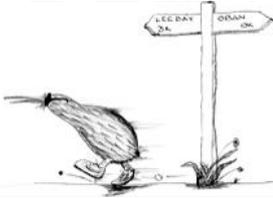


# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA



September-October 2019

\$4.00

Soon the island will welcome participants in the **Rakiura Challenge**, Stewart Island's first major race in the Park. See below for important traffic-related information for race day 5th October. When I arrived here in 2002, one of the big drawcards for staying longer was the extensive and tantalizing network of gorgeous places to run here. I still haven't pounded my soles on every 250 k of the island's tracks, but I've experienced enough muddy endorphin highs to confidently call Rakiura a Runner's Paradise. I'm excited for runners from around the country to experience the muddy frondy beauty and hope they all have a wonderful weekend.

We have an election coming up. Vote YES-MAYBE-HELL-NO for Rakiexit!! Sorry, been watching too much news... thankfully our issues aren't as mad as the rest of the world's. See pages 12-15 to meet your twelve lovely candidates. Thank you to everyone who stepped up and put their names forward, including the people serving for years, and the

new faces.

The island finally has a new cop. We welcome Stuart and his family, and welcome back the Halfmoon Bay Beat (p19).

The Gordon Ramsey show filmed here finally aired and it was pretty awesome. Totally entertaining; showcased New Zealand magnificently and in particular Stewart Island (and the F-word's beard) in all their glory.

Keep your eye out for Matt Jones' article in the next



Doesn't every islander dream of having their own custom-built boat? The Koru aka S.I.N.V. has joined the Rakiura-based fleet in Halfmoon Bay. This fine-lined kauri & rimu beauty has brass fittings, a roomy wheelhouse, sexy transom and A4-sized deck. You can find her moored to the shop counter. More on page 5.

### TRAFFIC INFORMATION for the Rakiura Challenge, Saturday 5th October



On the Event morning between **07.30 – 8.30am** there will be considerably more traffic than usual between Elgin Terrace and Horseshoe Bay, transporting the competitors to the start (at the end of Lee Bay Rd) via coaches and shuttle vans.

During the above period, you can also expect many competitors to warm up along the Horseshoe Bay foreshore.

**Start (at the intersection of Horseshoe Bay and Lee Bay Rds): 8.30am.**

Athletes will run over the hill to Lee Bay, where there will be a Temporary Road Close, until the last competitors enter onto the Rakiura Track.

The course to the Finish line (outside the Events Centre), will be: exiting the Track at Ryans Creek carpark, then via Main Rd, turning at the South Seas Hotel, then Elgin Terrace, turning into Ayr St to the Finish.

**Expect runners on this section between 11.30am – 3.30pm.**

**No Parking** will be setup outside the HMB School and Community Centre on Friday afternoon, to allow for the Finish line setup on Saturday morning.

**Enquiries to: Aaron Joy: 027 433 0397**

issue of *Wilderness* magazine. (And thanks Matt for the kiwi runner artwork in the masthead).

HMB School students continue to do us proud. Tai Simpson won first prize in a round of persuasive speeches in Invercargill, and the Rakiura Rockers won third place at Bandquest in Dunedin.

The island has been humming with activity: Lions party and a visit from ex-publican and cycling pool hero George Crack; the

Community Centre 20th birthday bash; archaeological conference; museum temporary opening, and more. And things are just getting busier!

A big congratulations to the people who worked so tirelessly making the new museum a reality. You all must have felt tremendous pride on the day the building opened its doors. I reckon the magnificent carved pou alone is worth a trip across Foveaux Strait, and the beautiful space will do the entire collection of Rakiura taonga proud.

*Condolences to Ian and Phillipa and the extended family of Peggy Wilson.*

—Jess

### A peek inside the new museum

On Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, after almost two decades of planning and fundraising, after months of building and plumbing and after weeks of roofing, painting, finessing the electrics and the electronic locks, fitting out the kitchen, the office and the rest rooms, laying carpet and vinyl, the new Rakiura Museum welcomed its first visitors.

These first, most important visitors arrived promptly at 2pm. The pupils of Halfmoon Bay School were given first chance to explore the foyer of the new museum and to view a large sample of the Lockerbie Collection. This exciting and internationally important collection of items, discovered at The Neck in the 1950's and 1960's by archaeologist Les Lockerbie and his students, has recently been returned to Stewart Island.

Since its return, much of the collection has been carefully labelled and crated

*(Continued on page 11)*

**MUSEUM MATTERS** by Jo Riksem

*We acknowledge with sadness the passing of our Chairman, Allan Wadds. Trustees have many good memories of some fun times together. He will be sadly missed.*

**TALES FROM THE ATTIC****Needle and pin doll****Needle and pin doll close up**

Small doll with long hanging pieces of material for putting needles and pins on. Body and head are porcelain, all very delicate with finely made underclothes. Top layer of hanging pieces are silk. Many homes would have had something along this line and are a beautifully made item.

**Acquisitions for August 2019**

1. Items from family regarding WWI and WWII
2. Scanned photos on disk of old images of Stewart Island. Some named and some unknown.
3. Advertising from past and present businesses
4. Maps and notes concerning Les Lockerbie

**Searches for August 2019:**

"Skip" Dunlop

**Groups for August 2019**

It was our pleasure to host locals and members of the Archaeological Association convention in a sneak preview of part of our new museum along with an exhibition of some of the Lockerbie Collection that was excavated at The Neck. Thank you to Jo Massey for her talk and all the trustees from both trusts that helped put it together.

**Snippet:**

Newspaper clipping Christchurch Star 3 December 1976

"Departing on Amphibian from Invercargill Airport. Another passenger turns and pilot and three passengers shoehorn themselves among the mailbags, plastic tubing and assorted boxes inside the fuselage of the amphibian. A few jokes cracked about the cramped conditions and the casual professionalism of the pilot puts us at ease."

**Please, if you have items you want to donate to the museum let us know as soon as possible as our exhibition planner needs to be aware of items available.**

**Winter hours May through July:** Monday - Saturday 10 am-12 noon, Sunday 12 pm - 2:00 pm.

**August & Sept:** Monday - Friday 10 am-12 noon, Saturdays 10 - 12 pm only, Sundays 12 pm - 2:00 pm



maybe, or fish frames, but those of us with dogs knew that such an attempt would end badly.

*The Cook's Garden*, written by New Zealand sisters

Spring is here! The daffodils are blooming, the blackbirds are gardening feverishly in beds freshly spread with compost, flinging it on to lawns and paths – and the tui are just more manic than usual.

Those of us who were members of the Stewart Island Garden Circle were saddened to learn of the passing of Peggy Wilson. Peggy was a keen and knowledgeable plantswoman with an intriguing garden full of tempting plants, pieces of which she would generously break off and give to fellow garden enthusiasts.

In the early years of this millennium the younger members of the Circle were kept in awe and consequent order by a quadriga of older matrons, Peggy, Mavis Tait, Lil Skipper and Myra Leask. These ladies seldom missed a meeting, their gardening knowledge and experience were massive and we smaller fry learnt to listen attentively, ask questions respectfully and leave the offering of an opinion to our elders and betters. This learning did not always come naturally to some – quite a few of us were ex-teachers - but come it did!

At one of our meetings Jenny Gell tentatively asked: 'How do you grow good rhubarb?' There was a long, ruminative silence. Then Peggy pronounced: 'Bury a sheep!' Such was our respect, we refrained from questioning the likelihood of procuring a dead sheep on Stewart Island. Possum,

Mary Browne, Helen Leach and Nancy Tichbourne, is a treasure trove of advice on the edible garden – how to grow it and how to cook it. For rhubarb, they advise well matured bulky animal manure – good luck with that on Stewart Island! – and compost, with a cupful of blood or bone per plant applied at the end of the cropping season. The flowerheads should be removed as soon as they appear and clumps should be divided when the stalks become thin and weak.

Rhubarb plants vary considerably in size, in colour and in quality. There is a huge, coarse variety called Hogan's Shillelagh, with thick, green-pink stems. Great for

making chutney but not much else. My favourite rhubarb plant was given to me by Myra Leask. It is a superb, a superlative specimen, with long, bright red, juicy stems which do not go stringy between pickings.

Rhubarb recipes are countless. Here is one of my favourites:

**Rhubarb Slice Cake**

- 125g soft butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- ½ cup milk
- 1 ¼ cups flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- ½ ½ tsp nutmeg
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 6 stalks rhubarb

**Topping**

- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ tsp mixed spice
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- 70g slivered almonds

Place butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla, milk, flour, spice, nutmeg, and baking powder in a mixer bowl. Beat on low speed to combine. Increase speed and mix on medium for 3 minutes. Pour into a 20 x 30 cm deep cake tin with a baking-paper lined base. Cut rhubarb into 2cm pieces and place on surface of batter. Sprinkle topping over. Bake at 180°C for 50 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly touched. Serve warm or cold. It would be lovely to get some local feedback (pun intended!) in the form of right royal rhubarb recipes! Happy gardening!

