

# STEWART ISLAND NEWS

## CELEBRATING RAKIURA

September 2022

\$4.00

*Condolences to Donna and the  
whānau of  
Peter Goomes.*

### **My time in local government** *By Bruce Ford*

Southland District Councillor  
for Stewart Island Rakiura 2007-2022

During the mid-1970s the Island was undergoing a major upgrade of roads and construction of the first airstrip. This meant there were a great many approvals and concessions required to enable land swaps, etc, with Government agencies. I was involved in all this and various other local organisations, including the school board.



Snoozing seal pup at Halfmoon Bay, and a napping leopard seal bottom left. *Credit for both photos: Carolyn Squires*



**Exciting progress on the Traill Park helipad—see page 5.**

Photo: Councillor Bruce Ford and nurse Martin Pepers signal the start of construction for Rakiura's emergency helipad

All these changes and involvements made me want to become involved in the decision-making processes.

In 1977, I was first elected to the Stewart Island County Council and appointed deputy chair.

I was re-elected in

1980 and appointed chair. During this term, my team and I were responsible for the marine VHF transmitter on Rakeahua. We were told the terrain was such that "it can't be done", so we did it anyway.

In the 1980s the fight for a reticulated electricity system on the Island really got under way, involving \$1 million for the reticulation and a further \$1 million for the building of the powerhouse. The fight required a great deal of lobbying and for a while there I was as familiar with the layout of the Beehive as I was with our old Town Hall.

Thanks not least to a major funder, the Rural Reticulation Authority (which was due to be disbanded), we won the major battles.

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Candidate statements for 2022 election on page 12 & 13**

**There was no August issue of SIN.**

### **Ferry price update from Real NZ:**

Due to rising operational costs, the RealNZ Stewart Island ferry locals' rates will be increasing from October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Local Resident adult fare will be increasing to \$58, while the Rate Payer adult and child tickets are increasing to \$68 and \$34 respectively Local children will continue to travel free on the ferry.





The lovely boys and girls at Stewart Island Experience and Stewart Island Flights are special people. Seldom do I return to the Island without a plant or two or ten coming with me or trailing after me. And always, the plants and other paraphernalia (including me!) are looked after beautifully. One day I went to

the ferry to claim a very large garden pot. Anna Brown came striding towards me, her diminutive frame almost eclipsed by my pot. Out rang that distinctive husky voice: "Where's your car?" And on Anna surged, with me fluttering in her wake. Precious memory!

A few weeks ago I turned up at Flights in Invers with two Correa plants precariously perched in an inadequate cardboard tray. Not an eyebrow raised, not a comment offered. Lynne provided the usual courteous service. But on this side, when I claimed my plants, I discovered that someone over there had gone to the trouble of providing something much more adequate in which my new purchases could travel safely – a robust, high-sided box. And on this side, that thoughtfully provided box was carried to my car by the equally thoughtful John. Thank you, Stewart Island Flights! You are indeed special!

Sometimes an Aussie plant can steal your heart just as effectively as any other, and so it is with Correa. The soft orange/apricot glow of Correa mannii flowers caught my eye at a garden centre in Invers and I was smitten. Tough, evergreen shrubs, Correa are great ground cover, growing to about 60cm tall and 1.5m wide and flowering in winter. Commonly known as Australian fuchsia - the flowers resemble fuchsias - they provide welcome winter food for our birds. Already I have watched in delight a bellbird delicately exploring the flowers of this new planting.

These two will join a variegated variety which is already well established and giving a lot of pleasure as its leaves take on rosy tints in the cold weather to match the delicate pink of its flowers. With luck the newbies will settle in and join hands with other tough shrubs to clothe a difficult of access bank. I could wish the bank was equally difficult of access to the deer, which this last year seem to have been extra hungry and have munched their way up and into parts of the garden hitherto untroubled by their voracious attention.

A Correa look-alike, found in older gardens on our Island, has bright orange flowers which are very similar in shape and size. However, its growing habit is more like the white rata vine and like that plant it flowers in summer. The two have conveniently draped themselves over an old stump in my garden. At a glance, their foliage is difficult to tell apart but their flowers are very different. Nothing delicate about the attention these orange beauties get from the kaka! The dear wee souls just love to tear into the flowers and toss the shredded petals all about.

In searching for a photo of the look-alike, I had to troll through months and years of computer files. On the one hand it was an exasperating task, not lessened by the knowledge that with a bit of will power I could learn to catalogue my photos more efficiently. On the other hand, skimming through photo file after photo file of the Island in all its summer glory brought such pleasure on a cold and dismal afternoon – and we seem to have had an inordinate number of those this winter. Ah well, the bulbs are sprouting, the buds are swelling, blackbird and tui are busy. Spring is just around the corner.

Keep warm and well.

And happy gardening!

*Raylene*



Above: Correa mannii  
Below: Correa look-alike with kaka



**Which way is North?** *by Letitia McRitchie*

For the last couple of years I've been teaching the kids at school the sport of orienteering. Orienteering is using a map to navigate from point to point, in unfamiliar terrain, at speed. The kids have been very enthusiastic learners. We start with the basics: How to orientate your map. Look at the map and match up the features on the map with the features that are around you. We walk along the street using the Stewart Island Promotions map (it has lots of features!), i.e., the RSA is on your left, the school on your right, what's coming up next?

Charlie Cave racing to the finish control at a Southland Schools Orienteering Champs event



The next map is one of the school. An easy map as there are lots of features and they know their way around. I've then made a series of hand drawn maps of Trail Park, Moturau Gardens and the Golf course, each one is a bit more complex than the previous. With each map I set a course where the kids have to find their way from point to point (or control to control in orienteering jargon!) and write down the special coded tag that is there. I set a few different courses so don't follow the other kids, they are probably going to a different control than yours!

It's great to see the kids learn a bit more every week and start to get the concept of how maps work.

I always think of it as looking down on the earth and it can be a weird concept for kids to get! I think the kids have the most fun doing night orienteering at Moturau gardens. If anyone was wondering what all the noise and flashing lights were!

The final event of the training is a Rogaine. This is where you have a set time to run around with a map and get

as many points as possible. The controls are worth different points, with the highest points being further away. You need a bit of strategy to try and get around as many controls as you can and get back in time. If you're late back you lose points!

Ryan, Bella and I travel over to the mainland to have a go at Orienteering and Rogaining events. My favourite are Rogaines as you get to explore high country stations and challenge yourself to get as many points as you can. Ryan teams up with my brother as I'm too slow (their team name is Which way is North). The irony is that Bella and I beat them in the first event we did (they claim the points were miscounted!). They must have gotten faster as they get a few more points now!



Bella collecting the code electronically from a control we found at a Rogaine on Goulburn Station, Ida Valley.



Can you guess what area on Stewart Island this is a hand drawn map of?

x	misc. landform
	runnable forest (white)
	vegetation: impassable ("fight")
	vegetation: difficult ("walk")
	vegetation: slow running
	runnable in one direction
	undergrowth: difficult
	undergrowth: slow running
	open land
	rough open land
	open with scattered trees

Part of an orienteering map showing different types of tracks, contour lines, buildings. The colours relate to the different vegetation types.

## Southland District Council Notices

### Fuel challenges for SIESA

Escalating prices for fuel over the past year have created challenges for the Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority.

The authority, known as SIESA, provides electricity for around 456 consumers on Stewart Island Rakiura through a power station that runs diesel-powered generators. High diesel prices have created a challenge for the Rakiura community, as the cost burden is not sustainable for consumers on the Island.

SIESA recognises the urgency of this pressing issue. The initial priority is to find a short-term customer-focused solution to ensure the supply of diesel and power generation on the Island is both guaranteed and affordable for SIESA customers.

Longer-term options for sustainable electricity generation on Rakiura are being explored. Future solutions will be developed with stakeholders including the Stewart Island Rakiura community, southern MPs, central government and iwi.

