

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

March 2017

\$3.00

I was recently given an issue of SIN from 1988 and was fascinated to travel back in time. Burning issues back then included: plans for building the Shearwater Inn (now Stewart Island Backpackers), the opening of the Power Station, and a tribute to Alan Wilson. It struck me that while the issues had changed, the warmth and sense of community came through clearly, as I hope it does today. Our archives are online at stewartislandnews.com

Sadly, our biggest cruise ship of the season, the 1800 passenger Pacific Pearl, didn't get to experience that warmth. We were all ready and at action stations, extra food had been ordered, the community market was looking amazing but when they arrived after a slow trip it was too rough for the tenders to bring the passengers ashore. So they stayed on board. We looked at them, and they looked at us, and then it was time for the 'ghost ship' (as it appeared through the mist) to go. Another thing that vanished recently was the

telephone off the famous 'telephone tree'. I hear it has been replaced now, but see page 7 for a picture of the 'naked' tree.

Congratulations to newlyweds Sam and Charlotte Jenkinson!

And condolences to the Poynton family and friends on the death of Barbara. There's a tribute to her on page 3. And from the busy folk at the wrong gender apologies desk a big 'sorry' to Gadget the rat detecting wonder dog. Gadget is a girl not a boy! Sorry Gadget—we owe you a tennis ball! If you haven't checked out Gadget's recent adventures on



Cloud picture by Sandra Whipp

the sub Antarctic islands on Facebook, go have a look, they are amazing! Also well worth a look is the exhibition in the Community Centre foyer of work done in charcoal by talented artist Juliet Novena Sorrel and the Halfmoon Bay school kids. It is on all month so get along and marvel at the talent in our midst. *Shona*

Kayakers check out the Vibrant Curiosity an 85 metre super yacht that moored in Paterson Inlet recently. She is owned by German billionaire Reinhold Wurth. Reported to have cost \$111 million dollars, and in addition to the helicopter, she has a swimming pool, lift and a maximum speed of 18.5 knots.





Monitoring yellow-eyed penguin breeding success this season is complete. In late January and early February Sandy King, Cheyanne Carey, and Raphael Karnuth carried out the final check on Codfish Island, the Anglem Coast, and the Bravo islands. Cheyanne and Raphael are both students studying Environmental Management at SIT; Cheyanne had helped last year and obviously wasn't deterred by the muck and penguin bites since she volunteered to come again as my experienced hand, while for Raphael (originally from Germany) it was a completely new and different experience.

We started on Codfish Island, and it didn't take long to get around the 23 nest sites found in October 2016. The good piece of news was finding a nest that had been missed in the initial search, but otherwise the outcome was fairly gloomy. Fourteen chicks are thought to have fledged and the breeding success is only 30%, slightly more than last year and overall the chicks this season were slightly heavier, but it is still considered a very poor result. The constant downward trend in nest numbers is very concerning, if the decline continues at the current rate there will be no yellow-eyed penguins nesting on Codfish by 2030.

After Codfish we moved to Stewart Island and the Anglem coast where the result was a bit more encouraging. Fourteen chicks fledged from 13 nests with breeding success of 56%. However, this result was from only two of the five breeding sites monitored in the past – Golden Beach and Rollers Beach. There was only one nest found in October 2016 between three other sites (Long Harry, East Smoky, and Yankee River) and we didn't return to it this season. Twenty-two nests were found between these five sites in 2008 compared to 14 in 2016.



Below: Raphael searching in thick scrub

The Bravo islands had a fairly middle-of-the-road season, especially when compared to the very successful breeding season there last season. Seventeen nests produced 15 chicks with a breeding success of 47% compared to 78% last season. The number of nests on the Bravo islands has also been slowly declining, from 23 in 2008 to 17 in 2016. Tommy Dobbins joined us for a day to see what had happened to the nests he'd helped locate last October and was a useful extra pair of hands.

If there was an award for "Catch of the Season" it would go to Cheyanne for a spectacular head-long dive into supplejack to nab a fleeing chick. She was successful, but it took a while to extricate her and the chick safely! (It's a good thing she milks cows in her spare time and is used to being covered in muck!).

There are always people and organisations to thank for their time, help, and support of this project. This year I'd like to thank volunteers Dean Nelson, Bridget Hunt, Tommy Dobbins, Cheyanne Carey, and Raphael Karnuth; also Dave Houston, the Department of Conservation staff from Murihiku and Stewart Island, Stewart Island Flights, Rakiura Charters, Real Journeys, Sanford Ltd, Tio Operations Ltd, and Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust members.

Sandy King
For the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

In memory of Barbara Poynton

Born in England in 1934 – died 6th February 2017.

Some people have the ability to fit in easily to all sorts of situations and life changes. Barbara was one of those. Her arrival on Stewart Island and the subsequent adaptations required for living in a remote community with limited services and small population didn't seem to worry Barbara, or husband Paul, who set about making sure that their family enjoyed Island life.

Arriving in 1968 from South Africa with their three daughters Linda, Christine and Elizabeth, the Poyntons purchased 'Seaview', a quaint white, picket fenced cottage (later the Black house) alongside the South Sea Hotel which they ran as a bed and breakfast place for a couple of years before shifting to Leask Bay (now Airdry Leask's house). Barbara had green fingers and her gardens were always beautiful.

Around the time of their arrival on the Island the Poyntons had also purchased a cottage and land in Kidney Fern Inlet where they enjoyed spending as much time as possible, with Barbara and the girls often making the journey on foot over the mud flats at low tide. Paul owned and fished the little vessel 'Wanderer' for many years.

Barbara's love of nature and the quiet beautiful places of her adopted country made her an obvious choice when a group of Stewart Island women began planning tramping trips into the hills and looked for like-minded friends to join them.

Over a period of 40 years we were lucky enough to have Barbara as a friend and tramping companion. Our annual expeditions took place in March and covered a diverse range of tramps from sea to mountain tops. We enjoyed all the major walks of the South Island



and Stewart Island – some, 4 or 5 day strenuous hikes and others in later years were quiet get-togethers at some remote location from which we did day walks. Originally all living on Stewart Island our group has dispersed over the years with Barbara, the furthest away in Cambridge.

