

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

"CELEBRATE STEWART ISLAND"

September 2002

\$1.00

EDITOR'S RANT

Chris Visser

Welcome again to the second issue of Stewart Island News. Thanks to all who gave us positive feedback on the first issue – on the strength of that we have put out this second issue. Get in touch with us if you have any suggestions for further articles or if you are willing to lend a hand and / or write something. This paper is put together on a voluntary basis – so to survive it needs your support and contributions.

SIN will take a break now until November – the next issue will come out Monday November 18th. The deadline for next issue contributions is Friday 15 November. Please email direct to me at possum.stewartisland@xtra.co.nz, post to me at PO Box 123 Stewart Island, or drop contributions in the box at the Stewart Island Flights Office

We have a real variety of items in this issue – check out Chris Griffiths' story on the Stewart Island Building boom, Sam Sampson's observations on change and RATS, Nathan Pasco's music review, the Community Diary and various updates from different community groups about things happening around the place. We have another Community Thank You Chocolate Award, and an article from an ex Stewart Islander about Financial management (given that we are all poised to get rich this summer this advice might be timely...)

The "theme" of the first issue was "Celebrate Stewart Island" – and while that is an ongoing theme, this issue is much about "Change". I've only lived here five years, and the place has changed a bit in that time for sure. Mind you – so have I. I have little patience for people saying of any place "that it's not what it used to be" while forgetting that 20 years ago they were 20 years younger – and time changes all our perspectives on everything. Yes our Island Community will change just like everywhere else. But because we are a small community we have an ability to work together and identify our interests, and we can be in control if we take responsibility. New people coming into our community will bring new ideas and skills and they are not to be feared as "others". I really do think that if we maintain a strong sense of community, and if our values as a community are obvious to those who visit and those who come to live here – we will attract and keep the people here who will, in the long run, maintain and enhance our community and our environment. So that's a stream of consciousness from me – I am interested though in what people are thinking about what is going on in our community – so feel free to drop me your thoughts and I'll put them in the next issue of SIN.

Meanwhile – enjoy this issue!

Regards,
Chris.

Stewart Island Welcomes.....

Storm LeQuesne

Born 21 July 2002 – congratulations to Jan, Lance and Poppy

STEWART ISLAND'S BUILDING BOOM

Chris Griffiths

You may think that there's quite a lot of building activity on the island at the moment, and you'd be right. Something suspiciously boom-like is happening here now on the twin humps of Southland's dairy-led recovery and the opening of the National Park. Expectations, real and imagined, of huge increases in visitors have prompted a surge of developments to feed, water and house them.

A steady increase in building consents of around 20-30 per year between 1993 and 1997 jumped to over 40 per year after 1997. Their value jumped too - from \$4-800,000pa between 1993 and 1997, to \$1.2m in 2001. This year already over \$730,000 worth of consents have been granted, and counting.

Ivan Nicholson, Environmental Health Officer at the Southland District Council, has been coming to Stewart Island for 30 years, 20 of those as an inspector. He has seen the kind of houses built change from small cribs traditionally hidden in the bush to much larger, often two-storied houses with all the modern conveniences. He has noticed, too, that different people are coming to the island now, people who want to spend more money on their houses than, say, their boats. The standard and quality of construction has increased enormously too; now they make a "statement", whereas once they sat less conspicuously in their bush settings.

Blair Davies, Building Inspector at the SDC, has made similar observations. Blair comes over every 3 or 4 weeks to inspect projects underway, and has seen a marked increase in the standard of buildings going up. A groundswell of activity is also evident in the commercial sector, which he is pleased to see, such as the cinema on the site of the old Stewart Island Travel building, the motel on Dundee Street, B&B accommodation in Miro Crescent, the cafe-bar proposal for the ferry building and planned extensions to the Stewart Island Lodge, to name a few.

Yet more eating and drinking may be done in the future at the paua hatchery on the foreshore of Halfmoon Bay, and perhaps in a bar or restaurant on the land atop Peterson Hill, recently acquired by the Invercargill Licensing Trust, although it remains to be seen how they will wangle a liquor licence outside the trust area.

However, a potential glut in the amount of accommodation available for visitors has raised fears in some quarters. Puzzlement too - such large amounts of money invested in a Stewart Island "season" only 4-5 months long at best doesn't seem, on the face of it, to make good business sense.

Looking at the building consent figures since 1993, it is obvious that the big leap in growth and development, in the Bay in particular, happened during and after 1997, and this is connected, in every way, to the sewage scheme. Once people were turfed rudely from their long drops and unhooked from their septic tanks, it wasn't long before visions of inside toilets materialised into en suite bathrooms, spare dunnies, full-on laundries and spa baths, or at least the hope of them. It has been largely the advent of mains drainage and the luxury of waste being spirited away that has accounted for the burgeoning size and amenities of new dwellings, and the improvements to existing ones.

But ever-increasing development on the island is not necessarily always good or always welcome. No one wants to see the island stagnate and fail - the ferry or plane fold due to lack of punters, or the school close, or the shop struggle, or any such other doomsday scenarios. However, there are dissenters out there, concerned about the extent, and control, of growth likely in the future, especially in the tourism industry. The island will change, of course, but how much and how rapidly? The District Plan and other strategies in place (or proposed) for regulating and perhaps restricting some development, are failing the island according to some people, and are absurdly constrictive according to others. One Council member admitted that they sometimes seem one step behind determined entrepreneurs when it comes to implementing the District Plan, and structures can get changed or erected that seem to fly in the face of the Plan, while still being strictly 'allowable'.

Who has not been astonished at the prices houses and land are now fetching? The sewage scheme in particular has forever changed the look and feel of Halfmoon Bay with a rising tide of suburbia. It is likely that other areas, first on the agenda being Golden Bay/Thule, will be plumbed in. While many may rejoice at the end of their duty to deal individually with their own waste water, not to mention an end to icy 4am trips to an outhouse, others will cast anxious eyes on the prospect of a rash of large modern buildings and commercial

operations that will no doubt appear, and the resultant loss of bush cover, birds, privacy and peace.

Thule in particular, seen from Observation Rock, would be irrevocably altered by a mains drainage-led growth in buildings and reduction in bush, because of the relatively small size of many sections (1/5th acre). Small-scale enterprises, such as the floatplane using Watercross, and a possible hovercraft operation in the same bit of water, can only be emboldened, and further development encouraged, by the provision of mains drainage. Vital progress to some, a ruinous path to others.

So, how to keep our community and our island unspoilt while servicing the twin needs and expectations of residents old and new, and visitors in ever increasing numbers, is the 64 million dollar question. Some of us look back and lament, some like it like it is and see no need for change, and some look to the near future and try to wrest control of it. But we need to look 10, 20, 30 years into the future and put in place now strategies for growth on Stewart Island that will safeguard our environment and give us room to prosper.

WANTED - GRANNY'S SECRET RECIPES

Sharon Pasco

As you may know the PTA intends to produce a small cook book featuring Fish and Shellfish recipes as a fundraising venture. For this to succeed we need to collect a good variety of tried and true recipes and we would like to include as many from the wider Halfmoon Bay community as possible. So get out your family recipe books, visit your friends and neighbours, and cajole them into sharing their favourite recipe for fish pie, curried paua or whatever.

The intention is that this will be an ongoing fundraiser, the first in a series with a different topic produced each year. This cook book is to be launched at the Spring Festival at Labour Weekend. Please print the recipes (metrics if possible) and be sure to include the name of the submitter. These can be handed into the school, or Sharon Pasco at the Visitor Centre (better still they can be emailed to Sharon at spasco@doc.govt.nz). We would like all recipes in by the end of the third term - i.e. September 20. Thanks for your support.