### Tree trimming project begins

Trees are starting to impact on Stewart Island Rakiura powerlines and need to be trimmed to ensure no outages occur.

PowerNet and its subcontractor Delta will be undertaking work on Stewart Island in two phases.

Phase one was due to be completed from 4 to 8 September 2022. This involved investigating the amount of tree trimming required to keep the powerlines clear from trees and to identify whose property these trees are on.

Phase two will involve talking with any affected property owners and doing the work to clear the lines. This will occur in October and November this year.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave from Delta (022 573 9119) and Ray King from PowerNet (03 219 1308).



### Bottle Caps for Change by Felix Kluge, RealNZ

First, I would like to thank everyone for getting behind this project and seeing so many collection points popping up around the company is very encouraging. The bottle tops collected at everyone's work place are sent to Manapouri for me to take to Dunedin on my monthly commute. In Dunedin I deliver them to the [Connections Centre](#), a community support centre for people with disabilities. Their goal is to provide a service for people with high support needs due to intellectual and/or physical disabilities by enabling a meaningful and active participation in community life. In addition to the support centre they operate an Op-shop and art studio. One of their most recent projects which I read about in the ODT involves the bottle tops recycling made of plastics #2, which is HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) and the most commonly recycled plastic and #5 which is PP (Polypropylene). The approach is to collect, then sort, shred and on sell the shredded plastics to recyclers or directly to manufacturers for reuse.

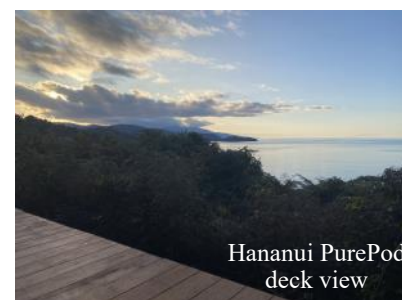
The proceeds from the sale are covering the wages of at least one person operating the shredder built by Otago Polytech students. This way the plastics are not only recycled but meaningful employment for people the Connections Centre looks after is also provided. In the future collection points will be placed in Dunedin for the public to deliver bottle tops to as well. To my knowledge RealNZ is so far the largest organization collecting bottle tops for them. And again, a big thank you to everyone for doing your bit to save even just a little amount of plastic going to recycling instead of a landfill.

**Collection points for bottle tops at Stewart Island are the Wharf, the Red Shed and at the Notice Board.**

### PurePods at Mamaku Point

If you have been wondering about all the barge equipment and helicopters circling overhead its because PurePods have arrived on Rakiura and are thrilled to become part of the community. This is next-level "glamping": two luxury all-glass cabins in secluded areas on Mamaku Point Reserve. PurePods aim to offer visitors a sense of adventure and going off-grid in style. It is not until guests book that they get directions to the cabin's exact location – this is part of the exploration and why they are drawn to visit New Zealand and Rakiura. The cabins include all you need – a bed, toilet, cooking hob and fridge, all solar powered. This is not a kid-friendly scenario. PurePods are geared for couples seeking a romantic getaway (some of you might recall a similar sort of cabin in an episode of *The Bachelor*...). The Rakiura-based cabins – named Hananui and Tokoeke – are two of nine throughout the country.

Check out [purepods.com](http://purepods.com) for more information.



Hananui PurePod deck view

**Emergency helipad update**

The emergency helipad working group have been beavering away to get this community facility up and running.

We are delighted to have received substantial funding from the Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy, Sanford Salmon and the Community Trust of Southland. Other businesses and individuals have also contributed, and we are excited that earthworks are likely to take place in September. Necessary materials and equipment are on order, so watch this space (near the old windmill at Traill Park).

We plan to have an official blessing and opening ceremony when we are operational. We look forward to having this upgraded facility available for emergency use as soon as possible.

Thank you Stewart Island Rakiura.

**Rakiura Marine Guardians**

*by Bill Watt (Chairman)*



**PETER GOOMES**

We join with many others in mourning the recent passing of Peter Goomes. Amongst his many areas of community involvement, Peter was a founding member of Rakiura Marine Guardians and a loyal and hardworking committee member. We valued indeed his knowledge and appreciation of the Rakiura marine environment born of his lifelong association with it, and his support of and contribution to the work of the Rakiura Marine Guardians.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

We would normally have been having our AGM in August, however with the ‘dreaded lurgies’ (Covid and others) rampant in the

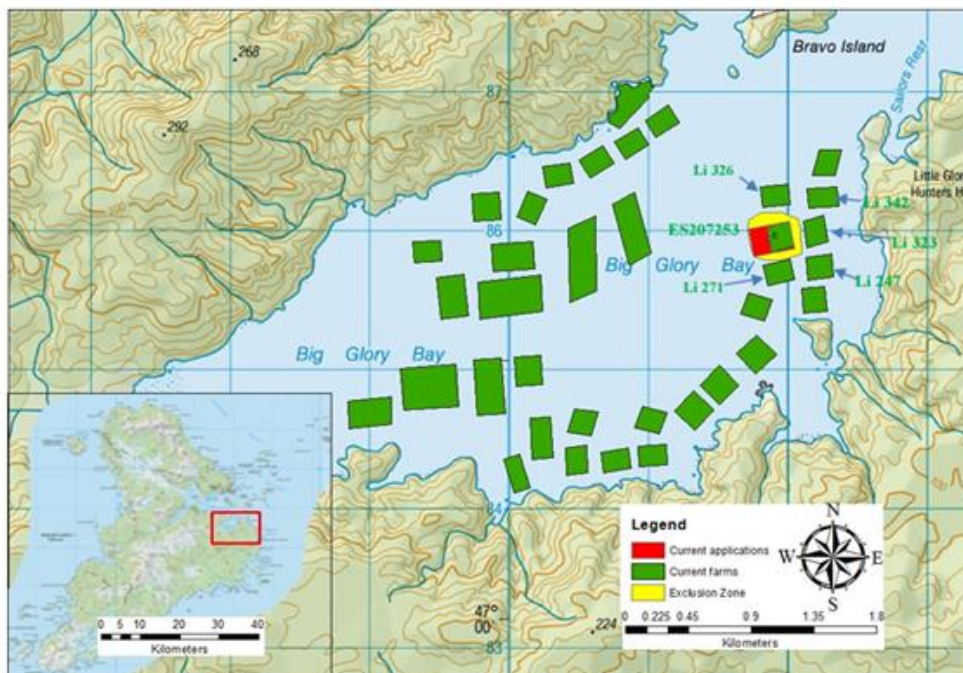
community it seemed like a good idea to postpone any meeting not absolutely necessary. We will try for a time in October.

**SECRETARY**

Please, we really need someone to volunteer for the role of “General Secretary”. Jo Riksem is kindly filling the role of “Minute Secretary” so the role of “General Secretary” is important but not too onerous.

**BIG GLORY MARINE FARMING**

Over the past few months people have asked me, how much of Big Glory is allocated for Marine farming? The best immediately available impression of this is a 2016 map, available online and shown below.



**Map 2: Approximate location of marine farms adjacent to coastal permit ES207253. Within the exclusion zone (yellow) the existing farm (MF 246) is shown in green, and the extension (ES207253) shown in red.**

Reference for map:  
Ministry for Primary Industries: 7 November 2016 AQUACULTURE DECISION REPORT — SANFORD LIMITED, COASTAL PERMIT ES207253, BIG GLORY BAY, STEWART ISLAND

*(BRUCE FORD Continued from page 1)*

However, it was 1988 before SIESA began electricity generation and backyard generators began to be phased out.

The years 1980 to 1989 were crowded with events, first when I was appointed to the United Council, predecessor of the Regional Council. It consisted of representatives of Southland County Council, Wallace County Council, Winton Council, Gore Council and Stewart Island County Council. I worked alongside names now iconic in Southland's history: Sir Erskine Bowmar, Eve Poole and Peter Wilding come first to mind.

During this time we progressed regional planning, including that of the establishment of Big Glory salmon farming. I was a member of a small committee that progressed the amalgamation of Lands & Survey and the Forest Service at Stewart Island, the predecessor of the Department of Conservation.

