

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

November 2015

\$3.00

B was for having a ball! Baywatch Babes (retired), Blues Brothers, bananas, bumblebees, Bambi, the Brady Bunch, Bikers, Bartenders of both



sexes, a Big Friendly Giant, bogans, politically incorrect bombers, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, a bride, a black cat, Belle, Bright Red, bare-foot bearded bohemians, burger maker, burlesque dancer, basketball players, Batman and Bat girl, and billions of babes came to the party on the Saturday of the Labour weekend.

Many thanks to the Lions club for all their hard work and Rebecca Cavanagh and her team of helpers for the amazing decorations. The Community Centre looked

absolutely magical. For more pictures see pg 3. October also saw wonderful shows from Adam McGrath of The Eastern and Wayne Mcewan the Magic Guy, and SIRCET's dog avoidance workshop. Neville Peat's new book *Stewart Island—Rakiura National Park* was launched. Copies are available for purchase from the Museum and the Stewart Island Gift Shop.

Left: A bride and a biker having the first dance watched by a banana

Above: Trained life guards were on hand in case of drowning



Moturau Moana Gardens

If you haven't been up to Moturau Moana Garden recently I strongly recommend going up for a look. A visiting group of volunteers, ably directed by Elaine Hamilton and with support from DOC, have done a wonderful job of sprucing up the Gardens, including the construction of new ponga fences. Did you know that Moturau Moana was donated to the public



by Noeline Baker, who had created a unique garden around her home there. According to Te Ara, the encyclopaedia of NZ, her aim was to grow all the plants indigenous to Stewart Island as listed by the botanist Leonard Cockayne. Over the years her garden became a place of botanical significance and in 1949 she was awarded the Loder Cup. An inspiration to all gardening and botany enthusiasts.



I've often wondered about the word 'bungy' or 'bunger' used to describe ponga fences –apparently it is a settler corruption of ponga.

Above: Kaka beak and ponga fence Right: Alpine Garden

Sarah's Rakiura Remarks by MP Sarah Dowie

Rakiura is one of my favourite parts of the electorate – it makes me appreciate the natural beauty and wildlife right here in the deep south. So when I had the opportunity to take Minister Paul Goldsmith to the island last month I couldn't wait!

We had a wonderful time. Jennifer Ross, of DOC, treated us to a tour around Ulva Island. Jen spoke about the history of the island and showed us the rat trapping program (hopefully by the time of printing the little critter is as stiff as a board). We enjoyed seeing saddlebacks, Stewart Island robin, kaka, tui and bellbirds and, penguin and sea lion tracks in the sand. I love flying the flag for conservation and hearing about the great work the Department of Conservation do for the island. As part of that, tourism has great potential on Rakiura with its appeal to bird lovers and hikers around the world.

The Minister and I also visited Halfmoon Bay School. I've been advocating for the school recently and it's wonderful to see two teachers retained following the Trade Me campaign and that more families have moved to the island boosting student numbers and the demographic. It was lovely to hear the senior students play us two songs and it won't be long before they are getting paid gigs! It just goes to show that isolation is no barrier to quality education. I look forward to catching up with them soon when they visit Parliament.

We enjoyed speaking with locals regarding life on the Island and the cost of power continues to be a concern for you. This issue is a work in progress for me along with Southern District Mayor Gary Tong and Councillor Bruce Ford. We are looking at sustainable power options for Stewart Island and while there is still a lot of work to be done progress is being made. I look forward to updating you as soon as I can.

Should you wish to discuss anything with me or if there is anything I can help you with please don't hesitate to contact me on 03 218 6813 or email sarah.dowiemp@parliament.govt.nz



Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Associate Minister for ACC, and local MP Sarah Dowie



Left, and above: On Ulva with Jennifer Ross of the Department of Conservation

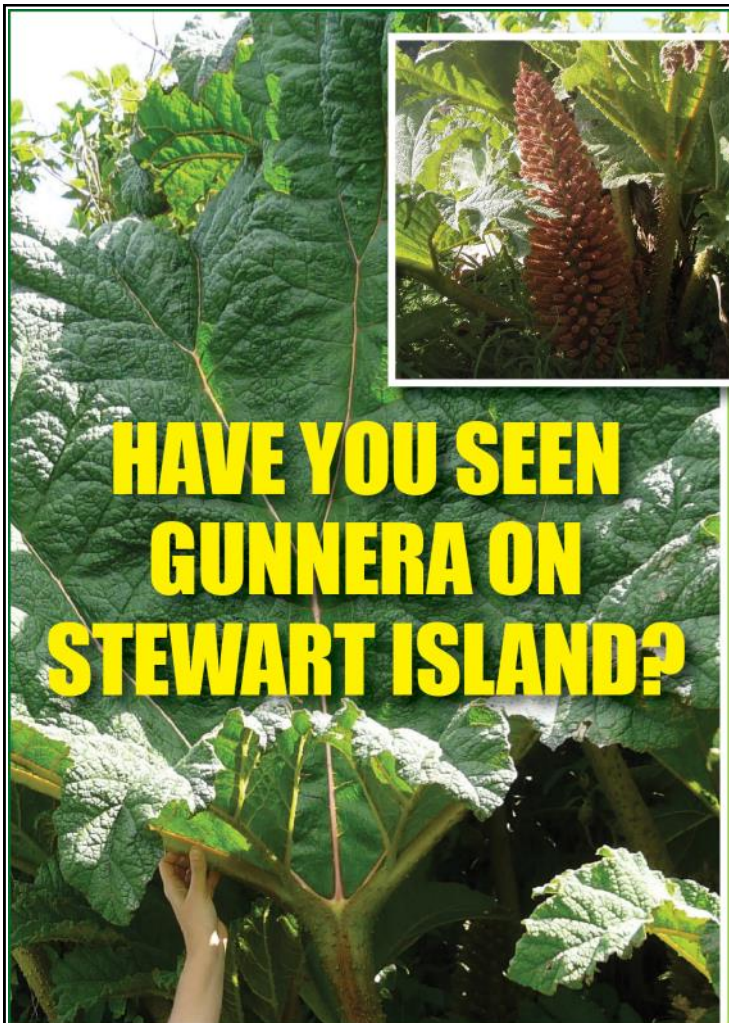


Stewart Island in the media...again!

