

Stewart Island news

Celebrating RAKIURA

October 2018

\$3.00

It has been a cracker month for Halfmoon Bay School! First they cleaned up at the Southland Science Fair. Pupils won 18 prizes with 9 different entries. Summer Thompson won the top Year 7 & 8 science prize and Travis Chittenden won the top Year 7 & 8 technology prize as well as being the overall (Year 5-13) technology winner, beating competitors from high schools all over Southland See page 19 for more on Travis' innovative project. Well done also to Aoife Fitzsimons, James Dyer, Lachlan Dawson (2 prizes), Molly Conner Roisin Dyer, Tai Simpson, and Tyler Dawson who also received prizes. Then a team of four pupils, coached by Natasha Lundin, went to the Southland Mathematical Association Competition and took out second place in the Year 8 section with a score of 195 out of a possible 200. They were narrowly beaten by a team from James Hargest College. Congratulations to James Dyer, Lachlan Dawson, Ryan Fitzsimons and Travis Chittenden! The school has a new drinking fountain so perhaps it something in the water? Or the amazing effort of our teachers and parents! I'm always astonished at how our kids from a small island school punch so far above their weight.

And congratulations to teacher Alison Fitzsimons (and husband Paul) on the birth of baby boy Sean Rakiura. Congratulations are also in order for Real Journeys who have added a new 'baby' to their fleet—the Rakiura Explorer. See page 17 for a picture and more details. In true Stewart Island style I hear she already has a nickname...

Our condolences to the family and friends of Donald

Laurence (Don the Pom). See page 9 for a memorial by his daughter.

The Southland District Council has recently voted to increase the visitor levy from the current \$5 to \$15. Will this be a

welcome boost to help fund big projects like wharf repair? Or is it too much for the average kiwi family to pay? SDC is seeking your views: go to www.southlanddc.govt.nz/have-your-say to submit. More information on page 11.

The tireless volunteers for the Moturau Moana Gardens will be here from Monday 15th to Friday 19th October, please do stop in and see them if you can, they do a wonderful job at keeping our gardens looking fab.

I'm pleased to announce I've been appointed to the Southland Conservation Board. Happy to chat about what that entails. Save the date! Sunday 21st October is Gala Day!
Shona



Left: Shafts of light captured by Laire Purik. Her beautiful photography is well worth following on Instagram, if you're into that: @lairka.

Above top: Summer Thompson and Travis Chittenden with their Southland Science Fair awards.

Middle: SMAC team from Halfmoon Bay School, left to right: Travis Chittenden, James Dyer, Ryan Fitzsimons and Lachlan Dawson

Visit to Vicki Sue Ford

As so many people know, we did a little detour from the family wedding in England in August. We toddled off to the Outer Hebrides, to Loch Maddy on North Uist, to visit Vicki (though Bruce may have been interested in the ferry and the salmon farming as well ☺). So many people have asked after her, what N. Uist is like and so on, so here's a quick snapshot of how we found things there. The main thing is that we received a hearty welcome from a woman considerably fitter and healthier than the last time we saw her! I couldn't believe how well Vicki looks and how far recovered she is. She is occasionally frustrated not being able to do/say what the old Vicki used to do/say, but if you were meeting her for the first time you'd never notice that. She has slowed down a little, it's true. I almost kept up with her for some of the time. Almost. She lives in a lovely little house across the road from rolling dunes and the water – sort of Mason Bay meets Butterfield Beach. With three bedrooms, Vicki had converted one into a Guest Lounge/Library with views over the windswept and wild area down to the water, but our room looked up and over peaty moorland,

purple as Vicki could wish with heather in full bloom. Vicki is actually re-organising her living arrangements as I type this, so the next visitor will find things a bit different. We made ourselves at home in her purple-themed sitting room. Bits of the Island and NZ abound: there's Hippy's likeness, paua shell, kiwi-shaped fridge magnet, a photo of Sam, and more besides. She usually works three night shifts a week but took time off to be tour-guide for us. With a spread out population of around 1,400, it is quite difficult to pin-point a centre of community on N.Uist, but Vicki has made friends with "the locals" and with neighbours, though there doesn't seem – to an outsider – to be much to join, if you follow me, no groups. But perhaps I'm wrong. Will have to ask her next time we visit!! Where Vicki works she has made friends too, and the trip to Benbecula – the "stepping stone" island between North and South Uist - to visit her workplace was fascinating (two supermarkets and a lovely eatery being other draw-cards!). Another of Vicki's friends is part of the local bus company and organized a lovely loop trip for us – north-east out of Loch Maddy, round the northern loop and down the



Above: Vicki and me – Lochmaddy Hotel, August Below: the mountain goat experiences behind us!



west side to the Westford Inn and lunch, and where they were burning peat on the fire. Lovely smell! Then continuing the loop back to Vicki's. The most obvious thing to note was the scarcity of trees. Even the shrubs looked stressed, and yet – as there is everywhere in the world it seems –

(Continued on page 10)

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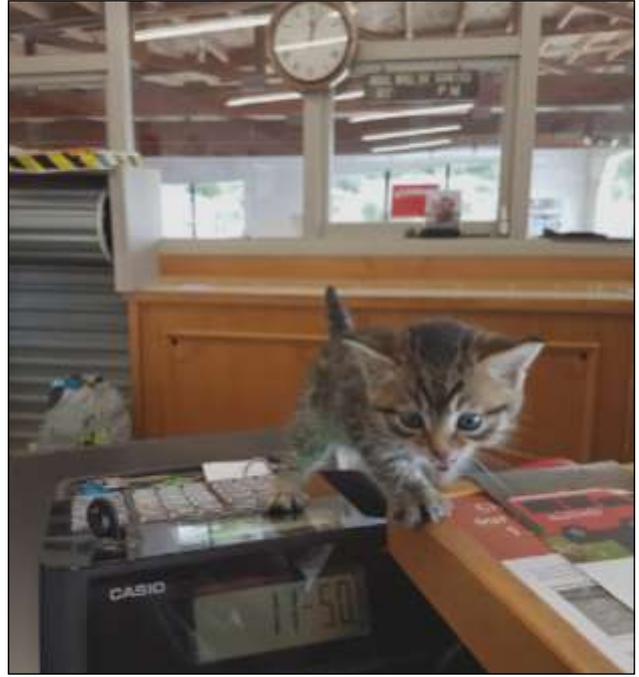
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Flippin Hec! Meet the newest member of the Stewart Island Flights team. No it's not another fresh faced pilot— Hector is a stray kitten found on the Back Rd by Greg Everest. He may be small in size but he's got purrsonality!



It's time for the annual SIRCET - Great Kiwi Bake Off to raise money for Save Kiwi month

Join us at the Community noticeboard on Saturday 20th October

For those who can bake, we're after donations. For those who can't, not to worry! We need people to purchase all the baking! Bring your baking down between 9.30-10 and your money from 10-12



The Stewart Island Bowling Club is holding its season open day on Wednesday 10th October with a bbq and bowls at the Pavilion.

Subscriptions remain the same as last year and are now due:

Memberships: \$50 per individual, or \$85 per couple.

\$5 per session for non-members.

Membership provides access to the facilities in the lock-up under the Pavilion and unlimited use of the green. Help support our little club to maintain this great facility and have some fun!



If you haven't already, follow us on Facebook @stewartislandbowls for up to date news of social games and tournaments!

Name

Phone

E-mail



Subscription paid by: Direct Credit/Cheque/Cash (circle one)

03-1750-0373951-00 (name as ref)

P.O. Box 6, Halfmoon Bay

Moa's Ark -an original production by Mary Chetty, Bonnie Leask and Halfmoon Bay pupils was a huge success. Congratulations!