I was also deeply involved in senior staff interviews for the new Southland District Council. It was a time of amalgamation for small councils nationwide and very exciting.

In 1989 I had to go back to work, but in 1992 I was re-elected to the Stewart Island Community Board as chair.

Meanwhile, the Hall Committee had been convened, and in typical Stewart Island fashion after being told we couldn't have a new "town hall" it didn't stop us building one. Thanks to the late Alistair Eade and a team with a "can-do" attitude, planning was well advanced.

My own involvement a couple of years later included me doing a few shifts for Alistair but it was primarily in carting and stacking most of the frame timber while the driver for Island Transport. It was projects like this that convinced me that there is nothing that Islanders can't do with enough goodwill and determination. Another example of this – though there are many others I could point to – is our splendid new museum. That was another project that I was very pleased to be involved with.

However, the highlight of the next few years for me – and a very important step in the history of our community – was the visitor levy legislation and the consequent benefits in funding. I have a carbon copy of a letter signed by me, addressed to Wellington-based Government political agencies – and dated 1979! That letter shows that it was obviously very much under discussion for some time before 1979.

The visitor levy legislation required massive persistence and the time and energy I put into that I

can only marvel at now. I had marvellous people backing me, pushing me, not least the various community boards I served with, but also Southland District's Mayor, Frana Cardno, who pushed me into various new environments in Wellington's political scene, as did the CE of those days, Dave Adamson. Two Council staff members, Wayne Herdegen and his wife Rebecca, knew how to press the bureaucratic buttons and assembled massive documentation to support our case before a Select Committee. Eric Roy, our MP at the time, was our champion.

They were nail-biting times, often frustrating, but every time I was told "it can't be done", I remembered all the other things that they said Stewart Island Community Board and this community of resourceful people couldn't do. And we did it.

Throughout all these years, I had to work. Local politics doesn't pay in dollars very well! I had children to educate, a wife and family affairs to take care of, the South Sea Hotel to run originally and, in due course, I took on any job that was going. Of course, there were headaches, anxieties and fears throughout the whole course of my career – but that's life, and in that respect, not being on the community board won't reduce the headaches as Sue is now talking about remodelling the kitchen.

However, she'll probably deserve a new kitchen as I owe considerable thanks to Sue for her patience and secretarial nous, an uncanny ability to read my writing and type it into legible narration.

There has been another woman in my life in recent years, and I must thank our Kirsten Hicks for putting up with my regular visits to her office – often daily, sometimes several times a day – and for keeping me in bureaucratic order. Staff like Kirsten are rare and precious, and any community board should value her accordingly. Thank you Kirsten.

While I am standing down from office, it doesn't mean I'm standing back. I will have more time than ever to keep tabs on the next community board, and to push from the outside where I feel it will be to advance the community good.

I'm proud of the years I have spent with such amazing teams of Islanders during this part of my career, and would encourage all our Island's younger people to give it a go. It can be one of the most fulfilling roles you will ever have. It has certainly been one of mine.

And despite all the bureaucratic flim-flam, never forget: You can do it! We've proved that!

## Have your say on proposed changes to Fiordland's recreational fishing rules

Last month, Fisheries New Zealand began public consultation on proposed amendments to Amateur Fishing Regulations in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area (FMA). The Fiordland Marine Guardians are seeking changes to the amateur fishing rules within the FMA to align them with the philosophy of 'fishing for a feed', not the freezer. This consultation, which runs until September 30, marks a milestone in the Guardians' review of fisheries sustainability in the FMA.

The philosophy of 'fishing for a feed', not the freezer, guided the development of the original Fiordland recreational rules in 2005 with the establishment of the Fiordland Marine Management Act. At that time, the Act, and the fisheries rules and regulations aligned with it, provided an innovative and future-focused means of ensuring Fiordland was cared for, for future generations. Unfortunately, the current regulations will not allow us to achieve healthy and sustainable recreational fisheries into the future. The Guardians renewed focus on fisheries sustainability commenced in 2019 when several fishers and charter boat operators raised concerns about fish stocks within the FMA. Of particular worry was the health of stocks within the fiords, inside the habitat lines, which have been solely an amateur/recreational fishery since 2005. As a group with extensive first-hand experience of the area, the Guardians shared their concerns.

Multiple species targeted by recreational fishers, including blue cod/rāwaru, groper/hāpuku, pāua, and scallops, are considerably depleted in the Internal Waters of the fiords. There is clear evidence of increasing fishing pressure over time, and that trend is forecast to continue. An unintended consequence of the fishing regulations introduced in 2005 has been a concentration of fishing effort in the entrances of many fiords, seaward of the habitat lines. There are clear signs that the current fishing pressure inside the fiords is unsustainable, and several stocks require rebuilding.

This round of public consultation focuses solely on changes to amateur fishing rules and regulations. It marks a milestone for our group following three years of engagement with Fiordland's fishing charter operators and the fishing community. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku are represented on the Fiordland Marine Guardians and have helped shape the proposed amendments.

We are the first to admit that our proposal is not perfect. The problem we need to solve is complex, and we all need to be part of delivering a workable solution for the good of this spectacular corner of the planet.

Management of recreational fisheries in New Zealand has been challenged by a lack of robust catch data. We are optimistic that a workable solution for Fiordland is within reach. Fish Mainland, a not-for-profit organisation with the aim of providing a unified voice for the marine recreational fishing community in the South Island and Stewart Island, has developed a self-reporting app in conjunction with Fisheries New Zealand. Crucially, Fiordland's fishing community has expressed a strong willingness to use it. We will continue to advocate for these initiatives and develop a more holistic way of managing the entire fishery in the years ahead.

Before making a submission on the proposed amendments, we encourage everyone to learn about the problem we need to solve and the details of our proposal. We're serious about taking your feedback onboard. Your input will help us strengthen the proposal and make any changes to the amateur fishing rules for the FMA more likely to succeed.

You can read the proposal and download a submission form at [mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-recreational-fishing-measures-fiordland-marine-area](https://mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-recreational-fishing-measures-fiordland-marine-area). You may know two of the Guardians who are island cribbies – Becs (Guest McLeod) and John (Cushen). They are always up for a yarn about Fiordland. To find out more about the work of the Guardians visit [fmg.org.nz](https://fmg.org.nz)

**DONATIONS OF  
SECOND-HAND EQUIPMENT  
NEEDED**

FOR NEW HOIHO REHABILITATION FACILITY AT MAMAKU POINT



- STAINLESS STEEL SINK
- STAINLESS STEEL BENCH
- WASHING MACHINE
- CHEST FREEZER

NOTHING FANCY -  
BUT IN WORKING CONDITION PLEASE

EMAIL CAITLIN: [ENQUIRIES@YEPTRUST.ORG.NZ](mailto:ENQUIRIES@YEPTRUST.ORG.NZ)



**Stewart Island Real Estate**

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

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

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

## Manaaki Whenua / Predator Free Rakiura Research Partnership

A research partnership was announced between Predator Free Rakiura (PFR) and Manaaki Whenua/Landcare in July 2022.

This includes a 4-year funding plan, with Manaaki Whenua contributing \$350,000 each year. This amount is planned to be matched by PFR.

The research that comes out of this collaboration will be varied and may contribute to the success of PFR. For example, the research topics could range from community and iwi perspectives, to technical and biological analyses.

More information can be found on the Manaaki Whenua website.

## ANIMAL FLOW

### WITH BILL....

Rakiura (Stewart Island) was represented in World Animal Flow Day (yes there is one!) on August 28 by Simon Moir and Bill Watt, who joined an on-line presentation led by NZ Regional Leader Bobby Yang from Hamilton.

It was rather special that of the five NZers participating in this international event, two of us were from Rakiura.

Animal Flow is a great way to build flexibility, strength and functional fitness. Please contact me if you are interested, I'm happy to arrange an introductory session.