*Raylene*



Garden Circle 2004. A Christmas celebration of fancy headgear. Seated left to right: Peggy Wilson, Wendy Hallett. Standing Row 1: Mavis Tait, Nancy Schofield. Standing Row 2: Lil Skipper, Isabella Broughton, Jenny Gell. Ray Waddell, Lee Wadds, Lorraine Squires.



**COMBAT that RAT ATTACK!**

Victor rat traps for sale, complete with wooden base and corflute covers.

Poison free and easy to use.

\$20 per trap.

Funds raised go towards trapping at Ackers Point.

Available at Glowing Sky or contact [administrator@sircet.org.nz](mailto:administrator@sircet.org.nz)

They work!



**RAKIURA JADE**

*with Master 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)

Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects made by local artists

[www.rakiurajade.co.nz](http://www.rakiurajade.co.nz) [rakiurajade@gmail.com](mailto:rakiurajade@gmail.com)  
021 025 93958

**LETTERS** ☒☒☒**Measles Epidemic**

With the number of measles cases in New Zealand rapidly increasing and moving South at an alarming rate, I am pleading to those parents in our community who have chosen not to vaccinate their children to please reconsider. The more people who contract measles, the greater the risk becomes for the more vulnerable members of our community - the babies too young to be immunised, and people with auto-immune conditions. My husband Noel has Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and while he may well have had measles as a child, and thereby now has a degree of immunity, that is not a given. He and others in his situation, for example people having undergone chemotherapy or radiation treatment, desperately rely on the 'herd' immunity of having a high proportion of the population immunised to reduce the risk of contracting things like mumps and measles. While for most of us contracting something like measles may just result in a miserable week or 10 days, for others it can have lasting effects and may even be life threatening. In the late 1980s, before children were routinely vaccinated for meningitis, my then 13 month-old daughter had a wee friend who was diagnosed with meningitis just days after spending the weekend with us. Luckily for us we were contacted immediately the diagnosis was made so she could be immunised, but not so lucky for her little friend who was seriously ill in hospital for several weeks and to this day has been left profoundly deaf and mute, having just been on the cusp of learning to speak. History shows what devastation can be caused by epidemics. Please help to curb this growing measles epidemic.

*Sharon Pasco*



## Stewart Island / Rakiura Community & Environment Trust

for people for environment

### Community Trap

#### Library OPEN

Help protect the bush and birds in your backyard!



hedgehogs and rats



Operated on a voluntary basis, traps are free to loan. We can provide tips and tricks to get you started or perhaps introduce you to a new type of trap. We would love to widen the scope and help you have access to a trap if you don't have one or maybe try a new one.

Trap types available for feral cats, possums,

Please contact Di on [pete.dil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pete.dil@xtra.co.nz) 0277599773

or Willy on [pest-manager@sircet.org.nz](mailto:pest-manager@sircet.org.nz) 02041674160

### Church Chatter by Jo Riksem

I took this photo many years ago and because of my love of boats and wharves it remains one of my favourites. We all have favourite things; songs, places, memories etc. and we are so blessed to live in a place like Stewart Island that has become a favourite to many people as they discover her. Many of the speakers that come to take our services from "over the seas" become favourites too. Come along and meet them.

### Speakers for October 2019

**6 October – Rev Jason Prickard** – Jason is from Texas and now living in Dunedin with his wife and three children. He was a former Research Assistant for the president and Teaching Assistant at Westminster Theological Seminary.

**13 October – Rev. Nancy Parker** - Nancy a retired Presbyterian Minister, was in ministry for 15 years at Weston just out of Oamaru.

She is an Interim Moderator at Coastal Unity in Dunedin and a member of the Synod Executive. She has been here before and was a welcome addition to the community.

**20 October** - a possible Interesting Islander.

**27 October – Rev Ken Booth** – Anglican minister from Christchurch, married to a "good Presbyterian." Another welcome return. He was first here in 2017.



**Services every Sunday 11 am. Church open daily to enjoy the peace and quiet.**

**The SIN BOX: everything you never wanted to know**  
by Jess Kany

Over the years, various vessels have housed the pile of SINs for sale at the counter of our local shop Ship to Shore. In 2005, there was a cardboard box with a devil cut off a Lucifer package and a speech bubble “Don’t forget to pay for your SINs!” taped to it. Tacky? Check. Tatty? Yup. Plastic in-boxes from Warehouse Stationary have all done their tours of duty, every one of them ending up cracked, broken and discarded. The metal mesh containers did their dash too, developing rusty, vaguely tetanus-looking holes after a few months. Turns out being a SIN box is a *hard job*.

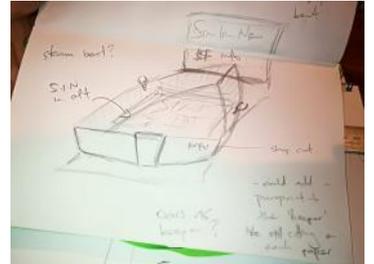
Do you remember Koru the shop kitty? Circa the mid-2000s she’d sit on the SINs and every issue came with a few free cat hairs. It was back in our days of black-and-white, maybe she thought she was camouflaged! Sadly, Koru was killed by a car in 2007, but I always remember her fondly as a sort of SIN mascot.

Here’s where the SIN-box story takes a dog-leg, but bear with me. In October 2013, an ultrarunner named Julian Bee came to the island to run the Rakiura Track as a fundraiser for CureKids (he went on to run all of New Zealand’s Great Walks and raised thousands of \$\$). I introduced myself to him at the anchor chain on a lovely Stewart Island October morning (read: pelting needle-like icy rain) and we ran the track on a day that included hail and lightning and copious calf-deep cold mud from North Arm to Kaipipi; we waded chest-deep into Halfmoon Bay afterward and drank handles of Speights; played Quiz together that evening, and that’s pretty much enough to form a friendship with a person.

Julian and I stayed in touch via Facebook, which is how I knew that a couple years ago he started a woodworking business with his partner. On a lark, I asked if they’d be interested in making a nice sturdy box for the Stewart Island News. I told them a bit of the history of the SIN news box on the shop counter, including a mention of Koru, and left it in their hands. Eventually, some drafts and sketches were sent my way. Never mind she’ll never be seaworthy... I was suddenly part of a boat-building project! It’s a wonderful life.

In the beginning of September, the S.I.N.V. (Stewart Island News Vessel) arrived in a sea of bubble-wrap and I couldn’t be more charmed. For anyone interested in the boat’s materials: the paper tray is Pacific rimu, and the deck and roof are made of recovered kauri from an old colonial era house in Auckland (bet it never thought it would end up here!) The painted bits are pine. All nails are brass. On the inside deck near the stern, a tiny kitty pawprint has been carved. Hopefully this beautiful work of functional art doesn’t fall to bits when I smash a bottle of bubbly across her bow.

*Mamaku Woodshop can be found at mamaku.nz and is also on Instagram and Facebook.*



The gymnasium at our terrific Community Centre, which just celebrated a 20th birthday, has been a venue for all sorts of things. Bouncy castles (two at its recent party), the Royal Ballet, and... this thing. It looks sort of like a Martian igloo but it’s actually an extremely cool portable planetarium! This was brought down by the Otago Museum’s Science department who gave a talk about stars, constellations, and the aurora, and invited us all for a star-studded presentation in this inflatable “Starlab.”

**NEW AIR NEW ZEALAND DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN INVERCARGILL AND AUCKLAND HAVE BEGUN.**

NZ698	Invercargill 6:00am	Auckland 7:55am	Mon/Tues/Thur/ Fri/Sat*	A320
NZ699	Auckland 7:35pm	Invercargill 9:35pm	Mon/Wed/Thurs /Fri/Sun	A320

\*The NZ698 Invercargill-Auckland Saturday service will depart at 9:15am, arriving in Auckland at 11:10am



## SIRCET's War on Weeds. *by Letitia McRitchie*

The Barberry team started the season on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and are hoping the fine weather might last for a bit longer.

This year Belinda Dobbins has returned to lead the team. Laire Purik is back for her third year and Rosie Bowman has joined us from the Isle of Man. Wayne King has also signed on for the 2 month season and Bec Baxter is with us for a short time to help out. Willy is leading the field team and providing some excellent data management and mapping. Im overseeing the project and concentrating on contacting landowners, asking for permission

This year we are working along from the Peterson Hill area towards Lonnekers and all the way over to Ringaringa. We are also going to cover the area around Thule. Environment Southland kindly sent out permission letters on SIRCET's behalf, so, if you have a letter from SIRCET asking for permission, please get in touch with me!

It's great to get this invasive weed removed from around the township. Barberry is dispersed by birds that have eaten the berries and as it seems to grow well in our climate. It has the real potential to take over, as was seen around the town 20 years ago!



