

# RAKIURA RAMBLES

A STEWART ISLAND NEWSLETTER

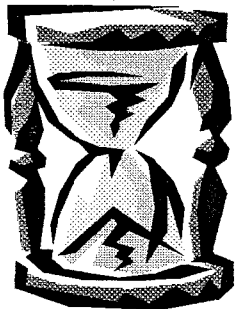
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## NATURE'S DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Eels may be among the longest- living animals. A 10 kg eel could be 60-70 years old!
- ◆ It is estimated that sperm whales consume about 100 million tonnes of squid a year.
- ◆ NZ sea lions are remarkable divers. They can descend



to depths of more than 400 metres searching for squid.

- ◆ It is thought that petrels might have taken their name from the apostle Peter, who, trying to be like Christ, tried to walk on water!

## KAKA

by Andy Roberts

Kaka in both the North and South Islands are threatened with extinction, and mainland kakas could be faced with this within the next 20 or so years, unless the threat to their existence can be controlled.

Predation of nestlings and female kaka by stoats is the major cause of kaka deaths, and in most mainland populations, female kaka are outnumbered 10:1 by males. Most individuals in any kaka population are old and breeding success is low. A few areas like Waitutu forest still have apparent high numbers of kaka, but the insidious effects of stoats continue to take their toll. In a few selected areas of the mainland, so-called "Mainland Islands", DoC is carrying out predator and possum control and is likely to have some local success in improving kaka breeding and survival.

Kaka are known to travel long distances and need large areas of mature forest. They also need areas where there are seasonally abundant food sources. This need is particularly linked to the breeding season. Kaka require access to lots of food (seeds, fruit, sap, buds, etc.) to have a good chance at successful breeding.

The kaka population on Stewart Island remains unstudied, but we can make a

few educated guesses about the population. The biggest thing is that with no stoats on Stewart Island, breeding success and survival of female kaka is likely to be much greater than on the mainland. However, Stewart Island soils and forests are very low in fertility, so this will affect the carrying capacity of the forest and the ability of the forest to produce heavy fruit crops. There is also the presence of possums, cats and rats which will take a fair number of chicks and adults. In summary, the local kaka population is probably healthier than most, except for islands like Codfish, Kapiti and Little Barrier where predators and browsers are absent. However, breeding success is still limited, and Stewart Island kaka are likely to travel widely over the island in search of seasonal food.

Over the last few years a number of residents have taken up feeding our local kaka population, a practise which has raised some concerns with DoC and with other residents. Like most parrots (except kakapo, the slow learners of the parrot world!) kaka are very intelligent and learn rapidly. This is an advantage in that they are able to exploit new food sources rapidly.

(Continued on page 3)

## S.I. LIONS CLEAN-UP

by Anita Gecson

The Stewart Island Lions Club, the Department of Conservation and interested volunteers recently undertook a clean-up of three hunter camps in the Port Pegasus area.

The group left Halfmoon Bay at 08:00, September 12, on board the Foveaux Express, weighing anchor for the first time in Settlement Cove. Early European settlement here was the result of tin mining, and was the site in 1880 of a Post Office, General Store and Hotel. The tin rush didn't last long but in 1897 the first fish refrigerating plant was built here. Personnel transferred into dinghies to reach shore. The hunter's camp site was located and bodily dismantled with the resulting debris being dragged down the beach, loaded into the dinghies and hoisted on board the "cat". A sightseeing detour to the Belltopper

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## Clean-up

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 Falls was made on the return journey. The falls were so named after the silk belltopper hat worn by one William Todd of Invercargill. His famous head piece became entangled in the branches of a tree when he visited the area in 1889.  
 The second clean-up was carried out at the camp in Observation Cove. Once completed, volunteers relaxed over a barbecue lunch with the menu featuring seafood delicacies supplied by a passing fishing boat.  
 Final port of call was at Crooked Arm where the "Scho's Camp" site was cleaned up. The "Foveaux

Express" berthed at Halfmoon Bay at 7 p.m. In total, 20 adults had spent 11 hours (each) collecting two Island Transport truck loads of rubbish and had travelled 80 nautical miles in so doing.  
 The Stewart Island Lions Club would like to thank Ian Munro for acting as captain and "tour guide" as well as those who took part. Their co-operation enabled a worthwhile community project to be completed.  
**Memo for the trampers and hunters in our community:**  
*If you take it in - bring it out!*



## Refuse Site

m. Hopkins

The Community Board has applied for a Resource Consent for the refuse site. To be eligible for this, gates have been purchased and will be erected at the entrance to the refuse site.  
 Once this has been done, the gates will be opened for public entry between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. seven days a week. A sign advertising these hours will be erected at the junction of Horseshoe Bay and Brags Bay Roads.

*The mind is like a parachute; it works much better when it is open!*



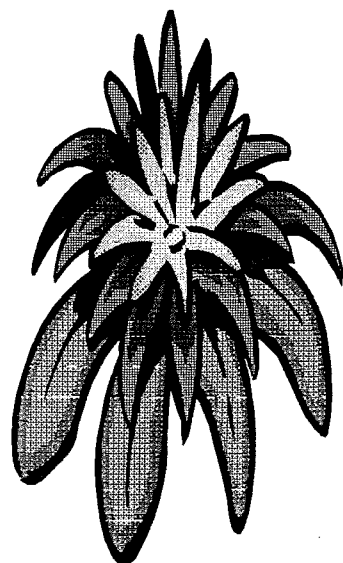
## Memories shared

m. Hopkins

As the Island tries to settle back into some sort of normality following on from the tragic Southern Air crash, it has been heartening to see how our small community has pulled together in these sad times to support one another. What we take for granted has been commented on by many involved in the accident.  
 Dianne and Alan Aitcheson attended a recent Stewart Island Promotion Association general meeting and expressed their gratitude for the overwhelming support and sympathy extended to them and their staff.  
 Mr Aitcheson said he didn't know how they would have coped without the messages and help from Stewart Islanders, as well as those involved in the tourism industry and the wider Southland community.  
 Anna Andrews expressed similar feelings when she and

her sister Vera attended a social evening on the Island where they were able to meet and talk with people who shared happy memories of their contact with Robin. At the beginning of the evening Anna expressed the wish that it be a 'happy' occasion to remember Robin and as she listened with amusement to the stories told, she said she felt that Robin had had two lives - the one he shared with her, and the one he shared with Stewart Island.  
 Members of Eric Hawkes' family were treated to a day visit to Stewart Island to meet with the people who knew and worked with him.  
 For Eric's wife Marilyn it was her first visit to the Island and she said she could now see the attraction the place had had for him.  
 Their two daughters had previously visited the Island with Eric. Once again, it was

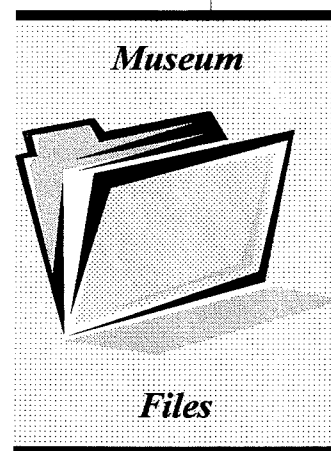
more a happy occasion of remembering Eric and some of the amusing situations he found himself in during his visits here. At the end of the afternoon Marilyn said she wondered how Eric had managed to do any work while he was here with all the chats and cups of tea he must have had in a day.