PS We are also hoping that local firms will want to sponsor pages in the recipe books (they should be big sellers in the tourist season), so please get in touch for more details.

*****Upcoming Event*****

Great Wines to Taste... Fantastic Kapiti Cheeses... Explanations/ discussions on their tastes and origins...

Knowledgeable ones recruited from the mainland and guaranteed to answer the curliest of questions.... Does this combination, grouped with good friends, a warm and inviting atmosphere and mood music sound enticing?

We are organizing a wine and cheese appreciation night on Wednesday 18th September and want to know how much interest we have from others on the island. Wendy Haeslip (Kapiti Cheese representative) and Lynne (Matura Wines) have offered their company to us for free (we have promised advertising, accommodation etc in return); however we will have to cover the cost of products consumed.

The fun and learning, tasting and talking will amount to around \$10-\$15 per head (with any spare monies donated to the Ulva Island Trust).

Please let us know if you would like to come or have other great ideas to share. We need know numbers ahead of the night for Wendy and Lynne. Please RSVP ASAP.

Ph Kari or Brent 533 ☺

e-mail: kari@pleasemail.to

STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Bruce Ford

The Waste Management Report by Justin Reid has been completed and is available for viewing. There has been considerable progress with sites for processing and storage of recyclables, etc. A local "Wastebusters" Team is coming together to put the show on the road. They will report in due course.

We have a draft Management Plan for all Council operated District Reserves. The draft plan is available for viewing at Colleen's desk in the Council Office.

The survey for extending the sewage scheme has become very comprehensive. A wide range of responses requires time for S.D.C. staff to bring a report together. This will probably be available to the Community Board for discussion by 23 September. It sounds very encouraging, albeit relying on the promised Government funding to facilitate progress.

We receive reports from the local police, Department of Conservation and from Bill Todd, to keep the Community Board up to date as much as possible. As a result, we know that road markings are to be repainted soon in an endeavour to tidy up traffic movements. Watch out for new "Give Way" markings. It is obvious that these are essential as not too many locals really know where the Give Way's are and if they do, they are not bothering to take note. There have been many 'near misses'. Keep alert.

I have initiated further quarry investigations. Looking to the future, we need to establish more appropriate arrangements for sourcing material for roading and seawall protection. This has always been a hindrance to continued maintenance and costs. We'll keep you posted on developments.

We also have further liaison work to be done, with S.D.C. staff, Dept. of Conservation and Environment Southland, regarding ongoing community facilities, tracks, harbour rules - and the respective funding.

It is very time consuming to write the documentation for or against different strategies, draft plans and similar which are put out by the different authorities. Please feel free to talk to Board members on issues you foresee.

It is important that we all endeavour to keep our town clean and tidy. It does have its moments, with some areas needing more attention than others. Remember, 'Keep New Zealand Clean Day' coming up next month. It's your town, look after it and it will look after you.

Bruce Ford
Chairperson
Stewart Island Community Board

P.S. Please talk to Board members, staff and myself in order to keep the ball rolling and to keep you informed and advised.

The Stewart Island Community Board: Bruce Ford, Elaine Hamilton, Barry Rhodes, Murray Cavanagh, Chris Visser and Trevor McLellan.

Stewart Island Garden Circle

Jenny Gell

We are pleased to announce that Diacks Garden Centre, North Road, Invercargill, will be coming to the island on 27th Sep at 1 pm and will have the usual flowers and veg. plants, shrubs, fertiliser etc. for sale at the Pavilion. Orders may be phoned to Diacks on 234-8008 and transported free of charge.

Please note bulk orders will NOT be accepted

The Garden Circle will also have a stall at the Spring Festival, held Saturday 26th Oct (Labour Weekend).

At our last meeting on 8th Aug, we welcomed visitors Carolyn Squires and Airdry Dyson-Leask.

Competition results:

Primrose/Primula: (1) Myra Leask, (2) Jenny Gell, (3) Airdry Dyson-Leask and Nancy Schofield.

Spring Flowering Bulb: (1) Carolyn Squires, (2) Myra Leask, (3) Peggy Wilson

Culinary Herb: (1) Raylene Waddell, (2) Jenny Gell, (3) Peggy Wilson.

The in-house quiz on "Name these Weeds" was won by Peggy with Nancy second and Raylene third.

The next meeting which is the A.G.M. will be held at the home of Raylene Waddell on 12th Sep at 1.30. Visitors welcome.

VICE REGAL VISIT TO RAKIURA/ STEWART ISLAND 2nd & 3rd AUGUST 2002

Gwen

Warmgracious.... humorous ...

These may not be the words one would have automatically used when describing the foremost characteristics usually associated with early Governors General but they were certainly valid adjectives when recalling memories of Dame Silvia Cartwright PCNZM, DBE.

These three personal qualities are probably what most islanders and visitors who met Dame Silvia while she was here will remember - and she managed to meet quite a few during her very busy two day visit. At each of the public functions she attended, she, her husband, Peter Cartwright, and accompanying staff members Captain Aaron Smith Aide de Camp, Hugo Judd Official Secretary and Sue Morgan Private Secretary, all mixed very happily and easily with members of the community. Blessed with an excellent memory for names Dame Silvia needed little prompting to greet people with quiet warmth and genuine interest.

The island's community welcome was lead by the Deputy Mayor of Southland District Council, Jim Copland and his wife Rosalie, Community Board Chair Bruce Ford and Ward Member Bill Todd. The Governor thanked Tia Leask for the poesy presented to her by Tia before the formal speeches of the welcome and referred to Tia's strong family ties with one of the early pioneering Orkney families that came to the island. Dame Silvia's address included congratulations to the island for becoming part of New Zealand's 14th National Park and indicated the Governor's clear understanding of the challenges this status would bring to the island's population. She was delighted with the etching of Ulva island presented to her by Mr. Copland on behalf of the Southland District Council and the community.

The Vice Regal party's visit to the school was one of the highlights of their stay and produced some lighthearted moments they will not readily forget. The informality of the visit delighted them although Dame Silvia thought that Captain Smith's uniform was of more interest to the children than her duties as Governor!

The prime reason for the Governor's visit to the island was in answer to an invitation to her from Toi Rakiura Arts Trust prompted by a suggestion from Hugo Judd earlier this year that the chair of Toi Rakiura invite her to preside over a specific function on the island. The concept of the exhibition "Perspectives of an Island" was one that appealed to the Governor for the way in which it celebrated the senior members of the community and she was happy to officiate at the exhibition opening on the Friday evening. Once again, following the formalities Dame Silvia was very happy to mingle with the guests.

On the Saturday morning the Women's Weekend of Seminars began with a Mihimihi attended by most of the participants of the workshops and seminars. The Governor and her party were welcomed in the traditional Maori manner and Dame Silvia's opening speech was inspirational and informative. Her sense of humour shone through, at Peter Cartwright's expense, and she referred to her sister Leah Poulter's early association with community education and Stewart Island women, and her own career's development. The morning workshop sessions were understandably late getting underway because of the extended morning tea socialising until Captain Smith's intervention drew peoples attention to the organisers' need to get started on the very full programme.

Saturday's weather had changed from the calm and sunny conditions that had greeted the Vice Regal party's arrival and the planned trip to Ulva Island for a guided walk only just preceded rain and brisk winds. Accompanied by DoC staff, and Ulva Island Trust members, the visitors were overwhelmed with the island's loveliness, its tracks and bird life, and appreciated the hard work that had gone into the protection of the island to ensure it's predator free.