Predator Free Rakiura is a concept towards making Stewart Island / Rakiura a sustainable safe haven for native wildlife and people into the future. The proposal is to remove rats (Norway, Ship and kiore), possums, feral cats and hedgehogs from the mainland and islands of Stewart Island/Rakiura, in one coordinated project, and to maintain a predator free Rakiura into the future. Our vision is *to grow Rakiura as a taonga by working collaboratively towards a predator free Rakiura that allows ecosystems and community to thrive and benefit from each other.*



In July, Sandy and I met with the Halfmoon Bay School kids and teachers to ask what the year 2050 might be like if the predators had been removed from Rakiura. Some incredible and inspiring stories were written, check out Roisin's story in this edition of Stewart Island News.

The Predator Free Rakiura team are working to secure the funding and technical expertise to work through this ambitious and courageous project. This will take time.

Imagine our island home further filled with birdsong, with bats flitting past and kiwi circling quietly under our star-sprinkled sky. You can feel the very distant boom of kākāpō in the pit of your stomach before your ears register the magic. Our wildlife treasures are safe and our forests are recovering. This is the opportunity.  
*Bridget*

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget ([bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz) / 027 212 7809), Sandy King, John Cushen or Garry Neave.

It's the year 2050. My name is Roisin and I am 41 years old. Here on Stewart Island, my job is recycling different bits and bobs (old / or broken Kakapo Monitors and Electric Car Batteries etc) and making them into new, useful items.

Today I got a broken Trap Checker Jetpack and two old Kakapo Monitors. I took them apart to see if they were worth fixing. One of the Kakapo Monitors just needed a different metal case so I swapped its case with the other Kakapo Monitor's case. The Jetpack and mucked up Kakapo Monitor were both beyond repair, so I took out all the screws and bolts and sorted them into different materials.

With what used to be a Kakapo Monitor and a Jetpack, I made a bookshelf out of different bits of metal that I melted together, then put on the Jetpack's colourful lights to brighten the bookshelf a bit.

I have also been working on making a special doorframe that you walk through with yours bags when you get to Rakiura. The doorframe detects if there is a live pest like a mouse or rat.

I'm excited for tomorrow because I am parent help on a Halfmoon Bay School trip to check on the Kakapos and Tuataras.  
*Written by Roisin Dyer*

## Stewart Island Seniors Cottage Trust

The Stewart Island Seniors Cottage Trust has purchased property at 11 Argyle Street to enable construction of suitable accommodation. These cottages will be warm, economical to run and easy-care. The operation is in conjunction with Invercargill's Habitat for Humanity and is currently in the planning and costing stage.

We have received very welcome financial support from the Sam Sampson Estate and from the P.H. Vickery Trust and which is sincerely

appreciated. Additional sponsors are welcome to confer with our Trustees as follows:

Bruce Ford – Chair  
 Stephen Falconer – Accounting  
 Sam Guest – Legal  
 Ken Jones – Building  
 Jill Skerrett – People support

We have also acquired the services of a professional fundraiser and if you would rather discuss the situation confidentially with her, please phone Bruce Ford for her contact details.

The Community Garden gardening team would like to thank Diack's Nursery for their very generous donation of a large box of vegetable plants. This has given us a head start for the spring gardening season.

Contributions of plants and related products are always welcome. Our wish list includes plants, seeds, bags of lime / blood and bone and stakes for securing wayward plants in easterly gales.

Those who donate will be rewarded in kind (think cabbages) in the fulness of time! —*Anita Geeson*



Thank you to Adin Geeson for his generous donation of lily bulbs. The fundraiser is ongoing, there are still bulbs available. They are easy to plant, beautiful to behold, and all for a great cause: the local school. So far over \$3,500 has been raised! Contact Helen Cave.

Stewart Island

# Creative Creations

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Community Centre

Four categories:  
 Natural fibres, Recycled,  
 Avant-garde,  
 Halfmoon Bay School.

Guest judges and Public Choice

Please contact Marilyn to find out more.  
 0274487129 or 2191363  
 jrandmv@xtra.co.nz

the number of entries received by December 31<sup>st</sup>  
 2019 will determine if the event will proceed

## RECYCLE CENTRE NEWS

**WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!** Well that's what the kaka enjoy. There is an increasing number of strikes by kaka on the rubbish bags, leaving household rubbish strewn over the road.

To help with this problem you will be able to purchase a wheelie bin from the re cycle centre to place your **plastic rubbish bag** in for collection. **NO OTHER RUBBISH IS TO BE PLACED IN THE BINS AND WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.** Watch for flyers or call the recycle centre for your bin.

### Second Chance Shop

There are a good selection of goods ranging from handyman bits and pieces, electrical, plumbing to household appliances and kitchen dishes. We also have fridges ,beds, clothing and footwear, and carpet squares. There are some garden tools, mowers, electric trimmer and Masport mower. Call in for a browse.

### Crushed Glass

We have crushed glass available for gardens, driveways, drainage  
Use your innovation skills it's all here.

### A Reminder!!!

All financial transactions at the recycle centre are to be by coupon or money card only. Cash will not be accepted. Coupons may be purchased from Kirsten during office hours. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

### A show of interest;

As the busy season approaches we are seeking a show of interest for a person for a casual fix term position. It involves one and a half days work at the recycle centre from October through to after easter 2020. This position is yet to be confirmed to find out more ring Bruce Miller at the recycle centre Ph. 2191 581.

### SATURDAY HOURS

From September until further notice opening hours for Saturdays will be **9am -1pm**

*Working together for better service: Karl, Wayne, Bruce*

## KAKIURA RIDDLE

KICK BACK ON A KAYAK WITH KENTUCKY FRIED  
CHICKEN

KEEP KAKARIKI FROM PICKIN' YOUR KAI OR THEY'LL  
SICKEN

IN THE FIRST FOUR LINES, DOUBLE Ks AND ADD TWO  
THAT'S MY LOOPY ROUNDABOUT WAY TO TELL YOU

THE NUMBER OF Ks THAT I HAPPEN TO BE  
NOT AS THE CROW FLIES, NOR KAKARIKI ...

MORE AS THE GREAT KIWI WALKS ALONG  
HAVE YOU GUESSED WHAT I AM?  
ARE YOU RIGHT?  
ARE YOU WRONG?

ONE MORE CLUE: TRUE MILLENIAL-STYLE, IT'S A LINK  
IF YOU'RE SEEING LINKS, YOU'RE RIGHT ON MY DRINK

In art, the term to describe a picture within a picture is the Droste effect. This comes from the Droste brand of Dutch cocoa, whose tin features an image of a nurse holding the tin, which features an image of the nurse holding the tin, presumably ad infinitum. This technique of suggesting an infinitely occurring image is also known as *mise en abyme* which translates to "placed in an abyss." This effect has been used in art in the Middle Ages, and by Escher, and appears in other product packaging. Can you think of any examples of the Droste effect?



***Printed at the request of our local health committee:***

**The following information is taken from the Plunket guidelines on measles.**

# Measles

Measles is highly infectious and immunisation is the best way to protect against getting measles. It is currently a very concerning time for whānau and families.

The best thing New Zealanders can do right now is check their MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccination status and if they are not immune, get vaccinated. Measles is highly infectious, and immunisation is the best way to protect against getting measles.

If you were born BEFORE 1969 (and you're 50 or older), you have immunity.

People UNDER the age of 50, especially children, who have not been vaccinated should seek a free vaccination from their doctor as soon as possible. You can check your immunisation status by calling your family doctor, checking your own health records, or if you have neither, the best option is to arrange to be vaccinated.

Ideally two MMR shots are required for immunity.

Two doses of the measles vaccine provides the most effective protection for you, your family and the wider community. After one dose of the MMR vaccine, about 95% of people are protected from measles. After two doses, more than 99% people are protected.

In New Zealand, if you were born in 1969 or later, you can get the measles vaccine for FREE. For information on places where free vaccinations are available check [health.govt.nz](http://health.govt.nz) or [immune.org.nz](http://immune.org.nz).

For more information please visit:

<https://www.plunket.org.nz/your-child/illness/measles/>

<https://www.southernhealth.nz/living-well/measles-what-you-need-know>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles/2019-measles-outbreak-information>

<https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/measles-immunisation>

## HELP WANTED

The Community Nursery at Horseshoe bay is on the move. Well, it is moving but not to the final location yet!

The desired location is an area adjacent to the Council buildings at Traill Park that we have kindly been allowed to use. This move has been in the pipeline for many moons and despite best intentions it hasn't happened. We would love to have this nursery fully functioning and be able to continue to produce high quality native plants for our community and visitors.

Understandably due to the high number of deer that browse the area, a fence must be erected in order to protect the plants.

