

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

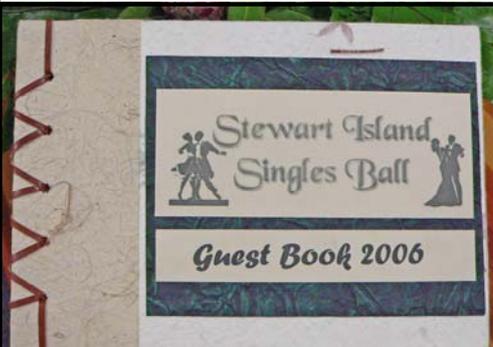
## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

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September was a great month for *movers and shakers* on the Island! The biggest event on Stewart Island was, of course, the Stewart Island Singles Ball - a packed hall of rockers kicking up their heels and making the whole weekend a great success. The best quote from visitors, grinning as they boarded the plane home: "We had a ball!" Original guys! *Check out page 3 for this year's "ball story."*

Mother nature, not to be outstripped, proceeded to move and shake in her own way, dropping a hefty gum tree branch onto the Lonnekers Beach boat shed! Of all the places... a photo of the unfortunate shed is on pg 8.



*Guests were asked to let organisers know they were there and reminded that if they didn't meet a new partner, they may make several new friends.*

for shakin' their tail feathers in support of Stewart Island Players and any other social events held on the Island are also moving off to the Wairarapa. *(Each have written farewells, now on pages 7 & 8).*

These guys aren't the only ones going on big journeys, the senior students from the Halfmoon Bay School took off to Wanaka for a wildly exciting ski trip last month *(their photos and story are on page 5)* and Terri Baker has recently been on a few trips of her own, developing quite a talent on the netball court and mixing it up with netball players from around Southland as well as a couple of Silver Ferns *(go Terri!)* Her article is on page 9.

Check out great photos of recent Island fundraiser treasure hunts, under "things to do" on the website [www.singlesball.co.nz](http://www.singlesball.co.nz)



*Early arrivals at the Stewart Island Ball (pg 3)*

Stewart Island Rugrats and Island building projects will get a shake-up this month as Don and Josie move off to live in Preservation Inlet and the Flack family, well known

*I hope you all enjoy reading the Stewart Island News for September. Remember, if you would like to make sure you keep up with Island news (visitors and Island folk alike), there are details of how to subscribe on the back page of this publication and we welcome readers from all locations. Jess is back again next month, so it's cheerio from me. Thanks again for being kind to the stand-in ed.!*



Where would we be without a kakapo feature this month... Visitors to see Sirocco on Ulva Island have raved about the experience (we'd welcome any stories sent to SIN). Also, see Stewart Island's newest kakapo on page 3.

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## Boat-of-the-Month: **CHANCE**

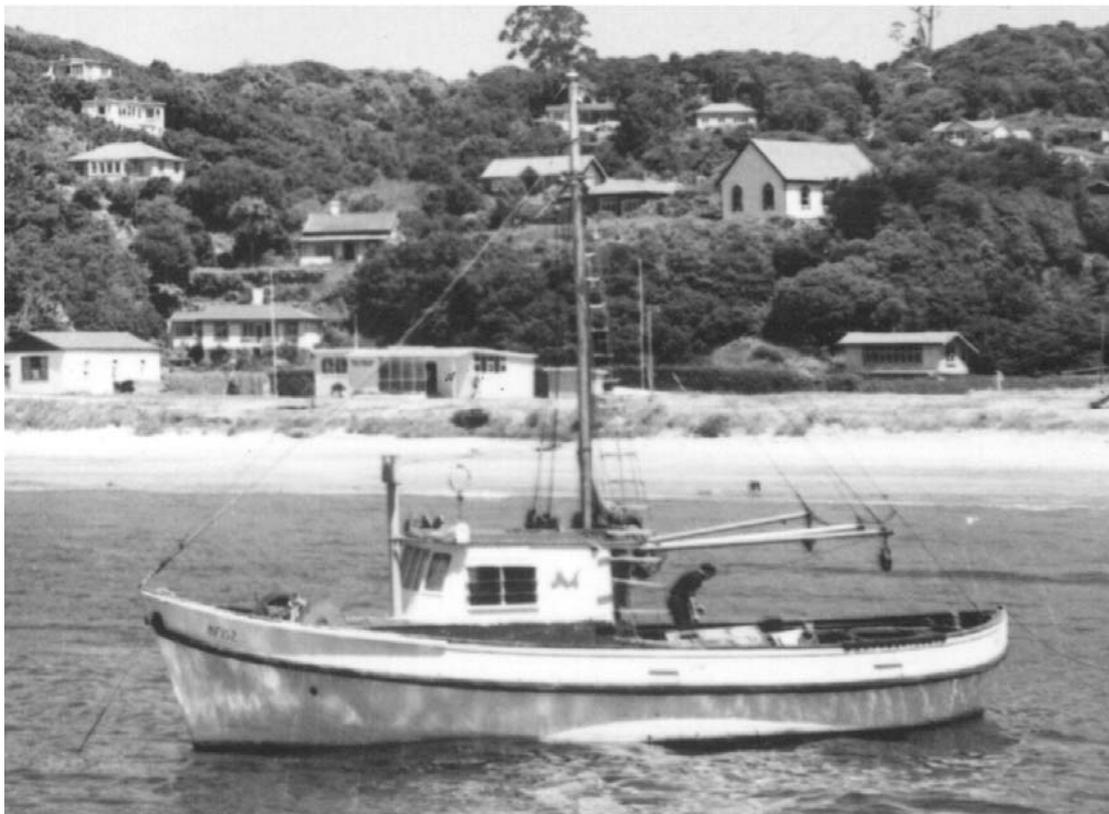


Photo: Rakiura Museum.