The two days were a rushed introduction to the island and its people but provided a tantalising taste of Rakiura's beauties and charms. In Invercargill on the Saturday evening, Dame Silvia paid tribute to the island and the community and spoke in glowing terms to her dinner guests at the Ascot about the visit.

THOUGHT: *It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look. To affect the quality of the day - that is the highest of the arts.*

Henry Thoreau

MOTURAU MOANA GARDEN CLEANUP

Elaine Hamilton

If you missed the opportunity to join next month's clean-up project at Moturau Moana Garden as a volunteer, you're invited to come along anyway and learn something about the history and significance of the site.

The Department of Conservation has organised the volunteer garden clean-up project for 14-18 October. It will be led by Chris Rance, who has extensive knowledge of the plants in the gardens. The District Council owns the reserve and is supporting the work. Reserves Officer Sandra Clearwater says it's a great opportunity for all island residents to learn about the reserve at first hand.

You don't have to make any advance arrangements if you'd just like to come and look, or lend a hand.

Contact Elaine Hamilton on 2191 - 027 for more information.

S I PROMOTION ASSOCIATION

- We are taking a tough stand this year on Subscriptions. Any outstanding subscription means no membership benefits. Please contact Jon Spraggon if you have any problems regarding subs.
- The brochure committee are meeting this week and will report at the general meeting on 29 August. The committee is Lesley Gray, Donna Hamilton, Holger Lachman, Raylene Waddell and Brenda Hicks.
- The Christchurch A&P Show will take place on 13 November. Barry Rhodes and Jo Leask are representing the Association at this event. They are working with Tourism Southland on an interactive display. If you have any queries please talk to Barry.
- If a project arises that would be of benefit to the Association, we would then consider employing a paid consultant. The project would need to be presented with a detailed plan.
- The Website sub-committee will be meeting shortly and will report at the General meeting. The committee members are: Doug Wright, Bruce Story, Helen Cave, Ronnie Waddell, Furhana Ahmad and Ewen Gell.
- There are 313 clearfiles out in circulation and 89 on hand. All holders are looking forward to the updates in October. If anyone wants to know where the clear files are held, contact Lesley Gray.
- The dates of the next cruise ship visits, as notified by Environment Southland, are as follows: "Hanseatic" 16 December, "Europa" 5 February 2003 and "Clipper Odyssey" 8 February 2003.

THE SOUTHLAND TOURISM AWARD

This award has been developed to celebrate and recognise Southland's tourism industry. This is your chance to show Southland and the nation that your business has what it takes to be judged the best that Southland's tourism industry has to offer. The event is to take place at the Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill on Friday, 15 November 2002. Entries close on Monday, 9 September. Put your business forward with confidence. If you don't give it a go you will never know. Contact Lesley for entry forms: 2190009 or 2191176. Be in quick.

GETTING IN A TANGLE

Many thanks to everyone who has come along to Yoga in the last few weeks. It's been great to see such a variety of people join in and not take anything too seriously. We hope everyone is getting as much from the sessions as we are. With our small numbers we don't have a firm booking with the Pavilion, and there is always a possibility that another group will oust us occasionally, so keep an eye on the notice board for any changes to times or location.

Cheers - Chris, Trudi and Fiona

HALFMOON BAY BEAT

Rob Fox

Not too many grumbles from the Policeman's notebook this week, just a reminder and a bit of crime prevention.

First up is a reminder that the Automobile Association (AA) will be on Stewart Island next weekend 7th & 8th September at the Oban Fire Station for the following:

- Learners Licences
- Expired Licences
- All other queries in relation to licences or endorsements

It has taken some effort to get the AA here without adding huge costs to local's pockets, so please use them if you need a licence, there will not be any excuses after that.

Check your current licence, if it is going to expire within 12 months I suggest get it renewed.

For more information you can contact the AA or myself and appointments will not be necessary. They will be on site from Saturday 1.00pm until Sunday midday.

'WHERE'S MY VEHICLE GONE'?

That statement has been echoed around the township quite a bit lately. We have had four vehicles unlawfully taken in this month. The upshot of this was that keys have been left in the ignition in each case. **Don't leave the keys in the ignition** as this gives the offender easier opportunity which can be a dangerous opportunity if they are intoxicated.

REPORTING CRIME

It is good that offences are being regularly reported as it builds a picture of the happenings in the community for myself and Police management so that we can direct resources towards the problems, keep it up.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

And on a good note it is good to see people wearing seatbelts. Although we may think that we don't need seat belts at the speeds we drive here on Stewart Island I have attended many low speed crashes with serious chest and head injuries being the result. I urge those who are still not wearing seatbelts to think about it, a \$150.00 fine or injury that necessitates travels off Stewart Island is not worth it - MAKE IT CLICK.

JOKE: Ten Things You Shouldn't Say To A Cop When He Pulls You Over

1. I can't reach my licence unless you hold my beer.
2. Aren't you the guy from the village people?
3. I thought you had to be in relatively good physical shape to be a Police Officer.
4. Bad Cop - No doughnut.
5. I pay your salary.
6. Sorry officer, I didn't realise my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
7. I was going to be a cop but decided to finish high school instead.
8. Hey, you must have been doing 140 to keep up with me, good job.
9. Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does.
10. I was just trying to keep up with the traffic. Yes, I know there is no other cars around, that's how far they are ahead of me.

Regards From Rob

HOTEL NEWS

Sue Graham

Yeah, Buffet Night is still going strong every Tuesday night, from 6pm to 8pm come along and enjoy soup, roast meat, fish, salad a selection of vegetable dishes and more.

Also a reminder: our restaurant is open for Breakfast from 7am-9.30am, Lunch starts at 12pm-1.30pm, coffee is available throughout the morning, and evening meals start from 6pm to 8pm. Please remember takeaways are available 7 days a week during restaurant hours.

Introducing new staff members: Kitchen hand **Jamie**, Waitress **Hannah** - who has been here before and couldn't wait to come back, barmen **Tim and Nick**... Welcome, and welcome back.

Community Centre News

Spring Festival fundraising for the SI Community Centre starts Friday 25th October 8.30pm, featuring "Thunderbirds" band (\$10 per person) come along and enjoy a great night out with excellent music. Events will continue on Saturday 26th, starting 10.30am at the School, and include stalls and activities for children and adults, superman competition, wood splitting etc. **Any one interested in having a stall please contact Rachel 2191477.** A great day to be had by all – come along and support this community event, your participation is what makes a good day an awesome one.

Interested in joining the gym? Call in and talk to Rachel and keep an eye on the activity board. Line Dancing on Monday 1pm, Bowls on Tuesday 7.30pm, Badminton on Thursday 7.30pm, Volleyball on Sundays at 3.30pm.

"Fit body fit mind"

JUST A SPOONFUL OF SUNLIGHT

Karí Farmer

Close your eyes and think... okay maybe that's a mistake if you're trying to read, but cast your mind back to your childhood drawings of a bright sunny day, lots of colour, lots of smiles. Now do you also remember the dark, angry faces etched into storm clouds?

Sunlight makes us feel good and we seem to know it from early childhood. It's not vital we know all the ins and outs of why the sun's rays are so good, ("the truth can only add to the sum of what we know, sometimes a harmless mystery can add to the meaning of life") but a few nudges in the right direction might be just the ticket to take you from just being alive to living every moment.

Did you know...

✓ **Bananas and the sun team up for even more benefits?**

One of the nutrients you digest from bananas is able to travel into the brain. When sunlight gets in through your eyes, it changes the nutrient to serotonin, our wake-up and feel good chemical. Other team players are pineapples, chicken and yoghurt. These foods are all best absorbed with carbohydrates (pasta, bread etc).