Moa must leave his tribe and prove that he is worthy of becoming chief one day. He makes many friends on his journey and even finds a rare artefact. Will Moa make it home in glory or be defeated by an evil rat?

What *is* Predator Free Rakiura?



Perhaps the most interesting, challenging and rewarding idea you can think of? Or am I a smidge biased? It is the vision to *grow Rakiura/Stewart Island as a taonga by working collaboratively towards a predator free Rakiura that allows ecosystems and community to thrive and benefit from each other.*



By removing six predators (Norway and ship rats, kiore, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs), and keeping them off, the Predator Free Rakiura Leadership Group feel that Rakiura will benefit – environmentally, socially, culturally and economically. The Group is a collective of people who have come together to look at whether this vision is wanted, feasible, realistic, possible etcetera.



An update this month

We entered cyberspace this month as a Group – meeting virtually over video conference for efficiency and to maximise turn out when people have so much on. The new Project Manager - Community role, based on the island, is up and running and the Group really feels it has changed gear. The focus from here is on improving and expanding engagement, exploring who we need to work with. We are working on tactics to better connect with the right people, keep everyone informed and, hopefully, inspired to act.



During Conservation Week, DOC hosted a barbie at Traill Park. It was awesome to listen to **the work underway. We heard about SIRCET's projects, the work by the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust and the Southland Branch of the NZ Deerstalkers Association, work by the Ulva Island Charitable Trust, DOC's enormous work programme and the trapping by Real Journeys at Ocean Beach. We acknowledged the work undertaken on the tītī islands, at Mamaku Point Reserve, by Rakiura Maori Lands Trust and by the myriad of private landowners.** Over a snarler, we discussed how closely our work aligns, the power of volunteers and the benefits of working collaboratively.

In September a populated, possum-free, tourist-friendly island launched “**Predator Free Waiheke**” – with the goal of being free of stoats, weasels, ferrets and rats by 2025. At over nine thousand residents and 92 km² the scale is considered ambitious but achievable. Rakiura is 1,746 km². **We'll be looking at** how the Waiheke team are working through what biosecurity might look like for the residents and tourists of Waiheke.



We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809), or resident representatives Sandy King, Jill Skerrett and Garry Neave.



Light Bulb Moment

Sanford is supportive of the Stewart Island night sky sanctuary proposal. Already we have started to look at ways we can reduce light spill on the salmon farm.

Unfortunately turning the lights off completely at night **when we go home isn't an option for us. Lights are used to manage maturation in fish, so they don't spawn early and lose condition.** Lights also help with shoaling.

Lights were first installed on farms in Norway for staff health and safety. It was a lightbulb moment for industry when someone noticed that lights made a positive difference to fish health, growth and slowed down their maturing.

Lights are viewed as good practice and yes, different colours and angles of refraction do make a difference. Lights are also used to mirror the seasons, including gradually increasing in intensity and duration to stimulate spring is moving into summer.

We introduce lights at different stage in the production cycle based on when our fish were spawned.

Despite how important lights are to us, we are confident that we can find a way to do our bit in helping protect the dark sky. Some of the ideas that Jaco and his team are already investigating to reduce light spill in-

clude redirecting the angle, reducing reflection and **transitioning to LED lights. We've also been talking with others in the salmon farming business to hear what they've been doing.**

Sanford wants to reduce light spill as much as possible. We know that many of you are keen on promoting a night sky sanctuary and we want to support your initiative. **We're always happy to talk fish and farming,** warm regards Ali Undorf-Lay

aundorf-lay@sanford.co.nz 027 293 7795

Brood Farm at night. *Photo by Craig Stonyer*



Between The Pub and The Shop, Rakiura



Glowing Sky : glowingsky.co.nz

KIWI AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS

Monday 22nd October at Moturau

Please get in touch with Di or Sandy to arrange a time to train your dog

Di Morris 027 759 9773
pete.di1@xtra.co.nz Sandy King 027 867 9011

sdk@kinect.co.nz



Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

HOUSE OF THE MONTH

The Boat House - Grace Darling

One of the most photographed houses over 50 years until it burnt down in November 2004, the Grace Darling was an iconic part of Stewart Island. During the early 1950s a cabin cruiser came to Stewart Island. Harry Rose met Buddie Willa one day and asked what he thought of Alf Leask's cabin cruiser. "It would suit me nicely," said Buddie. "Too expensive to run," said Harry. "I wouldn't take it to sea," said Buddie "but put it ashore on my section and live in it." "That has given me an idea," said Harry, who was planning to build a house and retire here. Some days later Harry came in and passed over a plan he had drawn - the Grace Darling. Harry built her and named her after his wife, who was Grace Darling Kingsland and the section was named Roseland from both their names. Harry had the rooms named , "Focsle", "Galley," "After-Cabin" and "Bridge". The house was sold to Jack and Dot Plato in 1972 and to Merv and Barbara Whipp in 1978. Merv and Barbara added extra rooms at the back and also another level.



Acquisitions for September 2018: A map of the survey of Port Pegasus carried out in 1849 by H.M.S. Acheron, Capt. J.L. Stokes with inserts of Port Adventure, Lords River, and Anchorage of H.M.S. Acheron. Poster - Mad Hatter Tea Party for Deborah Dillon - fundraiser for Motor Neuron Disease. We hope to identify all of the people in the poster and keep this as a precious record of a wonderful Stewart Islander. Thank you to our donors.

Searches for September: Bragg men photos in uniform requested by Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff for Armistice Day; Art work by Dorothy Jenkin; Olive Gladys Freeman who was married to Thomas William West and then to William Douglas Robertson.

Groups for September: Tahuna School - 25 September - 21 children 4 adults. Winton School - 26 September - 27 children 14 adults. We also have one booking for October and four for November.

Ryan Fitzsimmons continues to come in and help out with museum tasks for his William Pike. Not long to go before his hours are complete. Some interesting people through this month: Robin Winter, granddaughter of Dorothy Jenkin in to see some of Dorothy's art work; Adam Bailey grandson of Bill Bailey, brother of Lorraine Squires. Adam was very interested in our book on the Bailey family. A descendent of the man who created our old washing machine called in and gave us the story behind the machine. We also had a visit and talk from Douglas Russell of the Natural History Museum in London and Tring. He was very impressed with our collection and how we are housing items in proper conservation material and had some interesting ideas for us to consider. Jo Massey, our roving museum officer, will be here from 24 October to 16 Novem-

ber. Our AGM is 25 October at 1:30 at the museum. Everybody welcome. Lovely George Turner photos made into cards are now on sale at the museum.

Summer hours October through April: Monday - Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm, Sunday 12 pm - 2:00 pm



ban **G**lobetrotter *off-Island Adventures.*

After a false start in 2017 to get away on a long planned holiday to Scandinavia (cancelled at the last minute because of health problems on both sides) Elaine Hamilton and I re-planned almost the same trip for this year. With great trepidation we counted the days until departure, until finally we left the island on 9 July. The following are some observations/experiences of our time in Dubai, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Singapore.

Well to start with everywhere was SO hot, it was exceptional all through Scandinavia, the locals were well and truly complaining especially north of the Arctic Circle. We had expected it both in Dubai (48 degrees) and Singapore, but not for the rest, so needless to say our suitcases were not packed with the right clothes, and because the Northern European countries are not quite so well equipped with air conditioning, it made for some very hot nights, (the up side of that was that our washing dried every night, so we could get away with the same set day after day). Everywhere we went the countries are building flat out, we could not get over the fact that everywhere is expanding at such a rate, it is quite scary to think where is will all end, will there be any clear **land left in the next 50 years or so...**

Dubai, somehow there is something wrong with one country having so much extravagance; although everyone was very helpful and welcoming and everything runs very smoothly and efficiently, maybe it **helps that they have a "Minister of Happiness", and one of our bus drivers said there are two classes of people, the rich and the very rich, and it shows, their air conditioning was great plus we did love the dates they grow there – yum!**

Denmark was a very busy place and here we caught a train out to where **Elaine's ancestors originated from, we felt quite chuffed to be able to find the train service, then bus, then actually arrive where we were meant to be, spending a lovely afternoon in the area, and sampling some lovely Danish pastries, they sure have a flavour of their own (once again yum!) Danish pasties are so well known it**

was only right that we sample one a day.