SIRCET is looking for the 'right' person to manage this project and make the fence a reality. The materials have been donated by Mamaku Point, (thanks very much), the site has been cleared by Ian Munro, (thanks Ian), so it's now time for action! SIRCET has funds set aside to make this a paid position

Expressions of interest can be made to [pete.dil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pete.dil@xtra.co.nz)

Plants are still available from Glowing Sky.

**400 Words** by Beverley Osborn

Recently I read an article entitled “The Right to Despair”, by Peter Matheson. It was about climate change and the protests led by concerned young school students whose actions have attracted criticism. Peter Matheson believes they are right to show their desperation because it’s their lives that will be affected by lethal heat. Power is held by adults, people who have the vote, people who believe their hard work entitles them to reward themselves if possible, with a few upmarket products or hobbies or holidays. And, yes, that’s the mindset I was brought up with too.

Reading this article made me wonder how much thought most of us put into analysing the long-time effect on the environment of every decision we make about clothing materials, discard practices, travel options, leisure pursuits, labour practices. Peter Matheson acknowledged that in New Zealand sustainability is moving from a slogan to a programme but he suggests the world needs a total gear change rather than an incremental creep.

I was attracted to the article both because the idea of despair being as positive as hope was a rather shocking concept and also because of my personal climate change despair over the on-going marram grass removal at Mason Bay, which I’ve protested since its inception. I value the Department of Conservation and accept that decision makers a decade ago believed a transgressional dune system would benefit around 24 endangered species besides making Stewart Island world famous for such an icon.

Climate change is now, however, an urgent concern. We see advertising everywhere encouraging us to plant more trees, so it seems very odd that here the continuing destabilisation of dunes is freeing sand to suffocate and kill swathes of wonderful, mature native bush. And surely those high, marram-built foredunes would have been a significant barrier to the rising sea levels predicted for the future, useful protection for the low-lying Freshwater Flats stretching back towards the Inlet.

Is it ethical to pursue, in these changed circumstances, the goal of preserving a couple of dozen threatened species through a method that, in the future, may result in the destruction of hundreds of species? Maybe alternative protection strategies could be employed.



As the Amazon jungle burns, I’d rather be part of healing the world’s lungs than destroying more of them. Maybe the positive of building with hope needs a springboard of despair for motivation.

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**SENIORS CHANGE OF DAY**

Seniors please note the day for our Xmas dinner has been changed from Wednesday to the Tuesday 17th December, this is a one off and will revert to the Wednesday for the Winter Dinner.



**Stewart Island Real Estate**

For all local listings - houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

See our website [TODDCO.NZ](http://TODDCO.NZ) or contact our local representative **Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589** for all Island real estate enquiries.

WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD, LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT (REAA 2008)

[TODDCO.NZ](http://TODDCO.NZ)

**RAKIURA PEST CONTROL**

Local trapping service targeting **RATS, POSSUMS AND FERAL CATS** On Domestic, Commercial and Bush Block properties

Non-toxic lures to humane kill traps or live capture traps (for feral cats/possums) **NO POISON USED**

**CONTACT DENISE HAYES ON 2191 159 or 0273 913215** to discuss your individual requirements

Need a

- **RESOURCE CONSENT?**
- **CONCESSION?**

Or just some advice about developing your property?

I CAN HELP you get 'over the regulatory hurdles' and find your way through the maze.

I specialise in applications under the Resource Management Act to both Southland District Council and Environment Southland - I can often help with matters under the Building Act and other legislation.

I can also help you prepare your application if you need a 'concession' for an activity from the Dept of Conservation.

I have 40 years' experience in local government and 8 years' experience as a Planning and Environmental Consultant.



**027 495 9288**  
williamwatt@outlook.co.nz

## COOKING SEMINAR COOKING DEMO, VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN INCLUDING TASTING

Short talk by Southland Dr Thomas Joseph G.P  
Based on research and evidence

NO CHARGE

These meetings will be held on Sundays  
(possibly)

Late morning/early afternoon

Please register with Joan Sheppard ph 2191270

If enough interest, I will let you know date time  
and place.

Gold coin donation would be gratefully  
appreciated

To help towards hall hire

### Sarah's Rakiura Remarks

*from the office of Sarah Dowie MP*

A strong economy matters and we believe that all of New Zealand should be booming. However, business confidence is low and 63 per cent of business leaders think the Government is managing the economy poorly.

Last week National released its Economic Discussion Document. This sets out fifty commitments or proposals that we want to take to the election as well as more than thirty questions we're after feedback on.

New Zealand's economy is driven by hardworking small businesses. Here in Stewart Island, most people are employed in the tourism and fishing sector — the majority of which are small businesses.

In the document we announced National will repeal 100 regulations in our first six months in Government, eliminating two old regulations for every new one we introduce.

For new businesses entering the market, there needs to be an operating environment where they're able to thrive and aren't strangled by red tape. Some of the pointless regulations out there include those for hairdressers, who must be inspected annually by councils despite no longer being a hazard for infections.

For that reason National thinks it should be a requirement of future governments to undertake at least one regulatory simplification process every three years.

National also wants to ease the stress small businesses face and ensure healthier cash flows. Furthermore, we will also establish a 'Small Business Payments Guarantee'. This will be a voluntary initiative committing large New Zealand businesses and not-for-profits to ensure New Zealand small businesses are paid on time and within 30 days.

We want to hear your thoughts on how we can develop a thriving economy that delivers for you. I encourage you to have your say by going to <https://www.national.org.nz/>

*(MUSEUM Continued from p1)*

in special containers, under the guidance of Jo Massey, our roving museum curator. Jo showed the students an old silent film of the 'dig' and pointed out the different bones, stones, shells, adzes and many other objects.

The kids were mesmerized and delighted by the rimu pou, the carving of which had been completed by Lance Lequesne and Greg Northe in 2000. It depicts the natural and human history of Rakiura. Finally, and with infinite care, it has been positioned in pride of place in the apex of the foyer.



Jo Massey explaining some of the finer points of the Lockerbie collection.

Next it was the turn of the locals and of visitors, including members of the New Zealand Archaeological Association who were holding their annual conference here. Jo Massey and Anita Geeson welcomed the large crowd. Jo had the daunting task of presenting items of the collection to a group containing many national and international archaeology experts. Anita, representing both the Rakiura Museum and the Heritage Centre Trust, outlined the history of the new museum's journey from pipe-dream to achieved goal. This is what she had to say:

On Stewart Island all good things take time and this building is the result of 17 years planning. After the idea of trying to extend the current Rakiura Museum proved impractical, the community decided to push ahead and build a new museum. The original concept was to have a multi-purpose building incorporating the museum, a visitor information centre and the Southland District Council office. Opus Architecture drew up plans and fund raising began.

Protracted negotiations with the NZ Fire Service took place for the lease of this land with many delays caused by boundary adjustments, road stopping and resource consent issues. In the meantime the project concept was changing. The financial demise of the existing Stewart Island Visitor Information Centre and the withdrawal of the Southland District Council as a tenant left us in an awkward position. The estimated price of \$3.9m for the new building also blew us away and we were left with an architectural plan which needed considerable adjustment. Changes made to the building plan brought the project within our budget and Amalgamated Builders of Invercargill were awarded the contract for \$3.1m.

This is one of the most significant public buildings to be constructed on Stewart Island. The new Rakiura Museum will house and conserve our comprehensive collection of artefacts, objects, photographs and archives – a treasure house of southern taonga. For our growing tourism industry this is a much-needed facility.

Our hope for the future is that Rakiura Museum will become more than just a showcase for our history. We want it to become a place which attracts serious research, which will add to our southern stories and also bring those with Rakiura ancestry back to Stewart Island. If we can foster more community involvement locally and nationally, that will enhance the sense of connection to this island which so many people have.



**Dale Chittenden**

Stewart Island / Rakiura is a special place. It has been my home for 20 years, the last 3 of which I have been involved on the Stewart Island Community Board. 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. I am realistic about what can be achieved, open to new ideas and will provide a balanced viewpoint.

Many thanks, Dale

**Aaron Conner**

Hi, I am Aaron Conner, I have lived on Stewart Island for 44 years and I am married with three children.

I am a fitter welder trained in Invercargill. I have worked for Southern Seafoods for 25 + years.

I have been a community board member for 4 terms (12 years), in this time I have tried to keep the Southland District Council accountable for the SIESA and Jetty projects.

My concerns now are SIESA and the Jetties committee with their council staff changes and the knowledge of projects and planning being lost – so the need for local based knowledge to be retained is important.

**Bruce Ford J.P.**

I am proud to be nominated as a candidate in the upcoming local elections for the Council and Community Board.