✓ **The more sunlight you get in the day, especially early on, the more alert, intelligent and able to remember new things you are that day, and the better you sleep that night.**

Serotonin controls how alert, happy and in control of our stress levels we are. More serotonin means we learn faster and remember more. Without sun, serotonin slowly changes back to melatonin making us drowsy, depressed and ready for bed (a natural process if you consider our pre-lightbulb days).

Spending a whole day indoors initially prevents us from producing as much serotonin and therefore reduces the level of melatonin later.

Less melatonin = less sleep.

✓ **Sunlight helps stop attacks of "the nibbles"**

When we get down on serotonin but still plan to stay awake, our brains "know" a little trick. Eating releases insulin and leads to the removal of "rival" nutrients from the blood. That means less of a fight for serotonin's precursor to get into the brain and give us that "pick-me-up."

(Do you find you nibble more if you spend a day inside?)

Try a 5 minute walk outside before reaching for the lollies. If you have to wear glasses, go to a safe place to stand and take them off. If that doesn't work, at least you've got some of the other benefits of the sun!

✓ **More sunlight goodies:**

It decreases depression, improves rest and increases your energy levels.

It's a disinfectant for wounds and reduces scarring. It improves your immune response. Sunlight aids sexual growth and development (don't run and bring your teenagers inside!)

It regulates your biological clock.

It increases your tolerance of pain.

Sunlight lets you absorb vitamin D (which prevents muscle weakness and aids your uptake of calcium for strong bones and healthy nerves.)

It strengthens the nerves from your eyes to your brain and reduces the risk or severity of some forms of blindness.

So rug up and get out there! The essential UV rays cannot pass through glass.

Important Note

By now we are all aware that the sun can do a lot of damage, especially in areas of low-ozone coverage. Remember to be sensible about the length of time and the time of day you are in direct sun.

Early in the day is the best if your outdoor time is limited; just 15 minutes while you're having your coffee (without your glasses on) is a great start. If you can't manage that, open a window and let the rays in!

From Bill Todd

Time has rushed by since Chris' first publication and as your Councilor you would be wondering what is happening from both sides of the Strait. Our resident Representative on the Trans Fund Board (who subsidise all roading expenditure) invited the chairman and one other member to Stewart Island/ Rakiura where they had a full tour of all roads and left with a good understanding of our local problems, this visit to be followed up with correspondence and submission for their consideration from which I trust we will get a positive response. We still await advice of what funding we may get from Central Government to assist in the development of an infrastructure following National Park status, to this end our Mayor Frano is visiting Wellington mid-September and we will be speaking to our Prime Minister and others including the Minister of Finance to express our concern in the delay of any funding announcement. We were promised this money by the previous Minister, Sandra Lee and I do not see how they can renege on that statement. So much could be done and with the Summer Season approaching it has become urgent to get Special Funding. As of today (29th August) at District Council meeting it was resolved that the Southland District Council continue to Fund the costs associated with the planning and investigations required for the Rakiura National Park until such time as Government Funding is received. As of

14th August \$65, 333.24 has been spent. For the District Plan review, sewerage extension investigation, waste management and roading, it is envisaged that a further \$85,7500.00 will be required until June 2003 for the proposed plan change. The undertaking of this responsibility shows the dedication of the Southland District Council in bringing our local infrastructure up to reasonable expectations for the gateway to a National Park status. Our standby generator, for proper utilisation, will need to be positioned in the Main Bay Area where it can be connected to all outlying lines. Our electrical overseer and staff are looking at various sites where it can be positioned. A newly elected sign requesting "No unattended trailers to be left in this area" was recently fixed at the Water Cress boat ramp and lasted about one week before being removed. I was disappointed in this attitude, whilst we do not wish to be over-regulated, this particular area can become very congested to other users and some considerations should be shown to the wider community who wish to manoeuvre sometimes difficult trailers in and out of the water. Every endeavour is being made for a controlled transition to the increasing tourism potential for our island. I would like to see the understanding and co-operation of all residents towards this goal.

Bill Todd
S.D.C. Councilor

DISTRICT WIDE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SDC

Do you exercise the dog on the foreshore, play games on Traill Park, or go for a walk in the Moturau Moana Garden? If so, you may have some thoughts about how these reserves are managed.

The Council is currently consulting the community on its new District Wide Reserve Management Plan. The Reserve Management Plan will help Council staff and the Community Board with the day to day management of the island's reserves and open spaces. This plan contains policies on almost all of the reserves on the island. Once it is adopted, it will replace a host of individual reserve management plans.

So are you happy with the way your reserves are managed at present?
Do you have any ideas for managing them in the future?

Whether you think there should be changes or whether you are happy with existing practice, our Reserves Officer, Sandra Clearwater, would like to hear from you.
You can see a copy of the draft plan at the local Council office, or by contacting Sandra Clearwater at the Invercargill office.

Submissions are due by 18 October 2002.

Changes to the District Plan

SDC

Changes are likely to be made to the Southland District Plan to take account of the development expected on the Island following the opening of the Rakiura National Park this year. This is in response to feedback from some members of the Stewart Island community, who sought greater controls in the District Plan on new development on the island.

Resource Management Planner Barbara McDonough says that some provisions in the plan are likely to change. These include:

- The amount of native vegetation which may be removed from a section;
- The amount of earthworks permitted on a section;
- The size and type of signs permitted;
- The need for greater certainty regarding the height of buildings.

Other areas under consideration are the establishment of a dedicated Industrial Resource Area and the expansion of the Urban Resource Area. It is possible that a minimum section size could be set for new subdivisions and there may be more stringent rules about removing native vegetation.

Mrs McDonough says that these issues were all identified by island residents during consultation in the lead-up to the establishment of the National Park. This included the circulation of draft Development Guidelines, which were open for public comment. The Council's staff have received some strong messages - for example that signage should remain low key. Once the Plan changes are publicly notified, the Stewart Island community will have a further opportunity to make submissions on the proposals.

For further information, contact Barbara McDonough, 218 7259

Ringaringa Beach Erosion

SDC

The Southland District Council has received a report on the Ringaringa Beach erosion from consulting engineers Tonkin & Taylor. Urban engineer Trevor Grey says the report presents some options for countering the erosion, but there would be significant expense involved.

Staff are now considering the report, which was commissioned jointly by the Council, Transfund and Environment Southland. The Chairman and CEO of Transfund inspected Ringaringa Beach last month.

Proposed Sewerage Scheme Extensions

SDC

The issue of whether or not Stewart Island's reticulated sewerage scheme should be extended will be discussed by the Community Board in September. The board will consider the results of a survey of landowners on the periphery of the existing scheme, which MWH undertook to gauge the level of interest in extending the scheme.

Karen Ladbrook, from the District Council's water services department, says the survey was in response to queries from property owners who had asked about hooking up to the scheme. The expected growth associated with the National Park was also a factor.

A total of 226 surveys were sent out, and 138 replies were received - a 61% response rate. Some of the forms went to non-resident ratepayers living as far away as England and the United Arab Emirates. "It was most encouraging to see that some of our overseas ratepayers took an interest and sent a reply," Karen Ladbrook says. Most of the people who responded to the survey added comments on the key areas the Council had identified. These were: cost, environment, public health, lack of information, and impact on the community.

The staff report with the results of the survey and recommendations will be available to the public when it is presented to the Community Board.

For more information in the meantime, contact Karen Ladbrook at the Council's office in Invercargill, ph 218 7259.