Built in Devonport, Tasmania, in 1954 for Mr Bert Stevenson. The 45' wooden vessel was sailed across the Tasman by her new owner, and set to work crayfishing the southern waters of Stewart Island.

She was sold to Michael de Rijk and "Walla" West when the Stevenson family decided to move to Napier in 1959.

While these two were fishing off Doughboy Bay, on the southwest coast of Stewart Island, on 31st October 1963, they discovered a fire in the engine room that they could not extinguish.

A call was put out to Awarua Radio, and the vessels **DAWN**, **SEAWAY** and **MARIE** were alerted by ZLB. The two men took to their dinghy as the **CHANCE** burnt to the waterline, and they got ashore in Mason's Bay to find food and dry clothing at the Kilbride homestead. They were later rescued by an amphibian aircraft that had been chartered by Cornelius de Rijk — a brother of Michael.



### Halfmoon Bay Police Beat

by Shaun Palmer

It must be another month has passed by, as I'm having to again complete my second attempt at informing you of what's been happening from my perspective as the local cop.

It seems strange that I have the freedom to write what I like and express my views when it's usually the media who do this - usually when someone stuffs up or when something tragic happens. Why does negative news make for good news?

On the Island things have been ticking over with nothing major to report. That is good. I am slowly finding my way around and getting to know a few more faces and at least putting names to them. Up north it was easy because everyone was either your "mate" or "bro". It did cause a few problems when trying to find the right mate or bro.

I see where my city cousins have been

given a flash new toy to play with the Taser. When we were given pepper spray and trained in its use, it was optional if we wanted to be sprayed or not. I chose to be sprayed. I don't know why, but I did. Dumb move. It burnt like hell, snot poured out my nose for about 20 minutes my mates were laughing and it wasn't fun. Then, that night having a shower, the residue that was still in my hair was washed into my eyes again so it was like being sprayed all over again. This time my kids thought it was funny watching their old man walking around with tears streaming down my face and again the snotty nose.

I can recommend that if you need your sinuses cleaned out I can help.

This Taser seems to have caused a bit of a stir. What amazes me though is that the guys who have been issued with it had to be tasered themselves. I don't think I will be getting the Taser I'm not that brave or dumb. Who wants 50 thousand volts through them just to know what it feels like? But up north where its been issued it will be a handy tool. It now gives them another option instead of having to resort to firearms.

I personally believe it may have something to do with power blackouts and gas cuts up north. They need these guns to power the latte machines when power is out. Jaffa's.

We are also getting stab resistant body armour issued to us. Its a Kevlar-type substance I think. Those of you who have travelled through Britain and seen the Police over there wearing a vest over their shirts will know what I am talking about. This is what the New Zealand Police will look like shortly.

I have had two trips up north to court in the last month. Why do people live up there? The weather may be warmer but that's about it. I certainly enjoy getting back onto the Island after having been up. If it wasn't for my wife being there I would make up some excuse about the weather or what ever so as not to go.

Fred Dagg said something about " you don't know how lucky you are mate" I bet he wrote this when he was down on the Island.

So with summer coming and hopefully the water warming up things are looking good.



"Having a ball" was the major theme for well over 200 people who arrived on Stewart Island's door-step on the 19th August. The second Stewart Island Singles Ball was an open invitation to all people, young and old, married or single, from all backgrounds and futures to come and have a knees-up and a really good time.



Your "friendly barman"

Support for the Ball and for the community was overwhelming.

Over fifty businesses sponsored and supported the event, providing everything from reduced-price travel and accommodation for ticket-holders, to competition prizes, food, music and drinks. Competitions

abounded. "Operation Cinderella" a blind-date competition run by More FM The Edge in Queenstown, offered travel, tickets and Island tours to two lucky Queenstown girls, and for two lucky Island guys, the chance to entertain these ladies for the evening! The girls arrived and immediately got into the spirit of the weekend, taking charge of selling raffle tickets to pub-goers and not taking "No" for an answer! I hear many tickets were sold that night, raising money for the Stewart Island community - Thanks!

Rumours flourished about the success of these and other blind-dates. It was suggested some of the guests enjoyed their weekend so much they stayed on for the

rest of the week. I hope your bosses back home were understanding!

Organiser, Doug Beck was surprised at how far and wide word about the event had spread. One lady arrived, having heard of the ball in Australia and another article reached a newspaper in Europe! A group of ladies who met him at the door had enjoyed the 2005 Ball so much that they were back for another good time.

When band "Vision" were phoned about playing for the event, Doug was at first told that they had split up and were no longer performing.