Denmark is certainly a country of bikes, instead of large car parks in the cities there are very large bike parks, and the roads are well set up for cyclists, but being a pedestrian **you sure have to watch out you don't** accidentally step off the path into the cycle lane, the cyclists go at **breakneck speed..... Generally drivers** are courteous, and although everywhere was busy it did not seem as if people were in a mad rush. Although we found Denmark to be a clean country on the whole they let themselves down by all the cigarette butts amongst the old cobbled pavements and roads. One memory of Denmark is coming across the central square, where they were showing the final of the World Soccer cup on a big screen, thousands of people watching and they were obviously impressed with the outcome.

From Denmark we went to Gothenburg Sweden, along the Gota Canal which was an amazing trip, starting at Gothenburg: then 4 days, 322 miles, and 66 locks raising the vessel to 300 feet above sea level and back again arriving in Stockholm. We were aboard a small vessel, M/S Juno with just 46 passengers aboard, in a very small very hot cabin. We were very well fed but the interesting fish meals we had were not all to our taste from raw herring, to carp with red trout roe, but we certainly did not starve. We were able to get off and walk beside the vessel in places, (one morning we walk alongside the vessel for 8 Locks starting at 4.30am. Sometimes we were able to go into small villages to explore for a short while, and needless to say there were plenty of tourist shops to try and tempt us. If anyone is planning to go to Sweden, we could thoroughly recommend this trip, mind you we were lucky with the weather, although it would have been much more manageable had it been about 10 degrees cooler, We did notice no one was wearing sunhats, little children were running about in their birthday suits and young adults in as little covering as they could decently get away with, and no one was sunburnt, they would just lay on the beach or grass, quite different where hear we have to slip/slap/slop and

cover up.

Sweden is a pretty country, with more wheat and barley crops growing than what there was in Denmark, also very clean but still lots of cigarette butts, but not as many as Denmark, and drivers very courteous still.

From Stockholm we caught and overnight ferry across the Baltic Sea to Helsinki. At each city we visited we had pre-paid for a 48 or 72 hour pass (depending on how long we would be visiting each city) which we found very economical, the hop on hop off bus and in some cases boats as well, gave us a good chance to see what the city was about, and then decide what appealed to us most to go back to. You can guarantee there was a garden on the list of places to return to,

Top to bottom: Juno, the vessel we travelled on along Gota Canal; Reindeer; Bergen



although the gardens were not generally as colourful as NZ city gardens because of the cold harsh winters, they were still well worth a visit

We bussed or trained our way from Helsinki to the north of Finland, stopping off at Santa Claus Holiday Village just above the Arctic Circle at Rovaniemi, this was quite an experience, and I think would be a great place to stay at Christmas time, of course it had all the trappings of tourism!!!! Not too hard to get caught up in it all. At a town called Inari further north, it was very interesting as we were in Sami country the real native people of the area, with a very interesting museum, Reindeer walking along the road, they are beautiful looking animals, and you could always tell the tourists from the locals driving cars, the tourists would stop in the middle of the road and take photos, the locals on the other hand would be tooting loudly and **putting “pedal to the metal”** to scare them away.

Finland is a trees and water country, and like everywhere else was very welcoming. Going further north again to Kirkenes where we caught the Hurtigruten line and boarded the Vessel Besterlan for a 6 day Coastal Voyage down the Norwegian Coast for a magical trip, It was here that we **“bumped into” Colin and Margaret Hopkins and Denise and Ian Edgar** (who own a holiday home on the Island) who had coincidentally booked the same Southbound trip as we were booked on. The voyage offers lots of extra road trips where at times you can leave the vessel at one place and join it again at the next port of call. We chose to have breakfast at North Cape, unfortunately it was completely foggy and we could barely see a hand in front of our face, but once we returned to lower altitude it was a lot clearer, and saw some lovely countryside, before re-joining the vessel.

We visited the Lofoten Islands, which is very much a fishing village, a photographers dream. This trip was not nearly long enough, we would love to have explored more. Another bus trip was the Atlantic road, which zigzags across several small islands on 8 low bridges that are built directly above and along the edge of the North Atlantic Ocean for 8.2 km.

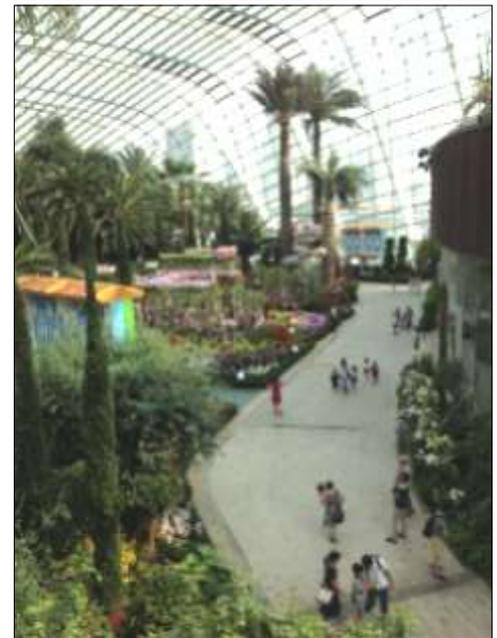
There were just so many amazing

fjords it is hard to put the experience **into words, certainly a “bucket list”** experience.

We left the vessel at Bergen, which is a really beautiful city, so many old beautiful buildings I am not sure in New Zealand if health and safety would allow them to still be used as shops and areas where the public can **wander at will....** After a few days exploring we departed for a 3 day **“Norway in a nutshell”** experience travelling from Bergen to Oslo by train, boat and bus. Norway is the most amazing country, with so much scenic beauty, it is hard to absorb it **all, I can’t wait to get my video on to a DVD** so I can re live it all. In all of the Scandinavian countries we visited the history is so incredible, and although I came from England and there is plenty of history there, after living in NZ for 54 years I am accustomed to NZ being such a new country, and really enjoyed the early Viking and Sami history

One thing both Elaine and I had a few laughs over, was every time someone asked where we were from, and when we said NZ it was as if we had said from the moon, or outer space. The other laugh we would have is when someone would ask what tour we were with, and we would tell them we were not with a tour, but travelling on our own, I am not sure why that should have been such a surprise, but **so many people couldn’t understand** how we could do it. We found it was actually very easy travelling everywhere we went, although English was not the first language for any country we visited, everyone could speak English to a degree, and if it was an older person, they soon found a younger person who could answer our query. On one occasion we went into a shop and asked directions to the closest bus stop, the young man in the shop (a café and he was busy cooking) immediately said come with me, we thought he was going to show us from outside, but no – we got into his car (yes we were a bit uncertain about this but decided there was two of us) and he drove us to the bus stop, that is how helpful people were. Another extra experience we enjoyed was that just by chatting to anyone who was happy to chat back to us, we found out about a free concert by the Oslo Philharmonic orchestra that was being held in the park, a great experience to end Norway with.

If anyone is ever thinking of visiting



Top to bottom: Lofoten Islands; Norwegian countryside, Singapore garden

Scandinavia at all, Bentours have an amazing holiday brochure to study, and we can recommend them.