GREETINGS FROM OLD CALEDONIA,

Hello and congratulations to Chris and the SIN. That title must have been a Freudian slip! (*Ed's note: don't you believe it!*)

We were delighted to receive a copy of the inaugural July/August issue through the post, primarily to find out all the latest local news from a variety of perspectives which is what makes newsletters so interesting and valuable of course; and secondly to be reminded of what a vibrant and close knit community you all share. Mari and I are the parents of Fiona Hall, referred to by young Katy McGinity in the last issue, and despite the editorial comment, we are proud that she is now "married onto" Steve Hall. We were most impressed last July in Glasgow with his courage, tolerance, and erudition, when solely faced with a hall full of her mainly Scottish friends and relatives; mind you his singing left a lot to be desired!

This is an opportunity for us to thank all Fiona and Steve's friends for their hospitality to us during our visit to the island in January of 2001. It meant a tremendous amount to us to find out what good friends she had, and to know that she had been welcomed into a community that would look after her so far from family - even if she had married somebody from the North Island! However, it might also be courteous for us to issue a warning that we enjoyed ourselves so much that we are planning another Scottish invasion in 2003, when we will exchange the midges for the sand-flies again.

If anybody from the township is thinking of coming over our way, we would be pleased if they got in touch, they can get our contact details from Fiona.

We wish you good luck with your little paper, and look forward to reading all the future copies.

Yours Aye,
Stuart & Mari Wilson

STEWART ISLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT - Resource Recovery and Recycling Centre

Chris Visser

Hopefully you are all aware from the last issue of SIN that a group of us have got together to set up a Trust to manage our Stewart Island rubbish.

The Stewart Island Environment Trust is pretty much up and running - if you are interested in seeing the specific objectives of the Trust please get in touch with Jed (494). Jed is the "Chairperson" of the Trust - however we prefer to call him "Supreme Commander" - so feel free to salute / bow / curtsy in his presence if you feel inclined...

The Trust has invited two people to come and talk to the Stewart Island Community and the Stewart Island Trust about how their community minimises and manages their waste. John Ransley from Kaikoura has been described as "the ultimate number 8 wire bloke", and has developed a vertical composting unit that might well be just the thing Stewart Island is looking for to deal with our green waste. Sheryl Stevens from Wastebusters Trust Canterbury has been involved in setting up and running a range of community based Recycling and Resource Recovery depots in Canterbury and associated community environment projects.

We are looking forward to welcoming John and Sheryl and learning from them how we on Stewart Island can do something very positive with our waste.

Public Meeting - All Welcome

Hear the stories of successful and innovative community - waste minimisation partnerships in Kaikoura and Ashburton

RSA Pavilion

7pm, Tuesday 3rd September

Sam Says...

Sam Sampson

G'day,

Good on ya Chris for reviving SIN on Stewart Island. Congratulations on a well put together publication. It'll be a pleasure and a privilege to join the team, on a more or less regular basis. With you at the helm we shouldn't have "Novanuary" and "October" issues as in the past.

I'm not sure which hat to wear, writing this irregular column. My "Fluid Druid" role would result in too much drivel, and more folk suggesting I move to Christchurch - or anywhere.

Let's stick with the old "Sam Says", and, all I can say at the moment is ...

"RATS"

I'm getting ratted. The Island is going crazy. Changes are coming so thick and fast I can't keep up. It's just like the 1980s. Here's a few changes we recorded in the Original SINs.

The first catamaran ferry arrived, built of recycled beer cans. It's a good thing Ian Munro didn't try recycling petrol drums, like he did with a gas-axe and a bang some years back. I think his proposed incinerator went into orbit and never returned to earth.

Now there's two ali-cats, and even the "Sub-Marine Maid" substitute is aluminium. Two ferry sailings a day are a mixed blessing. It's great for day-trippers and Islanders going to town, but we've lost the old "Boat Day" atmosphere. Now the Museum's open every day, not just twice a week. It's a good thing the "County Office" has moved across the road, with Colleen at the front desk, to keep things fronted-up.

These days wind-up phones are only for those who talk to the trees. No more: "Put me through to Hambones, please!"..... "No, he's just gone into the Pub, I'll put you through there."

Now you must remember the phone number and can't "earwig" the party-line gossip anymore. Mind you, an Internet connection would have been tricky on a party-line.

We were all delighted when "Lenny Lister" was silenced by the Power Scheme, after a 50 year wait. Remember how we had the Offishal Opening then went to the Hall for a cup of tea and sticky bun, only to be "de-lighted", when some twerp back at the Power House pushed the wrong button and turned everything off?

Now we take 24 hour power for granted - apart from when lightning strikes. Quite a few of us lost phone, fax and computer with the last bolt from on high. I'm going back to the "old days" and a 12 volt system for mine - solar powered this time I hope.

Incidentally, one of the Electrix boys is back on the Island full-time. I just noticed today that Kelly is now more hirsute than I am.

The sewage scheme was a "Commie Harry" pipe dream in the 80s. Alas he didn't live to see the pipes in place and flash-flushers throughout the Bay. I understand even his house in Rankin St is likely to be on-line before too much longer. I couldn't afford the up-front six-grand hook-up, so pay on drip-feed. I worked out it's a dollar a poo for the rest of my days to pay off my connection fee.

Wheewwww....

Those are just a few of our major leaps into the 20th Century over the brief life-span of Original SIN. There were heaps more, and we made it, just before the new millennium hit. We also got fishing quotas, then lost fishing boats, etc., etc.,

During our SIN-free years we got a Golf Course, the new RSA, Bowling Club Pavilion, and a Community Centre to replace the dear old sprung-floor County Hall, full of memories of stayers and Players. It's good to see that pack of Thespians reviving after a recess. Fortunately there is some enthusiastic new blood among the recent flood of asylum seekers who have hit the Island.

And, not only new people have landed over the past couple of years. I've never seen so many new cars and water-tanks arrive in such a short time. I don't know if it's our new National Park status, or what, but businesses and buildings are booming, with land prices going distinctly cranky.

Along with many others, I've been going cranky too! (Ed's note: You Sam?)

One thing on the Island has been the same for the past 150 years. The blasted boom of blooming rats after a good seed year. And, a fair few of the not-so-little bleeders have been bleeding after being zotted by my traps, I can tell you.

Now, I love old Ratty in "Wind in the Willows". I find the "native" klore delightful companions and have cultural bonds with *Rattus norvegicus*. I even get on quite well with common old *Rattus rattus*, and am quite tolerant of the occasional visit inside. But I get quite upset when they chew holes in piled-up pillows and fill the house with foam-plastic chips. When they scoff proffered poison with gay abandon, then curl up and die in my drawers, I get distinctly ratty. There's nothing worse than a dead rat in your knickers. With a sense of smell like mine, they get quite high before I get the low-down they are up there.

Rats took the poison eggs we got from DOC back to the nest and fed the family. It was relatively safe to lay those eggs inside. Not so with poison wheat. They scoff it on the spot and tip-over inside.

It reminds me of an entry I saw in our Council Minutes from the late 1800s ...

"The County Clerk has been voted the sum of £5 to purchase poisoned groats for the ratepayers"

Ummm.. was that for the rats or the ratepayers themselves... ?

Anyway.. now it's out with good old-fashioned traps, and bang 'em on the bounce. Would you believe I was zotting 'em at 8am in semi-broad daylight? Anyone who's on the road much will have seen a fair few rats during the day recently. And, it seems a nice warm engine-room is a good place to curl up for a snack and a couple of zeds. Trev has even had to fix a car that lost its spark - thanks to rat-gnawed wiring.