## Rakiura Museum Records - S.I. Boat building

by Margaret Hopkins

History books describe the hardships endured by William Cook and his small band of boatbuilders left at Port Pegasus in 1825. Their task was to build a 49 ton schooner. That they were virtually abandoned in this remote place with limited materials, is a testimony to their skill and endurance when the *Joseph Weller* was finally launched in 1833.



Museum records show that decades later boatbuilding became a prolific activity around the bays of Halfmoon Bay and Paterson Inlet. We have compiled a data base of boats built on the Island and to date we have found 69.

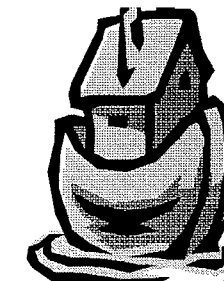
Robert Scollay, a Shetland Islander who settled in Halfmoon Bay in the 1860s built a large house and smithy where the Southern Air depot now stands. His boat building skills saw many fine vessels leave the stocks on Halfmoon Bay beach. He built the 18 ton cutter *Lerwick* at the Old Neck in 1867 then followed

*Jane Scollay*, a 40 ton schooner in 1875; cutter *Margaret Scollay*, 16 tons; cutter *Eclipse*, 30 tons, a boat with wells; sister ships *Endeavour* and *Enterprise*. The last of his 9 boats built on Halfmoon Bay beach was the *Sunbeam*. Engines had just begun to be used and this boat had the first Sunbeam engine installed.

Leask Bay was the busiest of boatbuilding sites with no fewer than 22 boats leaving the stocks there. Tom Leask, along with his sons James, Alick and Walter, built their fine craft with huon pine, kauri and white pine as their favoured timber. Tom's first vessel *Nightingale*, a 14 ton cutter was built in 1871. Other Leask boats included the *Rosa*; *Thistle*; *Variance*; *Dove*; *Dolly*; *Felicia* and many more. The *Lena*, built in 1890 as a fishing boat, later became a tourist boat and a class winner at the Bluff Regatta. She once crossed the Strait in 2 hours and 20 minutes. With boatbuilding in their blood George and Stanford Leask were involved in the rebuilding of the Norwegian boat *Oslo* into the *Nightingale II*

in 1935.  
 Ned Johnson and his family at Horseshoe Bay contributed significantly to the Island's boat building industry with at least 7 boats being crafted by them. *Mystery*; *Myth*; *Puzzle*; *Secret*; *Little Nell* and *Violet* were among the Johnson vessels. One interesting boat name from the Johnson fleet was the *X10U8* which at a glance could be seen as a forerunner to personalised number plates!  
 The now quiet bays of Bragg Bay; Papatiki; Ulva Island; Watercress; Thomson Bay; Kaipipi and Glory Harbour all feature as boat building sites of what must have been a thriving industry.

### BOAT BUILDING ON STEWART ISLAND.



## Kaka

(Continued from page 1)

This leads to potential problems as kaka can get bored and troublesome.  
 On both Little Barrier and Kapiti Islands, Rangers set up kaka feeding stations. It soon became obvious that fed kaka soon became bored kaka. And, bored kaka quickly became vandals. Added to this problem is the low risk of spreading disease among various birds at feed-

ing stations. Most people are aware of the damage that keas cause at skifields and sites near where they live, even removing lead head nails of roofs of houses on the West Coast. Kaka seem to react in similar vain and have also caused problems in gardens and to fruit trees.  
 While feeding of kakas may appear to be a worthwhile cause, it does have side effects, and is not a practice

supported by DoC. If residents of the island are keen to keep on feeding kaka, they need to be aware of these issues and the potential price to the kaka. Another issue to consider is that kakas causing problems may lead to other people trying to take the law into their own hands and deal with offending parrots - which in turn would be viewed in rather a dim light by DoC.

## ELECTIONS 1998

All the candidates involved in the forthcoming Southland District Council and Stewart Island Community Board elections were offered the opportunity to either write an article about themselves or get one of their nominators to do so. The articles which follow are thus their responses to this invitation by Rakiura Rambles.

### SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL CANDIDATES

#### GWEN MEYER NEAVE

I am offering myself for election to the office of Ward Member for Stewart Island on the Southland District Council.

Ten years ago I attended a Kellogg's Leadership Course at Lincoln University, and have since then tried to utilise the skills learned there while serving on the following committees: \*the Southern Regional Arts Council  
\*the Trust Bank Southland Art Foundation  
\*Te Waka Toi - the Maori Arts Board

However, the Arts have not been my only focus. In 1992 I was appointed to the Community Trust of Southland, and am currently serving my second term as a Trustee of this body. I have enjoyed being involved in facilitating educational courses and speakers on the island via REAP's community programmes when they were provided by Alison Broad's office.

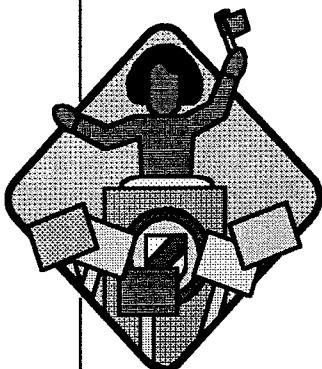
I have served as an Executive member of the Stewart Island Promotion Association since 1989 apart from a break of a year in 1993 and it is gratifying being part of such a proactive group. I believe the Island deserves strong representation at the District Council table and a Community Board which makes decisions based on fair and sensible debate. Better sharing of information regarding Board decisions with the rate payers is essential. We have a right to expect integrity and responsibility in our Community representatives and their actions.

I would consider it a privilege to serve as your representative for the next three years.

#### NIKKI DAVIS

by Shona Duncan

I would like to introduce Mrs Nikki Davis, a person who, when she says "We should" does!. There are no half-measures where she is concerned. Nikki researches everything she undertakes, and asks questions such as: Is it possible? What will it cost? Where can we get help? or, How can we raise the money? Once this has been looked at, you can guarantee that if it is at all possible, Nikki will accomplish it. Nikki is a very articulate woman who can put the wishes and opinions of the people of Stewart Island across to those concerned in a manner which assures that she will be taken seriously. I believe we need someone like Nikki who will push when needed and cajole when necessary.