Bill Watt 027 495 9288.

Certified Level 1 Animal Flow Instructor



Simon and Bill perform a 'jumping right leg under switch' as part of the flow.

Subscribe to the  
Stewart Island News

*contact us at*

[stewartislandnews@gmail.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@gmail.com)

Stewart Island News  
archives and contact  
information can be found at  
[www.stewartislandnews.com](http://www.stewartislandnews.com)

Keep up with island news on our Facebook page  
Find subscription information for SIN  
on the back page



## CIRCUIT TRAINING

Circuit training is a combination of six or more exercises performed with short rest periods between them for either a set number of repetitions or a prescribed amount of time. One circuit is when all of the chosen exercises have been completed. Multiple circuits are performed in one training session.

Circuit training sessions are held in the Stadium, Tuesdays 5.30 – 6.30, and are being well supported. Cost \$2.00 for non-gym members. We can pitch the intensity of the circuit to suit those from moderately fit to very fit.

Times may change with Daylight Saving – and we may try a session on the beach followed by a swim!

Organised by: Bill Watt 027 495 9288.

400 Words *by Beverley Osborn*

What disease did cured ham actually have? And how did the inventor of the first clock know what the time was? These two questions come from a series of “ponderisms” I received in a forwarded email. And when there are so many behaviours in our troubled world to ponder, it’s good to be part of a group spreading laughter by email.

I’ve been pondering about unity and freedom.

When covid first became a global menace, most New Zealanders responded proudly to being part of the team of five million who kept each other safe until more health measures could be put in place. Because of this, New Zealand’s covid death rate was significantly less than that of other countries. But, as time passed, the irksomeness of restrictions began, for some, to outweigh compliance and complaints about the jeopardising of personal freedom started to swell.

Interpretations of personal freedom differ. Is it unlimited personal entitlement or entitlement in harness with social responsibility?

The only personal entitlement permitted in some countries is that of the ruling leaders. Unity of their people is desirable only if it is controlled and enforced. A unity achieved through the free choice of its citizens is regarded as threatening to stability. The path for the power-hungry, therefore, is to foster discontent.

We have watched in horror the scale of atrocities in Ukraine, atrocities apparently deemed acceptable by Russian authorities in pursuit of a so-called entitlement that totally disrespects the well-being of people, not only Ukrainians but also of their own soldiers. I was shocked to learn that a team of five million generous-hearted New Zealanders, acting together for the common good, inspired Russian cyber expertise to be actively involved in spreading deliberate misinformation and conspiracy theories into New Zealand networks.

Attempts to upset democratic stability through encouraged discontent create more opportunities for the power-ambitious to advocate for greater control and the flip side of that is, of course, less freedom of choice for individuals. The fact that we are a very small community in the far south of our country does not mean we can do nothing towards future proofing our loved homeland from global attempts to destabilise in order to dominate. We can teach our children and always demonstrate in our own living that our freedom is a privilege that carries with it responsibility for the freedom and privilege of others.

## RAKIURA JADE

*with Carver & Sculptor  
Dave Goodin & Sabine Witte*

Open from 10.30am every day upstairs at  
45 Elgin Terrace (next to the boat slip)

Enjoy stunning views of Stewart Island harbour from  
the world’s southernmost jade workshop

Make your own treasure from your selected piece of  
beautiful New Zealand greenstone  
(from \$200/day; conditions apply)

Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects  
made by local artists

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



**EARTH &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE**

Reliable, practical, expert advice on land and  
water resource management:

Groundwater, surface water, drinking water  
Regional & district resource consent process  
Offering a free, no obligation consultation

[abigail@eescience.co.nz](mailto:abigail@eescience.co.nz)

Can't make IT work?  **needanerd**  
your technology partner

✓ **Computer and technology  
support for home and small business**

**Contact us to book an appointment.**

03 217 0477 or 021 842 850 | [needanerd.co.nz](http://needanerd.co.nz)

CONGRATULATIONS to Laire Purik who won the Supreme Award at the ILT Art Awards 2022 in Invercargill.



**The Great Nīkau story** by Laire Purik

For the past 15 years I have been living in Aotearoa/NZ. As far as I am aware the owners of the house where I live have always been Pakeha New Zealanders. The house was built by Norwegian sailors in 1927. My ancestors are soaked with Viking history as we are the most northern country in Europe.

When I moved into my home, I discovered an old abandoned shack in the bush behind the house. The shack was in ruins, and it contained some Tapa cloth that had been eaten away due to years of exposure to the environment. I do not know where or in what circumstances it ended up there. I knew that it held special meaning and that it was precious. Instead of throwing it away, I kept it safe and preserved it. I had the intention of recreating it back into an art piece that gives meaning back into itself, so that it is not forgotten anymore.

For me this Nīkau is a statement representing connections of cultures: the fallen Nīkau in front of the Norwegian house on Rakiura; Tapa found in the bush; an Estonian woman in a

foreign land.

My artwork ‘The great Nīkau’ is a cultural exchange in the service of art.

“When done correctly, cultural appreciation can result in deeper understanding and respect across cultures as well as creative hybrids that blend cultures together.” [Arlin Cuncic, “What Is Cultural Appropriation?” 2022

[www.verywellmind.com/what-is-cultural-appropriation-5070458/](http://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-cultural-appropriation-5070458/)]

Over the centuries ideas spread ... we share ... and we take...

Tapa wrapped around fallen nīkau. Connected as one. In the end we are all one human race regardless of our cultural backgrounds. As long as we understand where we actually all came from, bringing together each of our traditions, and all of us respect the traditions of each other. As a multicultural country, as Aotearoa/New Zealand is now. We always evolve, we always move. We carry something old with us and add something new to us. That's how new traditions come alive.

Congratulations to the tamariki of Halfmoon Bay School on their countless achievements. Examples include the students who won first and second places in the recent Southern Zone speech

competition: Sayla Ware, Ellie Jenkinson, and Bree and Kate Asher. They head to the finals on 8th September. Keep an eye on the Halfmoon Bay School FB page for updates. Fionn of the Rakiura Rockers won

best bass player at Bandquest in Dunedin. Sayla won first prize for year 4-5 in the Papatūānuku National Art and Literature competition for the poem printed below.

**Once by Sayla Ware**

Once, forest high as the sky, wide as the earth, green as grass  
 Now, buildings higher than mountains, large as the planet, dull as dust  
 Soon, fires scorching the bones of Mother Earth, barren land as inhabitable as the moon  
 Once, melodies filled the air from beaks of passing birds, backs of beetles brighter than jewels, air as fresh as fish from the sea  
 Now, smoke filled air, cucumber wrapped in plastic, sounds of traffic invade our senses  
 Soon, fires crackling and spitting up smoke, logs catching fire ‘till there’s nothing left  
 Maybe, green bush, buzzing bees, flapping wings, insects crawling  
 Maybe, eco cities, colourful gardens, bikes gliding and people walking, pollution abolished  
 Maybe, beauty forever more  
 If, we say NO to fossil fuels, greed, plastic  
 If, we say YES to bikes, feet, mindfulness  
 Then. Maybe



Between The Shop &The Pub / glowing-sky.co.nz

**Young Inspiring Explorers Summit** *by Ryan McRitchie-King (aged 12)*

Back in April I applied to join the Young Inspiring Explorers Summit, run by the Antarctic Heritage Trust. I was really excited when they emailed and said I was in. Over 200 kids applied and 20 went to the summit. Before going, they sent out weekly emails that started us thinking about Antarctic explorers, the hardships they faced and their achievements.

I flew up to Christchurch and had a great weekend learning about early explorers and life in Antarctica. Shackleton is my favourite explorer. His ship was crushed in ice and his whole group spent months in a hut in Antarctica. Him and 6 men then sailed a small boat for 17 days to South Georgia Island and hiked across the mountains and get help. He didn't lose a single man and showed amazing leadership and courage. Roald Amundsen was the first person to reach the South Pole. He planned and prepared really well and made good choices, i.e. using huskies to haul sledges. Scott got to the South Pole just 34 days after Amundsen and when they tried to make it back to their base they all died. He was a very courageous person.