I doubt there's a soul on the Island who hasn't been plagued in recent weeks. I understand cat and dog food sales at Ship to Shore have slumped, with the number of pets getting their tucker on the hoof.

The person I feel most sorry for is Sue Johnson. Have you noticed that her Horseshoe aviary is reduced to the four sulphur-crested cockatoos - including Nelson, who was expelled from the Pub for tearing it apart. Nelson was much too cocky too. She can finally say "Happy Hour". Not much use at Horseshoe, with the restaurant never eventuating.

Sue has been forced to sell her other birds because of rat predation. With only her kids and the Shearwater punters to look after, she won't know what to do with her spare time, without her menagerie.

Well, folks, the Island may be changing more rapidly than some of us like. Will the Island lose its "character", as well as the characters who have "passed to the other side" (in more ways than one) since the last issue of the Old SIN ?

Somehow I doubt it. Folk moving in seem to have the Island Spirit (make mine Wilson's) and Attitude. Many are right into community activities with a vengeance. I reckon we'll survive the change, as the Island has in the past.

And, anyway, we'll be kept on the straight and narrow, and stopped from getting too poncy by one of nature's most successful denizens - DRATTED RATS!

Rakiura can't be de-ratted like Ulva was, methinks.

Cheers - Sam

(Thanks for the boost, Sam. If you have any suggestions for new **rodivities**, give us a bell, Ed)



OBAN
VOLUNTEER
FIRE
BRIGADE

MONDAY NIGHT PRACTICE

We have a training every Monday Night. If you discover a practice scene think safety. If you are driving and come across a parked Fire Engine with Red lights flashing please slow down.

Firemen are bullet-proof but don't like being run over.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER DISPLAY

There will be a Fire Extinguisher Display at the Fire Station at 2pm 8/09/02. It is one thing to have an extinguisher on the wall and another to use it safely and effectively. We send out a special invitation to housewives, kitchen staff, trade workers, the more the merrier.

CHARLIE'S FAREWELL

Charlie Davis has retired from the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade. **BUGGER**. His skills and humour will be missed. And in recognition for the many years of service to the community there will be a knees up at the Fire Station at 5 pm 8/09/02.

Everyone is welcome and once again, the more the merrier.

NEW CONSERVATOR DOC SOUTHLAND

Kevin O'Connor has been appointed as the new Conservator for DOC in Southland following the departure of Lou Sanson who has headed off to be the CEO of Antarctica NZ.

Kevin's experience includes the last 5 years working at the Central Regional Office of the Department based in Wellington, where he was responsible for a team of technical staff whose principle purpose was to work on improvements and systems for the operational side of the organisation. Prior to Wellington, Kevin spent 7 years as an Operations Manager in the Nelson Marlborough Conservancy based in Nelson and prior to that (1987) he was the District Conservator with DOC in Taupo for 3 years, when DOC first began.

Kevin has worked in Southland previously, including one year as a Trainee Ranger on Stewart Island with the NZ Forest Service in 1977, one year in Invercargill as a Recreation Planner in 1982, and a couple of summers in Fiordland and Stewart Island working on alpine grassland vegetation surveys in the late 70's.

Kevin is looking forward to working with the Stewart Island community and hopes to have the opportunity to get across to the island reasonably frequently in order to keep in touch.

Golden Wedding Anniversaries

SIN is pleased to congratulate **Ernie & Bid Hopkins** on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 18 August. We hope the kaka on your veranda didn't get too carried away acknowledging the occasion!

Also coming up ***Nancy & Murray Schofield*** Golden Wedding Anniversary on 15 September (Friends and family are welcome to call on the Sunday)

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Congratulations to Chris and her team for resurrecting your local publication, I'm sure it will be of great benefit to the community. Having grown up on the island and still keeping in regular contact, I want to contribute on a regular basis on various topics which can help or influence the standard of living you enjoy now and want to enjoy in the future.

In the financial world, the mechanics of investing can be simpler than actually figuring out what is suitable for you, what goals are realistic and where to start in the search for information and advice.

For my initial article, I would like to discuss Property Investment - it is something which most of us have some understanding of and has traditionally been very popular for New Zealanders to invest in. It is tangible - you can see what and where you have invested. At Swains, we have a specialist Investment Team giving independent, unbiased investment advice. We can help you to decide if property investment is for you.

Where To Start

Once you have decided that property investment fits within your risk profile and how much you can afford to invest, you can then look at the various sectors available - Residential, Industrial, Commercial and Retail. Form a relationship with a reputable Real Estate agent who is a specialist in the area you want to invest. Agents dislike dealing with tyre-kickers so be sure you have ascertained your budget and what features are important to you. They know the markets and have the contacts - so if you are on their preferred buyer list, you will have an immediate advantage over those who aren't.

One rule applies to all types of property investment, buy QUALITY.

- Quality Building
- Quality Location
- Quality Tenant
- Quality Lease

It may be difficult to get all four, but if you have to compromise, you will want a higher yield (by paying less). Likewise, if you have a particularly good tenant and lease (and therefore good future cashflow prospects), you may accept a lower yield (or pay more).

Yield:- The annual cash return as a percentage of the capital cost of your property, you might also see this referred to as the "Cap Rate".

Always consult with your lawyer prior to signing a Sale & Purchase Agreement. He/she will know what conditions you should stipulate - Finance, LIMs report, Registered Valuation, Structural Engineer's Report (in the case of Commercial/Industrial properties) etc.

These conditions will provide you with some assurance as to the quality and fair value of your purchase and also an 'out' if you change your mind.

In the next issue, I will discuss some of the Pro's & Con's of investing in each of the different property sectors.

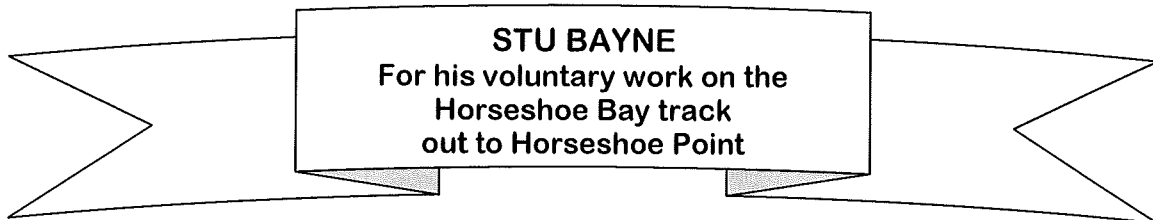


**STEWART ISLAND COMMUNITY
THANKYOU CHOCOLATE AWARD**

In order to give recognition to those people who do good work in the community, and for the community – SIN is delighted to organise the second Community Thank You Chocolate Award! Readers are invited again to nominate anyone whom they think deserves a thank you from the community – and SIN has arranged for local businesses to sponsor a box of chocolates by way of a thank you.

There have been 8 nominations this month – the ones who were unsuccessful will go into next month's draw. It is great to see people thinking about others and putting names forward for this gesture of thanks. The SIN team wish we could give out more awards because every single person who has been nominated deserves this award, perhaps next issue a few more sponsors might come forward so we can give out more thank you chocolates? Please drop your nominations into the SIN box at the Post Office, or contact the editor – with the name of who you think deserves a Thank You Chocolate Award. Please include a brief explanation of why you think that person deserves an award.

SIN is delighted to announce the second winner of the Community Thank You Chocolate Award...



STU BAYNE
**For his voluntary work on the
Horseshoe Bay track
out to Horseshoe Point**

Stu will receive a box of chocolates sponsored by Ship to Shore.