#### KEITH SMITH

I have been a resident of the Stewart island community for the last 35 years and my occupation in the early days was

fishing. I was a successful fisherman and skippered many boats including *Digger, Gypsy, Akina, Seaway, President Kennedy, Evening Star*, and in partnership with Ron Dennis, we built the *Mana*. At the time I was also a Director of the Stewart Island fisherman Co-op.

I was the instigator, and involved in, the building of the Airstrip on the Island. When Southern Air went into receivership, two partners joined me to refinance the company of which I was the Managing Director for approximately 14 years.

I became involved in local politics because I was aware the community had a huge debt and simply did not have the ability to pay. My immediate involvement was to help restructure our power authority, and we are now out of debt and running a very successful operation. I was appointed by council as a director of South Roads which showed a good return on council's investment until the decision was made to sell and take the rewards and and capital gain. (A profit of several million dollars.) I was nominated for the forestry committee and again this was to help run the forestry on a more business-like manner.

Should I be re-elected, I will most certainly do my best to ensure our community's viability and keep our profile up in Southland.

### STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD CANDIDATES

#### LESLEY ANNE GRAY

by Gwen Neave

Lesley Gray has been a key member of the Stewart Island Community board for three terms, first taking office in 1989. She has always been keenly interested in community affairs and has been actively involved in the Promotion Association group since 1984. Lesley became an Executive member that year, and served in this capacity ever since first joining until she was made President in 1997. In the same year she became a founding member of the Tourism Strategy Committee, an important planning group intent on determining sensible and effective strategies for

the island's development. Lesley is well equipped to contribute to this group and the community through her firsthand knowledge of the tourism industry both from her involvement with the family business at Ferndale Camping Ground and her job since 1992 as Conservation Officer and Visitor Information Network officer.

Lesley enjoys the challenge of Community Board matters. She believes in the fair, transparent decision making and her philosophy is to act always in the best interests of the the community.

I believe her integrity and commitment are invaluable to the Community Board and stand by my nomination of her as an ideal candidate for the next term of office.

#### ELAINE HAMILTON

by Margaret Hopkins

A born and bred Stewart Islander who has spent her whole life on Stewart Island, Elaine is no stranger to our community needs.

She has been involved in many different organisations and committees over the years and has a strong interest in local issues. She has been an active member of the Stewart Island Promotion Association; the Stewart Island Tourism Strategy Group; the local Health Committee and Forest and Bird Group.

Elaine is also very involved with the running of the Rakiura Museum where her local history knowledge is a valuable asset for research and archive work.

If elected to the Community Board, Elaine will bring a wealth of local knowledge and an understanding of community needs. She is approachable, conscientious in researching issues and is prepared to work hard for the community.

#### MARGARET HOPKINS

Some may wonder at my wish to return to local body politics after retiring 3 years ago, but I guess the simple answer is that I miss it.

After 18 years on the Stewart Island County Council and Community Board I thought it was time for a rest. Well, I've rested now and have more time on my hands. I have retained an interest in Community Board issues over the past three years and I would like to be able to contribute further in helping the Stewart Island community remain viable and growing.

I have always felt that Stewart Island has, because of it's physical isolation, many more problems than mainland Southland, but it is essential that we are seen to be helping ourselves and making our own decisions. Community Boards must be strong and proactive in seeking what is right for their residents, it is up to them to make the right decisions.

My current involvement with the Stewart Island Tourism Strategy Group is interesting and positive. Stewart Island needs to encourage and assist new tourist initiatives and identify opportunities for growth and employment. It is also important that we try and maintain or reduce the costs for current residents, in particular our senior citizens and young families.

Communication between the Community Board and residents must be improved to keep residents informed and enable them to participate in decision making through their elected representatives. It is not acceptable for Community Board business to be carried out in the hotel bar.

If elected to the Stewart Island Community Board I will work hard in the interests of the wider community and endeavour to help with individual problems, as I have done in the past.

#### JOHN STEPHEN LEASK

by Carolyn Squires (Snr)

I would like to introduce to you John Leask whose family came to Stewart Island around 1850 from the Orkney Islands. John was born at Leask's Bay. He was educated at Halfmoon Bay School where he earned the Dux before going across to Southland Boys High School. John returned home after this to go into the tourism market with his father and he later became a fisherman. John's dedication to the fishing industry can, in part, be recognised by the recent invitation from the Fishing Industry Board for submissions on exorbitant Resource Rentals on fishing quota and Ministry of Fish-

(Continued on page 13)

*Better be a  
nettle  
in the side  
of  
your friend  
than  
his echo.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## GOODBYE

from Joe Clark

*How do I say goodbye  
To a place that's become my  
home?*

*Going away with so many  
friends,  
Arriving here alone.*

*I have experienced a lot of  
interesting moments,  
Everyday there was some-  
thing new.*

*And I made it through the  
winter here -*

*I would not have survived  
without you.*

*But it's time for me to move  
on*

*And find a new place to  
attack.*

*But, don't hold your breath  
yet, my friends*

*For one day I will be back.*

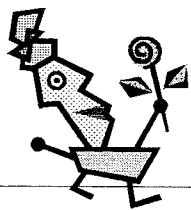
*It's hard for me to say good-  
bye*

*For it's a word I never use.*

*I'm only leaving, this isn't  
the end*

*I am a friend you'll never  
lose!*

Thanks Stewart Island.



## School concert

M. Hopkins

Stewart Island locals were treated to a well-presented variety concert at the RSA earlier this month.

Pupils from Halfmoon Bay School performed items using musical instruments taught by music teacher, Jim Bissland.

Songs, dance and an aerobic demonstration made up a full programme. Effective use of candles and music created an interesting aspect to some of the items. Senior children showed their line dancing skills taught to them over the winter by Sue Ford and her line dancing group. Arahia Forrester, Becky Cavanagh and Petra Davis performed their version of the song 'Hero' and also the Imbop dance which had others tapping their feet.

All those who attended the concert enjoyed the items presented and appreciated the work Lee Wadds, Bonnie Leask and Jim Bissland had put in with the children.

Thanks also to Meryl Howell who patiently lit candles for the children and ensured the music tapes were played in the correct sequence! Well done to all the participants.

## Visiting artists

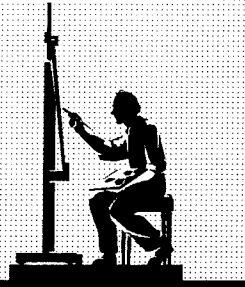
M. Hopkins

At Labour weekend, Edward and Ludmila Sakowski from Art Care and Conservation in Dunedin will be visiting the Island.