The last term on Council has been a busy time: between the Southland region and Stewart Island specifically, there has been plenty for us all to do. At last, we have received recognition from Wellington of our importance in the scheme of things – and that took some doing! And now we are making progress in areas of great interest to me, specifically our power generation. It will require patience to see these projects to completion, but we are getting there. Other projects include very diverse areas, from Moturau Moana/Baker Park to the Dark Sky Sanctuary, from different tourism perspectives to alternative industries like aquaculture. These are typical of the on-going work that our Community Board members and Councillor will have to contend with. Other projects may have a different pri-

ority in your Island life, and it is imperative that you lobby your Councillor and Community Board – if they don't know your thoughts on issues, they can't consider them. I sincerely hope that I will be that representative who helps us move forward, and I would ask for your vote so that I can continue to use my many years of Local Government experience and nationwide contacts to further our progress.



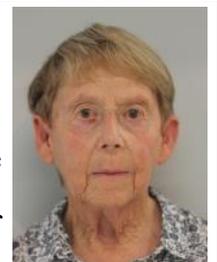
This is a postal vote. It is very important that you vote as soon as possible once your postal voting papers arrive (approx. 25 September) – as we are all aware, the postal system has its vagaries. Votes not received by post at midday on 12 October are not counted. Please don't hesitate – tick your choices and post off your form as soon as possible. Meantime, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any Council or Board matters to discuss.

**Anita Geeson**

I have lived on Stewart Island for 21 years and have an interest in participating in the protection and development of the island community. I am a member of several island organisations and enjoy various voluntary activities. The establishment of the Stewart Island/Rakiura Dark Sky Sanctuary and the Rakiura Museum build are projects which I have assisted with recently. I am the “go to” person for the Pavilion and can frequently be found “up to my ears” in compost at the community garden.

I think that a Community Board should add value to the community it represents. Local initiatives which have the potential for long term benefit deserve community board support when negotiating the complexities of council regulations. The replacement of the Ulva Island and Golden Bay Wharves, energy diversification and sustainability are all challenges which require solutions which are acceptable to, and affordable for, the community to support. My previous governance experience including 2 terms on the Stewart Island/

Rakiura Community Board plus a realistic view of what can be achieved equip me to be a part of this decision making if re-elected.



Good representation should reflect the make-up of the community it represents. As a member of the 60 plus demographic I am happy to advocate on their behalf and can offer some diversity to the membership of the Community Board.

## Rakiura Herzhoff

### Rakiura – more than just a name - our home & our future.

I love our Island – whilst small, it is an important paradise for all who call it home. After years abroad I have returned to settle for good, and it is because of this that I feel a strong sense of motivation, dedication, and responsibility to actively partake in the future of our home.

We are coming ever more quickly into changes that require a lot of thoughtful consideration and input from us all. We need variety of views and ideas. We need keen ears that will listen to the needs of the community whilst also being open to ideas being created outside our Island too.

I appreciate and will make time for anyone that will speak for what they believe in. We should not be intimidated by big plans but meet them head-on and tailor them to our needs. I want to ensure that we are heading into a future we can all relate to as much as possible.

Let us enjoy that which is now and that which is to be, and most importantly, let's thrive in it! The wealth of Rakiura/Stewart Island is not only in the untouched land & pristine ocean, it is primarily in the people. Stewart Island is a showcase of a desirable New Zealand – let us keep leading by example.

What we stand on is what I stand for.



## Aaron Joy

My name is Aaron Joy and I am seeking election to the Stewart Island/Rakiura Board.

I live on the Island with my wife Carol and three daughters. We run a business and plan to stay for the long haul.

Small communities need a voice and support for the ongoing issues Island life faces such as, aging population, medical care, alternative energy sources, roading, parking and tourism. I consider myself approachable and will go into bat for positive outcomes for the Island.

I understand how councils work and the process required for decision making having been an employee of Dunedin City Council for 10 years.

I am currently Chairman of Stewart Island Promotions, Ringa Ringa Golf Club and the Rakiura Challenge.

Stewart Island is a unique place, let's keep it that way.



## Steve Lawrence

I have lived and worked on Stewart Island for the past twenty years and have served on the Community Board for the last three. If re-elected my focus would continue to be:

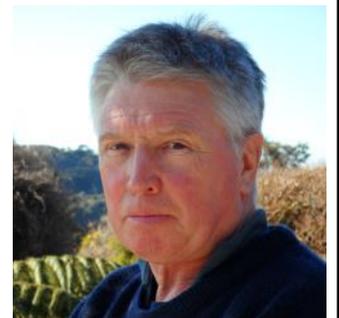
Increasing efficiency and decreasing waste, to ensure that we get the best possible value for every dollar we pay in rates for our essential services. What works on the mainland is not necessarily the best method here and a more proactive approach with earlier remedial action could reduce costs.

To work towards a sustainable and affordable power scheme. SIESA is entering a challenging phase with an ageing network and dwindling reserves. Whatever form of generation is utilised, we need to ensure we have a functional, reliable network for power distribution. Ongoing maintenance and effective financial management are critical requirements.

Wise and appropriate use of the visitor levy, in order to relieve the burden placed on our community, and to ensure that the Island's infrastructure is able to fully support our tourist industry.

To improve reporting and communication. Our community has a wide ranging skill base and it is vital that they have the required information to help make effective decisions about issues that affect their lifestyle and future.

My goal would be to keep our Island not just a popular and viable tourist destination, but also an unspoilt, safe, inspirational and unique environment to live in, a place every member of our community can be proud to call their home.



### **Gordon Leask**

My name is Gordon Leask, better known as “Fluff.” I am married to Bonnie and have three daughters and two grandchildren. I have been involved with the sea all my life as a fisherman, and a tourist boat operator as did my father, grandfather and great grandfather before that.



Family is very important to me. Being a fifth generation Stewart Islander and having lived here all my life, I am very committed to retaining it as a special place to bring up kids and allow families to enjoy its native beauty and outdoor pursuits.

I am always keen to impart my knowledge of the island with many a yarn to tell visitors and locals alike. Our unique environment needs our protection and I see the community board as a the voice for the islanders that reflects their needs and concerns.

### **Teri McCracken**

Hello Stewart Island news readers! Some of you may know me but for those who do not, my name is Teri & I have lived on Stewart Island/Rakiura for the last 5 1/2 years. I'm your local postie/travel hostess with the mostest at Stewart Island Flights and also moonlight at a few other businesses around the island. Our current community board has done a wonderful job and now its time to encourage our younger generations of Islanders to get involved and make their wants and opinions heard by our council. We have a lot of change happening within our community currently and it's important that we are represented by a fair and diverse group of people. I hope I have that opportunity and contribute to the ongoing discussion on how to move forward into the future, making sure Stewart Island/Rakiura is a fantastic place to live and visit for future generations.



### **Letitia McRitchie**

My name is Letitia McRitchie and I have had the privilege of living on Stewart Island for 11 years and am raising my kids, Ryan and Bella here. Stewart Island's natural environment and small community values are important to me and a big part of why I live here.

I have a background of being a trustee with SIRCET for the last nine years (although I am stepping down this October), five years on the Rugarats committee and a term on the schools Board of Trustees. I have enjoyed my time with these groups and would like to use my experience and skills to contribute towards the management of our community.

I work for the Department of Conservation and have been in a variety of roles during my time here. I have recently been managing the local weed control project and enjoy working with landowners and removing pesky weeds, particularly barberry!

My special interests are our natural environment and the processes and systems that make living on Stewart Island unique: zoning rules, power supply, tourism impacts and opportunities. I believe that the work of the council and community board needs to be communicated widely so we are all aware of what is happening. I would like to contribute to our community growing and thriving into the future and for Stewart Island to continue to be the best place to raise a family.

### Edward Small

I've lived on Stewart Island for going on 4 years now, and can be found mussel farming, driving water taxis, dinghy-boying, on charter boats, packing fish or cooking your dinner at the pub or Kai Kart! Through the varied work I've done on the island, I have a good understanding of what makes the community tick.

I'm standing for the Community Board to provide a young, unbiased viewpoint and to be a new representative for the community. I come from a political background and am passionate about seeing positive change happen in a democratic and fair way.

Lately I've played a role in bringing the Minister of Economic Development down to the island, pushing for real progress on the "Power problem" that the island faces in the coming future (see last edition of SIN!)

A vote for me would be a vote for a new, young representative for the community, coming in without my own agenda, and a with drive to make positive change.

### Jon Spraggon

I have been a member of the Community Board for several terms.

If re-elected I would continue to push for the completion of projects that have been delayed. These include a replacement wharf at Ulva, the upgrade of the wharf at Golden Bay, improved traffic management and a sustainable power supply that will enable us to cope in the years ahead.

I would encourage community initiatives in particular those that enhance the facilities and make living on Stewart Island more sustainable, and encourage development of new activities and events that are shown to be viable, while not compromising the unique island environment.

I would work to ensure that projects that are part of the long term plan are completed in a cost efficient and timely fashion.