On our way home we stopped off for a few days in Singapore, the highlight was the **“Gardens By The Bay”, with the “Flower Dome” and “The Cloud Forest”** It would be hard to beat these gardens, and the night time light show was just something else....PS: We had several people comment on our Glowing Skies skirts..

By Ann Pullen

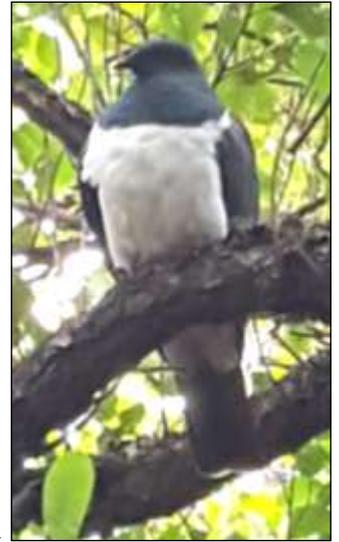
DONALD LAURENCE

Stewart Island resident 1977-2018
 My father passed away recently very suddenly and for those that knew him this was a surprise as he was always telling me he would live to 120. We emigrated to New Zealand in 1974 and toured extensively before settling in Queenstown. We came to the island for a bit of a look around and we had **only been here a couple of days when Dad said “this is where I want to live”**. My stepmother and I looked at each other (you know the look, that side-ways glance and roll of the eyes) and murmured **“mmm okay”**. Whilst we were there it rained all the time, the sandflies were incessant and there was a plague of RATS, and, being a typical teenager I could not see the appeal. Cut to end of fifth form (year 11 for you younger people) and Dad asked if I was going back to school the next year, **“No”** I said. **“Great I’m off to Stewart Island”** was his immediate reply, and this is where he has been ever since. **Don or “Don the Pom” was that weird eccentric guy** that lived in the hills that would emerge every few days to go to the library/shop/ garage/ café. My Dad was, I think, an entrepreneur before his time. He came up with a lot of ideas that he tried to put in place, unfortunately to no avail, but I think they **were a couple of decades early, I’m sure a lot of them would fly today**. He read extensively and I know he had some good stimulating conversations with many residents, he had an opinion on a lot of things. He loved being on the island away from mainstream society and was **prepared for the ‘apocalypse’**. Unfortunately over the years my father and I lost touch, I live in Napier and as a solo mother to two boys, life, as it tends to happen, got in the way. But, we had reconnected again a couple of years ago and we were talking about me coming down for a visit at the end of the year, unfortunately I am visiting for all the wrong reasons. I have been blown away by the friendliness and community caring that has been shown to me and I want to thank everyone that has helped me since his passing, as anyone who knows Don, he has a bit of **“stuff”**. **So thank you to: Anita and Gwen, from victims’ support, Bev Cowie for giving me a place to stay, Britt and James, Jeanette, Jo Riksem, Dave (Schultz) and Elmo the relief police officer, without your help everything would have been too daunting. And to everyone else that have helped out in some way I thank you.**
 Sandy Laurence

On 3rd November I will be back on the Island to lay Dad to rest. For those that knew him and want to say farewell, there will be a gathering at his property at 3.00pm to bury his ashes and refreshments afterwards at Britt and James’ place.

Snapchat *by Shona Sangster*

One of the pleasures of doing a rat line is that you are out in the bush, seeing birds and creatures that aren't just dead manky rats. On a recent trip round my lines I was followed for a solid 40 minutes by the same little fantail. I know as humans we love to anthropomorphize (I've always subscribed to Terry Pratchett's theory that our species should rightly be called homo narrativus, as story telling is so fundamental to our being) but I swear he/she had personality in buckets. We think of fantails as cute because of their small size (and that Mata Hari display they do with **their tail and wings**) but I've always thought that the white markings above their eyes give them a super serious look, like a stern officer. I cheated to it and it cheated to me the whole way round my lines. I know it was just after the little insects I was stirring up, but in my imagination it was using me as cover to sneak through enemy lines on a stealth mission.



Then, a tui ran into my calf. Yes, really. Two were engaged in one of those all out aerial dogfights that remind you of WWI fighter aces and the action was so fierce that one flew smack into my gumboot. Neither of us were injured but I got a hell of a fright and I can only wonder what the tui thought.

Next, I spotted a kereru sitting in a tree. I've been taking part in the Great Kereru Count so I stopped to get the camera out. It just blinked at me and tilted its head to one side in that way they do. This is another bird you can't help but impute personality to. It is hard to imagine a sad or mournful kereru. There are no Eeyores in this species. Their girthy stature makes them look jolly and just a bit dim. Did you know there is a whole world of memes on reddit devoted to kereru? Maybe something you'd like to look into if you're planning on casting a vote in the Forest and Bird Bird of the Year competition. Nature is a battlefield in more ways than one.

a field guide to the birbs of new zealand



one clever boi



rainbow chicken



steve hansen



skinny takahē



thicccc boi



sky rat

400 WORDS by Beverley Osborn

Here's an unlikely story, a shortened version of one told by Alma Woods in "Home Grown Stories".

Willie Mouse made a discovery in the garden -- a golden syrup tin, lying on its side, still holding delicious syrup traces under the rim. It also contained a piece of string, a cup hook, some rubber bands, three buttons and four milk bottle tops. Willie thought those were take-home treasures but he had his priorities. He scrambled inside and licked up every morsel of sweetness, till the sides of the tin shone smooth. With a sigh of satisfaction he was about to gather his treasure, when there was a huge bang and the tin was airborne.

Battered and bruised, he found himself in the bottom of the now upright tin, covered in all the junk and wishing he hadn't licked the sides so smooth. Jumping didn't work because he was too small and neither did all his efforts to wobble the tin over. Worst of all, he was getting hot and smelling smoke.

What to do?

He tied the string to the cup hook and on the third try at throwing it over the edge of the tin, it worked. He stuffed the milk bottle tops and the string into his pockets, abandoned the buttons and pulled himself slowly to the top.

But that wasn't the end of his troubles. The tin was wedged between some old branches at the edge of a rubbish fire, branches that were starting to char. How could his little mouse paws cope with that?

"I know", he thought. He made little cups out of the milk bottle tops and, with great difficulty, managed to secure them round his feet with the rubber bands. Gingerly he lowered himself, slithered through the hot branches and made it to wonderful, cool, green grass.

"Isn't it a good job that I'm such a clever mouse", sighed Willie.

From pioneering days, New Zealanders earned themselves a reputation for "Do It Yourself" solutions to the challenges that presented themselves and I think that here on the Island, we may have retained that creative ability better than have people who own and use gadgets for everything. Creativity, I reckon, must be one of the genes we've inherited from the God whose only material for creating everything was God's self. So, thank you, God, for giving us a home-place that keeps that gene healthy.

Need a
**• RESOURCE CONSENT?
 • CONCESSION?**

Or just some advice about developing your property?

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

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

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

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



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RAKIURA PEST CONTROL

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NO POISON USED

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

(Continued from page 2)

there were gardeners busy domesticating their own corners of Uist. Another day, Vicki took us for a walk across the wild country opposite her house to find a *camera obscura*. It involved a very springy swing bridge and required the agility of mountain goats to get there. Neither Vicki nor I made the trip with any dignity. Then we had to get back of course... The local pub (a few doors along from Vicki) is a nice place with lovely food – but they don't stock brandy. They do, however, stock a staggering number of whiskies – pity I don't like Scotch! The weather was island-like: on the day it rained, it came down in buckets; the wind seemed to be a constant – I don't like wind, but this just seemed right somehow. And then it was a treat to stand and stare, or to sit and contemplate. The bleakness of the scenery is oddly captivating, even mesmerizing, from the machair to the peat bogs, from the still tarns to the golden beaches. I'd go back in a heartbeat. I don't wonder why or how Vicki has made a home there. It may not be our Island, but she has found somewhere which – while not the same at all - does have the right atmosphere about it. We have the feeling that she might be settled there for a while. Slainte Vicki, so good to see you so well.



