance of dog control and how awesome it is to have kiwi roaming our neighborhood. Or reminding owners to continue the kiwi avoidance training. It's worth brainstorming because it's not like we're trying to create some impossible utopia brimming with rainbow-hued unicorns. The dream of an island where not one more kiwi gets mauled by a resident dog is tantalizingly close to achievable. It's NOT unreasonable. It IS possible.

Maybe, just maybe... there won't be a next time around. Maybe these wonderful flightless birds that grace our township will be left in peace, to live out their days fossicking in the mud, snuffling in the sand, delighting our visitors, waking us at night with their calls. Hopefully as a community we can work together to ensure that *every* kiwi can live and roam freely and go back to its mate and chicks at the end of a wander, not end up dead in a poly-box on the morning flight.

—Jess

Rattus Status

We are in the midst of a rat plague. Residents are reporting rats in their rooves, rats in sheds, rats all up in our stuff! One family was appalled to find a rat in their daughter's backpack!



A Tale of Three Tails. This is how you catch seven rats with four traps: three in one, one each in the other three, then reset and catch one more!

Rat trappers are seeing a record numbers of catches. A pat on the back to Andrew King who had a rat-trap hat-trick (say that three times fast) catching three in one trap. How is this even possible? Maybe all three darted in at the exact same time. Or maybe two were making cautious nibbly forays and the third came along and its added weight tripped the trap.

Chris Dillon has had a trap disappear entirely from his property, presumably rat and all. He's been advised to tie his traps down (one of our neighbours nails his traps to his deck). Someone told Chris the best bait is white chocolate, so Chris mixes white chocolate with peanut-butter. That actually sounds delicious... might not be just rats stealing those traps, Chris.

Here's a rat trap mystery I encountered recently: one of the outdoor traps was

tripped, rat poos all inside, bait still there but smeared all over the place, and no rat. What do you reckon happened?

I don't know if this is true but can't shake this image: years ago a guy told me he worked somewhere in Southland where there was a big freezer and rats lived in it with huge thick coats and they ran around looking like Russian fur hats with tails!

The shop has Victor traps for indoors and you can get weather-proof ones for outside from SIRCET. You can also talk to Kelly Bunce at SIRCET (kelly@sircet.org.nz, 027 838 2300) if you're interested in volunteering to check trap lines in the community zone. (For more information check the SIRCET update in the August 2016 issue.)

A couple months ago I spent a day with DoC's Cherie Hemsley checking the

coastal traps around Ulva Island. She showed me how to set the bigger traps and the experience gave me the confidence and inspiration to contact Kelly at SIRCET. I now have my own trap line to tend! The weekly walk is something I truly look forward to, and

if you have an hour to spare one day a week I recommend it. It's fun, it's fascinating, and it's exercise in a beautiful place. I am grateful to Cherie and Kelly who took the time and had the patience to show a novice like me my way around traps.

Last order of business: we need a name for our rat column. Here are some possibilities:

- Rat Tales
- Kiore korero
- Rat droppings
- The Shippie News
- The pokipoki pot
- Trip trap

If you have any ideas for this column title or anything rat-related you'd care to contribute, send to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com or have a chat with me. —Jess

Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter – Jo Riksem

It was lovely last month to have members of the Mark Kershaw and Corrina Horrell family come and have their littlest one, Hugo Victor baptised and a special dedication of their oldest son, Archie James. Mark Keshaw's parents, Dave and Ricky live on the island and he is the grandson of Max and Tina Kershaw who also lived here years ago. What a fantastic turnout of the township for Daffodil Day. The town really did turn yellow with yellow clad kids at the school to yellow clad waitresses at the hotel with yellow cup cakes to sell. Congratulations to all that put the effort into making it a super day. Sparks flew in the fuse box one day and we are now looking at a very expensive rewiring as, on examination it was deemed a fire hazard. Work is underway. Our old organ also decided to give up the ghost so if anyone knows of a good second hand electric organ for sale please contact Lorraine Squires. We are grateful for our keyboard but would like to have the organ as well as they blend so beautifully together as we make a "joyful noise unto the Lord."