Barbara as the oldest in our group of nine was our most treasured member. Her eyes twinkled with humour and her lovely Pommie accent only made her stories all the more captivating. At the end of a long hard tramping day we would sit around the fire while Barbara carefully dispensed our medicinal tot of port and we caught up with each other's news. As all of her family, friends and acquaintances will know, Barbara was very kind and tolerant. She loved watching people and was a good judge of character. She had firm opinions about things and a huge number of life experiences to draw on which made her all the

more interesting. Being the shortest in the group didn't bother Barbara as she had amazing stamina and could walk and walk for miles. 'I'll keep going until my back legs give out' she would tell us when we discussed future trips. It wasn't all plain sailing for Barbara – she had been snowed in and rescued in Fiordland, airlifted out of the Leslie Valley after a wasp sting and broken wrist but was still undaunted. Even though the Poynton family shifted away from the Island around 1980 they returned regularly to Kidney Fern and spent time in Halfmoon Bay catching up with friends. Barbara passed away at home in Cambridge on 6th February 2017 aged 82, after a short illness and will be missed by her family and friends.

By Margaret Hopkins



LETTERS

On Saturday 4th March Charlotte Bates & Sam Jenkinson got married at the community centre. This was not quite how they had planned their wedding to go down...

The ceremony was supposed to happen on the beach at Mill Creek with the reception under marquees at Moturau Moana Gardens. Many days and hours of planning and preparation had gone into the setting up of these venues. Unfortunately the weather didn't co-operate and with 40kt winds, sideways rain and 2hrs until ceremony, the very tough call was made to relocate.

With the help and support of both locals & wedding guests Moturau was packed up, moved to the community centre, unpacked and the hall suitably attired, right down to the formation of a beach setting in the covered balcony area. What had taken 3 days to set up was relocated in just over an hour! None of this would have been possible without all of you. Our overwhelming thanks to everyone who helped out in whatever way; big or small, truck or shovel, call or email, you all played a massive part in making our memorable day come true.

It truly was a day to never be forgotten!

Many thanks & much love, Sam, Charlotte, Lady, Esjay & the entire Bates & Jenkinson Families.

P.S. If anyone has any photos of the carnage we would love to see them!



Below: Art on display at the Community Centre, created by Juliet Novena Sorrel and the pupils of Halfmoon Bay Primary School.



Restoration Project at The Neck (Te Oneki):

An update from Rakiura Maori Land Trustees

It was obvious to anyone who visited The Neck prior to 2008 that it was an ecosystem on the verge of collapse. Damage to the native bush due to possum and deer browsing was extensive and free roaming stock and uncontrolled burn offs added to the problem. The Trustees consulted with owners and were given a mandate to carry out a pest eradication programme and do whatever they could to restore the land to its original state.

The project began in 2008 with ground based poisoning of possum using 1080 in bait stations. The result was hugely successful with the possum numbers being reduced by over 99%.

An ongoing trapping programme has kept the numbers low. Sheep and cattle that had been allowed to roam freely onto RMLT land were removed and fences and gates were repaired to prevent them from gaining access.

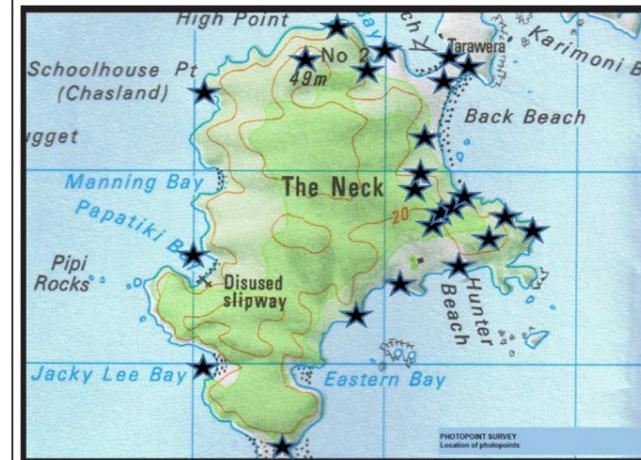
One of the Trust's best decisions was to employ local, Kyle Learmouth to oversee The Neck project. Kyle's passion, expertise and hard work have been fundamental in ensuring the ongoing success of the project.

To measure the effects of the reduction in possum numbers and the removal of stock a photo point monitoring system was established. This involves selecting sites that gave a good representation of the different types of vegetation found on The Neck and taking panoramic photos at each site. These sites have been revisited four times in the past 8 years, most recently in February of this year and clearly shows there have been significant improvements in the vegetation.

The bush is looking much healthier, with the canopy and shrub layers continuing to show huge improvements in growth. One of the most pleasing observations was the regeneration of native species in many areas, particularly on the eastern side of The Neck.

We have plans to continue to reduce pests and restore the native flora and fauna of the Neck and we thank the Stewart Island community for their ongoing support of this project.

Nga Mihi Trust Chair, Simon Gomez



Stars indicate the location of a photo-point site

Summary of results over the past eight years:

Marked improvement in the condition of forest margins and a marked increase in native shrub and tree seedling establishment in areas not browsed heavily by deer.

A very significant improvement in fuchsia condition and fuchsia canopy density and an associated reduction in the proportion of dieback in fuchsia.

Increase in broadleaf canopy density above deer browse height with the reduction in possum density, but no increase where new shoots/leaves are accessible to deer.

Significant germination of native in places beneath the gorse canopy on the western side, some death of pre-existing gorse plants overwhelmed by thick manuka.

Marked recovery in toetoe condition and flowering in some areas probably due to removal of cattle and cessation of burning.

Marked increase in waterfern and bracken in places, often with abundant germination of native shrub/tree species within.

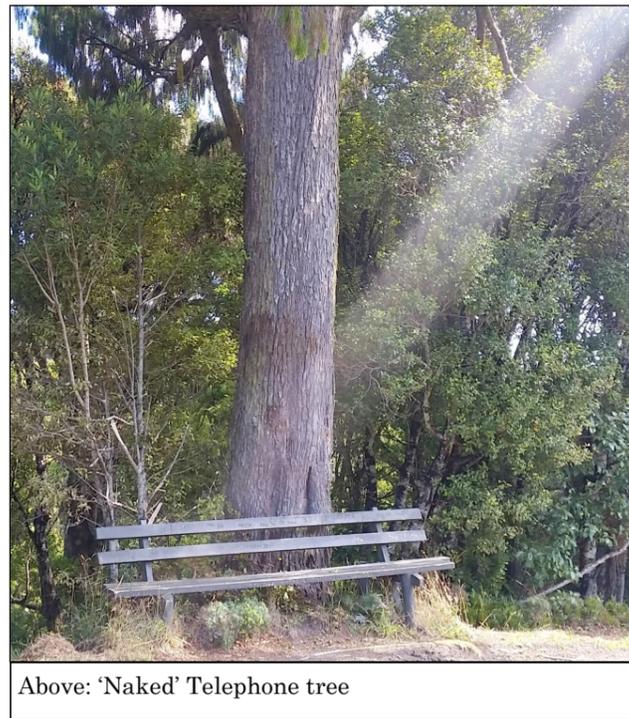
Increased ground cover on open areas due to removal of stock.