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**SOUTHLAND
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Rohe Pōtāke o Murihikū



Changes to Elgin Terrace and consultation on the Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy

Southland District Council has adopted the Rooding Bylaw 2008 (Revision 2 –

2018), which introduces some changes to Elgin Terrace near the main wharf in Oban. The bylaw came into force on 28 September but will not change the parking restrictions already displayed there. Copies of the bylaw can be viewed at your local Council office or at www.southlanddc.govt.nz

Council also wants to hear your feedback on the –

Draft Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Policy

Draft Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Bylaw 2019.

Some key changes are proposed to the draft policy and by-law. Further information can be found in the Statement of Proposal, which can be viewed online or at your Council office. For more information and to make a submission visit www.southlanddc.govt.nz/have-your-say Submissions can be made from 8am on 4 October until 5pm on 9 November. All submissions must be appropriately labelled and must **include the submitter's name and contact details**. Submissions will be made available to the public.

For more information contact Robyn Rout on 0800 732 732.

Free dog bags available to keep Stewart Island clean

Coming across dog poo is a sure-fire way to ruin your day.

Free rolls of dog bags have been distributed to Stewart Island dog owners in their mailboxes, to encourage residents to clean up after their four-legged friends. Southland District Council's environmental health manager Michael Sarfaiti says concerns about dog droppings on the island have been growing. **"One of the responsibilities people have as a dog owner is to make sure their pet doesn't have a negative impact on other people – and nobody wants to deal with somebody else's dog droppings," he says. For a short time Council will distribute a limited supply of free dog bags, so owners can clean up their pet's mess. The used bags can be disposed of in the public rubbish bins throughout Oban, Mr Sarfaiti says. "Under the Council's Dog Control Bylaw 2015, anybody walking his or her dog must remove and dispose of droppings straight away. Any dog owner who fails to do so is liable for an infringement fee of \$300," Mr Sarfaiti says. "Dog owners are encouraged to use the dog bags to ensure the village remains clean for both locals and visitors alike. Stewart Island is regarded as one of the jewels of New Zealand and it is important we all do our bit to make sure its spectacular natural environment isn't soiled by a stray dog poo."**

Sarah Dowie's Rakiura Remarks

On the 6th September, my Members Bill to provide best practice regulations for shark cage diving activities was drawn from the ballot and will be debated in Parliament. The Shark Cage Diving (Permitting and Safety) Bill acknowledges and addresses the risk that is posed by shark cage diving that is carried out in close proximity to beaches. This risk is increased due to the nature of competing activities in coastal waters in the Stewart Island area, where shark cage diving is currently carried out. Water-users, residents and families on Stewart Island have felt endangered by shark cage diving operations that are carried out close to the shore. This Bill comes after a recent Court of Appeal judgment that found that the Department of Conservation did not have the ability to issue Shark Cage Diving permits under the Wildlife Act because the current operation of the activity i.e throwing burley over the sides of boats and enticing sharks for viewing purposes fits within the wide definition of 'hunt or kill' which is clearly prohibited under the Act that deals with native wildlife. The Court also referred to the fact that it would be a matter for Parliament to best decide how Shark Cage Diving is to proceed i.e by amending existing legislation or enacting stand-alone legislation to regulate the activity. I do not think, however, that this means viewing sharks in cages has been outlawed. It is the act of enticing sharks by the methods outlined in the judgment that make the practice contrary to the Wildlife Act. If operators changed their behaviour to simply viewing sharks without enticing them. **I don't see how that would breach the Wildlife Act** as it would be no different from going for a walk in the bush and seeing a bird in a tree. Hence this leaves the activity of shark cage diving to be still on the table without the ability to govern its operation, and my concern is having operations within 10km of Oban. My Bill would provide conditions for granting permits relating to the geographical area within which the commercial shark cage diving operation may operate, as well as minimum distances of operation from specified locations such as beaches. It would also provide the means to ensure that the people operating the cages work in a way that poses no threat to sharks, while also mitigating the clear threat to the safety of the public using the sea for work or recreation. In May, I attempted to put forward my Bill for debate, however it was blocked by Labour, NZ First and the Green Party. At the time, Ms Sage said the bill was premature given the Court of Appeal was still considering how DOC could be more active on the issue of safety for cage diving. The Bill is supported by both tourism operators and fishers. I have had ongoing involvement with the matter since it was initially brought to my attention in 2014. If this goes to Select Committee, it will be a great opportunity for Stewart Islanders to have their say.

RAKIURA RIDDLE

I've got six toes, but I'm useful to you. You feed me, I feed you. What am I?

Riddle by Summer Thompson



Books Reviewed
from Sue Ford

For me to become really involved in a story, I have to be invested in the characters. I have to feel – as deeply as possible – some emotion: empathy, sympathy, fear of, **anger with.... The characters have to be sufficiently alive to me that I can believe in them. That doesn't mean I can't enjoy a style of writing or a plot, and "The Wanted" by Robert Crais is an example of that.** An ordinary teenage boy with mild ADHD, addicted to gaming, is in possession of a Rolex watch and some fine clothes. His mother hires P.I. Elvis Cole to find out where these things are coming from. Then young Tyson disappears. **It's a decent story, but the characters didn't quite resonate with me. It was the same with "Cast Iron" by Peter May.** Forensic expert Enzo Macleod has a twisted romantic past which **impinges on his present when he's hired to prove that a pimp - already jailed for murdering three women – also murdered Lucie Martin. Enzo's family may have to pay the price for him digging so deeply into the historic case. Convoluted and with people I didn't believe in but interesting plot.**

Now for two with good examples of **people that it's hard to believe are fictitious!** "House of Gold" by Natasha Solomons: the immensely rich Goldbaum's hold a family network of banking, political influence and wealth throughout Europe, not least because the young ones have no say in whom they will marry, mostly from

amongst distant cousins or amongst similarly wealthy, well-connected families. Beautiful Greta faces marriage to a young man decidedly not to her taste, and needs to make roots of her own. But war between European countries will put siblings and cousins against each other and endanger the **lives of Greta's relatives, including her husband. I'm only sorry that we didn't tie up all the loose ends before the conclusion of the story. A sequel maybe?**

And then – drum roll please! – my **personal Book of the Month: "Dead Water" by Ann Cleeves: in the Shetlands,** Inspector Jimmy Perez is still half-mad with grief following the murder of his fiancée, but he is drawn back to work despite himself when an ex-resident and journalist returns to Shetland and ends up murdered. But his is not the last body to muddy the **investigative waters. Maybe it's because the lead investigator hailed from North Uist and a fortnight before I read the book, I was actually there! Whatever, I felt that I came to know the lead characters and it was evocative with dramatic landscapes, raw but identifiable emotions and an old-fashioned who-dunnit thrown in with a suitably unexpected ending. What's not to like?**

"Last Breath" by Robert Bryndza is a bit on the gruesome side, but another good plot let down by a fiery Det. Erika Foster who would have been sacked years ago in the real world – just too beyond the pale. She reacts slowly and not well as an on-line

stalker selects victims, kidnaps them, brutalizes them and then leaves the bodies in dumpsters. The ending is overly dramatic too.