At the international Antarctic Centre we went on a Hagglund ride, I met the huskies and penguins and got to hang out in the cold room. This was -8 but when they turn on the wind machine it's -16. It got a bit chilly!! We talked to the staff at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Research Station by satellite phone. They were there for the whole winter and its 24 hrs of darkness and very cold. The coldest temperature recorded in Antarctica was -90!!

The Antarctic Heritage Trust have done an amazing job of using virtual reality to make it feel like you are walking around the inside of the hut that Sir Edmund Hillary used during the Trans Antarctic Expedition of 1955/56. At the Canterbury museum we saw the tractors that Hillary used in the Expedition. They were just farm tractors with tracks on and a canvas tent for a cab. Hillary's job was to go towards the South Pole and lay supply depots for Fuchs who was crossing Antarctica.

One of my favourite activities was having a go at hauling a sled, like Scott did when he went to the South Pole. It was hard to haul the weight of 2 adults with 5 of us pulling. When Scott went to Antarctica each of his men had to haul 90kg, every day, for 77 days to get to the South Pole. It was a really good weekend, I made some new friends and was inspired about Antarctic exploration, someday it will be amazing to go there!

The Antarctic Heritage Trust sponsors some cool expeditions. This year there is a team setting off to travel 1000km across the ice to the South Pole, to celebrate 150 years since the birth of Roald Amundsen. Three young people were selected, two from New Zealand and one from Norway. Temperatures will be from -25 to -40 degrees, they will have to ski for 10hrs a day, for 40 days, with each sled weighing 60 to 80kg. I got Mum to check out who could apply, but I was too young! The team will embrace the same spirit of exploration shown by Amundsen, Scott and Shackleton. There will be regular updates on the Trusts website and Facebook page and I look forward to following how they go.



Getting dressed up in different types of Antarctic clothing. This is the olden days clothing. The gloves are made of reindeer skin!



Hauling a sled

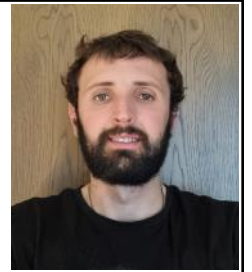


Scott's monument carved by his grieving wife. We went for a walk around Christchurch to this and other sites of Antarctic interest

Photo credits: Antarctic Heritage Trust

**Daniel Meads**

For those of you who don't know me my name is Daniel Meads, I've been one of the lucky ones able to call Stewart Island my home for the better part of my life. I moved back to the Island several years ago and have since set up a local building company. The Island holds a very special place in my heart, I would like to be able to help continue to grow the Island while trying to retain what we all love about the place. I thank you for your consideration.



**Rakiura Herzhoff**

*Rakiura/Stewart Island – home for generations to come.*

Throughout this year I have had constant encounters with events, people, and places that reinforce in me again and again the realisation of how damn lucky we are to be living in this place. I am writing this from Europe, where: drought is wreaking havoc, a neighbouring war is leaving people feeling insecure about energy and security, and a constant flow of people who are arriving here are seeking shelter from existential threats.

To live on our Island, is an existential pleasure. To live on our Island, is an absolute privilege. With this privilege and pleasure comes a responsibility to look after that which provides it.

Our community needs strong representation to ensure that our needs, our wants, and even our dreams, are not just acknowledged but acted upon to ensure that we will have a future our children can enjoy as much, if not more, than we have up until now.

We have some difficult and hard decisions to make. We need to be in touch with what we actually want.

How are we going to solve our energy dependency? Is an ever-increasing model of tourism sustainable? Are we going to have continued representation and is it going to be effective? What future industries do we want to foster here, and how can they benefit us?

We should also be critical of the process of how we deal with these issues, and how we will work to solve them. It is not good enough that we let an outside governing body steer us into their solutions. It is not right that we let incessant bureaucracy be a hinderance to our well-being.

I really encourage you to think big for our Island, and to also stand-up for what you believe in. It will take all your help to make sure necessary actions don't become waylaid or avoided by circular consultations and half-planned conclusions.

In saying this, we should also be proud of our successes, and take time to celebrate them.

*Rakiura/Stewart Island – home for life.*



**Jon Spraggon**

I have lived on Stewart Island for the last 29 years and prior to this lived and worked in many of Southland Districts smaller communities. I have been a member of the Stewart Island-Rakiura Community Board for 5 terms, the last 4 as Chairperson.

If re-elected I would continue to work with the board and staff to ensure the completion of projects that are within our long-term plan. These include the replacement of wharves at Ulva Island and Golden Bay, finding an alternative sustainable power supply, and a revised traffic management plan for the island. While progress in these areas has been slow, persistence and patience has seen headway made in recent times.

If elected as the Stewart Island-Rakiura Ward Counsellor I would take an island perspective to the council and promote and encourage community initiatives. Consultation with all aspects of the community is important to ensure we set achievable long

term goals, that will enhance the facilities available and make living on the island and within Southland as a whole more sustainable. I would support the development of new activities and events that are shown to be viable throughout the district and work towards getting the best service available for money and your rates.

Throughout any changes that may be made, the unique features and lifestyles experienced on Stewart Island and in Southland, need to be preserved so as to keep the island and region a special place for future generations.

I do not support the 3 waters reform in its present format, believing that much more consultation with the wider communities and councils is required before any changes are made.



**Aaron Joy**

*My principal place of residence is in the Southland District Council area.*

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate in the up-coming local elections for Council. If elected as the Stewart Island – Rakiura Ward Councillor I believe I would bring a balanced approach not only to Stewart Island but the whole of Southland.

Having spent 12 years as an employee of a district council, I fully understand what it takes to achieve outcomes for communities.

I live on Stewart Island running a family accommodation business along with my wife Carol and daughters. Small communities throughout the Southland region need a voice and support for the ongoing issues they face such as, aging population, medical care, alternative energy

sources, the increasing cost of living, roading, and active tourism.

I consider myself approachable and will go into bat to achieve positive outcomes for the communities we live and work in.

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

Southland/Rakiura is a unique place, let's keep it that way, It's our home.



**Ulrike Martina Herzhoff**

Rakiura/Stewart Island is my passion. When I first visited in 1987, I felt the uniqueness of this place and its people. We were fortunate to raise our sons Rakiura und Julius on the island, but left temporarily in 2004 for the boys' secondary schooling.

While away I did my Real Estate Licence, studied at Otago University graduating as an Oral Health Therapist, working for a Maori Health Provider, the DHB and a private practice in Northland.

I also have been working in Aboriginal communities in Australia and recently completed my training as a St Johns volunteer. In 2021 I came back to Rakiura/Stewart Island to live here again for good.

It is our children and following generations who are facing the challenges of Rakiura's future.

I would like to give the residents of the island a strong voice on the Southland District Council in these critical times, when the island may not be fairly represented simply because our population is so small.

Our context is unique, and so we islanders, despite our small population, need to be sufficiently involved in deciding our future development: in tourism, in energy and in transport. This might be one of the last elections in which Rakiura/Stewart Island has a seat on the Southland

District Council.

This gives us islanders the important choice: to give up our own interests by resigning ourselves to vital decisions for the island being made by – though well meaning- non-island based representatives on SDC. They can and have outvoted the decisions, recommendations and votes of our councillor and community board.

Or to fight that our voice is heard and respected: new rules for SDC become established for voting on Island's issues: of mediation instead of immediate outvoting.

I wish to dedicate my time ensuring for Rakiura/Stewart Island:

1. this current trend and the potential obliteration of our island's representation does not become final,
2. we don't get less Government support than Chatham Islands,
3. we can become a model for a future New Zealand and its people.

We are one of NZ's three constituent islands: we deserve in this respect, the same relevance and representation as North Island and South Island - not just as an appendage of Southland.