Sharp eyed viewers of TV1 would have noticed that they recently re-broadcast the episode of Hyundai Country Calendar featuring Ali and Jan Eade and their oyster farming operations. Apparently this was the first time one of these has been re-screened and the episode netted a record breaking 615,000 viewers!



Bake sale comic strip by Dan Lee



WHAT DOES GUNNERA LOOK LIKE?

Gunnera (Chilean rhubarb) has leaves that can grow up to two metres long and look similar to rhubarb. It produces large seed heads with orange coloured fruit.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Gunnera can form dense patches that exclude almost all other plants. It is particularly invasive in damp coastal areas, riparian margins and disturbed areas. Each plant produces thousands of fruits containing many seeds each year which are spread by birds and water.

Gunnera is listed as an eradication plant on Stewart Island under the Regional Pest Management Strategy for Southland.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

We need to know where Gunnera is on Stewart Island so we can eradicate it from the island.

Please report sightings to Environment Southland, phone 0800 76 88 45 or email service@es.govt.nz



Gunnera is a threat to Stewart Island's coastal environment.

**environment
SOUTHLAND**
Te Taiao Tonga

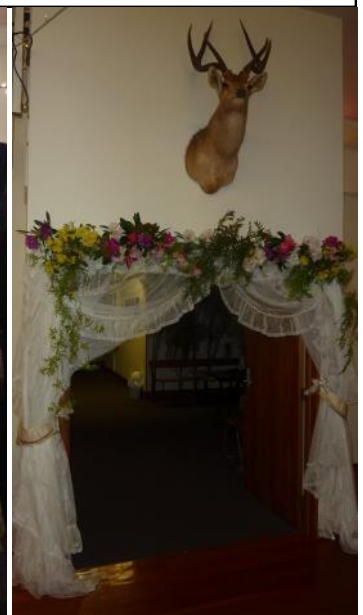
Sightings of Gunnera (also known as Chilean Rhubarb) are being sought, as Environment Southland prepares for their annual search and destroy programme on the island. A group of Environment Southland staff will visit Stewart Island in December to carry out the work to remove the pest plant, which has a long history of making itself at home on the island. Biosecurity officer Shawn Johnson says it has been found on a large number of residential properties and, more importantly, it has been spotted spreading into forested coastal areas. Climatic conditions on Stewart Island are ideal for this plant to thrive and with seeds distributed by birds and water, it spreads easily into forestry areas, displacing native flora and affecting the natural beauty of the area. Gunnera rapidly out competes other species, with its leaves up to 2.5 metres tall and umbrella-like shape which block out all light to other plants below. If you think you have seen this distinctive plant, contact Environment Southland on 0800 76 88 45 or email service@es.govt.nz

B for Ball

Below : Morgan Hamilton as The Big Friendly Giant and the Band—Quantum

Right: A Black Cat aka Zane Smith

Photo Credit Sarah Tranmer



Bambi (Shona Sangster) and Belle (Rebecca Cavanagh), decorations inspired by Beauty and the Beast *Photo credit Jennifer Ross*

SHOW ME SHORTS

New Zealand's premiere short film festival
Screening 21 Nov - 2 Dec 2015, 6 - 9 Jan 2016

"Our programmers have had a difficult but rewarding job selecting the top 46 films. The calibre of both the New Zealand and international shorts this year was exceptionally high. We're delighted to bring the work of these very talented filmmakers to audiences at cinemas across New Zealand in November." – Festival Director Gina Dellabarca

Show Me Shorts Festival was a great success last year. Make sure you don't miss out. More to come in Jan 2016. See www.bunkhousetheatre.co.nz for further information about each session.



Tickets - Adult \$15, Senior /Student \$13, Child \$10
Bookings Recommended



10 Main Rd., Stewart Island
027 867 9381
bunkhousetheatre@gmail.com



Chivalry Isn't Dead (M)
Sat 21st Nov @ 7.30pm



Double Take (M)
Wed 25th Nov @ 7.30pm



Plunge into Other Worlds (M)
Sat 28th Nov @ 7.30pm



My Generation (PG)
Wed 2nd Dec @ 7.30pm



The Lions team would like to thank everyone who helped with the Locals Ball held during Labour weekend. There are too many to mention individually, but to all who helped with the set up, food preparation, drink sales and clean up, we extend our warm thanks. Without the efforts of these people the ball would not have been such a good night for all who attended. The decoration of the hall was magnificent, and we are wondering how this can be topped next year! The costumes were creative interpretations of the 'B' theme and wonderful to see.

Next year's Ball will be held on Good Friday - 25th March 2016. Mark this date on your calendar now



Caption this!

Send your best caption for this picture to the editor at stewartislandnews@yahoo.com

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Stewart Island Flights Fare Increases for Residents

Due to huge increases in charges imposed by Invercargill Airport commuter airfares for residents are being raised as follows:

	Return	One Way
Adult	\$130.00	\$65.00
G/Age (resident only)	\$110.00	\$55.00
High School student	\$100.00	\$50.00
Child (4-14 years old)	\$80.00	\$40.00
Non-dependant Family	\$170.00	\$92.50
Dogs (15kg+)	\$80.00	\$40.00

These will commence from 1 November. We are unable to absorb these charges and have not increased your fares since October 2010. Thank you for your continued support.

Raymond Hector



REGISTER NOW FOR 2016 EARLYBIRD DEALS

If you're looking to travel to North America or the UK and Europe in 2016, then register your interest with us to be the first to hear about our 2016 airfare, tour and cruise specials.



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Whales strand on Stewart Island

Several pilot whales/ūpokohue which stranded at Doughboy Bay on Stewart Island/Rakiura this week had to be euthanised by Department of Conservation (DOC) staff to minimise their suffering.

A pod of 29 pilot whales stranded at Doughboy Bay were discovered on Tuesday evening by two trampers. The pair, who had tramped into Doughboy Bay hut on the west coast of the island, found the pod of dead and dying whales. It was two days before they could raise the alarm via water taxi operator Matt Atkins.

Two DOC staff immediately flew to

Doughboy Bay to assess the situation. Once there, they found the whales stranded the length of the beach at low tide.