Speakers Previews:

2, 9, 16 Oct. - Scott Thompson - OLD STORIES & NEW CHOICES - Scott was all ready to take services last year but was whipped away with a medical emergency. It's nice to have him back for the 2,9, and 16 October services. Last year's experience got Scott thinking about when it is better to keep on trying and when preferable to give up. Obviously he has decided not to give up on coming back to the Island. How could he, as his wife Barbara (formerly Gough) has a very long association with this place and it is loved by all their family? Over the three Sunday's Scott wants to take a fresh look at the short stories Jesus told- the Parables. They're full of people deciding to go back, and also people who would have been better the change to something fresh. How do we decide which choice to make? There is an 'in your face' quality about the parables that

makes people change their minds." Scott has a strong interest in history and international relations. On summer weekends in Master-ton Scott and Barbara are the senior tour hosts for Sir Peter Jackson's world acclaimed vintage aircraft collection.



Archie being dedicated by Beverley.

23 October – Linda Beebe - Stewart Island holds a special place in Linda's family lineage as this was the home of her great aunt Eunice Leask and her husband Eric. Her father often visited them before introducing Stewart Island to her generation. Subsequently, her husband David and herself have enjoyed taking our own children there. Linda lives in Invercargill, and she is a grandmother, works as a nurse at the surgical ward of Southland Hospital, hosts international students and is part

of the Invercargill Central Baptist Church. She looks forward to sharing Christian faith with the Stewart Island church, including updates of the Tear Fund Christian Aid & Development Agency.

30 October – Peter Noble – Along with pastoral duties of 15 years, Peter enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities which includes caving, climbing, tramping, kayaking, sailing, cycling, abseiling and 4WD-ing. To supplement the income he does tree work which involves some of these skills. You'll possibly see him in these roles early next year as he's already had a few requests for his services. He also uses his skill in technological things to bring a difference to a Sunday service which makes it all very fun and informative.

Church services every Sunday at 11 am. Church open every day to come in and enjoy the peace and quiet.

LETTERS

“He predecease’d her. She for a little tried
To live without him, lik’d it not, and died.”

—that’s how it has been for Ron and Elspeth, and it’s nice that she hasn’t had to go on and on, on her own, without him.

The worst aspect of old age is having to say goodbye to one’s dearest friends.

With warmest thoughts,

Sheila Natusch



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Books Reviewed by Sue Ford

Over the last 2 or 3 years, I’ve struggled with problem feet, and was rendered confined to the house for a while – a fine time of the year to stop trying to keep up and read guilt-free. The problem was getting to the Library! So I took the opportunity to read off my own shelves. I’m happy to lend the following books that I have re-read with much pleasure:

“**The Lord of Burghley**” by **Elisabeth Inglis-Jones** recounts an old scandal in aristocratic circles, when in 1789, Henry Cecil (soon to become the Lord of Burghley), disappeared from public life. At the same time, the mysterious Mr. Jones turned up in a remote country village, met and eventually married a local country-girl, Sally Hoggins, known in due course as ‘The Cottage Countess’. You couldn’t invent a more rip-roaring, scandal-mongering romance, involving bigamy and bankruptcy. Next, **Anne Wild’s “If Stones Could Speak”**. The small village church of St. Matthews in Kirton-in-Lindsey is bedecked with stone ‘heads’ and effigies, documented as to who is represented. Wild then imagines – in chronological order – a story each ‘head’ might tell. Beginning with the head of a retired Roman centurion and ending with Joanna Jessop speaking from the ‘House of Correction’ in

1872, it encapsulates both local history and the history of Britain, told entertainingly. Fascinating.