The dramatic ending to "The Date" by Louise Jensen is the best part about it – and I'm not being sarcastic. It really is a neat twist (which I imagined more or less correctly, using Agatha Christie's method – decide who is the most unlikely villain, and you have him, or her). It's the crazy, mixed-up grief and guilt-ridden main character I take issue with. Ali and husband Matt have only been separated a short while when she inexplicably gives in to badgering friends and goes on a blind date. The next thing she knows, she's in her own bed, fully dressed, covered in blood and bruises and with a head wound. And she has not a single memory of the night before. So she phones the police, right? Wrong! Worse is to come when she doesn't recognize anyone, not even herself, and is diagnosed with 'face blindness' or prosopagnosia (which is a genuine neural disorder btw). So she tells them at the hospital that she fears she was assaulted, right? Wrong! And so it goes on as Ali receives threats and is stalked. The last 15% of the book does build good tension and suspense as the possibilities of who is doing this to her, and why, start to clear, and still the daft woman doesn't catch on until the last chapter! But I reckon if the book holds you to the last page, it's not all bad, and I read each to the end with degrees of enjoyment. Let's see what next month brings.

The Island

The island is unique in its own way; it had
A creek, some houses, sea
Bunched round it and even a few churches
I went to once or twice. My brothers, friends
and I
Did what Islanders do—jumped off the
Wharf, paddled at the shore of the hot
Beaches, made treehuts,
Went rat-trapping in the bush, had picnics at
the
Beach or hung out at the park
Doing nothing important
By Aoife Fitzsimons



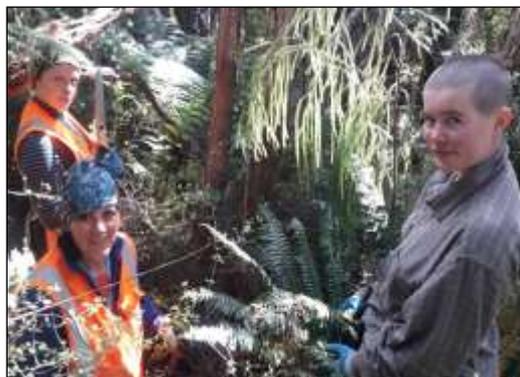
Quin Hicks receiving a reminder that talking on one's phone while driving is a no-no.

SIRCET's War on Weeds by *Letitia McRitchie*

The Barberry team started the season in September with lovely days and plenty of barberry. After two weeks the true spring weather has hit, cold and wet! This year we have Belinda Dobbins leading the team. Laire Purik returned for a second year and Olivia Bayne is the third field team member. Willy is leading the field team and providing some excellent data management and mapping. I'm overseeing the project and concentrating on contacting landowners, asking for permission. The team are doing a fantastic job. Some dense areas of barberry have slowed the progress but a lot of barberry is being removed. It can be extremely hard work but there is also the beauty of being in the bush every day. I have had a great response from landowners. This year I have to contact 134 landowners and so far 83 have said yes and only one person has said no. Environment Southland kindly sent out the letters on SIRCET's behalf and I've had lots of help from locals to help track down landowners to ask permission to access their land. If you have a letter from SIRCET asking for permission, please get in touch with me! This map shows the teams tracks where they have searched around the Dress Circle (I had permission for every house, except two). Each dot represents a barberry killed and removed. It's great to get this invasive weed removed from around the township. Barberry is dispersed by birds that have eaten the berries and as it seems to like our climate and is happy to grow in the shade (but loves to grow in the sun!), it has the real potential to take over, as was seen around the town 20 years ago!



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Church Chatter by Jo Riksem



Halfmoon Bay

October rings in the start of "the season" when more visitors are coming to Stewart Island, some to discover us for the first time and others on return visits. It is lovely to meet people from all over the world and all walks of life and so many friendships are made between islanders and visitors. Some that will even last a lifetime. There are many islanders who have come for a visit and never left and others who have come and found love. Whatever the reason for coming to this magnificent island let us as islanders be aware of being welcoming and gracious as we meet new people and show them the beauty of our special spot. The good Lord was welcoming to all that came to him with always a word of kindness and a story to tell. He is a wonderful example.

Speakers for November 2018

4 Nov. 2018 - Maren Tiribassi - Rev. Maren Tiribassi, author of 20 books, is a guest preacher, writing teacher, new author mentor and workshop facilitator with prison inmates, early English speakers and cancer patients. She lives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA and has recently retired after 37 years in parish ministry. She loves quilting, hiking, swimming, beagles and attending science fiction and fantasy conventions. This is her first visit to NZ and she is thrilled to be able to fit in a visit to Stewart Island and a friend here, after the North Island retreat she is attending.

11 Nov. 2018 - to be confirmed. Check the notice board that week.

18 Nov. 2018 - Will and Rachel Cheeseman - Will and Rachel were with us in June and we're happy to see them back again. If you missed them in June come along and hear them in November.

25 Nov. 2018 - to be confirmed. Check the notice board that week.

In remembrance of Deborah Rose Dillon

Posters of "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party" for sale at the Post Office.

*Suggested donation \$20.00
Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank You!*

All revenue will be donated to Motor Neuron Disease research.



What's up, DOC?

From Jennifer Ross



Stewart Island/Rakiura Conservation Week Events

The Halfmoon Bay School students did a fantastic job with their writing and scientific drawing projects during Conservation Week 2018. It was so hard to choose winners that we decided to have a 1st Prize along with a 2nd and 3rd Place for each class and presented all students with a certificate on Friday 21 September. The winning entries are now on display at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre. Come have a look! They are brilliant!

We also had a great turnout for the Conservation Week Community event and barbeque on Saturday 22 September. Thank you to everyone who stopped by Traill Park and an extra special thank you to everyone who talked about their conservation efforts this year. You all should so proud of all the conservation work going on in this community– I certainly am! All Halfmoon Bay School writing and drawing entries were on display and a real hit! The Department would like to thank the Stewart Island Community Board for allowing the use of the Traill Park building free of charge and a huge thank you to Ray Phillips from the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association for traveling to the island to attend the event!



Thank you all for a great Conservation Week 2018!



NEED FOR SPEED?

The Department of Conservation needs your help! There's an easy way to protect our wildlife and it's on our roads. We only have about 20 kilometres of roading and our highest speed limit is only 50km/hour, so we have a great opportunity.

Please Remember:

Kiwi and penguins are most at risk from vehicles

They're very active in the twilight hours and at night

Kiwi, in particular, can dart out from the road-side in front of unsuspecting vehicles

We have had two adult kiwi, one little blue penguin, and one red-billed gull accidentally hit by cars in the last four months (May to September 2018). Always expect a wildlife encounter.



The tortoise and the hare

The distance between the Lee Bay & Leask Bay road ends is 7.5km. If you travelled this route at 50km/hour it would take about 9 minutes while at 40km/hour it would be just over 11 minutes. Those extra two minutes could make all the difference.

Found dead native wildlife?

If you've found a dead native bird or animal, please contact the local DOC office on 03 219 0009. These animals could be used for research, cultural materials, taxidermies for museums or schools etc.

SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

It's been a while since I have shared some of my favourite recipes with you all....You see I've been on my own personal health journey and through that learning more about food nutrition, how good and bad carbs affect the body, when the best time to eat them is and what sugar does to our bodies.

It's no secret that I love baking, but am always blown away how much of the white stuff we add to make something sweet....SUGAR that little monster that if you have some you crave more and more.

So lately I have been trying out & tweaking a few dessert recipes that satisfy my tastebuds but also keep me satisfied for longer. Keeping the sugar content to a minimum so in turn my blood sugar level doesn't spike. By using good fats in desserts like coconut cream or oil and "better" sugar replacements like Brown rice syrup I am ticking more boxes for healthier eating than say your average slice of chocolate cake.