I would encourage consultation with the community and work with individuals and or groups to set achievable long term goals, that would positively enhance the profile of our island.



*The three candidates for Stewart Island-Rakiura Ward Counsellor were given the option to make a separate statement. Bruce Ford's statement covers both, and following are statements from Rakiura Herzhoff and Jon Spraggon.*

### Jon Spraggon

I have lived in many small Southland Communities and on Stewart Island for 26 years. I have been a member of the Community Board for several terms.

If elected as the Stewart Island-Rakiura Ward Counsellor I would bring an island perspective to council and encourage community initiatives, in particular those that enhance the facilities and make living in Southland more sustainable. I would support the development of new activities and events that are shown to be viable.

I would work to ensure that projects that are part of the long term plan are completed in a cost efficient and timely fashion. Council needs to be accountable for the decisions made.

I would encourage consultation with the total community and work with individuals and or groups to set achievable long term goals, that will positively enhance the profile of Southland while not compromising our unique environment.

### Rakiura Herzhoff

I am standing to represent our community. To actively partake in the decision making that will affect the younger generations that already call and will call Stewart Island their home for decades to come. I also want my standing to be a message to the older generation: we 'young-ones' are not apathetic bystanders but most certainly interested and motivated to be part of the process that will shape our futures. I wish to embrace innovative and leading-edge ideas/technologies in order to make living here more affordable, especially for growing families. I believe decisions regarding our power-generation scheme are critical in achieving this. I would like transport to and from the Island to become completely subsidised for Islanders. Gaining and keeping skilled labour is also a big priority. If we can do this whilst holding true to that which makes this place special, to me that would be a success.

## Public notice of proposed plan change

Southland District Council gives notice of a proposed plan change to the operative Southland District Plan 2018.

### Plan Change 1 Dark Skies – Stewart Island/Rakiura

Proposed Plan Change 1 seeks to introduce additional lighting provisions to the Southland District Plan 2018 which relate to Stewart Island/Rakiura only. For clarification proposed Plan Change 1 does not apply to any surrounding offshore Islands for example the Titi/Muttonbird Islands, Ruapuke Island and Whenuahou/Codfish Island.

The purpose of proposed Plan Change 1 is to maintain, protect and enhance the night sky environment on Stewart Island/Rakiura and in particular the dark quality of the night sky.

Proposed Plan Change 1 will affect the following sections and schedules of the Southland District Plan 2018:

- Section 2.12 Signage
- Section 3.2 Urban Zone
- Section 3.4 Industrial Zone
- Section 3.5 Fiordland/Rakiura Zone
- Section 4 - Definitions
- Section 5 – Schedules

*The proposed Plan Change may be inspected at all Southland District Council offices and libraries or viewed online at [www.southlanddc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/haveyoursay)*

If you have any questions about proposed Plan Change 1, please contact Margaret Ferguson, Policy Planner, on 0800 732 732, or by email [SDC@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:SDC@southlanddc.govt.nz).

In terms of lodging a submission, please send your written submission to Southland District Council, PO Box 903, 15 Forth Street, Invercargill 9840, fax it to 0800 732 329 or email to [SDC@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:SDC@southlanddc.govt.nz).

The submission must be on the prescribed Form 5 and must state whether or not you wish to be heard on your submission. Copies of Form 5 are available from the Southland District Council offices and libraries or found online at [www.southlanddc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

Alternatively, you can lodge a submission online at [www.southlanddc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

*Note: Anybody can make a submission on the proposed changes. However, if a person making a submission is set to gain a commercial advantage over a competitor, then a submission can only be made on any potential adverse effects on the environment that the proposal might have, and not the effects that the proposal will have on trade competition.*

*Submissions close on: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

*The process for public participation in the consideration of the proposal under the Resource Management Act 1991 is as follows:*

- After the closing date for submissions, Southland District Council must prepare a summary of the submissions and this summary must be publicly notified; and
- There must be an opportunity to make a further submission in support of, or in opposition to, the submissions already made; and
- If a person making a submission asks to be heard in support of his or her submission, a hearing must be held; and
- Southland District Council must give its decision on the proposal (including its reasons for accepting or rejecting submissions); and
- Any person who has made a submission has the right to appeal the decision on the proposal to the Environment Court.

***Rakiura Māori Lands Trust***  
*Hui a Tau Annual General Meeting*

**DATE** Sunday 29 September 2019  
**VENUE** Halfmoon Bay Community Centre, Rakiura.  
**TIME** 11am - 3pm  
 Registrations open 10am  
 Morning tea and Lunch provided.

**AGENDA**

*Minutes from previous AGM*  
*Presentation Trustees Report*  
*Presentation Financial Statements*  
*General Business*  
*Election of Trustees*

**Contact Secretary**

*Kylie Moxham*

*Email: kam@rmlt.co.nz*

*Website: <http://www.rmlt.co.nz>*

Have you memorized all your new login names and passwords for ER submissions? Do you know the dozens of acronyms for every dogfish and cockle that might end up on board your vessel? FFS is a key acronym as local fisherman struggle to comply with the new fishery reporting regulations. ER stands for Electronic Reporting but seems an apt acronym because after spending thousands of dollars on equipment and software and heaps of time trying to get out heads around a not-very-intuitive on-line program we might all just blow a gasket and end up in the Emergency Room. The pricy monitoring equipment and software now required have put a serious financial hurt on small operators in the industry. To add insult to injury, everyone has to sit down and learn the new system which is very time-consuming and a bit soul-destroying for the technologically challenged. What has proved helpful is most of the fishermen are “in the same boat” and giving each other advice and tips and a space to vent, and there is a help line with genuinely helpful people if you get lost trying to navigate your way around the FishServe dashboard.

—Ed

Have you heard? Turns out ferry skippers are conspiring with vomit bag vendors to sell more vomit bags. They purposely steer into big waves, so passengers get sick and use more vomit bags, and then the skippers and chunder-bag fat cats get rich off our nausea! I mean, of course! It all makes sense now! Thank goodness my friends posted links to numerous articles and videos about this totally factual information on Facebook so I could educate myself. Apparently plane pilots are part of the same evil cabal, flying into air pockets to make us spew. I don't know port from starboard, but next time I'm on the ferry I'm going to nudge Tim aside and take the wheel, because clearly that's the best course of action to keep my kids and everyone else safe... I'm taking no chances with the plane either. I haven't spent a second in flight school and I don't operate my manual car with any confidence, but hey! In the interest of health, I'm sure everyone will understand when I tell Raymond to take a back seat so I can fly a planeload of people across Foveaux Strait. I know you will all agree that just because someone spent years studying things like seafaring, aviation, science or medicine, that doesn't make them an expert on those subjects! I'M the expert because, you know, because of the stuff. All the stuff that I read. On Facebook.



*Seriously, though, please take this on board:*

- YouTube and social media are fun ways to connect with people and see funny dog videos. But they are NOT good places to further your education. These forums are rife with disinformation, fake news, and fear-mongering conspiracy theories. Do you really think it's the best idea to make decisions about your children's health based on science-y-sounding articles you read on such an untrustworthy platform? Shouldn't your research at least include a conversation with the people recommending vaccination? Please talk to your local health professionals. The nurses' door is open and they are happy to answer your questions.

- The connection between vaccinations and autism has been

thoroughly debunked since 2010.

- There's a thing about being an adult living in a community/society; a big picture that extends beyond you and your immediate family. Yes, many healthy people can survive a bout of measles. But what about the people who can't? For the vulnerable, measles can knock out hearing, cause blindness and other severe side effects. Look around you. It's not just a percentage, or a stat, or a cold number. You know these people. Babies. People on chemo. People with compromised immune systems. They are neighbours, friends, family, colleagues, teachers...
- There are members of this community who remember what it was like to live in a world without vaccines. They have stories to share of living in horror of these diseases; of losing loved ones and friends to these diseases. Talk to them. Listen to them.
- If you didn't vaccinate your child because you aren't into jabs or you just didn't sync with the schedule and now it seems too late and the whole thing's just gone into the “too hard basket”, consider this. If a single case of measles is detected on the island, your child will not be allowed to go to school, and that could last for weeks. Talk about the “hard basket.” Even if your child missed the early jabs, it's easy to just go to the clinic and get caught up. If you're feeling pressure from anti-vax friends or you don't want anyone in your life to know, they don't need to know. The procedure is private.
- Good on you for thinking outside the box, doing research, trying to make the best possible decisions as a parent, and reading stuff on the internet. But if you've concluded that you're more intelligent than a Nobel-prize-winning scientist who studied medicine for decades and came up with the vaccine for measles, here's the short & long answer: you're not.
- You trust pilots to fly the plane, skippers to drive the ferry, electricians to do your wiring, rocket scientists to fix our wifi, and vintners to make wine. Please talk to your local health professionals — our nurses — about vaccinations.