This firm, specialises in the restoration of art works as well as valuations, attributions and condition reports. While on the Island they will be appraising the Rakiura Museum's art works with a view to possible restoration. They have offered to hold a public session to talk about the care and restoration of paintings.

Edward specialises in easel paintings while Ludmila's expertise is in works on paper. It is hoped that Stewart Islanders will take advantage of this opportunity to come along and learn something about the care of their family paintings. The Sakowskis will be able to do valuations and give advice on any restoration work required. It is intended to hold this session at 3.30p.m on Saturday 24th October. Watch the notice board for further details.

### MORE FROM THE MUSEUM



## Daffodil Day

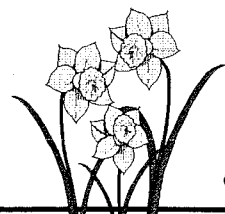
M. Hopkins

A big thank you goes to our gorgeous "Spring Daffodils" who visited all the local businesses and carried out their street collection for the Cancer Society.

\$472.70 was collected by Jan Le Quesne, Sue Graham (Diddles) and Donna Hamilton, all dressed in their inspiring daffodil outfits. \$82.00 of the amount collected came from the auctioning of the

daffodil hats worn by the girls.

By a stroke of luck, experts were on hand to auction the items in the South Sea Hotel. Bill Todd had seventeen of his auctioneering colleagues over for a visit!



## Lions meet

The Stewart Island Lions Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

Lions Clubs are service organisations encompassing the ideals of service to the community, and friendship and fellowship within their community.

For more information, contact Sue Munro (2191327) or Jack Frew (2191136)

## Sax-pertise

It's not often we have such talented musicians visit the Island as the Saxophone Quartet who performed recently at the Shearwater Inn. Murray Cavanagh described it a brilliant evening thoroughly enjoyed by the many who attended. The talent and versatility of the players made it a memorable night with many people dancing to the music. Becky Cavanagh and Petra Davis even managed to find a tune suitable for line dancing, which the performers said was a first for them. The children at Halfmoon Bay School were also treated to a demonstration from the saxophone players.

*If music be the  
food of life,  
play on!*

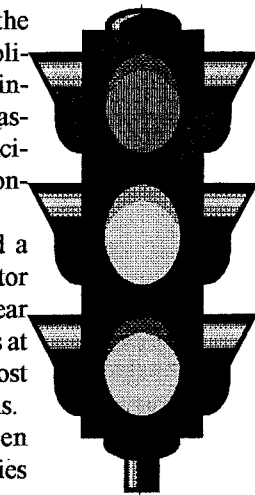


## Bernie's Backchat

Since my return to the island after my holiday, I have been involved in an increasing number of incidents that are of concern to me.

I have tried to find a common denominator and it would appear that alcohol abuse is at the bottom of almost all of these problems. Alcohol has been around for centuries and will probably continue to do so for many more. This is not the problem - it's the over-indulgence/abuse of alcohol that is the cause of the problem.

If you find that you are continually broke, suffer from mood changes, are in trouble at home or with the law, if your lifestyle is changing for



the worse, or your friends have changed in attitude towards you, MAYBE you have a problem with alcohol.

There are, of course, many symptoms of alcohol abuse, but if you think that you have a problem, please seek help before something stupid happens to you or someone you care for.

Help can be found in the yellow pages, at the medical clinic, or through me. It's not easy living on an island, but help is available if you want it. Worth thinking about, isn't it?

Catch ya later!  
Bernie

## Otago Girls High visit

Last week a group of 50 girls from Otago Girls High, together with 5 members of staff, were on the Island as part of their 6th form Phys. Ed. class outing. The activities undertaken made up 10 - 20% of their course, and included risk management and planning. Local resident, Julie Carter, joined the girls to walk the Rakiura Track which they all enjoyed (although some appeared to limp as they arrived back at the local store!).

Julie said the girls had found their visit to the Island a real eye-opener and had gained a lot from their experience. Other half-day activities were undertaken, including kayaking, mountain bike riding and fishing.

## Anglican Church Notice

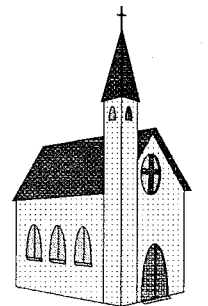
A. Dyson-Leask

Services are conducted in the Anglican Church of St Andrew on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. At present members are preparing for the annual Children's Flower Show to be held at the Pavilion on 17 October. This event was started 57 years ago by the

late Neta Rawle.

The Hikoi - Journey of Hope, began its journey from Wohlers Monument, Ringaringa, a journey that will culminate at Parliament on 1 October.

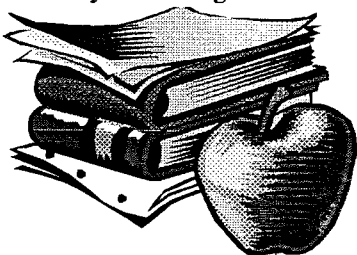
This leg of the march was organised by St Andrews and Oban Presbyterian churches. St Andrews hosted the guests



who travelled to Stewart Island for the event which was very well attended by local people.

Library

**News**  
by Pat King



**BOOK REVIEWS**  
Books from S.I. Community Library

**THE MEGAMOGS**

by Peter Haswell  
With names like Kevin Catflap, Barry Binliner and Fishpaste Fred, Miss Marbletop's Megamogs

Another month gone, and soon our thought will be turning to Christmas! If you like to make gifts and/or want ideas for Christmas meals and decorations, now is the time to check out the comprehensive collection of Craft and Cookery books held in the Library. There may be something there to inspire you.

We are having problems with overdue, lost or missing books. Could you check your bookshelves, please, in case a book has somehow found its way amongst your books. There is a fine of \$1.00 per week for overdue books, but you can renew a book for a further three week period by contacting me. I would also ask you not to pass a book on to another reader without it being issued to them. YOU will be responsible for any fines, etc., if a book is not returned on time or if it is lost. Some new books in the library are:

- FICTION**  
*Point of Origin* Patricia Cornwell  
*Billy Straight* Jonathon Kellerman  
**NON-FICTION**  
*A Monk Swimming* Malachy McCourt  
*Art in the Pacific* Anne D'Alleva



are as mischievous as they sound.

When Miss Marbletop goes on holiday for a week, they set to work. After lots of sweating and straining, grumbling and grousing, tom catting and high hatting, the ten mogs, with Kevin as captain, transform Miss Marbletop's quaint old house with spectacular results.

This book is written with a wonderful use of language and a real sense of fun that children will love.

As the Megamogs take you on each adventure, one thing is for sure. It is going to be B-I-G.