Continued on page 5



Stewart Island-themed decoration



# ban Globetrotter *off-island adventures*

*Kari Beaven writes about Campbell Island and the sub-Antarctic ocean.*

Our trip to Campbell Island began with a delay - all our excitement, anticipation, trepidation held its breath while the barometer threatened to sink beyond recovery. Of course, that did nothing to allay our concerns about a 40hr journey through sub-antarctic oceans, with rumoured 10m+ swells and 60knot winds!

This was to be the third and final translocation of Campbell Island Teal (an endemic, nocturnal, flightless duck) back to their rightful home. Once thought extinct, CI teal were rediscovered in the 1970's on a small Island off

the rugged coast of Campbell Isl. Nine birds were carefully brought to safety in the 1990's, where they have bred through



several generations, waiting for the day when Campbell would be a safe haven for them again. In 2001, Campbell Island was made free of rats in a ground-breaking achievement (the Island is 5x bigger and *much* further away than anywhere successfully cleared before it). This paved the way for the teal to return home.

Wednesday morning dawned clear and calm; we gathered on the main wharf at Bluff, where the "Clan McLeod" held the teal, safely parcelled in individual wooden crates the night before. Three hours of crop-feeding later (a technique of putting food directly into a small food pocket just above the bird's stomach), and we bade a hurried goodbye to support staff and set off.

What turned out to be 45hrs was the most amazing experience (until of course our return on the steel-hulled, cutter-rig sailing boat, but we'll get to that...) Every spare moment I spent on the back deck watching the waves rolling past us one after another, feeling the boat tip to one side and back over as water poured over the frame, watching albatross, mollymawks, petrels and cape pigeons gliding effortlessly behind us, swooping steeply towards the water before a slight wing tilt

skirted them barely across the top and onto the next wave. They followed our boat the whole way down, feeding in the wake stirred up by the props.

Forty-five hours passed *very* quickly. Most days were taken up by watching the sun rise as the albatross first became visible, breakfast and then crop-feeding the teal; rinsing, soaking and washing equipment, topping up water bowls, changing their food bowls and sterilising the old ones; adding squirmy mealworms to the water to entice the birds to eat; eating our own dinner before preparing and crop-feeding the teal again before *finally* crashing (quite literally!) into bed ourselves. Any spare time was, of course, back out on deck, rolling with the waves.

To write it all down would be too much - the cliffs *finally* becoming visible in the early dawn light, the wee storm petrel which had flown

onto the boat (I couldn't *believe* the size of the nasal passages that lend themselves to the name "tube-nosed" on such a delicate-sized bird), the sea-lions leaping out of the water as if they were dolphins, the yellow-eyed penguins which swam and dived curiously around the boat as we finally dropped anchor at our goal.



Campbell Island was absolutely *wild*. The dracophyllum/ inaka caught me first - recognisable yet distinctly different. The whole environment felt so new, with all kinds of lush

mega-herbs and mosses. Our first chance to lift our heads after arriving and getting stuck into setting up the birds, making sure they were weighed (how much had the journey taken its toll on them?) fed, housed and given make-shift ponds for a swim, and carting our own gear off the boat. We were in great spirits, yakking away on our first walk up to the Col-Lyall saddle, when we rounded a corner and there before us was my first royal albatross chick, right beside the track. Everything and everyone stopped dead and all sound was sucked out of the air. Pete had kept walking but it was all we could do to stay on our feet and watch the massive, downy-breasted chick, which was watching me right back. If I had travelled the 45hrs and this was all I



managed to see, it would have been enough!

Over the next few days we were to pass many more of these birds dotted across the saddles and ridges but they never lost their appeal. *Continued pg 9*

**HMB School Ski trip**

Monday morning we had to be at the wharf at 7.30am. We started to stress when Shane, Terri and Jamie weren't there. We got a surprise when we found out Stacey was coming instead of Mrs Leask. The missing children finally turned up. We were grateful to the ocean for giving us a calm boat ride.

We arrived at the wharf on the other side and our mini van was waiting for us. It was a tight fit trying to fit everyone and everything in but we did it. After a quick stop at the Shoe Warehouse we were on our way. We were all really excited but a little restless so a break at the Lumsden playground settled us down. We hopped back in the mini-van and continued on to Arrowtown our stomachs tossing and turning as we made our way along the devils staircase.

On leaving Arrowtown our ears popped as we travelled up the mini mountain that was the Crown Range. Our expectations were exceeded when we arrived at our accommodation. The huge gum tree provided hours of fun as our personal jungle gym.

Next morning an early start, (6.15 am) into our ski gear, a quick breakfast and we headed off to the mountain. Dreams of powdery snow filled our minds as we gazed out the windows in excitement while



making our way up to the Cardrona Skifield. Getting everyone organised with the correct gear was a struggle but it was worth in the end. We finally were able to grab our snowboards and head for the slopes.

Snowboarding was definitely not as easy as it looks. A few attempts

later we lay in the snow as those who actually knew how whizzed past us and sprayed us. After lots of lessons, lots of falls and lots of sore butts we began to master the art... Conquering McDougalls was a thing of the past, except for Stacey who spent the rest of the day chatting up the hunky South African doctor. Next we headed to Captains Basin, our new challenge. More challenging for some than others eh Terri? The days blended into one another and were filled with sun snow and early starts not too mention the wind.