"Eight of the whales were still alive when we arrived," said Stewart Island ranger Phred Dobbins.

"However, refloating them was not an option given the length of time they had been stranded in hot, dry conditions. With the tide well out, we saw little hope of keeping the animals alive until enough rescuers could be flown in to assist," he said.

Mr Dobbins added the decision was made to euthanise eight whales.

"Euthanasia is a difficult decision but is made purely for the welfare of the animals involved, to prevent them from prolonged suffering."

The whales will be left to decompose naturally on the beach, due to the remoteness of the site. Visitors should stay well clear of the carcasses and avoid swimming in the area.

"We're extremely thankful to the trampers who reported this incident" Mr. Dobbins said.

The public are the eyes and ears of DOC, and DOC encourages anyone to report conservation emergencies, especially whale strandings and fires, by calling the DOC hotline, 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Left: An aerial view of the whales stranded at Doughboy Bay Right: DOC ranger Phred Dobbins with the stranded pilot whales *Photo Credit Jennifer Ross*



Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 it is illegal to take any part of a marine mammal without a permit to do so. Taking of marine mammals or parts (alive or dead) without proper authorisation could incur a penalty of up to 6 months imprisonment or a fine up to \$250,000.

Museum Matters by Jo Riksem



Not long till Christmas now and a bit of research on this area brought up some interesting things. Above is some of the crew of the C.A. Larsen in 1926 at Christmas time. Some of these are Stewart Islanders. Would be glad of some identification if you know the names.

83 years ago in 1932 a newspaper reported that Captain Hamilton of the ferry " S.S. Tamatea" was arranging for all heavy cargo to be brought over by the 23 December and only perishable goods after that. He was putting together a holiday schedule which would coincide with the train bringing passengers to the steamer. There would be special family tickets.

48 Years ago in 1967 an article appeared saying how Islanders were gearing up for the season's influx of visitors, especially from Australia. The AA made mention that they had erected new road signs to replace the old ones which had suffered from heavy rainfall. Firmer placing of the signs would be necessary. Sudden gusts and gale-force winds would lay them flat. Television aerals had become modern art overnight.

Opening hours starting 4 Nov will be: Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 1.30 pm; Sunday Noon – 2.00pm

South Sea shenanigans!



Left: Sharon Pasco -Winner of the best fascinator contest for Melbourne Cup day at the South Sea Hotel. Her creative little number may have been sponsored by SIRCET.....

Right: a 'unique' fundraiser for the Lions Club—Have your picture taken with Deer-drie, for a mere \$2! This one seemed to appeal to locals more than tourists for some reason! Thanks to all the good sports who took part, like Jeff Kennedy, Bruce Ford, Gwen Neave and many more and to Jill and Richard for the loan of Deer-drie. The funds will go to a good cause we promise. Maybe the SPCA???



A Reminder about Graduated Driver's Licences from the NZ Police

Stewart Island is an amazing place to live and work, however our roading network has unique challenges and we all need to be vigilant in promoting a safe environment for our Islanders (both human and wildlife). One particular point that has been raised recently is the difficulty in obtaining a full licence, so I have done some investigation on your behalf. Unfortunately the testing requirements cannot be achieved on the current Island roading system. Invercargill City is the closest current testing location, however all is not lost because. Glenda McPhee from AA driver training would be willing to come to the island and take driving lessons for those wishing to practice their driving skills, shorten their restriction periods and prepare for the practical assessment in Invercargill. If anyone in the community is interested in upskilling and gaining the ability to drive on the road legally, notify the Police and we will see about co-ordinating a time for Glenda to come to the Island. There would be a cost for each lesson and she has intimated there could be about six or seven conducted in a day and she would offer a concession for all attending lessons. For those of you who do not wish to comply with the driver licence conditions you could be liable for a range of penalties which include refusal of insurance claims and the fines listed below.

Learner driver unaccompanied

Infringement = \$100

Learner's overseer not suitably qualified

Infringement = \$100

Learner's overseer not seated near as practicable to driver

Infringement = \$100

Learner licensee failed to display an "L" plate

Infringement = \$100

Restricted driver unaccompanied between 10pm and 5am

Infringement = \$100

Restricted driver's overseer not suitably qualified

Infringement = \$100

Restricted driver's overseer not seated next to driver

Infringement = \$100

Restricted driver carried unauthorised passenger

Infringement = \$100

We all want to promote safe and legal driving on our island, it is our people we want to keep safe. However you also need to be aware that the fine is only one aspect of the punishment, each fine remains on your driving history forever and accrues demerit points which could result in a licence suspension. I have listed the conditions for the graduated driver licencing system as per the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999 (New Zealand) Conditions for the Learner Drivers Licence:

Must only drive a vehicle for the class to which the licence relates (except if driving a motorcycle, moped or all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

Must be accompanied by a supervisor* at all times.

Must display a L plate.

Valid for five years.

If riding a moped, must not drive between 2200 hrs and 0500 hrs. An approved motorcycle safety helmet must be

worn at all times. Mopeds are not permitted on a footpath or cycle path.

Conditions for the Restricted Drivers Licence

Must not carry passengers unless:

- Passenger is their spouse/partner or parent/guardian or dependents

- Driver is accompanied by a supervisor.

No driving between 2200 hrs and 0500 hrs unless accompanied by a supervisor.

If the driver passes the practical driving test in a vehicle with automatic transmission, only a vehicle with automatic transmission can be driven. Exception: if the driver is accompanied by a supervisor that has a licence of that class that authorises them to drive that vehicle.

Valid for five years

Motorcycles

Restricted motorcycle licence holder (6R) must:

- Ride a LAMS** approved motorcycle

- Not tow another vehicle

- Not carry passengers on or in a side car attached to the motorcycle

- Not drive between 2200 hrs and 0500 hrs.

If riding a moped, must not drive between 2200 hrs and 0500 hrs. An approved motorcycle safety helmet must be worn at all times. Mopeds are not permitted on a footpath or cycle path. Further information.

*A supervisor is a person who holds a current and valid NZ licence for the same class of vehicle the driver is learning to drive, has held their NZ full licence (or equivalent overseas licence) for at least two years, sits in the passenger seat next to the driver being supervised at all times, and carries their licence while supervising.