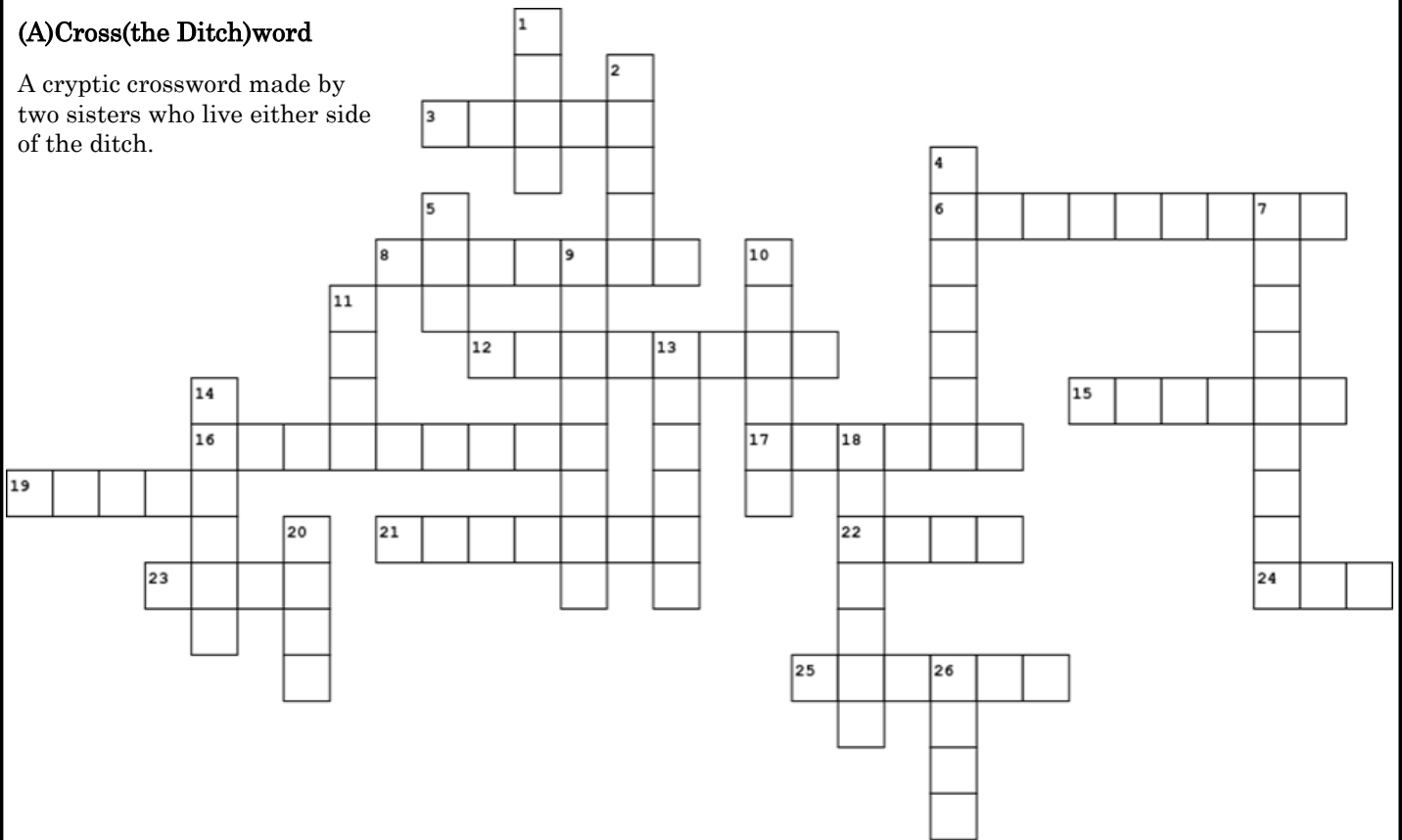


**Aaron Conner/AKA Squirt**

Hi my name is Aaron Conner, I have lived on Stewart Island for 45 years, I have served on the community board for 4 terms. I would like to continue serving on the board to keep the SDC officers honest and follow up on unfinished projects.

**(A)Cross(the Ditch)word**

A cryptic crossword made by two sisters who live either side of the ditch.



**Across**

- 3. Made from seriously crazy tight material (5)
- 6. Determine firmly if arsenic is mixed up with tantalum (9)
- 8. Sounds like first try was a breeze (7)
- 12. Embittered speech a bit dire? Out of order! (8)
- 15. Captured in the king's hall, so I hear (6)
- 16. Extend pie -- in one's own interests (9)
- 17. Picked up leisurely shed (6)
- 19. Rile up Penny at your own risk (5)
- 21. Found 6 bones from the cattle (7)
- 22. Cut an allium, say (4)
- 23. Begin adversarially to taunt (4)
- 24. Reason for saint to live in a mess (3)
- 25. Congratulations, you completed the messed-up number puzzle (6)

**Down**

- 1. Overlook abandoned coffee shop (4)
- 2. Keep an eye on the old timer (5)
- 4. Doe-eyed adoration? (7)
- 5. Sanctum in depths of darkness (3)
- 7. Conspire to shoot about California (2,7)
- 9. A change of heart separates petty robbery from shooting (8)
- 10. Early morning attack of former US President (6)
- 11. Breadth of articulated bridge in Venice (4)
- 13. Reject waste (6)
- 14. Shout if under a pound (6)
- 18. Inclined to be indirect (7)
- 20. Axe used to clobber, stun (4)
- 26. Nothing for men here, a sign of what's to come (4)



**Gathering interest for the Stewart Island Olympics**

Let's embrace summer, the wonderful Rakiura community spirit and a little bit of healthy competition. Enter the Stewart Island Olympics..

We are looking to organise a fun event for the community, an opportunity for newcomers and locals alike to get to know one another. Our idea is the Stewart Island Olympics, with companies and other groups able to enter teams to compete in various events, which

are yet to be decided (think cornhole, egg and spoon races, etc). We would like this to be a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to a good cause, also still to be determined.

We are tentatively proposing Christmas Day, as most people have the day off work, and because many new people on the island will be away from their families, so we can welcome them into ours.

We will be approaching people and groups to garner support, but we welcome any feedback or ideas that anybody may have. We are also

looking for anybody who may be interested in helping us with organizing or with any support.

If this sounds like you, please feel free to email us at: [stewartislandolympics@gmail.com](mailto:stewartislandolympics@gmail.com) or feel free to talk to us in person.

*Ian Fulguirinas  
Dayna Scheuber*





Kia Ora.

I have advertised for people expressing interest in wanting to obtain their New Zealand firearms licence and am in the process of arranging a Firearms safety course to be facilitated here on Rakiura Stewart Island in November. I would appreciate for those of you who are wishing to obtain your firearms licence to please make contact with me to make it viable to do the testing here. You will still need to submit an application, which is available online, <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-safety/firearms/licensing/apply-new-zealand-firearms-licence>

Those of you sighting in your rifles please advise me when you are going to do it, just simply flicking me a text message would be much appreciated. A number of people have reported hearing gun shots nearby and reporting these to me, which entails the need for it to be investigated, that nobody is running amok. While this is usually quite innocent once the shooter is identified and not an issue, you may find the pressure of the Police watching you as you handle your firearm while trying to sight it somewhat distracting. Also make sure you have the landowners permission, you're aware of your firing zone and beyond. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this.

Thank you all for the feedback following the Seven Sharp article about Policing here on Rakiura Stewart Island. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to ensure their properties are secured as we do have a number of visitors coming to the island that may potentially take advantage of insecure holiday homes etc. I also recommend that if you are going to be away for any period of time, take some photos prior to departure and just to have someone cast an eye over your property periodically as well.

Please ensure that vehicles have a current warrant of fitness and registration. If your vehicle is parked on the roadside and it's warrant of fitness or registration is out, you will be issued with a ticket. This gives you the options: register your vehicle, get a warrant of fitness or take it off the road. Vehicles parked in the Rakiura CBD impact on people wanting to access some of our facilities, the Community Centre, Museum. If you are going to be leaving the island, please have your vehicles returned to your residences so that they are off the road, making it easier for everyone else still on the island to access our community facilities.