Reviewer Lesley Squires

**POINT OF ORIGIN**

by Patricia Cornwell

When you think that Ms Cornwall has run the gamut of man's inhumanity to man, she comes up with a something new and quite abhorrent in ways of mutilating a body.

The infamous Dr Kay Scarpetta is Chief Medical Examiner and consulting forensic pathologist for American federal law enforcement agencies. Her case this time (10th book in the series) starts with a farm that is destroyed by fire. Dr Scarpetta's task, with her faithful investigator, Peter Marino, is to find the killer before it happens again.

The reader is led through the

process of investigation, chillingly accurate forensic details, and intricate and gory autopsy procedures (which one can skip if needed). But there is one curiously macabre method of dissection which the author hasn't used before. Her explicit descriptions of body trauma are an integral and fascinating part of the story which is necessary to unwind the twisted mind of the killer who has escaped from a psychiatric institution. The evil Carrie has appeared in previous books, so the reader would be aware of the immediate danger of the good doctor and her loved ones. It is not all blood, murder and gore; the emotional life of our heroine is also

**LIBRARY HOURS**

(CORRECT TIMES)

Wed 2 p.m. - 3.15

p.m.

Fri 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

Sat 11 a.m. - 12 m.d.

tested to the limit with her cherished niece, Lucy and love of her life, Benton Wesley.

This book is not for the faint-hearted. Patricia Cornwall has the ability to scare you silly. Read this book with the light on. There's no way this type of scenario really happens in real life, I mean, it's just fiction - isn't it?

Reviewer Ulva Amos

**KING  
HEREAFTER**

by Dorothy Dunnell

Forget the dark villainous and treacherous MacBeth Shakespeare introduced you to when you were perhaps a reluctant fourth former. This beautifully crafted book is the story of Thorfinn, a son of the

(Continued on page 11)

**INTRODUCING:  
STEVE HALL**

Most of those who watch rugby and enjoy a bottle of the brown stuff at the South Seas will know Steve Hall by now. But, for the other folk who don't frequent our local watering hole, here is a little more inside information.

Steve was born and raised in Whakatane. As a youngster growing up, his passion was catching yellowfin tuna. He

spent his school holidays working as a deckie on the game fishing boats operating off the coast. Steve also found time to play rugby, representing Bay of Plenty Colts.

After completing an apprenticeship as a fitter welder, Steve's passion for the game took him to Tasmania where he worked and played rugby for four years.

Steve's lust for adventure took him into white water rafting on the Mohaka river. He sums up his recollections of that exhilarating time with a sobering thought when he says, "I also had to pull some bodies from the river at times!"

A successful tyre business in

Kawerau followed, but after 6 years, the travel bug bit again, and Steve moved to the South Island, specialising in the rebuilding of boilers.

His decision to apply for a DoC job on Stewart island resulted from a desire for a changed lifestyle.

Steve, being an outdoor man, has taken to the peace and quiet of the Island, but he also enjoys the hectic social life of the Island. Steve is a regular contributor to the Friday night festivities at the Hotel and has suddenly become a vociferous supporter of the local netball club. When questioned about this new found interest by one of the locals, he was heard to answer with a twinkle in his eye and rubbing his hands in glee: "Think of all the women... uh ... netball teams they are going to invite to the island!" 'Nuff said!



**Delighting in  
travel - part 1**

Margaret Wright

Doug and I decided we would like to travel, but being part of a constantly moving tour did not appeal. Together with our travel agent, Karen, we finally settled on an itinerary which we liked.

We flew to Paris and then discovered the pleasure of using Euro Rail to get to Marseilles. The trains are fast and very clean.

Marseilles is really pretty with its enormous harbour in the middle of town packed with boats. Mind you, I don't know how often they get out because Marseilles has more than 200 days of winds each year. While there we experienced an 80 knot wind which made walking very difficult. We had walked up to the highest point above the town to the Notre Dame De La Garde Cathedral. It is the site of an old watch tower, and in 1214 the first chapel was built on site. The wind was so strong we literally had to hang on. The town, which dates back to 600 B.C., has beautiful buildings and very narrow, winding streets. But, we were to discover that these streets had their own unexpected dangers...

(Continues in the next issue)

**S.I. DARWIN'S BARBERRY INVESTIGATION**

The invasive weed, Darwin's Barberrry (*Berberis darwinii*), is widespread around the Halfmoon Bay area of Stewart Island, and outliers have been found as far afield as Christmas village and into Paterson Inlet.

DoC is concerned about the threat of Darwin's Barberrry to the conservation values of Stewart Island. In particular they are looking at its compe-

tition with native plants, and the loss of recreational enjoyment. Because its seed is bird dispersed, it can spread long distances and is capable of growing under forest and scrub canopies.

DoC is presently mapping its infestation, and would like to discuss this with the interested parties at a meeting sometime during November. The project will be managed

by Ros Cole from the S.I. Field Centre with support from Murray Nieuwenhuys from the Southland Conservancy Office. Ground work will be carried out by Philip Grove.

If you would like to know more about this investigation, contact the Field Centre on the island, or Murray at the Conservancy Office at phone 03-2144589.

## The Dark Sucker Theory

(Peter Taylor was recently seen to be chuckling merrily over an article he had read. It amused him and other friends so much that they decided to share the story with us)

For years it was believed that light was given off by an electric bulb. However, recent information would seem to suggest otherwise. Scientists have put forward the Dark Sucker Theory to prove that a) Dark exists; b) Dark has mass but is lighter than air, and c) Dark is faster than light.

Candles are probably one of the more primitive Dark Suckers. There is more dark 30 feet from a lit candle than there is at a distance of 3 feet. Proof of its dark sucking abilities is relatively simple.

If you examine an unused, new candle, notice that the centre core is not dark. If the candle is lit and allowed to burn for a few minutes you will notice that there is a lack of dark around the candle. When you extinguish the candle flame, you will notice that the centre core of the candle is now dark. The centre core is therefore a Dark Sucker which is protected by a soft insulator which extends its life expectancy and maintains its rigidity. This type of Dark Sucker is very primitive and does not suck dark in at any great distance, nor does it have a large capacity.

A more modern Dark Sucker was discovered when man began using the power of electricity and

discovered that it can suck in dark. When the dark is sucked in, it can be safely dispersed along the power lines. The larger the Dark Sucker the greater the distance it can suck dark.

Consider the Dark Sucker in the room you are in. There is much less dark right next to it than there is elsewhere.

There are also portable Dark Suckers which cannot cope with dark by themselves. They have to have the assistance of Dark Storage Units. When these Units are full, they must either be emptied or be replaced before the Dark Sucker will work again. However, like all things, Dark Suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they stop sucking.

Dark is always heavier than light. Consider when you built a fire: the wood is heavy as you build the fire due to the fact that its dark sucking chambers are filled with air. Once the wood has sucked dark to its maximum dark holding capacity, the wood is black with accumulated dark and weighs less.