**A Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) motorcycle is selected based on their performance and capability as being appropriate for a new motorcyclist. Most motorcycles and scooters with an engine capacity of 250cc or under will automatically be approved. Note: Any motorcycle that has been modified in a way that increases its power to weight ratio is no longer LAMS compliant regardless of whether it appears on the list.

LETTERS☒☒☒

Predator Free Rakiura—I think it may be time to get residents' opinions once again. There has been 18 months of talks, studies and heaps of money spent; has this changed your mind? Please put your name to the survey, this is confidential but allows me to see that there is no cheating to sway the votes. I'm not going to take any notes this time either as I'm too busy to collate all that! Also I'm just looking for resident's (now and past) opinions rather than visitors. Any other questions can be directed to me on 114 or sibackpackers@gmail.com. Completed surveys can be returned to Po Box 49.

Cheers, Vicki

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFZ6PKN>

HMB School News

The school roll is up and we can keep our second teacher: a big thank you from Halfmoon Bay School!

Well several months have passed since HMB School launched its Trade Me "Family Wanted" advertisement and what a time it's been...

First and foremost we have to thank this community for its support and generosity in helping us to entice families to our shore.

You are probably aware that at the beginning of the year we were in the throes of losing our 2nd full time teacher Emily Joy due to low student numbers. With a few extras in term 2 (thank you Robyn, Zac and James) we realised that actually we weren't as far from the magical number of 26 students as we thought and hence the idea of advertising on Trade Me for families with school children became a reality. After the publicity of Prince Harry's visit the school was lucky enough to gain the attention of media for our plight and over the following few weeks the community once again showed how supportive and giving it can be. A package was arranged for a family to travel to the island and accommodation for a month with lots of extras thrown in. With wonderful community support this was extended to two families.

As a result, in late July we had two families arrive for a month's 'trial' of life on our island - the Dyer family

from Wellington and the Simpson family from Auckland. While the weather was atrocious for the majority of the time both families expressed how much they enjoyed their time here and their thankfulness to the community for the generosity shown to them.

The School now has official notification of staffing for 2016 and yes it includes a 2nd full time teacher. Yay Miss Joy!! And the Dyer family were so happy with their trial here that they have sold up in Wellington and are returning to the island to live late-November. The Simpson family are looking at returning for a time in summer and as a bonus of the campaign we have also gained the McCallum family from Christchurch who arrived in September. Welcome Russ, Liz, Iain, Zac and Vicky!

So many people contributed in many different ways from cleaning, offering trips, baking yummy goodies and dropping off kai, to donations towards electricity - so thank you to everyone who contributed. Huge thanks must go to Helen Cave and to the Mateckis for the use of their houses and everything that goes with that. Many thanks to Real Journeys, South Seas Hotel, Ship to Shore, DOC, Stewart Island Water Taxi, Ulva Island Water Taxi, Community Centre, Glowing Sky, Pete Ross Auto, Sandy King, Matt Jones, Carolyn Squires, Robyn Jenkins, Ann Pullen, Morgan Hamilton, the parents and whanau of HMB students and staff and all others who offered help. Thank you for supporting our school and the education of our children!

LOCATIONS

WILLIAM TODD & CO LTD

Stewart Island Real Estate

For all local listings

houses, cribs, sections and blocks of land.

See our website www.locations.co.nz

or contact our local representative

Jeanette Mackay on 027 681 8589

for current listings.

WISDOM CORNER

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and sings it back to you when you forget how it goes.

Christmas Hamper appeal

For disadvantaged Southland children

Gifts of new or pre-loved books and toys will be gratefully received.

If gift wrapped please indicate gender and age.

Hamper at Stewart Island Flights.

Collection closes mid December for distribution.

Thank you everyone for your continual support and generosity for making this a Christmas to remember for disadvantaged Southland children.

Iris Tait phone 219 1151
St Andrew's Anglican Church
on behalf of South Centre Anglican Care.

Congratulations Jeff and Karin on the birth of baby boy Blake Perry Dawson born 13th October

Oban Presbyterian Church Chatter – Jo Riksem



Tug, Theresa Ward, known for her very rough trips

Photo: Rakiura Museum

We've had some very windy stormy weather lately which reminds me that Jesus spent a lot of time in boats with His fishermen friends. We have all experienced rough trips on the ferry or plane but we also have complete faith in our pilots, that they'll get us to our destination. It's the same with our Lord. He is one amazing pilot in the storms of our lives and He'll see us through them. I know He has for me. Christmas is just around the corner. Remember it's the quality time with friends and family that matter and if you do that with cards, gifts or just time with each other, make it a great one.

Next month of December brings a new speaker and a familiar face to our church.

6 Dec. – David and Deborah Murphy – are new to our church and we look forward to what they have for us.

13 Dec. - to be confirmed

11 Dec. evening - Carol Service – 7pm.

(If you'd like to join the choir for this service please contact Gwen at 2191385). Join us for supper after the service for a cup and some yummy things.

20 Dec. - to be confirmed

25 Dec. - Violet and George Stewart – Violet is a lay preacher for the Presbyterian Church in Invercargill and George is associated with the Gideon Bibles which have Bibles in accommodation all over the world. They also both have a keen interest in Postal History.

27 Dec. - to be confirmed

Prayer circle every Saturday 11:30. Phone Raylene 2191092 for venue. The church is open every day so come and enjoy its history, its beauty and its peace. Sunday service: 11 am followed by a cup of tea or coffee and goodies.

Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust News.

Funds for our new Heritage Centre have been given a boost this month with successful raffle sales, several new donations and a few other fundraising efforts.

The land lease agreement with NZ Fire Service has still not been completed after 3 years of delays but we are hopeful this will be signed before Christmas so that we can move on with resource consent applications. Once this has happened we will be able to apply for larger grants with confidence. Despite continuing fund raising efforts we are only just over halfway and we still need a massive \$1.7m to get the building started. We are grateful to the Stewart Island residents and ratepayers who made donations in our appeal earlier this year and money is still trickling in from people who have found the donation forms buried under mail. If you would like to help you can donate via our website on www.rakiuramuseum.co.nz Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

The winner of our Heritage Centre raffle was Sharyn Hensman who receives a free return flight to Mason Bay for 2 people with 3 nights accommodation at Kilbride Homestead valued at \$1000. We are very grateful to Stewart Island Flights and to Paul Duston and family for this generous prize. Second prize was won by Ria Satherley of Whangarei who will receive a heritage gift package from Rakiura Museum valued at \$100.