Congratulations Stu! Thanks for your work on the track, it's great to be able to walk out to Horseshoe Point again without having to battle through overhanging trees. *Awesome.*
(... and thanks StS for supporting the supporters.)

Music Review

Nathan Pasco

Norah Jones
Come with me
Blue Note records
Produced by Arif Mardin
Music type: jazz

Run a nice hot bath, pour a couple of glasses of Twin Islands, invite your loved one to join you (what better way to rid the winter blues)kick back, relax. That is the best way to enjoy this disc. Laid-back jazz at its best. From the opening smooth buttery: DON,T KNOW WHY with its fat sounding upright bass, lightly processed acoustic guitar, and Sade tinged vocals. By the 3rd verse one can feel the day's labours lifting easily. Besides being an accomplished jazz pianist Norah can really sing, something not easily found in today's manufactured devas, and shock horror, she writes her own songs (not all tracks were written by her, some she co-wrote with Jesse Harris).

Track 5 COME AWAY WITH ME is another track that stands out, with its lazy vocal line, (just begging you to give in, as it were) and its melodic piano bass. The remaining tracks drift by leaving you in a relaxed happy mood. If you're into your jazz I'd highly recommend it.

I'll be back next month reviewing old and new blues, jazz, rock and any other music I can get my hands on.
Till then: Nathan Pasco

HALFMOON BAY POOL

F Hall - Halfmoon Bay School BOT

Our children should have the best opportunity to learn to be strong, confident swimmers, and take water safety classes.

We would like the community to benefit from, and be involved in the pool they built for us.

You might have seen the sign about possible closure of the pool, or heard something on the grapevine. Here's a summary of the issues:

- **The pool show signs of age:** We have had an estimate that it probably has a life of 6-7 years. There are reasonably cheap materials to repair the cracks, and the rusting iron can be drilled out and the gaps filled. The main cost in this would be "man hours", and a very rough figure of \$7,000 was suggested *if the labour was below market rates*. This did not include work on the roof or the solar heating, and we suspect that these may need some maintenance work too.
- The school board plan to fit **diesel heating to the school**, and this could possibly be extended to heat the pool.
- The pool was built by the community, not by the Ministry of Education: as such **we don't receive funding to maintain it**. We do have some funds to contribute to the upkeep of the pool, but we really need to understand whether the way forward is repair or replace, before deciding how to spend. We could not build a new pool by ourselves.
- There are **new guidelines** for public pools which suggest we should be testing the water every few hours in summer. The council have **not** made these mandatory, and they wish to help small pools to continue to function. We do need to be sure that we are not in a vulnerable position, and that our community is safe in our pool.

- Edendale School pool has a similar background to ours, and is run by a **community committee** (with representation from the school board). While I think that yet another committee is the last thing that anybody is looking for, it may be that a group of 3 or 4 people might be able to champion this cause and have minimal work in running the pool from the community angle.

Some members of the community met with the School Board and, during an informal discussion, came up with the following as a way forward:

The pool will have a fixed lifetime (whatever the term), and we ought to determine what that might be and plan early.

One contractor has kindly given us his opinion about the possible life expectancy of the pool and likely minimum costs of repairs. He helped build the pool and we have confidence in his comments, however we have a responsibility to gather other opinions if we can. Two people who may have the expertise were identified, and we will seek their advice.

Once we have this further information we will write to all the local bodies who may have an interest, e.g. the Community Board, the Community Centre Trust, the Lions Club, etc (any other suggestions welcome). We will ask these groups to comment on how they feel we should all proceed.

The general feeling was that the pool is very valuable, and that we do not want to have to be without one. While we may be able to continue as we are for a while longer, we really need to make plans for the future now (and begin some fundraising).

Please feel free to ring me if you want to know more. We will use the SI Newsletter and the notice board to keep everyone up to date, as things develop.

Lost and Found?

Some red handled loppers were left in the grounds of the Anglican Church earlier this year. These belong to a volunteer worker, so if you have seen them could you please return them to the front porch

TALES FROM HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL - HEDWIG'S ESCAPE

This week Room 1 were asked to retell part of a story from the point of view of Harry Potter's owl, Hedwig...

Darkness was around me and suddenly I was rudely woken by Harry. He was having a nightmare. Slowly he opened his green eyes and looked at the window as though he had seen a ghost. I turned my head quickly and saw two eyes peering through the window. I recognised them, they were Harry's friend Ron's, he had come to save us! Harry opened the window, they talked, they got Harry's things, and before I knew it they were leaving without me! I hooted, Harry remembered, came back, and got me - thank goodness.

Katy McGinitty Year 8

It was late at night and I was watching Harry twisting and turning from his nightmares. Then suddenly Harry woke up. He was saying to the bars "Shut up... I'm trying to sleep". Then he snapped out of it and realised it was Ron and his brothers. They were talking about something but I didn't understand. Then a thick rope came through the bars and was pulled down. Then the boys came through the window and came up with Harry's wand and broomstick, and all of a sudden - bang!... in came Vernon. Harry ran back and got me and jumped back in.

Harvey McGinitty Year 7

MY DAD

My Dad - In honour of Fathers Day, Room 3 have contributed some stories they wrote about their Dads.

Mishka Breitenbach

My Dad is silly. We play outside. We roll on the green grass. My Dad looks funny, he has spiky hair. My Dad is skinny. My Dad likes popcorn. He is special because he loves me and I love my Dad.

Brooke Jones

My Dad likes dogs. He jokes around and he works at the police station.

Shane Adams

My Dad is hilarious and does not like to cook. He used to work in a restaurant. That's why he does not like to cook, but he likes to go fishing and sharks are his favourite fish. He is going to take me floundering on Friday night. It will be fun. He is wicked and he is special to me. He was a motorbike rider. He taught me to cast a fishing rod. I love my Dad, he is alright, my dad... he likes to eat fish. I don't know how old he is. He has personality, just like me. The end.

Tia McRandle

My Dad loves me. He makes me fall off the couch. He loves me and Mum and he loves the cat.

2003 Calendars - Super bargain for early birds....

Halfmoon Bay School

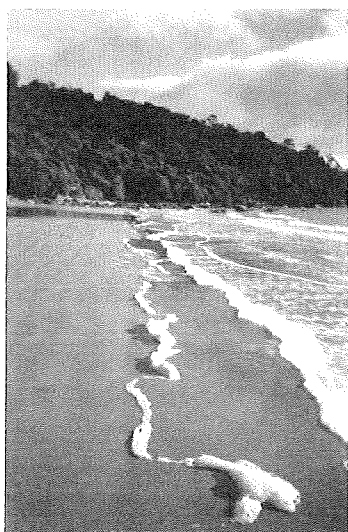
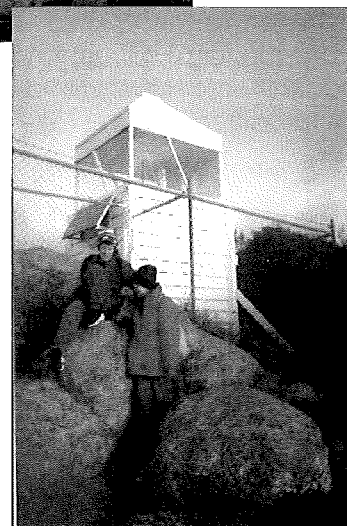
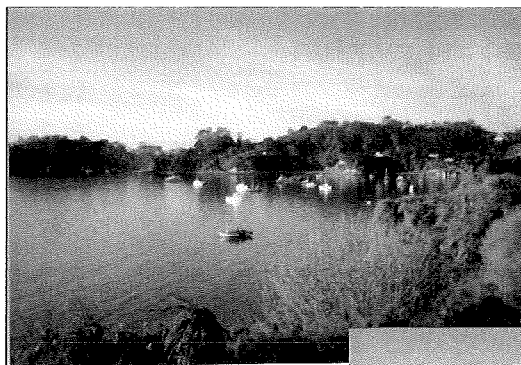
The children at Halfmoon Bay School have produced some of their best ever artwork for their 2003 calendar fundraiser. Each child will have their artwork colour-copied and laminated, and the calendar has a tear off sheet for each month - a bargain at \$8.50 each!