Likewise, if you were to swim below the surface of a lake,

you would see a lot of light. Should you swim deeper, you would notice that it would get darker and darker, and if you swam really deep down, you would be in total darkness. This is because the heavier darkness sinks down to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats above it. Thus it can be proved that dark is lighter than air.

Now for the final point of the theory.

Dark is faster than Light. If you stand in a sunlit room and open a cupboard door very slowly, you will notice that the light goes into the cupboard: this you can see happening. You cannot see the dark leaving the cupboard. It's passage out of the cupboard is so quick that it is undetectable and this leads to the conclusion that dark is faster than light.

In closing then, remember to look at an electric bulb with a tad more respect when next you look upon this incredible Dark Sucker!

### BASIC TRUTH?

The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.

There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.

Oscar Wilde

## WICKED WHISPERS?

\* The curse of Samson and Delilah has struck the island. She used to be statuesque in her whites (with matching gumboots, of course) with her strength obviously in her red, no, no, - black hair; and now (gasp, sigh) will such a trendy haircut affect her arm wrestling prowess??

\* Handy hints from the Driving School:- while driving up a driveway, if you hear a thump or feel a bump, my advice is don't reverse back (over said bump a second time) to see what you collected! It ain't Exxon, but the driveway now looks like the Valdez disaster!

\* Heard over the bar... and down the hallway... and in the restaurant, and in the toilets (he would be my pick for Sargeant Major), our well-educated barman expressing brotherly concern for his brother-in-arms - or is that brother-in-pints?

\* Was it a conspiracy?? We all heard Mr Rent-a-Cop was a tiger on the tickets (causing not a few to park in more native surrounding for a wee bit). Fortunately someone

organized an exhausting 2 week agenda of "cat & mouse" at the school. Well done - I don't think he noticed the diversion! And after Rent-a-Cop and Rent-a-Brock, nice to have our own long arm of the law back:- the not-so-thin blue line!

\* Speaking of our highly trained professional, I overheard his tale of woe about his computer crashing - when it did go, he couldn't drive it anyway! And well done to the two rent-a-blokes living at the station. FINAL SCORE: cat's still alive, 3 plants dead, 2 water-logged, 3 O.K. (No-one knows why this natural phenomenon occurs...)

\* And still from the House on the Hill - Pua Diver gainfully employed by DoC de-weeding ... Bernie will be pleased.

\* What an up and down month for an athletic supporter like me. Inside to watch Southland Rugby get trounced by Auckland, or outside to watch Stewart Island netballers play a raw and gritty game against Otatara (no reference to anyone's knees). Penalty points awarded to soggy but keen supporters, and best overtime

play goes to our own ocean gem "the bad man" for bringing oranges with twist tops. I hear after an arduous season (of 3 games) preparations are well under way for the end-of-year knees-up.

\* Stewart Island spaghetti-western style. The Tall, the Short and the Ridiculous are about to shoot it out at the ballot box on October 10. Will we see the chorus girl in the limelight? Will we see the Saloon Keeper unholstered?? Will we see the Piano Player in a new outfit??

\* There must be something in the local water ... Mrs Hobble-it dashed back early from hospitalized pedicure work to be with her man. Next paddock neighbour even takes a morning off work for her man because 10 days is "just forever!!" How do the girls go waiting for Christmas, I wonder?

\* Of course I am as proud as punch that Tony Brown has been named top NPC scorer ever ... rather flummoxed to discover that his mother has been doing the kicking! He's in heaven, she's on crutches - get well soon, otherwise several islanders may starve to death.

(Continued on page 12)

## COMMUNITY HALL PROGRESS

Good progress is being made on the Community Hall - in fact the workers need a pat on their backs for their enthusiastic tackling of this project. According to sources in the know, building is progressing faster than anticipated, largely due to the tireless efforts of the many folk who volunteer their time.

Scaffolding, which is needed before the erection of the frame of the building, is presently being

erected. Once this in place, the structural steel required for the stadium will be put into place, probably before the next publication of this newsletter.

This next stage should offer some excitement to all on the island, because a helicopter will be used to place the trusses brought across from Bluff. Because the island does not have cranes for this

purpose, the helicopter will lower each truss into its position. The school children will be delighted if this happens during the holidays!

If there are any folk who can assist with cut lunches for the workers, please contact Helen Cave. Many thanks to all those who have assisted with lunches and to those who have dropped off cakes and other tasty nibbles for teatime!

## Book reviews : KING HEREAFTER

(Continued from page 8)

Earl of Caithness, raised by a young Norse kinsman on Orkney. It tells of Thorfinn's valour, his political aspirations, and his marriage to the beautiful Groa - a tempestuous relationship which develops into a union of deep respect and love. It tells of the barbaric lore and life of the Celtic and Nordic warriors against a rich background of harsh land

and seascapes and chilling weather conditions. It tells us too of Thorfinn's adoption of the name MacBeth, his leadership of his kinsmen and the Scottish lords, and his claim to the throne of Scotland. Dunnett's characters are richly drawn and utterly believable. Like Shakespeare's play, this story with its strange soothsayer and superstitions, dark treachery

and bloody battles, is a tragedy. It is also a fine testament to the immense research Dunnett undertakes with each historical novel she writes.

Her prose sings with a lyrical style and clarity. King Hereafter is an excellent read and a haunting tale one could easily believe to be fact.

reviewed by Gwen Neave

## HEALTH NEWS

From Marty and Sharron

### CLINIC ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Marty who successfully completed his studies in Advanced Rural Primary Nursing.

He is now qualified to perform some advanced life-saving techniques, so be warned... If you play possum, you could end up with tubes positioned in unforeseen places!

He is also about to complete his National Certificate in Ambulance after 2 years.

Marty is off on holiday for a month or so soon to recuperate from the world of academia in which Sharron remains enmeshed - studying Sports and Recreational Injuries and Nursing Research.

We recently spent an evening with some members of the Secondary Response Team and Fire Service, orientating them to equipment placement in the Ambulance and also did some life support skills training.

### HEALTH PROMOTION

The Clinic has been approached by some people regarding the possibility of running public information sessions on certain subjects. If

you have any ideas, please let us know, and we will try to arrange sessions with relevant professional organisations through Southern Health Promotions who have the contract for Health Promotion on Stewart Island. We could also consider disseminating information through other avenues as appropriate.

### DOCTOR'S DAY

Dr Talwar had a clinic on Saturday 26 September. Doctor's Day visits are arranged every 4 - 6 weeks. Numbers seeing the Dr have dropped noticeably recently and to ensure the continuance of these visits, we need to support their clinics.