Rakiura Heritage Centre Trust last weekend hosted the launching of Neville Peat's most recent book '*Rakiura National Park*'. The book which is a handy guide / souvenir about Stewart Island is available for sale at Rakiura Museum for \$20. More than 50 people attended and heard Neville speak on some of the colourful characters associated with Stewart Island history such as Lance Richdale, Roy Traill, Sheila Natusch and Ernest Shackleton.

We will once again be selling specialty chocolates as a fundraiser prior to Christmas. This year's selection from the Seriously Good Chocolate Company will include last year's popular Pinot Noir chocolate as well as hokey pokey and salted caramel. Each box will have a Stewart Island photo on the cover, which makes it an ideal Christmas stocking filler or souvenir for visitors. These will be available for sale at Rakiura Museum within the next few weeks.

Rest in Peace

Rob Spinks

Condolences to the Spinks family

Rest in Peace

Alvin Holt

Condolences to the Holt family

Shop Talk by Jules Retberg

Writing stripped to the bare bones

Scraps of paper and scribbles on the back of my hand are my usual methods for jotting down potential ideas to write about. I also collect ambiguous newspaper headlines and a particular favourite of mine appeared in the Otago Daily Times in April this year.

“Poached Geckos Returned” splashed across the front page. Had a restaurant review made it to the front page for poorly cooked reptiles being sent back to the chef? Of course not. The article was actually about Jewelled Geckos that were smuggled to Germany being returned to New Zealand thanks to tougher international regulations.

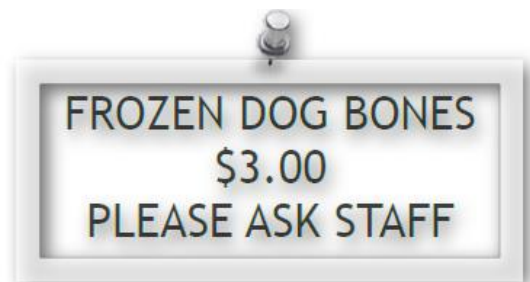
Hundreds of headlines such as this appear in writing tutorials to serve as examples of cringeworthy penmanship. Read ‘em and weep:

“One-armed man applauds the kindness of strangers” - Tulsa World

“Big rig carrying fruit crashes on 210 Freeway, creates jam” - Los Angeles Times

and my local patch in the UK, *“More time granted to murder police”* - BBC Kent website

None of us is immune to the odd slip-up, including the Stewart Island Four Square.



A fairly innocuous sign you might think. We don't always have space to display everything we have for sale, like bones for dogs to chew...

“OH MY GOD!!!!” came the shriek from a young girl standing beside the freezer. **“Are you really selling bones ... *that came from dogs?*”**, she asked incredulously. We reassured her that they were beef bones *for* dogs to chew on and not the bones of deceased island pets to put in our soups and stews!

This isn't the silliest thing we've been asked but certainly gets the season off to a good start. Do the bootlaces you sell come in pairs? Can I buy half a loaf of bread? Can I buy one banana?

Bring it on!

COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

MAIN ROAD FOOTPATH

As shown in the 10 year plan the Community Board has agreed to extend the footpath from beside the telephone booth on Main Road to the corner of Main Road and Morris Street. To ensure the maximum use of the funds available they have agreed to replace the present path with a new concrete footpath rather than use paving stones. This decision allows for twice the length of path to be replaced with the funds available. At the same time as this footpath is replaced, the driveway that presently enters Main Road at the intersection with Morris Street will be realigned to enter onto Main Road further down the slope, making this intersection safer for motorists and pedestrians alike.

SIESA #5 GENERATOR

The Board continues to put pressure onto the District Council to connect the new #5 Generator into the grid. This project has been fraught with delays and the Board now awaits a final costing so that they can have a special meeting to authorise some additional expenses that will ensure the Generator is installed and running while also giving a more reliable and efficient power service.

OLD CARS

Now, before the Christmas period, is an ideal time for those of you with old vehicles cluttering your section or the roadside, to make a visit to the Recycling Centre and to pay the small fee before delivering the wrecks to the wharf for shipping to the mainland. It would be great to have a real cleanup prior to the holiday period.

PROPOSED PLAYGROUND

A group of residents have approached the Board with a request to develop a new playground on Traill Park. The Board before making any decision, as it is not part of the 10 year long term plan adopted earlier this year, has requested additional information and detailed costings. For this request to be successful, it would either have to be completely self funded, or added to the 10 year plan. Further information will be circulated as it becomes available.

ROAD MARKING

Hopefully prior to Christmas the new road markings on Elgin Terrace from the intersection with Horseshoe Bay Road and on the wharf will be completed, but the project is dependant on a period of settled weather. A reminder that there is no parking on the large concrete slab as you enter onto the wharf. Southport has authorised the police to issue tickets for any infringements on the wharf area.



ban



lobetrotter

off-Island Adventures.

Oman and Jordan by Joanne Leask

Like most winters, I like to take a holiday overseas. This year we were away for three months, with the first nine weeks of it on a fabulous World Cruise.

The Sea Princess took us to some amazing places - departing from Sydney, we visited Melbourne, Margaret River, Perth, Sri Lanka, Dubai, Oman, Jordan, the Suez Canal, Athens, Kusadasi, Istanbul, Anzac Cove Gallipoli, Santorini, Venice, Dubrovnik, Civitavecchia, Rome, Livorno, Florence, Cannes, Barcelona, Lisbon, Le Havre, Paris, Southampton, London, Cobh, Cork, Dublin, Greenock, Reykjavik, Halifax and New York. After disembarking in New York we spent a week exploring there, then had a few days with friends in Los Angeles, and finally, a week in Honolulu before returning home to a very chilly New Zealand. It would take far too long to share some memories of all of the places we went to, and experiences we had- including a cyclone, pirates, heat waves, icebergs and even a test of our travel insurance, but I would like to recount my time in Oman and Jordan....