Shane, Libby and Caity continually challenged themselves searching out new black runs and making their way down them. Shane needs to remember to keep his snowboard attached to his leg if doesn't want to spend his days chasing it down the mountain. Soon an elite skiing/ snowboarding group emerged. Libby, Caity, Shane and Jamie chaperoned by

Pete formed the *Dare Devil Gang* and ventured down various steep tracks and slopes. A bad weather forecast forced a change of plans and a 4.30 am start made our usual time of 6.15am seem like a sleep in. Although it was early, the promise



of jelly and ice cream for breakfast lifted our spirits. Packed in the van with the putrid rubbish it was impulse to rescue as we made to

the dump. The drive south went quickly and everyone in their sleeping bags was chatting excitedly as we neared Bluff. A sigh of relief filled the van as we pulled up at the wharf and the trip across the strait wasn't as bad as we were expecting. As we pulled into Halfmoon Bay a massive welcoming party was forming on the wharf, friends and family were there to welcome us home. All and all it a fantastic trip and we would like to thank everyone who helped make it possible.

*By Terri Baker and Shane Adams  
(Edited and typed by Kath Johnson)*



**Stewart Island Singles Ball** *(from pg 3)*

The band offered to get back together to play for this special occasion when they heard what organisers were trying to achieve. They played on through the night and even hung around to dance when the second band of the night, "Brothers in Arms" took over the stage.

The success of the night has also been put down to a real mix of ages and fantastic attitudes. "People were there to have a good time, not make judgments about other people." As soon as they arrived everyone hit the dance floor. The more "life-experienced" guests kept an eye on younger revelers, creating a relaxed and vibrant atmosphere.

For \$40, ball goers were treated to a whole night's entertainment, two bands, a large, seafood banquet and for those who were keen, an after-match bonfire which was still ticking away at 8am the next morning!

One couple decided this was the perfect atmosphere to hold their impromptu wedding (though several people attest that the couple then split up an hour later, returning to their respective rooms for sleep!)

If anyone did meet a potential partner, make new good friends or tee up another event, please let us know. Doug is keen to keep a record of whether or not this has been good for Island relations.

*Ps If anyone has photos, please send them to SIN.*



**i SITE  
Nearly Here!**

Since the Stewart Island concept plan in 1994,

through the Tourism Strategy of 1997 to the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Guidelines for Development in 2003 there has been a strong desire from the Stewart Island residents to have an independent and objective Visitor Information Centre on the island. In the last few months, businesses and interested parties have reconfirmed these desires.

In the absence of appropriate facilities, the Department of Conservation agreed to assist by providing an information centre space. They have done this for the last 14 years, providing the community with a superb service. With the decision of the Department of Conservation to divest itself of services other than conservation-based activities, a trust was established to investigate the ability of the island community to set up and

independent Visitor Information Network Centre/ i SITE. This trust consists of three members appointed by the Stewart Island Promotion Association and three members appointed by Venture Southland.

After several meetings, a business plan was drawn up to see if this independent centre was financially sustainable. It became apparent that there would be a major shortfall between outgoings and projected income. Every option was looked at to meet this deficit, including possible rates increases, grants by the Southland District Council and in fact by any community organisation we could think of. We felt we left no stone unturned. Tremendous thanks goes to Tina Geary and Rex Capil of Venture Southland who undertook this work on our behalf.

Stewart Island community were made aware of this financial situation and some have agreed to pledge a grant to help the information centre's viability.

Meanwhile, a very generous offer was made by Stewart Island Adventures to house this facility in one half of the Red Shed, with the Trust managing and controlling the Centre.

The Trust is very enthusiastic about this offer and have agreed to proceed with this venture.

Stewart Island Adventures have been offered one seat on the Trust, now to consist of seven members. We look forward to this new venture and initially we intend to operate as a Visitor Information Office until we win accreditation to be an i site. This carries a high profile both nationally and internationally by visitors and tourists.

So all being well, we will be able to fulfil the wish of the community which started in 1994.

Trustees are Barry Rhodes, Peter Goomes, Phil Caskey, Gwen Neave, Lesley Gray and Jill Skerrett, with one position to be filled with the recent resignation of Peter Tait.

**A Gift to the Community:  
Kakapo to raise awareness at i-SITE**

A life-sized kakapo sculpture has been gifted to the Stewart Island community to help raise awareness of our endangered, native wildlife and our opportunity to protect them.

A donation box is planned to sit alongside the kakapo. It is hoped the sculpture will help generate ongoing income by encouraging people to think about the financial support they can offer towards the environment they have enjoyed on their visit.

Carolyn Hodgson, an artist and sculptor for over 30 years, and her

husband Ian Hodgson, colour and finishing artist, came up with the idea of sculpting the kakapo over two years ago. Their intention was not to sell it, but rather to identify where it would be best placed to help the plight of kakapo and New Zealand's other endangered native wild life, then

donating it to fulfil that purpose. It took very little encouragement from Phil and Sharon Caskey before the couple realised that Stewart Island was such a place, and the Kakapo Encounter on Ulva Island was the perfect link.

When talking about their motivation for pursuing this concept, Carolyn and Ian stated simply that they are able to use their unique talents to "give something back." They were not interested in payment nor overt recognition, but ask that their gift be allowed to contribute to the protection of our treasured, native wildlife.