### ACC

#### Soft Tissue Injury

##### Looking at Bruises, Bumps, Strains or Sprains

There has been a run of soft tissue injuries lately. The following method of self treatment is very easy to remember and in most cases can be done by yourself:

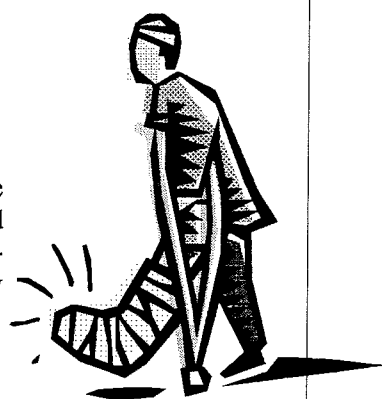
**R** = Rest - Stop activity immediately injury occurs.

**I** = Ice - Apply icepack to injured area for up to 20 mins. Repeat every 3-4 hours during the first 48 hours.

**C** = Compression - Apply compression bandage to injured area.

**E** = Elevate - Elevate the injured area to reduce swelling

The greater the swelling, the longer the recovery and the more difficult the assessment by medical personnel. Further information is available at the Clinic.



## WICKED WHISPERS?

(Continued from page 11)

\* DoC Mandate - to take an intense interest in flora and fauna found near watering holes. Result: newest bloke on the books taking his job very seriously. Much scientific probing down to discover whether Oatara flora is compatible with Swandri fauna.

\* Sob, sob ... it's happened before and it's happening again. First Ginger left the

band (sic) and now our Ginger Spice is leaving the island. Many may shed a tear when Ginger departs (whimper). The big question is... will her gnome be returned first?

\* Secret meetings at Travel? Is it a knitting circle? Is it a temperance group? Or is this just being blown out of proportion?

\* Four Ways of Celebrating

your Birthday: 1) using tuna bombs instead of candles on your cake; 2) inviting two drag queens to sit at your table (does this mean you get served faster?); 3) eliminating messy after-party problems by having it in someone else's house; 4) taking all night (& shortest staff on the island) to drink the Tequila and returning the following week for the worm!

## COMMUNITY BOARD CANDIDATES

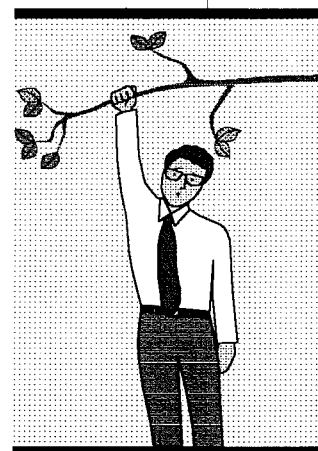
(Continued from page 5)

cries charges, and the effects these have on Fishermen and their families. He also travelled to Parliament to talk to the Select Committee, which earned him a letter of thanks from the Prime Minister.

John is a member of the Fisherman's Co-op., is actively involved in the Church matters and he also served on the Stewart Island County Council for many years. During his years on the island he has noted many areas of progress on the Island: tourism; boats with freezers; a new school; tar-sealed roads; 24 hour generated power and tele-

phone services; the new sewerage system; a new health centre and ambulance; the Community library, museum and fire service; the fast ferry, and, more recently, the building of the new Community hall. This is the type of progress in services which John would like to see continue.

Although John is returning to the sea, this father and grandfather will still have time for the community. The well-being of residents and tourists is of paramount importance to John, as is the safety of all when emergencies arise.



### LINDSAY LORD

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on some matters which concern residents, business operations, crib owners, visitors and Government Departments. To successfully achieve improvements over a wide range of activities many people have given their time and talents over the past 150 years. I would like to clearly inform voters of my present views on the following topics. Rating policy of Southland District Council. The need to reduce anomalies and amend to some extent the uniform annual charges.

Where there is no service provided, annual charges should not be levied. There should also be a maximum rate on property where the combined annual Regional Council and Southland District Council rate should never exceed the capital value of a property. Quite a number of properties on Stewart Island pay no rates whatever. This applies to land in Halfmoon Bay and Horseshoe Bay. Those who benefit from amenities should contribute to the maintenance of the assets. This problem goes back nearly 100 years. I would support some minor visitor charge to offset some of the costs which are incurred in maintaining facilities such as the Museum,

walking tracks and public toilets. We do not appear to derive much benefit from the Southland Regional Council. Opossum menace greatly effects the bush health. I would strongly support a programme to reduce the numbers of these animals. I support the one Local Authority concept. We have on the horizon the prospect of a change of status for the many reserves and Crown land to a possible National Park concept. This is a matter which must be carefully examined. There is insufficient information available. I would strongly support a referendum on this issue. There are some financial implications which may affect most ratepayers. Some street, footpath and water tables need more consistent maintenance. Use of local labour on some of these projects would be beneficial, such as ongoing maintenance of coastal rock retaining walls, particularly in Halfmoon Bay locality. Seawall protection along coastal roads has served the community well over the past 100 years. I would support a better line of communication between the Community Board, ratepayers and residents. This could be achieved through the medium of this local publication.

### SIMON MARWICK

I was employed by the New Zealand Salmon Company in Big Glory Bay in 1984, started mussel farming in 1987, and am presently the Manager of Sanford Mussel Farm. Together with my three children and wife, Anna, I live at Kamahi Rd.

I am hoping to stand for a third term on the Stewart Island Community Board. I am interested in all aspects of Council, and believe in minimising ratepayer cost by restricting Council expenditure to the provision of essential services such as roading, waste disposal, and provision of amenities, etc.

I have a variety of interests, both indoors and out: tramping, boating, bee-keeping, building, chess and reading, to name a few. If elected, I will continue to scrutinise and question all information and decisions that come before the Stewart Island Community Board.

### TREVOR MCLELLAN

Dawn and I have been resident on the island for 10 years now, and during this time I have been involved in the community at various levels, such as looking after the tips and helping with roadwork. I have gained much experience

(Continued on page 14)

## COMMUNITY BOARD CANDIDATES

(Continued from page 13)

experience in dealing with many different people, having previously run my own business and now while employed as a mechanic.

As such, I am looking to make myself available for a further term on the S.I. Community Board. I would like the opportunity of making use of my hands-on experience to try and achieve a level of common sense in Council decisions on general activities concerning the Island's future.

### EDWARD ROONEY

Forty years experience in Forestry and about five years as roading foreman on Stewart Island have proved invaluable in dealing with the problems of Stewart Island roads.

My current term in office on the local Community Board has involved a steep learning curve in dealing with the wiles of Local Government.

Now that the Sewerage scheme and the Ringaringa Road have been completed, I believe that it is time residents and rate-payers had some relief with a minimum development phase. However, a steady promotion of and increase in house numbers is to be encouraged to ease rates and the costs of providing electricity.