—Ed

*Halfmoon Bay School students recently wrote and delivered persuasive speeches. They were amazing! Following is Lachlan Dawson's fascinating talk on weather patterns:*

### **Red sky at night...**

Do you really want to waste your precious phone charge checking the weather forecast when you can do it without the use of technology? Weather forecasters predict the weather by using satellites and weather balloons, but I can tell you how to predict the weather without using any devices at all.

*Red sky at night sailors delight. Red sky morning sailors take warning.*

If you see a red sky in the morning then bad weather is most likely coming later on in the day.

Because the weather moves from west to east and the good weather has already passed us and is now in the east, and the bad weather is in the west and it is coming toward us. This is how the red sky is made in the morning. If you see a red sky at night then bring out the sunnies and sunscreen because the next day is most likely going to be a good day.

**Cyclones** and **anticyclones** are both wind systems indicating different weather patterns, but they have opposite characteristics. The major **difference** is that a **cyclone** is a low pressure system bringing bad weather and spinning clockwise coming from the west and an **anticyclone** is a high pressure system bringing good weather from the east.

If it is an easterly wind then that means good weather is on its way, but if it is a southerly then you might want to bring out the warm gear because the wind from the south pole is being brought up to us which means cold winds and bad weather are coming.

*"Chimney smoke descends, our nice weather ends."*

If you light a fire in the bush you can tell what type of weather is on its way by looking at what direction the smoke goes (Or you can tell the same by looking at the top of your chimney when you light a fire at home).

If the smoke spirals back down to the fire then there is low air pressure which means that bad weather is likely on its way, high air pressure means that the smoke will rise up from the fire and good weather is coming.

Before a storm there will always be a temporary calm and you can tell when the temporary calm is here because if you live near water it will become still and flat and this is caused by lack of wind, which is caused by low air pressure which pushes the wind away. There are no ripples on the water making a temporary calm before all hell breaks loose.

Before bad weather plants will release their waste which makes a compost kind of smell. Can you smell the storm coming?

Before a storm lots of animals will act differently. Birds will become quiet instead of singing and chirping. Bees and butterflies will return home to tend to their families and to keep dry, so if you're in a paddock or field where you would normally see these bees and butterflies then their absence might mean a storm is on the way.

When the temperature cools down cows in any size herd will gather and lie on the ground together to keep body warmth and to have company before a storm or when the temperature drops. If the cows are up and about the weather is fine if the cows go down watch out!

I hope that these tips on how to predict the weather will be useful for you when you want to plan an outing or a vacation, or for when you are on an outing or vacation and you need to check the weather forecast but you don't have a TV, radio or phone to check it.



Thank you to the community for welcoming Theone, Karla and I into the community here on Rakiura Stewart Island.

In the short time since I arrived here, I have spoken with a number of you and a common complaint appears to be parking.

At the front of the Community Centre, School and the boat park area and exceeding the time limits in the restricted parking particularly on Elgin Terrace nearby the Halfmoon Bay wharf.

Vehicles parked in these areas and the open parking areas along Elgin Terrace while they are away from the Island for days, weeks and months at a time.

You are taking up spaces that could be used by people on the Island that may have mobility issues and at the busier times could be affecting their ability to attend activities at the various venues in the main township.

For benefit of the community as a whole in that if you are going to be away from the Island for a period of time make arrangements to leave your vehicle at home or crib.

There is a taxi service available or good friends who may be able to assist in picking you up and dropping you off at your respective homes and cribs instead of congesting up the parking areas.

For those of you who don't live on the Island but have vehicles here, are you maintaining your vehicle?

Leave them at your respective cribs and if it needs a warrant of fitness make contact with Pete Ross Automotive and he can arrange for it to be picked up, the warrant dealt with and returned, therefore easing congestion in and around the Community Centre and keeping your vehicle road legal.

The graduated driver licence system has been implemented in New Zealand since 1988, so I appreciate 31 years should be an adequate time for people to comprehend and understand the rules and regulations around the learner, restricted and full driver licence classes of the graduated system.

I want to be proactive and work with the members of the community who are on their learner licence and assist them in building their skill level and meeting the requirements for completing the relevant driving test to enable you to obtain their restricted driver licence.

In the current regulations on a learner driver licence you are required to have an overseer that has held their full driver licence for more than two years cannot be under the influence by alcohol

You are required to display "L" plates.

I know who a number of you are who are on learner licences and look forward to others getting in contact with me so we can enable you to obtain your restricted licence to permit you to drive a private motor vehicle legally by yourself between the hours of 5am and 10pm and allows you to carry specific passengers such as your long term partner or spouse, parent or child.

If you are carrying additional passengers you will need an overseer who has held their full licence for more than two years seated in the passenger seat next to you and be able to take control of the vehicle.

Thank you to the people that attended the arms amnesty held at the Pavilion on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of September to surrender firearms, 15 assorted firearms and 10 components were surrendered.

If you still have firearms and wish to surrender them on Rakiura, please make contact with me as soon as possible.

Sole Charge Constable STUART NEWTON  
New Zealand Police Stewart Island

# What's up, DOC?

## 1,216 flowering Darwin's Barberry plants removed! by Letitia McRitchie

We have made an early start on Darwin's Barberry control this season. The team worked for three weeks in August 2019 focussing on two high density sites, and only removing flowering plants. This lets us focus on greatest threat: seeds developing and spreading into Rakiura National Park.

We sawed down a whopping 1,216 flowering plants, removing tens of thousands of seeds from being dispersed.

We also visited Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve where barberry was last removed four years ago. There was much less barberry found this year. I think it's had a hard time establishing in the thick regrowth of the forest understory!



Flowering Darwin's barberry (top) and DOC staff Belinda Dobbins and Bec Baxter (bottom). Photos by Letitia McRitchie DOC

## Come have lunch with DOC Rangers to celebrate Conservation Week

Date: Monday 16 September 2019

Time: 12:30-13:30

Where: Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre

What: BBQ lunch!

Please RSVP by: **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019** to [jross@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jross@doc.govt.nz) so we can arrange food!



## Introducing Yi-Pei to the Rakiura community by Di Morris

DOC Rakiura would like to extend a big welcome to Yi-Pei Chung who joined the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre team in August 2019. Yi-Pei hails from Taiwan originally but has been living in Whangarei more recently. Yi-Pei (pronounced 'E-Pay') fills our second permanent position Visitor Centre which is a great start to the summer season!



Visitor Centre staff member Yi-Pei Chung. Photo by Di Morris DOC

## No dotterel spotted on first trip of the season by Alasdair Burns

Biodiversity Ranger Si Taylor was out in the field at Rocky Mountain and Rakeahua to undertake early season checks, maintenance on bait stations, and search for the presence of Southern New Zealand dotterel/tūturiwhatu that should be arriving in their breeding areas soon. Two important findings came from this trip. Firstly, no dotterel were seen or heard in the breeding areas visited, which means that the



On top of Mount Rakeahua looking back towards the Tin Range, with the DOC track and tarn in the foreground. Photo by Si Taylor DOC



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

birds most likely will not have a very early breeding season this year. Secondly, rat numbers in the Rakeahua valley close to the Tin Range dotterel breeding areas were quite high, which could mean abundant food to support feral cat breeding this summer (possibly a significant threat to dotterel).

## Introducing the dotterel team

by Alasdair Burns



Dotterel/tūturiwhatu team (from left to right): David Smith, Monty Williams, Alasdair Burns, and Rebekah Richards.  
*Photo by Jennifer Ross DOC*

We're currently getting the new season of fieldwork underway for the Southern New Zealand dotterel/tūturiwhatu Recovery Programme. In our annual flock counts in April 2019 we counted a population of 170 dotterels, up from 126 in 2016. This subspecies is unique to Stewart Island/Rakiura and is a valuable taonga species for the island.

As part of this year's work we have welcomed back one member of staff from last year and three new people have joined the team. These Rangers will be with DOC Rakiura for the next three seasons, giving us some valuable continuity between now and 2022.

The new faces to the programme are:

### Alasdair Burns

I've been around the island for a few years now, but this is the first time that I've worked on the Southern New Zealand dotterel/tūturiwhatu Recovery Programme. I grew up in Yorkshire, England and I moved to Stewart Island/Rakiura in 2016 after studying Wildlife Management at the University of Otago. Since I started working for the Department of Conservation (DOC) on Rakiura I've had stints in the Visitor Centre helping visitors to our wild places and with the Biodiversity team tackling invasive marram grass at Mason Bay/Te One Roa and the tenacious weed Darwin's Barberry around the Oban township.



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I'm excited to be helping the team with their planning, logistics and data management for the next three seasons!

### Rebekah Richards

I'm from Tauranga but have spent the last year in Nelson doing the Trainee Ranger course at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT). I have a diploma in Marine Studies and have a particular interest in seabirds, having been part of multiple long-term monitoring programmes banding and checking breeding success of mainland and offshore island populations. In 2011 when the MV Rena grounded on the Astrolabe reef I was part of the 'oiled wildlife' response team, rescuing oiled little blue penguins as they returned to shore.