*Kia Pai to ra*  
Constable Stuart NEWTON  
Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island

### Stewart Island Promotion Association

“To positively promote Stewart Island as a place to visit, live and work.”

At the Annual Meeting held in July members elected to the Executive Committee were Aaron Joy (chairperson), Jon Spraggon (treasurer), Jennifer Ross, Anita Geeson, Manfred & Ulrike Herzhoff.

The Association currently has a membership of 65 consisting of business owners both on and off the island as well as interested supporters. If you would like to find out more about membership benefits please contact our secretary, Kirsten Hicks, at the SDC Office during business hours.

Congratulations to new members Maggie & Simon on the opening of their new business venture – The Snuggery – in the former museum building.

After a 2-year absence due to Covid related border restrictions cruise ships will be returning to our shores

this season. A total of 24 cruise arrivals are scheduled to visit between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 10th March 2023. Passenger numbers vary from 125 to 550. While the benefits of cruise visits have been the subject of debate cruise passengers are visitors and as such deserve to be treated in a manner consistent with our goal of making visitors welcome. Together we can make their visit a day to remember.

Our signature event the **RAKIURA CHALLENGE** Trail Run will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Starting at Horseshoe Bay at 8:30 am the race finish point is at the Oban sign on the Halfmoon Bay foreshore. On race day Elgin Terrace between the Main Road and Ayr Street intersections will be closed to all traffic including parked vehicles. To date 230 entries have been received for the 32 km run. In addition to these runners the race will include an enthusiastic relay team of senior Halfmoon Bay students. Team One will run the section from Horseshoe Bay start line to Māori Beach, Team Two from Māori Beach to Burnt Boat Beach, with Team Three from Burnt Boat Beach to the finish line.

Race organisers are helping support the senior class to accomplish their fundraising goal towards the senior class trip to Wellington next year.

Entrant family members and supporters, team support members, medics, media, and the Southern Institute of Technology catering group all play an important part in making this event a success. Their contribution is much appreciated. Community participation is vital to race day atmosphere – enthusiastic encouragement from the side lines adds to the excitement so get out there and cheer the runners to the finish line.

The event will culminate with a prize giving ceremony and dinner at the Community Centre on Saturday evening. Race organisers do get enquiries from late competition entrants about accommodation.

If you have a spare bed, please email Aaron Joy on [aaron.joy2012@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.joy2012@gmail.com)



**Sea kayaking – self rescue!**

*by Bill Watt*

Rescue techniques were an important part of the course at recent N Z Outdoor Instructors' Association Sea kayaking events I have attended.

These techniques apply to a group situation and solo. In a group one boat can get into trouble and need the assistance of others. Solo, you need to be able to 'sort' yourself out of whatever situation you have gotten yourself into.

Solo self-rescue techniques for sea kayaks include the proven 'paddle float' method (where you strap a float to one end of your paddle and fix it under your deck lines, forming a kind of outrigger), stabilizing the boat and enabling you to climb aboard and slither in. There is the 'eskimo roll' with all its variants (the Inuit have about 12 different ways they can roll their kayaks). Then for the young and athletic

there's the John Wayne method, where you vault over the stern of the boat to straddle the stern deck (avoiding the rudder....!) Group rescue techniques generally involve rafting up, and maybe using a 'stirrup' to help people climb back onto the boat and slither into the cockpit. Then the boat has to be pumped out....

Righting a capsized 'sit on top' kayak requires a slightly different technique. You MAY be able to simply right your kayak, kick up and 'flop' aboard on your tummy. If this proves difficult, then you can use a paddle float- If you've got one. Maybe even a 'stirrup' as well.

By contrast, a stand up paddle board is easy. If you are standing up and paddling, chances are you've already fallen off at least once and gotten back on again.

It goes without saying that a PFD (personal floatation device) is

needed whatever the watercraft.

Sit-on-top or sea kayak, self-rescue needs practice, wearing the clothing you would normally go paddling in. To be 'current' you need to have practised rescue techniques within the last few months. (Actually getting wet, not just thinking about it!)

I'm willing to practice rescues with others. sharing what I know - and no doubt learning from you. It's all good, clean fun ....



Alex and David practice rescue with me, using the stirrup method. Note that the PFDs need adjusting.

**Church Chatter** *by Jo Riksem*

As we come into our busy season for the island let us be mindful of working together as a community. There are many different opinions on various things but we must work as a unit to make our beautiful island something we can be proud of for residents and visitors alike. I read this somewhere and feel it to be so true:

*Think how easy, simple and delightful I can make a task*

*Embrace the roll of caring and adventure.*

*Look for delight in unexpected places.*

*Listen to people like you've never heard them before.*

*Look for magical, extraordinary and brief moments.*

Services for October are:

**9th October** – Speaker to be confirmed or possibly local talent

**23rd October** – Richard Aiken from All Saints Anglican Church in Gladstone. Communion

**30th October** – Nyalle Paris from First Church, Invercargill followed by a finger lunch and AGM

During these uncertain times, our church will stay closed except for Sunday services. Masks and

distancing are advised.

We hope to start regular weekly services as of December. If anyone would like to visit the church on other days please contact me and I'll do my best to arrange a time.

We can provide you with Zoom links to some services. Anglican minister, Anne van Gend who has visited the island several times, is doing some services through zoom, which I can provide links to if anyone would like these. Also emailed services from Rev Richard Johnson. Contact me at [jriksem@gmail.com](mailto:jriksem@gmail.com) or 027 455 2191.

We will keep you posted on the bulletin board and Facebook as services start again.



Thule at sunset





### General Update

It's been another busy month for the Restoring Rakiura team as they continue their possum and rat control in our project area from Acker's Point to Golden Bay road. We have also continued with the Darwin's Barberry control - most recently around Deep Bay and Wohler's Road, and are now working along the road to Fern Gully. The team have also been placing new traps out at Horseshoe Point for possums and we'll update more on that and the new traps for Acker's Point that are being built in the next issue of SIN

### Vacancies

#### Project Manager

Full time - Fixed term to 18 August 2023

It's time to be a part of our exciting new project **Restoring Rakiura**. Jobs for Nature funding has enabled SIRCET to expand its conservation operations in the Halfmoon Bay area of Rakiura Stewart Island.

The primary focus of the role is managing an effective predator and weed control project. The role will include project management, data management and reporting, budget management, recruitment management, maintaining and strengthening key stakeholder relationships, personnel management, and community liaison. The Project Manager will work closely with the 3 team leaders to plan and deliver the project work plan, which aims to reduce pest numbers and problem weeds in the wider Oban area to support and increase native species populations.

Flexible working arrangements will be considered for the right candidate. For more details including job description and role requirements contact Keri Antoniak at [administrator@sircet.org.nz](mailto:administrator@sircet.org.nz)

#### Field Team Member

Full Time Fixed term position – to 18 August 2023

Field Team Members carry out the practical, on-the-ground conservation work for the Restoring Rakiura project to support and increase native species populations by reducing pest numbers and problem weeds in the wider Oban area.

The primary focus of the role is on the predator and weed control programmes. The role will include predator and weed control; data handling and reporting; field equipment management and maintenance; health and safety reporting; working with the community; and other tasks as assigned by the Field Team Leader. Field Team Members will work closely with each other and their Team Leader to deliver the project work plan.

Field work will be primarily divided between the monitoring and control of animal pests (approximately 1/3 time) and plant pests (approximately 2/3 time). Other field tasks could include native species monitoring, track maintenance, community and school activities, habitat restoration and any other work identified under the Project Plan.

All necessary training will be provided and opportunities for professional development will be identified through discussion with the Project Manager. This is a great opportunity for those interested in starting their career in conservation, or for those wanting a change of scenery.