Our arrival into the port of Muscat, Oman was much more picturesque than the hazy arrival into Dubai had been a few days earlier. This time we saw land clearly for quite a few hours before docking. Oman has a population of just over 3 million and is very hilly. The port is a working port so we couldn't walk in to town. We had to go through immigration and take a shuttle from the dock to town. We all carried visas and were also warned of the fines that would be imposed if we couldn't produce them if asked. We were taken by shuttle and dropped right outside the Souq (market). Rather than taking the Hop on, Hop off Bus, or a ship's tour, we opted for sharing a taxi with a couple of friends. Much better value for money, and also the added benefit of stopping where we wanted and being able to ask the driver questions. Once again we lucked out with a great driver. Addil was very courteous and spoke good English.

Our first destination with Addil was to a place he seemed very proud of, The Royal Opera House Muscat. It is a beautiful building with fountains, marble, and incredibly ornate ceilings- a real sight to behold. At the Grand Mosque Addil kindly covered my head and neck with a scarf from his car (I was already wearing long sleeves and pants as recommended prior to going ashore) Like many public buildings it is stringently segregated with 'men only' and 'women only' areas. The Islamic prayer house was not intimidating at all though, and we felt very welcome in the beautiful buildings. The places of worship are used 5 times a day and Muslims stop work and go to the nearest Mosque to pray. These breaks in their work take about 10-15 minutes. After the Mosque, something completely different, the Hyatt Muscat. An incredibly ostentatious hotel complete with Porsches parked outside. We passed beautiful beaches which would be very welcoming in the heat there, but only if you are male or a female under 12. Older girls are strictly forbidden to swim at the beaches.



The Grand Mosque, Oman

Out through the town of Muscat we drove through the hills to the bathing houses where people bathe in the hot springs. Once again they are strictly segregated but very popular with the locals. Apparently the water has healing properties although it actually looked to me like it would have the opposite effect, very green water full of algae! I didn't partake in a dip!

Addil stopped a man carrying a big basket full of fresh dates on the way back to town. He had been gathering dates from the many date palms growing everywhere. The man was really friendly and seemed to know a bit about NZ, so was eager to talk and share some of his produce. We munched away on the sweet fibrous fruit all the way back to town. Addil said he would normally eat dates with strong black coffee to accompany them. Our tour ended back outside the Souq a few hours later. Addil warned us not to pay the mostly Indian stall holders half what they ask and also not to believe them as "they always be lying". Wise advice that got us a few bargain price treasures! Although the Indian immigrants seem to have the more menial jobs like street cleaning etc, even though the Omanians don't appear to have much time for them, everyone seems to be very courteous and tolerant of each other. Addil said the crime rate is very low- I think the punishments are a deterrent.

Omani's minimum wage is about \$1000 (USD) per month, immigrants just \$250(USD). He explained that Omanis are looked after first. Their Islamic belief also meant that men could have up to four wives, but only the rich did as free healthcare is only provided for the first wife and then the husband must pay! A few days after Oman we sailed into Aqaba, Jordan, in the early morning. It's always exciting to see land after a few days at sea, but this time we had seen a lot of shipping traffic and several glimpses of land along the way.

I had a big day planned in Jordan with my friend Christine. We had booked a trek into the Lost City of Petra. We were quite nervous about it, as it involved a lot of walking after a two hour coach ride there, and of course the heat was a big concern. The forecast was for 44 degrees in Aqaba!

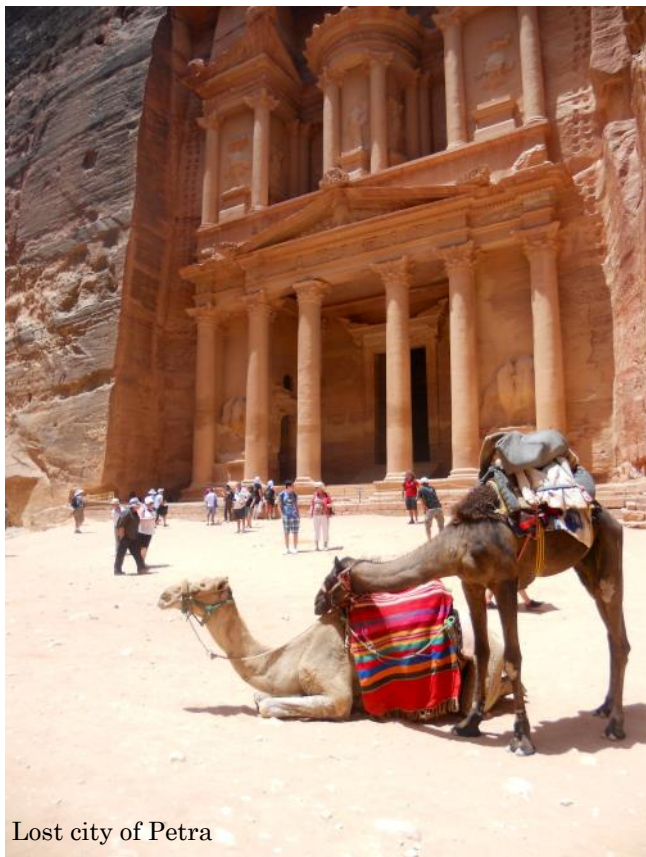


Desert

Almost 700 people from the ship signed up for this intrepid trip, although Wayne and our other friends weren't interested in walking in the heat for that long. At approx. 8am about 20 coaches set out. It was the beginning of Ramadan so the streets were quiet and we had already been warned not to eat, drink, smoke or chew gum in public during Ramadan.

On the bus ride out to Petra we saw all sorts of interesting sights. The houses were quite different to home, but the more I saw of them, the more I liked them. There were some huge homes being built close to Petra, with great views across the desert. Bedouin camps were a common sight with goats, goatherds, camels and donkeys. I wondered how the people survived out in the desert but was told they grew wheat, olives, figs and also used wild thyme for herbal medicines. The water came from artesian wells they dug.

We drove into the town of Petra and parked in the car park at the entrance of the Lost City. As part of the tour we had the option of taking the free horse ride for the first 800 metres in and the last 800 metres out, or we could pay to have a horse cart for the whole of the trip. If you saw the



Lost city of Petra



Donkey at Petra

reckless speed the carts travelled at with the horses being whipped all the way, you would only opt for that if you had a death wish! Christine and I decided to walk the whole time- making sure we jumped out of the way as the horses and donkeys hurtled past. The more trips into the canyon for them, the more money was earned.