Significant improvement in the condition of the bush floor that had previously been damaged by stock.

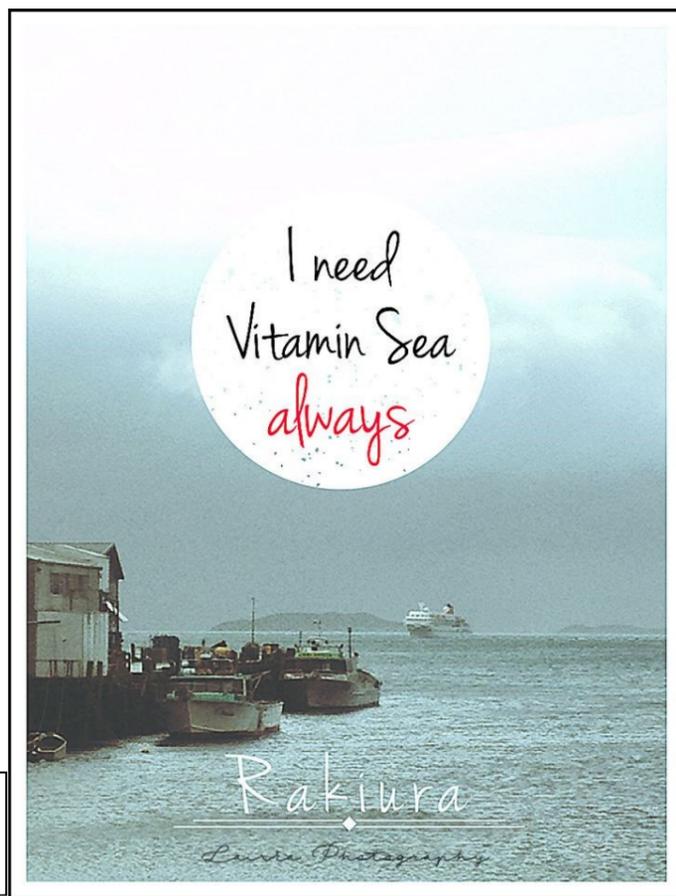


Above: an area along the eastern side of The Neck, known as "Dawsons" in 2008. Below: The same place in 2017. The vegetation has now overtopped the tripod (circled) despite its location on a high mound





Above: 'Naked' Telephone tree



Right: Image of cruise ship Pacific Pearl by Lairka Photography. Lairka's photos and art are now for sale at the Bunkhouse Theatre.

It is all in the details in this lovely sunrise picture taken by Greg Everest; email caption suggestions to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com



Visitor Numbers:-

Despite the sometimes inhospitable weather recently, newly released visitor numbers for January show an increase of 568. Numbers have been steadily rising since the Levy commenced in October 2013. January 2014 records 4816 levy paying visitors, 2015 achieved 5386, 2016 saw 5633 and January just past reached 6201.

Visitor Levy funds (GST Inclusive) from these travellers totalled

June 2014 \$130,601

June 2015 \$153,239

June 2016 \$182,287

Remember, this fund is now open for grant applications (which need to be lodged by 31 March). For more information go to www.southlanddc.govt.nz or speak to Kirsten at the Area Office/Library (weekday mornings).

Village Centre, Oban : glowingsky.co.nz



Glowing Sky. Southern Clothing.

Matecki Classic

Stewart Island

A '3 Person' Ambrose Golf Tournament

Saturday 25th March 2017

Ringaringa Heights Golf Club wishes to invite participation in this friendly and fun event.

Start Times between 11am & 12 noon

\$60 per team

(includes Barbeque afterwards at the Fire Brigade).

For catering purposes, please let Pete Bayne know your teams intended participation and preferred start time on 027 248 1306 or via email: pete.di1@extra.co.nz



This season it has been all but impossible to have organised club day/nights. As you know the weather has been wet, wet and just for a change wet and as we go into autumn we are still wondering if summer is around the corner.

But don't forget on those sunny days and evenings a roll on the green is a great way to relax. Let's not forget about our great asset and all the work Jan and Ali have done to get us an all weather green for the Island. Something we can be proud of. A spraying programme is underway and maintenance is planned to lift one corner of the green and top up with the necessary sand etc. When you are down at the green feel free to pull any weed/grass out of the green. It doesn't just have to be the committee doing this - we all get busy in season which clashes with the bowling season. So any help would be greatly appreciated.

See you on the green..... Let's get back to being proud of what we have.



FUNDING UPDATE

This past month has been an extremely busy one for Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust. With the help of Jo Learmonth we have submitted two very important grant applications to both Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund as well as an important one to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. We now have one third of the required funding secured so the timing for these grants is critical if we are to get the project underway next summer. We have one more major grant to Lotteries Significant Projects Fund which is due in next week so it has been very frantic as we pull all the documentation together. We are very lucky to have someone with Jo's expertise on our team writing those applications. Resource consent applications have also been submitted to Southland District Council within the past two weeks which means February has been a major step forward for the RHCT.

In order to get the project underway we still have to raise further funds of our own so we will be pushing fundraising and seeking donations until we have met that target. If you haven't donated towards the new heritage centre now would be a great time to step up and help us with this very significant community project. If everyone could give us even a small donation we would soon meet our target and show community commitment. Donations can be made through our Give a Little page:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/rakiuraheritage> or through the website <http://www.rakiuramuseum.co.nz>



Jo Learmonth

RAKIURA
HERITAGE CENTRE TRUST

**Southland District Council
Grant Applications**

Grant applications will close on

31 March 2017

for the following grants:

- Southland District Heritage Fund**
- Community Initiatives Fund**
- Creative Communities Fund**
- Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund**
- Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy**

**Further information and forms available from
SDC Office/Library**

8.30 – 12 noon weekdays

or from www.southlanddc.govt.nz

Community Centre News

We are currently in the process of updating/renovating the gym. It will get new flooring and new equipment. We are hoping that it will be finished and all new and shiny by May/June. There might be small interferences for our members. But we will give you a heads up, if the gym can't be used. There will be a new fee structure coming out as well once the gym is finished.