From the sublime to the ridiculous, and I moved on to **Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games”**, amongst the most exciting ‘adventure’ stories I have read. The trilogy documents how Panem – formerly known as America and following an undisclosed catastrophe – the country is divided into 13 Districts plus the Capitol. Life is hard and unrelenting in 12 of the Districts, the fruits of that labour going to the citizens of Capitol and Panem’s sadistic dictator, President Snow. District 13 was destroyed 74 years before the start of the trilogy, as a result of a ‘peasants uprising’. Every year – as a reminder to the populace that disobeying the Capitol leads to even nastier things! – the Hunger Games are held. Children aged 12 to 18 are the combatants chosen by lot. An arena of massive proportions is built each year, sometimes forested, sometimes a desert waste, and so on. Tracked by cameras and televised live to the country, and by stealth, skill or craft, the combatants must kill each other until only one child remains – The Victor. Katniss Everdeen aged 16 is the girl representative of District 12 in the 74th year of the Hunger Games. Naturally, she wins (or there wouldn’t

be two further books following her progress!!), but how she survives marks her for a sticky end at the hands of President Snow. With Katniss as the emblem of the Uprising, all districts join against President Snow. Good is on the verge of triumphing over evil, but evil has a way of tainting the next move, and though good does win in the end, the cost to the main characters on the side of right is heavy indeed! Love it – and I knew how it ended, but the plot is riveting.

I sent Bruce to the Library for me – the easiest thing for me to ask for was the next in the Roman series by **Simon Scarrow**. In “**The Eagle’s Prey**”, the Roman invasion of Britain is centred on taking down King Caratacus, but under the control of the insane Senior Centurion Maximius, there are problems. Then Cato is sentenced to death! However, Cato has a plan – if he can find Caratacus and reveal his whereabouts to the Legion, might his death sentence be repealed? But first, the British king has to be found, deep in the marshes of the southwest. The whole series is a really good adventure-story of a read, but I can’t wait to get back to the Library to see what’s new after an absence of a month!

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**Regional Pest Management Plan
Community Consultation Meeting**

The future management of pests on Stewart Island will be the focus of a community consultation meeting being held by Environment Southland.

The meeting is being held at the Pavilion on Tuesday 13 September from 7-9pm and is open to all members of the community.

Environment Southland biosecurity manager Richard Bowman says the aim is to hear what the community think about pest issues on the island and how the current pest management strategy can be improved to meet future needs under the

new Regional Pest Management Plan.

Richard will be joined by Randall Milne (senior biosecurity officer – pest plants) and Dave Burgess (senior biosecurity officer – pest animals) at the meeting.

“We are interested talking to the community about management of cats and in retaining and implementing the rules in the current strategy about neutering and micro-chipping of domestic cats. This is relevant to current pest control work around Halfmoon Bay as well as for future developments with predator free Rakiura,” Richard says.

“We are also interested in the community view of our current programmes to man-

age Gunnera, German ivy, Old man’s beard, Selaginella, Darwin’s barberry, gorse, broom. etc., on private land on the island.”

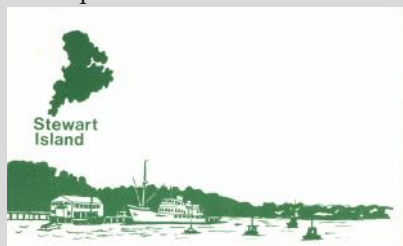
There will be scope to talk about other issues of interest such as rat and possum control as well as the reports deer coming into the township and damaging gardens.

Feedback and discussion from the meeting will be used by Environment Southland during the development of the new Regional Pest Management Plan which will set the scene for pest management in Southland for the next 10 years.

Museum Rambles *by Jo Riksem.*

Originally a mantelpiece clock in McKellar's home "Vaila" Halfmoon Bay. Two ornamental obelisks with fruit comport were broken when the clock was thrown out over the bank of "Vaila". The clock was later retrieved and given to the donor and later, Ted Carrington (who lived at Vaila) saved the mechanism and this too was given to the donor who has now returned it to the island.

A lovely album of native flowers photographed by George Turner was also donated and a lovely old envelope. Would be nice to have these again.



Some old letterheads from some Stewart Island businesses were also donated. These are all part of our history and very much

appreciated.