The people who worked in the canyon are all descendants of the original Bedouin tribe that used to live there. They are the only people allowed to work in there but haven't actually been allowed to live there since 1985. There are a lot of kids selling postcards, bracelets and "ancient" coins- cheeky little beggars who are very persistent. They know just enough English to sell their wares.

The walk going in was not too bad, a slight downhill incline, but the uneven rocky paths and sometimes thick sand meant you had to watch your footing. It was really worth it though, the city carved out of rock was truly amazing, and the sights as you turned corners throughout the canyon quite breathtaking at times. We spent a lot of time outside the Treasury, and I took a lot of photos. It was magnificent. The scene before us with Bedouins, camels and this incredible carved city was like something out of a movie, certainly not something I ever thought I would get to experience.

In all we walked about 9km. Luckily, it was slightly cooler in Petra, only about 38 degrees and even a slight breeze at times. I still managed to get the back of my neck burnt because I had forgotten my scarf. If I hadn't worn long sleeves, pants and a hat, I probably would have been burnt to a crisp! The walk back to the entrance was definitely a lot harder and all along the way people were flagging and eventually hiring carts. That cost about \$40(USD) plus a tip of at least \$10. Christine and I were proud to have toughed it out and walked all the way.

Reaching the end and then a lovely hotel for lunch was bliss! We rewarded ourselves with a big cold beer each and delicious lunch of lamb, salads, hummus, eggplant and olives. The Lost City of Petra was such a memorable experience, and I feel so lucky to have had such an opportunity. At one point in Aqaba we could see three other countries- Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. We also bordered Iraq. The Saudi border was just 26 km away. It's a great big world out there and such a lot to see. I'm looking forward to exploring more soon.



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

Staff Spotlight: Spring Staff Update



Introducing: Isabella Zohrab, Katie Cornish, Paul Pestana, Maddy Fowler, and Megan Bogisch! *Photo Credit: Jennifer Ross DOC*

It's that time of the year! The summer season is quickly approaching which means welcoming a number of new staff members and long term volunteers into the Department of Conservation (DOC). I would like to introduce Isabella Zohrab, Katie Cornish and Paul Pestana who are a part of the Long Term Volunteer Programme sponsored by E Hayes and Sons in Invercargill. They will be on Stewart Island volunteering alongside our field team for three months until the end of January.

Maddy Fowler has come to us from Australia and is on a six month contract as a Ranger. Maddy's work will concentrate around Port William hut, North Arm hut and Ulva Island hut wardening and inducting hut warden volunteers. Megan Bogisch, a member of the weeds team from last year is back with us this summer as a six month Ranger on the field team. Welcome back Megan!

Unfortunately, this past month we have had two permanent staff members leave the Department: Ranger, Josephine Shepard and Senior Biodiversity Ranger, Kate Richardson. Thank you both so much for all of your hard work and you will be missed!

Ulva Island Rat Update

Ulva Island has been very busy since last month! The rat initially detected on tracking cards in September has proved more elusive than expected and the team here at the Department have been putting a lot of effort into targeting it. We have been consulting weekly with a Technical Advisory Group of island biosecurity experts in eradication and rat behaviour and several of their recommendations have been implemented. Pete McClelland, an experienced leader in rat eradication (with previous experience including Codfish Island/Whenua Hou, several muttonbird/titi islands, and Campbell Island) has been working closely with Kate Richardson, Senior Biodiversity Ranger, and now James Ware, to lead the work programme. Paul Johnston has been contracted and has brought invaluable knowledge and skill to help guide the team on the ground.

All traps and tracking tunnels on Ulva Island have been checked twice per week, and a range of baits which have



Left: George Nicholas installing a trail camera on Ulva Island. Above: Rat eating from Pestoff wax block captured on trail camera 22 October, 2015. *Photo Credit: Pete McClelland*

proved successful elsewhere in the country were trialled, but nothing has lured the rat into a trap as yet. Trail cameras were set up near Post Office Cove in response to further rat prints discovered on tracking cards in late September. The rat, a large Norway, was soon picked up on two of the cameras which allowed more targeted techniques to be used.

Since the rat we are dealing with has not yet entered a trap despite walking right past them and eating bait off the entrance of one of the trap boxes (as seen on trail camera footage), we have started to place brodifacoum bait at a limited number of sites near Post Office Cove in areas where the rat has been seen. Recent trail camera footage has confirmed that the rat has taken away a total of 16 brodifacoum pellets (a lethal dose) from two sites and eating at least one bait in front of the camera. However, we are unable to confirm how much of this the rat has ingested versus how much it may have cached. The bait is put out at dusk and collected again at dawn to reduce the risk to non-target species and monitored by trail camera. As it can take between five and 15 days for a Norway rat to die from brodifacoum there is a good chance that the rat is effectively now 'walking dead'. As of 1st November, 2015 there hasn't been any sign of the rat for five consecutive nights. The team on the island found rat droppings at Post Office Cove which appear to have the dye from the poison bait in them which is very encouraging. These have been sent to a specialist laboratory to be checked.

We are keen to locate the body both to confirm its death and to check its age, sex, breeding status and DNA – to hopefully show where it came from. To ensure we are only dealing with one rat, Sandy King and rodent detecting dog Gadget have spent several days on Ulva Island checking both Post Office Cove and the rest of the island. While it is disappointing Gadget didn't find the body it is very encouraging that she hasn't shown any indication of rats anywhere on the island so far- despite being able to find a small piece of rat bedding that has been used as a lure in a trap box- which proves her nose is in top form!

As we can't be sure that we have got the rat without a body the increased response around Post Office Cove will continue and all traps and tracking tunnels will be checked every week for at least one more month. Sandy and Gadget along with another DOC dog team will do a full island check in December and it is only then that we will have the confidence to say there aren't any more rats on Ulva Island. If you would like to be added to the Ulva Island weekly information update distribution list please send an e-mail to jross@doc.govt.nz.