We are also proud to announce that we have received a very generous gift. A new BBQ. This is available for hire (to be used within the community centre) for \$40 per day.

If you have any questions regarding this or if you would like more info just contact the centre manager Carolin or pop in the office during the following times:

Wednesdays 2-3.30 pm or Friday 10-11.30am

**Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter
By Jo Riksem**



A manse is the home of the minister and we have had three different manses over the years. The one above was the second building and not close to the church as most manses are. It is also seen as a place of refuge and many a minister over the years has provided refuge to people from all walks of life. May this upcoming Easter season see our homes being a place where people can come for a talk or a cup and may this fellowship follow all year round. As both churches have visiting ministers may our homes be a place where they also can stop by for a rest from their busy lives.

Ministers and Speakers for April 2017:

Apr 2 – Linda Beebe – With a connection to the Leask family we welcome Linda back to this service.

Apr 9 – Russell and Helen Thew - Another welcome return Russell and Ann now live at St Leonards Dunedin and working with the Otago Community Hospice in North East Valley

Apr 14 (Good Friday) – Rev Graeme Munro – 7 pm Combined service with St Andrew at Oban Presbyterian Church with a hot cup and Hot Cross Buns to follow.

Apr 15 (Easter Saturday) - Rev Aaron Douglas – 7 pm Combined service with Oban Presbyterian Church at St Andrews Anglican Church. Hot cup to follow.

Apr 16 (Easter Sunday) – Rev Graeme Munro – 11 am Combined service with St Andrews at Oban Presbyterian Church. Teacher of speech, drama and oral communications as well as a preacher and author, Graeme comes to us with many talents. 23 Apr – Brendon McRae – from Flagstaff Community Church in Dunedin

30 Apr – Clay Peterson de Oliveira – from Brazil

Services every Sunday 11 am followed by a hot cuppa and Prayer Circle every Saturday 11:30 a.m.

**Need help with local issues?
Come to New Zealand First**

We can provide you with practical help and advice, putting you in touch with the right people when things go wrong.

“It's common sense”

Call me or email me.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST LIST MP
RIA BOND
BASED IN INVERCARGILL

Contact
Invercargill Office
42 Tay St, Cambridge Arcade
PO Box 6107, Invercargill 9814
Ph: +64 3 214 1894
nzfirst.invercargill@parliament.govt.nz

Office hours
Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm

New Zealand First
NZ

Authorised by RIA BOND,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Wild Foods is the theme for the next Foveaux Foodies!

When: April 1st
Where: The Pavilion

Hosted by Cherie Hemsley and her wild crew, let your imagination run wild! Open to all. If you are interested join

Foveaux Foodies on Facebook or talk to Shona or Jess.



Book Reviews From Sue Ford

Louise Penny's "A Great Reckoning" continues the tale of Inspector Armand Gamache and the odd village of Three Pines, nestled in a forgotten corner of Quebec. The story is

stand-alone with just enough background introduced that you can follow the characters. Armand is now retired from le Surete but becomes the commander of the Surete Academy. He has dealt a crippling blow to corruption within the police force, but now needs to tackle the police academy itself. Then one of the professors is murdered. Meanwhile, a map has been found in the village, the only map extant with Three Pines shown on it. The way the moving story of the old map is wound through a modern murder story is nicely plotted.

David Baldacci's "No Man's Land" isn't perhaps his best ever, but rolls along with tension and thrills none-the-less. John Pullar is an investigator with the US Army, but investigating a claim that his father killed his mother 30 years ago is a twist he didn't expect his career to take. Good reading. Not book of the month, but the most unusual one, **"No Way Back" by Matthew Klein**. Jim Thane has been a success in the marketing field, married to Libby and with a toddler son. Success and a wild life style involving addictions have contributed to the death of his wee boy. But why has Libby stayed with him through thick and thin? His success now turns sour. A new start leads to mystery and bodies! The writing is sufficiently taut and tense that after the first chapter, I was hooked. The ending is sensational. It's not until I'd put the book down and begun to reflect upon it that I realise the plot just wouldn't work in reality, but such is the power of the writer that it took time for this to dawn on me. Not your usual 'gangster v. goodies' story by a long chalk. Enjoyable.

Caroline Ovington's "Sisters of Mercy" isn't your usual who-dunnit either. Take the daughter of a self-centred woman who doesn't know how to rear a child and a hardworking but weak man, then break up the marriage whilst the mother has a 20-year-long affair. Is that enough to spawn the amoral woman that is Snow Delaney? Compare her with Agnes, the illegitimate baby of a 16-year old girl; lose them both and the father in the post-war mess that was England, and have Agnes – raised in an orphanage – become one of Australia's 'Lost Generation'. Then have them discover they are sisters, only for Agnes to go missing on the morning of Sydney's 'red dust storm' of September 2009. Was Snow responsible for Agnes' disappearance? Only you can decide as you read journalist Jack Fawcett's account of his correspondence with Snow. Compelling story-writing, odd ending.

Saskia Sarginson isn't my favourite author – too cerebral for this shallow intellect of mine, but was drawn to **"The Twins"** purely because of the title – we have a lot of twins in our families! I should have remembered that Sarginson and I don't have much in common as she explores the tragedies in two families of twins and the different paths the twins take. Interesting, just not my cuppa, but give it a go if you like family drama.

And then there was **"The Whistler" by John Grisham**. Pretty standard Grisham really, with an epilogue that is essentially the complex plot of the book – almost as if he'd run out of ideas of how to put it into the main story whilst still keeping the tension ramping up.

A real mixed bag this month, but an even more weird mixture coming up for next month!

Stewart Island Community Library

The revamped Library is proving popular with residents and visitors alike, with items issued in January more than doubling that of the previous year. New hours of operation have expanded from 4 hours a week to 20.5 hours, so this great community resource should now be more accessible for all.

We operate a fiction exchange with the "mother library" in Winton. This sees the arrival of approximately 60 books every 2 months. We also receive new books from SDC to build up our collection, and new books either donated or through fundraising. Recently we have been concentrating on our Junior and Young Adult readers, and now have delivery of some more graphic novels (think sophisticated comics).