Carolyn revealed that this is not the first time she and Ian have been involved in raising awareness of endangered, native birds; she has also used her artwork to promote the takehae, raising money for the recovery programme through Mt Bruce.

Carolyn and Ian handed over care of the kakapo to Peter Goomes, representing of the Ulva Island Trust, in a small ceremony at The Gallery on Thursday. It will remain at The Gallery while the new i-SITE is being fitted out at the Red Sheds and while a suitable name is being decided. Once named, the kakapo will then be set up on display to all visitors who use the new i-site service.

*Kakapo naming competition on pg 12*



Carolyn & Ian Hodgson, Peter Goomes and the kakapo gift

Treated to the same careful handling as Sirocco, our most recent, as yet unnamed kakapo personality was delayed in his arrival until he could be carefully accompanied by his "handler" on the flight from Milton.



**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust news.**

Preparation for the coming summer of field work is stepping up, plans are being made and eggs will soon be laid. August and Sep-

tember are the courtship months for the penguins – they re-enforce pair bonds and get serious about making new ones. Birds seen on Codfish Island recently have been coming ashore in the evenings in pairs and waddling up the beach together, and there is a lot of duet calling heard in the early evenings and mornings. Yellow-eyed penguins are known as hoiho to Maori, and the word means “noise shouter”. Fortunately for the human residents on the island the closest birds are a few hundred meters from the hut and they have the sense to go to sleep for most of the night; unlike their small blue cousins whose noisy and enthusiastic pair bonding goes on all night – one pair under each bunkroom.

In a few weeks time, nearer the end of September, the first eggs should be laid. Both parents will take turns to incubate the eggs until they hatch after about 6 weeks. This season we are particularly interested in what happens to the chicks in their first

month, and we’ll be taking weights and measurements over this time. This will give us something like a Plunket curve for penguins, and we’ll be able to compare the growth rate of each chick with the expected normal growth rate. From this we can make some assumptions about the food supply – if the growth rate is slower than normal right from hatching then the food supply may well be the main problem. If the growth rate starts out OK then slows later it could be that disease is kicking in after a couple of weeks, which in turn causes the chicks to starve and growth to slow down.

Of course this alone won’t answer all of the questions, but there will also be other research done this summer that will help. The Trust is funding the continuation of a study into foraging behaviour (i.e. where birds go to feed, how deep and how long their dives are) of birds on Stewart and Codfish Islands. A student from Otago University is beginning a diet study (what, and how much of what, is being eaten) and the folk from Massey University are so interested in the disease aspect that they are also starting a more detailed study. We are hopeful that the end result will be a lot more detailed information than the Trust could collect on its own and, if we’re lucky, maybe even some answers!

***Goodbye from Don and Josy***

We’d both like to say thanks for having us amongst you for the last two and a bit years. Thank you to the nice people we have worked and played with and to the Rugarats families we say a special thanks for sharing your children and grandchildren with us.

It has been an awesome place to live - we will miss the beauty of the island, the birds and the tramping and kayaking. We haven’t had time to do all we wanted to so hopefully we will be able to return for

“holidays” to catch up.

We are off to Kisbee Lodge in Preservation Inlet for 3 months. So if you are passing that way be sure to call in for a cuppa and a hot shower.

Don and Josy

**Stewart Isl. Community Board Meetings**

General Community Board meetings are, and have always been, opened to the public.

For you information I wish to advise that General Community Board meetings are scheduled to be held on the second Monday of every second month. The next meeting will take place on Monday, 9 October 2006 and every two months following that. The meetings take place in the Oban Fire Station at the moment and commence at 9.45 in the winter months and 8.45 in the summer months (fitting in with the plane timetable).

These meeting are advertised in the Southland Times and often on the Community Notice board.

Minutes of the meetings are available for perusal at the Council Office/ Museum approximately 10 days following the meeting. The Order paper for the meeting is displayed on the Council Notice board 5 days before the meeting.

Should you require further information about these meetings, please do not hesitate to contact Colleen Dawson at the Council Office between 9.00 and 12.00 weekdays - 2191.049 or speak to a member of the Community Board.

**St Andrew’s Church  
Children’s Flower Show**

We plan to resume the Children’s Flower Show on the 4th November, 2pm in the St Andrew’s Church Hall.

The Sandsaucer’s will be completed at the school on Friday 3rd November.

Seniors can make their craft challenge at home and the rest of the entries (children’s own work) can be made on the Saturday morning at 10am in the foyer of the church.

Deadline for entries is 12pm as the hall is then closed for judging. Reopening at 2pm.

***SEE SIGNAGE AROUND THE VILLAGE FOR DETAILS, EVERYONE WELCOME!!***

### Leaving Rakiura

The Flack family is heading back north after an all too brief stay in Halfmoon Bay. I've been offered a job that is too good to turn down in Wellington as media adviser with Ministry of Fisheries. So if you've got any messages you want me to take to MinFish head office you better catch up with me soon.

Leanne, William, Zoe and I were all looking forward to another few summers on the island and there are heaps of things we'll miss. A few of them are:

- Friends dropping into our home in Dundee Street
- Fresh blue cod and paua sizzling in the pan
- The comic book selling opportunities outside Ship to Shore
- Treading the boards with the

### Stewart Island Players

- The dawn chorus and all the bird life around the bay
- Stunning sunrises and the long summer evenings
- All the people that made the family feel super welcome

One of the best things about living in the bay was the village atmosphere and the safe environment for the kids. Even when we didn't have our eye on them, we always knew that someone would be looking out for William and Zoe. We'll really miss that.