DOC National Geocaching Challenge for Conservation Week Update

Thank you so much to those of you in the community who have already gone out to find some or all of the DOC Rakiura geocaches! I have seen photographs of various geocache hunts and have been delighted with the sights and adventures that have been had so far! In particular I would like to thank Jo Learmonth and family for finding all five DOC Rakiura geocaches and doing a great job involving other children from the community throughout the hunt! I would also like to thank Henry Bayne & William Hewitt, Tommy & Jack Dobbins, and the Chittenden clan for participating.

All caches are uploaded to the geocaching website and there are still fantastic prizes to be won! Please create an account using www.geocaching.com, search for DOC Rakiura geocaches, note the coordinates and get finding them with a GPS or using the clues! After you have found all five enter the competition by downloading the form from: www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/events/conservation-week/competitions/national-geocaching-challenge/

Kiwis for Kiwi Bake Sale: A Great Success!

DOC and SIRCET teamed up to put together a kiwi-themed spread at the Kiwis for Kiwi bake sale on 16 October, 2015. I am extremely proud to report that here on Rakiura we managed to raise \$983.00!

We started setting up the bake stall at 9:30am and had multiple baking drop offs from staff and community members by 9:45am. By 10:00am we were in full fledged bake sale operation, selling up a storm to any and every passerby. While the weather wasn't on our side (with intermittent downpours) the generosity of the community was as strong as the gale force winds! We tried a few different



Left: Tommy & Jack Dobbins with the Garden Mound geocache! Photo Credit: Belinda Dobbins Right: Sea lion on West End beach, close to the Ulva Island geocache Photo Credit: Jack Dobbins

selling tactics to start out with but the most effective seemed to be to sell almost everything for \$3.00 a piece or offer a variety pack for a certain round amount of money. By the end of the bake sale we offered a few great deals and managed to sell every single item by 1:00pm! We had a number of creative kiwi-themed baking creations including kiwi shortbread cookies, kiwi brownie, gas mask kiwi, and kiwi balls. We had a comic strip drawn by DOC Ranger, Dan Lee specially for the event (See pg 2). All in all it was a successful day and we managed to both raise an impressive amount of money for Kiwis for Kiwi and consume an impressive amount of baking as a community. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to baking and buying and an extra special thank you goes out to Bridget Hunt for all her baking and manning the bake stall!



Above: Guy Learmonth, Travis, Zach, Shay & Josh Chittenden, Molly Conner & Zoe Learmonth with the Kaipipi geocache! Below left: Zoe & Guy Learmonth with the Golden Bay to Deep Bay geocache! Photo Credit: Jo Learmonth




Minister Paul Goldsmith and MP Sarah Dowie get in on DOC geocaching fun and find the cache on Ulva Island! Photo Credit: Jennifer Ross DOC



Shona Sangster (SIRCET), Jennifer Ross (DOC) & Di Morris (DOC & SIRCET) behind the delicious baked goods at the Kiwis for Kiwi bake sale. Photo Credit: Bridget Hunt



Chris Visser arrives in full wet weathers by scooter – now that's dedication! Photo Credit: Jennifer Ross DOC



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Book Reviews From Sue Ford

Confession: I read about 10% of **"The World Before Us"** by Aislinn Hunter before giving up – very bored! And the premise is so good too – a wood into which people go but sometimes don't come back? Maybe I wasn't in the mood, but I found that 10% colourless and flat. If you enjoy this one, let me know.... Nothing flat about **"The Stranger"** by Harlan Coben. Corinne Price has a secret which The Stranger delights in imparting to her husband, Adam, but is that the only devastating secret which Corinne has? Something causes her to go missing. Then Heidi is killed – is it something to do with her daughter's secret - which The Stranger passes on? Or is there something else going on here? Of course there is!

And it makes for an excellently twisted plot. Typical Coben suspense, well-written.

"The Ship" by Antonia Honeywell - how to explain the atmosphere of this book? Optimism? Negativity? Hope? Those, and more, stirred with a little suspense? Imagine a world in which the direst predictions of the maddest obsessed 'greenie' have come to pass. The sea is dead; the ice-caps have melted; whole continents have burned and countries have flooded with climate change; the remaining earth has been poisoned by chemicals; humanity has been decimated by multiple pandemics, starvation – and the panic of the 'haves' to retain limited resources, even if that means killing off the 'have-nots'. But Michael Paul has built an escape for 500 people that include his doubting wife, Anna, and his spoilt and overly-sheltered 16-year old daughter, Lalla. The (apparently) lucky 500 sail away from London on a ship loaded with enough provisions to last for decades – but where is Michael taking the ship? What awaits them at journey's end? The dilemmas that we face - as a reader - and as the intrigue of the story unfolds, have more to do with a personal concept of freedom than a black-and-white 'wrong versus right' controversy. Fascinating.

Fascinating also describes **"Maggie Hall"** by Rachael King. Set in Canterbury – where the earth shudders and shakes and published in 2009, it's almost an omen of dire things to come in 2010! Rosemary is an amateur taxidermist, taught by her grandfather who has left his taxidermy collection to her in his will. Granpa's old "Gothic revival" farmhouse is about to be turned into an upmarket B&B. But there are ghosts waiting at Maggie Hall for the much-tattooed Rosemary as she runs away from her never-ending thesis and a fraught love affair. Rosemary's ghosts are not the only memories of Gothic-romance proportions she confronts before she comes to terms with her guilt-ridden past: the stories of her great-great grandfather and his first wife have left behind echoes of their own. It is a novel of contemporary life and love reflecting the past more than we might realise.

I almost gave up on **"Kingdom Come"** by J.G. Ballard too. I read it mid-way through RWC and Constellation Cup: a dystopian world has shrugged off traditional values and replaced them with Consumerism and Contact Sport (ice-hockey, basketball – and rugby). What happens to the satellite towns around Heathrow Airport and the motorways with access to a massive 'mall' called the Metro Dome makes uncomfortable reading. For Richard Pearson, bitter, newly-divorced and unemployed advertising executive, it begins when his father is shot at the Dome, and the only purpose in life he now has is to get to know his estranged father posthumously, and find out who shot him. But the Dome exerts its own influence over the man who has spent his life extolling the virtues of ceramic hobs and patio doors over the lingering traditional values. We are so close... Happy summer reading!



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