We offer all the old services (books requested from other libraries, DVDs \$2 for 7 nights, computer access, jigsaws) and the Area Office services (siesa, payments, dog registration, secretarial support for the Community Board, Jetties Subcommittee and the Visitor Levy, copying etc). So, if you are unsure, please ask.

We are seeking volunteer(s) to replace Mrs Jenny Gell, who worked every alternate Saturday 11.00 – midday. With the new computer system in place the role is just supervisory, as people can issue their own books. If you feel you would be interested (even if only an hour per month), please contact either Kirsten Hicks (at the Library) or Pat King (2191156).

Library/Area Office Hours

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri

8.30am – midday

Wednesday

2.00 – 4.00pm

Saturday (Library only) 11.00am - midday



St Andrew's Anglican Church.
10 Excelsior Road,
Stewart Island

Easter Service –Saturday

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

Saturday, 15th April, 7pm Rev'd Aaron Douglas officiating.

Please check Public Notice Board for details regarding Easter Services for both St Andrew's Anglican Church and Oban Presbyterian Church
Contact details for St. Andrew's, Iris Tait, Warden, phone 219 1151.

Vicar Rev'd Richard Johnson.

Sarah's Rakuira Remarks

This month I am delighted to see the Government's announcement that young people living in Stewart Island and other offshore communities will soon benefit from a local youth initiative designed to promote leadership opportunities.

Halfmoon Bay School, together with Kaitoki School on Great Barrier Island, will receive \$5000 to support a total of 20 young people to help plan and deliver activities as part of a rural network event involving both mainland and offshore schools. This is thanks to a funding boost to the Small Communities Youth Grant Fund. The funding will provide development opportunities, including leadership programmes, mentoring and volunteering for young people. This will help to broaden their horizons whilst contributing positively to the Stewart Island community. I wholeheartedly support this exciting new initiative. It can be difficult for young people living in offshore communities to access the same opportunities as other youths living in larger centres. However, the Government recognises that tomorrow's leaders and achievers are just as likely to come from our offshore communities as our bigger towns and cities.

That is why the Government is providing opportunities for young people living in off shore communities like Stewart Island. This National-led Government is committed to providing young people with broad and varied opportunities that will put them on the path to a successful future. The Small Communities Youth Grant Fund for Stewart Island is a shining example of that.

This month I am also excited to see the Government remaining at the forefront of safeguarding our country's natural beauty for future generations by setting the ambitious target of 90% of our lakes and rivers meeting swimmable water quality standards by 2040. Our rivers and lakes will return to the quality they were before World War II.

The foundation of Southland's economy has long been driven by the primary industry and striking a balance between enhancing our environment in conjunction with living off the land or sea is vital to our future. This target is based on good science and it was therefore interesting to look at the existing water quality statistics for all of New Zealand's waterways. Currently in Southland, 68% of rivers and 96% of lakes have excellent, good or fair water quality for the purpose of swimming and in comparison to some

urban centres, this is a very favourable starting point. What this highlights to me is that the primary sector has taken a leadership role in this area and put in place measures to improve water quality. According to Dairy New Zealand – on farm fencing requirements have already been met by 97% of dairy farmers around the country. Keeping stock out of waterways and managing leachate from fertiliser is just a couple of ways farmers sustainably manage their operations. They know that to get the best economic return they too must care for the environment.

During my time working at the Department of Conservation, I learned the value of kaitiaki-tanga, guardianship of the land. With returning 90% of Southland rivers and lakes to a swimmable standard, we will see native wildlife thrive. A healthy environment raises the economic and social wellbeing of all our local communities and enhances our clean green image worldwide. I welcome the Government's ambitious target to clean our waterways and encourage all Southlanders to do their part to ensure our rivers and lakes remain pure.

From the Office of Sarah Dowie. MP

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg Basket case

“Is this today’s newspaper?”

You know you need a break when you reply, “In some parts of the world it’s tomorrow’s newspaper”.

Thankfully, the person I said this to laughed along with me.

Just like I laughed along with somebody else that remarked, “Oh my goodness you have EFTPOS! You EVEN have Paywave???” as I served them. It was quickly followed by an apologetic, “You must think me a real dork, I can’t believe I just said that!”.

Sometimes we all speak without thinking.

Perhaps just like the lady who came into the shop and announced she was from the North Island and would leave her groceries on the counter.

I’m not sure of the connection she was implying either.

I love the fact that locals fill their bag or pockets as they shop and then empty everything onto the counter for us to scan and pack. It’s a special kind of place where that happens and long may it continue.

It speaks of a time long before large impersonal warehouse-style supermarkets were the norm, where beady-eyed CCTV cameras furtively look down upon us and store detectives roam the aisles looking for suspicious behaviour.

But back to our North Island lady and her groceries heaped on the counter. She seemed oblivious to the growing number of basket-carrying people in the queue as she walked around the shop picking up one or two items at a time and adding them to her pile atop the counter. I’ve searched Uncle Google and haven’t been able to find evidence of North Islanders suffering from “*Merxcarrucaphobia*” which according to fictional TV character Figaro Pho, is a fear of shopping trolleys.

We look forward to seeing you at the checkout with your bags and pockets filled with goodies and your Paywave card at the ready. Unless your name is Figaro Pho, in which case I hope your “*Checkoutchickophobia*” clears up soon!



SIRCET Update by Shona Sangster

SIRCET have been receiving lots of reports of feral cats around the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project area (and in other places too) and we’re going all out to catch these pests. In addition to the destructive impact they have on native birds, lizards and insects, feral cats can be a vector for disease, and a danger to domestic pet cats. We are looking to purchase some more traps once we’ve done a count up of the existing ones, and these may be available for people to borrow. Does anyone out there have any of our live capture traps that they may have borrowed? If so please get in touch with Willy on willy@sircet.org.nz or 0274694504. SIRCET only uses live capture traps as we believe these are the most humane method. SIRCET doesn’t use leg hold traps.

Thanks to Placemakers for their recent donation of timber for new traps and to DOC for their help in cutting it up.

A Kiwi avoidance workshop for dogs is planned for Easter weekend. This will be refresher training for dogs who have been to a session before and we also welcome any new dogs, or dogs visiting the island. If you’d like your dog to participate, contact Sandy King, Di Morris, or Shona Sangster. Exact date and venue will be confirmed closer to the time.