The family are moving back to our house in South Wairarapa (Featherston) and will be back amongst the whanau. We've been on the move with DOC for five years and always intended to head back home one day. The opportunity for William and Zoe to be back around cousins, uncles,

aunties and grandparents was too good to resist.

Things were very quiet on the DOC front during our stay, which I appreciated. There is a good crew at the field centre and they have the best wishes of the island at heart. I know our boss Andy Roberts will do his best to ensure the National Park provides opportunities to keep the community working.

I know Leanne is going to miss being involved with the Community Centre, the school and the Community and Environment Trust, but this sort of work always seems to find her and it won't be any different up north.

A big thanks to everyone for their support and sorry our stay was so short.

Love from the Flacks.

### Stewart Island Senior Citizens (SISC)

Thank you to Ted and Margaret Rooney for their contribution as Secretary & Treasurer of SISC for the last decade.

Congratulations to Wendy, Jenny (& perhaps Ewan) for agreeing to continue their good work.



More news of SISC happenings in the next SIN.



*A few weeks' worth of high winds had quite an impact on the Island, but nowhere more so than at Lonnekers Beach. Things will be a little "draughty" in this boat shed for a while.*

### STEWART ISLAND GARDEN CIRCLE

Meetings are held on the second Thursday afternoon of each month and are advertised on the public notice board. A regular report on activities is placed in SIN.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the home of Wendy Hallett on 14th September. Wendy Hallett was re-elected as President and Anita Geeson re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer with Barbara Wilson assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Community, educational and social activities in the past year included:

- A sales table of donated cuttings/plants in association with a selection of shrubs from Nichols Garden Centre was held at Labour Weekend.
- In November a sales/ info table of herbal delights was presented as part of the community Health Expo.
- The festive season was celebrated with a lunch at Pearl's Restaurant. Floral arrangements were made for the Church's Christmas services.

- The War Memorial was weeded prior to Anzac Day and a wreath made and presented at the service.
- In April, Sylvia Hughes from the Invercargill Herb Society presented an afternoon talk/demonstration on the topic of 'Hats'.
- Carolyn (Richard) Squires led a workshop on the art of Shell Craft for members in August.
- A number of visiting groups requested Garden Tours and these were hosted in exchange for a donation to Garden Circle funds.

Annual Prizes were presented to:  
 First: Anita Geeson, Second: Raylene Waddell and Third: Lil Skipper

Lorraine Squires entertained us with a talk with photos of their recent holiday in Singapore, Amsterdam, Dublin, Kent, Vancouver Island and cruise to Alaska.

The next meeting will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm at the Fire Station with Shaun Palmer (our new cop) giving a garden talk. Everyone welcome.



### Terri's Netball Challenge

For the last few months, Terri Baker has joined the Thursday night netball games, learning the finer points of the game from those of us who have been playing for years, and years, and years and...

So when Woodlands School approached Cath O'Laughlin about girls to play in the Moffit Cup, Terri was an obvious choice.

Terri travelled to town with her mum, Tracey, and no.1 fan and personal mascot Harry.

The Woodlands girls welcomed Terri with open arms and made her feel part of the team. Terri must have been an asset, as the team took out the tournament with a 1-point win in the final.

Playing netball in a skirt was not



something Terri had tried before; she'll have to get used to it before she joins the Silver Ferns!

Terri's next netballing adventure was two weeks later, when she travelled to a skill development session with two Silver Ferns and a top school-girls' team from Southland Girls. The day concentrated on skill development, fun and participation. It was during these sessions that Terri discovered her shooting ability. On returning to play with the locals, Terri took up the goal shoot position and amazed us all with her accuracy. What a difference from the first time she showed up at netball!

We have all enjoyed Terri playing on Thursday nights and wish her well with her netball next year when she moves off the Island to board at Southland Girls.

### Globetrotter from pg 4

The week went on to be a collection of lifetime experiences: scrambling up ridges on hands and knees amidst snowy blizzards, to be rewarded with twenty southern-right whales rolling around in North West Bay; being frantically waved at and silenced as we crept past a recently-noticed, slumbering "beach master" sea lion; holding our collective breaths after being not quite so lucky with another sea lion; teetering over the lip of a deep tomo (a large hole leading to an underground mud/ water mix) to look down on the bones of an unfortunate creature who hadn't seen it at the last minute as we had; and of course the biggest thrill of the week, releasing the astonished CI teal, group by cautious group, back into streams and ponds across their namesake.



day saw us rip two sails (thankfully the Genoa is not essential to getting back) and lay over further than I have ever thought I wanted to in a boat.

You quickly got used to this as being reasonably normal and certainly not life-threatening (yet). Of course by the time the fear had abated and enjoyment set in, the remainder of my companions had retired (looking rather

green) to their bunks and barely raised their heads for the next three days. Thankfully, the skipper and crew member didn't succumb to seasickness and spent many an hour discussing sailing and sail rigs, the Antarctic peninsula, sub-Antarctic Islands and photography, teaching me to watch for signs that the wind was changing (I learned that Henk leaping up to the wheel was a sure sign) or just sitting in comfortable silence as we slid amongst water and wings.