Coconut, Brown rice & Quinoa flours are a favourite of mine too. Especially if you are Gluten free. These options keep you fuller for longer and in turn keep your blood sugar more level than plain old white flour or processed white GF flour does. They offer different texture to baking as well and some flours like coconut require more liquid added to re create a recipe you

may be converting, or need extra eggs to keep it together better.

Now don't get me wrong I do still bake with sugar & wheat flour and eat "normal cake" when I want too, but the majority of the time I tend to search\create better options for the things I like....it's all about consistency. So as the saying goes I can have my cake and eat it too...

I recently won an online competition - the brief was to create a healthy dessert. I entered two recipes, both chocolate flavor; a pannacotta and a cake. Winning inspired me to share my chocolate cake recipe in hopes others are looking for these better options too.

CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients

10 dried dates - soaked in water - I cut them into pieces first.
 1 cup of apple sauce - I make my own adding cinnamon powder and water (no sugar needed)
 1/2 cup coconut oil (melted)
 3 eggs OR 2 bananas mashed - I prefer to use the eggs but if you are allergic or vegan this is a great option
 2 tsp vanilla extract
 1/2 cup coconut flour
 1/2 cup of carob or cacao powder - or you can use cocoa powder if you don't have either - just watch the sugar content that's added into some brands
 1 tsp baking soda
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 cup strong plunger coffee - not instant!



Method:

Pulse dates in blender or similar (I have a nutra bullet so I use that). Add apple sauce, eggs (or bananas) vanilla and coconut oil & coffee. Mix until combined. Then add dry ingredients to the wet until it's a smooth batter. Add cake to a lined and or greased pan (you can use coconut oil or olive) Bake at 170 degrees for 30-40 minutes, a toothpick should come out clean when cooked. Let cake cool in tin - this won't rise much at all so don't be alarmed, but it will be tasty and satisfying. The coconut flour adds a sandy texture which I quite enjoy.. others may not, you could experiment with different flours...

TIPS: I like to serve mine with raspberries or if you want to take it to another level, add a can of coconut cream to the fridge for a good few hours, open can remove any liquid left (if any, I like Fia Fia brand) and whip it with a beater. You can top with raspberries or add 1\4 cup of carob or cacao powder to make it a chocolate icing...or fresh vanilla seeds...yum! I recently used coconut cream to replace cream cheese icing on a carrot cake...and I'm pleased to report it was well received. This recipe is Auto-immune protocol approved + if there is anyone out there following the protocol for healing through diet for auto immune diseases or gut healing for general better health. Some of you will find it won't be sweet enough for your tastebuds, mine have been detoxed from sugar and have been reset. If you really want to you can add more dates for extra sweetness but do remember the whole idea is to limit the sugar content, and if you're not a coffee fan try chai tea instead. ENJOY!

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CALLING ALL PALLET MASTERS

This coming Gala Day, Sunday 21st October, Rakiura Rugrats will be running the second 'Rakiura Recycling Challenge' to see who is the Pallet Master.

The rules are simple - just build something with pallets, bring it along on the day and the judges will decide the winners.

Prizes for: Overall winner, Most inventive, Craftmanship and Junior

All creations will be auctioned off on the day, with all proceeds going to Rakiura Rugrats. Any questions - ask Liz, Leah, Ange or Charlotte.



Boat notes: Rakiura Explorer



Josephine Shepard helps to launch the Rakiura Explorer

Length: 19.6m (64ft)

Displacement: 40,000kg (88,185lb)

Power: 2 x Scania DI 14 - 675hp (503kW) each

Drives: Q-SPD WB350

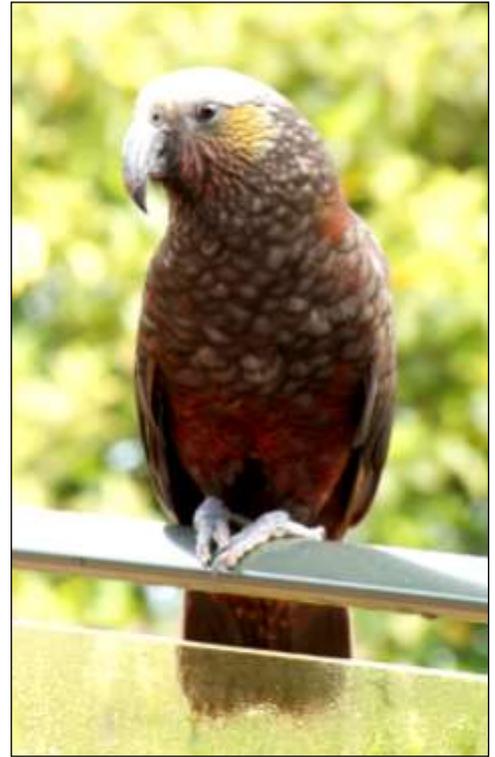
Propellers: 990mm (39") 5 Blade Q-SPD

Top Speed: 29knots Cruise: 23.5knots

“Predator”, a Richard McBride designed planning catamaran, was originally built by Rex Barnett of Barnett Engineering in Blenheim. Rex also performed the recent lengthening and propulsion refit. The twin hulls were modified slightly to suit the relatively simple mounting of the Q-SPD drives. Despite 2.8 meters being added to the hulls, the engines were left exactly on their original mounts. To offer the simplest conversion from the original water jet system to the Q-SPD driveline, Q-SPD supplied a custom built drive line to suit the application. The Q-SPD supplied drive system included a Python Drive thrust bearing and heavy duty CV drive shafts, ensuring the angle change between the engine and the new drive line was smooth and vibration free. Whilst the added length increased the buoyancy of the vessel, the addition of cranes and other equipment took the operating displacement from its original 26 tonnes to a new fully laden weight of 40 tonnes. Now, what is really intriguing is that this vessel has relatively small engines for its size - 675hp Scantias. The original boat at 26 tonnes displacement and using water-jets would, on a really good day, achieve 22 knots - downhill, but most days an operating speed in the low teens was the norm. However add 2.8m, 14 tonnes and Q-SPD drives, and the new “Rakiura Explorer” boasts an easy and comfortable top speed of 29 knots and cruise of 23knots fully laden at 40 tonnes.

Science in a nutshell

by Rakiura Herzoff



Next time you’re shooing-off that cheeky Kākā trying to swipe snacks off your veranda picnic, bear in mind that you’ve probably thwarted an economic master-mind! Okay, perhaps a slight exaggeration, but get this: In a recent study published earlier this month, Ornithologists in Bavaria have learnt our feathered friends, specifically parrots, can learn to forgo immediate rewards in return for something more up their alley later. A selection of 36 parrots were put to the test (such as grey parrots and blue-headed macaws) in which they could choose between an immediate food reward (cereals) or a token that could be exchanged later for food of “higher nutritional value” (sunflower seeds and walnuts). As the lead author, Anastasia Krasheninnikova puts it, these parrots made clever choices to maximise their gains. Performance was so high that they did as well as chimpanzees in similar tests: forgoing immediate rewards in favour of tokens representing a “higher nutritional value than that of the immediate reward”.

Interestingly, it was found that some of the grey parrots would chose the token over food even if they could only get food of the exact same nutritional value. Saving the tokens for a **midnight treat? At very least, “the tokens have acquired a special value in the eyes of the birds, for which they are even prepared to forgo an immediate food reward”.** These experiments can help deepen our understanding of wild parrots (which can prove tricky to study!) and how they might consider where to look for food and “how long they should spend at a given food source”. So next time you find yourself being watched by our local parrots, just remember they are probably up to more than just waiting for you to leave the table.