I am a keen diver and amateur ecologist and am looking forward to exploring the area in my downtime. I'm very excited to be working on the Southern New Zealand Dotterel Recovery Programme helping protect this unique shorebird.

### David Smith

This is my first contract with the DOC office here on Stewart Island/Rakiura, but I've previously been on the island volunteering for Sandy King as an assistant with yellow-eyed penguin work for three weeks. I have a history of work with DOC that has taken me all over the country including to the Chatham Islands, where I was cat trapping around the breeding areas of the critically endangered tāiko, stoat trapping in Arthur's Pass, surveying kōkako and tracking kiwi in the North Island/Te Ika-a-Māui and working with bats in the South Island/Te Waipounamu. My hobbies include sahaja yoga meditation, fishing and hunting and I'm passionate about birds. I'm looking forward to working with the dotterel and helping to protect them from some of the predators on Stewart Island/Rakiura.

And our returning 'old hand' on the dotterel team is:

### Monty Williams

Originally from Brisbane across the ditch (where I completed my Bachelor of Environmental Management), this is my third season working with the dotterel recovery programme on the island. In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing and listening to Midnight Oil, Dire Straits or China Girl by Bowie. I look forward to getting to know the team better and for upcoming summer on the hills!



## Does your piano need to be tuned?

My friend John Gray, who visits Invercargill regularly to tune pianos, told me recently he is willing to make a trip to Rakiura to tune pianos here. (John tunes the pianos at First Church, among others, in Invercargill.)

The cost for each piano would be of the order of \$150 - \$160, depending on the number of pianos – and how badly out of tune they are!

I am happy to look after John while he is here, so if you would like John to see to your piano please could you contact me in the first instance?

My cellphone is 027 495 9288, my email [williamwatt@outlook.co.nz](mailto:williamwatt@outlook.co.nz)

At this stage I have no idea when this would happen – but before Christmas! —*BILL WATT*

## SNAPCHAT

### Trapping in and around Oban *by Denise Hayes*

Over the last three months, I've been busy with weekly and twice-weekly rat trapping at private and commercial properties in and around the Oban township as the predicted rat plague really took off. Over this period (June - August) I've trapped nearly 2,000 rats!! And they are still breeding - I'm catching lots of young, juvenile rats and a couple of weeks ago a rat decided to build a nest right inside one of my tunnel traps - it had partially eaten its trapped mate and must have thought - hey I've got shelter and a food source right here - I'll build a nest (I got her on my next check though).

Although I've been trapping rats for quite some time now - it amazes me that week after week the traps around most people's houses are still catching high numbers - including around my own property. The "rat plague" photo of rats were all from customers traps that I cleared over two days in the first week of September. I had already caught around another 80 earlier in the week and decided to have a bit of fun with "rat art".

I've also had many entertaining -- and in some cases quite disturbing -- conversations about rats lately.

I've heard many stories about rats building nests under the bonnets of vehicles and in some cases getting into the vehicles themselves, damaging upholstery and generally making a huge mess. One of the more disturbing ones was where a live rat decided to climb out from the back seat and make its way up the unsuspecting passenger's shoulder!! Rats have gotten onto boats, into outboards and engine rooms, in some cases causing very expensive damage. They have gotten into people's ceilings, tunnel houses, workshops, sheds and other buildings. People's cats also seem to love bringing in a live rat for their human and letting it go inside.

I've heard stories of trampers in the bush literally kicking rats out of their way on the walking tracks in the middle of the day and seeing dozens of them on a daily basis in the bush. One poor person even had a rat climb into their backpack while taking a short water stop during a tramp only to have the rat climb back out when they stopped a couple of hours later for a lunch break - I wonder who got the biggest shock, the rat or the trumper?

In other words, they are everywhere at the moment and one of the things that disturbs me greatly is that what we are catching around the township is just a drop in the ocean as to what's actually out there in our forest - I really feel sorry for our native birds as they approach their breeding season.

If you would like your property to be trapped, please contact Denise on 0273 913 215.

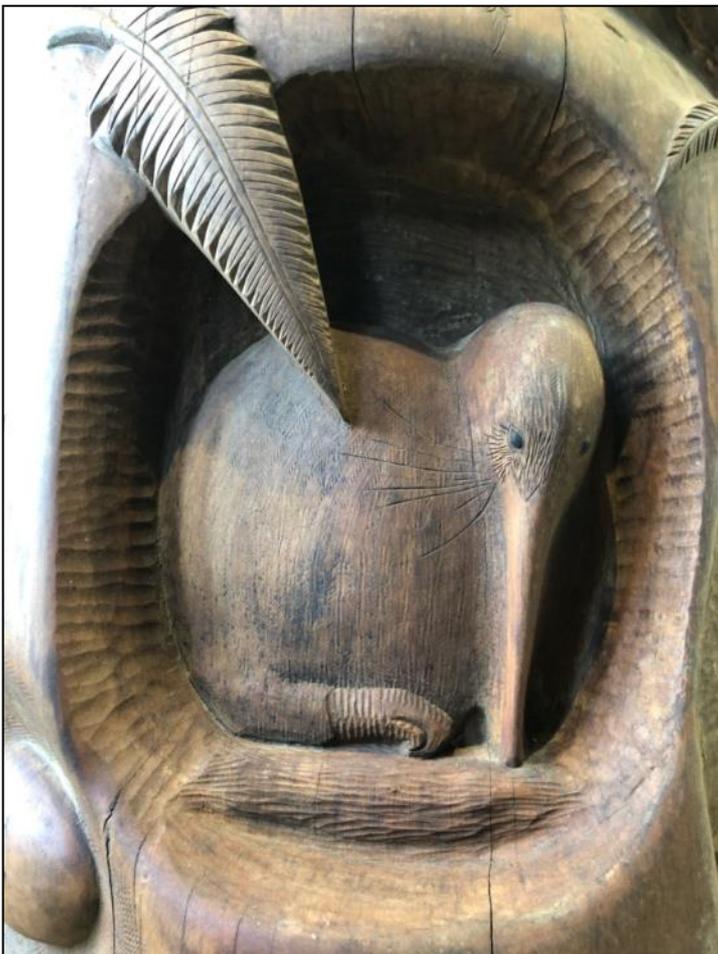




Thanks to Daffodil ladies Dids, Jan, Nic and Belinda. They raised \$1,056 this year.

### Glowing Sky Merino

Between The Shop & The Pub, Rakiura  
[glowingsky.co.nz](http://glowingsky.co.nz)



Detail from the pou at the new museum, carved by Greg Northe and Lance LeQuesne.  
*Thanks to Tessa Allen for the photo.*

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### Art in the Boat Shed

Returning to the Boat Shed  
 19 Main Road Stewart Island  
 mid January 2020.

The support from the local community as artist contributors and purchasers in 2018 was significant. We welcome interest from local artists. Profits will again be contributed to the Rakiura Museum.

For information phone 0273396026 Janet Malloch

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 Or  
 Phone: 0274 991 881

## Stewart Island Jetties Subcommittee

A meeting of the Stewart Island Jetties Subcommittee will be held at 9.45am on 30 September at the Stewart Island Pavilion, Ayr Street



There will be a gathering to remember **Allan Wadds** at 2 pm on Saturday 14th September at the Pub. Come have a few drinks and share some yarns about your old friend Waddsy (aka Compo).



## The Game's On!

Beat the winter blues with a weekly Wednesday encounter

Soup, scones & socialising with a bit of Scrabble, Skip-Bo, Scattergories, Bananarama, Rummy-O, Canasta, Euchre/500 or whatever takes your fancy ...

**When?** Every Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September  
**Where?** The Fire Station  
**What time?** 10.30am - 1.30pm

Gold Coin donation - Everyone welcome  
 Bring your favourite game or come & learn something new

See you there!



George Crack came down here for the Lions party and brought his bicycle, which he gifted to the museum. In 1971, George traversed the length of New Zealand on that bicycle to raise money for our swimming pool. The pool has just been totally upgraded with new tiling, cement work and paint thanks to the generosity of numerous donors and the hard work of many volunteers. More details and thanks will appear in the next SIN but for now, please appreciate how special this photograph is. Two young Halfmoon Bay swimmers pose at the newly refurbished pool with the wheels and great heart that made it all possible. George was here in 2011 and if you want to see some more lovely photographs of swimming pool history, check out the November 2011 edition in the SIN archives at [www.stewartislandnews.com](http://www.stewartislandnews.com)



The Boomerang Bags at the shop are made by local volunteers using materials diverted from landfill. Please use these instead of plastic bags and remember to return them at your convenience for others to use.



Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.  
**Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to [stewartislandnews@yahoo.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@yahoo.com)**

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