The National Park concept for Stewart Island will be treated with considerable caution and no firm recommendation without consultation with all residents.

I am seeking another term on the Community Board to ensure steady development on Stewart Island at a minimum cost.

## VISITING NETBALLERS

M. Hopkins

By the law of averages, it rains most on Saturdays on the Island, or so it seems to the netball players! During the past month, we have had three different netball teams visit the Island to play against our local team - in the rain. The first visiting team was the Tuatapere premier grade who won their match. The next team came from Otatara and they narrowly won their two games by 2 points and 1 point respectively. The most recent team from Gore came here for a social weekend and a fun game. Halfmoon Bay players turned out in force, and all got to play for some part of the 15 minute quarters. Doug McGrath brought on the oranges at halftime - strangely brown oranges squashed into aluminium cans - but even this didn't spoil the form of the visiting team who won 28 -24. Well done everyone!

*Life has no blessing like a prudent friend!*  
Euripides

## THANKS

Southern Air would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and support following our recent tragic accident.

Our special thanks go to the Stewart islanders, all those who so willingly gave their time to assist in the search and rescue, provided caring support for Jo, Jan, Barry and Iona at the Depot. Our sincere thanks for the caring support given to the Hawkes family on their visit to the Island. The wonderful support of the groups and individuals who have given us so much assistance and encouragement, and the huge number of people who sent flow-

ers, food and kind thoughts - your thoughtfulness and consideration has meant everything to us during a time of deep sadness. Thank you

The Hawkes family, Marilyn, Leanne and Nigel, Andrea and Stuart and their extended family would like to thank all Stewart Islanders for their sympathy and support on our recent visit to the Island. Eric had always spoken very fondly of the Island and its people. The warmth and welcome which we received was overwhelming. A

special thank you to the ladies who organised the pot luck lunch and service and everybody who took the time to meet with us and share our special day. Your kindness and warmth meant a great deal to us during this sad and difficult time.

Thank you.

## INCIDENTALLY...

Please will all the folk who left plates, bowls, etc. at the Pavilion take time to collect them as soon as they are able. Thank you.

## S.I. COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

by Margaret Rooney (President)

The Women's Institute was first formed in New Zealand in 1921 by Miss E. Jerome Spencer, and the "Country" was incorporated into the title in 1952. Its aim was to provide an organization so that women could take an effective part in the life of the Community and its development. It also provided

a much needed venue for women in rural areas to meet, make friends and learn new skills.

The Stewart Island C.W.I. was formed in July 1941, with Mrs T Bragg as President and Mrs Alice Hamilton as Secretary/Treasurer. Fifty seven years later and the

C.W.I. still meets, now on the third Thursday of each month in the Pavilion Trust rooms.

The Institute used to have a scones and pikelets image, but in fact it has grown into a very powerful organization, lobbying Parliament on many different issues such as

education; closures of rural schools, seat belts in school buses; health; mental health; closure of rural banks, post offices and hospitals. Remits concerning these issues go before the Annual Conferences, are discussed, voted on, and those passed are then placed in front of the relevant Government Departments.

We try to make our meetings interesting and this year we have visited the Paua Pearl factory and talks have been given by Julie Carter on her time as a Silver Fern; Meryl Howell talked on life in Transkei, and Lorraine Squires on her month in Provence, yes, Peter Mayles country, London and Scotland.

We will be organizing the Salvation Army used clothes collection during late October, and have made sure that all new babies receive a pair of booties.

Island membership numbers have decreased to such an extent that we have considered going into recess. We would love to have new members, so do come along and find out what we do.

## S.I. PHONE LIST

It would be great if the phone list could be kept up to date. If there are any alterations, phone 2191368 or advise the staff at Ship to Shore.



## GUN CLUB OPEN DAY

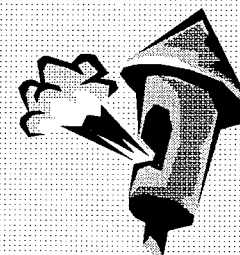
ALL WELCOME

On Sunday  
4 October  
at  
1.30 p.m.

the  
Stewart Island Gun Club  
is having  
an  
OPEN DAY.

Please feel free to come  
along

CONTACT: Bernie  
2191020



**HOT OFF THE PRESS**

## LAETICIA'S CORNER

Dear Laetitia  
Working outdoors most of my days I find my hands and arms are permanently stained. Can you help?

Yes: Rub a slice of ripe tomato over hands and arms 2 or 3 times a day, and then massage the juice well into the skin with the palms of the hands. Let it dry on and then rinse off with water and borax. Rub in cold cream.

Dear Laetitia  
I have two burnt pots at home. Can these be saved?

Fill the pots with water and add salt. Leave overnight. The burnt particles should lift easily. Another suggestion is to leave the pot out in the frost!

### CAN YOU HELP?

Smudge would like to know if anyone can help with removing soot from carpets?

Many thanks to those who wrote in with queries. Laetitia had a lot of fun delving into archives for solutions.

JUST A THOUGHT  
Post War Mrs Beeton's Cookbook "The Housewife" states:

Whether the establishment be large or small, the functions of the housewife resemble those of the General of an army or the Manager of a great business concern!



## HALL FUNDRAISER

FOOD FACTORY!!

FRESH LAMMINGTONS

delivered to  
**Stewart Island**  
 on  
 15 October

**PRICE:** \$6.50 per dozen  
 (freight included)

Choice of **CHOCOLATE** or **RASPBERRY**  
 or **6 of each.**

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

Quiche Bacon & Tomato (20 cm)  
 Quiche Asparagus & Ham

**PRICE:** \$6.50 each  
 (freight included)

**TO PLACE YOUR ORDERS:  
 PHONE**

Carolyn - 353  
 Margaret - 126

or leave your order form at SOUTHERN AIR

## CARPET CLEANER

**PETER IS  
 ARRIVING ON ISLAND  
 12/10/98**  
 (same guy as last year)



**\$20.00 per room**  
 (lounge/dining combined considered as two  
 rooms!)

- Deodorising \$15.00 per job
- Armchairs/Lazyboy chairs \$15 each
- Couch: \$10 / seat
- Cars: \$60
- Dining chairs: \$5 each
- Mats & rugs: quoted on day
- Commercial premises: quoted and cleaned on same day

**DO NOT CLEAN SANDERSON LINEN OR  
 INDIAN COTTON**

**contact: SHONA OR BERNIE:  
 2191020**

<b>ORDER FORM</b>	LAMMINGTONS \$6,50 / doz			QUICHES \$6,50ea.	
	RASPBERRY	CHOCOLATE	MIXED	Bacon & Tomato	Asparagus & Ham
NAME & PHONE					


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