For all enquires or to make application - including a CV with at least one referee and covering letter -contact Keri Antoniak at [administrator@sircet.org.nz](mailto:administrator@sircet.org.nz)



## Annual General Meeting 2022

*The Stewart Island/Rakiura Community & Environment Trust (SIRCET) advise that its Annual General Meeting will be held:*

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**Time 5pm**

Pearlers - 45 Elgin Terrace

*Members of the public are welcome to attend.  
Refreshments provided.*

As part of Conservation Week,  
**SIRCET is running a trapping workshop 12-4pm 10th September at Pearlers** which will include:

- ✧ Demonstrations of a range of rat traps
- ✧ Sales of Victor traps
- ✧ Tutorials on how to ID different species of rats

# What's up, DOC?

## Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

We are continuing to do monthly checks of all 275 traps on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara to assess the rat numbers and distribution. We did not catch any rats in June or July but in the August checks 13 Norway rats were caught (12 around the coast). We have restarted



Bella McRitchie-King using a GPS while checking traps on Ulva  
Photo by Si Taylor DOC

working with students from Halfmoon Bay School who join us for these monthly checks. In August Charlie Cave and Bella McRitchie-King helped check inland traps for a day. They zoomed along the lines and also had practice at using a GPS to find their way.

We are working through the final stages of approving a Project Manager to lead the re-eradication

work and will keep you informed as this work progresses.

## Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre

Welcome to our newest Visitor Centre staff member, Diane King.



Diane King, the Visitor Centre's newest permanent member of staff  
Photo by DOC

*"Wayne and I moved to the island with our daughter Shannon four years ago. We love the island and the lifestyle and decided to get married here last year with a Steampunk themed wedding at Moturau Gardens. After being a casual in the Visitor Centre for the last 10 months, I'm excited to now work here in a permanent position and am looking forward to learning all aspects of the job. I really enjoy the opportunity to talk to people*

*about this beautiful island and share the conservation work DOC does here. In my spare time I enjoy getting out and exploring the island and I'm looking forward to going to Pegasus for the first time at the end of the year"*



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Observation Rock Viewing Platform

Some concerns about the Observation Rock platform have been raised recently. Please come along to a community drop-in session to ask questions, receive more information, and view the platform designs. Members of the working group will be present and happy to answer questions.

**What: Community drop in session**

**When: Monday 19 September 2022**

**Where: Fire Station 12:00pm-2:00pm and on-site at Observation Rock 2:00pm-4:00pm**

### Brief history

Health and safety concerns around the Observation Rock viewing area were first raised to DOC in 2018 by the Community Board given the large number of people visiting the site. With the increased popularity of dark sky viewing, the safety risk at Observation Rock has increased and the Department is responsible for making the area safe and accessible with a design sympathetic to the site.

For further information please come to the drop-in sessions or contact Senior Ranger Dale Chittenden on 219 0002 or [dohittenden@doc.govt.nz](mailto:dohittenden@doc.govt.nz).



Observation Rock platform design

## Whitebait Season

Just a reminder that coming into effect in 2022 is a New Zealand wide shortened whitebait fishing season from 1 September to 30 October to reduce fishing pressure on the most threatened species of whitebait during their peak migration period. There are also changes to the width of the waterway that can be fished. For further details visit the DOC website and/or see the signage posted at Mill Creek.

**Southern New Zealand Dotterel/Tūturiwhatu**

We are in the process of recruiting a team of four to undertake year-round trapping of feral cats. While we wait for the staff to arrive and the project to get fully underway, Rakiura's Biodiversity staff have been going out and undertaking fortnightly checks of traps out in the dotterel breeding and nesting territory. There have been some cold nights spent up in the hills!!



511 bivy on a snowy morning. A chilly spot to spend the night!  
Photo by Simon Taylor DOC

**Wet and wild July**

Rainfall data shows our average rainfall for July is normally 87mm, in July 2022 it was 203mm! We have received reports from trampers having difficulty crossing creeks on the North West Circuit. Our advice in these circumstances is to wait it out for the floodwaters to recede or turn back. Please don't attempt to cross flooded rivers. Remember to be aware that any low-lying areas on Rakiura are prone to flooding and may be impassable. The most common of these are tracks within the Freshwater and Rakeahua catchments.



Raroa track bridge handrail repaired.  
Photo by Christina Paterson DOC



Ranger Nick Stinson with the repaired steps near Vaila Voe, Ryan's Creek track. Photo by Christina Paterson DOC

This wet and wild weather has also caused a number of windfalls and washouts keeping the Rec team busy on local walks and Rakiura track. In particular, the Raroa track sustained damage to the bridge handrail from a windfall.

Please be aware that there are likely to be many windfalls on the backcountry tracks.

The team have cleared vegetation from around the huts and campsites on the Rakiura track and all water tanks and gutters were cleaned out. Currently, the Rec team are working on clearing the drains and water tables of the track.



Ranger Christina Paterson cleaning out a Great Walk water tank. Photo by Nick Stinson DOC

In the next few months the Visitor and Heritage team's work will be focussed on:

- preparation for the Rakiura Run
- proactive bed bug treatment
- annual sewerage disposal

**Ranger Nick to the rescue!**

Ranger Nick Stinson saw a kākā fall into a bay while working at Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. When the kākā couldn't fly back out of the water Nick swam out to save it. Once they got back to shore the juvenile bird was happy to hang out on Nick's shoulder. Thanks for going for that swim Nick!



Ranger Nick Stinson with the kākā he rescued while working on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara. Photo by Christina Paterson DOC





## Ambergis

New Zealand's longest established dealer of Ambergis. AmbergisNZ is wishing to buy all grades of Ambergis, please refer to our website: [www.ambergisnz.co.nz](http://www.ambergisnz.co.nz)  
 We are offering top New Zealand prices.  
 Contact: Terry & Wendy  
 Email: [info@ambergisnz.co.nz](mailto:info@ambergisnz.co.nz)  
 or  
 Phone: 0274 991 881

## RAKIURA PEST CONTROL

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

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

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

### Rakiura Museum Te Puka O Te Waka

#### Capturing The Light - An exhibition of watercolours inspired by Stewart Island

Works dating from 1879 to the present day from the Rakiura Museum Collection, from private collections and with contributions from the pupils of Halfmoon Bay School.

**Labour Weekend**  
**Venue – Rakiura Museum**  
**Official Opening – Friday 21 October**  
**Beginning at 7.30 pm**  
**with drinks and nibbles**

Everyone welcome  
 A Gold coin donation will be appreciated



The exhibition will  
 continue throughout  
 Labour Weekend

10 am - 3 pm

(Left) Halfmoon Bay by  
 C.H. Howorth, 1898.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to  
 BECKY & JAMES on the  
 birth of their baby boy!

### Library Times by Jess Kany

Not making this up...

A little boy from Acker's class came up to the desk last week and I informed him the book "Bermuda Triangle" was due back and he looked me dead in the eye and said: "I can't find it anywhere. It's just disappeared."

The same afternoon I asked a student from Rakeahua class where one of his books had gotten to. He replied solemnly: "I don't know where it is and I'm sorry to tell you I don't think anyone is ever going to see that book again."

Good Lord, I know I should be annoyed about the missing books but these kids make me laugh! They are all such amazing bookworms too, I love it. Kudos to all the parents who encourage reading at home and have raised such great wee readers!

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

### Advertise in the Stewart Island News

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 crib owners, former residents, and other subscribers around the country and the world. Dozens of visitors see this too. So tell all of those people about your business! Contact editor for rates at [stewartislandnews@gmail.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@gmail.com)

If you wish to have Stewart Island News sent to you or a friend, please fill out this form and return to "Stewart Island News, P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island, 9818" or email [stewartislandnews@gmail.com](mailto:stewartislandnews@gmail.com)

Make payment by direct deposit to Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 — please use the recipients name as the reference. The costs are as follows:

12 issues to an Oban address - \$48                      12 issues to other New Zealand address - \$66  
 12 issues to international address - \$96              12 issues emailed - \$36

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

Recipient Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_