If you would like one (or more than one), you can view the pictures in a folder at the school. The designs are quite varied, and they'll make great Christmas presents. Just get in touch with Fiona Hall (school secretary, 2191 179) or ask one of our school families to add you to their order form.

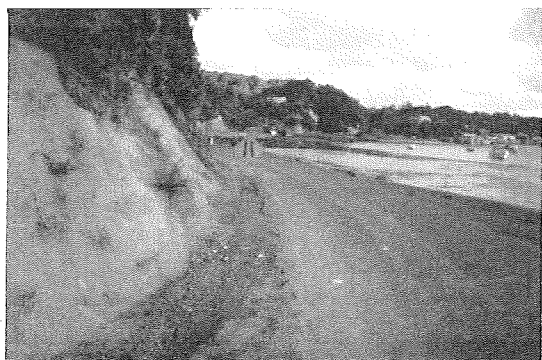
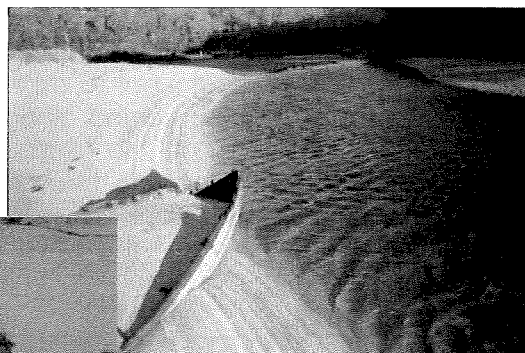
Perspectives of an Island

Brent Beavan

On Friday 2nd August, the Governor-General of New Zealand opened a photo exhibition. This wasn't any old exhibition, but rather a collection of images taken by Stewart Islanders of Stewart Island - a unique perspective of this island we call home.



Over 50 people attended the opening, enjoying nibbles and wine while admiring a collective snap-shot of Stewart Island. The exhibition was complemented by two projectors flashing the 500 odd submitted photos onto a wall.



It was a fun evening - well done Toi Rakiura and everyone else who took part.

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Karí Farmer

How long is a piece of flax? What is the colour of glass? How can we slash our environmental impact just by choosing different products as cleaners?

I am one of the lucky many who took up the invitation to the Rakiura Women's Weekend, and while the jury's still out on all of these questions, a stack of information and exhibits was presented by tutors from all over NZ.

As a relative new-comer to Stewart Island, I was welcomed to the group with a powerful Powhiri called by Winnie Solomon and supported by around 25 local women. I might add this was the same Powhiri which welcomed Her Excellency, Dame Silvia Cartwright, her entourage and the other women who were new or visiting islanders. The Governor-General kept us laughing and listening intently to her address as the ceremony continued (apparently not quite the same could be said for her husband who was at risk of falling asleep!)

Now a small confession is that I am a national foreigner (just between us, from westwards across the ditch) and I knew little about what to expect during a Powhiri. Thankfully I was carried along. I was given the Maori words of the national anthem and a forward thinking, very treasured friend hastily added the English (thank you Fil). To my amazement, I even managed the physical side of the greetings without breaking anyone's nose.

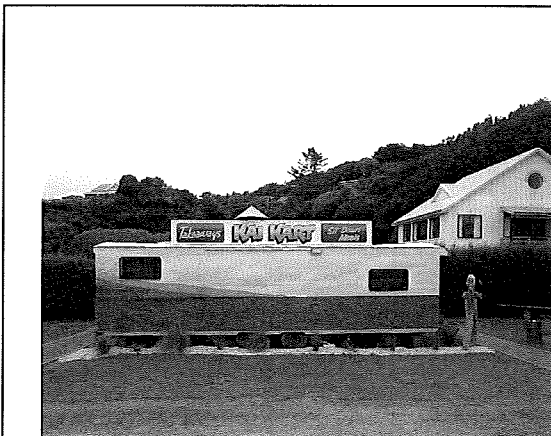
The weekend continued with the opportunities for both men and women far outweighing any possibility of attending them all. Tutors, local and imported, offered sessions on just about anything from dance to money management, house design and renovations to wine: growing, making and (importantly) tasting. The days were separated neatly by morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, but some tutors had their groups so enthralled, they were able to lure them into skipping the dazzling array of home-made goodies. Attendees even sacrificed their next groups, hypnotized by the mastery of flax weaving or the fumes created in lead-lighting.

Given a chance to share our thoughts on the weekend during the Poroporaki, I'm sure I noticed tears in a few eyes, possibly remnants of paint or lead-lighting fumes, but more likely I think because of the sense of community that had developed within the whole group. We each had many chances to share in small and large groups, we had found ways to work together toward goals, sometimes sharing limited resources (thank you to each tutor who provided materials without charge), we had trusted each other enough to risk creating a "flop" in front of them, and we won.

Comments were made as we were packing up the community centre that attending the next weekend (traditionally every two years) was a must, there was just too much yet to try.

A big thank you goes to everyone who had a hand in organising the weekend, everyone who gave or supported a tutorial and to all the bakers and tea makers. You are all wonderful

BUSINESS FOR SALE



The Kai Kart is for sale!!

If you would like more information ask Fiona (440) for a portfolio, or have a chat to Steve (440) and Matty (288).

GOLF COURSE

Carolyn Squires

History was made in 1988 when the Hicks family, with a dedicated team of helpers, opened the Golf Course to Stewart Island. It was a lovely summer's day, with large crowds, and around the no 6 green I lost a gold earring (made from Russel's wedding ring.) In the ensuing years, constant working bees and upgrading took place.

Eight years later, field tiles were laid to drain the area (**wait for it... *Ed*) around no 6 green. My earring was dug up to become lodged in the sole of someone's boot. As they walked on the road above Lonneker's beach it fell onto the road. Kylie Dawson, who was one of my Brownies at the time, found it, and took it to her mother. Kylie got the observation prize that week (**Ed's note: what a prize, why was I never a Brownie?!*) Judy looked at it and thought she should recognize it, put it on her window sill to think about it. Two weeks later she phoned me to ask if I had earrings that looked like a curtain track hook. I was delighted!! As you can imagine, after all that time the chances of getting it back were highly unlikely. The precious stone had fallen out but earring was undamaged apart from that. (*All's well that ends well...but wait, there's more!*) Meanwhile, the insurance company had copied the one earring I still had, but now I have the original back which is much better.

The Golf Course was sold in 2000 and now belongs to all Stewart Islanders, members and non members alike. This dedicated team of people raised the funds for what they called the "bargain of the century" - kiwi owned and operated.

The Golf Club is currently fundraising, selling firewood for \$50 a trailer load, ring any of the members if you want some.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Kari and Fiona

This issue's compilation (complication??) was begun by Chris Visser, and completed by Kari Farmer and Fiona Hall. Using this method we aim to confuse and bewilder any attempts to apportion blame for anything at all...

For Fiona and Kari, the experience has demonstrated (quite effectively) how much effort Chris is putting in here, and we are definitely "not worthy". Go Chris!

We do hope you enjoy the newsletter, and forgive us any transgressions - we did our best!