Seventy-six hours passed faster than the earlier forty-five. The "Tiama" carried us much closer to the water, so that you could imagine you were riding over the swells without the separation of steel and wood.

Again, we were accompanied at all times by the graceful flight of albatross; the only sounds were the gusts of wind and the crash of water across the boat.

The excitement of recognising Stewart Island drifting toward us out of the mist and the titi islands glide gently past, turned to sudden, cold realisation that, as Bluff drew into view, so too did our sailing experience reel towards its end.

And it seems to me now that sailing must be a little like malaria: it affects some people more than others, it takes ages to recover and walk upright again, and once properly bitten, it's with you for good!

**Don't miss your chance to farewell: Don & Josie: Sat 23rd Sept, 1pm RSA The Flacks: Fri 29th Sept, 5.30pm Community Centre, BYO**

As all events draw to a close, so we drew ever nearer to the frightful prospect of sailing back across seas already whipped up into whirly-gigs within metres of the shore, in a cutter not much larger than a bath toy. Delayed by one evening, we set off with the weather forecast not our favourite but likely to get worse should we hang around. The first



At the end of July the library extended its hours so that we could handle the crowds coming to see the new non-fiction collection. Well... "crowds" is an overstatement, but we did get a few dozen people who came by to see our new books (and everyone got a

chance to admire the beautiful birthday quilt made for Noeline Fife's birthday). Chris Visser stopped by after the Community Cuppa and was kind enough to donate ten bucks to the library!

Helen Cave generously donated the beverages for our party. I have a particular fear of bubbly corks (they have been clocked at 100kph leaving a bottle, and cause thousands of eye injuries worldwide) so I was glad that Noel took time out from re-painting the Community Centre and opened the stuff.

Speaking of corks, don't miss out on a corker of a book, "Cork Boat" by John Pollack. This is the true and charming memoir of a Washington D.C. speech-writer who saved wine corks and used them to build a sea-worthy boat. A book for oenophiles (wine lovers) and boat lovers alike.



I was chatting with a lady during a particularly nasty day and she said that in the winter she likes "comfort food" and "comfort books." A real comfort book and charming read is Kenneth Grahame's *The Reluctant Dragon*. Grahame, the author of the much-loved *Wind in the Willows* tells the story of a boy and his dragon friend. The illustrations, by E. Shepherd (Winnie-the-Pooh) are wonderful. A great book to curl up with on a blustery night.

I heard that the documentary "Grizzly Man" was on TV last month. If your morbid fascination hasn't been sated, check out *Mark of the Grizzly* by Scott McMillion. It is, well, *grisly*.

Thanks to Ewan Gell, Irene Dennis, Vanessa Brown and all the other recent donors of books.

Caity Kenny did a HUGE and tedious job for the library over the past few months: she helped to organize a recent donation of children's books and create a spreadsheet of their "Isbens"

(ISBN) and I am very grateful to her. An International Standard Book Number is usually 13 digits long, and she meticulously typed out 123 books' worth which adds up to a lot of numbers. I'm surprised her wee fingers didn't fall off! Thanks, Caity.

*Happy Reading, Jess*

**What's Happening.....** *Stewart Island Community Centre Trust*

Badminton, 7:30pm Tuesday nights – all welcome

**Centre Closure:** The Centre is closed to the public and members from Friday 22 - Sunday 24 Sept. It has been fully booked by the Rakiura Maori Lands Trust.

**Leanne is leaving.....** as you may be aware the Centre Manager, Leanne Flack and her family are leaving the island. So, effective from 19 September, if you have any queries for the Centre, please contact either Margaret Hopkins (Ph:2191126) or Hilli Maas-Barrett (Ph: 2191040). The Centre Manager's job is to be advertised so if you are interested please contact us. The phone messages and emails at the Centre will still be actioned.

**A gentle reminder to ALL parents:** All children under the age of 15 **MUST** have an adult supervisor whilst at the Centre. Also **NO** children are to be upstairs unless an adult is with them. These requests are for basic Health and Safety reasons and security of the Centre. Thanks.

**Job Vacancy: Manager**  
**Stewart Island Community Centre**

*The Primary Objective of this position is to ensure smooth day to day running of the Centre and to help develop and promote the Community Centre in order to gain maximum advantage and enjoyment from this facility for the residents and visitors of Stewart Island.*  
*Basic job 8 hours/week*

*Applications to S.I. Community Centre, P O Box 187, Stewart Island or email to [stewart.island@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewart.island@xtra.co.nz)*

*Applications close: 28 September 2006*

For a full job description please contact either:

Margaret Hopkins: 2191 126  
[info@auroracharters.co.nz](mailto:info@auroracharters.co.nz)

Hilli Maas-Barrett: 2191 040  
[jimandhilli@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jimandhilli@paradise.net.nz)

**Arrowtown Visit**

by Logan Leask-Davies

*On the way to Wanaka, the HMB School children visited the Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown. Part of the education programme is a lesson in a 19<sup>th</sup> century class. Following is Logan's account...*

We arrived at the Lakes District Museum and went inside to meet our new teacher. She showed us the olden days clothes and said to dress up. She went out and we got dressed up. When she came back she was Miss Grey, a teacher from the olden days. We had to line up youngest to oldest boys and girls. We marched down the stairs into the classroom. Miss Grey checked our fingernails for dirt and we sat down in olden days desks. We did our writing with slate boards and slate pencils. The boys had to take their caps off. I learnt lots about old money, it was called pence and shillings and pounds. We had to learn a poem and say it out loud. We learnt it by Miss Grey saying the poem to us and then we had to say it back. I enjoyed my day but I think that being a school kid in the 1900's would have been hard work.