And we are still looking for volunteers! It’s great fun in the outdoors—contact Willy or email info@sircet.org.nz

Visiting volunteer David with some of the new traps he helped build.



Every quarter we are required to furnish an Activities Report to our District Cabinet. We decided it would be good to place this in SIN each quarter so people can see what Lions do and where the money goes. The report below is exactly what we submit to our District Cabinet.

Membership: 18

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES:

Recently Completed:

Concrete path to the RSA Pavilion to allow for wheelchair access

Sawing up wood and delivering to older residents and selling wood (on-going)

Shelter at the Cemetery

Helping with BBQ for SARS training weekend

In the Pipeline:

Cemetery - retaining wall

On-going wood cutting and delivery

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Recently Completed:

Sausage sizzle on New Year's Eve

Christmas Cakes delivered to the over 60's

BBQ for our December meeting to thank non-Lions for their help with Lions projects

Replace damaged Chess Pieces for the outside Chess set

In the Pipeline:

Lions annual dance (Easter)

DONATIONS MADE:

Kaikoura Earthquake

Blind Foundation

Transport Costs to volunteers to tend to the Motorau Moana Gardens

Medical Committee to cover the cost of printing Stewart Island Passports as a fundraiser for the Medical Centre

Fred Hollows Foundation

Diabetics Youth

Children with Disabilities

TODD & CO
REALTY

Stewart Island Real Estate
For all local listings -
houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.
See our website 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

Need a Resource Consent?
... I can help!

**40 years' experience in local government
and I know how to achieve results.**

- planning
- resource management/consents
- mediation
- facilitation

WJW
WILLIAM J WATT CONSULTING LTD

phone 03 217 0114 mobile 027 495 9288
williamwatt@ihug.co.nz www.williamjwatt.co.nz

Hawaiian Island Themed Party



Wear your loudest Hawaiian Shirt, Sarong or Sunfrock (Fancy Dress Optional)

Good Friday April 14th

Stewart Island Community Centre 7pm - 1am

Live Music - Quantum

Great Supper - Cash Bar - Courtesy Transport

Tickets just \$30 & on sale now from: South Sea Hotel
Glowing Sky, The Ferry Terminal, Pete Ross Auto

NO DOOR SALES - ROAR

A Stewart Island Lions Club Fundraiser for Community Projects

Museum Matters by Jo Riksem

100 YEARS AGO



Leask Bay 1917

It's always interesting to look back at old photos and this one is no exception showing both the old sheds and wharf along with several of the old boats. The Leask Brothers were well known for their boat building and fish canning. Their canning won several awards at international exhibitions.

The Lockerbie Archaeological Exhibition is now up and running in one of our main cabinets at the museum. Drop in and have a look at some of the wonderful items that were found at Native Island and The Neck in the 1950s and 1960s.

Acquisitions:

Information on the Robertson & Leask family - Awards for fish canning

Ashtray with old photo of Halfmoon Bay and photographs - Taken about the 1930s

Old souvenir booklets of Stewart Island - very interesting descriptions of days gone by and places that still exist.

Windlass drum - from Whaler's Base.

Searches for February were: Horace Macalister, Constable Irwin, Potiki & Anglem families, Roland and Sandy Peters and Shetland and Orkney Island immigrants,

Don't forget the Titi Exhibition on the history of muttonbirds and muttonbirding, then and now at the Community Hall on Labour Weekend (end of October) of this year. We're still looking for any items, photographs, films, stories, etc. that you think might be of use for this exhibition. Please contact Raylene Waddell (03 2191-092 or glendaruel@extra.co.nz) or Bev & Jo at the museum (03 2191-221 or stewartislandmuseum@southlanddc.govt.nz). Thank you to all who have come forward with items that we can use.

Summer hours are now Monday - Saturday 10- 1:30 and Sunday 12 - 2:00.
On Cruise ship days the museum will be open until 4pm.

Anzac Day 2017

Poppy Day Saturday 22th April

Anzac Day Tuesday 25th April

0700 hrs Parade will assemble outside Ship to Shore.

0715hrs Parade marches to the Memorial

Laying of Remembrance Wreath

Public to lay poppies and wreaths

Readings of Official Messages

Prayers

HMB School talks

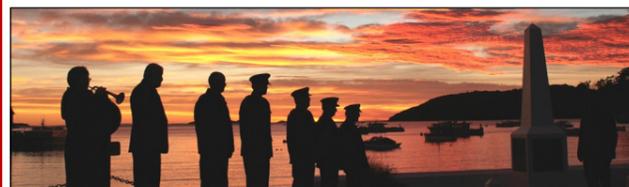
Reading of the Ode

Last Post, Minute's Silence observed & Reveille

Parade dismissed

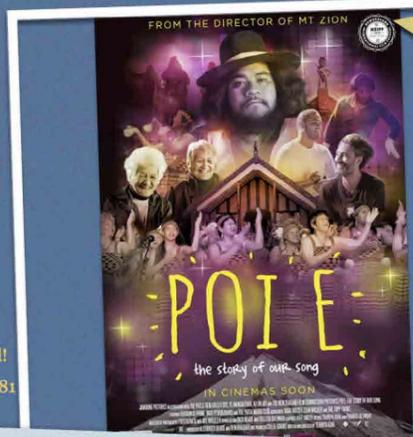
Any members of the public are welcome to make and lay a wreath.

After the parade everyone is welcome to adjourn to the RSA Pavilion in Ayr St. for refreshments: Tea Coffee & Rum toddies.



POI-E: THE STORY OF OUR SONG

@ Bunkhouse Theatre Stewart Island
Sat 1st & Wed April 5th 2017 - 7.30pm



96mins
Rated G

★
Bookings recommended!
PH 027 867 9381

NZ Independent Documentary (2016)

Poi-E, a simple song with a catchy beat released 32 years ago, has gone on to become New Zealand's unofficial National Anthem. With humour, energy and emotion, the movie POI-E is the story of how that song gave pride to a generation here and abroad.

"... the film is joyful, warm, artistic, and most importantly; distinctly Kiwi." NZ Herald

Tickets: Adult \$15, Senior/Student \$13, Child \$10

If you want to know more check out our website
(www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz)

Department of Conservation *What's Up, DOC?*
 From Jennifer Ross
Te Papa Atawhai

The Department of Conservation is Turning 30 in 2017

We would like to extend an invitation to all previous Stewart Island/Rakiura DOC staff over the past 30 years

Please join us

Department of Conservation
 Te Papa Atawhai

30 years
 Our history
 Our people
 Our nature

The Department of Conservation is turning 30 in 2017.
 We warmly invite you to join us for a celebration of DOC, its people and our nature.