We had a lovely visit from Tarras Primary School who loved all the interesting things in our museum as well as the fun treasure hunt we provided.



We have had an offer from Stephen Davies (curator and manager of the Anderson Park collection) to come and go over our art collection about mid November. He would be able to tell us what items are top of the list to conserve, keeping our art collection in the best possible way and teaching us many of the terms we need in cataloguing.

October hours at the museum will be; Mon - Sat 10:00 am - 1:30 pm - Noon; Sunday Noon - 2.00pm

Due to a technical snafu, Shop Talk got a bit "butchered" last month so here it is, reprinted in its entirety:

Shop Talk
by Jules Retberg

Meat me at the Four Square

With the season finally slowing down it means Four Square staff can start to take holidays - yay! Of course that means having someone else cover your responsibilities while you're away, as we all do a gazillion other things as well as serve our lovely customers!

When Sam was away recently we all took over the various areas that he is usually responsible for ordering: Fern & Martin got the beer and chilled drinks, Karen got the milk and I got the meat.

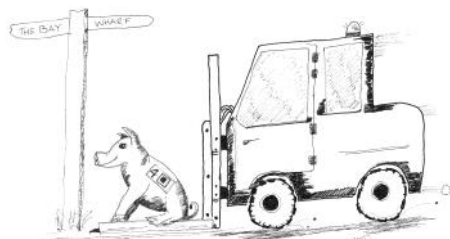
Many orders are placed electronically these days, so I had a run through the meat ordering system and was good to

go. Most of the meat is ordered per unit, so if we want 20 packets of beef mince, enter 20 and Bob's your uncle, 20 packets of mince arrives. Tah daaaaah!

Soooo, I merrily ordered some BBQ ribs, lamb shanks, peppered steak, pork corned silverside and clicked on the "CONFIRM ORDER" button.

I wasn't at work the day I expected six individual packets of vac-packed Pork Corned Silverside to arrive.

I wasn't at work the day *my body weight* in Pork Corned Silverside *actually* arrived!



It turns out that some meat items are ordered by the 10kg carton ... and Pork Corned Silverside is one of them. Did my ham-fisted attempt at meat ordering get me the chop? Did my colleagues rib me mercilessly? Snort with derision? No of course not, but I've done my ham-work and found some recipes for this bargain cut of meat.

Take the grunt out of cooking and pop the pork silverside (also known as pickled pork) into the crockpot with some ginger ale and honey for about five or six hours - perfect for when you've been out at work all day. Or try marinating the pork in honey and mustard overnight and pop it into the crock pot the next day. Yum!

Whatever your cure for the winter blues, whether it's roasting in the sun overseas or sitting beside the fire at home, have a crackling time!



DOC SPOT by *Letitia McRitchie*

Southern New Zealand Dotterel protection program

DOC is currently planning and implementing an expanded predator control programme aimed at protecting the Nationally Critical Southern New Zealand Dotterel this season (September to March). The dotterel have been declining for the last 5 years with the greatest annual rate of decline observed last year. There are only an estimated 118-126 individuals remaining and urgent management is required. We will be introducing new control methods such as kill trapping and making use of new toxins targeting feral cats and rodents. The expanded feral cat control will be complimented with the removal of spur winged plover and hunting of white-tail deer on the open tops where dotterel breed. All mailboxes will have recently received a Key Facts sheet which provides more information. Copies are also available at the DOC Visitor Centre and the community notice board. If you have any questions, please ring Kevin Carter (Senior Ranger, Biodiversity) on 03 219 0004 or pop into the office.

Conservation Week, 10 – 18 September

Conservation Week gives you the opportunity to celebrate the natural environment and make a connection with your local special places. Studies show children who are connected to nature will want to enjoy it and save it, now and in the future. Spending time in nature also improves physical and mental health and wellbeing – it's all about Healthy Nature Healthy People.

There are events on both here and nationally and competitions on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week

DOC Rakiura will run a competition for the school. Take the kids out into nature during the week and submit a photo of the place you went and ask the kids to write a story about what they could do to help the conservation of that place. More details will be available from the school.