*The following poem was submitted anonymously to S.I.N.:*

**TONIGHT**

After taking a friend home  
 I started walking back towards my own  
 Armed with a cell phone torch and not much light streaming  
 I heard a morepork through the darkness softly speaking  
 While I carried on walking  
 On up the hill without falling  
 I thought I heard deer hooves lightly clip clop  
 Across the road in front of me, then they suddenly stopped  
 I hope that sound was what I think it was  
 As I shine my little torch at the cause  
 I couldn't see the young deer very well  
 But my senses they could tell  
 That maybe I had heard right  
 Even though it's hard to see in this light  
 I soon realised walking home is quite a mission  
 So I took a breather at a beach and stopped to listen  
 As wave after wave crashed upon the beach  
 I realised this place is my home sweet home, my niche  
 I'm very close now just a few more hills  
 Time to start moving I can feel those chills  
 Creeping in while I was resting  
 Thinking to myself bed would be the best thing  
 Prompted onwards to home and to hearth  
 It didn't take long to reach the garden path  
 When out of the blue I heard above my head  
 A flap of wings, which had me feeling scared  
 It sounded like a pigeon as it glided on by  
 Through the air to the tangled web of branches up high  
 I stopped to look but nothing would appear  
 Was it just my imagination again mixed in with a bit of fear  
 Maybe I should stop and listen more often, so much  
 knowledge out there  
 From tuning into nature on this beautiful reserve  
 This place called Stewart Island, it's heaven on Earth  
 Island of Glowing Skies and Land of Light  
 I thank you once again for the lovely evening tonight



**Debate about Pest Management Options Comes to the Island**

Debate about how far Southland should go in trying to manage, eradicate or exclude unwanted pest plants and animals will help Environment Southland determine what changes it should make to its current strategy for regional pest management.

The Council is reviewing the Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) half way through its 10 year lifespan and is encouraging public discussion on key issues. These include new obligations on landowners to keep possum numbers below set levels, in a management regime similar to that which exists for rabbits.

There will be a public meeting at the Stewart Island Community Centre 7.30pm Tuesday 26th Sept, where the proposed changes can be debated.

A round of pre-consultation was held earlier this year and as a result, a revised draft has been released for public submissions. Biosecurity Manager Richard Bowman said that the intention was to update and upgrade the strategy in response to new threats and pressures and reflect the community's changing needs and expectations. Provisions of the strategy that were relevant and effective would not need to be amended.

The draft proposes creating a new designation – exclusion pest – to keep out species such as wallabies, cattle ticks, nasella tussock and hornwort which are established elsewhere in the South Island. It also proposes tightening the rules on several pests which are already present in Southland, to stop them spreading further.

Mice, rats and hedgehogs may be added to the list of pest animals so that they can be managed in areas where they are having an impact on native plants.

# Ship to Shore

With Lotto now available, we will be staying open until 7pm Saturday evenings.

## New Shop Hours

Sunday - Friday: 7.30am to 6.30pm

Saturday: 7.30am to 7pm

**On the 26th September we will be doing a stocktake.**

**The shop will close at 3pm.**

## Kakapo Naming Competition

Help name Stewart Island's newest kakapo

Send your name of choice, along with any explanations to SIN, PO Box 156.

The winning name will be displayed on a plaque in the new i-site.



See story pg 10 for more details

## STEWART ISLAND PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY 28, OCTOBER  
7:30 P.M.**

**STEWART ISLAND PAVILION.**

**TOPIC: i-Site Funding.**

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits. Contributions relevant to Stewart Isl. are welcomed and can be sent by email or snail mail. **Please send articles & enquiries to Box 156, or to editor@stewart-island-news.com. The deadline for the next issue is 14th October.**

## CHOCOLATE AWARD

The chocolate award this month was voted unanimously to Stacey Wilford. Stacey made herself available at very short notice to accompany the HMB School students on a skiing trip, making up essential adult numbers.

Her personal sacrifice was complete when she fell from the snowboard and broke her elbow, leaving her in a plaster cast for many weeks to come. Thanks Stacey!



## STEWART ISLAND LIONS CLUB.

*Second hand clothing collection: September 18-25. Place your contributions in clean rubbish bags and leave by the basement door at the Pavilion.*

*For bags to be collected phone:*

*David Squire on 2191145*

*Anita Geeson 2191014.*

Remember that clothes need to be clean and in good condition – if they are too worn ( out ) for you then they are too worn out for other folks too!

## HMB SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

Keep Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October free for a one-off fundraising venture. BBQ and children's entertainment will be provided.

If you wish to have Stewart Island News posted to you or a friend, please fill out this form and forward it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island. The cost is as follows:

- 12 issues to an Oban address \$24
- 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30

Yes, we can arrange for international subscriptions — contact editor for rates

Name of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
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