A Kiwi Fire fighter in Canada

Letitia McRitchie

In August, Andrew King spent a month in Canada, as part of the New Zealand deployment. He was supposed to go to California but a short dated passport meant he was pulled from that team at the last minute. **The next morning he received the call "The Canadian Government has requested NZ fire fighter assistance, get your passport sorted, we're leaving in 4 days. All up 65 NZ'ers were deployed to assist.** They were to fill specific roles and Andrew went as a Helicopter Co-ordinator, a role he had received specialised training for in NZ. The job involved directing helicopters where to drop water, watching over ground crews, medivacs, setting up tanker fuelling points and managing helicopter operations. After a long 24 hours travelling from Stewart Island to Vancouver, Andrew picked up his first truck (Ford F550) and drove 9 hours from Kamloops to Burns Lake. While unsuccessfully negotiating a red light, Andrew met the only Kiwi cop in Kamloops. Needless to say, no ticket was issued!

He spent the first 14 day stint staying in a hotel in Burns Lake. Each day he had to drive an hour to the firebase where he spent the day in the chopper. After working 12 hours, it was another hours drive back home to try and find some dinner. Over the 5 weeks Andrew drove 6000km! After the rostered 2 days off (travelling 4 hours in a school bus was not the most relaxing start!), Andrew moved into a tent camp. There were 400 fire crew there, with Andrew the lone kiwi and over half of the others Mexicans. While chatting to a medic one day, the person stated they had a flatmate from NZ who was on the fire crew. Bridget Hunt! Andrew caught up with her by text, sounds like she is having a great time!

The NZ crew were spread from the Yukon down to Vancouver Island, with the fires covering 3.32 million hectares. Many are left to burn, with the focus on protecting houses and property. Where Andrew worked, there were 5 fires burning, covering over 141,000 hectares. 19 aircraft covered these fires and 156 diggers/skidders and bulldozers. The last fire Andrew worked on in NZ covered 1300 hectares, quite a large NZ fire! It was an amazing experience with Andrew learning a huge amount. All the Kiwis will put their new skills and experience to work back home, especially with a hot, dry summer predicted!

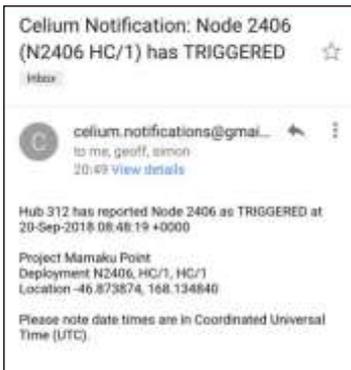


Above, top to bottom: Beside a fire break with the hoses laid out ready; Andrew with a Russian made K-Mov helicopter. These can lift 5000kg (the big choppers that fly around here lift 1000kg); Whitetail by the side of the road Below: Left to right: Russian made 61. Another large chopper! One of the many signs along the sides of the roads.



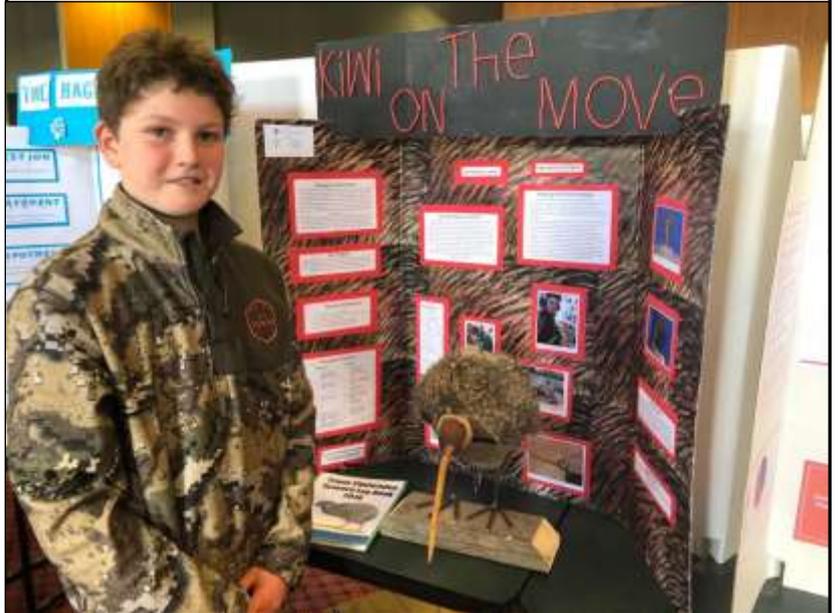


Dead critters real time! As everyone who's been involved in trapping for rats or possums knows, setting and checking traps is a very time-intensive and repetitive process. At Mamaku Point we're therefore very excited to have recently commissioned our new "Celium" remote trap monitoring system. This involved installing a small VHF mast on the highest part of Reserve, and attaching tiny nodes to our traps. When a trap is activated, the node sends out a message via VHF that ends up notifying us via a mobile phone app, like the example notification below (which turned out to be a false alarm, and we discovered, after checking our trail camera was caused by a little blue penguin having bumped the trap on its way home). We currently have 190 nodes installed with a further 80 on backorder, and the system is already saving us a huge amount of time because we no longer need to regularly check all our traps, but can instead just go directly to those that have been activated. If you're interested in the technical background on Celium, check out www.encounter.solutions/celium/. Our thanks to DOC for part funding the capital cost of the Celium system through Community Fund and Predator Free 2050 grants.



Taking kiwi aversion training to the next level

For the Southland Science Fair Travis took on the challenge of redesigning the 'e-kiwi' used by SIRCET and trainer Sandy King for kiwi aversion training for dogs. Sandy had often said that it would be good if the kiwi could somehow be made to move, to make it more realistic for the dogs being trained. Travis created the robotic kiwi, which has a wooden base and beak, steel legs and a polystyrene head. Two small battery powered motors move the kiwi. He is planning to test the kiwi at SIRCET's Labour weekend Kiwi Aversion training at Moturau Moana. Well done Travis!



Travis Chittenden with his award winning Science Fair entry



Horseshoe Bay Beach Clean Up

I had never thought of Horseshoe as a particularly rubbish strewn beach but it was amazing how much rope and chain and things were buried there. Ian Herbert and his red tractor and Craig Stonyer in his 4WD were kept busy pulling out piles of old rope. It was great turn out by the community. Thank you to all the willing volunteers who turned up. The next beach to be targeted is Ocean Beach, with Real Journeys kindly providing transport. Thanks to Josephine Sheppard, Kath Johnson and Greg Everest.



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 Or
 Phone: 0274 991 881

Go you good thing awards!

Congratulations to the 4 Square for now stocking moon cups (you know how we here at SIN feel about mooncups) it is great these are now available on the island.

And a big good on ya to the South Sea Hotel for composting their used takeaway coffee cups!

Stewart Island Handyman Services

- | | |
|---|--|
| General repairs & maintenance | Wooden fences and decks |
| Lawn mowing | General fencing |
| Line trimming | General carpentry |
| Section maintenance | Gutter cleaning |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree pruning | Water blasting |
| Tree removal | Spider proofing |
| Chainsaw work | |
| Hedge trimming | And more - just ask |
|  | Contact Geoff |
| | Phone 973 0959 (Local Number) |
| | Mobile 027 253 3106 |
| | Email handyman@acadia.co.nz |

RAKIURA JADE

with Master Carver & Sculptor Dave Goodin

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

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

Make your own treasure from your selected piece of beautiful New Zealand greenstone (from \$150/day) Come browse the gallery of beautiful objects made by local artists
www.rakiurajade.co.nz rakiurajade@gmail.com
 021 025 93958

Congratulations!
 Parents Alison and Paul and siblings Ryan, Aoife and Fionn on the birth of baby boy
 Sean Rakiura Fitzsimons

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Please send articles and enquiries to Editor at PO Box 156 Stewart Island or email to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

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