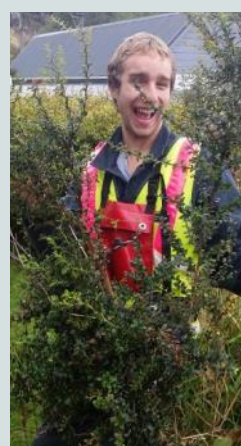
The service at the Oban Presbyterian Church on the 11th of September will also have a conservation theme.

Summer Weeding

With spring here the weeds will start growing again. DOC is preparing for the start of another weed control season and Willy Gamble is back to manage the project. At the end of last summer, a major review of the weed project was started and the results from this are going to be discussed at a technical meeting with DOC and Environment Southland weed control staff.



Photo Credit: James Reardon



Willy Gamble helping out at the nursery and weeding from last summer

Kiwi death

On the 15 August, another kiwi was killed by a roaming dog. The attack was witnessed by two people and the dog identified.

Dogs have been responsible for the deaths of several kiwi in and around Oban over the last few years, although the responsibility lies with the dog owners, not the dogs. These deaths are entirely preventable, if dog owners practice responsible dog ownership. It's simple: Keep your dog inside or kennelled at night and keep your dog under control at all times.

It is a real privilege to live amongst kiwi in Oban and we all have our part to play to keep it that way.

Biosecurity Hui

From the 5th – 7th September the Department will be hosting a Southern Island Biosecurity Network hui for DOC staff. This is a gathering of all the DOC experts and managers working in island biosecurity in the southern South Island. Similar meetings are also being held in Nelson and Auckland to cover the rest of the country. This will be a great opportunity for local

staff to learn from the experts and gain information for the ongoing improvement of biosecurity for Te Wharawhara / Ulva Island, the open sanctuary in our backyard.

Visitor numbers

DOC monitors visitor numbers in a variety of ways including track counters. These are cables under a section of track that count the number of footsteps that pass over. In many areas these have been quietly working away for years, giving good comparisons of annual changes. Results for the year up to the end of June 2016 have been recently analysed. Te Wharawhara / Ulva Island had a 30% increase around the short tracks and a 100% increase on the longer tracks to Boulder Beach and West End Beach. Track counters and booking numbers for the Rakiura Track show some significant increases, with a 52% increase in campsite use and 18% increase in people on the track. Significant upgrades are planned, pending funding, in the next two years with track gravelling, increasing the size of the North Arm campsite, a replacement of the Little River bridge and building a hut warden quarters at North Arm. Paid wardens will also be in place at Potirepu / Port William and North Arm for the summer and volunteer wardens will support them during the shoulder season.



The new bridge at Christmas Village being lowered into place by helicopter

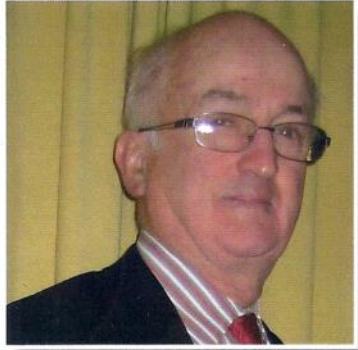


Checks of rat traps on Pipi Rocks, off the coast of Ulva Island.





Bruce Ford *for* DISTRICT COUNCIL



VOTE



for Local Knowledge & Experience



Help Rebecca-Lynn Cavanagh (Becky) pursue her dream of starting a retreat. Read more about it at *Rebeccas Retreat, Rakiura* on FB or vote for her at www.amp.co.nz/scholarships



Photo by Grant Grieve



Neville Bennett with Russell Anderson and Gordon McLennan. Neville is presented with his 40-year certificate and 2-year bar for 41 years of service.



Need help with local issues? Come to New Zealand First

We can provide you with practical help and advice,
putting you in touch with the right people when things go wrong.