Charcoal Hut. Photo: Rob Brown

to join us for a DOC-hosted BBQ!
 Date: Friday 31 March, 2017
 Time: 6:30pm
 Venue: Oban Fire Station, Stewart Island
 Theme: 1970s/1980s bush clothing
 RSVP: Please RSVP to jross@doc.govt.nz ASAP
 If you have any old DOC photographs I would love to see them! Could you please send them to me at jross@doc.govt.nz so that I can put them into a slideshow for the event!

REWARD FOR PROOF THE SOUTH ISLAND KOKAKO IS STILL ALIVE

Original image of North Island kōkako by Tara Swan, creative touches by Oscar Thomas and Geoff Reid.

The South Island Kōkako Charitable Trust is offering a reward of NZ\$5,000 for information resulting in confirmation that the South Island kōkako is still alive and it could be here on Stewart Island/Rakiura. The South Island kōkako is an ancient endemic bird, unique to New Zealand and once widespread in our southern forests. It was listed as extinct until 2013 when credible sightings prompted reclassification as 'data deficient' (not enough data to be certain of extinction).

It may well be the rarest bird on the planet. The bird's reclassified status has given the Trust new reason and energy to continue the search for this hauntingly beautiful songster of the New Zealand wilderness. Trust Chair, Dr Euan Kennedy, says the search is urgent. "If South Island kōkako still exist, there will be very few left. We need to locate them very soon so that conservation has a higher prospect of success." "In this search, we are attempting something quite new for New Zealand. We are passionate to find evidence of the kōkako's survival in the native forests of the South and Stewart Island. "The reward we are offering for definitive evidence of survival is part of our strategy to broaden the search effort. We are inviting the public, birders and other backcountry users to be our eyes and ears everywhere in our southern forests."



North Island kōkako by Tim Rumble photoshopped to South Island kokako by Oscar Thomas Nov 2016

The Trust will appraise any evidence of survival received and will submit the most compelling information to independent expert analysis. The reward will be paid once a panel of New Zealand's expert ornithologists agrees that the bird exists. Dr Kennedy explains that the calls of the kōkako, both North Island and South Island birds, are very special. "Kōkako calls are so distinctively different, they will stop you in your tracks. Even so, the song of a tui is known to sound very similar. Sound recordings have yet to provide the evidence we need. That's why we're appealing to birders and backcountry users to find more convincing sign of the birds." The Trust is inviting observers to record possible encounters through its website www.southislandkokako.org. It has already received encouraging reports over the past few years but rather than highlight such locations as they will reflect the places people go, this precious bird could in fact be found anywhere in its range, which are the native forests of South and Stewart Island, particularly those where there has been sustained pest control. The campaign was launched in January and over 40 new



South Island kōkako object 533911 Te Papa collection

'encounters' were logged on the Trust's website as a result; usually only a handful are received each year. Some are recent, some are older, but they included two more on Stewart Island and they are all being followed up by Trustee Ron Nilsson, formerly of the NZ Wildlife Service. This information will help guide future searches by both the public and the Trust.

Mason Bay Homestead Volunteer Trips



Andrew King with Winton Rotary Club Volunteers at Mason Bay Homestead

Ranger Recreation/Historic Andrew King led two volunteer trips into the Island Hill Homestead at, Mason Bay this season. The first trip was held in December 2016 when the Winton Rotary volunteered to replace the grey water and

Winton Rotary Club members helping to dig out and replace the greywater system at Mason Bay Homestead



solar systems. The second trip was held between 24 January – 1 February 2017 when Andrew King and short-term resident volunteer Harriet Jones worked with other volunteers to insulate and re-clad and paint the front of Island Hill Homestead as well as replace the wall on the back porch of the homestead.



Above: Volunteers helping to re-clad Island Hill Homestead, Mason Bay. The 'before' picture.

Below: Island Hill Homestead, Mason Bay. The 'after' picture.



Leg-hold Trap Restrictions – we don't want to hurt a pet or a kiwi



Gin traps like this one are illegal to use.

After a recent incident in Halfmoon Bay, we thought it would be good chance to remind people of leg-trap information and restrictions according to DOC & Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI): Leg-hold traps (sometimes called gin traps) have metal jaws designed to catch and hold an animal by a limb, usually the leg or foot. Whether a live-capture, restraining, or leg-hold trap is used, the Animal Welfare Act 1999 stipulates that all traps must be checked at least once a day within 12 hours of

daylight the day after it was set.
Traps set in residential areas also increase the risk of injury to pet cats and dogs.
No leg-hold trap may be used within 150m of a dwelling without the permission of the occupier, or in any area where there is a probable risk of catching a pet animal.

To prevent the capture of kiwi and other ground dwelling birds, DOC recommends that traps are set at least 70 cm above ground level.

You must have landowners' permission to trap on private property.

A permit is required to set traps on public conservation land. Please enquire at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre 03 219 0009 for further information.

If you see a banned leg-hold trap being sold or set or if you see any leg-hold trap being set in an area where there's a real risk that a pet or kiwi will be caught, call MAF's animal welfare complaints hotline toll-free on 0800 008 333.

Halfmoon Bay Weeds by Letitia McRitchie

Over the last couple of months there has been a dedicated team of summer staff slowly walking the back blocks beyond the Halfmoon Bay township, searching for the dreaded weed Barberry, one of the Minister of Conservation's Dirty Dozen. This team has been out there (come rain or shine) walking lines one to three metres apart, finding all the Barberry in their path ranging from seedlings with only a few leaves to trees that are several years old.

This year they have been working near Garden Mound, Hicks Road and out beyond the Back Road. They are an international team with Scott from California, Gilbert from France (but he's been a kiwi for a while now) and Thea from Germany. Rebecca from Te Anau completes the team.



Barberry suppression will only be achievable with the support of landowners who allow access or are doing sustained control themselves!

Old Man's Beard Must Go!
 We have nearly completed our annual search for this

nasty weed and found four new sites! In the last eight years we only found two new plants and had not been expecting to find much this year. The Barberry team switched into Old Man's Beard searchers and found most of the plants and a bonus German Ivy too! Old Man's Beard is flowering now and will soon set seed. If you have seen it please let us know, so we can get it before the seeds spread!