“It’s common sense”

Call me or email me.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST LIST MP

RIA BOND

BASED IN INVERCARGILL

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Office hours
Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm



Authorised by Ria Bond,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



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Save the date
RAKIURA RAVE-UP

Down at the hall on Saturday Night
Labour weekend 22 Oct 2016

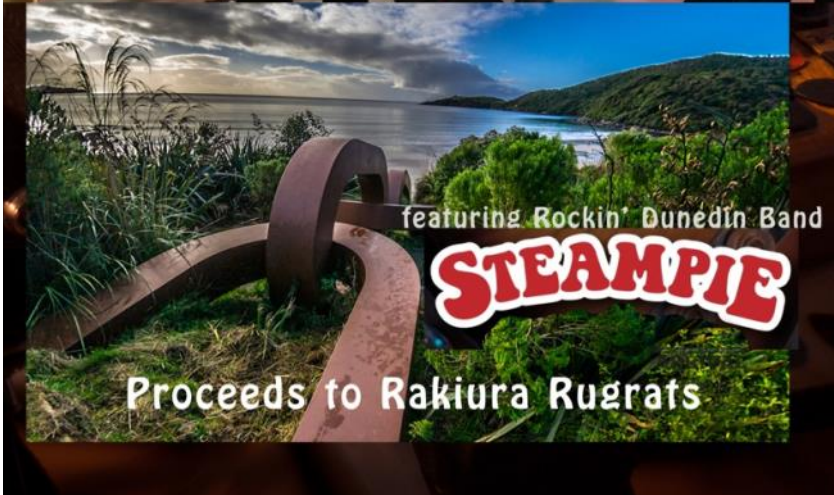
A friendly request from Halfmoon Bay School:

Please be courteous and **DON'T PARK IN THE SCHOOL CAR PARKS** on Ayr Street between 8am-4pm on school days unless you are on school business.

Parents have been unable to find places to drop off and pick up their children because spaces are being filled by long-term parkers.

And during drop-off and pick-up hours (9am and 2:45 pm) **PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY** by the school as children are out and about!

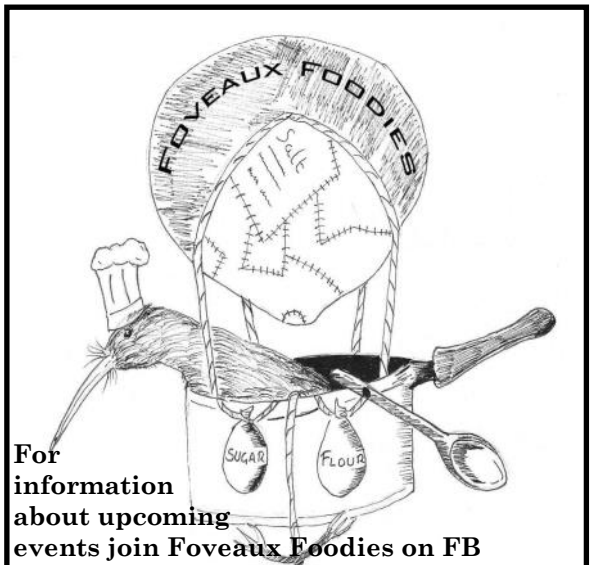
Thank you!



featuring Rockin' Dunedin Band

STEAMPIE

Proceeds to Rakiura Rugsrats



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Pounamu / Greenstone WORKSHOP

for Stewart Island residents

at Dave's Studio 45 Elgin Terrace

7th Sept—16th Sept
10 am—6pm-ish

Take the opportunity before the season opens

Special Island rates!

Ph 021 0259 3958

Quality Handyman Services Guaranteed

Experienced, reliable handyman (ex Green Acres contractor) available for work on the island

Handyman Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance | General fencing |
| Lawn mowing | Building dog kennels, chook runs etc. |
| Line trimming | Building/assembling garden sheds etc |
| Section maintenance | General carpentry |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Gutter cleaning |
| Tree pruning | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree removal | Water blasting |
| Chainsaw work | Spider proofing |
| Hedge trimming | Rose pruning |
| 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 |
| Office administration | design & printing |

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



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Please send articles and enquiries to Jess Kany
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