Old Man's Beard flowering with fluffy seed heads forming in the background. Note the leaves in the middle foreground. Each stem has two pairs of opposite leaves and one at the end, with a total of five leaves on each stem. This is quite a distinctive feature of Old Man's Beard.

Himalayan Balsam

This pretty but invasive weed recently turned up on a roadside and while conducting Old Man's Beard searches we found a large patch of Himalayan Balsam trying to take over a whole corner of a garden. Thank you to the owner who didn't want it covering their entire garden and was happy for the Barberry team to pull it out. If you do have it, I would encourage you to remove it before it spreads over your garden, your neighbours garden, and Mill Creek (it particularly likes areas like that), etc. It's easy to pull out, then please bag and dispose of it. Himalayan Balsam spreads through its seed so remove it now while it's still flowering!



Himalayan Balsam

SOUL KITCHEN by Lania Davis

Broths/soups are the ultimate when you are unwell. They are easy to drink and offer nutrients in liquid form, easy for your body to absorb. Bone broths aren't a new thing, but have been getting new light shed on them for gut healing purposes especially in the Auto Immune Protocol world. Bone Broth is high in amino acids, proline and glycine which are vital for healthy connective tissue, ligaments, joints etc. It can be immune boosting, improve digestive issues, help brain health plus help remineralize teeth, and much more.

Now I'm not saying drink this once and you will be healed, it's a long road to healing your gut (but if this has grabbed your attention by all means look further into it). Bone broth offers many nutrients when you are sick, it's easy to make, tastes damn delicious & its been on the menu for a long time! Regular consumption will have a positive effect on your immune health. What's not to like?!

Some people like to simmer their broths for 12-24 hours, others say 6-10 hours but really it's up to you. I simmer mine for 2-6 hours especially if you react to high histamine foods (as the longer the simmer the higher the histamine content). This way I still get all the benefits without the high histamine content.

The better quality the bones (from healthy animals, antibiotic free, free range, grass fed, wild) the better the broth. You can use your roast chicken carcasses to make a chicken broth, duck bones, beef, venison, etc. I'm yet to try mutton bird, but next time I have a feed of freshies I will give it a whirl Use what you can source and afford, the butchery bones from the shop are used a lot at mine, they have good knuckle bones in the pack and marrow and meat on the bones. If you hunt or know a hunter get some wild venison bones to try.

Here's the recipe I used to make my latest batch.... My kids love it so it's drunk far too fast, this time I've used my broth as a base in a vegetable soup to make it last longer.

- 1.5-2kgs bones (I used beef soup bones)
- 5-5.5litres water
- 1 onion
- 2 carrots
- 2 stalks celery
- 4 bay leaves



A few fennel seeds

10 peppercorns

2 tsp pink salt

2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

Herbs & spices (if you like)

I roasted my bones for 30 minutes before the simmering process, this helps improve flavour, especially with beef bones.

In a pot add the bones, cool water & vinegar , leave for 30 minutes, the acid in the vinegar makes the nutrients more available.

Roughly chop the other veges & add to the pot with herbs and salt and pepper. Bring to the boil then reduce to a simmer , and simmer until done. (I simmered mine for 4.5 hrs). It will reduce a lot depending on how long you leave it for.

During the first few hours remove any "impurities" that come to the top, just skim off with a spoon.

In last half hour if you like add garlic and parsley. Let it cool slightly, strain broth through metal strainer & or muslin/mutton cloth. It will keep in fridge up to 5 days, or you can freeze for later use. Add it to stews, soups, gravies & reductions. It will appear jelly-like out of fridge but once heated will go back to a liquid state. This is great when tummy bugs are doing the rounds, or if you have an unwell dog or cat, it's great for them also, just leave out the onion as dogs can't process it. My dogs get the meat and veg after I've made a broth, so nothing is wasted.

Happy gut health everyone!!



Ambergris

New Zealand's longest established dealer of Ambergris. AmbergrisNZ is wishing to buy all grades of Ambergris, please refer to our website: www.ambergrisnz.co.nz We are offering top New Zealand prices. Contact: Terry & Wendy Email: info@ambergrisnz.co.nz Or Phone: 0274 991 881

Quality Handyman Services Guaranteed

Experienced, reliable handyman (ex Green Acres contractor) available for work on the island

Handyman Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General repairs & maintenance | General fencing |
| Lawn mowing | Building dog kennels, chook runs etc. |
| Line trimming | Building/assembling garden sheds etc |
| Section maintenance | General carpentry |
| Weed spraying (certified applicator) | Gutter cleaning |
| Tree pruning | Moss and mould treatment |
| Tree removal | Water blasting |
| Chainsaw work | Spider proofing |
| Hedge trimming | Rose pruning |
| Wooden fence and deck construction | |
| Wooden fence and deck repair | And more - just ask |

Office Services can also be provided

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bookkeeping | Brochure, flyer & business card design & printing |
| Office administration | |

If you want something done, and don't see it in the lists above, just give me ring. You may be surprised just what I can do.



Contact
Geoff

Stewart Island Handyman Services



Phone 973 0959 (Local Number) Mobile 027 253 3106
Email handyman@acadia.co.nz



Your neighbours aren't the only ones in for a shock. Be smart around power lines this summer. Contact PowerNet so we can advise you on how to turn your power off safely.

What's on at the Community Centre

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | |
| Tuesday | 5.30 pm Boot camp |
| Wednesday | 4pm Taekwondo for Kids |
| Thursday | 2pm-3.30pm Office open
5.30 pm Boot camp |
| Friday | 10am – 11.30am Office open |
| Saturday | 9am Boot camp |
| Sunday | |

Stewart Island News is published on a monthly basis as material permits.
Please send articles and enquiries to Shona Sangster at PO Box 86 Stewart Island or email to stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

Advertise in the STEWART ISLAND NEWS

This little paper ends up in most island households and is sent to over 150 bach 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.
stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

If you wish to have Stewart Island News sent to you or a friend, please fill out this form and send it with a cheque made payable to "Stewart Island News" to P.O. Box 156, Stewart Island 9846.

Or Direct deposit to Westpac 03 1750 0250628 00 — please put your name as reference and don't forget to send me an email with your address.

The cost is as follows:

- 12 issues to an Oban address \$36
- 12 issues to other New Zealand address \$48
- 12 issues to international address \$72
- 12 issues emailed \$24

Name of Recipient: _____
Address: _____
